

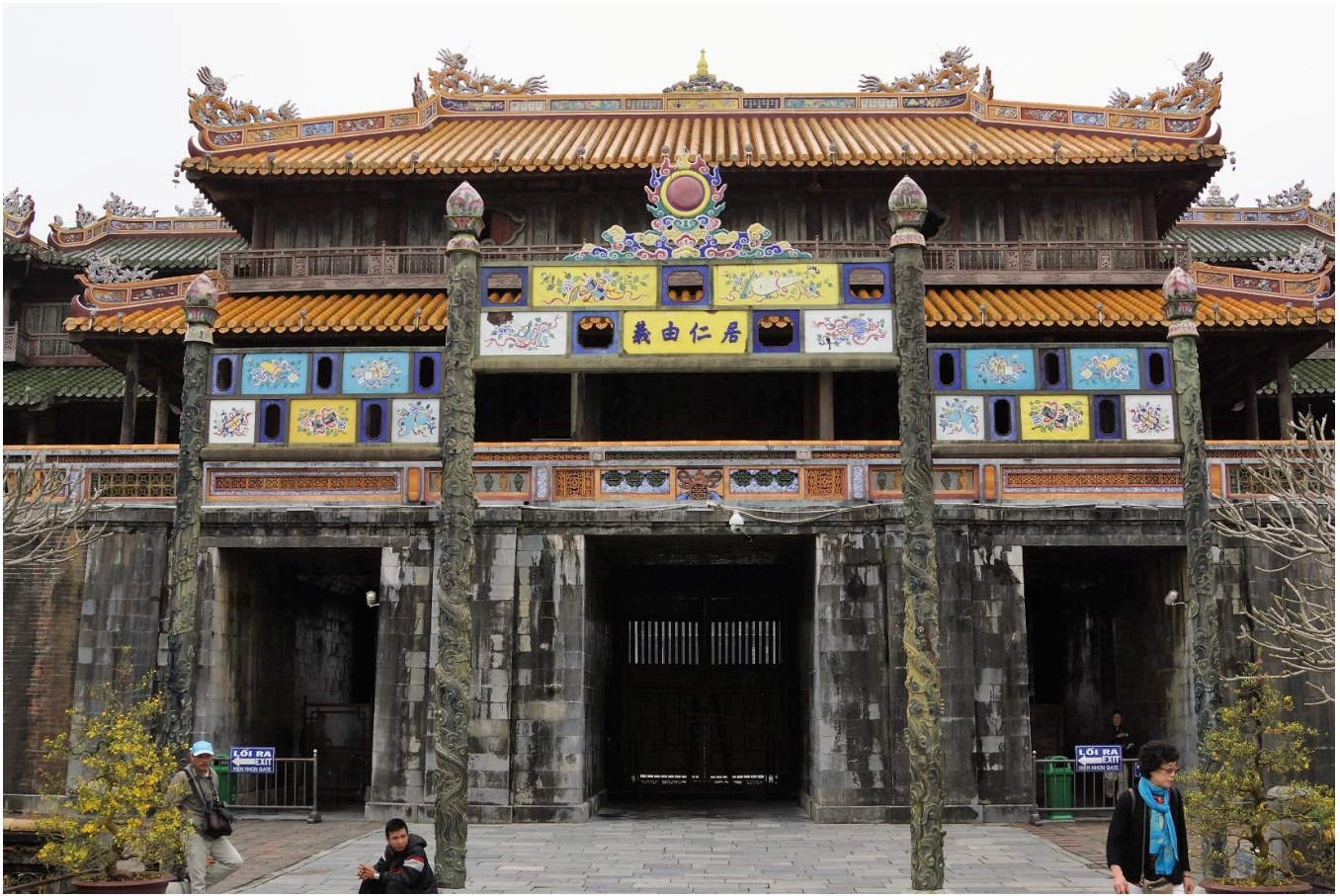
The Citadel, the Imperial City in Hue, Vietnam



The Citadel, home of 13 kings of Vietnam. Above: The outer wall is surrounded by a moat.

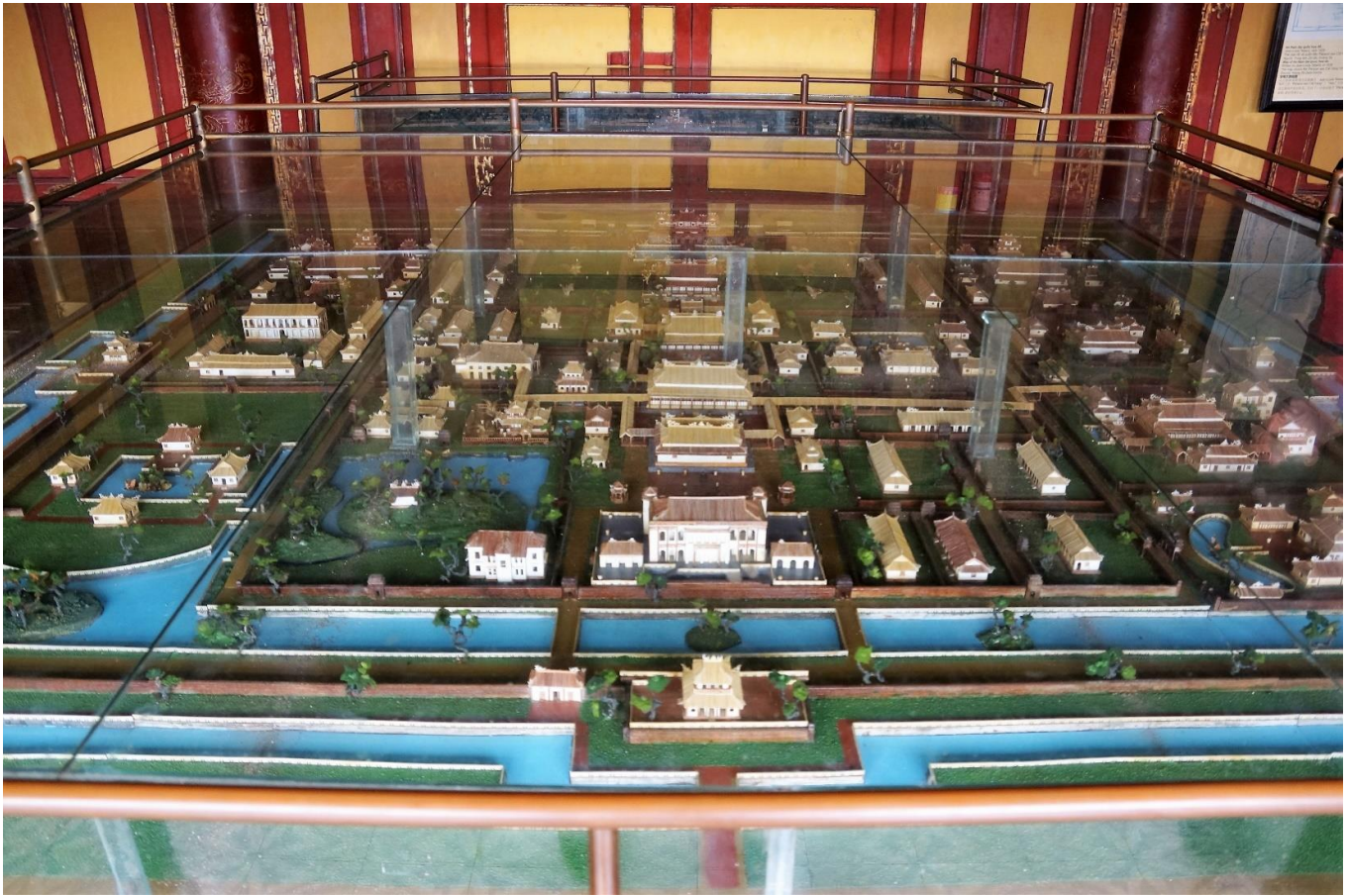


The entrance, with the outer wall being 70' thick.



Above: The inner wall entrance into the “Forbidden City” of the Imperial Palace of the kings of Vietnam. Below: Looking back at the outer wall entrance.

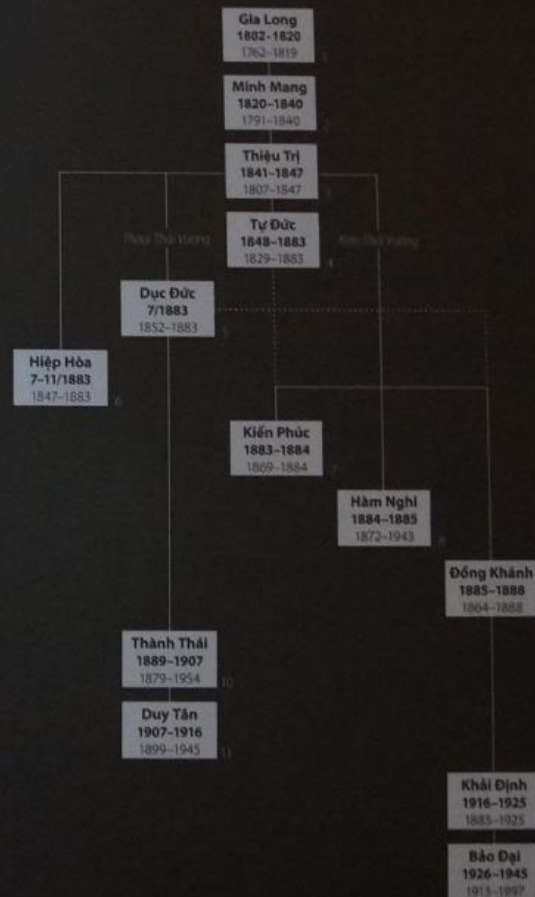


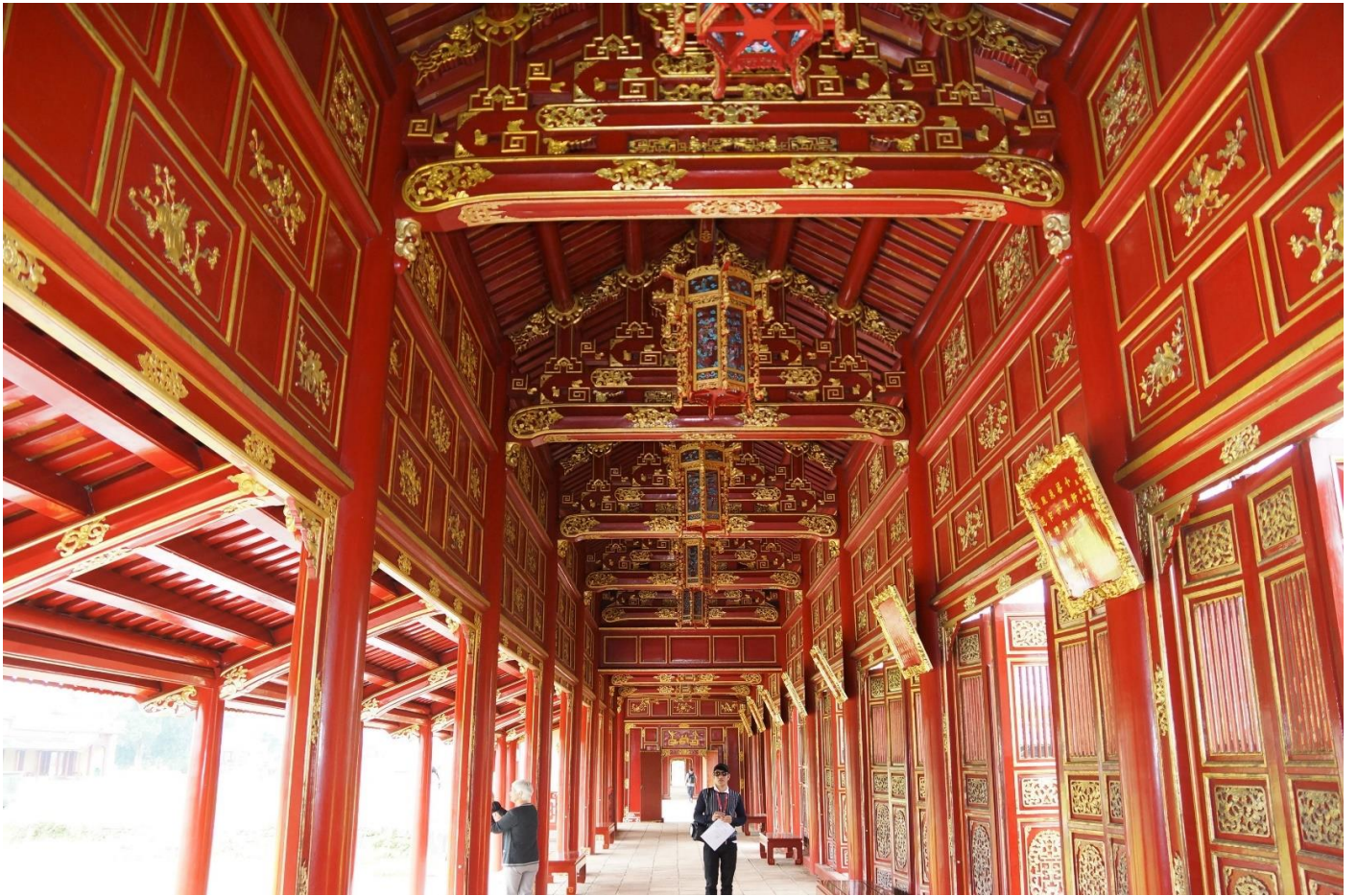


Above: Diorama of the Imperial Palace. Below: The history of the 13 Kings of Vietnam.

By the mid 16th century, the Nguyen lords held power in southern Vietnam. In 1771 the Tay Son Uprising overthrew them. Nguyen Anh, the last survivor, tried various alliances and finally regained control, firstly of the south, then of the whole country.

Under the name Gia Long he declared himself the first Emperor of Vietnam in 1802 and thus founded the Nguyen Dynasty, which managed to maintain its rule until 1945. Yet as the 19th century drew to a close, colonization by the French increasingly put its stamp on the era. The first emperors followed the conservative principles of Confucianism, above all, and grew progressively blind to the fate and concerns of their people. France took advantage of the grave succession crisis of 1883/84 and signed protectorate treaties. The following rulers were either loyal to the colonial power or launched last attempts to gain independence, which ultimately led to their exile. After the Second World War, Bao Dai abdicated in favor of Ho Chi Minh.





Above: The walkway connecting buildings of the Citadel. Below: The walkway from the outside.





The buildings are being renovated with money from England and the US. Below is a work in progress. About half of the buildings have been renovated.





Above: Leaving the inner wall by the north entrance. Below: Joanne at the outer moat which surrounds the outer wall of the Citadel.

