

Con Dao

It is a natural paradise with dense forests, steep cliffs beside long, smooth, pristine, sandy beaches, and clear turquoise waters. It is home to many marine creatures, such as dolphins and sea turtles, and spectacular coral reefs. It is Con Dao - a chain of islands off the coast of southern Vietnam.

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Before 1975, Con Dao was an infamous prison colony with tiger cages to confine and exile political prisoners. It had a brutal reputation as the "hell on earth" of the occupying regime. In the Con Dao prison compound, about 20,000 loyal soldiers over several generations died in custody, including Vo Thi Sau - the heroine of Dat Do, who died when she was just nineteen years old but whose image still lives. "In death, one becomes eternal"; her sacrifice turned Con Dao into a cradle of patriotism and pride in the Vietnamese homeland.

youtube.com/EnglishTreasure

In contrast to the history of the years of fierce resistance against French and American hostility, post-war Con Dao today has been revived and is now rated as one of the most attractive island destinations in Asia, with a natural reserve and national park that protects thousands of species of plants and animals.

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Who is the heroine of Dat Do?

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How old was she when she died?

It was once a prison colony; what is Con Dao today?