

*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





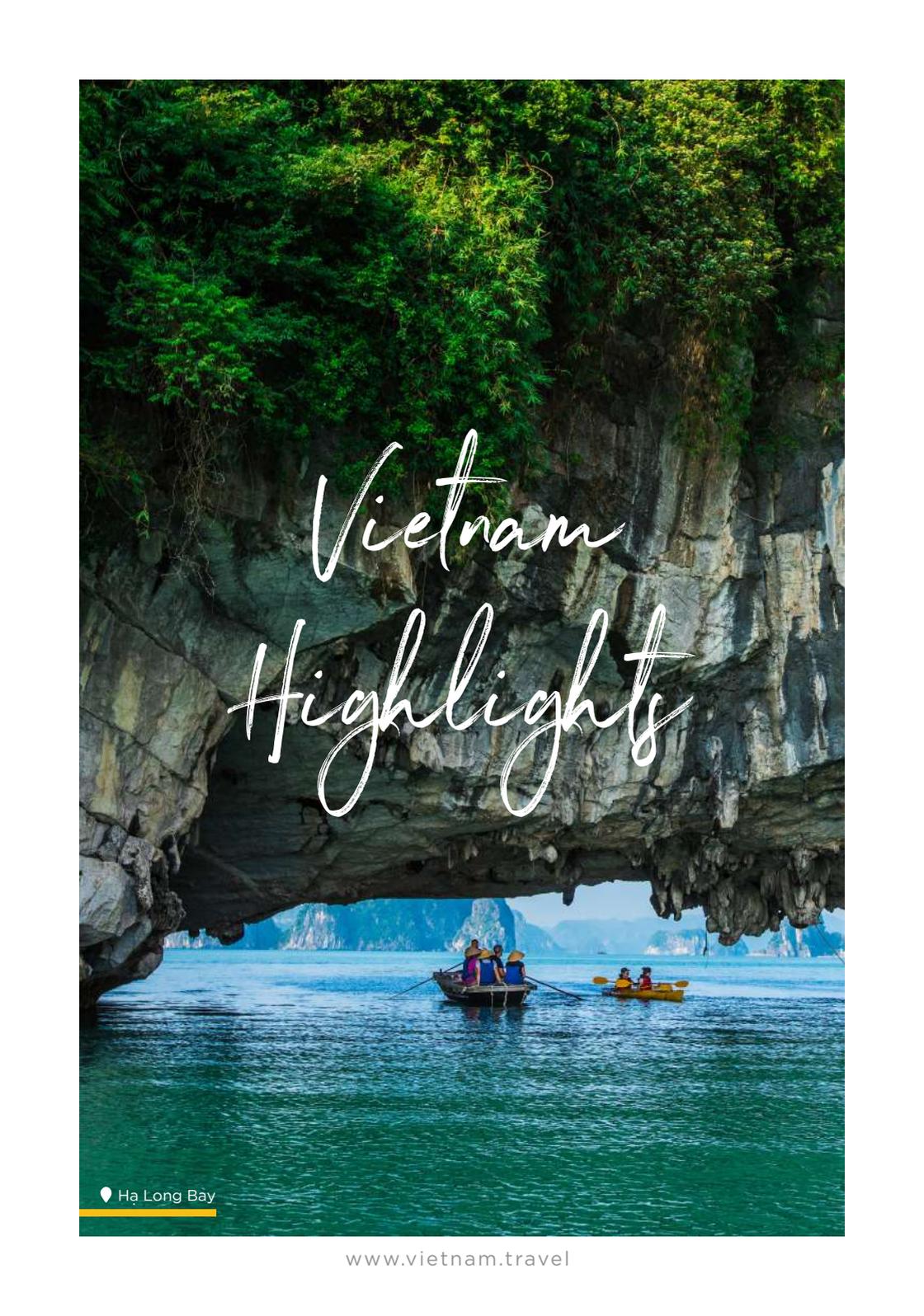
# Welcome to Vietnam

**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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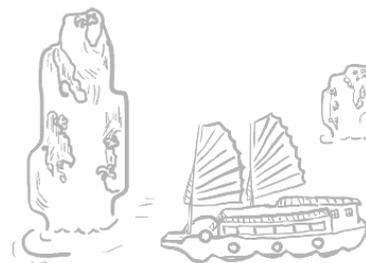
# Striking Scenery

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*

**Naman Retreat Danang**

Asia's Leading Retreat 2016, 2017, 2018 - World Travel Awards

**InterContinental® Danang Sun Peninsula Resort**

World's Leading Luxury Resort 2017 - World Travel Awards

**JW Marriott Phu Quoc Emerald Bay**

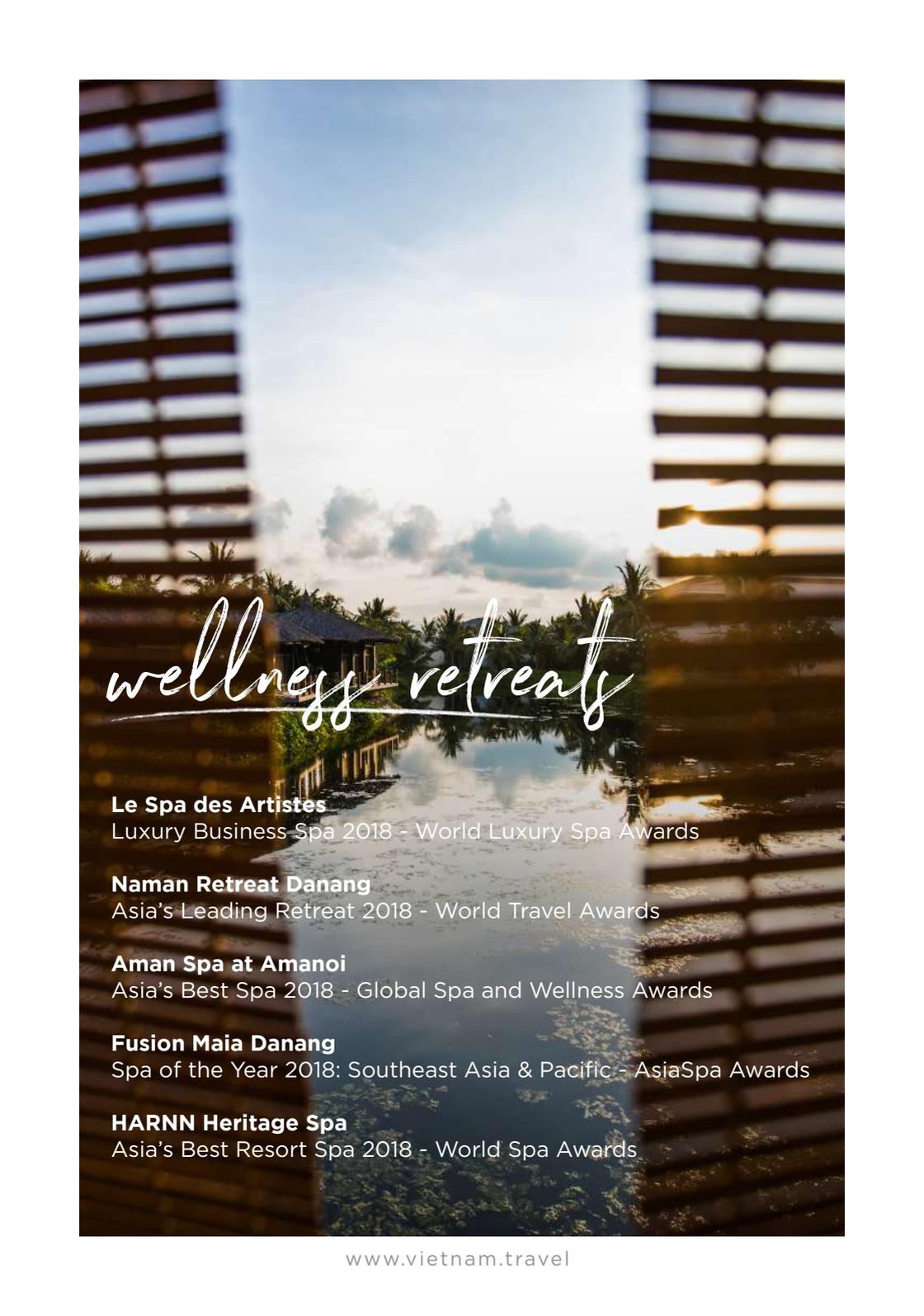
World's Leading Luxury Resort 2018 - World Travel Awards

**InterContinental Phu Quoc Long Beach Resort**

World's Leading Luxury Resort 2018 - World Travel Awards

**Four Seasons Resort the Nam Hai, Hoi An**

10 Best Resort Hotels in Southeast Asia 2018 - Travel + Leisure



# wellness retreats

## **Le Spa des Artistes**

Luxury Business Spa 2018 - World Luxury Spa Awards

## **Naman Retreat Danang**

Asia's Leading Retreat 2018 - World Travel Awards

## **Aman Spa at Amanoi**

Asia's Best Spa 2018 - Global Spa and Wellness Awards

## **Fusion Maia Danang**

Spa of the Year 2018: Southeast Asia & Pacific - AsiaSpa Awards

## **HARNN Heritage Spa**

Asia's Best Resort Spa 2018 - World Spa Awards



# adventure tours

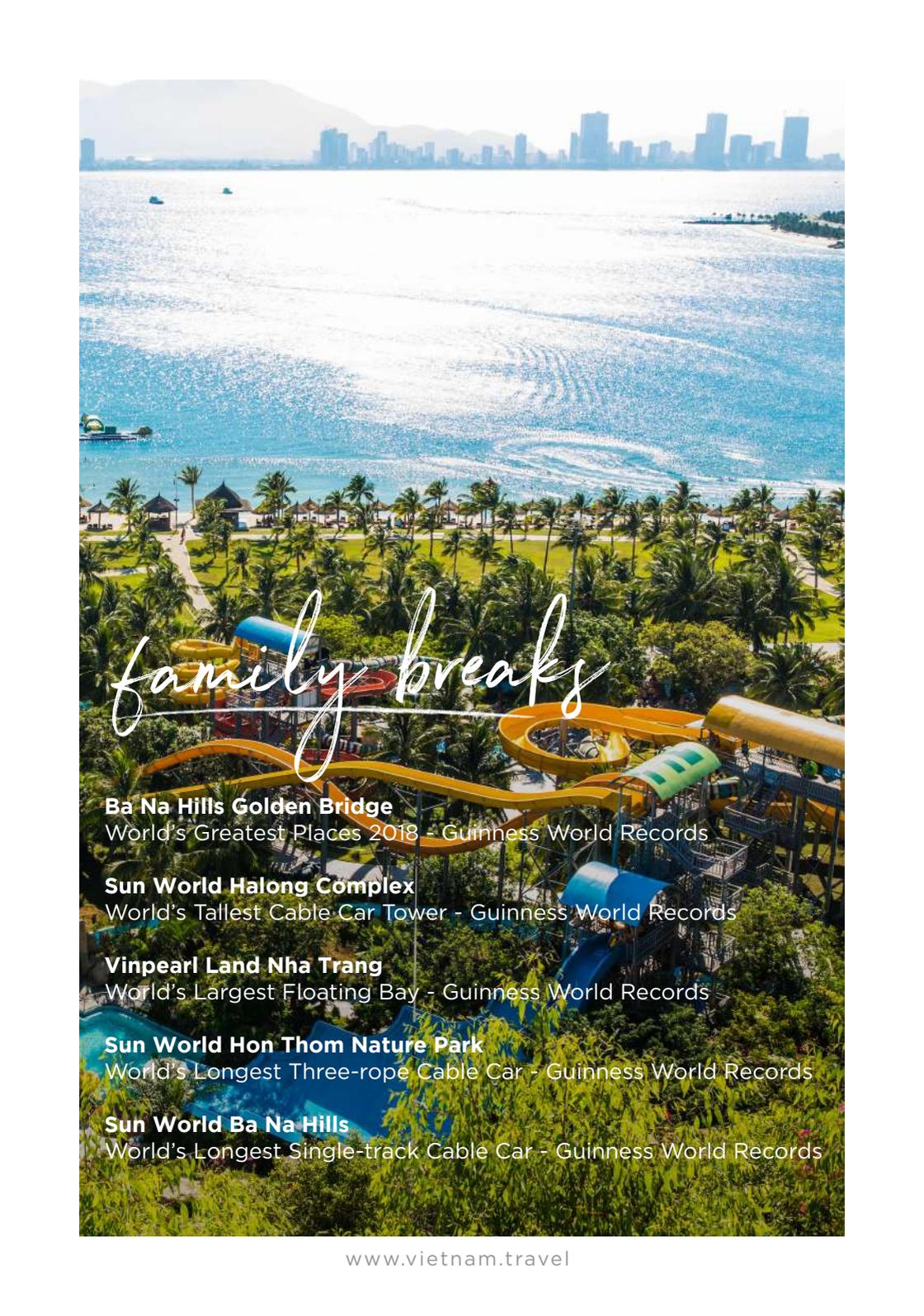
**Hang Son Doong**  
World's Largest Cave

**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**

Best Golf Course in Asia 2017, 2018 - World Golf Awards

**The Grand Ho Tram Strip**

Best Golf Hotel in Asia 2016, 2017, 2018 - World Golf Awards

**FLC Quy Nhon Resort & Golf**

Best Golf Resorts in Asia 2018 - Golf Digest

**Laguna Lang Co Golf Club**

Best Golf Resorts in Asia 2018 - Golf Digest

**KN Golf Links – Cam Ranh**

Best New Course in Asia Pacific 2018 - Asian Golf Awards



**DA NANG  
FIREWORKS  
FESTIVAL**

**Da Nang City**

Jun. 1 - 30, 2020



**VIETNAM  
MOUNTAIN  
MARATHON**

**Sapa**

Sept. 2020

**Celebrate With Us**



**TET HOLIDAY**

**Nationwide**

Jan. 24 - 27, 2020



**HUE FESTIVAL**

**Hue**

Apr. 1-6, 2020



**MID-AUTUMN  
FESTIVAL**

**Nationwide**

Oct. 1, 2020



**EPIZODE  
FESTIVAL**

**Phu Quoc**

Dec. 27, 2019 -  
Jan. 7, 2020

**Celebrate With Us**



**NATIONAL  
DAY**

**Nationwide**

Sept. 2, 2020



**HCMC  
MARATHON**

**HCMC**

Jan. 5, 2020



📍 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

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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!





📍 Huế



📍 Bánh cốm, Nha Trang



# Culture & Etiquette

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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.





📍 Cần Thơ

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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

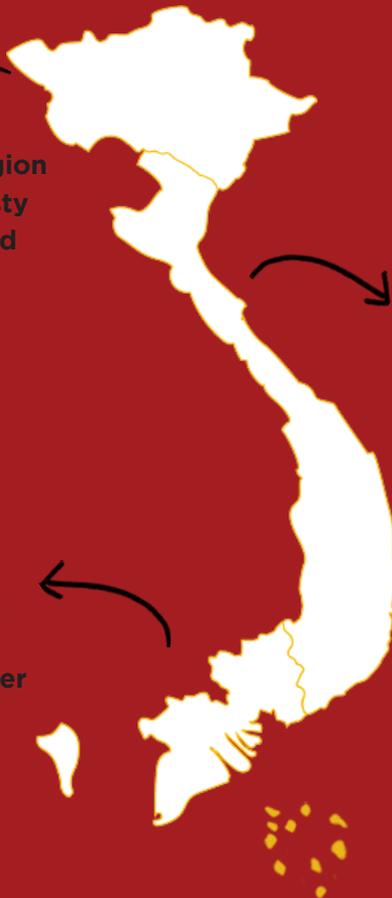
The northern region has cool and misty winters, with cold nights in the highlands.

## 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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