Exploring Vietnam; a quick getaway to Can Tho city

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ABSTRACT

Can Tho city is the central city of nine dragon river delta, Mekong river. International tourist may reach Can Tho city faster from Ho Chi Minh City International Airport. From the airport, the visitor may take a car or van. There are some unique places that worth to visit by the traveler. They are The Ong Pagoda and Ninh Kieu Quay. The Ong Pagoda is the oldest pagoda in Can Tho city while Ninh Kieu Quay, a port and cultural tourist destination of Can Tho city, was established in the 19th century. Settlement in the delta of the Mekong river, makes the town becomes a place where traditional fuse in harmony with the growth of city hustle bustle. In the area, there are some beautiful landmarks with high historical value that worth to visit, as well as new gastronomy experiences in tasting Vietnamese-style cuisines.

BACKGROUND

If your next plan for the upcoming holiday is enjoying good food, taking a quick snap on unique landmarks, as well as the breath-taking beach, then Vietnam must be the first country on your list. Vietnam is a country in Southeast Asia, which borders by land with Cambodia, Laos, and China. If you by any chance also live in the Southeast Asia region, you may directly start your adventure in this country without having to bother with Visa permit. But, where should we start our journey? Keep your worry inside your pocket! Take your passport and backpack, let start our trip to the southern part of the country, Can Tho city.

Can Tho city name derived from cầm the giang, means river of poems. Some people also refer it as Tay Do which means the western capital. It is the central city of nine dragon river delta, Mekong river. International tourist may reach Can Tho city faster from Ho Chi Minh City International Airport. From the airport, the visitor may take a car or van, then follow the map straight to the busiest city in the Mekong Delta. There are some unique places that worth to visit by the traveler. They are The Ong Pagoda and Ninh Kieu Quay.

THE ONG PAGODA

After reaching the city, the very first place you may find interesting in the area is The Ong Pagoda. The Ong Pagoda is the oldest pagoda in Can Tho city. Here, the community pray to Guan Gong or Kuan Kung, a prominent figure in three kingdoms period which represents cleverness, loyalty, reason, justice, intelligence, and honor. There are also other temples in the site: one for the Goddess of Fortune on the right and the General Ma Tien on the left. The folk prays in this temple for Guan Gong on the 26th of the 6th Lunar month, on the 23rd of the 3rd Lunar month for Holy Mother and a thanksgiving ceremony at the end of the year. They will pray for peace and safety, also serve offerings consists of incense, flowers as well as fried pork.

The temple was built in 1894, on a land area of over 500m². It is decorated with porcelain with good Chinese legends relief, classic references on the roof with two sides of gates. Indeed, Chinese architectural style influenced the grand design of this monument. In the past, Ong Pagoda used to be a central hall and act as government building of

Figure 1  The Ong Pagoda²
Chinese merchants in the 20th century. Another fact is every ten years; the community holds the lantern auction in the site. It is a rare event that always attracts tourist to visit.4

From The Ong Pagoda, it is wise to let yourself get lost with the city hustle bustle. There are some worth to visit cafes nearby such as Cafe Ut Hieu and Cafe Am Thanh Xua. These places offer vintage ambiance with tons of Instagram-worth spots, where you want to spend your afternoon break with friends if you travel in a group, or try to mingle and find new friends if you go alone. And of course, the food is tasty with reasonable price.

However, if you are into something more traditional, you may want to take a bite on some local foods such as a warm bowl of Pho, rice noodles with seasoned beef broth, Nem nuong, a famous Vietnamese rolls or finger-licking good sandwich called Banh mi before your next visit to other landmarks.

Since Can Tho city is a famous place for its floating market, thus, our next stop is Ninh Kieu Quay.
WHAT IS NINH KIEU QUAY?

Ninh Kieu Quay, a port and cultural tourist destination of Can Tho city, was established in the 19th century. It is a perfect getaway spot to overlook at Hau River with its captivating scenery. The folk used to call the area Hang Duong Quay since there were abundant poplar trees decorated its landscape. In 1957, the Government changed its name from Hang Duong Quay to Ninh Kieu Quay. Some people also referred to the area as Le Loi Quay because the road along the river was previously known as the Le Loi road.

CONCLUSION

Can Tho city in the southern part of Vietnam offer memorable experiences for you, who wish to spend a quick getaway from your routine. You may reach
Can Tho city from Ho Chi Minh city by the land trip. Settled in the delta of the Mekong river, makes the town becomes a place where traditional fuses in harmony with the growth of city hustle bustle. In the area, there are some beautiful landmarks with high historical value like The Ong Pagoda and Ninh Kieu Quay that worth to visit, as well as new gastronomical experiences in tasting Vietnamese-style cuisines.

REFERENCES:
3. Personal documentation of Ong pagoda - Can Tho city by Duong Dat. 2018
5. Personal documentation of Cafe Ut Hieu- Can Tho city by Duong Dat. 2018
6. Personal documentation of Cafe Am Thanh Xua- Can Tho city by Duong Dat. 2018
9. Personal documentation of Ninh Kieu Quay - Can Tho city by Duong Dat. 2018