



## **Ba Be National Park**

Located 250 km away from Hanoi and 70 km away from Bac Kan's center, Ba Be National Park belongs to Ba Be district in Bac Kan province. This is a precious natural heritage of Vietnam, a complete and complicated system of primitive forest on stone mountains which are surrounded by tranquil lakes. The national park covers a total area of 23.240 ha which houses 417 types of plant and 299 types of animal. There are a plenty of precious and endangered species that inhabit in this region.

### **What to see and do**

Foreign visitors with [visa for Vietnam](#) who come to Ba Be not only enjoy the charisma of nature but also get to know many traditional and scientific values of this natural park through the helpful and energetic tour guides. In sunny days, the scenery resembles a Feng Shui painting that mesmerizes even the most demanding visitors. The surface of the lake is flat; it transforms the whole lake into a mirror that reflects the figures of the majestic mountains and the shining cloud.

Romantically, the young Tay girls in black outfits stand on different boats, helping travelers to cross the picturesque Ba Be Lake. Without a doubt, they are the knowledgeable amateur tour guides who continuously surprise you in your journey to explore this beautiful land. You will be also amazed to learn about the lives of the ethnic groups: their culture, their routine life, their myths, their traditions, etc. People are extremely hospitable in Ba Be so you can even have a chance to visit their house and experience for yourself the breath of Ba Be's mountains and forests. The park is a complex including lakes, rivers, streams, forests, and caves. Mother Nature loves it too much that she decides to give Ba Be a warm weather in winter and a cool weather in summer so that it can become an ideal destination for people from everywhere to come, admire and cherish in just any season.

## **Buon Ma Thuot City**

Located at a height of 536 m, Buon Ma Thuot is the capital of Dak Lak Province and also the biggest city in Central Highlands (Tay Nguyen). The city has a calm, cool weather during the year, with an average temperature of 23°C. In the language of the E-de ethnic people, Buon Ma Thuot (or Buon Ama Y Thuot) means the village of father Thuot, the man who built the first village on the bank of the Ea Tam Stream. Buon Ma Thuot used to be the most important part of Central Highlands. With the biggest population, the most luxurious markets, the city was the administrative, cultural, and economic center of the whole region. Buon Ma Thuot is the center where all the roads connecting different provinces in Tay Nguyen converge. The roads also do a great job linking Dak Lak with Dalat City (through National Road 27), Khanh Hoa, Ninh Hoa (through National Road 26) and Ho Chi Minh City (through National Road 14), etc. Buon Ma Thuot is famous for many types of fruits, vegetables and especially coffee! Buon Ma Thuot coffee has been monopolized Vietnam Market for a long time; and not surprisingly, it has yet to find any rival. Tourists coming to Buon Ma Thuot can visit the spectacular waterfalls: Dray Sap, Dray Anour, Dray H'ling – to name just a few. They can totally enjoy the trips to the villages of the E-de and M'ngong ethnic groups to experience the essences of the

Gong Festival, ride the elephant during a hunt in the mysterious forests, or simply sit still on a piragua and breath in the air of the Asian wilderness.

Besides the ancient constructions most of which are carefully built wood houses, local people find it essential to build more modern and creative building and [hotels in Buon Ma Thuot](#). Thus, when you visit Buon Ma Thuot nowadays, you can see the wide roads decorated with green trees and beautiful flowers and a lot of newly constructed residential complexes. However, the most important thing to do in Buon Ma Thuot is nothing else but drinking coffee! Dak Lak's Basalt empowers the city to grow Robusta Coffee better than anywhere else in the world. Buon Ma Thuot Coffee has been mesmerizing consumers from both inside and outside the country for decades!

### **Ea Kao Lake**

Located only 12km to the Southeast of Buon Ma Thuot City, Ea Kao Lake is a tourism site constructed in a large scale. Full of unique and exhilarating features, Ea Kao Lake is a modern sight full of the traditional essences. Ea Kao Lake Tourism Site has an area of 120 ha. The topography is really diverse, including many hills, slopes, streams, etc. Besides, the weather there is wonderful: cool and beautiful with an average annual temperature of 20.7°C and an average annual precipitation of 2.155mm. Without a doubt, this type of weather creates diverse scenery that is perfectly suitable for tourism development.

The site is built in a natural space full of green plants and colorful flowers. Besides enjoying the scenery, tourists can also participate in a bunch of different cultural events and entertaining activities. In more details, the site is divided into many smaller sections such as: amusement park, hotels, flower gardens, restaurants, botanic, playing ground for children, camping sites, natural preservation site, etc., all of which are arranged logically and attractively in an order which best benefit the visitors.

Surprisingly, the Ea Kao Lake Tourism Site is not only an attraction with beautiful natural scenery full of tranquil lakes; it also contributes to the region's effort to preserve the environment and the precious cultural values of the ethnic minorities. Coming to the Ea Kao Lake Tourism Site, you will surely enjoy each moment relaxing within the fresh and invigorating atmosphere of Central Highlands.

### **Yang Prong Cham Tower**

The only Cham Tower in Central Highlands (Tay Nguyen), Yang Prong Tower is situated in Ea Sup District, 100km away from Buon Ma Thuot. It was built at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century to worship the God Siva (also called Mukhalinga) to wish for a peaceful and happy life. As we can see nowadays by the Ea Hleo River, Yang Prong Tower is an architectural construction of red ceramic bricks resting on a foundation made of blue marble stones.

The tower is 9m high with a square-shaped base. Even though it looks like there are four entrances, in fact, the tower has only one gate facing the East, which is referred to as the kingdom of the Gods. The other three "doors" are located in the three other sides of the towers and they are all artificial. Unlike the designs of many other Cham towers in Middle Vietnam, the upper part of Yang Prong is expanded into a giant cone-shaped roof, from which visitors can freely stretch their view over the wondrous scenery of Central Highlands. Coming to Yang Prong Tower, you will experience a unique and rare feeling of being in another world. Today, this is one of the magnets of Vietnam Tourism, attracting a plethora of researchers and visitors from

everywhere in the world.

### **ATK Bac Kan**

“An Toan Khu”, meaning “safe zone” – Constructed during the revolution against the French, ATK is a complex of underground tunnels and rooms emboldened by a missile defense system in Cho Don (Bac Kan). This unique and invincible complex was one of the most important venues of the Vietnam Army from 1946 to 1954, where President Ho Chi Minh and many other leaders gathered, discussed and made vital decision involving the destiny of the nation.

### **A Historical Witness**

In the long and unending war against the French’s colonization, Cho Don was chosen to be the Safe Zone of the revolution. Since then, this land had welcomed and protected many Central Departments, as well as the most influential leaders of the Communist Party of Vietnam. In the time between 1947 and 1952, almost all of the Central Departments had their headquarters in Cho Don. As a result, the underground tunnels were built in order to protect the prominent leaders and officers. Deep down under the ground, a whole complicated system of paths, tunnels, rooms were created. The whole construction was covered with a defense system that is able to withstand bombs and bullets of the enemy. Coming to ATK in particular and Cho Don in general, tourists can not only visit many historical sites but also learn more about the lives of the local inhabitants, discovering their most beautiful cultural essences which can only be found there.