

A beginner's guide to

VIET NAM NOW



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NORTH TO SOUTH



Sapa

Magnificent mountain trekking, ethnic homestays and sweeping views



Hanoi

Ancient pagodas, top museums and amazing street food



Phong Nha

World-class cave adventures, plus kayaking and jungle eco-tours



Ha Long Bay

Mythical seascapes and more than 2,000 breathtaking karsts



Da Nang

Breezy beaches, golf courses and spa retreats



Hue

Nguyen Dynasty relics along the peaceful Perfume River



Nha Trang

Seafood galore, five-star resorts and pumping rooftop bars.



Hoi An

Fascinating Ancient Town, riverside life and green rice paddies



Mekong Delta

Mangrove forests, ethnic communities and on-the-water villages



Ho Chi Minh City

Buzzing streets, cafe culture, and colonial architecture





Welcome to Vietnam

Vietnam is an exhilarating country to travel. Vibrant street life, exquisite food and epic landscapes await you here. A nation on the move, Vietnam balances cool urban culture with traditional values.

In the cities, ancient pagodas squat just around the corner from sleek rooftop bars; and in the countryside, life still follows the rhythms of the rivers and the rice harvest. This contrast between old and new Vietnam is a big part of its appeal.

Another great reason to visit Vietnam is its diverse natural beauty. The capital of Hanoi is your gateway to the treasures of the north: spectacular mountains and bays studded with karsts. Smack in the centre, up-and-coming Danang gives you easy access to photogenic riverside towns, national parks and long, sandy beaches.

In the south, Ho Chi Minh City will entice you with its captivating streets (just watch out for those motorcycles.) Nearby, the water world of the Mekong Delta as well as islands big and small, are just waiting to be explored.



Vietnam Highlights

📍 Hạ Long Bay

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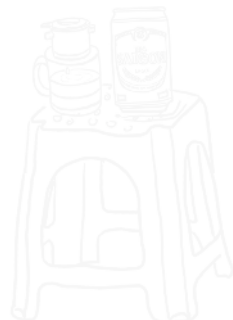
Fabulous Food

If there is one characteristic that unites Vietnamese food, it's freshness.

The Vietnamese love their food, and all across the country, markets are bursting with the abundance of sea and soil. Plucked the same morning, feathery herbs, plump vegetables, colourful fruits, and flapping-fresh proteins are just waiting for a skillful cook to transform them into something magical. These beautiful ingredients are combined with a symphony of delightful textures and flavours. Simply put, it's one of the world's healthiest and most mouth-watering cuisines.



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Timeless Culture

Vietnam inherited its cultural wealth from thousands of years of history, sprinkled with a handful of outside influences. The Vietnamese have a strong sense of pride in their traditions.

If you're a culture seeker, the central cities of Hue and Hoi An are treasure troves, as is Hanoi, the country's graceful capital. Outside the cities, many elements of Vietnamese culture trace back to cycles of wet rice cultivation. Old and new, side-by-side, is what makes Vietnamese culture so compelling.



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Blissful Beaches

Sun, sand, and saltwater: Vietnam is home to countless inviting beaches -- some are well-known, others completely hidden.

The islands of Con Dao and Phu Quoc are famous for inviting water and pristine shores. If you enjoy activity and nightlife mixed into your beach holidays, the coastal towns of Da Nang and Nha Trang will spoil you with five-star resorts, golfing and watersports. Vietnam also offers countless remote beach destinations, such as Quy Nhon, Con Dao and Phu Quoc, where you can have sublime shores all to yourself.



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Striking Scenery

Vietnam is chock-full of forested peaks, thundering waterfalls, and breezy coastline, so it's no wonder the country is luring more and more nature lovers.

While you'll find plenty of pulse-pounding activities here, including spelunking, canyoning, and trekking, there's no shortage of leisurely ways to enjoy Vietnam's natural wonders. Areas such as Phong Nha and Ha Long Bay offer equal opportunities for relaxation and adventure in spectacular natural settings.



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Changing Cities

Vietnam's vibrant urban centres are growing fast. Here you'll find international restaurants alongside cheap-as-chips street food, ancient pagodas across the street from five-star hotels, and glittering shopping malls around the corner from wet markets.

Hanoi is a city of lakes, brimming with historical and cultural treasures. Da Nang is a coastal metropolis on a fast track to becoming a hub for technology and tourism. Ho Chi Minh City is home to uber-cool rooftop bars, trendy co-working spaces, and colonial-chic cafes. Don't forget to hop on a scooter at least once to truly feel the pulse of urban Vietnam.



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Award-winning Experiences

From beautiful golf courses to amazing wellness retreats, Vietnam's tourism products are continually lauded among the world's best. It's easier than ever to plan an indulgent holiday in Vietnam around these award-winning experiences.

Vietnam's long coastline is home to countless stunning beach resorts, as well as top-tier golf courses that make the most of the country's diverse natural beauty. All-new wellness resorts are springing up in the highlands and while Vietnam's adventure destinations continue to win rave reviews from travellers. Come and see for yourself.





luxury escapes

Mercure Danang French Village Bana Hills
World's Best Luxury Mountain Resort 2020
World Luxury Hotel Awards

Radisson Blu Resort Cam Ranh
World's Best Luxury Beach Resort 2020
World Luxury Hotel Awards

InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort
Asia's Leading Luxury Resort 2020
World Travel Awards

JW Marriott Phu Quoc Emerald Bay
Asia's Leading Luxury Resort + Spa 2020
World Travel Awards

Banyan Tree Lang Co
Asia's Best Luxury Golf Resort 2020
World Luxury Hotel Awards



wellness retreats

Plumeria Spa, Premier Village Phu Quoc
World's Best Luxury Island Resort Spa 2020
World Luxury Spa Awards

**HARNN Heritage Spa,
InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort**
World's Best Resort Spa 2020
World Spa Awards

Explore Spa, Le Méridien Saigon
Asia's Best Luxury Hotel Spa 2020
World Luxury Spa Awards

The Spa, Chicland Hotel Da Nang
Asia's Best Luxury Eco Spa 2020
World Luxury Spa Awards

**Chanterelle Spa,
JW Marriott Phu Quoc Emerald Bay**
Asia's Best Theme Design Spa
World Luxury Spa Awards



adventure tours

Hang Son Doong
World Largest Cave

Ha Long Bay
UNESCO World Heritage Site

Ban Gioc Waterfall
World's 4th Largest Waterfall on a Border

Hang En
World's 3rd Largest Cave

Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park
UNESCO World Heritage Site



family breaks

Ba Na Hills Golden Bridge

World's Greatest Places 2018
Guinness World Records

Sun World Halong Complex

World's Tallest Cable Car Tower
Guinness World Records

Vinpearl Land Nha Trang

World's Largest Floating Bay
Guinness World Records

Sun World Hon Thom Nature Park

World's Longest Three-rope Cable Car
Guinness World Records

Sun World Ba Na Hills

World's Longest Single-track Cable Car
Guinness World Records



golf getaways

Ba Na Hills Golf Club

Asia's Best Golf Course 2020
World Golf Awards

The Grand Ho Tram Strip

Asia's Best Golf Hotel 2020
World Golf Awards

Hoiana Shores Golf Club

World's Best New Golf Course 2020
World Golf Awards

Laguna Lang Co Golf Club

Best Golf Resorts in Asia 2018
Golf Digest

KN Golf Links

Best New Course in Asia Pacific 2018
Asian Golf Awards

SUSTAINABLE HOTSPOTS



Ba Be

The largest natural lake in Vietnam, perfect for animal lovers

Cao Bang

A mountain town that once served as Ho Chi Minh's hide out



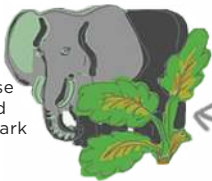
Pu Luong

Cascading rice terraces and ethnic minority villages



Ninh Binh

Limestone karsts, ancient pagodas, and cave town by paddle boat



Dak Lak

Home of Vietnamese coffee, water fall and Yok Don national park

Phong Nha

Caves, caves and more caves in Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park



Cai Be

A colourful river town where local life still plays out on the river



Quy Nhon

A fishing town with beautiful beaches and laid back vibes.



Con Dao

An archipelago of 15 islets with beautiful reefs and parks



5 ideas for sustainable holidays

Create a positive impact in the places you go by following these tips.

1 Support ethical tours - All across Vietnam you'll find responsible tour providers who offer interesting experiences for travellers. Many also give back to the community by creating income for locals.

2 Book a homestay - Homestays provide close-up encounters with local culture. Vietnamese homestay hosts are incredibly generous and will happily organise unforgettable tours and workshops for you.

3 Buy sustainable souvenirs - Vietnam will give you many chances to buy beautiful goods that also support local artisans and craftsmen. Lacquerware, ceramics, and textiles are excellent take-home mementos.

4 Help preserve culture - Did you know Vietnam has hundreds of craft villages? Touring these traditional craft villages is a great way to see Vietnam's countryside and contribute to the preservation of culture.

5 Visit lesser-known locations - Vietnam has many islands, frontier towns and nature reserves that are relatively unknown but worth seeing. Going to new destinations reduces pressure on high-profile attractions.





**TẾT
LUNAR
NEW YEAR**

Nationwide
February



**HÙNG
KING
FESTIVAL**

Phú Thọ
April

Celebrate With Us



**HUẾ FESTIVAL
/CRAFT FESTIVAL**

Huế
April



**REUNIFICATION
DAY**

Nationwide
April 30



**BÀ CHÚA XỨ
FESTIVAL**

Châu Đốc
May



**DA NANG
INTERNATIONAL
FIREWORK
FESTIVAL**

Đà Nẵng
June - July

Celebrate With Us



**MID-AUTUMN
FESTIVAL**

Nationwide
September



**NATIONAL
DAY**

Nationwide
September 2



📍 Hoi An

Must-do Experiences

Don't leave Vietnam without trying these five authentic experiences.

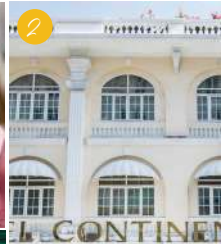
1 **Sip cà phê sữa đá on the side walk** - Vietnam's traditional iced coffee with milk. Ask for a cà phê đen đá if you like your coffee black.

2 **Take a motorcycle ride** - This is a must-do all over Vietnam but especially in Ho Chi Minh City, with its endless energy and beautiful city lights.

3 **Watch a cultural show** - Don't miss Hanoi's famous water puppets or the bamboo contemporary circus by Lune Productions.

4 **Visit a pagoda** - Vietnam has a fascinating spiritual history told through a vast range of temples, pagodas, churches and spiritual places.

5 **Try the local street food** - Vietnam is alive with some of the most famously delicious, fragrant food in Southeast Asia. Dig in and enjoy!



Getting Around

Have a smooth trip around Vietnam with these easy transport options.

TRAINS

Vietnam's Reunification Express takes around 36 hours from Ha Noi to Ho Chi Minh City, stopping at main cities along the way.

MOTORBIKE

Motorbike tours are a great way to see Vietnam and get up close with local life in the cities. Always wear your helmet.

FLIGHTS

The easiest way to see lots of Vietnam, domestic flights are reasonably priced. Check Vietnam Airlines and Vietjet Air.

TAXI

Reputable taxi companies operate widely in most Vietnamese cities, and many ride-sharing apps work here too.

BUSES

You'll find reliable open-tour buses travelling the length of the country. Many of these have overnight options for nighttime travel.

BICYCLE

In small towns such as Mai Chau, Hoi An and Hue, you can get everywhere you want to go by pedal power. Cycle away!







📍 Bánh căn, Nha Trang

Street Food Tips

Get ready to enjoy Vietnam's amazing street food during your stay.



1 Eat on local time

The best stalls only open a few hours each day: 6am to 8am, 11:30am to 1pm, and 5:30pm to 7pm.



2 Season to taste

Vietnamese use chili, kumquats, vinegar, and fish sauce to adjust the taste of each dish to their liking. Try it!



3 Eat first, pay later

The enjoyment of the meal is very important in Vietnam. You can always finish eating before paying the bill.



4 Learn to share

Meals in Vietnam are often served family-style, with dishes for everyone to share. Help yourself!



Culture & Etiquette

Blend in and follow the local customs by learning these everyday tips.

TIPPING

You are under no obligation to tip in Vietnam, especially not at street-side eateries and small restaurants.

DRESS CODE

Most Vietnamese are modest dressers, even on the beach. Always cover up when visiting religious sites.

SAVING FACE

As a general rule, keep your cool, and avoid loud arguments and public displays of affection.

EASY PHRASES

‘Xin chào’ is the Vietnamese salutation used for both ‘hello’ and ‘goodbye’. Thank you is ‘cảm ơn’.

TAKING PHOTOS

Many Vietnamese like to have their picture taken, but always ask first.





📍 Can Tho

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Weather

Vietnam is home to several distinct climate patterns from north to south. From December to March, North Vietnam has cool weather. April brings sunny skies until the monsoon rains arrive in June. Central Vietnam has lots of sunshine most of the year, but November and December can be wet and overcast. Southern Vietnam is always warm, and temperatures soar mid-year. You can expect daily downpours from June to August.

NORTH

The northern region has cool and misty winters, with cold nights in the highlands.

SOUTH

Southern Vietnam has a wet monsoon but the weather remains warm year-round.

CENTRAL

March and April are great months to see Central Vietnam before the summer heat.





📍 Phú Quốc

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