

BACKGROUND

TRULY UNIQUE: THE NAM TRAM FUNICULAR



The Nam Tram funicular transports guests from Heaven to Sea

It's always fun exploring the InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort with its jungle-covered hillsides, views of the shimmering sea, and population of wild Douc Langurs who hang out in the trees. Perhaps the most fun way to get around is by Nam Tram, the funicular that transports guests from the top of the Resort, or Heaven as we call it, down to the sea and back. We sat down with Senior Tram Operator Nguyen Mai Hong Nga, or Nga for short, to hear all about this unique mode of transport.

Q: What is special for you about the Nam Tram?

Nga: First of all, it's all about the design and its deep meaning. When you see the tram, it's made in the shape of a boat going from what we call Heaven to Sea level. Not only that, the unique design of the boat-shaped cable car has made our Resort the only resort in Vietnam with its own cable car system. The rooftop of the tram has the shape of an oval, which is the same shape as a grain of rice. Vietnamese people are very proud of our rice-raising agriculture and fishing, so I find the tram's design very meaningful. I have never, ever seen any scenery as beautiful as the scenery you see from the tram, combining both mountains and sea, in any other resort.

Q: What is the best time to ride the Nam Tram?

Nga: Golden hour in the afternoon is the perfect time. Sunset is also a great time as the colours of the sky seem to change every day. I've seen the most beautiful moments of the sun shining on the sea from the tram.

Q: How can someone get the best photos or video from the tram?

Nga: I normally suggest our guests take pictures between 10:30 am and 12 noon, or around 5:30 pm. Some of the best views are from the waiting station on Heaven level. It's the highest point of the resort and you can see the entire Resort below you. Taking a video of the full journey from Citron restaurant down to the sea is great too as you see the scenery change along the way. It's a 90-second trip, so there are lots of opportunities.

Q: What can guests see on the way?

Nga: You can see views over the entire Resort, the beautiful beach and the mountains. Also, from the two sides of the Nam Tram, you can see the gardens all the way down from Heaven to Sea level. All the foliage here brightens the natural look of the Resort, as well as keeping the place cool in summer.

Q: Will you see wildlife?

Nga: Of course, yes! Along the tram line are the places where monkeys and Douc Langurs come to find food and feed on leaves. In summer, the Douc Langurs usually come here first at 5:45 am for breakfast and then again at 4:30 pm for their dinner. Then 30 minutes later, the monkeys will arrive for their food.

Q: You've been operating the Nam Tram for eight years now. Do you ever get tired of it?

Nga: Never! I love meeting and communicating with guests – I always learn something new from them, and when I see them enjoying the tram rides, that makes me happy. Riding the Nam Tram is such an exciting part of our Resort experience and having the opportunity to deliver guests from Heaven to Sea and Sea to Heaven is something I can't imagine myself ever getting tired of.

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