

Ensemble Experience

HUE, VIETNAM

Ship/Sailing:	Legend of the Seas	February 28, 2009
Tour Date:	March 8, 2009	
Ship Time in Port:	9:00 am -	6:00 pm
Tour Name:	<i>Hue City, the Thien Mu Pagoda and Lunch</i>	
Full Day Tour:	Depart: 9:30 am	Return: 4:30 pm

Today enjoy a visit to Vietnam's lovely former imperial capital, Hue. As you leave the port of Chan May this morning your journey will take you on a 45-minute drive to Hue along the Phuoc Tuong Pass, a beautiful scenic route with a coastal mountain range on one side of the road and the ocean on the other.

Hue was the capital of Vietnam from 1802 to 1945, during the reigns of the Nguyen Dynasty Emperors. Your first stop will be the Imperial Citadel, a complex of three walled enclosures built by Emperor Gia Long in 1804. He and his successors ruled Vietnam from here until 1945. The Citadel is the outermost enclosure. The Yellow Enclosure was the Imperial City and within that was the Forbidden Purple City, where the Emperor and his family lived. This part of the complex is a smaller replica of the Forbidden Purple City in Beijing.

After your visit you will drive to Thien Mu Pagoda, the best-preserved religious monument in the city. Built in 1601 and restored many times, the pagoda's landmark seven-story tower stands proudly beside the Perfume River. The pagoda is also the resting place of the old Austin motor car that drove Venerable Monk Thich Quang Duc from An Quang pagoda in Saigon to the city center crossroads where he sat motionless and immolated himself on June 11, 1963 in protest of the Diem regime.

Head back to the city and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Then take a cyclo ride around Hue before driving back to Chan May and the ship.

Note: At the pagoda there are 20 steps from the main road to the courtyard.