

## Hung King Temple Festival

Written by Nava Nahi

Tuesday, 23 September 2008 01:44 - Last Updated Wednesday, 15 October 2008 03:52

---

***Every year, a large number of visitors from all over the country participate a national festival - Hung King Temple Festival - an incense offering ceremony in honor of Hung Kings, who were instrumental in the founding of the nation.***

### Legend associated with the Hung Kings



It is said that thousands of years ago, Lac Long Quan (King Dragon of the Land of Lac) had superhuman strength and liked to stay near water. He succeeded to the throne of his father, and governed the Lac-Viet tribe. De Lai, king of a northern tribe, with his daughter Au Co made a trip to visit the south.

Admiring Lac Long Quan's talent, De Lai married Au Co to Lac Long Quan. Au Co became pregnant and gave birth to a membranous sac. The sac kept getting larger and larger, and burst on the seventh day. Surprisingly, there were one hundred eggs in the sac, which hatched into one hundred beautiful babies. The children of Lac Long Quan and Au Co were the ancestors of Vietnam, and so the Vietnamese are known as "Dragon and Fairy descendants." The eldest son of Lac Long Quan and Au Co, who was with this mother, established himself at Phong Chau, now the southern part of Phu Tho Province, and made himself king. That was King Hung I whose realm was made up by 50 tribes. The 18 Hung kings then ruled the country from 2879 to

## Hung King Temple Festival

Written by Nava Nahi

Tuesday, 23 September 2008 01:44 - Last Updated Wednesday, 15 October 2008 03:52

---

258BC.

According to historical records, the regime of the Hung Kings was an impressive, brilliant and outstanding start for establishing Viet Nam as a sovereign nation. The 18 generations of the Hung Kings saw the birth and development of a nation and are credited with forging national characteristics such as the sense of community, mutual affection, patriotism and unwillingness to yield to oppression. From this original settlement, the Hong (Red) River civilization and the pre-Dong Son cultures grew. From generations to generations, the Vietnamese people hold a festival nationwide on the 10th day of the third lunar month to commemorate the anniversary of their ancestor's death, founder of the Vietnamese nation - the first Hung King.

### Hung King Anniversary

The Hung King Temple Festival is annually held from 8<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> days of the third lunar month. The main festival day is on the 10<sup>th</sup>

day of the third lunar March, on which t

he National Assembly has approved Vietnamese working people to annually have one more national holiday to mark the anniversary of the Hung King's death.

Every year, on this traditional occasion, Vietnamese people worldwide join their brothers and sisters in spirit to observe Vietnam National Day in commemoration of their ancestors. The main ceremony takes place at the Hung Temple on Nghia Linh Mountain in Phong Chau District, Phu Tho Province, some 85km northwest of Hanoi. The Hung King Temple Festival is one of the most important and sacred festivals of the Vietnamese people, deeply imbedded in the minds of every Vietnamese citizen, regardless of where they originated from.

### Let's contemplate this historical vestige!

The Hung Temple is an ancient and sacred architectural ensemble on the top of the 175 metre-high Nghia Linh mountain.

The festival offers an opportunity for Vietnamese to visit their land of origin. A day before the festival, ancient and modern flags are to be hung along the road leading from Viet Tri to Hung mountain. A large ballon will also publicise the festival to surrounding areas. On the eve of the festival, 100 flying lights are released into the night sky. The main worship service is held in earnest the following morning, 10th day, beginning with a flower ceremony. In Den Thuong (Upper Temple) where the Hung Kings used to worship deities with full rituals, the ceremony consists of a lavish five-fruit feast. Banh chung (square cake) and banh giay (circle cake) are also served to remind people of the Lang Lieu Legend (the 18th Hung King who invented these cakes), and the merit

## Hung King Temple Festival

Written by Nava Nahi

Tuesday, 23 September 2008 01:44 - Last Updated Wednesday, 15 October 2008 03:52

---

of the Hung Kings who taught people to grow rice. Next to the stage procession for deities, there are several marches in the procession such as the elephant march followed by the procession chair. The procession marches are followed by a Xoan song performance (a classical type of song) in the Den Thuong, a "Ca Tru" (a kind of classical opera) in Den Ha (Lower Temple), and other activities like cross-bow shooting, rice cooking, swinging contests, cock fighting, and dragon dancing.

On the day of the Hung King Temple Festival, the Vietnamese always jubilantly take part in the festival with religious belief deeply imbedded in their minds, that is their love and pride of their ancestral land. The Festival not only attracts visitors from all over the country thanks to its special traditional cultural activities, but it is also a sacred pilgrimage back to the origins of the Vietnamese nation.

### More festivals and ceremonies in Vietnam:

- [Vietnamese wedding ceremony!](#)
- [Elephant Race Festival, Dak Lak](#)
- [Let's enjoy Thay Pagoda Festival!](#)
- [Huong Pagoda Festival, lost in a world of fairies](#)
- [Co Loa Festival](#)
- [Buddhist legend in Keo Pagoda](#)
- [Do Son Buffalo Fighting Festival - Hai Phong City Festival](#)

## Hung King Temple Festival

Written by Nava Nahi

Tuesday, 23 September 2008 01:44 - Last Updated Wednesday, 15 October 2008 03:52

---

- [Hung King Temple Festival](#)
- [Saint Chu Dong Tu Festival](#)
- [A meaningful pilgrimage to the Lim Festival](#)
- [Full moon \(Mid-Autumn\) Festival](#)
- [Doan Ngo Festival \(Tết Đoan Ngọ\)](#)
- [Khau Vai Love Market Festival – beauty of love](#)
- [Vietnamese New Year](#)
- [Funeral ceremony](#)
- [Ancestor worship](#)