

3 days in Da Nang under US\$150*

With a burgeoning food scene, a selection of engrossing museums and picture-worthy nature spots, the coastal city of Da Nang in Vietnam's central region makes for an excellent weekend escape, even during its rainy season

TEXT BY JOSHUA ZUKAS

* not including airfare and accommodations

Golden Bridge Ba Na Hills



D

a Nang hums with contrasts: sizzling street stalls jostle with glossy high-rises, neon bridges connect laid-back neighborhoods and golden beaches seem to go on forever. For years, many travelers skipped over to the UNESCO-listed Hoi An less than an hour south, but today this modern city has come into its own as a coastal vacation spot. November is one of Da Nang's rainiest months, but with a pair of compelling museums, a budding food scene and nature at its doorstep, the city still offers plenty of reasons to linger.

#DaNang

#Vietnam

#WalletFriendly

Da Nang

ON TWO FEET

Central Da Nang is more walkable than you might expect, especially around the historic Hai Chau quarter. Begin the day at the **Cham Museum** (60,000 VND), where stone relics recount the area's ancient history. Step outside and you'll find the tail of the iconic **Dragon Bridge**, built in 2009. From here, stroll over to **NAM House** for a Vietnamese coffee (45,000 VND) in nostalgic surroundings. The café is straight out of the 1980s, with

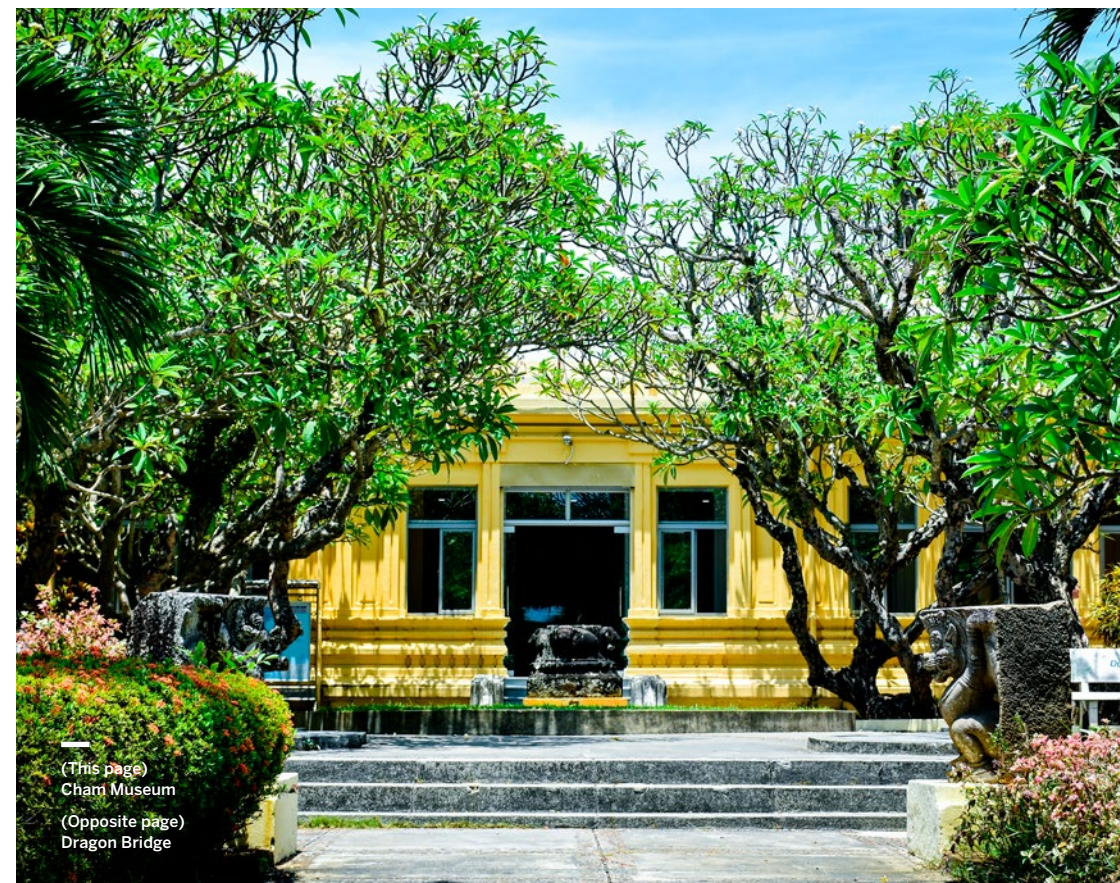
hand-carved wooden loungers and post-war memorabilia.

Continue on to **Tien Hung** for *banh cuon* (45,000 VND) – silky ribbons of steamed rice paper, served here with pork floss and Vietnamese sausage. Keep it light, because your next stop is **Trinh Ca Phe** for Da Nang's newest specialty: avocado coffee (45,000 VND). Hanoi has egg coffee, Hue has salt coffee – and now, thanks to a family with an avocado farm, Da Nang has developed its own signature brew.

Walk off the calories with a stroll to the pink-frosted **Da**



Nang Cathedral (free entry), built during the colonial era with stained glass windows imported from France. Then stop by Han Market to elbow



(This page)
Cham Museum
(Opposite page)
Dragon Bridge



(Left to right)
Da Nang Cathedral;
bun cha ca



your way through the crowds before taking a riverside wander north along Bach Dang Street. Eventually, you'll pass two colonial buildings – one newly reopened as **Da Nang Museum** (50,000 VND). You can easily spend a few hours here recounting the city's story from humble fishing village to American army base to the modern city you see today.

A block west of the museum is a cluster of restaurants serving an unsung Da Nang specialty: *bun cha ca* – fishcake noodle soup. Try it at Bun Cha Ca Ong Ta (60,000 VND). If the night still feels young, circle back to Bach Dang Street. Find a café or riverside bar, order a drink (50,000 VND) and watch the lights shimmer on the water – very likely through a curtain of rain.

CASH RECEIPT	
Museums	110,000 VND
Coffees	90,000 VND
Lunch	45,000 VND
Dinner	60,000 VND
Riverside drink	50,000 VND
Total	355,000 VND

THANK YOU!	

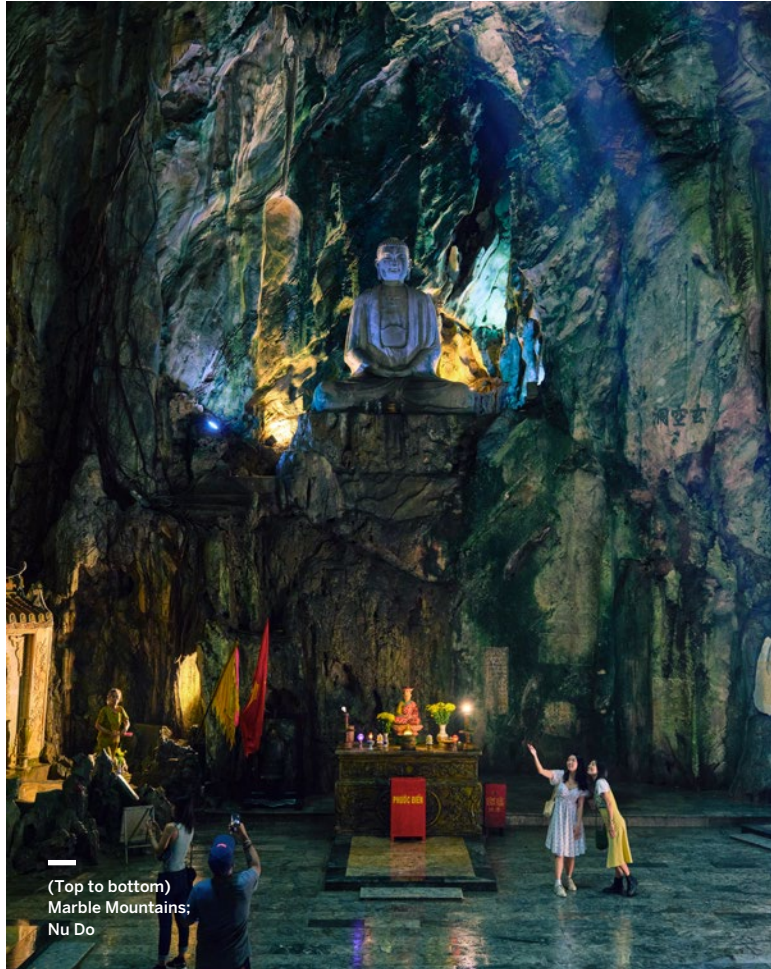
Walk off the calories with a stroll to the pink-frosted Da Nang Cathedral (free entry), built during the colonial era with stained glass windows imported from France

Day 2

ON TWO WHEELS

Now you have your bearings, today you can roam further afield. Rent a scooter (around 150,000 VND and easily arranged through most hotels), fill it with gas (50,000 VND) and hit the road. Start by heading south to explore the **Marble Mountains** (40,000 VND), a cluster of limestone peaks riddled with caves and temples – enough to fill the morning.

Afterwards, strike north along the coast, stopping for lunch at **Nu Do**, which serves an elevated version of *mi quang* (90,000 VND), the area's hero noodle dish. The restaurant was started by local *MasterChef* star Tuyet Pham and quickly made its way into the Michelin Guide. Continue north along the coast and refuel with a coffee (45,000 VND) at **Noi – The Cabin**, overlooking the harbor and its blue-and-red fishing boats.





(Top to bottom)
Quan Am; Son Tra
Peninsula

CASH RECEIPT

Bike and petrol	200,000 VND
Marble Mountains	40,000 VND
Lunch	90,000 VND
Coffee	45,000 VND
Dinner	250,000 VND
Total	625,000 VND

THANK YOU!

From there it's just a few minutes' drive to the **Son Tra Peninsula**, a jungled outcrop that juts out to sea. Drive where your mood takes you, but don't miss the gleaming statue of **Quan Am**, once Vietnam's tallest Goddess

of Mercy. Reach the Heritage Banyan Tree trail (free) by 3PM. The easy hike, including time to marvel at the colossal 800-year-old banyan tree, takes about two hours. Gates close at 5:30PM from March to

September and close at 6:30PM for the rest of the year. On your way back into the city, stop for a seafood feast at **Be Man** (250,000 VND), which is more affordable than many of the places in the center.

Day 3

ESCAPE THE CITY

Da Nang won't wear you down, but it's still nice to escape now and then. Just 45 minutes by taxi (not more than 1,000,000 VND round trip) lies **Hoi An**, a well-preserved old town that, mercifully, escaped destruction during the war. Today it's a blend of Chinese assembly halls, French colonial mansions, Vietnamese communal houses

and the iconic Japanese Bridge. Few places are as romantic – especially in the rain – and November brings thinner crowds compared to other times of the year. Pick up a good-value ticket booklet (120,000 VND), which grants access to five of the two dozen sites and museums across the old town. The booklet comes with a little info and a handy map, so you can pinpoint the sites that intrigue you most. Then set off on foot.



(This page, top to bottom)
Cao Lau Thanh; Hoi An

(Opposite page)
Hoi An



LISTEN UP

Want to dig deeper? Skip the group tours with rigid itineraries and try a VoiceMap audio tour instead. This app-based guide lets you explore at your own pace while locals, historians and journalists share their stories. Launched in Da Nang and Hoi An in 2025, these tours recount centuries of history through overlooked architecture, local legends, hidden cafés and unsung specialty dishes. They'll lead you down alleyways you'd likely miss and to meals you never knew existed.

 voicemap.me



(Top to bottom)
Ren Rua

When lunchtime calls, head to **Cao Lau Thanh** for Hoi An's signature noodle dish (45,000 VND). This bowl tells the town's trading history: Japanese-style noodles (similar to udon), thinly sliced Chinese pork and quintessentially Vietnamese greens. Afterwards, skip the tourist-oriented cafés of the old town. Instead, wander a few blocks north and have coffee (45,000 VND) at **Ren Rua**, a hidden spot in a heritage house. Stay for dinner, too – Hoi An's best restaurants, often crowded in high season, are much calmer in November, so you'll have no trouble finding a table. You can't go wrong with **Nu Eatery** (150,000 VND) on the western edge of the old town. When it's time, flag a taxi and head back to Da Nang. ⑤



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