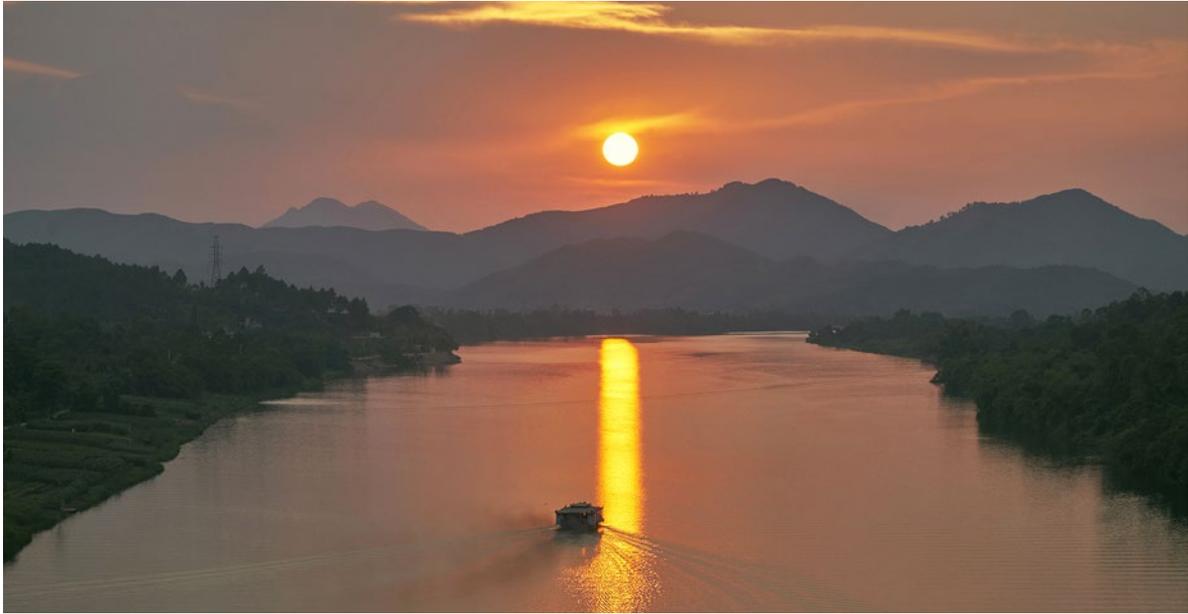


# A Z E R A I

LA RESIDENCE, HUE

*a timeless city of palaces, temples and pagodas spliced by the Perfume River*



## *geography*

Hue, the one-time capital of Vietnam, commands the south and north banks of the fabled Perfume River, several kilometres inland from the sea. Located more than halfway from Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi on the old Mandarin Road, Hue is a Vietnamese world all of its own and keeper of the country's soul.

A visit to Hue is a journey into the profound depths of Vietnamese culture. Its palaces, pagodas, temples and the funereal cities of the Nguyen Emperors seem to be lifted from the pages of a storybook. Its people pride themselves on their heritage, their inventive cuisine and a disposition that's more mindful of poetry than industry.

## *history*

Once the northern frontier of the now vanished Kingdom of Champa, Hue was ceded to the Vietnamese in the early 14th century and came into its own as a province of Vietnam when the Nguyen Lords migrated south more than 200 years later. After consolidating their hold on all of Vietnam in the early 1800s, the Nguyen Emperors established their capital at Hue in 1802. Inspired by the Chinese capital at Beijing, the Nguyen rooted their kingdom in the Forbidden Purple City. They surrounded the emperor's private domain with city walls and surrounded these walls with the 6.5-metre high walls of a Citadel modelled on a design by the French military engineer, Sebastien Vauban. The French deepened their interests in the region throughout the 19th century. The French colonial governor held sway over all of Vietnam from Hue, though the Nguyen Emperors persevered as the nominal heads of state until the last emperor, Bao Dai, abdicated to Ho Chi Minh in 1945.

Though many of the city's assets were lost during wars with the French in the 1940s and 1950s and with the Americans in the 1960s and 1970s, many of the city's palaces, gates, towers and temples are extant. UNESCO recognised the complex of Hue monuments as a World Heritage site in 1993.

## *Azerai in Hue*

Set on a two and a half-hectare site with 200 metres of frontage on the fabled Perfume River, Azerai La Residence, Hue has 122 rooms and suites. The colonial mansion at the heart of the hotel was built in 1930 as part of the residence of the French Resident Superieure. The mansion's distinctive façade, its long horizontal lines and nautical flourishes are hallmarks of the streamline moderne school of art deco architecture. Its two complementary wings, built in 2005, are contemporary in design yet echo elements of art deco aesthetics and embrace an expansive tropical garden and salt-water swimming pool.

At the time of its construction, the colonial mansion was one of a long string of ambitious French edifices that stretched from the 1906-built railway station to the 1900-built Truong Tien Bridge. In between, the leafy boulevard was home to the French-built Quoc Hoc High School and a leisure club known then and now as Le Cercle Sportif. Much of Le Loi Street today looks as it did when it was known as rue Jules Ferry.

In the late 1930s, the property played host to trade fairs featuring local products. Later the government requisitioned the property to serve as a government building. In 1963, the colonial mansion returned to its roots as a guest house. The last emperor of Vietnam, Bao Dai and Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, were both reputed to have stayed in the mansion.

### *accommodation*

**Rooms** The rooms and suites occupy three distinct buildings. In the hotel's West Wing, the 73 superior and deluxe rooms were completely renovated in late 2018, and now make the most of a contemporary new look that trades on both simplicity and a timeless elegance. Some rooms offer balconies as large as terraces, many look out to the gardens and river. Beds are king-sized and twin-sized, and the amenities include television, mini bar, individual coffee and tea-making facilities. In the mansion, ten Colonial Rooms, Suites and the Resident's Suite offer from 30-72 square metres, some with private balconies and views that reach over the gardens to the Perfume River. In the East Wing, 39 more superior and deluxe rooms and suites provide both river and garden views.

**Rates** December 2018 – 31 October 2019

Superior Standard VND 5,570,000++	Deluxe VND 8,120,000++	Colonial Junior Suite VND 10,670,000++
Superior Garden View VND 6,260,000++	Deluxe River View VND 8,930,000++	Colonial Suite VND 14,500,000++
Superior River View VND 6,960,000++	Deluxe Colonial VND 8,930,000++	Resident Suite VND 23,200,000++

*\*\*Rates are subject to 10% vat government tax and 5% service charge.*

*\*\*Rates and government tax are subject to change without prior notice.*





## *facilities*

**Lobby Lounge** Much more than a mere way station at check-in, the lobby occupies most of the rotunda's ground floor. A great arc of windows curves with the rotunda's walls, opening up views of the garden, the pool and the monumental Flagtower Bastion on the river's north bank. French doorways segue from the indoor lounge to a sheltered terrace that's a particularly compelling venue at cocktail hour.

**Le Gouverneur Bar** Open from 9am to midnight, Le Gouverneur is just off the lobby lounge in the mansion and seats eight at an artfully designed bar and two dozen more in comfortable lounge seating. Le Gouverneur offers a full range of cocktails, wines, liqueurs and beer, including several local brews.

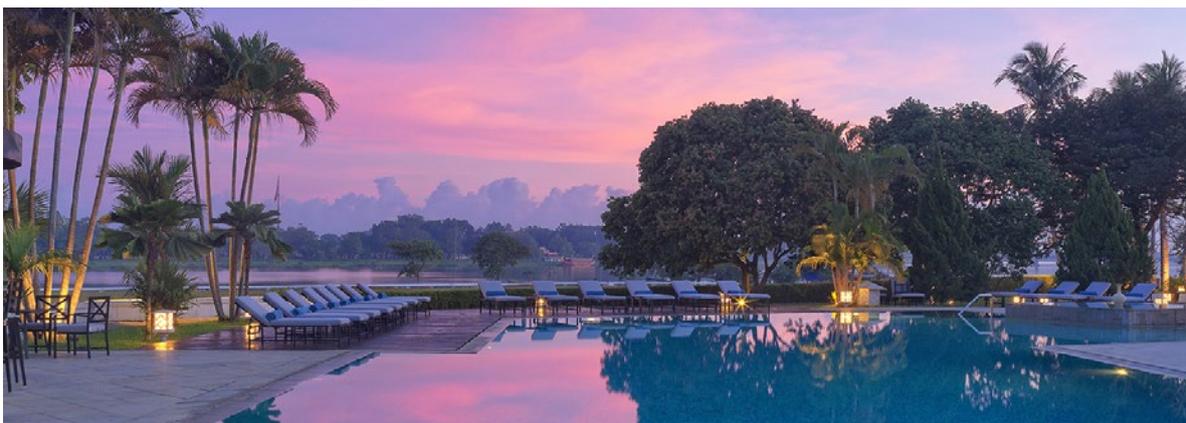
**Le Parfum Restaurant** The hotel's main restaurant, and a destination all its own, Le Parfum serves a breakfast buffet from 6am to 10am, and lunch and dinner from 11:30am to 11pm. The cuisine presents authentic Vietnamese dishes, from *bun bo Hue* and *pho* to *bun thit nuong*, and a compelling selection of Western dishes from salmon fillet and duck breast to black Angus beef tenderloin. The restaurant seats 178, and includes dining on a terrace that takes in views of the river and the walls of the Citadel on the north bank.

**Pool Bar** On the far side of the swimming pool, the Pool Bar is a convenient stop for a cold beer or soft drink, a glass of wine or a range of cocktails from 10am to 7pm. Its menu of light and easy favourites, from club sandwiches and hamburgers to pasta, makes for a casual poolside bite.

**Swimming Pool** The hotel's salt-water pool stretches 40 metres on the far side of the garden and parallels the river. A small shallow section caters to kids, several alcoves to casual bathing and the great length of the pool to lap swimmers. Shaded sun loungers edge the pool.

**La Boutique** Located just beyond the lobby in the mansion, the boutique offers a selection of locally sourced products, including distinctive fashions, art, handicrafts and household items.

**Gymnasium** The all new fitness centre is equipped with TechnoGym treadmills, exercise bikes, an elliptical trainer and strength equipment, as well as a rubber-floored area for free weights that includes racks and benches.



## *Azerai spa*

The ground level Spa opens from double doors off a timber deck on the hotel's ground floor. From a combined reception and lounge area, the spa transitions to six treatment rooms, four single rooms and two double suites.

Each single treatment room provides a dressing area, vanity, shower and toilet as complements to the treatment table. The double suites are spacious with the dressing area providing twin vanities, twin showers, hanging cupboards and a toilet. The treatment area provides a banquette for foot massages and two treatment tables.

There are separate male and female lockers, each offering a dressing area with lockers and vanities and an area with toilets and a shower. Each of the wet areas provides heat experiences with both sauna and steam rooms while cold experiences are provided via a pair of differing showers and an ice fountain.

Adjacent to the reception lounge, a beauty studio offers a variety of treatments including manicure, pedicure, facial and hair treatments.

The Spa menu features a range of treatments, therapies, scrubs and wraps, drawing on techniques largely developed in Vietnam, Thailand and Sweden.

**Massages** The massages explore treatments perfected over hundreds of years in the East and West. Eastern therapies include acupressure, reflexology and cupping while Western techniques involve long gliding strokes, four-hand massage and whole-body relaxation.

**Therapies** As stimulants to circulation and antidotes to stress, the spa offers a number of therapies that deploy volcanic basalt stone, oils and aromas.

**Scrubs** Therapists use salt and honey, green tea and coffee in a number of treatments that remove dead cells and bring back soft, supple skin.

**Beauty** The Spa's beauty treatments include facials and deep cleansings, as well as a number of wraps with mineral mud and essential oils.



## *activities*

Touring the Citadel, the Imperial City, the Forbidden Purple City, as well as the expansive mausoleums of the Nguyen emperors, should be priorities on any first-time visitor's list of things to do in Hue. These palaces and temples together form the foundation of the city's listing on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

In addition to the grandiose architecture of the Nguyen Dynasty, Hue is also home to many garden homes, some clustered in the north bank district of Kim Long, others scattered throughout the Citadel. Some of these homes, including one built for the daughter of an emperor, are open to the public.



The French also established a durable architectural legacy in Hue. A walk from the railway station near Azerai La Residence to the historic Truong Tien Bridge is a trip past 100-year-old school buildings, colonial-era municipal offices and an art deco leisure club.

More than 300 Buddhist pagodas are active in Hue, from the renowned Thien Mu Pagoda high on a bluff above the Perfume River to the more sublime Tu Hieu Pagoda, where Thich Nhat Hanh lived as a novice in the 1940s.

The city's markets, especially the Dong Ba market on the north bank, are shopping opportunities for those in search of traditional Hue handicrafts and a glimpse of lively Vietnamese commerce.

Azerai can make arrangements for travel to many of the city's nearby attractions by cyclo, by Vespa, by boat and by car. Indeed, a river cruise in a dragon boat to one of the Nguyen mausoleums and Thien Mu Pagoda can be a highlight of any trip to Hue.

Beyond the city proper and its near environs, the hotel can make plans for travel to Bach Ma National Park, Thanh Tan Hot Springs and Phong Nha National Park.

### *travel tips*

**Immigration** Citizens of select countries in Europe and Asia can enter Vietnam without a visa for up to 15-30 days. Citizens of most other countries require visas to enter, exit or transit through Vietnam. One-month and three-month tourist visas, for single or multiple entries, are available at any Vietnamese embassy/consulate before departure from country of origin. A visa on arrival is also available if pre-approved in advance through a reputable online broker. For the latest updates on visa information rules and regulations, please visit the official Vietnam Government Visa website in your country of origin.

**Climate** Hue is generally hot and dry from March through September, with average high temperatures ranging from 28°C to 32°C. Rain is more likely in September, and most frequent in October and November, and then tapering off in December. December through February are the coolest months, with typical highs hovering at 24°C.

**Dress** Light cotton and linen fabrics are most comfortable from March to September. Rain gear is convenient in October and November. A fleece or shawl may be welcome December through February.

**Language** Vietnamese is the official language of Vietnam, although English and French are widely spoken.

**Currency** Vietnamese currency is the *dong*. ATMs and banks are available in all major areas of Hue. Azerai accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Diners Club and JCB.

**Electricity** The standard electrical voltage in Hue is 220 volts AC, 50 Hz.

**Time Zone** Hue is located at GMT +07.00.

## getting there

Azerai La Residence, Hue is a 17-kilometre drive from Phu Bai International Airport, which is served by three airlines including Vietnam Airlines, VietJet Air and Jetstar Pacific. Alternatively, the hotel is a two-hour drive from Danang International Airport, which is served by a number of leading international carriers.

There are direct flights to Phu Bai from Ho Chi Minh City (1 hour 25 minutes) and Hanoi (1 hour 10 minutes).

Non-stop international flights come into Danang from Hong Kong, Macau, Bangkok, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Taipei and Doha, as well as multiple cities in Japan (Tokyo and Osaka), Korea (Seoul, Busan and Daegu) and China (Beijing, Changsha, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Kunming and Zhengzhou).

There are also direct flights between Danang and Can Tho in the Mekong Delta where Azerai Can Tho is located. This provides a good connection for visiting both properties in Vietnam.

Travel by railroad to Hue from Ho Chi Minh City is a journey of approximately 18-20 hours in classic, albeit air-conditioned cars and from Hanoi in 12 hours.

*Travel time estimate is contingent on aircraft and is for reference only.*



**AZERAI**

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