

ANBANG BEACH

Located four kilometers east of the postcard pretty, Hoi An City. On the sunny central coast of Vietnam

The beaches of central Vietnam are spread far and wide. They connect the vibrant Da Nang City to the imperial capital, Hue in the north and the atmospheric World Heritage-listed Hoi An, in the south. Cooler tea plantations and the ancient, sacred My Son Temples lie to the west.. Beautiful as they are, Let me tell you about An Bang.





Like Bali, but without the crowds. An Bang is spangled with exquisitely designed luxury villas, charming homestays and amazing beach restaurants – yet somehow retains its rural beach village vibe. Now that the secret is out, An Bang is changing so fast and it's difficult to keep up. So, why not slip into some pyjamas, and let COAST VIETNAM illuminate your path

Notes

Weather

Mar-Sept is dry season, Oct-Feb is wet season and the typhoon season is mid Oct-Dec. From June-August Hoi An is humidity central – at the beach, you'll be rewarded with a breeze

Transport

For short trips to Hoi An, head for the taxi rank at the main beach entrance. You'll get change from a 100,000d bill one-way. For longer distances, hire a car and a driver - cheap as chips and is easily arranged by your hotel

Cash

Why there isn't an ATM in An Bang beggars belief, but if you need to change dollar to dong your hotel will happily oblige at the going rate. Should you run dry, the nearest ATM is outside the Agribank Resort, two kilometers south.



What to Expect

Village Life

Life in the village starts early, get over it sunrise is the most beautiful time of the day and you can always siesta. Weddings, funerals and community meetings ride on the back of a techno soundtrack. They can happen anytime during daylight hours; go out. Cocks crow at dawn, dusk and every hour between; bring ear plugs. Karaoke is a permanent problem - but theft isn't. The village sleeps at 7pm, and the beach party will go on as long as you do.

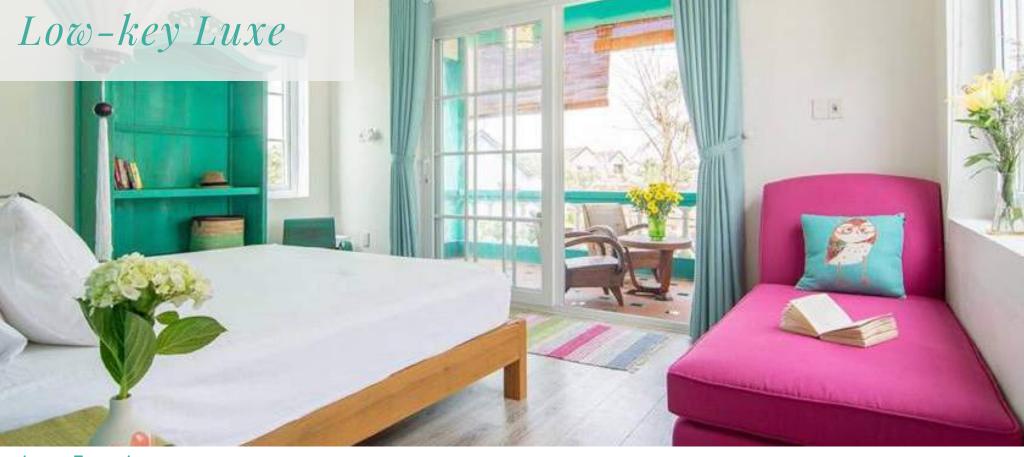


Lea's Garden Villa

Hotel, Motel, Holiday Inn?

Though construction has started on the

northern end of the village, for now, there are no resorts in An Bang village. There are however plenty of homestays, villas and AirBnb rentals. Four (Life's a Beach, Banyan Villa, Vina Beach and Chi Villa), have pools. Prices for a decent homestay hover around \$40, with private villas priced at around \$50 for something small and basic, to \$250 for a rock star worthy three-bedroom pad with private butler and chef on call. The best search tool for accommodation is AirBnb, however you'll get the cheapest prices when booking direct. High season at the beach runs from Mar-Sept, the complete opposite of the old town. The best places book up fast, but due to the sheer volume of available rooms, last minute bookings are easy to come by.



Late Entry!

In the heart of the village, a 50 meter frolic from the beach sits a colourful three bedroom beach house - the saucepot sister of countryside stunner, Heron House (Coast's biggest Hoi An villa crush). A late, but oh, so worthy contender for our top An Bang beach flops. Inside there are loads of funky flourishes, sleek furnishings, mood lighting and a vast viewfacing bed (or three), and should three bedrooms seem a little excessive (it's not)! The house also converts into two private beach residences, both with kitchenette and private sundeck. We love them both, but if we were made to choose just one; it would be the two bedroomed ground floor villa for it's freestanding tub for two – the centrepiece of a brazenly beautiful bathroom. For more info click here and here!

An Bang's Best Villas

Villas

An Bang Boutique Houses & Villas has the monopoly on private village rentals (and a larger boutique hotel due to open in Summer 2017). Properties are competitively priced (they don't shy away from discounting longer stays), high quality, modern and vibrantly furnished; with a focus on vacationing family groups.

For absolute beach frontage, neighbouring properties - the Ocean Dream and Ocean Breeze will be seeing out their final summer under the ownership of Tan and Thuan (the former owners of An Bang's first beach accommodation, An Bang Seaside Village). Sadly, as the beach restaurants multiply at an alarming rate, it's not quite the peaceful spot it one was, but the beautiful design and incredible views keep it worthy of a place on the list.

Hoi An Beach Rental's two luxury properties, Annam and Cochin House share a vast tropical garden a short stroll from the beach. The largest of the two, the colonial style, three bedroomed Annam house sleeps six, while the characterful antique wooden and yin yang tiled Cochin, sleeps four. The houses can be booked separately, but for large families or vacationing friends, they offer the perfect balance of privacy and communal outdoor space.

Honourable Mentions

An Bang Beach Bungalows wins AirBnb's award for best host annually, the houses are great for young families; Lea's Garden Villa, for its adaptable price line for varying sized groups. For quirky design, Tonkin Bungalow, an airy, stilted wooden house loaded with character takes the prize.



The privacy of your own place, plus the service of a luxury hotel. This white n' bright chic pied-à-terre, melds the best of both. Three beachy bedrooms rep a simple blue and white palette, with custom furnishings and wide windows overlooking the pool. You get your own kitchen, a lofty rooftop terrace and all the home comforts a luxury buff could dream of, plus your very own personal assistant to tailor-plan your jaunts around town, make dinner reservations or if you'd rather stay home, your own private chef on call

An Bang's Best B&Bs

Home stay, B&B, guest house - in An Bang these three differing titles mean exactly the same thing; a small family run guest house

Tan Thanh Garden Homestay Yes, the rooms are in need of a spruce up (planned Spring 2017) however, Tan Thanh's quiet beach front location, gorgeous tropical gardens and lovely owners easily elevate this five room quest house to our top recommendation in the village. As the crow flies, Tan Thanh is about a kilometer from the main beach bars and restaurants, though there are some very special places on your doorstep including; The Sound of Silence Cafe, Manh's Seafood joint and a great local street barbeque

Best Pool: Considering this is presently the only guest house in the village with a pool, the ten room, **Life Beach Villa** could easily sell out with scruffy rooms and subpar service - they don't. Instead you can expect large, beautiful rooms packed with

character, some of the fanciest bathrooms in the village and staff that will go the extra mile. They are also not shy of offering a free room upgrade during low season

Red Flower Cottage Home Stay located in a quiet area a two-minute stroll from the beach, offers five gorgeous beach bungalows with bathrooms big enough to get lost in. The real stand out however, is the shared open kitchen where guests with an interest are invited to try their hand at cooking some local dishes

Honourable Mention

Owned and managed by Tan (former partner in An Bang Seaside Village) An Bang Flower House is a real find for vacationers with young families. Despite becoming a Mum herself last year, Tan continues her community work, supporting hard-up local families and runs a small drop-in school for the village kids



In the Know

Etiquette

Several years ago, An Bang was still a sleepy fishing village with very few tourists. The villagers are conservative and find partial nudity offensive. Swim shorts and bikinis are fine for the beach; get your baps out or let fluffy out of his cage and you are breaking the law. Finally, no matter how honed your six pack - keep it covered unless your feet are touching the sand

Tipping

Similar to the above, flashing your cash will not earn you much respect in the village and at no point is tipping expected. Think of it more as a nice reward for good service. Use the price of a local meal as a benchmark. 20,000d will buy lunch - a generous reward for a taxi driver shuttling you about town

Parking & Sunlounger Tax

Maybe it's the heat, or the relentless hounding of 'You! Parf here!', but we've seen more standoffs between tourists and locals over a sun lounger or parking fee than we've had coconuts. If you'd rather be eaten alive by sand flies and have your bike stolen than pay 5,000d to park (or the price of a drink for a lounger and umbrella); you should be considering somewhere other than Asia for your hols Supplies

An Bang market is one of the best in Hoi An, it starts at dawn and is over by 8am. Out of season produce and seafood can be expensive. If you are staying in a villa, staff will shop for you. Treat yourself, it's far cheaper than going yourself. For hard liquor and wine, Blu Mart. for baked goods, 7 Sons Bakery - both located at the beach entrance



Dining

Breakfast

The most important meal of the day and yet most guest houses address this with a gum splintering banh mi and fruit plate - hardly enough to sustain you till lunch. One option is to go local (early risers only, these places are long gone by 8am) and head to the market for pho, mi quang or chao; a glutinous rice soup. A more relaxed option is the upscale Deck House a beachside fine dining venue offering healthful juices, java jolts and a hearty breakfast menu

Seafood

The best on the beach can be found in the summer months from April to September, when An Bang's finest chefs set up smokey barbeques on a colourful tapestry of reed mats in the sand. Try fish in banana leaf, grilled squid, and hen (baby clams in lemongrass and chilli served with crisp rice crackers)

Seafood Serving Restaurants

If you prefer your catch of the day from a cabana, Lien Ca (next door to Luna) offers some of the best and you can choose from the live aquarium so you know that it's fresh. Soul Kitchen do a good sashimi, **Luna**; a delicious seafood pasta (or pizza). **The H'mong Sisters** chef takes the best local seafood and fuses it with Mediterranean magic, on par with **The Deck House** for price and quality. Off beach, The Seashell by NU Eatery is so special (and affordable) that it's almost impossible to walk past without popping in; the catfish wraps and the shrimp and grilled rice Na Gori bombs are stand outs. For diehard romantics, **An Bang Beach** Village Restaurant will set up a seafood barbecue and table for two on the beach (you can even cook it yourself, but where's the romance in that)

Everything else

Practical Advice

Although every restaurant will offer a 72 page menu boasting every popular dish available worldwide, the best western dishes come from western run kitchens, the best local cuisine is cooked by locals and the best street food, from the street vendors that set up during the summer months (from April - Sept) at the beach entrance

Coffee

Aromatic, nutty and strong, Vietnamese coffee is available everywhere. The best you will get in An Bang is served on red plastic stools from the **street side local joint** at the beach entrance (just down from Blu Mart, on the same side). For the neanderthals among you that prefer a flat white, the best place by far is the **Sound of Silence** (next door to Tan Thanh Garden Homestay). On the beach

strip, **The Deck House** is a good but dangerous option as you'll likely move onto something stronger. If you are desperate and seek the luxury of air-con, **7 Son's** bakery try really hard, but rarely nail western coffee which is a shame as their baked goods are delicious

Takeout & Delivery

When asked, almost every restaurant in An Bang will serve your food to go. Italian restaurant Luna will deliver; in fact they have such good relations with other beach businesses that if you have a fussy diner at the table - let them eat pizza! Call Luna. For Indian cuisine both Ganesh and Baba's Indian Kitchen in town deliver to the beach

Vegetarian

You'll find most restaurants serve veggie and vegan options, but for a purely vegetarian option, **P&B's** at the beach entrance is an excellent choice



Activities

Sea Safety

An Bang's coastal waters are home to strong riptides and in the warmer summer months of July and August it can feel like swimming in a jellyfish soup (rarely stingers, but it's worth being vigilant). Lifeguards man the beach during peak season, but in the sunset hours when every man, woman and dog descend it's near on impossible for them to see if you are in trouble

Yoga

Beach yoga has taken An Bang by storm. Fortunately for those who find the sight of it puts them off their cocktails, most classes happen at sunrise. The most popular classes are run by **Nomad Yoga** at 7am daily from the grassy bank of Luna. A gentler class with the slightly earlier start time of 6:30am is held a couple of doors up at **The Deck House**.

Family Fun

2017 see's the introduction of the jet ski, banana boat and parasail, but we'd suggest that if you plan to take your kids home with you after your holiday, you might want to consider something a bit safer. Still, there's plenty to do if you use your imagination, but if you'd rather not; here's a clickable link to one we made earlier



Cocktail Hour

From dapper beachfront decks to lush garden grazers, An Bang is blessed with a bevvy of top outdoor bars. Have are our faves – ready, set, alfres-go!

The Deck House

This deck-situ'd desti with lush tropical foliage, wows with beachside perches and a spectacular rooftop deck wrapped in wham-bam views of An Bang's island speckled bay. Add some ambient background music (including the occasional guest DJ on summer weekends), a drinks list that spans coldpressed juices, craft draft beers, wine and classic beach cocktails for an exquisite open-air experience

Soul Kitchen

Imagine a bar where you spend lunch time bathing on the sands and drinking pina coladas, winter afternoons curled up in a cozy corner with a book and the evenings listening to live music with an idyllic island backdrop; that's **Soul Kitchen**, a chilled out, but lively, popular but roomy, fun and unpretentious, bohemian beach bar Off Beach

Between the beaches and village laneways, there's not a civilised cocktail bar in sight; it's more Cheer's with cold beers, but if you're sunburned, sated and sick of sand you'll find a bevvy of solid options huddled around the main road near the market. For pool tournaments, local gossip and holiday tips; the barfly barbeque joint, **K'tu** makes for a relaxed evening. Nearby Marimba attracts a younger, backpacker crowd with free hooch shots, experimental cocktails and pop-up grills. while early closer **The Seashell by Nu Eatery** provides the romantic backdrop to a bottle of wine

Directory: Bars, Restaurants

7 Sons Bakery

Beach entrance, right +84 90 519 93 82

Blu Mart

Beach entrance, Left

The Deck House

Beachfront, far left +84 96 661 1383

Driftwood Pizza

Beach alley opp, market +84 96 772 23 60 K'tu

Beach Rd, Left +84 91 894 5222

La Plage

Beachfront, far right +84 126 425 9714

Lien Ca Seafood

Beachfront, Left +84 90 547 83 21

Luna D'autunno

Beachfront, right +84 165 947 0374

Marimba Bar & Grill

Beach Rd, Left +84 126 729 1425

P&B Vegetarian

Beach Rd, Left +84 126 729 1425

The Seashell

Beach Rd, Nr Market +84 129 519 0190

Soul Kitchen

Beachfront, left +84 90 644 03 20

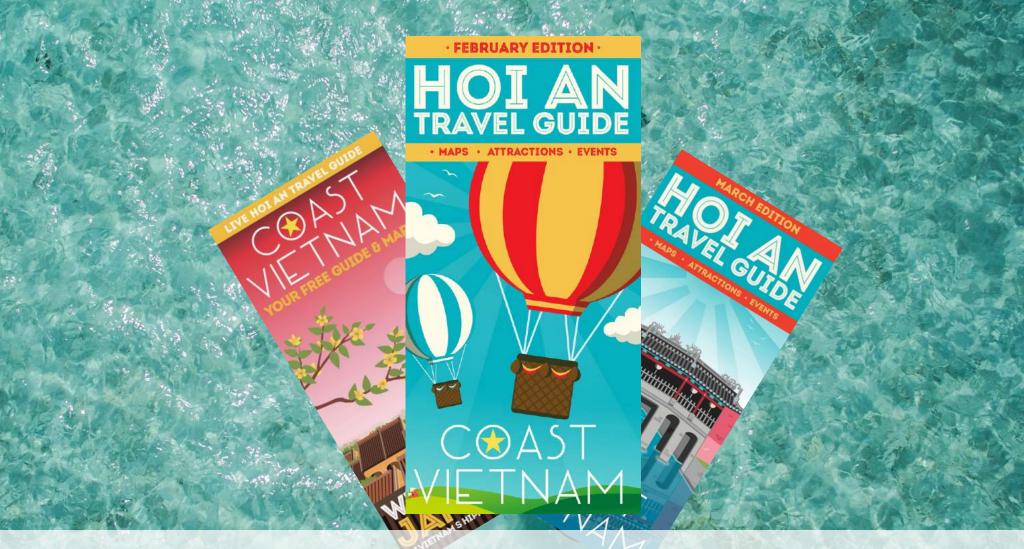
Emergencies

For scrapes, bumps and bad bellies, the pharmacy opposite the market laneway entrance is well stocked with basic medical supplies.

Doctors

Family Medical Practice 96-98 Nguyen Van Linh Street, Da Nang +84 236 3582 699 +84 913 917 303 (24 Hours)





The Coast Vietnam Story

We washed up on the beach of An Bang in 2010, rented a pigsty and built a house. We own the publishing company Coast Vietnam and produce a free, monthly travel guide (you can find it in the fancy hotels, at the airport and in all the great bars and restaurants in the old town, or just click on the balloon to read it online). We hope with this small guide to our village, that you'll learn to love An Bang, just as much as we do!