



Imperial Vietnam, Hue : The Purple Forbidden city, The Royal tombs of the perfume river



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Amongst the architectural structures in Vietnam recognised as World Heritage sites, the Hue Imperial city is considered to be the most precious.

Capital of the Nguyen, the Southern Lords, in the 16th century, Hue went on to become capital of the whole of Vietnam after it was reunited by Gia Long in 1802.

The Hue Imperial City was built progressively throughout the 19th century.

Here we find the Ngo Môn gate, where the Emperor proclaimed his decisions; the Palace of Supreme Harmony, the Throne Hall with its crimson and yellow lacquered pillars, and the Imperial Museum which houses the royal outfits along with some furniture and porcelain.

Having become the Imperial residence and the principal seat of the court, Hue achieved a certain level of prestige and refinement, and this was reflected in the quality of music and cooking.

The Perfume River owes its name to the numerous medicinal herbs that grew along its banks. Many sampan villages erect small alters and offerings on the roof, to honor the water genies.

Many imperial temples are found on either side of the river, but always southwest. In fact, the location of these tombs is no coincidence. The West symbolizes death while the south represents the Divine Path.

The various tombs were built on the same architectural model. And yet, some decorative touches reveal the personal tastes of the emperor for whom the mausoleum was built. For these « Palaces of the Netherworld» were built during the emperors' lives.

The tombs of Tu Duc, Minh Mang and Gia Long are among the most remarkable.

Directed by Jacques VICHET

A documentary of 52'

French version
English version

High Definition
HD Cam & Digital Betacam 16/9

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