

Da Nang Quick City Guide

At a Glance

Da Nang is Vietnam's fourth-largest city and a coastal metropolis bisected by the Han River. It serves as the commercial and transport hub of central Vietnam, featuring wide roads, light traffic compared to Hanoi or HCMC, and a rapidly modernizing skyline often called the "Miami of Vietnam." The official language is Vietnamese (Central dialect), though English works in hotels and tourist areas. The currency is the Vietnamese đồng (VND); USD conversion is roughly 24,000–25,000 VND to \$1. The climate is tropical monsoon with a sharp divide: the dry season runs January–August (best time to visit), while the wet/typhoon season hits hard from September–December with heavy rainfall and flooding risks. Time zone is UTC+7 (ICT). Calling code is +84. Power sockets are Type A/C (220V).

First 48 Hours

Hour 0–2: Land, cash, SIM. Da Nang International Airport (DAD) is only 3 km from the city center. Ignore taxi touts inside arrivals; walk outside to the official rank. Take a metered taxi (Mai Linh, Taxi Xanh, or Song Han) for ~70,000 VND or grab a Grab car (50,000–100,000 VND) from the dedicated pickup point across the taxi lines. Before leaving the terminal, buy a local prepaid SIM (Viettel, Vinaphone, or Mobifone) for 200,000–300,000 VND (30–70 GB data). Passport required. Exchange only a small amount of cash at the airport; rates are poor.

Hour 2–6: Check in and eat. Drop bags at your hotel (My Khe Beach or Hai Chau are top picks). Walk to the nearest street food stall or market. If you are in Hai Chau, head to **Mi Quang 1A** (1 Hai Phong) for turmeric noodles (~30,000–45,000 VND) or **Bánh Mì Bà Lan** (62 Trung Nụ Vương) for a famous string baguette (~25,000 VND). Avoid airport food prices (US\$15 for pho) by eating in the city immediately.

Day 1 evening: Walk the Han River promenade along Bach Dang Road. If it's a weekend (Fri/Sat/Sun), catch the Dragon Bridge fire and water show at 21:00. For dinner, hit the **Son Tra Night Market** or grab seafood at a beachside spot on Vo Nguyen Giap road.

Day 2 morning: Hit the **Museum of Cham Sculpture** early (opens ~07:30/08:00) to see the world's largest collection of Cham artifacts before the heat peaks. Then, take a short ride to **My Khe Beach** for a swim. Finish with a coffee at **Cong Caphe** on the riverside for coconut coffee.

Where to Stay

- **My Khe / Phuoc My — Best For:** Beach lovers, surfers, social nomads; **Nightly USD:** \$10–40; **The Catch:** Tourist food pricing, commute to

city center markets

- **Hai Chau (City Centre)** — **Best For:** Walkability, local food, river views, admin access; **Nightly USD:** \$15–50; **The Catch:** No beach access, traffic near bridges
- **My An / An Thuong** — **Best For:** Expat community, cafes, nightlife, digital nomads; **Nightly USD:** \$12–45; **The Catch:** Noisy, less authentic local feel, busy streets
- **Thanh Khe** — **Best For:** Budget stretching, quiet local living; **Nightly USD:** \$8–25; **The Catch:** Far from beach, limited Western food options
- **Son Tra Peninsula** — **Best For:** Nature, solitude, Monkey Mountain access; **Nightly USD:** \$10–35; **The Catch:** Isolated, motorbike essential, limited dining
- **Riverside (Bach Dang)** — **Best For:** Romantic views, hotel splurges, promenade walks; **Nightly USD:** \$40–150+; **The Catch:** Expensive, limited local street food nearby

Specific hotel picks:

- **Funtastic Beach Hostel:** budget dorms (from \$7) steps from My Khe Beach.
- **Sea Wonder Hotel:** quiet street near beach, great value (~\$10).
- **Rom Casa Da Nang:** container-style pods and privates in An Thuong.
- **Sanouva Danang Hotel:** solid mid-range city option on Phan Chau Trinh.
- **Brilliant Hotel Da Nang:** riverfront location in Hai Chau.
- **Furama Resort:** luxury splurge with private beach and spa.

Getting Around

- **Grab (Car/Bike):** The default app. Car rides 50,000–150,000 VND; Bike rides 25,000–60,000 VND. Use the dedicated airport pickup point.
- **Taxi:** Metered taxis start automatically. Reputable companies: **Mai Linh** (green), **Vinasun** (white/green/red), **Song Han** (yellow). Airport run ~70,000 VND.
- **City Bus:** Flat fare 8,000 VND. Routes #6 and #10 connect Airport → City Centre → My Khe Beach. Use danangbus.vn for info (ignore danabus.vn).
- **Motorbike Rental:** 80,000–150,000 VND/day. Cash only. Helmet legally required.
- **Walking:** Feasible in Hai Chau, along the river, and the beach strip. Airport to city is walkable (~30 min) if traveling light.
- **Shuttle to Hoi An:** Regular buses cost 130,000 VND/person (~45 mins).

Eat This

- **Mì Quảng** — **Venue:** Mi Quang 1A (1 Hai Phong, Hai Chau); **Cost / Note:** ~30k–45k VND. Watch for the copycat next door; get sugarcane

juice from the front cart.

- **Bánh Mì Que** — **Venue:** Bánh Mì Bà Lan (62 Trung Nu Vuong); **Cost** / **Note:** ~25k VND. Famous cart; open late afternoon. String baguette with pork pâté.
- **Bún Mắm** — **Venue:** Bún Mắm Vân (23/14 Tran Ke Xuong, “Bun Mam Alley”); **Cost** / **Note:** ~25k VND. Pungent fermented fish sauce; smells strong, tastes amazing.
- **Bánh Xèo** — **Venue:** Banh Xeo Ba Duong (K280/23 Hoang Dieu); **Cost** / **Note:** Crispy turmeric crepes with shrimp/pork. Wrap in mustard greens.
- **Phở** — **Venue:** Phở 29 (1A Tran Quoc Toan); **Cost** / **Note:** Huge portions, late-night option, good bun cha too.
- **Bún Chả Cá** — **Venue:** Bun Cha Ca Hong Phuc (113 Nguyen Chi Thanh); **Cost** / **Note:** Fish-cake noodle soup; local breakfast staple.
- **Seafood** — **Venue:** Hai San Be Man (Vo Nguyen Giap, Son Tra); **Cost** / **Note:** Beachside grilled seafood; fresh and lively.
- **Tacos** — **Venue:** Taco NGON (83 Hoang Ke Viem, My An); **Cost** / **Note:** Small shop; BBQ pork recommended; chips fried to order.
- **Coconut Coffee** — **Venue:** Cong Caphe (Bach Dang riverside); **Cost** / **Note:** Retro vibe; iconic Vietnamese chain.
- **Bánh Tráng Cuốn Thịt Heo** — **Venue:** Various in An Thuong; **Cost** / **Note:** Grilled rice paper rolls with boiled pork and herbs.

Eating Strategy

Eat street food for breakfast and lunch (30,000–50,000 VND), hit local noodle joints for dinner, and explore the An Thuong area for Western breaks. Han Market and Con Market offer cheap snacks but require haggling. Do not drink tap water; ice with round holes is generally safe. Central Vietnamese chili is potent; say “không cay” if you can’t handle heat.

Top 10 Sight

Attraction	Time / Cost	Pro Tip
My Khe Beach	Anytime / Free	Lifeguards in season; 40km stretch south to Hoi An.
Dragon Bridge	Evening / Free	Fire/water show at 21:00 on weekends only.
Museum of Cham Sculpture	1–2 hrs / ~60k VND	World’s largest Cham artifact collection; go early.

Attraction	Time / Cost	Pro Tip
Marble Mountains	2–3 hrs / 40k VND	Five limestone peaks with caves; wear grip shoes.
Son Tra Peninsula (Monkey Mtn)	Half day / Free	Visit Linh Ung Pagoda; spot red-shanked douc monkeys.
Ba Na Hills / Golden Bridge	Full day / 750k–900k VND	Cable car + giant hands bridge; expect crowds.
Han Market	1 hr / Free entry	Haggle hard for souvenirs; food downstairs, clothes up.
Da Nang Cathedral (Pink Church)	30 min / Free	French-colonial architecture on Tran Phu.
Asia Park / Sun Wheel	2–3 hrs / Free entry	Pay per ride; good for families/evening views.
Han River Bridge	Evening / Free	Swing bridge; stroll Bach Dang road at night.

Day Trips

- **Hoi An:** Ancient trading town 40 km south. Go early (before 08:00) or at night to avoid tour bus crowds. Shuttle bus 130,000 VND.
- **Hue:** Imperial capital north across Hai Van Pass. Long day trip; best via train (2.5 hrs) or private car.
- **My Son Sanctuary:** Cham ruins in Quang Nam province. Combine with Hoi An for an efficient day.
- **Ba Na Hills:** While technically a sight, it requires a full day due to distance and cable car queues.

Safety & Etiquette

Da Nang is generally safe and laid-back, but watch for taxi scams on long trips (drivers locking doors and demanding inflated fares at destinations like Ba Na Hills). Always use reputable taxis (Mai Linh, Vinasun) or Grab, and agree on prices beforehand. Dress modestly for temples (covered shoulders/knees) and remove shoes before entering. Do not point feet at Buddha images. Haggling is expected at markets (start at 50–60% of asking price) but not in supermarkets.

Traffic is lighter than other Vietnamese cities but still chaotic; cross roads at a predictable pace. Cannabis is illegal despite availability in some bars.

Budget Snapshot

- Accommodation — **Lean:** 7; **Comfortable:** 20; **Flashpacker:** 50
- Food — **Lean:** 4; **Comfortable:** 10; **Flashpacker:** 25
- Transport — **Lean:** 1.5; **Comfortable:** 3; **Flashpacker:** 8
- Coworking/coffee — **Lean:** 2; **Comfortable:** 4; **Flashpacker:** 10
- Insurance/health — **Lean:** 1; **Comfortable:** 3; **Flashpacker:** 8
- Miscellaneous — **Lean:** 1.5; **Comfortable:** 5; **Flashpacker:** 15
- **Total** — **Lean:** 17; **Comfortable:** 45; **Flashpacker:** 116
- Lean — **Daily USD:** \$17; **Weekly USD:** ~\$120; **14-Day USD:** ~\$240
- Comfortable — **Daily USD:** \$45; **Weekly USD:** ~\$315; **14-Day USD:** ~\$630
- Flashpacker — **Daily USD:** \$116; **Weekly USD:** ~\$810; **14-Day USD:** ~\$1,620 Assumptions: 2026 prices in Vietnamese đồng converted at roughly 24,000–25,000 VND per USD. Lean tier assumes hostels/street food; Flashpacker includes private rooms, tours, and upscale dining.

Quick Links

- Vietnam E-Visa Portal: <https://evisa.xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn>
- Da Nang Bus Info (Official): <https://danangbus.vn>
- Da Nang International Airport: [Verify via general search, no specific URL in source]
- Family Medical Practice Da Nang: <https://familymedicalpractice.com> (Check local listing)
- Tourism Authority (General Vietnam): <https://www.vietnam.travel>
- Grab App Download: <https://www.grab.com>