

## Table Of Content

<b>Geographical location</b>	3
<b>Neighbouring cities/countries</b>	4
<b>Significance</b>	5
<b>History</b>	6
<b>Cultural identity</b>	7
<b>Natural resources</b>	8
<b>Key site seeing places (paid and free)</b>	9
<b>- Paid</b>	9
-- Ho Chi Minh Museum	9
-- Vietnamese Museum of Ethnology	9
-- Hanoi Opera House	9
-- Vietnam Fine Arts Museum	10
-- Vietnam Military History Museum	10
-- B?o tàng L?ch s? Qu?c gia	11
<b>- Free</b>	12
-- St Joseph Cathedral	12
-- One Pillar Pagoda	12
-- Quan Thanh Temple	12
-- Lenin Park	13
-- Hoàn Ki?m Lake	13
-- West Lake	13
-- Trúc B?ch Lake	14
-- Hanoi Night Market	14
-- Ch? ??ng Xuân	14
-- Vincom Bà Tri?u	14
<b>Key sites sports &amp; adventure</b>	16
<b>Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums</b>	17
<b>Spas and relaxation</b>	18
<b>Events calendar</b>	20
<b>Key local guides and tours</b>	22
<b>Transportation hubs</b>	23

Transportation cost	24
Baggage allowance	25
Must try food and local savouries	26
Restaurant & Nightlife	27
Average meal cost	31
Shopping	32
Tourist benefits	33
Essential local apps	34
Driving	35
Travel essentials	36
Essential clothes	37
Local currency	38
Change vendor's commission, ATM charges	39
Staying connected	40
Time Zone	41
Languages	42
Political Scenario	43
Economic Scenario	44
Religious belief	45
Visa requirements	46
Essential vaccination	47
Theft and Safety	48
Embassy/Consulate	49
Accessibility	50
Emergencies	51
Do's and Don'ts	52
Tipping basics	53
Pet info	54
Conclusion	55
Disclaimer	56

## Index

### 1. Geographical location

Hanoi (also called Ha Noi), the capital of Vietnam, is a beautiful city in South-Asia. Located in the northern region of the capital, on the right bank of Red River, Hanoi has had several names before it was finally given its present name, in 1831. Hanoi has uneven terrain which includes delta area, midland area and mountains. It is located at about 5-20 km above the sea level. The highest peak of Hanoi is at 1281 km called Ba Vi. It is located in the western part of the city.



## Index

### 2. Neighbouring cities/countries

Hanoi Has Two Major Cities Close To It - Ho Chi Minh City Located In The Southern End Of Hanoi 1760 Km Away And HaiPhong Located On The Eastern End Of Hanoi, 120 Km Away. Vietnam Shares Its Boundaries With Three Countries – China On The Northern End (1656 Km), Cambodia On The South-western End (1241 Km) And Laos On The North-western End (371 Km).



## Index

### 3. Significance

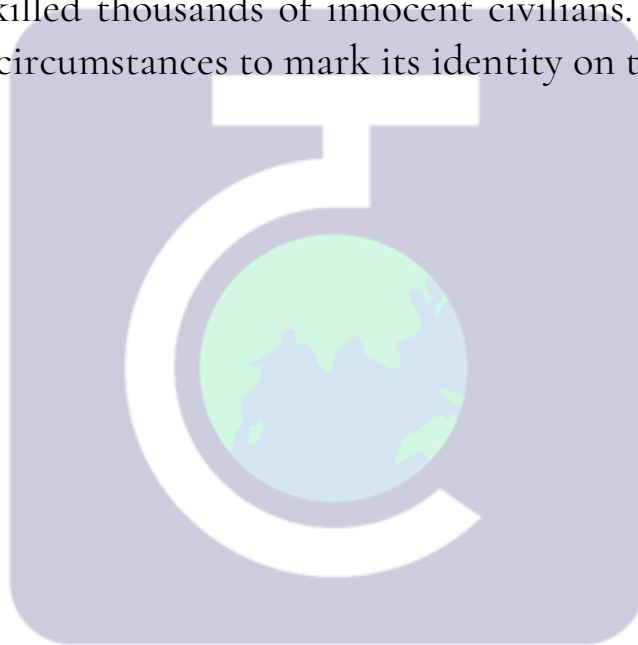
Hanoi is mostly known as the manufacturers' city. It is a hub for manufacturers from machine tools, electric generators and motor, plywood, chemicals, and textiles to matches and other industrial goods. The city is settled on the bank of a river, which makes it a vital stop of small vessels going to the main sea. Also, via the Red River, many areas of Hanoi are navigable in Northern Vietnam. The city even has a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Central Sector of Imperial Citadel of Thanglong, constructed in the 11th century was designated by the honour in 2010. Hanoi, in the local language, translates to 'river within/ inside'.



## Index

### 4. History

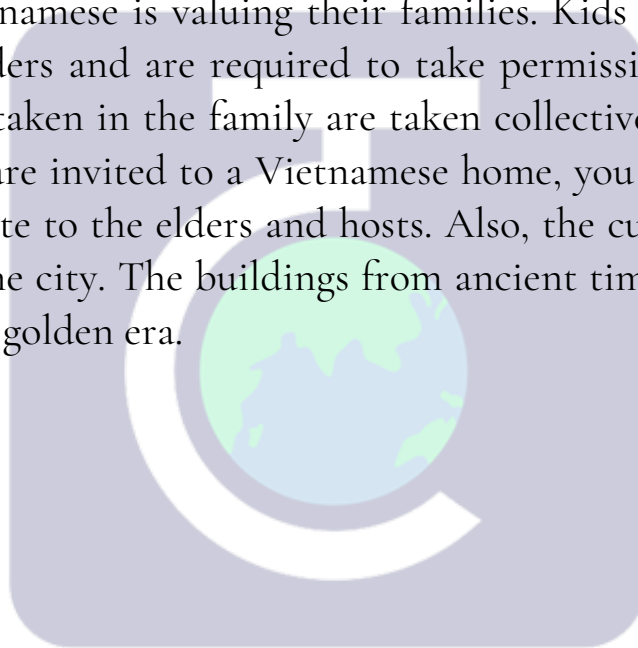
In the past centuries, Hanoi has been named several times. It was designated its present name by the Emperor TuDuc in 1831. Also, the city has been the capital of French Indochina. It was announced as the capital of Vietnam after the August Revolution in 1945. In its history, Hanoi has undergone several revolutions and wars. One such event was the American war when the U.S. army destroyed several parts of Hanoi and killed thousands of innocent civilians. However, Hanoi has prospered under the circumstances to mark its identity on the globe.



## Index

### 5. Cultural identity

The culture of a nation, or a city is identified by its traditions and perseverance. Vietnamese people are very friendly and are very hospitable. One of the major reasons why one would want to visit Hanoi is to experience their hospitality. People in Hanoi value their traditions the most. Customs and regulations passed on through generations are still followed today. One of the greatest traditions followed by the Vietnamese is valuing their families. Kids are taught to respect their parents and elders and are required to take permissions for all major life decisions. Decisions taken in the family are taken collectively with the blessings of the elders. If you are invited to a Vietnamese home, you are required to show respect by being polite to the elders and hosts. Also, the cultural identity lies in the architecture of the city. The buildings from ancient times are preserved well and remind us of the golden era.



**Index****6. Natural resources**

Vietnam is blessed with key natural resources in abundance. The country has natural stores of industrially important elements like coal, phosphates, bauxite, chromate, copper, iron, manganese, and zinc. Mines of gold, diamond and other precious metals are also available. Vietnam also supplies the essential wood and timber required for house hold and industrial purposes along with some really rare earth metals.





## Index

**7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)****7.1. Paid****7.1.1. Ho Chi Minh Museum**

Address : Chua Mot Cot, Doi Can, Ba Dinh, Hanoi 10000, Vietnam

Zipcode : 10000

Location : 21.0353122, 105.83284509999999

Contact : +84 438 463 757

Website : <http://www.baotanghochiminh.vn>

Nearest Public Transport : 18A Le Hong Phong Bus Station

Entry Fee : 10,000 VND

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Thursday, Saturday-Sunday 08:00hrs-12:00hrs;  
14:00hrs-16:30hrs Friday 08:00hrs-12:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

**7.1.2. Vietnamese Museum of Ethnology**

Address : Nguyen Van Huyen, Nghia Do, Cao Giay, Hanoi, 10000 Vietnam

Zipcode : 10000

Location : 21.040582, 105.79836669999997

Contact : +84 437 562 192

Website : <http://www.vme.org.vn>

Nearest Public Transport : Diem Dau Bus Station

Entry Fee : 25,000 VND

Open & Close Timing : Monday closed. Tuesday-Sunday 08:30hrs-17:30hrs

Time Required : 2.5

Expected Wait Time : 25-30 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

**7.1.3. Hanoi Opera House**

Address : 1 Trang Tien St, Hanoi 10000, Vietnam

Zipcode : 10000

Location : 21.0241593, 105.85783800000002

Contact : +84 439 330 113

Website : <http://hanoioperahouse.org.vn/>

Nearest Public Transport : 34 Bus Station

Entry Fee : Varies according to shows

Time Required : 2.5

Expected Wait Time : 20 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

#### 7.1.4. Vietnam Fine Arts Museum

Address : 66 Nguyen Thai Hoc, Ba Dinh, Hanoi, 10000 Vietnam

Zipcode : 10000

Location : 21.0302267, 105.83688419999999

Contact : +84 437 332 131

Website : <http://www.vnfam.vn>

Nearest Public Transport : BenhVienXanhpon Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adult 30,000 VND Students and Pupils: 15,000 VND Children and Students from 06 to 16 years: 10,000 VND Disabled and Children under 6 years:

Free sightseeing tickets.

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:30hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

#### 7.1.5. Vietnam Military History Museum

Address : 28A, Dien Bien Phu, Dien Bien, Ba Dinh, Hanoi 10000, Vietnam

Zipcode : 10000

Location : 21.032341, 105.84031040000002

Contact : +84 438 234 264

Website : <http://www.btlsqsvn.org.vn/>

Nearest Public Transport : 09, 18, 41, 105 Le Hong Pong Bus Station

Entry Fee : 20,000 VND

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday to Thursday, Saturday and Sunday-07:30hrs-11:30hrs; 13:00hrs-16:00hrs Monday, Friday closed.

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.1.6. Bảo tàng Lịch sử Quốc gia

Address : 216 Tran Quangkhai, Trang Tien, HoanKiemTrang Tien hoanKiem, Hanoi, 10000 Vietnam

Zipcode : 10000

Location : 21.0245106, 105.8596718

Contact : +84 961 137 362

Nearest Public Transport : 34, Tràng Tiên Bus Station

Entry Fee : 15,000 VND

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:00hrs-12:00hrs; 13:30hrs – 17:00hrs Closed on first Monday of the month.

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

## 7.2. Free

### 7.2.1. St Joseph Cathedral

Address : Quan Hoan Kiem, Hanoi, 10000 Vietnam

Zipcode : 10000

Location : 21.0287857, 105.84900579999999

Contact : +84 613 743 813

Nearest Public Transport : HàngTrống Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily: Open 24 hours

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 25 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.2. One Pillar Pagoda

Address : Chua Mot Cot, Doi Can, Ba Dinh, Hanoi, 10000 Vietnam

Zipcode : 10000

Location : 21.0358706, 105.83361560000003

Contact : +84 98 590 24 24

Nearest Public Transport : 18A Lê Hồng Phong Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily: Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1

Expected Wait Time : 15-20 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.3. Quan Thanh Temple

Address : Quan Thanh, Ba Dinh, Hanoi, 10000 Vietnam

Zipcode : 10000

Location : 21.043035, 105.83634140000004

Nearest Public Transport : Thanh Niên ,50 Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily: Open 24 hours

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10-15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

#### 7.2.4. Lenin Park

Address : Ba Dinh, Hanoi 10000, Vietnam

Zipcode : 10000

Location : 21.0315289, 105.83958989999996

Nearest Public Transport : Trần Phú, Điện Biên 02, 23, 32, 34 Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily: Open 24 hours

Time Required : 3

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

#### 7.2.5. Hoàn Kiếm Lake

Address : HoanKiem Lake, Hanoi, 10000 Vietnam

Zipcode : 10000

Location : 21.0286669, 105.85214840000003

Nearest Public Transport : Hang Trong Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily: Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

#### 7.2.6. West Lake

Address : West Lake, Hanoi 10000, Vietnam

Zipcode : 10000

Location : 21.053238, 105.82609430000002

Nearest Public Transport : Ga Long Bien Train Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily: Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.7. Trúc Bạch Lake

Address : Trúc Bạch Lake, Hanoi 10000, Vietnam

Zipcode : 10000

Location : 21.0455322, 105.83857050000006

Nearest Public Transport : Thanh Niên 50 Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily: Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.8. Hanoi Night Market

Address : các phố Đào, Hàng Ngang, Hàng TP., Hàng Đường, Hàng Đào, Hoàn Kiếm, Hà Nội, Vietnam

Location : 21.0333959, 105.85093529999995

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.9. Chợ Đông Xuân

Address : Đông Xuân, Hoàn Kiếm, Hà Nội, Vietnam

Location : 21.038164, 105.85003099999994

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.10. Vincom Bà Triệu

Address : 191 Bà Triệu, Lê Đại Hành, Hai Bà Trưng, Hà Nội, Vietnam

Location : 21.0112149, 105.8497595

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No



## 8. Key sites sports & adventure

The city offers various tours to visitors which include street food, sightseeing, shopping.

- **Kayaking -**

Address : 74 HàngBạc, HoànKiếm, HàNội, 10000 Vietnam

Location : 21.0339951,105.8519982

Contact No : +84 4 3926 4650

Website : <http://www.halongbayoneday.com>

Nearest Public Transport : 54 Nguyen HuuHuan Bus Station

Entry Fees : 780310 VND per person

Open / Close Time : Daily 07:30hrs–21:00hrs

Time Required : 3

Wait Time : 10-15 minutes



## Index

### 9. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

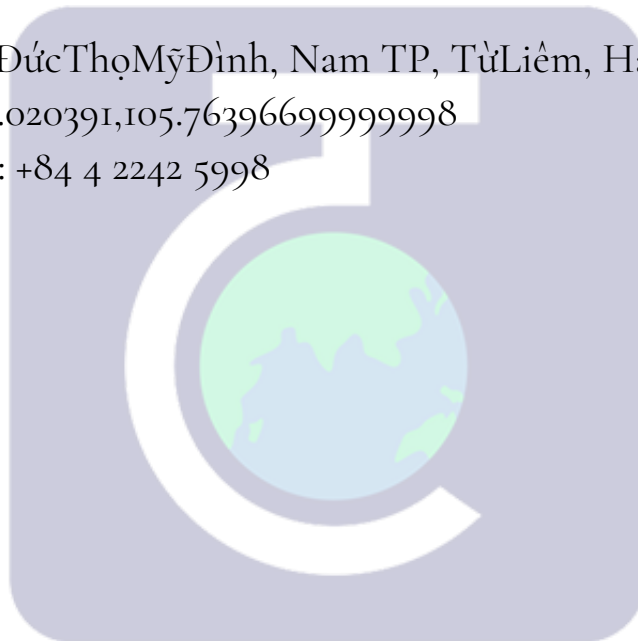
Main sport that is played the most is football. The country has a Vietnam National under 23 Football Team, Vietnam National Football Team and Vietnam National Women's football team.

- **My Dinh National Stadium:**

Address : Lê Đức Thọ Mỹ Đình, Nam TP, Từ Liêm, Hanoi, 10000 Vietnam

Location : 21.020391, 105.76396699999998

Contact No : +84 4 2242 5998



## 10. Spas and relaxation

Hanoi has quite a lot number of spas. Almost all of the nice ones are located in the best hotels or resorts of the city. The spas in this city offer packages across price levels.

- **Siesta La Spa:**

Address : 32 Lo Su Street, 2nd floor of Hanoi Elegance Diamond Hotel, Hanoi 10000, Vietnam

Location : 21.0315151,105.8549021

Contact No : +84 439 351632

Website : <http://www.lasiestaspa.com>

- **Hanoi Marguerite Spa:**

Address : 63 Ma May Street, HoanKiem District, Old Quarter, Hanoi 10000, Vietnam

Location : 21.034707,105.85333300000002

Contact No : +84 43 262 464

Website : <http://www.hanoimargueritespa.com>

- **Mido spa:**

Address : 26 Hang Manh Street, HoanKiem District, Old Quarter, Hanoi 10000, Vietnam

Location : 21.0319229,105.8482477

Contact No : +84 438 285 588

Website : <http://www.midospa.com>

- **Midori spa:**

Address : 46 Ngo Huyen Street, HoanKiem Street, Old Quarter, Hanoi 10000, Vietnam

Location : 21.0294617,105.8483046

Contact No : +84 439 230 666

Website : <http://www.midospa.org.vn>

- **La Belle Spa:**

Address : 92C NyuyenHuuHuan Street, HoanKiem, Hanoi 10000, Vietnam

Location : 21.032249,105.85445500000003

Contact No : +84 978 392 399

Website : <http://www.labellespamassage.com>



## 11. Events calendar

### Month

### Events

#### New Year's Day

**Celebrate and welcome the new year (according to the roman calendar) Date: 1st January  
Tet Vietnamese New Year**

**On this day, the people of Vietnam celebrate New Year according to their traditional calendar and it is the most important day in their traditional festivities.**

#### Co Loa festival

**The festival is celebrated as a remembrance of King An Duong Vuong's inaugural to the throne.  
Dong Festival**

**Celebration of the ancient character of Dong Genius in Giam Liam District in Hanoi. Beautiful puppet shows are its specialty.**

#### Le Mat Festival

**The festival is celebrated to honour the tradition of snake catching and preparing food**

from them. The festival is quite well-known and celebrated in grandeur in Viet Hung Ward, a small village near Hanoi.

### **Chem Temple Festival**

This is a festival of boats and kites. There is dragon boat racing in the Red River and kite flying competition.

### **Doson Buffalo Festival**

A festival to boast the strength and abilities of buffaloes. Buffalo fighting takes place in different parts of the city.

### **Monsoon Music festival**

It is a music festival where concerts of artists from around the world are organized for a crowd of all ages.

## Index

### 12. Key local guides and tours

The city has several tours allow tourists to explore around the city in a day. Various day tours are available. Bike tours and guided boat tours are also availed by a lot of travellers visiting the city along with various day tours that include cruises and boating through the lakes and Halong bay.



### 13. Transportation hubs

**Train Station:** Hanoi has one important train station called the Hanoi Train Station. This train station is divided in two parts: station A and station B. Station A is the main one and operates trains to east of the city. It has its entry from the Le Duan Street. Landmark is the grey concrete structure that clearly reads 'Ga Ha Noi'. Station B is of lesser importance and not the main one. It operates trains to north of the city.

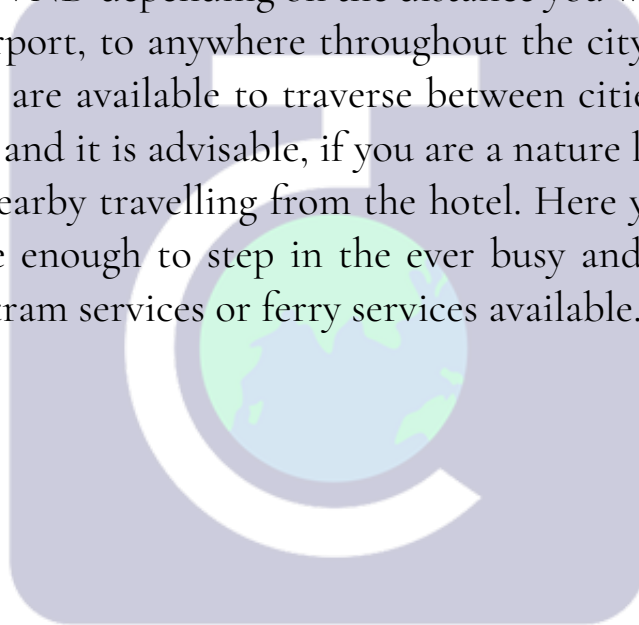
**Airport:** Hanoi has just one international airport called the NoiBai International Airport. It has flights scheduled for all the major countries in the world. It also operates domestic airlines. NoiBai International Airport is the largest airport in Vietnam. The distance of airport from the city centre is around 45 km. The taxi fare is approximately 320,000 VND and is a 30 minutes ride to the city centre. A minibus is also available with a fare of about 32,000 VND for foreigners while a public bus fare is about 5,000 VND is an hour ride to the city centre.

**Bus Stations:** The city of Hanoi majorly has two bus depots of importance, and that connects to other neighbouring cities of Hanoi too.

1. My Dinh Bus Station operates buses on daily basis to north and north western regions of Vietnam. If you are planning to go to China, then this bus station must be on your list.
2. Loung Yen Bus Station is located 3 km away from the south east of Old Quarter. Majorly operates buses to eastern region of Vietnam. It is a busy bus station, with buses departing to all the regions in every 15 to 20 minutes.

**Index****14. Transportation cost**

Hanoi is a pocket – friendly tourist destination as a result of the friendly exchange rate. Thus, you can travel long distances even in private taxis and cars. The city is well connected via various bus stops, each at vital points in the city, such as those near the popular attractions. Similarly, the rail network connects the city providing a convenient travel alternative. The basic fare for bus can go from 5,000 VND to 10,000 VND depending on the distance you wish to travel. The taxi fare from Noi Bai Airport, to anywhere throughout the city, costs up to 320,000 VND per car. Trains are available to traverse between cities and not internally. People have bicycles, and it is advisable, if you are a nature lover, you should rent a cycle for all your nearby travelling from the hotel. Here you can find bikes on rent only if you dare enough to step in the ever busy and dangerous traffic of Hanoi. No metro or tram services or ferry services available.





**Index****15. Baggage allowance**

Luggage that can easily fit in the Taxi is not chargeable. Some taxis do not charge for luggage that is two bags per person. No extra charge for luggage in the bus, however, it gets very crowded at the peak hours and there might not be any space for any luggage.



**Index****16. Must try food and local savouries**

Hanoi has a lot of, like thousands of, good restaurants treating you very well, with English speaking staff and serves you the best of the Vietnam under one roof.



## Index

### 17. Restaurant & Nightlife

Hanoi has a very bustling and worth seeing nightlife. Bia Hoi (draft beer) is the beer brewed in the breweries of Hanoi and is a special and traditional beverage. The restaurants are well known for their French, Japanese and other Asian cuisines. Most bars in Hanoi are shut down by 12 midnight, yet some bars continue to operate until later. The Old Quarter area in Hanoi is known to house most of the well-known luxury hotels and nightclubs.

#### Food -

Hanoi has a very bustling and worth seeing nightlife. Bia Hoi (draft beer) is the beer brewed in the breweries of Hanoi and is a special and traditional beverage. The restaurants are well known for their French, Japanese and other Asian cuisines. Most bars in Hanoi are shut down by 12 midnight, yet some bars continue to operate until later. The Old Quarter area in Hanoi is known to house most of the well-known luxury hotels and nightclubs.

- **Mam:**

Address : 11 Hàng Mắm, Lý Thái Tổ, Hoàn Kiếm, Hà Nội, Vietnam

Location : 21.0336782,105.85471589

Contact No : +84 98 492 43 84

Website : <http://mamrestaurant.vn/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 10:00hrs 22:00hrs

- **Home Vietnamese Restaurant:**

Address : 34, Chau Long, Hanoi 10000, Vietnam

Location : 21.0454569,105.8424364

Contact No : +84 439 392 222

Website : <http://www.homerestaurant.vn>

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:00hrs-14:00hrs; 17:30hrs-22:00hrs

- **The Gourmet Corner Restaurant:**

Address : 32 Lo Su Street, Old Quarter, HaonKiem District, Hanoi, 10000 Vietnam

Location : 21.0316353,105.855006499999

Contact No : +84 944 194 132

Website : <http://www.lasiestadiamondhotel.com/the-gourmet-corner-restaurant.htm>

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:30hrs-22:00hrs

- **Banh Mì 25:**

Address : 25 Hang Ca Street, hoanKiem District, Hanoi 10000, Vietnam

Location : 21.0360771,105.848593700000

Contact No : +84 977 668 895

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/banhmi25/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 07:00hrs-19:00hrs

- **Essence Restaurant:**

Address : 22 Ta Hein Street, Old Quarter, HoanKiem District, Hanoi 10000, Vietnam

Location : 21.034529,105.852037

Contact No : +84 439 528 485

Website : <http://www.essencedining.com>

Open / Close Time : Daily 06:30hrs-22:00hrs

- **French Grill:**

Address : 8, Do DucDuc Street, JW Marriott Hanoi, hanoi 10000, Vietnam

Location : 21.0077114,105.7824746999999

Contact No : +84 438 335 588

Website : <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/hotel-information/restaurant/hanjw-jw-marriott-hotel-hanoi/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 18:00hrs-22:30hrs

- **JW Café:**

Address : 8, Du DucDuc Street, JW Marriott Hanoi, Hanoi 10000, Vietnam

Location : 21.0077114,105.78247469999997

Contact No : +84 438 335 588

Website : <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/hotel-information/restaurant/hanjw-jw-marriott-hotel-hanoi/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 06:00hrs-22:30hrs

- **Pizza 4P's:**

Address : 24 Ly Quoc Su Street, 2 Ngo Huyen Street, Hang Trong Ward, HoanKiem District, Hanoi 10000, Vietnam

Location : 21.0297348,105.84891459999994

Contact No : +84 120 803 444

Website : <http://www.pizza4ps.com>

Open / Close Time : Daily 10:00hrs-23:00hrs

- **Bia Hoi Junction:**

Address : Ta Hien & Pho Luong Ngoc Quyen, Old quarter, Hanoi, 10000 Vietnam

Location : 21.034642,105.852186000000

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:00hrs-00:00hrs

- **Legend Beer Hanoi:**

Address : 107, Nguyen Tuan Street, ThanhXuan District, TrungHoà, CầuGiấy, Hanoi, 10000 Vietnam

Location : 21.0118802,105.800442400000

Contact No : +84 437 761 666

Website : <http://www.legendbeer.vn>

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:00hrs-23:00hrs

- **Le Pub Hanoi:**

Address : 25, hang Be, HoanKiem District, Hanoi, 10000 Vietnam

Location : 21.033197,105.853925

Contact No : +84 439 262 104

Website : <http://www.lepub.org>

Open / Close Time : Daily 07:00hrs-01:00hrs

- **King Pirates Pub:**

Address : 24B Hang Gian, HoanKiem District, Hanoi, 10000 Vietnam

Location : 21.035489899999999,105.85108300000002

Contact No : +84 943 631 998

Open / Close Time : Daily 10:30hrs-02:00hrs

**Index****18. Average meal cost**

Hanoi being an inexpensive city is ideal for those on a culinary fest. The daily cost of food is extremely economical and can go up to 210,638 VND. An inexpensive meal for one costs up to 40,000 VND while a mid-range meal for one costs around 200,000 VND. The beer, being locally brewed, is inexpensive too. The same extends to other types of beverages such as rum based drinks or wines. The average cost of an alcoholic drink can go up to 95,538 VND.



**Index****19. Shopping**

The city has a varied and immense consumer retail market. It ranges from expensive luxury goods to the very basic foods. The levels at which shopping can be done is at the traditional markets, the street vendors, the downtown shopping centres, the neighbourhood stores and finally, the modernized shopping malls.





## 20. Tourist benefits

When aboard, you can carry duty free some defined amount of alcohol (1.5 litres), tobacco (100 grams), cigar (up to 100 pieces), cigarette (up to 400 pieces) and jewellery and makeup products for self-use. Also, for tourists there is no specific value limit to the items that you can bring with you as luggage, it is just that you have to announce to the airport authorities that you are carrying certain amount of material. Tourists can have their VATs refunded when they are returning with the expensive goods purchased from the city at the airport. 15% VAT refund is applicable to tourists. To claim VAT refund, tourists have to complete a VAT refund inspection at the airport before departing and fill a declaration form. Tourists carrying money more than USD 5,000 or 15,000 VND must inform the officials before boarding their flights. Strictly prohibited materials include weapons of any form, ammunition, explosives or fireworks, inflammable materials, drugs such as opium and heroin, anti-government and pornographic literature.

## Index

### 21. Essential local apps

Most important apps while travelling in Hanoi are Viber– an app that provides calling services over the internet, Uber – a taxi booking app, Xe Currency - one of the best free mobile apps for converting currency, and Hanoi Bus – an offline application for free bus lines and bus maps in Hanoi.



## 22. Driving

An International driving license is recommended to drive in the city, but is not mandatory. A lot of foreign driving licenses are accepted here. Hence, it is not obligatory to hold an international driving license to drive here. Traffic in Hanoi is rough and one must be very careful while driving. Red lights are not followed everywhere and road fatality rates are highest in Hanoi. Important documents to carry while driving- 1. Driving license 2. Proof of insurance 3. ID proof (passport)



**Index****23. Travel essentials**

The electric current is 110 V and the socket is a two prong socket, type A or B. Check the details of your gadgets to decide whether or not you might need an adapter. Safety wallets are not very much required unless you have decided to carry large amounts of money all along. It will be safe to carry a bag cover since it snows at most time of the year.



**Index****24. Essential clothes**

The electric current is 110 V and the socket is a two prong socket, type A or B. Check the details of your gadgets to decide whether or not you might need an adapter. Safety wallets are not very much required unless you have decided to carry large amounts of money all along. It will be safe to carry a bag cover since it snows at most time of the year.



## 25. Local currency

The local currency of Vietnam, and thus Hanoi, is Vietnamese Dong. 1USD = 22295.00 Vietnamese Dong.



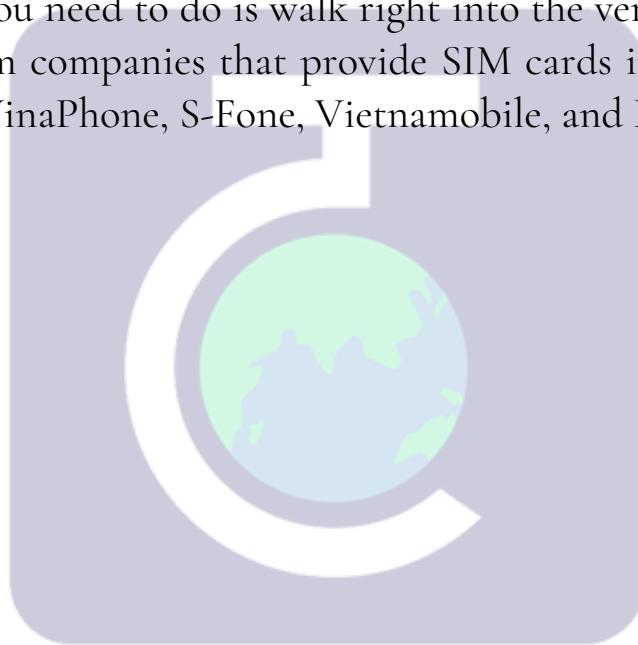
## 26. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges

If you are able to find your bank in Hanoi, it is well and good. Because if you cannot, then you have to pay some 1 to 3 percent of the money transacted each time you make a transaction. For short trips, this is still acceptable but for trips that include living in the town for more than 2 weeks, it is advisable that you either create a temporary bank account there or you use credit cards for buying things. The change vendors have a commission of up to 2%



## 27. Staying connected

Prepaid phone cards and telephone booths for international calls are available in the city. The cities hotels, restaurants, cafes, airport, and stations, are well connected with strong Wi-Fi networks, so connecting to the internet is extremely easy. Tourists, however, need to be careful with the calling through local phone booths, since there is a risk of being over charged. No documents are required to get a SIM card. All you need to do is walk right into the vendor's shop with your phone. Major telecom companies that provide SIM cards in the city are Viettel Mobile, MobiFone, VinaPhone, S-Fone, Vietnamobile, and Beeline.





## 28. Time Zone

Hanoi falls under the central time zone of UTC/GMT +07:00.



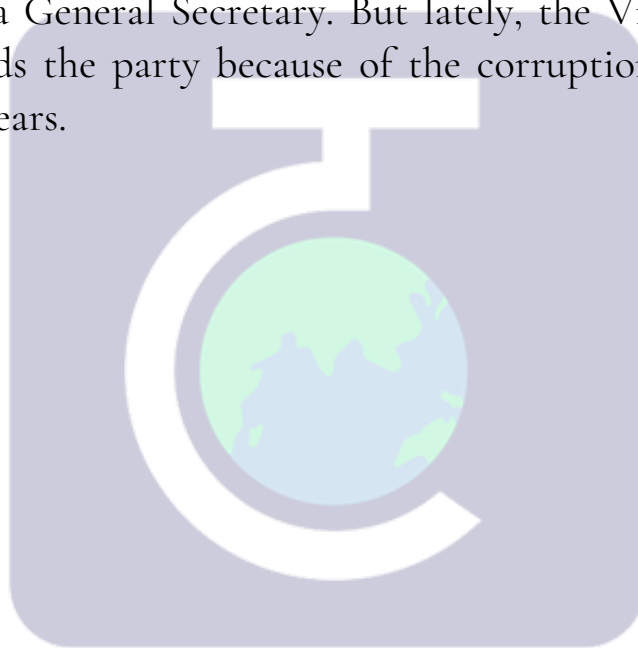
## 29. Languages

Vietnam speaks Vietnamese. Around 86.7% of the total population of Vietnam speak Vietnamese. Also in Hanoi, most people, especially people not related to tourism business, speak Vietnamese. People who have to be in constant contact with tourists speak English, as it is the global language. Actually, English is the most spoken language after Vietnamese, spoken by 9% of the population, followed by French (2.3%) and Russian (2%).



### 30. Political Scenario

Vietnam is a republic country with a government that has a legislature elected by the people, has President as the Head of the State and Prime Minister as the Head of the Government. There are several parties that fight in elections against each other, but Vietnam has just one major party that has its mettle proved in politics at Vietnam, The Vietnamese Communist Party. The most significant position in the party is that of a General Secretary. But lately, the Vietnamese people has shown dislike towards the party because of the corruption the party has been executing in recent years.



### 31. Economic Scenario

Vietnam has its economic foundation rested on agriculture. In spite of the rapid industrialization, the country has its roots to agriculture. More than 60% of the whole population is engaged in agricultural practices, directly or indirectly. Here people make their living by selling different household commodities like salt, sugar, fabric, tableware, clothing, soap and cooking ingredients. Other major purchases include household appliances (like television, music system, refrigerator, washing machine, mixer grinder and juicer), bicycles and furniture. The exchange rate being the way it is, people often resort to utilizing gold to purchase items of high value such as real estate and capital goods. Vietnam has been every encouraging when it comes to foreign investment. This has benefitted the country immensely. The economy rests on the following three sources of income: 1. International firms and corporations- International firms and corporations are majorly interested, and thus, active in mining, electronic assembly, production of textile, garments and footwear. 2. State owned firms- State owned firms have dominance in the region of general household products like alcohol, cigarette, paper, rubber, glass, cement, fertilizers and food. 3. Privately owned corporations- privately owned corps are still blooming and are less in number. They aim mainly on agricultural industry.

**Index****32. Religious belief**

Vietnamese government recognizes six religions that include Buddhism, Catholic, Protestantism, Islam, Cao Dai, and Hao Hao. Almost 70% of the local population follows Buddhism. The remain sections of the population follow religions such as Christianity (9%), Protestantism (8%), Islam (4%), Cao Dai (7%) and Hao Hao (2%).

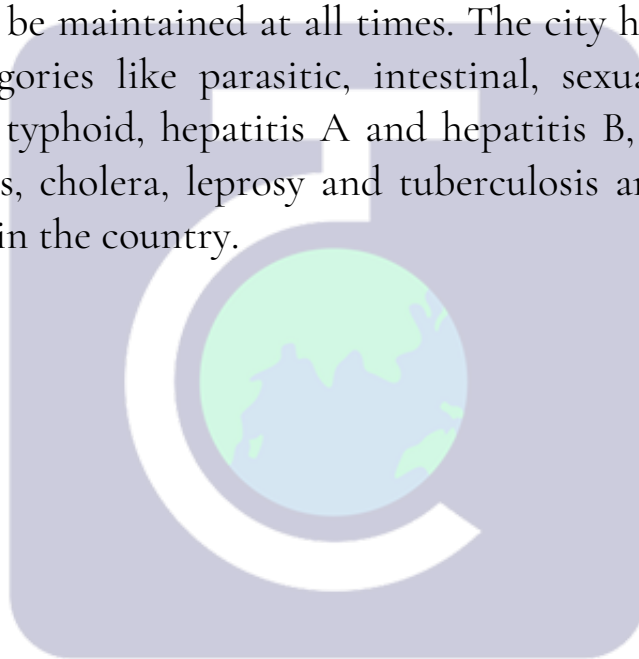


### 33. Visa requirements

Valid tourist visas and passports are required strictly for all the tourists. Vietnam visas are issued by Vietnamese embassies or consulates or Vietnam Department of Immigration. Even some overseas offices of Vietnam tourism and Vietnam airlines can issue tourist visa. German, French, Swedish, Danish, Finnish and English people don't need their nationality visa. They require just their passport and return ticket. Whereas, people from other countries like Australia, Canada and United States require their visa and passport. Tourist visas are generally valid for minimum thirty and maximum ninety days. Tourists can ask their airlines for the requirement of transit visa as where their flights will halt for refuelling. It is advisable to keep 2 pages free in your passport for arrival and departure stamps. In certain cases, it has been observed that applying and receiving a visa can be a process of 20-30 days. Hence, it is essential that you check the timeline with the relevant authority in the country where you intend to make the visa application.

**Index****34. Essential vaccination**

It is recommended to get a few additional vaccinations such as Hepatitis A and Typhoid. Routine vaccinations include the MMR vaccine, chickenpox vaccine, DTP vaccine, polio vaccine, and the yearly flu vaccine. Other than these, certain food and water precautions must be taken, due to widespread contamination. Stocks of adequate medication, including all the important medicines, band aids and ointments, must be maintained at all times. The city has witnessed a rise in diseases in the categories like parasitic, intestinal, sexually transmitted and respiratory. Malaria, typhoid, hepatitis A and hepatitis B, HIV AIDS, measles, dengue fever, syphilis, cholera, leprosy and tuberculosis are the major diseases that are wide spread in the country.



## 35. Theft and Safety

Hanoi has a relatively low crime rate. Yet, you must be aware of some typical hazards to ensure a hassle-free stay. Due to a large income gap in the city, petty thefts are very common. It is advised that you take good care of your cash and phones and ATM cards. Avoid carrying a large amount of cash and use ATM wherever possible. Tourists must use strong carry bags to avoid thefts. Travelling in the streets at night is not too risky, yet to be avoided. If you are driving, it is recommended that you drive extremely carefully.





**Index****36. Embassy/Consulate**

Embassies from a few countries are located in Hanoi itself. For knowing the location of your country's embassy, one can visit the site: <http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-of/vietnam>



### 37. Accessibility

The airport shuttle is not wheelchair accessible. Although a lot of new buildings and public transportation services are accessible for the differentially abled, the city isn't completely equipped for them. Some buildings have small elevators which don't facilitate wheelchairs, while sidewalks are uneven. A lot of public places lack access to washrooms. However, there are many businesses and organizations which especially look after the physically restricted. They can be contacted.



## 38. Emergencies

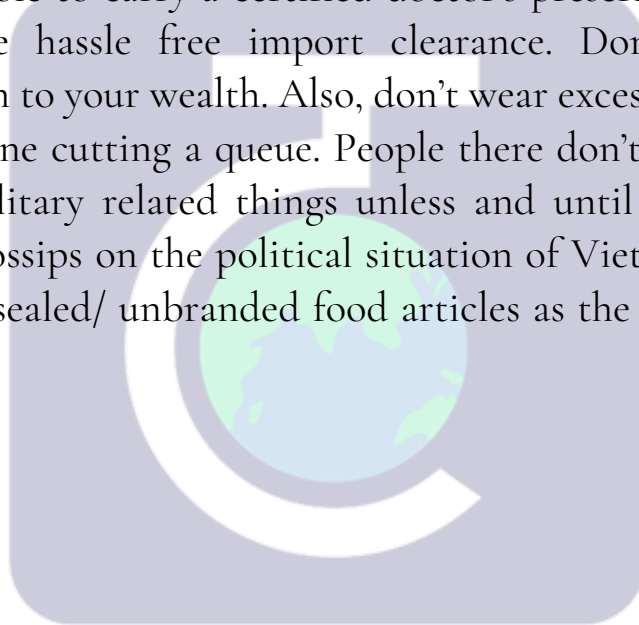
The city has many good hospitals if you need one in case of an emergency. Vinmec International Hospital, Saint Paul General Hospital, Hong Ngoc Hospital and French Hospital of Hanoi are few of the well-known ones. Along with emergency rooms, these hospitals have their own dispensaries to reduce the hassle faced by patients. If you don't have a local driving license, your insurance will not cover you in case of an accident. Foreign medical policies are not accepted. Hence, it's advisable to subscribe for an international policy. In case of emergency, contact: 113 for Police, 114 for Fire, 115 for Ambulance and First Aid, And 1080 for General Enquiries



## Index

### 39. Do's and Don'ts

Dos: • Take off shoes while entering someone's home or temples. • Use both hands while handing something to somebody. It is considered gentle and respectful. • Carry full address of the destination you want to go to. It is considered as intelligent and wise. • Bargaining, except in fixed rate shops. • While visiting temples and other sacred places, wear fully covered clothes. • Respect elders in society. • It is advisable to carry a certified doctor's prescription along with the medicines to ensure hassle free import clearance. Don'ts: • Try to draw unnecessary attention to your wealth. Also, don't wear excessive gold. • Get angry if you witness someone cutting a queue. People there don't like much waiting. • Take pictures of military related things unless and until they are strictly for display purpose. • Gossips on the political situation of Vietnam. • It is advisable that do not carry unsealed/ unbranded food articles as the same may be banned for import.



## 40.Tipping basics

Tips are neither required nor expected in Hanoi. If you have a habit of tipping, then it is okay otherwise you don't have to go out of the way to tip.



**Index****41.Pet info**

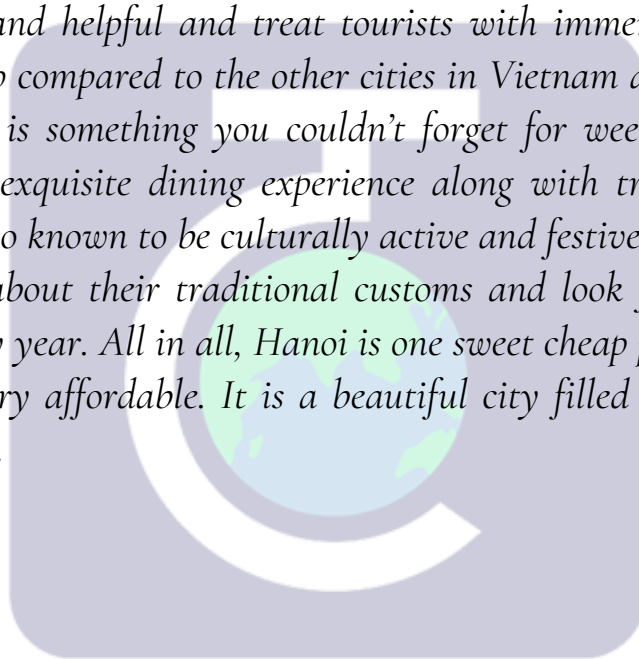
To travel with a pet to the city, you will be required to have a proof of the current vaccinations and a health certificate of your pet. Also, you should contact the Vietnamese Food Safety Authority before the trip for further instructions. If you are travelling with a pet, you don't have to go through the red line, but otherwise you have to. No extra VAT for taking pets with you once you have cleared all the checks and formalities at the entry point.



## Index

### Conclusion – Why to select this destination

*Hanoi is one beautiful city with a lot of places to visit and has vibrant day life and equally bustling night life. There are reasons why one must plan to visit Hanoi and one of them being the breath taking landscape surrounding the city. Hanoi is blessed with natural eye pleasers from nature and some architectural pioneers too. One more reason to visit Hanoi would be the hospitality and friendliness of the locals. They are known for being extremely kind and helpful and treat tourists with immense respect. Hanoi also boasts to be quite cheap compared to the other cities in Vietnam and thus gives you a lot in very less. The food is something you couldn't forget for weeks and the restaurants provide you the most exquisite dining experience along with traditional hawker style street food. Hanoi is also known to be culturally active and festive year round. The people are very enthusiastic about their traditional customs and look forward to making the celebration bigger every year. All in all, Hanoi is one sweet cheap package which has a lot to offer while being very affordable. It is a beautiful city filled with warmth from the generosity of its residents.*



## Index

### Disclaimer

All rights reserved. This Travel Guide (inclusive of all content – text, graphics, images, illustrations, designs, etc.) is an Intellectual Property of Taxidio Travel India Pvt. Ltd. Copying, republishing, uploading, reproducing, downloading, distributing, posting, transmitting, or duplicating any of the material is prohibited. All the information contained in this Travel Guide is purely a work of research. The information may have undergone changes from the time it has been compiled. Taxidio Travel India Pvt. Ltd. Cannot be held liable for any alteration, inaccuracies or omissions.

