



## Ngoc Son Temple

Ngoc Son Temple is located on a high mound northeast of Hoan Kiem Lake (Guom Lake), Hanoi. Not only is a special national monument, but Ngoc Son Temple is also a tourist destination not to be missed when traveling to Hanoi. Most visitors on Hanoi food tours spend time to visit Ngoc Son Temple. To better understand this temple, follow the article below.

### History and significance of Ngoc Son temple in Hanoi

Ngoc Son Temple was built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This is one of the typical architectural works in Hanoi. Ngoc Son Temple is not only a famous spiritual tourist destination but also a place that gives domestic and foreign visitors who have [Vietnam tourist visa](#), impressive experiences. Hanoi scholars also often come here to pray for good luck in the examinations.

Formerly, when King Ly Thai To moved the capital to Thang Long (Hanoi now), he named the temple as Ngoc Tuong. Under the Tran dynasty, the temple was named Ngoc Son. This temple was built to worship the heroic martyrs who sacrificed in the resistance against Nguyen Mong. Because it was not repaired for a long time, the temple collapsed.

In the Le Dynasty, Lord Trinh Giang erected Thuy Khanh Palace on the ground of the old Ngoc Son temple. At the end of the Le Dynasty, Thuy Khanh Palace was destroyed. Mr Tin Trai – a philanthropist at that time, used the old Thuy Khanh palace, created a new temple, named Ngoc Son pagoda.

The temple was built facing south, in front of the temple, there was a belltower with charming and romantic scenery, so it was visited frequently by many people. Over the years, the temple collapsed. A few years later, Mr. Tin Trai's son ceded the temple to a charity.

The charity carried out repairing, removing the belfry of the temple, renovating the temple into Van Xuong De Quan temple (Van Xuong is a god in China, worshipped by both folk and Taoists to be the god of merit of the people). The temple was started construction from the winter of Tan Suu year to the Autumn of Nham Dan year and completed.

In 1865, the scholar Nguyen Van Sieu carried to repair the temple. New temple to repair and reinforced with stone revetments around. He also built Tran Ba communal house, built a bridge from East bank to the temple, called The Huc bridge. On the left side of the temple, he built Dai Nghien. On the East side of Ngoc Boi Mountain, he built Thap But Tower, symbolizing the literary culture up to now.

After the temple was completely built, people worshipped more La To (the god of medicine) and worships Tran Hung Dao, a general who contributed so much to the Tran dynasty. Experiencing many ups and downs and events of history, but today, Ngoc Son temple is still splendid and majestic in the heart of the capital city.

Ngoc Son Temple – An architectural masterpiece in the heart of Hanoi

Ngoc Son Temple was built in the architecture of word Tam (Ξ). In the temple there are couplets, diaphragm and sacred objects. The architecture of Ngoc Son Temple clearly shows religious harmony over many years of history. Visitors on Hanoi food tours will admire this architectural masterpiece when visiting Ngoc Son Temple.

The main temple is two connected temples, worshipping Hung Dao Dai Vuong Tran Quoc Tuan and Van Xuong De Quan. In addition, the temple also worships Amitabha Buddha, La Dong Tan and Quan Van Truong. This style of worship reflects the spirit of solidarity and religious harmony of the Vietnamese people.

The statue of Tran Hung Dao is placed on a 1m high stone pedestal, flanked by two stone stairs. Visitors can take photos beside the Tran Hung Dao statue. The statue of Van Xuong stands majestically, holding a pen in his hand, showing a relaxed and elegant appearance.

The roof of Ngoc Son Temple is square, with three roofs, and a two-storey roof with eight columns supporting it. The system of the four outer columns of the temple is made of stone and the four inner pillars are wooden. This unique combination adds a solemn but equally attractive beauty to Ngoc Son temple.

At each exam season, students in Hanoi in particular and the country in general often go to Ngoc Son temple to pray for a good exam. Tourists near and far when visiting and staying at [hotels in Hanoi](#) or joining a street food tour also often come to Ngoc Son Temple, first to visit for sightseeing and to offer incense to commemorate the saints.