



### **Most international visitors want to return to Hanoi**

More than 80 percent of foreign tourists to Hanoi said they want to return to the capital city after their first visit, according to a municipal survey. The Hanoi Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism surveyed a total of 1,420 visitors at Noi Bai international airport after they get [Vietnam visa on arrival](#) to travel and various cultural and historical relic sites in city. About 81.32 percent described the city as safe and attractive due to local hospitality and convenient shopping. However, many complained about environment-related issues, traffic infrastructure, and the behavior of some taxi drivers, street vendors, and salesclerks. The municipal Department for Culture, Sports and Tourism is taking measures to improve its tourism profile by building more parking lots, improving signage, providing more public services and changing the behavior of service providers. The Department will also increase its supervision of travel agents, tour organizers, and [hotels in Hanoi](#), Ho Chi Minh City and other cities to ensure better quality services for visitors at reasonable prices. Last year, Hanoi received more than 2.1 million international arrivals, and is expected to welcome 2.25 million foreigners by the end of this year.

### **Hanoi to restore craft villages as extinction threatens**

Hanoi will restore 21 of its craft villages which are at risk of being lost from the impacts of socio-economic development, according to the municipal Department of Industry and Trade. From now until 2022, the capital will preserve and restore 10 craft villages including Dong My (lacquer wear), Van Canh (poonah paper), Phu Son (pottery), Ngu Xa (bronze casting), and La Khe (silk weaving). Eleven other craft villages will be restored in the following years. Hanoi boasts the largest number of craft villages in the country. According to the department, the city now has 1,264 craft villages, attracting nearly 1 million workers. However, Hanoi's traditional craft villages have been declining because the younger generations are not well-trained, leading to lower quality of products. In addition, there are fewer people who want to learn and spend a lifetime in traditional crafts. To maintain their operations, many of the villages have expanded their production to new fields to meet market demand.

### **Quang Ninh to tap heritage sites for development**

Northern Quang Ninh province will develop three important heritage sites from next month until 2025 to promote their cultural values, contributing to the province's tourism and economy. According to Ho Chi Duc, head of the managing board of the key vestiges of Quang Ninh, the planning of the three complexes are among key developments to shift the province's economic focus from heavy industries towards the tourism and services industries. The Prime Minister has approved more than US\$192 million for the plan, of which US\$67 million is used to restore and promote the treasured Tran Dynasty historical complex in Dong Trieu district.

US\$86 million will be invested to protect the natural landscape of Yen Tu, while the Bach Dang Victory historical site receives US\$39 million to boost its tourism potential.

The investment is sourced from the State budget, local budgets, private funding and tourist fees received by the three sites. Encompassing more than 11,000ha in An Sinh, Trang An, Thuy An and Binh Khe communes, the Tran dynasty complex is home to tombs of eight kings. As one of the most important memorials in Vietnam, the complex was listed as a national cultural and historical vestige in 1962.

The sacred land of Yen Tu in Quang Yen consists of five sections, including the heritage site, service area, social facilities, management and residential areas. It has become known for its 1,000m Yen Tu mountain and the birthplace of the Truc Lam (Bamboo Forest) Zen sect. Covering 20,000ha, it attracts many tourists and pilgrims from all over the country. Last week, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism proposed to the Prime Minister that the site be submitted to UNESCO for world cultural heritage. Covering 380ha in Uong Bi City, the former Bach Dang battle site recalls the victory of the Vietnamese people under the Tran dynasty over the third Yuan-Mongol invasion in 1288 along the Bach Dang River. Both the Yen Tu and Bach Dang sites were recognized as Special National Heritage sites last September.