

3/21/2010

## A HUE WE GO! (DANANG)

A long trip upriver from the China Sea ended in the city of Danang. (formerly Hue, pronounced whey). We were only there for a day, so the tours started at 7:45 in the morning.

My tour was a trip to the rural countryside, but it was mostly a tour to stops within the city! A museum, a silk embroidery shop, a marble statue factory, and finally a 15 kilometer trip to the countryside.

The marble factory had thousands of marble pieces and statues. Some larger statues costing as much as \$5000 US.

The city market was a block square, filled with stands providing all of the food needs of the people. The vegetable section contained many strange looking vegetables along with strange looking fruits. The fish section had every kind of seafood, squid, tuna, scallops, lobster, etc. The meat section had meat being cut up into various cuts and all was not refrigerated! The canned food section looked like Costco gone wild! Most people looked like they were only shopping for the day's food.

When we finally drove to the rural district, we only drove by a few rice fields, and then turned down a small side road and went by a couple of cemeteries. The cemetery tombs were all above ground and were very ornate. We then turned around and returned to the ship.

During our tour, the guide made disparaging remarks about US policies. This, coupled with the lack of much rural country, earned enough complaints to get us half our money back for the tour!

Dave

