

Ninh Binh has the pace of a large country town - a welcome respite if you've just escaped the bustle of Hanoi. You will really relax in this Vietnam tours including [Vietnam visa](#) when travelling in Kenh Ga Floating Village, and the surrounding countryside is gorgeous, confirming all the postcards fantasies of what Vietnam has to offer. The best of backpacker culture can be experienced here. While not a difficult place to visit, Ninh Binh seems to attract interesting travelers with a zest for new experiences. You can not only enjoy the mystical natural beauty in Tam Coc-Bich Dong, but also appreciate the traditional Buddhism in Bái Đính Temple Spiritual and Cultural Complex. All in all, Ninh Binh is a great place to make travel buddies for your Vietnam tours.

### Tam Coc

Surprised by Halong Bay? There is one more Halong Bay for you to explore in your Vietnam tours. Poetically penned "Halong Bay on the rice paddies", the area around Tam Coc boats stunning scenery. While Halong Bay has rugged rock formations jutting out of the sea, here they soar skywards from a sea of green. Tam Coc is named after the low caves through which the Ngo Dong River flows. The essential Tam Coc experience is to sit back and be rowed through the caves--a serene and scenic trip, which turns into a surreal dance towards the end. The small boat will absolutely add more fun to your Vietnam tours.

### Ancient Citadel of Hoa Lu

Hoa Lu Ancient Capital is 13km from Ninh Binh Town, Ninh Binh Province. In 968, Dinh Bo Linh ascended to the throne and took the name of King Dinh Tien Hoang and reunified the country under the name of Dai Co Viet and Hoa Lu was its capital for 41 years (968-1009).

The mountains and sea combined to make Hoa Lu picturesque landscape. Hoa Lu lays in a flat valley surrounded by the Trang An lime stone mountains, which form a natural wall protecting the old citadel. The city northwest is bordered by the Hoang Long River, the tributaries of which run through the capital, cooling the weather within the city and serving as convenient waterways. The Royal Court was built in an area of 150 hectares in the eastern part of the capital while the western part served as a site to educate and protect children.

As the capital of the country for 41 years, Hoa Lu has many palaces, pagodas, tombs and pavilions that were built by different dynasties. One of the most popular pieces of architecture is the Bao Thien Tue Palace, which was plated with gold and silver. However, many vestiges have been destroyed due to time and weather. When King Ly Thai To moved the capital from Hoa Lu to Thang Long (now Hanoi) in 1010, two temples were built to dedicate to King Dinh Tien Hoang and his successor Le Dai Hanh. These two temples were first built in the 11th century and reconstructed in 1696.

Coming to Hoa Lu visitors can attend traditional cultural festivals here, and the most important and largest of them is the Truong Yen Festival, which is held on the 10th day of the third lunar month. The festival is in memory of the Kings of the Dinh and Le dynasties. The festival lasts for three days with many traditional games and martial arts, reflecting local residents' legends.

### Dinh Tien Hoang

Den Dinh Tien Hoang or Dinh Tien Hoang Temple, is a temple in Hoa Lu, Vietnam, dedicated to the ruler of the 10th Dinh dynasty. I visited this temple, a tourist

attraction, on a day trip from Hanoi about 110km away. Den Dinh Tien Hoang was first constructed in the 11th century, and was reconstructed in 1696. That's what I read, from my research. According to my tour guide, however, it was reconstructed in 1905. Well anyway, the temple now faces east while the original used to face north. To enter it, you go through two arches, the Outer Triumphant Arch and the Inner Triumphant Arch. In front of the temple is a courtyard, and right in the center of the courtyard, is the Dragon Bed, from the 17th century. It is carved out of a single piece of rock, and must have weighed a lot. Gifts and food offerings are placed on the Dragon Bed during festivals.

Within the temple are deified personalities. On the central altar is King Dinh Tien Hoang, also called Dinh Bo Linh. On a pillar is written the words "Dai Co Viet", the name of the Vietnamese kingdom of that time. On another pillar, a script proclaims, "Hoa Lu is prosperous as a capital."

Going behind the altar, we enter a windowless back room with light streaming down the skylight. Here, we find the 19th century wooden statue of Dinh Tien Hoang framed by the statues of his three sons. On the viewer's right is his eldest son, Dinh Quoc Lien, who although was the eldest, was not his father's chosen heir apparent. Because of that, Dinh Quoc Lien engineered the assassination of his brother, Dinh Hang Lan, who was to assume the throne. The assassination took place in 979. If Dinh Quoc Lien thought that pushes him straight in line for the throne, he was mistaken. The next year another round of palace assassination took place, and this time both the king and Dinh Quoc Lien were put away. The throne went to the king's youngest son Dinh Toan, a mere six years old, whose rule lasted a mere six months. Then General Le Hoan overthrew him, and set up the Le dynasty. A temple is also set up to worship the deified General Le. It is located a short walking distance away. I also visited and documented that temple, Den Le Hoan.

Source: [Đặt khách sạn](#)