

THE MAUSOLEUM OF PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH



The Mausoleum of President Ho Chi Minh is an architectural work of great political and ideological significance. Expressing the profound feelings of the entire Vietnamese people towards the Late President who is endearingly called Uncle Ho. In this place, the Vietnamese people, generation after generation, have arrived to pay homage and show gratitude to President Ho Chi Minh and express their determination to follow the path he has charted to build Vietnam into a peaceful, united, democratic and prosperous country.



Ceremony to salute the national flag

Located at the center of the historical Ba Dinh Square, on the site where President Ho Chi Minh read the Declaration of Independence on 2 September 1945, establishing the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. The construction began on 2 September 1973 and the mausoleum was formally inaugurated on 29 August 1975. Its architectural design is based on the principle of “national identity combined with modernity” and “solemnity and plainness”, and is pervaded by the Vietnamese elements.

The mausoleum stands 21.6 meters high and 41.2 meters wide. The main daises are at the portico and at the side are two seven-step auxiliary platforms. In front of the mausoleum stands a 25 meters high flagpole graced by a plaza which is divided into 240 squares. The area surrounding the mausoleum is adorned with 246 species of rare and valuable ornamental trees and flowers which come from different regions of Vietnam.



Visitors coming to pay homage to President Ho Chi Minh

THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

During the French colonial period, the building was called Palace of the Indochinese Governor-General. Bearing the architectural style of the Renaissance, the palace was designed by Lichten Fender-a French architect of German origin, and was constructed from 1900 to 1906. The total area in use of the building is nearly 1,300 square meters. There are 30 rooms inside. Each room is decorated in a different style. Whenever a new governor moved in, he would have the Palace redecorated or repaired at his discretion. From its inauguration to the triumphal August Revolution of 1945 giving the birth of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, 29 French governors and acting governors lived and worked in the building.



The Presidential Palace

From 1945 to 1946, it was occupied by the Japanese fascists, then the Chinese Nationalist Army. After the French made a comeback to Vietnam, it became the seat of the top colonialist administration. It was taken over by the Vietnamese people after the victorious resistance war against the French leading to the liberation of Hanoi in 1954.

On 10 October 1954, Hanoi was liberated. President Ho Chi Minh and the Party Central Committee moved from Viet Bac resistance zone back to Hanoi after nine years of strenuous resistance. With the love for the great leader, the Party Central Committee and the Government invited President Ho Chi Minh to live and work at the Governor-General's Palace. President Ho Chi Minh declined the invitation. Instead, he suggested that the Palace should be used for Government Council meetings, receiving international guests on their visits to Vietnam or foreign ambassadors when they present credentials. Since then the building has been known as the Presidential Palace. As for himself, President Ho Chi Minh chose a small house located in the area where the staff used to live as his residence.

The Presidential Palace since then has become a historical place in the capital of Hanoi. In this building, the Government Council met to discuss the guidelines and policies to consolidate the people's democratic government, reinforce the power of the northern part to assist the struggle for the liberation of the southern part of Vietnam towards national reunification.

During his 15 years at the Presidential Palace, President Ho Chi Minh received more than 1,000 domestic and foreign delegations including Heads of State and Party leaders of friendly countries, foreign ambassadors, cultural art and sport delegations, writers, journalists, scientists, representatives of mass organizations and friends from all over the world.

The Presidential Palace was also the place where President Ho Chi Minh read his New Year's greetings on the radio whenever the spring arrived. A small room on the second floor of the Palace reminded us of that tradition.

After his passing away on 2 September 1969, the Presidential Palace has become one of the sites dedicated to the memory of President Ho Chi Minh. Since then, the Palace has been used as the Office of the State President, where important events of the State and the Party are solemnly held.