**Nha Trang**

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| **Nha Trang** |
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| Nha TrangLocation in Vietnam |
| Coordinates: [12°15′N 109°21′E﻿ / ﻿12.25°N 109.35°E﻿ / 12.25; 109.35](http://stable.toolserver.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Nha_Trang&params=12_15_N_109_21_E_type:city_region:VN) |
| **Country** |  [Vietnam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam) |
| **Admin. division** | [Khanh Hoa Province](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khanh_Hoa_Province) |
| [**Area**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Area) |
| **- Land** | 251 km2 (96.9 sq mi) |
| **Population** (2005)  |
| **- Total** | 350,375 |

The fishing harbour in Nha Trang.

Nha Trang's beach

**Nha Trang** [pronunciation](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/0/0d/Nha_Trang.ogg) ([help](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AMedia_help%22%20%5Co%20%22Wikipedia%3AMedia%20help)·[info](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File%3ANha_Trang.ogg)) is a coastal city and capital of [Khánh Hòa province](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khanh_Hoa_Province), on the [South Central Coast](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nam_Trung_Bo) of [Vietnam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam). It is bounded on the North by [Ninh Hoà](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninh_Ho%C3%A0) district, on the East by the [South China Sea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_China_Sea), on the South by [Cam Ranh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cam_Ranh) town and on the West by [Diên Khánh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Di%C3%AAn_Kh%C3%A1nh_District) district. The city has about 300,000 inhabitants, a number which is projected to increase to between 500,000 and 600,000 inhabitants by 2020according to an estimation of Nha Trang Administrative Board Statistics.

Nha Trang is well known for its pristine beaches and excellent [scuba diving](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scuba_diving) and is fast becoming a popular destination for international tourists, attracting large numbers of [backpackers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Backpacking_%28travel%29) as well as more affluent travelers on the [Southeast Asia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southeast_Asia) circuit. It is already very popular with Vietnamese tourists. *Nha Trang Bay* is widely considered as amongst the world's most beautiful bays. Tourists are welcome to participate in the Sea Festival, held biennially. Nha Trang was the site of the [Miss Universe 2008](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miss_Universe_2008) Pageant on July 14, 2008.

Historically, the city was known as **Kauthara** under the [Champa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Champa). The city is still home to the famous [Po Nagar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Po_Nagar) Tower built by the Champa. Being a coastal city, Nha Trang is a center for [marine science](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_science) based at the [Nha Trang Oceanography Institute](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Nha_Trang_Oceanography_Institute&action=edit&redlink=1). The [Hon Mun](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Hon_Mun&action=edit&redlink=1) marine protected area is one of four first [marine protected areas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_protected_area) in the world admitted by the [IUCN](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IUCN).

Commercial flights to Nha Trang no longer use the city's municipal airport, but fly to the larger [Cam Ranh International Airport](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cam_Ranh_International_Airport), a former U.S. Air Force Base (built during the Vietnam War) located approximately 35 km south of Nha Trang (see the Transport section below for additional details).

The French-Swiss bacteriologist [Alexandre Yersin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexandre_Yersin) (who discovered the [*Yersinia pestis*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yersinia_pestis) bacterium) identified himself with Nha Trang's life for 50 years (locals referred to Yersin as *Ông Năm*). He established the Indochina Pasteur Institute (now known as the [Nha Trang Pasteur Institute](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Nha_Trang_Pasteur_Institute&action=edit&redlink=1)) devoted to research on the [bubonic plague](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bubonic_plague). Yersin died in Na Thrang on March 1, 1943. A street in the city is named after him, there is a shrine located next to his tomb, and his house has been converted into the [Yersin Museum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yersin_Museum).

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**Geography**

Nha Trang city has a metropolitan area of 251 km² and population of about 500,000 (as of 2007[[update]](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Nha_Trang&action=edit)). It borders [Ninh Hòa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninh_H%C3%B2a) town by the north, [Cam Ranh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cam_Ranh) city by the south, [Diên Khánh](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Di%C3%AAn_Kh%C3%A1nh&action=edit&redlink=1) town by the west and the [South China Sea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_China_Sea) to the east. The city is located on the beautiful Nha Trang Bay, which was chosen by Travel and Leisure in two succeeding years as one of 29 most beautiful bays in the world. Nha Trang is surrounded on all three sides by mountains and a large island on the fourth side (in the ocean directly in front of the city's main area), blocking major storms from potentially damaging the city.

**History**

From 1653 to 19th century, Nha Trang was still a deserted area and was an area rich in wildlife animals like [tigers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tigers), and was a part of Hà Bạc, Vĩnh Xương County, Diên Khánh Province. After just 2 decades of early 20th century, Nha Trang underwent a rapid change. On 30 August 1924, the [Governor-General of French Indochina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governor-General_of_French_Indochina) (Gouverneur-General de l’Indochine) by a decree, establish Nha Trang as a townlet (centre urbain). Nha Trang Townlet was established from ancient villages of: Xương Huân, Phương Câu, Vạn Thạnh, Phương Sài, Phước Hải.

During [French Indochina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Indochina), Nha Trang was seen as [de facto](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De_facto) capital (chief lieu) of Khanh Hoa Province. The colonical administration offices like Envoy Office, Commanding Office, Trade Office, Post Office….were situated in Nha Trang. However, local royal offices like: Province Chief, Provincial Judge, Military Commander…are situated in [Dien Khanh city](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Dien_Khanh_city&action=edit&redlink=1) (a walled military city located 10 km south-west of Nha Trang). On 7 May 1937 , the [Governor-General of French Indochina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governor-General_of_French_Indochina) by another decree upgraded Nha Trang Townlet to town (French: commune). At this time, Nha Trang Town had 5 wards: Xương Huân was the fist ward, Phương Câu was the second ward, Vạn Thạnh was the third ward, Phương Sài was the fourth ward, and Phước Hải was the fifth ward.

On January 27, 1958, the president of the [Republic of Vietnam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Vietnam), [Ngô Đình Diệm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ng%C3%B4_%C4%90%C3%ACnh_Di%E1%BB%87m) by Decree 18-BNV abrogated the town status of Nha Trang and divided Nha Trang into two rural communes: Nha Trang Đông (Eastern Nha Trang) and Nha Trang Tây (Western Nha Trang), under the administration of Vĩnh Xương County.

On October 22, 1970, the government of the [Republic of Vietnam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Vietnam) by Decree 132-SL/NV reestablished Nha Trang Town on the ground of Nha Trang Đông and Nha Trang Tây and other rural communes, namely Vĩnh Hải, Vĩnh Phước, Vĩnh Trường, Vĩnh Nguyên, and villages: Phước Hải (Vĩnh Thái Commune), Vĩnh Điềm Hạ (Vĩnh Hiệp Commune), Ngọc Thảo, Ngọc Hội, Lư Cấm Villages (Vĩnh Ngọc Commune) under the administration of Vinh Xuong County, together with islands: Hòn Lớn, Hòn Một, Hòn Mun, Hòn Miễu, Hòn Tằm. Nha Trang Town was made the capital of Khanh Hoa Province. The town included 2 districts: district 1 and district 2. District 1 covered communes: Nha Trang Đông, Vĩnh Hải, Vĩnh Phước, and villages: Ngọc Thảo, Ngọc Hội and Lư Cấm of Vĩnh Ngọc Commune, Vĩnh Điềm Hạ village of Vĩnh Hiệp Commune; district 2 covered communes: Nha Trang Tây, Vĩnh Trường, Vĩnh Nguyên (inclusive of islands of Hòn Tre, Hòn Một, Hòn Mun, Hòn Tằm), Phước Hải village of Vĩnh Thái Commune.

Following that establishment, the government by Decree 357-ĐUHC/NC/NĐ dated June 5, 1971 divided Nha Trang into 11 urban zones, of which, district 1 covered urban zones of Vĩnh Hải, Vĩnh Phước, Ngọc Hiệp, Vạn Thạnh, Duy Tân; district 2 covered urban wards of Vĩnh Nguyên, Vĩnh Trường, Phương Sài, Tân Phước, Tân Lập, Phước Hải. Decree 553-BNV/HCĐP/NV dated 22 August 1972 renamed urban zones into urban wards. Decree 444-BNV/HCĐP/26.X dated September 3, 1974 merged islands of Hòn Một, Hòn Cậu, Hòn Đụn, Hòn Chóp Vung, Hòn Đỏ into Vĩnh Hải ward (district 1) and Hòn Ngọc into Vĩnh Nguyên ward (district 2) of Nha Trang Town.

On April 2, 1975, communist ([NLF](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NLF)/[PRG](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PRG)/[VPA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VPA)) forces captured the city. On April 4, 1975, [Khanh Hoa Military Commission](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Khanh_Hoa_Military_Commission&action=edit&redlink=1) (*Ủy ban Quân quản Khánh Hòa*) divided Nha Trang into 3 administrative: District 1, District 2 and Vĩnh Xương District.

In September 1975, District 1 and District 2 were merged to become one entity, the town of Nha Trang.

On March 30, 1977, the Council of the Government (now the cabinet) of the [Socialist Republic of Vietnam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist_Republic_of_Vietnam) by Decision 391-CP/QĐ upgraded Nha Trang to city status, a county-level city under the administration of [Phu Khanh Province](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Phu_Khanh_Province&action=edit&redlink=1) (a province created by merger of now [Phú Yên Province](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ph%C3%BA_Y%C3%AAn_Province) and [Khánh Hòa Province](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kh%C3%A1nh_H%C3%B2a_Province)). 7 Communes of former Vĩnh Xương County, namely Vĩnh Thái, Vĩnh Ngọc, Vĩnh Hiệp, Vĩnh Lương, Vĩnh Trung, Vĩnh Thạnh, Vĩnh Phương was split from Khánh Xương County to become Nha Trang City territory.

City hall

Trầm Hương tower (literally: [Agarwood](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agarwood)), a city's icon

On March 27, 1978, the provincial government by Decision 54-BT founded Phước Đồng Commune under Nha Trang City.

On July 1, 1989, Khanh Hoa was split from Phu Khanh Province to become [Khanh Hoa Province](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khanh_Hoa_Province) as it was before, Nha Trang was made the capital of Khanh Hoa Province.

On 22 April 1999, the prime minister by Decision 106/1999 recognized Nha Trang City the second class municipal city.