

Historical Sites and Architectures in Thai Nguyen City and Ha Giang Province in Vietnam - Sources for Tourism Development

Dinh Tran Ngoc Huy¹, Duong Thi Huyen^{2*}, Nguyen Thu Thuy³, Nguyen Thi Hang⁴

¹MBA, Banking University HCMC, Ho Chi Minh city Vietnam - International University of Japan, Niigata, Japan. E-mail: dtnhuy2010@gmail.com

^{2*}PhD, Thai Nguyen University of Sciences, Vietnam.

³PhD, Thai Nguyen University of Economics and Business Administration (TUEBA), Vietnam.

E-mail: thuthuytn1211@gmail.com

⁴PhD, Thai Nguyen University, University of Information and Communications Technology, Vietnam.

E-mail: nthang@ictu.edu.vn

*E-mail: huyendt@tnus.edu.vn

ABSTRACT

Ha Giang province and Thai Nguyen city are two places where there are lots of historical sites and architecture old town centers and traditional houses, which benefits for cultural and community tourism in the Northern region of Vietnam.

We use in this study qualitative analysis, synthesis and explanatory methods, combined with experimental and observation methods.

We experienced that Vo Nhai is one of the northern mountainous districts with great potential for tourism development, especially archaeological sites of prehistoric and prehistoric periods such as those in Than Sa, Hang Oc. The exploitation of archaeological relics in tourism development in Vo Nhai district not only brings socio-economic benefits but also contributes to preserving and promoting the value of the relics. Also, Dong Van old houses and town center is a good historical and architecture site for visiting trips. Based on these discoveries, we propose some tourism and architecture or archaeological preservation policies.

Keywords

Vo Nhai, Tourism, Archeology, Than Sa, Oc Cave.

JEL: Z3, Z32, Z38.

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Introduction

Ha Giang and Thai Nguyen are located in the Northern region of Vietnam, where have lots of potential historical and architecture sites for exploring and discover to boost community and cultural tourism.

In specific, Thai Nguyen has now discovered more than 30 archaeological sites, concentrated mainly in the northern districts of the province such as Vo Nhai, Phu Luong, Dong Hy, Dai Tu. In which, Vo Nhai is the district with the most archaeological relics in Thai Nguyen province such as Hang Oc site, Than Sa site. In recent years, archaeological tourism activities in Vo Nhai have undergone many changes and achieved many important results [2]. However, the exploitation of archaeological relics to develop tourism in the area still has many difficulties and limitations. Tourism activities at relic sites are still single, discrete, not linked together, so they have not really become tourist attractions, tourism products are still poor and monotonous; Tourism activities have not yet generated

a large source of income contributing to local socio-economic development.

Vo Nhai in Thai Nguyen city known as a district where there are 15/82 historical sites and scenic spots that have been ranked at national and provincial levels, such as: Phuong Hoang cave, Mo Ga stream, Sa Khao cave (Phu Thuong commune); Archaeological site of Mai Da Nguom (Than Sa commune); Khuon Manh forest, Huyen cave (Trang Xa commune); the relic where President Ho Chi Minh lived and worked in October 1947 in Vang hamlet (Lien Minh commune)...

Literature Review

Boudiaf (2019) said that historical site preservation, esp. Historical buildings are important for cities preservation of culture.

Therefore, cultural heritage preservation will go together with cultural life and urban development, and

together with historic buildings inserted into city infrastructure and architecture, we can build sustainable tourism development. Next, We summarize related studies in below table

Table 1. Related studies

Authors	Year	Results, contents
Croes and Semrad	2013	Tourism (cultural) can be developed in concepts of small islands destinations. And various tourists can determine The cultural tourism typology. Then we can quantify the economic impact of cultural tourists.
Valeriu and Istoc	2007	Tourism (cultural) will involve a wide range of interdependent activities, connected with other economic branches, which play a major role in the developing tourism industry. The people's increasing amount of leisure time, the tourists' changing interest and the increasing life expectancy help the cultural tourism gain popularity faster then other tourism segments.
Richards	2018	There are many aspects of tourism (cultural) such as heritage conservation, cultural tourism economics, anthropology, etc. And we see the shift from tangible to intangible heritage, more attention for indigenous and other minority groups and a geographical expansion in the coverage of cultural tourism research.

Methodology

The secondary documents related to the archaeological remains in Vo Nhai - Thai Nguyen and Ha Giang are collected from various sources such as research works, statistics, summary reports of agencies and departments of Vo Nhai district, Thai Nguyen province and Ha giang province. At the same time, other sources of information and documents in the form of documents, maps, movies, images, videos, etc.

The collected data will be systematized, analyzed and synthesized to serve the research topic.

Main Results

Historical and Architecture Sites for Tourism in Ha Giang Province

Below figure shows Dong Van old houses - a visiting site for tourists in Ha Giang tours:



Figure 1. Dong Van old town center

As one of the main tourist attractions of Ha Giang, Dong Van Old Town is located in Dong Van town, Dong Van district, Ha Giang province. The old Dong Van town center area belongs to Dong Quan canton, Nguyen Binh province, Tuong Van district, Tuyen Quang province and has a history of hundreds of years of architectural and cultural development. Besides, The current number of restaurants and capacity ensures to serve tourists in normal conditions, but at peak times, it is not enough to serve tourists. The

distribution of restaurants/diners is mainly focused in urban centers and densely populated areas. Opening times are quite flexible but there are some signature dishes that are hard to find. Night cuisine is still not popular because the demand for night food of locals and tourists is very few, the quality of service is uneven, and the requirements of tourists have not been met. Ha Giang's ingredients and cuisine are diverse and rich in locality, but the distribution of menus to

serve tourists by gender, age, region, nationality, religion... is still inappropriate.

Products and goods for tourism: Ha Giang has a lot of local products/specialties that are very attractive to tourists such as mint honey, ancient Shan Tuyet tea, medicinal herbs, and handicraft products., brocade weaving, trumpet, awl, fine art stone ... are produced from 27 craft villages of local people. Souvenir products are characteristic but still simple in design and design, and the level of promotion is not high.

Many festival activities are organized by the province every year to attract more tourists and create diversity for tourism products such as: Buckwheat flower festival, Fire dance festival, Long Tong festival, etc. At the same time, many tours and tourist routes are created, including links between districts in the province and between provinces in the region to help tourists have many opportunities. choice for their journey. From there, increase income for people and localities.

Archaeological Sites in Vo Nhai Thai Nguyen

Than Sa commune, Vo Nhai district (Thai Nguyen) is a familiar address for archaeologists, historical researchers with excavations and research over the years. The works have contributed to confirm that this is one of the cradles of prehistoric people. However, until now, the famous archaeological sites here are still unknown to many people. (Last of the entry). The dense limestone mountains at the end of the Bac Son mountain system and the narrow valleys along the banks of the Than Sa river are typical features of the Than Sa topography.

Another site - Nguom roof rock or stones, the most important site of Than Sa archaeological site, is located on the northern slopes of Nguom mountain range, near the banks of Nghinh Tuong river, about 1km southwest of Phieng Tung cave. Nguom stone roof is shaped like a giant frog, reaching out to cover the ground below, about 700 m2 wide. The choice of living area of the ancient people in Nguom mountain

also has many similarities with the ancient people in the world in order to avoid floods, avoid sun and rain. Abundant source of cobblestone to make tools.

Many stone tools of prehistoric people found at Nguom rock site are very unique and have never been discovered anywhere else in the territory of Vietnam. Sharp tools, scraping tools and second processing techniques are like typical tools and techniques of the Mustér culture - the typical culture of the Middle Paleolithic world and close to the old world. Nevasien Indian Paleolithic culture. For the first time in Vietnam, Professor Ha Van Tan has established a new archeological industry "Nguom Industry" [10]. In early 2011, scientists found a fossil elephant tooth, believed to be an Asian elephant's tooth, in the area of Than Sa River, which flows through Nguom rock roof. The age of elephant teeth is from 30,000 to 50,000 years old. Archaeologists believe that this elephant lived at the same time as the primitive people, the owner of the famous Nguom mountain culture.

According to the results of archaeological excavations from the end of the twentieth century to the present, Nguom rock roof has three layers of continuous development, not separated by the inanimate layer. These cultural strata date from about 41,000 years to 23,000 years ago. This proves that the ancient people lived and developed here for a very long time. Nguom rock roof - the most important site in the Than Sa archaeological site, a human relic of the Old Stone Age, ranked as a national historic site in 1982. The artifacts were found in the Middle Ages. Paleolithic stone dating from 18,000 - 30,000 years ago are the cultural vestiges of ancient Vietnamese people. With the results of studying the site of Phieng Tung cave and Nguom rock roof in Than Sa, archaeologists have determined that there is an archaeological culture of Than Sa belonging to the Paleolithic age, whose owners are Homosapiens. 13]. These are extremely valuable archaeological evidences, not only contributing to the research of the Stone Age in Vietnam but also in Southeast Asia.



Figure 2. Nguom Rock Roof Site - Than Sa (Vo Nhai)

Historical Sites and Architectures

Than Sa relic site (Vo Nhai) has a lot of potential to combine archaeological tourism with spiritual tourism and relaxation. Surrounding Than Sa is the majestic limestone mountains, green mountains, blue water, visitors can agree to see and reflect on the life of the ancients. Coming to Than Sa, visitors feel like coming to a majestic landscape of rocky mountains with primeval forests on high limestone floors dropping shadows into the blue Than Sa river. We can relax in the sound of the wind howling in the stone roof and the sound of running water to reflect on the life of the ancients, only here can we feel that people are really small compared to the majestic mountains. In addition, around Than Sa, there are Tay villages with lovely stilt roofs hiding under the trees close to the foot of the limestone mountains that are nowhere to be found.

Secondly, in addition to archaeological sites, Vo Nhai also has many other tourism resources, rich in diversity, which can be combined with archaeological tourism. According to Dr. Chan Kieu, Center for Southeast Asian Studies under the American Institute of Archeology: "In the world, archaeological tourism is quite popular, especially in European countries. About 75% of tourists take advantage of archaeological programs and sites for recreational visits. In Vietnam, 75% of tourism and 25% of archeology should be combined, the tours will be more

successful, the number of visitors will be more. With that approach, not only one industry benefits, but many industries benefit". [<https://daibieunhandan.vn/du-lich-khao-co-hoc-241526>].

Revolutionary historical and cultural relics are valuable assets of each locality, each nation, each country and the whole of humanity. It is the most faithful, authentic and specific evidence of the cultural characteristics of each country and region. It contains all that belongs to the good traditions, the quintessence, the wisdom, talents, cultural and artistic values of each country. Cultural and historical relics have great potential, contributing to the development of human intelligence and talent, contributing to the development of humanities and historical literature. That is the historical face of each nation, each country, each region. Vo Nhai is a district with many historical and cultural relics, most of which are ranked at national and provincial level.

These relics are not only valuable in terms of history, but also in terms of architecture, art, and Eastern Buddhist culture, so they have oriented people towards their roots and cultural values. protected, national identity is preserved. It is because of its values that historical and cultural relics are attractive tourist destinations for tourists, historians, and cultural researchers. This is a great potential that can be exploited for ecotourism activities.

Table 2. List of Vo Nhai revolutionary historical sites No Name of monument Type of monument Address National level Provincial level

Order	Name of monument	Monument type		Address
		National level	Provincial level	
1.	Hang phượng Hoàng – suối Mỏ Gà	x		Phú Thợng
2.	Đồg Toong-Cơ sở cách mạng thời kỳ 1941-1943		x	Phú thợng

3.	Đình Mỏ Gà		x	Phú Thượng
4.	Đình Làng Vang		x	Liên Minh
5.	Địa điểm thành lập Đội Cứu quốc quân II	x		Tràng xá
6.	Địa điểm thành lập Chi bộ Đảng đầu tiên huyện		x	Phú Thượng
7.	Hang Huyện	x		Tràng Xá
8.	Đền Đình Cả		x	TT Đình Cả
9.	Địa điểm đền Đình Cả		x	TT Đình Cả
10.	Nơi thành lập chính quyền cách mạng huyện Võ Nhai		x	La Hiến
11.	Địa điểm Chủ tịch Hồ Chí Minh thăm tổ Đảng Na Chế		x	Dân Tiên
12.	Địa điểm lưu niệm Chủ tịch Hồ Chí Minh ở Làng Vang		x	Liên Minh

(Source: Vo Nhai District Cultural Office in 2019)

Thirdly, Vo Nhai is located on an archaeological tourist route when connecting with archaeological sites in Bac Son (Lang Son). Bac Son is a famous archaeological site, associated with the development of the Ancient Viet people from the time of Hoa Binh Culture. Bac Son district is the place where archaeologists first found the typical relics of the Stone Age and also the place to find the most places, the most abundant relics belonging to Bac Son culture compared to Bac Son. other lands. Bac Son culture is an archaeological culture belonging to the early Neolithic period, arising from the heart of Hoa Binh culture.

Discussion

Coming to Vo Nhai, visitors can immerse themselves in the majestic beauty of Phuong Hoang cave complex, bathe in the cool water of Mo Ga stream located in Phu Thuong commune. This is one of the relic sites of the base area of Bac Son - Vo Nhai, which is the evidence marking the struggle against the French colonialists of the people of Phu Thuong commune that took place at Phuong Hoang cave, under the direction of Team National Salvation II. Visitors can also come to the archaeological site of Mai Da Nguom in Than Sa commune. This is a giant stone roof, more than 60m wide, more than 30m high, with Nghinh Tuong river flowing in front of it. The excavation pit at Nguom site has 4 archaeological cultural strata dating from the Middle Paleolithic period... The Tay, Nung and Dao ethnic minorities here still retain many traditional cultural features. traditions of their people in terms of housing, costumes and festivals. This is also an advantage for Vo Nhai to develop eco-cultural - historical tourism. Also at Than Sa, visitors can enjoy the majestic natural scenery of 7-storey waterfall in Trung Son hamlet, Rainfall waterfall in Kim Son hamlet...

Conclusion

Firstly, combine tourism with preserving archaeological relics. The potential for archeological tourism in Vo Nhai is huge as the research team mentioned in Section 3.2. However, if we over-exploit it, the resource will be increasingly depleted and in the future the resource will no longer have its attractive features to attract tourists. Therefore, the assessment of the value of resources in the field of tourism is very necessary and is always the top concern of tourism managers. From there, properly assess the value of resources for current tourism activities and rationally exploit resource values for effective tourism development.

Excavations, archaeological research at Nguom Rock, Oc Cave and many other caves in Than Sa area have provided new insights into the continuous development of prehistoric culture in Thai Nguyen and Thai Nguyen. Vietnam, attracting the attention of many domestic and foreign researchers. The problem is that archaeological sites and relics of prehistoric people need to be preserved and introduced to the public. This is one of the important tasks of the archeology industry and Thai Nguyen Provincial Museum. Many archaeologists, historical researchers, and cultural managers believe that the archaeological sites in Than Sa area are completely worthy to be recognized as a special national historical relic, not only is a national monument as it is today. Thai Nguyen is honored to have precious prehistoric archaeological sites, but requires attention and practical solutions to preserve and promote the values to create cultural tourism products. Unique, attractive, attracting customers.

Archaeological sites in Vietnam and around the world have the common feature of restored structures that were once abandoned; vestiges of all kinds (both in underground and underwater sites) as well as cultural materials associated with those monuments; the works are excavated open-air... Therefore, this is considered a fragile and non-renewable cultural source. Therefore, the exploitation and use of tourism must be carefully calculated to minimize negative impacts on archaeological relics. However, tourists coming to

archaeological sites with an eager and curious mentality should want to visit the excavation site directly, want to touch the artifacts directly or experience participating in the excavation process. excavated thus easily damaged artifacts as well as the soil of each historical period has been exposed.

Therefore, when implementing archaeological tourism, relevant responsible agencies need to study very carefully the issues related to the conservation of national assets, so that future generations can not only admire but continue to exploit this legacy. There are monuments we can bring visitors to visit, but in some places, the status quo must be preserved, so it should not be put into tourism.

Historical Site Preservation Policies

Ha Giang and Thai Nguyen are mountainous provinces located in the northeast of the country; where there are green mountains, clear water, charming scenery, located in the mountains of the arcs of Bac Son, Ngan Son, Song Gam, Tam Dao. During the tectonic process of the earth's crust, the endogenous factors that create lava, tectonic movements, and geological architecture have produced for this land a lot of potential for tourism, including tourism caves associated with archeology and spirituality.

Cultural and historical relics are material products but always carry in them immaterial elements, which are the messages, creativity, social consciousness, spiritual and spiritual life of the previous generation handed down to the world. following system.

Therefore, preserving and promoting the value of relics not only preserves the tangible products but also contributes to the sublimation of intangible cultural heritage, from which the national character is preserved, traditional, National cultural identity is nurtured and handed down - important and indispensable factors of sustainable development. Conservation and development are two important and strategic factors of each country. In the field of cultural heritage, preserving and promoting the value of relics (in the right way) will bring practical effects to economic and social development.

Limitation of Research

We can expand research models for other provinces and cities in Vietnam and other countries.

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