Ha Noi

Hanoi, Vietnam’s vibrant capital, is either the starting or finishing point for travelers in the country as most people travel north to south or south to north. It’s a bustling city full of backpackers and travelers with a lot to see and do — none of which will break the bank.

Hanoi is filled with countless museums all offering visitors a chance to better understand Vietnam’s history of the revolution, war, and art. There’s also the tangled busy web of streets in the historic Old Quarter to wander around. It is also one of the best places to visit in Vietnam to eat endless bowls of pho, bun cha, or cheap banh mi from a food vendor on just about every street corner.

Hoi An

Hoi An is an extremely popular place for buying handmade clothing and is one of the main reasons why people come here. The garment industry is the city’s main non-tourist industry. You can get anything made here, from custom-made suits to gowns to sundresses to leather boots to sneakers. The tailor shops will even mail all your goods home to you.

But, even if you don’t want to shop, Hoi An makes for a relaxing destination in an otherwise hectic country as the beach is only a 15-minute bike ride out of town.

Nha Trang

With its white sandy beaches stretching into a dramatic backdrop of mountains, and with nineteen stunning islands to visit, it’s no wonder Nha Trang is a popular beach destination for backpackers and travelers in Vietnam.

As one of the most popular beach towns in Vietnam, there’s a lot to do here. While Nha Trang Beach is continuously abuzz with visitors who love to come here to party, you don’t have to go far to reach Bai Dai Beach (Long Beach), which offers a much more relaxed environment. I enjoyed the city a lot and found the beach to be one of my favorites in the country. Try to visit off-season or mid-week to avoid the crowds if you want a more relaxed visit as the city draws a lot of tourists.

Ho Chi Minh

Ho Chi Minh City (formerly known as Saigon, though all the locals still call it that) is the largest (and most chaotic city) in Vietnam. Motorbikes, bicycles, cars, and rickshaws go wherever they please, and lots of street stands and markets spill into the traffic lanes. It’s a city with a billion things happening at once.

It’s also one of the most popular destinations in the country and has recently evolved into a hotspot for digital nomads thanks to its cheap cost of living.

The city has a lot to offer: wonderful shops, fantastic nightlife, delicious food, and plenty of historic sites. Additionally, you’ll find some interesting (and propaganda-heavy) museums like the War Remnants Museum as well as the famous Cu Chi Tunnels, secret tunnels used by the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War. It’s my second favorite city in Vietnam (after Hoi An) and worth spending a few days visiting.

Source: https://www.nomadicmatt.com/travel-guides/vietnam-travel-tips/