



# Rencontres du Vietnam

## Quy Nhon - ICISE

[www.icisequynhon.com](http://www.icisequynhon.com)



### General information

The majority of Binh Dinh Province is covered by mountains or hills. Elevations range from 0 at the coast to around 1200 meters above sea level in An Lao District in the north-west of the province. While most of the mountains as well as the highest peaks are in the west, there are mountains throughout the province, even near the coast. Most districts of Binh Dinh have a topography that is a mix of mountains or hills and lowlands. The districts of An Lao in the north-west, Vinh Thanh in the west, and Van Canh in the south-west are mostly mountainous. All other districts have some lowlands.

The largest lowland area is located in the south of the province along the lower Con River. It encompasses much of Quy Nhon City, the districts of Tuy Phuoc, An Nhon, the western part of Phu Cat, and the eastern part of Tay Son. Given its size, and the access to a major port as well as Binh Dinh's major river, it has long been the place where most of Binh Dinh's people and economic activities concentrate. The majority Binh Dinh's population lives in the districts around this plain.

Other lowland areas are located in the coastal districts of Hoai Nhon, Phu My, Phu Cat, as well as the inland district of Hoai An. There are some hills or mountains near the coast in all of the coastal provinces, with the highest peak in Phú Cát at 874m (Ba mountain, núi Bà) and in Phu My at 602m.

Mountains form natural borders to the neighboring provinces. Cu Mong pass is the main border crossing to Phu Yen province. National Route 1A passes through this pass, while there is another road (1D) along the coast. The border to Gia Lai province is the most mountainous, with the only road connection at An Khê pass between the towns of Phu Phong in Tay Son district and An Khe in Gia Lai. The border to Quang Ngai province is also very mountainous, with the major road and railway passing through Binh De pass near Tam Quan.

Binh Dinh was probably one of the places where the Cham first arrived in what is now Vietnam. Its favorable geography led to the rise of the Cham Port of Thi Nai where Quy Nhon is now located. The city-state of Vijaya was located around this port and the main city, which was further inland. Its center was in the southern lowland of Binh dinh. However, its architecture implies that it did not become important until the eleventh or twelfth century.

Vijaya's architecture also distinguishes it from other Champa centers, since it used a combination of stone and brick elements, while most other Cham structures only used bricks. This suggests some influence from Cambodian Angkor. It also points to the relative abundance of labor in Vijaya compared to other Champa centers of powers, because processing stones for construction was more labor-intensive than the production of bricks.

Vijaya was involved in various wars with neighboring countries. Major wars were fought with Angkor (now Cambodia) in the 12th and 13th centuries. Around this time Vijaya seems to have been associated with and at times even dominated by the Khmer King Jayavarman VII. Major wars with Vietnam were fought in 1069 and again in the 15th century, which eventually led to the defeat of Vijaya and the demise of Champa in 1471.

## TO ENJOY QUY NHON



### **International Centre for Interdisciplinary Science and Education (ICISE)**

10 minutes from Seagull hotel

*Based on the success of « Rencontres de Moriond » (since 1966) and « Rencontres de Blois » (since 1989), in 1993, Professor Tran Thanh Van has established Rencontres du Vietnam, allowing young Asian researchers to meet with world-class scientists.*

*ICISE, designed by famous architect Francois Milou, was inaugurated in August 2013. It locates on a site of 20-hectares (50 acres) between mountains and sea, provides a unique inspirational and energizing atmosphere.*

*The Center includes a 350-seat auditorium, a conference room, and intimate meeting rooms. These spaces showcase spectacular views out over the sea and nearby mountains.*



### **Thap Doi – Twin Towers**

4 km from Seagull hotel

*Twin Towers is not far from center of Quy Nhon. As a religious works of the Cham built from X to XV century, this monument consists of two adjacent towers. The tops of the towers were decorated with reliefs, carved with bird and animal genies according to the religious beliefs of the Cham people.*





### Thap Banh It - Silver Tower

18 km from Seagull Hotel.

*Banh It is in a series of four elegant Cham towers on a high hill just outside Quy Nhon. The four towers are the remains of a larger group. The main tower is 22 meters high, and it looks like a bit of restoration work might have been done on it. All the towers have become home to a wide variety of plants growing through the cracks which, while they give the towers a picturesque look, might just be slowly tearing them apart.*



### Thap Canh Tien - Copper Tower

30 km from Seagul Hotel.

*This is one of the towers of typical Binh Dinh architectural style (dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century). Its structure is composed of the front hall and shrine (now, the front hall has collapsed). The outer walls are decorated with pilasters and vertical, protruding frames. Different from other Cham Towers, the pilasters and edges of the roofs of Canh Tien Tower are built of sandstone.*



### Thap Phu Loc – Golden Tower

33 km from Seagul Hotel.

*Phu Loc Tower, also known as Thoc Loc is located in Nhon Thanh commune, An Nhon district, the city of Quy Nhon. It is located on a 76m high hill, bringing the majestic appearance,. Standing in the tower, you can admire the buffaloes grazing leisurely, the white heron wings on the vast green rice fields of the two districts of An Nhon and Phu Cat.*



### Quang Trung Museum

46 km from Seagull Hotel.

*The Quang Trung Museum is built on the site of the Tay Son brothers' house and encloses the original well and a more-than-200-year-old tamarind tree said to have been planted by the brothers. Displays include various statues, costumes, documents and artefacts from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Especially notable are the elephant-skin battle drums and gongs from the Bahnar tribe. The museum is also known for its demonstrations of "vo binh dinh", a traditional martial art that is performed with a bamboo stick.*



### Thap Thap Pagoda

32 km from Seagull Hotel

*Thap Thap pagoda is known as the first "Shaolin temple" in Vietnam because it is one of branches of "Shaolin temple" firstly built in Vietnam in 1677. Together with the 300-year, this pagoda have much contributed to the development of Binh Dinh martial arts.*



### Long Khanh Pagoda

3 km from Hai Au hotel

*This pagoda founded in the 18th century, rebuilt in 1946 and is being restored.*

*Long Khanh Pagoda is one of the largest Buddhist center of Binh Dinh. It attracts worshipping Buddhist monks and tourists all year round.*





### **Son long Pagoda**

10 km from Seagull Hotel

*Built some 300 years ago, it is the second oldest pagoda in the province.*

*In its yard there are 15 tomb towers that date hundreds of years ago but most interesting is a Buddha statue sitting on seven dragon heads; the statue is made of stone weighing 1.5 metric tons and is 3.1m tall. Archaeological studies reveal the statue was made by Cham sculptors in the Eighth Century.*



### **Thien Hung Pagoda**

27 km from Seagull Hotel

*Thien Hung Pagoda is a 127-year-old Buddhist temple located three kilometres from Binh Dinh town and about 24 kms from Quy Nhon. It's famous in Vietnam for its beautiful gardens and exquisite architecture but virtually unknown outside the country.*



### **Cathedral of Quy Nhon**

3 km from Seagull hotel

*The church was constructed in 1892 and still exists to this day.*

*The church was built in cruciform layout, 57.5 meters long, 22.6 meters wide. A special feature is the church has a 47.2-meter-high pinnacle towering over the sky.*



### **Long Song Cathedral**

20 km from Seagull Hotel

*The church with Gothic influences, is located among fields and rivers. Under the kingdom of Champa, their southern capital at Vijaya (present-day Thi Nai lagoon) was a large trading port in the 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. Missionaries, including Portuguese ones, came to the place in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.*



### **Mang Lang Cathedral**

67km from Seagull Hotel

*Mang Lang, one of the oldest churches in Vietnam, is also home to the first book written in Vietnam's modern script. It's located at An Thach Commune, Tuy An District, Phu Yen Province. Mang Lang church was built in 1892. It has a Gothic architectural style and is richly decorated. Looking at the church from the outside, a cross is positioned in the middle of two steeples. . Most notably, the first book of "Christianity in Eight Days" written in Vietnamese has been kept here protected by a glass box.*



### **Thi Nai Bridge**

8 km from Hai Au hotel

*Thi Nai Bridge connects Quy nhon city to the Phuong Mai peninsula. It is the longest sea bridge in Vietnam with a length of 2477 meters, and width of 14.5 meters. The bridge was opened on December 22, 2006. Thi Nai Bridge spanning the Thi Nai Lagoon, where the natural view is very beautiful and magnificent.*





### **Ghenh Rang**

5 km from Hai Au hotel

*Located at the center of Quy Nhon City, about 3 km to the southeast, Ghenh Rang is one of the most scenic region of Binh Dinh.*

*Visiting Ghenh Rang, visitors will enjoy hills Thi Nhan, Yard Eggs, Queen Beach, Hon Vong Phu, Tien Sa beach ...*

*The great poet of Vietnam, Han Mac Tu, wrote his most famous poems during the years he lived in Ghenh Rang.*



### **Fishing village Nhon Ly**

22 km from Seagull Hotel

*Nhon Ly village is impressive with imposing natural scenery, infinitive sea, pine forests, and sand dunes.*

*On tranquil sea days, we will take « a sort of boat » during 10', with lifebuoy jacket and googles, to plunge into the sea, discover the fanciful beauty of underwater world, nice various species of coral. Drive 10' more, and you'll arrive to a fabulous beach for swimming.*

*The excursion includes a nice lunch at local restaurant with fresh seafood and local specials.*





### **Hon Kho Island - an interesting destination**

10 km from seagull Hotel

*Hon Kho Island is a small island located in front of Nhon Hai island commune (Quy Nhon city), defending this coastal village from wind and waves all year round.*

*A mini seaside resort with white sand, clear and blue water makes Hon Kho Island ideal for swimming. Tourists could also climb up mountain, crossing cliffs with various shapes to the northeastern part of the island to explore the vast ocean.*



### **Hon Seo Island**

23 km from Seagull Hotel

*As a beautiful uninhabited island, Hon Seo Island in Binh Dinh Province is an ideal destination for those who want to explore the sea and island, see colorful pebbles on the beach, cross large rocks, take a dive, go fishing, and enjoy freshly-caught seafood.*

*In order to explore Hon Seo, you can use boat services from tour companies or hire fishing boats from fishermen in Nhon Ly.*



### **Cu Lao Xanh – Nhon Chau Island**

24 km from Seagull Hotel

*Cu Lao Xanh (Nhon Chau island) emerges as the most attractive destination for outdoor activities; famous for beautiful beach which is surely a must-see spot for those who come here. In the evening, tourists will see the moon rising behind the mountain as well as the light of the lighthouse. It should be very interesting.*



### **Ham Ho**

50km from Quy Nhon City northwest.

*Ham Ho or " stone forest " people Binh Dinh are euphemistically called by the " symphony of young and water " or " gate of heaven " . Ham Ho is the meeting place of two rivers and river Dong Huu Phu Cat poured into the small river around 30 meters width , riverbed scattered natural marble pillars manifold sparkling colorful , brilliant as thousands diamonds boast the blue water village . Walk along the river will meet “Hon Da Thanh” - a vertical cliffs as walls , moss green , covered with ancient roots . Left into a rock piled up that the river here was narrow , folk call this “Troj Lap” river. Through this river is always a pool filled with fish fish and then accumulate on this fall .*



	<p><b>Traditional villages</b></p> <p>1 hour from Seagull Hotel</p> <p><i>The products of traditional craft villages in Binh Dinh such as Bau Da wine, sedge, conical hat, horse hat, roll, comfortable furniture wood, bronze ... are becoming popular across the country and some are exported abroad by unique cultural traditions and diverse designs.</i></p> <p><i>The Bau Da wine village is one hour from Hai Au hotel. The artisans use a special type of rice to cook with the water from a local pool and distill it into a peculiarly strong and smelling alcohol. It is famous for handwork methods.</i></p>
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## Cafe

Quy nhon has been known as many coffee shops and several kinds of coffee. You have a lot of choices for tasting a cup of coffee, like local people always drinks on the side-walk at along the Pham Hung St., in which is cheap and popularity.

Or, you might try other variant luxury coffee with different ways, some coffee drinks are blended with cream, tea, or alcoholic liqueurs. Especially, you will be enjoyable with civet coffee. We would like to list you some famous addresses:

- *Café Nice's: 423-425 Nguyen Hue St., Quy Nhon*
- *Espresso coffee – Hai Ba Trung: 172A Hai ba trung st., Quy nhon*
- *Café Cuối: 328 Dien Hong st., Quy Nhon*
- *View Coffee: 417- 419 Nguyen Hue St., Quy Nhon*
- *Cafe Nhạc Trịnh: 243 Cau Den St., Quy Nhon*
- *Café Gia Lâm: 131 Tang Bat Ho St., Quy Nhon*

## Acoustic cafe

Become a singer with a local band. You can come here enjoying other people singing and sing by yourself.

- *NORON acoustic - Coffee & Tea Quy Nhon 19 Nguyen Lac St., Quy Nhon*
- *Đồng Giao Cafe 01 Le Duan St, Quy Nhon*
- *Rõng Cafe - 278/3 Nguyen Thai Hoc St., Quy Nhon.*

## **Local Food:**

Like many other Vietnamese regions, the province has its own special cuisine and traditions that should be better known. Dishes that deserve to be included on the tourist culinary trail include *banh xeo tom nhay* (fresh savory pancakes with shrimp), *banh hoi chao long* (thin rice vermicelli with rice porridge), *banh it la gai* (glutinous rice cake with white ramie leaves) and *bun song than* (dual-thread vermicelli). But Seafood is the most famous of these foods. There are many different types of seafood, which is prepared in different ways.

- *Cây Vừng restaurant: 50 Hoa Lu St., Quy Nhon*
- *Tư Hải restaurant: 07 Nguyen Hue St., Quy Nhon*
- *Mộc và Hoả restaurant: 233-235 Le Duc Tho St., Quy Nhon*
- *Pepsi restaurant: 197-200 Le Duc Tho St., Quy Nhon*
- *Nướng Ngói Quê restaurant: Bridge 01, North Ha Thanh*

## **Karaoke:**

One of the leisure popularly in Quy Nhon is Karaoke singing, you can choose whatever instrumental versions of songs you prefer and sing follow on the lyric of the song. There are English and other languages. KIZZ also has Japanese songs.

- *Karaoke KIZZ: 16 -17 Truong Dinh St, Quy Nhon*
- *Karaoke Hương Việt: 92 Nguyen Thai Hoc St.*
- *Karaoke 317: 317 Đống Đa St., Quy Nhon*
- *Karaoke 137: 137 Phan Dinh Phung St., Quy Nhon*
- *Karaoke Thế Giới: 33 Nguyen Thai Hoc St., Quy Nhon*
- *Karaoke Thùy Dương: 07 Le Duan St., Quy Nhon*

## **PUB**

- *Royal Club: 01 Han Mac Tu St, Quy Nhon*
- *Top pub: 14 An Duong Vuong St., Quy Nhon*
- *Surf Bar: Xuan Dieu St., Quy Nhon*



- Quy Nhon Plaza: 12-16 Do Doc Bao St., Quy Nhon
- Style Pub and Bar: 10 Do Doc Bao St., Quy Nhon