

The Temple of Literature

Considered to be the first university in Vietnam, the Temple of Literature is also a famous monument and a storehouse of history and culture. It is also honoured to host visiting heads of state to introduce them to Vietnam's rich heritage.

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The Temple consists of two areas: a site for the worship of Confucius and the sages of Confucianism, and the first prestigious school in Vietnam. The complex is surrounded by brick walls. The first courtyard that visitors enter is a great garden; the second holds 82 doctoral steles – stone slabs – that record the achievements of past scholars. They are considered national treasures and are an extremely valuable part of Vietnam's cultural heritage. The 82 steles correspond to 82 examinations held from 1484 to 1780 – three hundred years of students learning from masters and then becoming masters themselves. In 2010, the steles were recognised by UNESCO as a World Documentary Heritage area.

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Who is worshiped in the Temple of Literature?

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What is the purpose of the steles?

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What are the walls of the temple complex made from?