KHÁM PHÁ DI SẢN · HUẾ TRAVEL · 3 OCTOBER 2026 · ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Thiên Ý – Huế Citadel: three villas and a lakeside hotel in the heart of the old capital

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Thiên Ý · Huế Citadel is an elegant retreat inside the Citadel walls, where the spirit of the Nguyễn dynasty's princely residences meets refined living and the particular charm of Huế. It is a way of life built from heritage, from the bearing and spirit of a dynasty: architecture, landscape, the attentive care of the Quản gia and the pleasure of shared meals together set a rhythm of their own.

Thiên Ý · Huế Citadel brings together three places: Thiên Ý Villas, Thiên Ý Lake and Manor Thiên Ý. Each has its own mood – private and restful, open to nature, or quiet in the beauty of a stay marked by heritage. Three places, one harmonious whole, joined by landscape, architecture and a spirit of hospitality. Together they form an estate in the heart of Huế's Citadel, where beauty is felt in every space, in every attention and in the simplest everyday pleasures.

A place to come back to. A place to enjoy. A heritage to carry on.

Flower House (Nhà Hoa)



A space where Eastern architecture, Cham art, Western influences and the heritage of Huế meet and blend into an identity of their own.

Three floors and five bedrooms, opening onto the pool and the garden from a vast ground floor in the spirit of a house on stilts. The tiered roof follows the old forms and rests on four giant timber columns eight metres high. On the façade facing the pool stand three guardian spirits holding lanterns – carved wooden statues inspired by real figures of the Nguyễn era. Here Eastern architecture, Cham art, Western influences and the heritage of Huế meet and blend into an identity of their own.

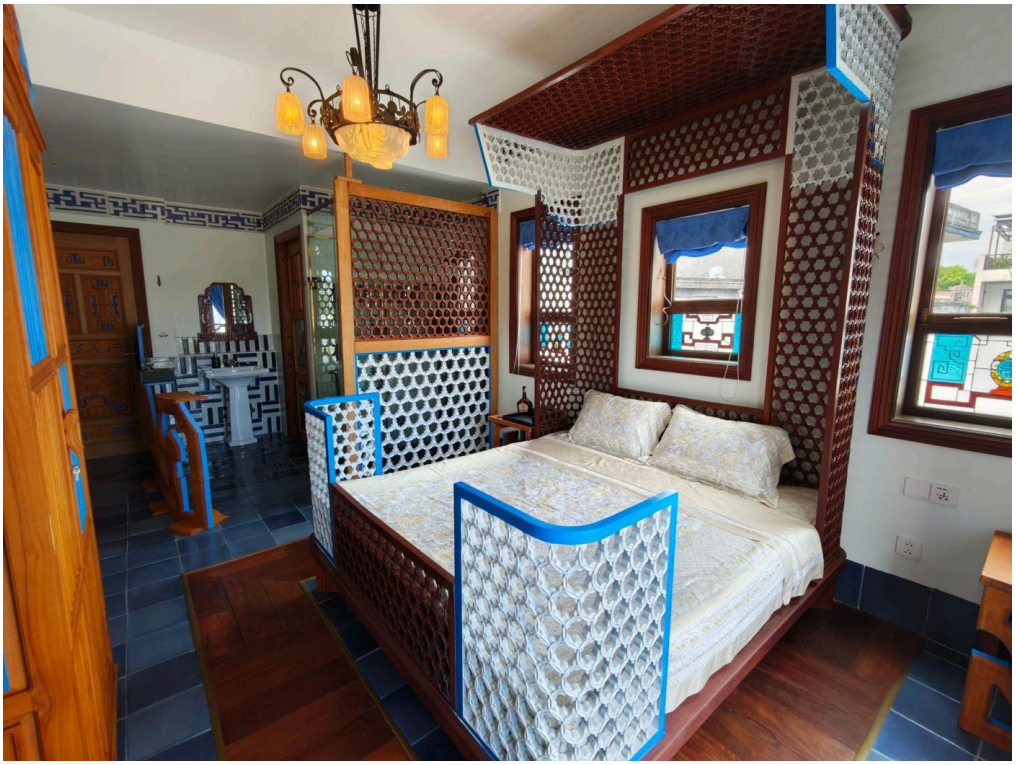


Flower Room – stained glass and a rose within a lotus. The Flower Room is a meeting of Western spirit and the beauty of Huế, highlighted by a stained-glass panel by the artist Nguyễn Niền, in which a Western rose sits inside a Vietnamese lotus. Hand-carved wood and the half-lacquer technique typical of Huế complete a refined space rich in cross-cultural exchange.



Huế Room – turquoise blue, ironwood and a mosaic bath. The Huế Room carries the grace and poetry of the old capital through turquoise blue, carved lim wood and a canopy bed inspired by the

Citadel. Handmade ceramics, old lanterns and a bathtub inlaid with ceramic mosaic bring traditional beauty into a contemporary place of rest.



Art Deco Huế Room – Art Deco in Vietnamese wood. Inspired by Huế's wooden houses of the 1920s and 1930s, the room combines Art Deco geometry with the natural feel of Vietnamese timber architecture. Blue, white, natural wood and stained glass by the artist Nguyễn Niển make a space at once classic and modern.



Mandarin Room – an echo of Huế's old Chinese-Vietnamese families. Inspired by the Chinese-Vietnamese families of old, the Mandarin Room blends Vietnamese structure, Chinese influence and European ornament. A carved Ningbo screen, hand-painted glass, antiques and eighteenth-century chinoiserie patterns together tell the story of a multicultural Huế.



Saigon Suite – lacquer from the golden-age studios of Saigon. The Saigon Suite brings back the Saigon of the 1960s, with original lacquer works from the Ateliers Thanh Lễ. Lacquer, paintings and

stained glass, together with works by the artist Nguyễn Niền, create a space with the free and modern spirit of southern Vietnamese art.

Birds House (Nhà Chim)



In the Empire–Indochina style, Birds House impresses with its harmony and balance, built on a plan of three concentric squares. Three bedrooms, each with its own character, are joined in one coherent, refined and inspiring whole.



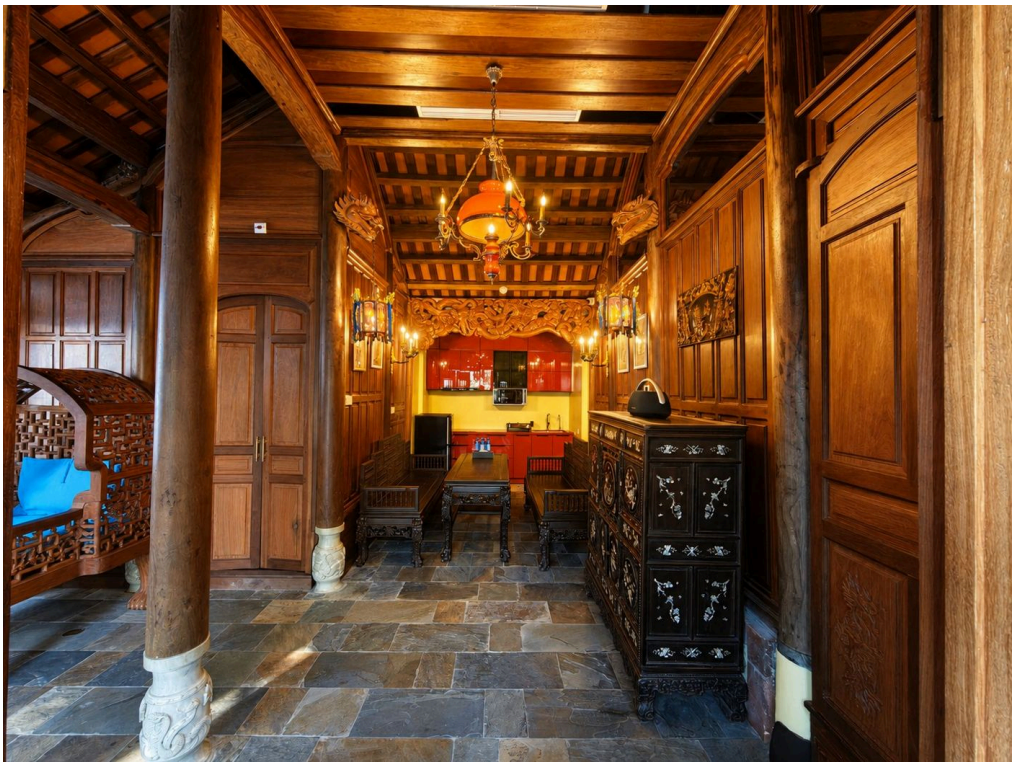
Basalt Bird Room and Nghệ An Marble Bird Room. Two rooms with a harmonious layout, bedroom and bathroom side by side, each opening onto its own green courtyard. Indochinese art is combined with the natural beauty of Nghệ An marble and dark basalt, giving two contrasting yet harmonious moods – one graceful, the other strong and sculptural. The highlight is the outdoor bathtubs in the garden, private places to relax close to nature.



Phoenix Suite – an old Huế house turned into a honeymoon dream under the phoenix's wings. Rebuilt from an old Huế timber house, the suite has traditional beauty: a finely carved canopy bed, a

copper bathtub and a wooden balcony running all around. The space is designed for couples, with details such as a double shower, double basins and matching furniture for a private and intimate stay.

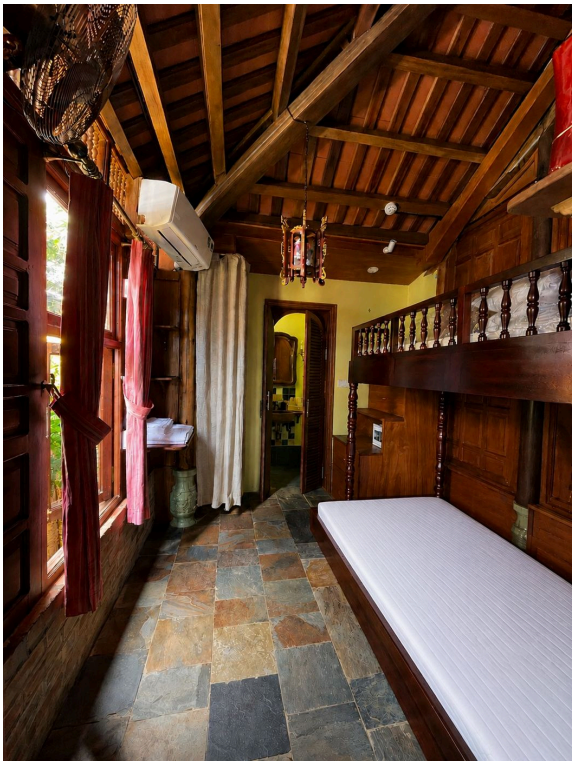
Beasts House (Nhà Thú)



Beasts House, or Nhà Thú, is built in the manner of Huế's old timber houses, with dragons, phoenixes and sacred animals carved on the beams and lintels – protective figures with deep spiritual meaning in East Asian culture. The interiors are made of natural hardwood, left bare and unvarnished, warm and welcoming. Lào Cai slate and dark basalt add a rustic touch.



Beast Pool Room. Right at the edge of its private pool, the Beast Pool Room is a 30 m² master bedroom, warm in natural wood. The king-size bed looks over the water; through the wooden doors, light reflected from the pool gently moves. A quiet corner looking onto the green garden and the old stones.



Beast Ship Room – a small, cosy room with character. Inspired by a ship's cabin, the Beast Ship Room is a surprising little retreat within the villa. A double bunk in dark wood feels cosy and private, with a touch of adventure that children and young travellers will love.

Thiền Ý Lake – a hotel on the lotus lake





On the shore of a quiet lotus lake inside the Citadel, Thiền Ý Lake will welcome its first guests on 1 November 2026 [opening since moved to 1 December 2026]. The hotel's façade is reflected in the lake; the entrance house opens onto the Citadel's main street, and the main axis runs across the water towards the distant mountains. A dreamlike composition of the early twentieth century, where history and reverie gently intertwine.

The hotel has 15 rooms and suites, every one looking onto the lake, with no road between the hotel and the water. Each room is a quiet corner where guests can sit by the window, watch the lake change colour with the light and listen to the slow rhythm of life in the Citadel.

Breakfast is always included, with the attentive care of the Quản gia – as at the Thiền Ý villas.

Thiền Ý · Huế Citadel
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Translation: Thiên Ý, Huế. Photographs: Thiên Ý, as published with the original article; the original article belongs to Khám Phá Di Sản (khamphadisan.com.vn). thienyhue.com