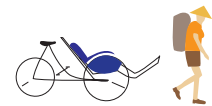


# Discovering Huế: Lê Lợi street



1 hour

## Itinerary from the railway station

### Origin of the street

This street, 2.2km long, is the main artery of the old French Quarter. It began to develop from protectorate treaties of 1874 and 1884. Before these dates, there were barracks and wedges for the junks of the royal navy. In 1933, there were 833 French, mostly civil servants and military. The city then had around 50,000 inhabitants.

During the French period, the street name was **Jules Ferry**. Jules Ferry was a strong advocate of colonial expansion, especially in Indochina. Since 1965, this street has been named **Lê Lợi**. This hero of Vietnamese independence lived between 1384 and 1433. He opposed Chinese rule in force in the country. At the head of a well organized rebellion, he succeeded in liberating the capital, Hanoi today, then drove the Chinese out the country in 1428.

Note many **banyan trees** (cây bồ đề) along this avenue. Offerings at the foot of trees honor the "geniuses" who, according to the Vietnamese, are living there. Some banyans are more than 200 years old.

### Railway station

Built in 1906. The desire to fit Indochina with railway tracks came from Paul Doumer, French Indochina Governor from 1898 to 1902, well before the setting up of a road network. Line from Saigon to Hanoi, 1730 km long, was completed in 1936.

### An Cựu canal, formerly Phu Cam canal

This waterway was drilled under King Gia Long in 1814 to make a large cultivable area upstream of the Perfume River. In the past, many mandarins lived along the canal inside garden houses and used boat to go working at the citadel. The canal joins the lagoon on the way to the Hai Van pass ("ocean cloud pass").

### N°1 Music Academy, former High School Pellerin

Off the main road, down the driveway, is the former private school of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, built in 1904 (congregation founded by Saint Jean- Baptiste de la Salle). Many mandarins and sons of the royal family studied here. It is now the local Academy of Music, where traditional music of Hue is also taught.

### N°3, Head office of Hue University, formerly House of People's Representatives

In 1920, a consultative assembly was set up by the French. This assembly met to give advice, especially on the local budget. This chamber was also a place of protest against the colonial presence. The present building dates from 1927. It is currently the head office of Hue University. Around 50,000 students are studying in Hue.

### N°5, Hotel La Residence, formerly Palace of the Governor of the local province (Phu Thu Hien)

The main building dates from the 1930s. At that time, the provincial authority (13 provinces in Annam, central Vietnam) was given to a local governor, and a French governor (named "le Resident de France"). The first one occupied this building. Besides, at the current location of the Hồ Chí Minh Museum, was the office of the French Resident. The house of the Resident itself was in front, surrounded by a large garden. Since the early 2000s, the site was restored and extended in Art Deco style. Interiors and shops to be seen.

### Điện Biên Phủ street (formerly Nam Giao street)

At the end of the street, toward the Perfume River, former jetty for a ferry going to the other side. This street has the particularity of being rectiline and leads directly to the Nam Giao esplanade, located 2.5 km from the city. This impressive offerings ceremony, whose the officiant was the king himself, was for the worship of "heaven and earth". The king then went there in street procession.

### N°7 Hồ Chí Minh museum (Bảo tàng Hồ Chí Minh)

Museum dedicated to the struggle for national independence and reunification, oriented to local history. Son of mandarin, Hồ Chí Minh spent a part of his childhood in Hue. You can visit the two traditional houses where he lived, in the citadel (112, Mai Thúc Loan street) and at the village of Dương Nỗ (on the road to Thuận An beach).

### Old World War I memorial (opposite Quốc Học school)

This monument was inaugurated in 1920 by Emperor Khải Định and the French Marshal Joffre. It is rich in symbols from the royal tombs of Hue. At the origin, on one side, there were the names of 31 french living in Annam and died in fighting. On the other side, 78 names of Indochinese. More than 92,000 Vietnamese went to France during the WW1, not always voluntary. 70% of them worked in the arms factories.

### N°10, national high school Quốc Học

This school, founded in 1896, has now 1,300 pupils. The raspberry color was chosen by the first headmaster to attract pupils

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Unique secondary school in central Vietnam for a long time, it has always been a reputable institution. Numerous famous poets, artists, revolutionaries, presidents studied there, including Hồ Chí Minh. This school specialized in classes with a reduced number of pupils.. Entry exam.



Through the porch, can be seen on both sides the name of pupils awarded at national and international level tables. Far off, status of Hồ Chí Minh (Nguyễn Tất Thành was his name at that time). Access to the gardens allowed outside classes hours.

### City gardens

Many contemporary art sculptures of the artist Lê Thành Nhơn. See also the *Điền Phùng Thị Foundation (1920-2002)* on Phan Bội Châu Street.

### N°12, Hai Bà Trưng High School, formerly Đồng Khánh School

Originally, it was a school for girls founded in 1917. It currently has more than 1,900 pupils. Unique higher education institution for girls in central Vietnam until 1975, the school excelled for teaching theoretical and practical studies as household stitching, embroidery, cooking. Many young ladies of wealthy families have become revolutionary heroines...

### N°16, People's Assembly of the local province

Head office of the provincial People's Committee. Behind this building, the former prison built by the French.

### Central Hospital of Hue

Founded in 1894, it has developed mainly since 1968. Many doctors are trained abroad and many trainees are coming from all over the world.

### Phú Xuân bridge

375 meter bridge was designed by the Eiffel Company. It was built in 1971.

### N°11, Restaurant "Festival", Former sports club,

This art deco and streamline building dates from the 30s. From 1946, it became the French Vietnamese club. People came to the pool and to play tennis. Every year, some famous regattas were organized. There were also a bar, a library and a ballroom. Have a look over the back façade from the bridge.

### N°15A, Buddhist Cultural Center

Hue is the Buddhist capital of Vietnam with over 300 pagodas. Multicolored flag, emblem of the Buddhist world since 1950 can be noted.

### N°15, Lê Bá Dang Foundation

Lê Bá Dang was a local artist trained at the art school of Toulouse (France) in the 40s. His art is expressed on many materials: paintings, wood carvings, paper, metal. He was living in Paris until his death in 2015.

### N°25, City Museum, former buildings of Civil Works.

These two houses were built in the 20s by the French architect Claudius Auclair. Turned into a museum recently.



### N°26, colonial house

This pretty red brick house was occupied by the Morin family for 30 years until 1952. Upstairs, frequent exhibitions organized by the local cultural associations.

### Saigon Morin Hotel, former "Hotel Morin" or "Grand Hotel de Hue"

This is the first European hotel in Hue and one of the first buildings on the South bank. This hotel was opened in 1901. The first owner was Mr. Bogeart (a war veteran who took part in the capture of Hue in 1885) and later developed by another French family, the Morin. Meeting point of the colonial society through its store and movie theater... Sold in 1954, the hotel served as premises for the university between 1957 and 1988. Saved from destruction, this is again a prestigious hotel since 1997. Many old pictures are displayed inside.



### Phan Bội Châu Park (opposite the Hotel Saigon Morin)

The sculpture represents Phan Bội Châu, Vietnamese nationalist favorable to armed struggle against the French. He was arrested in 1925, sentenced to death and then released and placed under house arrest in Hue until his death in 1940. On the corner, monument in memory of 8 Buddhists killed in Hue during the events that led to the fall of the regime of Ngô Đình Diệm in 1963.

### Trường Tiền bridge, formerly named Than Thai, Clémenceau, then Nguyen Hoang

The construction of this bridge was decided by the Governor General Paul Doumer in 1900 to connect the French district to the citadel. 401 meters long, it was originally designed by the French company Le Creusot (Schneider). It came 2 years before the Long Bien Bridge of Hanoi (ex Doumer Bridge). It was partially destroyed by a typhoon in 1904, in 1946 and during the Tet offensive in 1968. Despite successive repairs, it keeps its original character.

### Refreshment place and kiosk

Near the entrance of the bridge, an interesting example of mixed architecture. It is a small house built in 1943 to become a tourist desk, then a snack bar. It is related with the information panel that is opposite. A little further, a French style kiosk.

### Pedagogical University (Đại học sư phạm), former place of "la Residence Superieure"

The "Residence Superieure" was the head office of the Resident-superior of Annam (Central Vietnam), representing the colonial power. Destruction of these buildings in 1947 during the "battle of Hue." Since 1958, the Pedagogical University has been training teachers for all central Vietnam.

### Monument commemorating the events of 1908 (along the façade of the university)

An "anti-tax" movement broke out in 1908 in different parts of central Vietnam. Taxation imposed by the French was heavy and rigid, despite the many natural disasters that occurred regularly. This protestation, originally led by peasants, was quickly contained. Some protesters, like the nationalist Phan Châu Trinh, were sent to jail.

As Lê Lợi street continues on, it goes down to Thuan An beach, 12 km.