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Vietnam, Quang Tri

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Quang Tri, city in central Vietnam, the major city of Quang Tri Province. Quang Tri lies near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) area that separated North and South Vietnam after Vietnam was partitioned at the end of the First Indochina War in 1954. The DMZ was intended to be an area free of arms. However, during the ensuing Vietnam War (1959-1975), the area around the DMZ was so thoroughly devastated by fighting that the city still bears the effects. The people of Quang Tri are poor, in part because many farmers cannot use their land for fear of uncleared land mines. The farming that does exist is aimed at subsistence. Much of the surrounding land was deforested during the war by carpet bombing and chemical agents; chemicals have caused a sharp decline in soil fertility. In addition, many people suffer from war-related injuries and physical disabilities caused by exploding mines. De-mining and reforestation programs, undertaken by local and overseas volunteers, are underway. The city is located on one of Vietnam's main north-south highways and is served by buses. Few historical landmarks remain in Quang Tri, but a moat, rampart, and gates from a citadel that once dominated the city still exist. The area around present-day Đà Nẵng was heavily influenced by the kingdom of Champa, which emerged in the 2nd century AD and was centered around present-day Đà Nẵng. The position of Quang Tri, to the north of Champa, subjected it to periodic invasion and colonization by both Champa and competing kingdoms. After Champa collapsed in about 1470, the area was increasingly influenced by the Vietnamese. During the Vietnam War Quang Tri was the site of several fierce battles, in particular the Hue Offensive of 1972. After North Vietnamese troops took the area, the province was bombed daily by as many as 40 US States bombers, each carrying several tons of bombs. South Vietnamese forces eventually regained the city but lost 5000 troops in the process. At nearby Vinh Moc, in the area north of the DMZ, there are remnants of tunnels used as hideouts and defensive areas by villagers and North Vietnamese soldiers. Population (1996 estimate) 110,000.

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Quang Tri

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Introductions

Area: 4,588 sq km
Population : 541,000
Provincial Capital: Dong Ha town

Quang Tri is located in Central Vietnam near the crossways between North and South Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand. Different minorities populate this province (Kinh, Bru-Van Kieu).

The humid tropical monsoon climate has an annual average temperature varying between 20 and 25°C.

Famous sites in Quang Tri include Quang Tri Citadel and the holy land of La Vang. Violent battles took place in Q during the war against the Americans; such battles have left revolutionary vestiges such as Hien Luong Bridge, Tu Vinh Moc underground tunnels.



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