

Ben Tre City, Mekong Delta, Vietnam

The 'Land of Coconuts' rewards slow travel — glide narrow canals by sampan, watch candy makers pull coconut toffee by hand, and taste fruit straight from the orchard in one of the Mekong Delta's least-touristy stops.

 Tender (river landing)  Typical call: 6-8 hrs  Vietnamese Dong (VND); USD accepted at tours  Vietnamese

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender to Ham Luong River wharf near town center

Walk to center: 5 min from river landing to Ben Tre city streets

Best For: Sampan canal rides, coconut candy workshops, fruit orchards

Don't Miss: Sampan through shaded coconut canals to a candy-making cooperative

 Getting around:  **Taxi**  20,000–50,000 VND ·  **Rideshare**  Grab

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Sampan Ride Through Coconut Canals** — Board a hand-rowed sampan and glide through narrow, shade-covered canals flanked by towering coconut palms.
- **Coconut Candy Workshop** — Watch workers pull, cut, and wrap coconut toffee by hand at a family-run cooperative — a cottage industry Ben Tre has practiced for generations.
- **Fruit Orchard Visit** — Tour a family orchard in the delta and sample whatever's in season — longan, rambutan, pomelo, jackfruit.
- **Cycling the Delta Villages** — Pedal quiet paths past rice fields, vegetable gardens, and rural homes between canal transfers.
- **Con Phong (Phoenix) Islet** — Take a short boat ride to this small islet on the Tien (My Tho) River and visit the quirky Coconut Monk monument — the site of a former religious...

BEST WALKS

- **Ben Tre Riverside Stroll** ~1.5 km · 20 min · Easy — Walk from Ham Luong Wharf along the riverfront promenade past local market stalls and the Ben Tre People's Committee building.
- **Ben Tre Market Quarter** ~1 km · 15 min · Easy — Explore the streets around Ben Tre Market — pick up fresh coconut water, tropical fruit, and hand-made coconut candy.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring Vietnamese Dong cash. Village workshops, market stalls, and sampan operators are cash-only. ATMs exist in Ben Tre town center; USD is sometimes accepted at tour operators but change will be in VND.
- Dress light but cover up. The Mekong Delta is hot and humid. Lightweight long sleeves protect against sun and mosquitoes on canal rides. Sunscreen is essential.
- Pack insect repellent. Canal-side vegetation means mosquitoes, especially in the morning and late afternoon. DEET-based repellent is your friend here.
- Book tours through your cruise line or a reputable operator. Most worthwhile sights require onward boat transfers that are easier and safer when pre-arranged. Independent access to canal villages is limited without a local guide.
- Try everything coconut. Ben Tre's coconut candy, coconut wine, and fresh coconut water are genuinely excellent — and cheap. Fill your pockets before reboarding.
- Dry season (Nov–Apr) is best. The Mekong Delta's wet season brings flooding and overcast skies. If your itinerary hits Ben Tre May–October, expect rain and higher river levels.

Ben Tre City, Mekong Delta, Vietnam — Port Map

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Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- 1** **Vien Minh Pagoda** A century-old Buddhist pagoda in central Ben Tre that serves as headquarters of the province's Buddhist Sangha.
- 3** **Ham Luong River** The broad Mekong distributary that ships anchor on and tender passengers ashore from.
- P** **Cruise port / terminal**

- 2** **Ben Tre Museum** Provincial museum covering the Mekong Delta's coconut economy, wartime history, and rural life.
- 4** **Chau Thanh Coconut Candy Village** Cluster of family-run workshops just outside town where coconut candy is hand-pulled and cut the traditional way.