

VIETNAM TRAVEL MAGIC #5

FORBIDDEN CITY OF HUE

Adventures by Scott David Plumlee

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VIETNAM



Map Image: Wikimedia Commons

LAOS



Phong Nha

Hue

Danang

Hoi An

Welcome to Vietnam Travel Magic

I have loved the past three months backpacking Southeast Asia across Thailand, Laos and Cambodia.

The next chapter of my adventure takes me across Vietnam; traveling from the north, starting in the capital city of Hanoi, heading south along the coastal beaches to Saigon.

I flew into the chaos of Hanoi, hiked Mt. Fansipan from Sapa, sailed the legendary Halong Bay, explored caverns in Phong Nha, and now I'm traveling south to the ancient capital city of Hue.





November 21st: After an overnight bus ride across Vietnam, I arrived at the sleepy, yet historically-rich town of Hue. I collected my backpack, politely slipped past the tourist hawks at the station, and thankfully found a riverside pagoda for my morning exercise.

During my yoga routine, several curious locals stopped by to watch me balancing on my head.

This pair of college students were eager to start a conversation with me to practice their English language skills.

Throughout my travels, I have had the good fortune to be at the right place at the right time to meet the right people.

Today was no exception! Joe and Yui are aspiring tour guides who agreed to meet me for breakfast.





I walked along the Perfume River, admiring the colorful dragon boats, and then crossed a bridge to the business district where I found the hostel that I had booked for the night.



I checked into my hostel and just fell in love with the beautifully-painted wall murals. I took a shower, applied sunscreen, and set out to discover the Forbidden Purple City.



Elective Sour:
Shanghai Sour, BBQ Sour, Sour Green Pepp
Beefsteak + Cheese, Fish, Egg, Fried rolls, Pork-ple,
Sausage, Smoked Pork

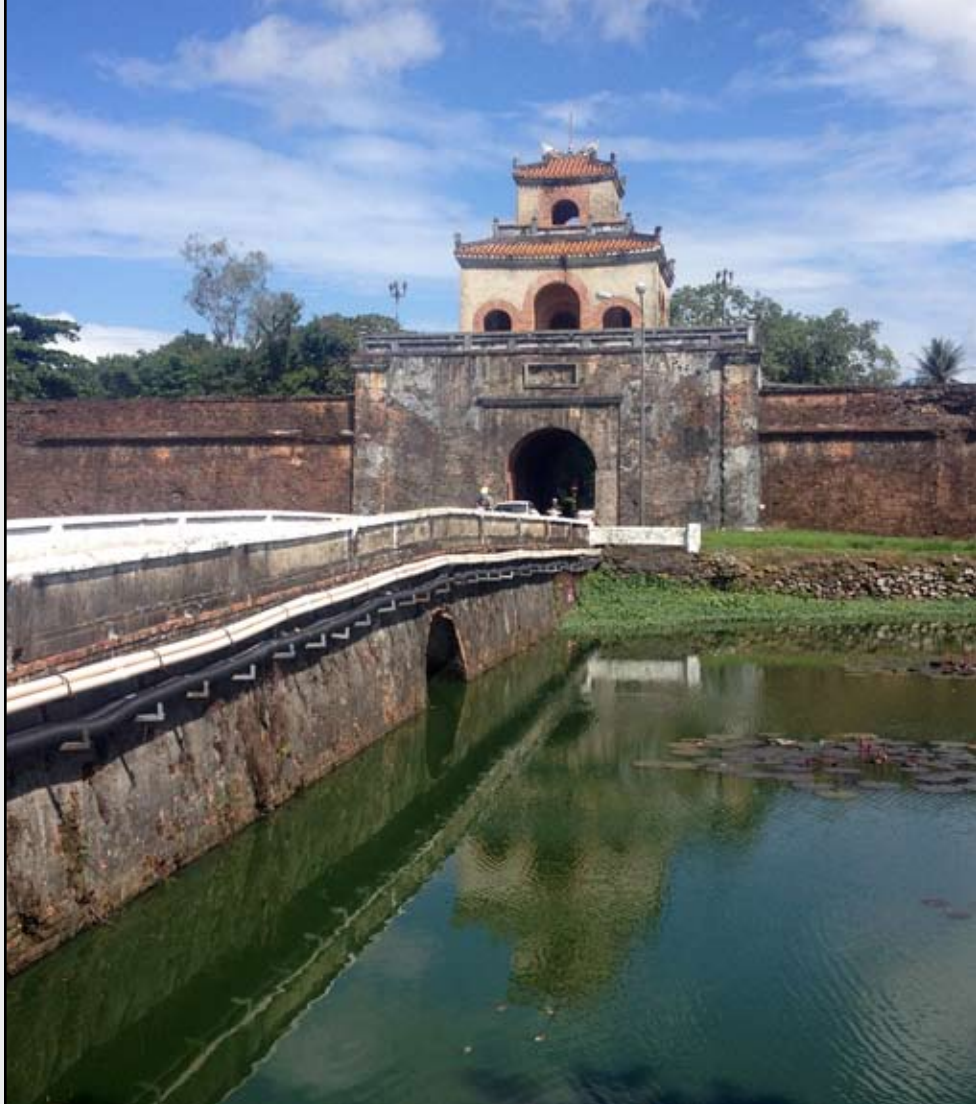
I met Joe and Yui at the vibrant local market for a classic Vietnamese breakfast of two fried eggs that were served with a variety of pork sausages on a sizzling cast iron platter.



Dripping with sweat in the mid-morning sun, we walked along the boundary moat that surrounds the 500-hectar fortress, passing a military citadel with an impressively-huge flag.

The walled gateway into the Imperial City is very impressive, being fortified by an enormous moat. Originally founded in the 17th century by the feudal Nguyen Dynasty emperors, it served as the national capital from 1802 to 1945.

Deep within these walls was the Forbidden Purple City where only the emperor, his concubines, and their servants could access; the punishment for trespassing was death. Luckily for us, it is now a UNESCO Site, so we can safely go inside.





After paying an admission fee at the imposing Ngo Mon Gate, we crossed the Bridge of Golden Waters between large reflective pools, leading to the Hall of Supreme Harmony.



The Nguyen Dynasty Dragon, shown ascending from water represents the royal power. It is an element of Vietnamese folklore, which is believed to guide water to the rice fields.

The smell of sandalwood incense mingles with the sound of brass wind chimes, as a majestic bonsai tree twists and twirls from an elaborate porcelain vase.

The royal mystique and regal splendor were starting to work their magic on me, transporting me back in time to the former glorious grandeur of an imperial age.



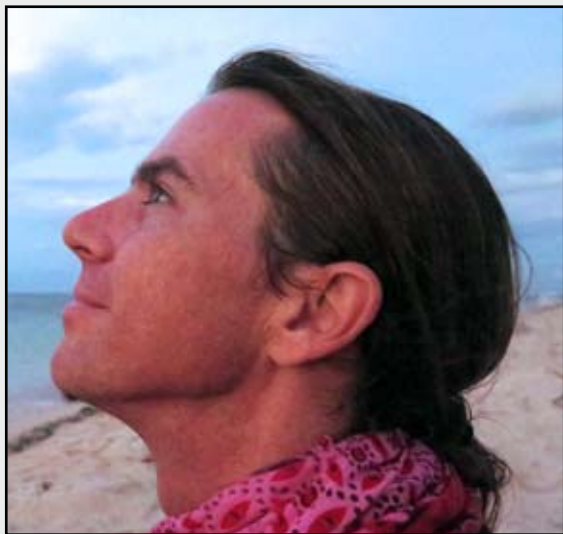


The impressive Hall of Supreme Harmony houses the throne room where the emperor held royal ceremonies, greeted foreign ambassadors, and met with his domestic advisors.

Thank you for joining me on this 15-page free preview to visit the Imperial City, to continue the adventure to the Forbidden Purple City, purchase the full 50-page eBook at Amazon.com.

Won't you join me for my next adventure to go full-throttle down to sensational Danang?

The author, Scott David Plumlee, watching the sunset fade away, is an avid world traveler, photographer and writer. He has traveled to over 50 countries, taken millions of photos, and is always willing to share his jokes, stories and philosophies. Plumlee is also the author of the New Zealand Travel Magic eBook series, and currently loving his life in Thailand.



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