HO CHI MINH CITY versus HANOI:

which is the best place to visit for food-lovers?

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

Tourism has developed to a significant extent recently. Among different regions in the world, South East Asian countries have proved to become promising destinations for travelers, and Vietnam is not an exception. Located in the center of the region, Vietnam is a country of various natural wonders, different cultural heritages, and numerous man-made landmarks. Among its attractions, Hanoi (Vietnam's capital city) and Ho Chi Minh City (the country's biggest city) are recognized as the two most popular choices to visit.

1.2. Problem and research objective

The 2 biggest cities not only in Vietnam but also in Indochina Peninsular, namely Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, have always made foreign travelers and even domestic ones indecisive to select the more suitable city to visit. The S-shaped country is narrow but long, which means the distance between the two biggest cities is large. For travelers with a limited time budget, visiting one city per travelling is virtually the only option. Therefore, they will benefit from understanding the similarities and differences between the two cities.

Representing (and sharing) the viewpoints of "young food addicts" who always hunger for more and more good food on their journeys, the author will compare and contrast Ho Chi Minh City (Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh, in Vietnamese) and Hanoi (Hà Nội, in Vietnamese) with regards to food-related aspects to give some hints to their decisions. As mentioned, the main target audience is travelers who desire to come to Vietnam. More importantly, this can be used by investors and business owners to expand their market in either of the 2 cities based on understanding the gaps.

1.3. Research question

The following questions need to be answered before some conclusions can be drawn:

1/ What are the most common venues in each city?

2/ What are the most common restaurants in each city?

3/ What are the most common venues in each district?

4/ What are the most common restaurants in each district?

5/ What are the most common restaurants in each ward?

6/ How many clusters can we categorize districts within each city based on restaurant-related venues?

7/ How diverse are each district's restaurants in terms of cuisines?

8/ How diverse are each city's restaurants in terms of cuisine??

9/ Which city has a higher number of restaurants per residents?

Also, the author visualizes all information on the map to have a clearer look at the results.

2. Data acquisition and cleaning

2.1. Data acquisition

There are 3 sources of data used in this project.

The first data source, where data on administrative units of Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi are scraped, is from https://www.citypopulation.de. In details, data on Ho Chi Minh City Municipality, Districts and Communes' names, levels, and populations is taken from https://www.citypopulation.de/en/vietnam/thanhphohochiminh/admin/. The similar data of Hanoi is taken from https://www.citypopulation.de/en/vietnam/hanoi/admin/. The data consists of name of units, their levels, and their populations. For the sake of simplicity and feasibility, the scope of this project covers 19 urban districts (and their wards) of HCMC and excludes 5 remaining rural districts (and their child rural communes or townships). Similarly, only 13 urban districts (and their wards) in Hanoi are covered. It should be noted that the population census was taken on 01 April 2009.

Second, the coordinates of locations in HCMC and Hanoi are taken from OpenStreetMap via Nominatim API. The latitudes and longitudes of the cities, their

districts, and their wards are respectively gathered for using in this project. Due to certain reasons, some coordinates are not correct, and will be replaced manually by the author.

Third, information about venues is taken from Foursquare. In details, the names, and categories of venues in HCMC and Hanoi will be gathered through the API provided by Foursquare.

2.2. Data cleaning

After downloading the data, first, the author decides to drop entries for districts, rural communes, and townships because the project only covers urban districts and their wards. Next, the author changes the name of these districts and wards by converting Vietnamese words (with 6 tones: ` ´ ? ~ . and letters such as: ê, â, ă, ô, ơ, ư, đ) to monotonal words. Unlike English, which is a pitch language, Vietnamese is a tonal language, in which words can differ in tones (like pitches in music) in addition to consonants and vowels. Thus, these words must be converted to be easier for reading by English viewers and more importantly, to become congruent with OpenStreetMap data. This is conducted by importing a library named Unidecode. Subsequently, Vietnamese words including "quan" ("quận") and "phuong" ("phường") are replaced by "District" and "Ward", which are put before or after the proper names depending on their characteristics. In the next stage, the original data frames, which consist both districts and wards, are separated into distinct data frames for wards and districts. For ward data table, the names of the districts are put after the corresponding wards so as to match the OpenStreetMap's data later. Finally, after joining the districts and wards with their coordinates, entries with null values will be investigated and filled with proper values if possible; otherwise they will be dropped. Other data transformations are supported by Pandas.

3. Data exploration

3.1. Unique categories of venues

There are 132 unique categories in Ho Chi Minh City, while there are 137 unique ones in Hanoi.

50 venues that exist in Ho Chi Minh City but not in Hanoi are: Fabric Shop, Travel Agency, Convention Center, German Restaurant, Diner, Dive Bar, Flea Market, Warehouse Store, Boutique, Cantonese Restaurant, Yoga Studio, Design Studio, Middle Eastern Restaurant, Department Store, Spanish Restaurant, Jazz Club, Speakeasy, Whisky Bar, Clothing Store, Jewelry Store, Burger Joint, Cupcake Shop, Tapas Restaurant, Opera House, Argentinian Restaurant, Shoe Store, Tattoo Parlor, Fountain, Deli / Bodega, American Restaurant, Street Food Gathering, Mediterranean Restaurant, Sports Club, Pool, Convenience Store, Japanese Curry Restaurant, Tennis Court, Bed & Breakfast, Dim Sum Restaurant, Electronics Store, Dumpling Restaurant, Resort, Residential Building (Apartment / Condo), Basketball Stadium, Theme Park, Sporting Goods Shop, Shopping Plaza, Airport Lounge, Udon Restaurant, Arcade.

57 venues that exist in Hanoi but not in Ho Chi Minh City are: Paintball Field, Historic Site, Rock Club, Confucian Temple, Wine Bar, Armenian Restaurant, Scenic Lookout, Monument / Landmark, Church, Wedding Hall, Lake, Roof Deck, Buddhist Temple, Escape Room, Art Museum, Tiki Bar, Satay Restaurant, Palace, Himalayan Restaurant, Mongolian Restaurant, Taco Place, Castle, Plaza, Soccer Stadium, Botanical Garden, Arepa Restaurant, Fish & Chips Shop, Malay Restaurant, Australian Restaurant, Peruvian Restaurant, Halal Restaurant, Pedestrian Plaza, Board Shop, Bulgarian Restaurant, Karaoke Bar, Soba Restaurant, Outlet Store, Chocolate Shop, Theater, Salad Place, Modern European Restaurant, Frozen Yogurt Shop, Cultural Center, Hainan Restaurant, Soccer Field, Intersection, Stadium, Gym Pool, Tourist Information Center, Antique Shop, Food & Drink Shop, Pastry Shop, Sports Bar, Ukrainian Restaurant, Garden, Polish Restaurant, Art Gallery.

3.2. Common venues

The most common venues in Ho Chi Minh City are: Cafe/Coffee Shop and Vietnamese Restaurant. The most common venues in Hanoi are not different. They are also Cafe/Coffee Shop and Vietnamese Restaurant.

The most common venues in each district in Ho Chi Minh City are:

	District	1st common	2nd common	3rd common	4th common	5th common	6th common	7th common	8th common	9th common	10th common
0	Binh Tan District	Café	Coffee Shop	Fast Food Rest.	Shopping Mall	Bubble Tea Shop	Bookstore	Multiplex	Vietnamese Rest.	Asian Rest.	Japanese Rest.
1	Binh Thanh District	Café	Vietnamese Rest.	Asian Rest.	Coffee Shop	French Rest.	Seafood Rest.	Multiplex	Gym / Fitness Center	Flea Market	Japanese Rest.
2	District 1	Vietnamese Rest.	Hotel	Café	Coffee Shop	Vegetarian / Vegan Rest.	Italian Rest.	Spa	Pizza Place	Massage Studio	Clothing Store
3	District 10	Vietnamese Rest.	Café	Coffee Shop	Hotel	Vegetarian / Vegan Rest.	Dessert Shop	Steakhouse	Bookstore	Asian Rest.	Seafood Rest.
4	District 11	Café	Chinese Rest.	Seafood Rest.	Vietnamese Rest.	Cantonese Rest.	Asian Rest.	Residential Building (Apartment / Condo)	Dessert Shop	Gym	Coffee Shop
5	District 2	Café	Rest.	Coffee Shop	French Rest.	Bakery	BBQ Joint	Vietnamese Rest.	Asian Rest.	Thai Rest.	Mediterranean Rest.
6	District 3	Vietnamese Rest.	Hotel	Café	Vegetarian / Vegan Rest.	Coffee Shop	Pizza Place	Spa	Massage Studio	Cocktail Bar	Breakfast Spot
7	District 4	Vietnamese Rest.	Hotel	Café	Seafood Rest.	Spa	Hostel	Food	Indian Rest.	Noodle House	Sandwich Place
8	District 5	Vietnamese Rest.	Chinese Rest.	Café	Coffee Shop	Noodle House	Food Truck	Dessert Shop	Bookstore	Vegetarian / Vegan Rest.	Asian Rest.
9	District 6	Café	Supermarket	Movie Theater	Flea Market	Fast Food Rest.	Market	Cantonese Rest.	Asian Rest.	Coffee Shop	Pizza Place

	District	1st common	2nd common	3rd common	4th common	5th common	6th common	7th common	8th common	9th common	10th common
10	District 7	Café	Vietnamese Rest.	Coffee Shop	Seafood Rest.	Pizza Place	Hotel	Spa	Japanese Rest.	Shopping Mall	Ice Cream Shop
11	District 8	Chinese Rest.	Vietnamese Rest.	Dim Sum Rest.	Café	Dessert Shop	Coffee Shop	Multiplex	Noodle House	Seafood Rest.	Market
12	Go Vap District	Café	Vietnamese Rest.	Shopping Mall	Supermarket	Coffee Shop	Fast Food Rest.	Asian Rest.	Food Court	Multiplex	Market
13	Phu Nhuan District	Vietnamese Rest.	Coffee Shop	Café	Hotel	Seafood Rest.	Asian Rest.	Breakfast Spot	Noodle House	Vegetarian / Vegan Rest.	Park
14	Tan Binh District	Vietnamese Rest.	Coffee Shop	Café	Hotel	Noodle House	Seafood Rest.	Market	Gym / Fitness Center	Korean Rest.	Pizza Place
15	Tan Phu District	Café	Vietnamese Rest.	Coffee Shop	Multiplex	Shopping Mall	Fast Food Rest.	Supermarket	Movie Theater	Japanese Rest.	Cupcake Shop

The most common venues in each district in Hanoi are:

	District	1st common	2nd common	3rd common	4th common	5th common	6th common	7th common	8th common	9th common	10th common
0	Ba Dinh District	Coffee Shop	Café	Vietnamese Rest.	Japanese Rest.	Pizza Place	Hotel	Beer Garden	Hotpot Rest.	Steakhouse	History Museum
1	Cau Giay District	Café	Vietnamese Rest.	Japanese Rest.	Coffee Shop	Fast Food Rest.	BBQ Joint	Korean Rest.	Multiplex	Shopping Mall	Pizza Place
2	Dong Da District	Coffee Shop	Vietnamese Rest.	Café	Pizza Place	Multiplex	Rock Club	Supermarket	Market	Bakery	Fast Food Rest.
3	Hai Ba Trung District	Vietnamese Rest.	Coffee Shop	Japanese Rest.	Café	Noodle House	Hotel	Thai Rest.	BBQ Joint	Dessert Shop	Sandwich Place
4	Hoan Kiem District	Hotel	Vietnamese Rest.	Coffee Shop	Noodle House	Café	Sandwich Place	Lounge	Spa	Cocktail Bar	Hostel

#	District									
5	Long Bien District	Coffee Shop	Food Court	Bowling Alley	Golf Course	Shopping Mall	Café	Market	BBQ Joint	Vietnamese Rest.	Pizza Place
6	Nam Tu Liem District	Café	BBQ Joint	Coffee Shop	Furniture / Home Store	Gym Pool	Golf Course	Market	Tea Room	Shopping Mall	Bakery
7	Tay Ho District	Noodle House	Vietnamese Rest.	Café	Garden	Pastry Shop	Bakery	Mexican Rest.	Beer Bar	Japanese Rest.	Shopping Mall
8	Thanh Xuan District	Coffee Shop	Bakery	Multiplex	Korean Rest.	Fast Food Rest.	Pizza Place	Café	Supermarket	Soccer Field	Beer Garden

3.3. Number of restaurants

In this research scope, the number of restaurants in HCMC is 412 while the number of restaurants in Hanoi is 176.

3.4. Unique categories of restaurants

The number of different type of restaurants in HCMC is 31 while the number of different type of restaurants in Hanoi is 33.

12 types of restaurant that exist in Ho Chi Minh City but not in Hanoi are: German Restaurant, Cantonese Restaurant, Middle Eastern Restaurant, Spanish Restaurant, Tapas Restaurant, Argentinian Restaurant, American Restaurant, Mediterranean Restaurant, Japanese Curry Restaurant, Dim Sum Restaurant, Dumpling Restaurant, Udon Restaurant.

15 types of restaurant that exist in Hanoi but not in Ho Chi Minh City are: Armenian Restaurant, Satay Restaurant, Himalayan Restaurant, Mongolian Restaurant, Arepa Restaurant, Malay Restaurant, Australian Restaurant, Peruvian Restaurant, Halal Restaurant, Bulgarian Restaurant, Soba Restaurant, Modern European Restaurant, Hainan Restaurant, Ukrainian Restaurant, Polish Restaurant.

3.5. Common restaurants

The most common type of restaurants in both Ho Chi Minh City is Vietnamese restaurants. The next two popular type of restaurants in Ho Chi Minh City are Chinese

restaurants and Seafood restaurants while those in Hanoi are Japanese restaurants and Fast-food restaurants.

The most common restaurants in each district in Ho Chi Minh City are:

	District	1st common	2nd common	3rd common	4th common	5th common	6th common	7th common	8th common	9th common	10th common
0	Binh Tan District	Fast Food Rest.	Vietnamese Rest.	Asian Rest.	Japanese Rest.	Middle Eastern Rest.	Sushi Rest.	Chinese Rest.	German Rest.	Seafood Rest.	Vegetarian / Vegan Rest.
1	Binh Thanh District	Vietnamese Rest.	Asian Rest.	Seafood Rest.	French Rest.	Japanese Rest.	Chinese Rest.	Rest.	Sushi Rest.	German Rest.	Vegetarian / Vegan Rest.
2	District 1	Vietnamese Rest.	Vegetarian / Vegan Rest.	Italian Rest.	French Rest.	Thai Rest.	North Indian Rest.	Middle Eastern Rest.	German Rest.	Spanish Rest.	Tapas Rest.
3	District 10	Vietnamese Rest.	Vegetarian / Vegan Rest.	Asian Rest.	Seafood Rest.	French Rest.	Chinese Rest.	Indian Rest.	Rest.	Middle Eastern Rest.	Sushi Rest.
4	District 11	Chinese Rest.	Seafood Rest.	Vietnamese Rest.	Cantonese Rest.	Asian Rest.	Dim Sum Rest.	Fast Food Rest.	Vegetarian / Vegan Rest.	Dumpling Rest.	Japanese Rest.
5	District 2	Rest.	French Rest.	Asian Rest.	Vietnamese Rest.	Mediterranean Rest.	American Rest.	Japanese Rest.	Thai Rest.	Japanese Curry Rest.	Mexican Rest.
6	District 3	Vietnamese Rest.	Vegetarian / Vegan Rest.	Asian Rest.	Italian Rest.	Spanish Rest.	North Indian Rest.	Middle Eastern Rest.	Sushi Rest.	Japanese Rest.	German Rest.
7	District 4	Vietnamese Rest.	Seafood Rest.	Japanese Rest.	Vegetarian / Vegan Rest.	Indian Rest.	Mexican Rest.	Sushi Rest.	German Rest.	Hotpot Rest.	Tapas Rest.
8	District 5	Vietnamese Rest.	Chinese Rest.	Asian Rest.	Seafood Rest.	Vegetarian / Vegan Rest.	Dim Sum Rest.	Sushi Rest.	Rest.	Dumpling Rest.	Cantonese Rest.
9	District 6	Fast Food Rest.	Asian Rest.	Cantonese Rest.	Udon Rest.	Middle Eastern Rest.	Japanese Rest.	Sushi Rest.	Chinese Rest.	German Rest.	Seafood Rest.

	District										
10	District 7	Vietnamese Rest.	Seafood Rest.	Asian Rest.	Japanese Rest.	Indian Rest.	French Rest.	Rest.	Middle Eastern Rest.	Fast Food Rest.	Sushi Rest.
11	District 8	Chinese Rest.	Vietnamese Rest.	Dim Sum Rest.	Seafood Rest.	Dumpling Rest.	Cantonese Rest.	Fast Food Rest.	Asian Rest.	Japanese Rest.	Sushi Rest.
12	Go Vap District	Vietnamese Rest.	Fast Food Rest.	Asian Rest.	Japanese Rest.	Middle Eastern Rest.	Sushi Rest.	Chinese Rest.	German Rest.	Seafood Rest.	Vegetarian / Vegan Rest.
13	Phu Nhuan District	Vietnamese Rest.	Asian Rest.	Seafood Rest.	Vegetarian / Vegan Rest.	Japanese Rest.	Korean Rest.	Thai Rest.	Chinese Rest.	Middle Eastern Rest.	Cantonese Rest.
14	Tan Binh District	Vietnamese Rest.	Seafood Rest.	Korean Rest.	Thai Rest.	Fast Food Rest.	Japanese Rest.	Sushi Rest.	Italian Rest.	Middle Eastern Rest.	Hotpot Rest.
15	Tan Phu District	Vietnamese Rest.	Fast Food Rest.	Japanese Rest.	Ramen Rest.	Asian Rest.	Rest.	Udon Rest.	American Rest.	Argentinian Rest.	Dim Sum Rest.

The most common restaurants in each district in Hanoi are:

	District	1st common	2nd common	3rd common	4th common	5th common	6th common	7th common	8th common	9th common	10th common
0	Ba Dinh District	Vietnamese Rest.	Japanese Rest.	Hotpot Rest.	Korean Rest.	Vegetarian / Vegan Rest.	Armenian Rest.	Russian Rest.	Sushi Rest.	Ramen Rest.	Rest.
1	Cau Giay District	Vietnamese Rest.	Japanese Rest.	Fast Food Rest.	Korean Rest.	Malay Rest.	Halal Rest.	Arepa Rest.	Sushi Rest.	Australian Rest.	Peruvian Rest.
2	Dong Da District	Vietnamese Rest.	Fast Food Rest.	Arepa Rest.	Japanese Rest.	Hotpot Rest.	Russian Rest.	Korean Rest.	Ramen Rest.	Rest.	Chinese Rest.
3	Hai Ba Trung District	Vietnamese Rest.	Japanese Rest.	Thai Rest.	Hotpot Rest.	Rest.	Sushi Rest.	Seafood Rest.	Vegetarian / Vegan Rest.	Italian Rest.	Modern European Rest.
4	Hoan Kiem District	Vietnamese Rest.	Vegetarian / Vegan Rest.	French Rest.	Hotpot Rest.	Italian Rest.	Fast Food Rest.	Asian Rest.	Modern European Rest.	Himalayan Rest.	Mexican Rest.
5	Long Bien District	Vietnamese Rest.	Polish Rest.	Malay Rest.	Japanese Rest.	Armenian Rest.	Hotpot Rest.	Russian Rest.	Korean Rest.	Sushi Rest.	Ramen Rest.

| 6 | Nam Tu Liem District | Fast Food Rest. | Malay Rest. | Vietnamese Rest. | Japanese Rest. | Armenian Rest. | Hotpot Rest. | Russian Rest. | Korean Rest. | Sushi Rest. | Ramen Rest. |
| 7 | Tay Ho District | Vietnamese Rest. | Polish Rest. | Mexican Rest. | Japanese Rest. | Ukrainian Rest. | Modern European Rest. | Italian Rest. | Sushi Rest. | Ramen Rest. | Satay Rest. |
| 8 | Thanh Xuan District | Fast Food Rest. | Korean Rest. | Vietnamese Rest. | Thai Rest. | Bulgarian Rest. | Ramen Rest. | Himalayan Rest. | Satay Rest. | Chinese Rest. | Rest. |

3.6. Restaurant density

The number of restaurants in HCMC per resident is 1 per 12667 people while that figure in Hanoi is slightly higher, at 1 per 11452 residents.

4. Data modelling

Here K-means clustering technique is applied to group districts of Ho Chi Minh and Hanoi respectively in terms of restaurants. K-means clustering is applied to see if there is any cluster of district in terms of restaurants so that travelers can make better plans to explore cuisines with the support of Scikit-Learn.

4.1. Clusters in Ho Chi Minh City

There are 3 clusters in HCMC.

The Elbow Method showing the optimal k
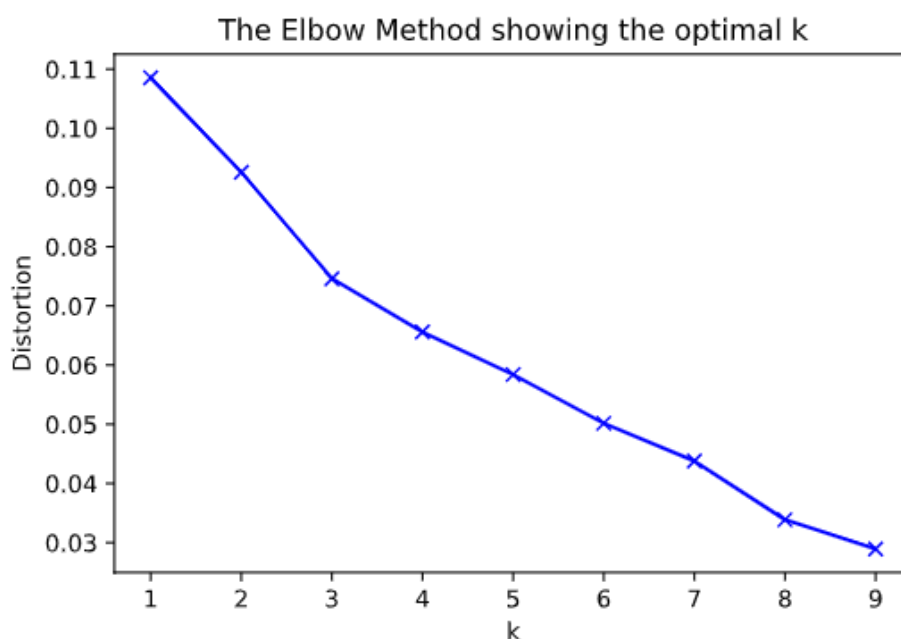
	Full name	Status	Population	Latitude	Longitude	Cluster Labels
0	Binh Tan District	Urban District	572132	10.749809	106.605664	1
1	Binh Thanh District	Urban District	457362	10.804659	106.707848	2
2	District 1	Urban District	180225	10.774540	106.699184	1
3	District 10	Urban District	230345	10.773198	106.667833	2
4	District 11	Urban District	226854	10.764208	106.643282	0
5	District 2	Urban District	147490	10.791116	106.736729	1
6	District 3	Urban District	190553	10.783529	106.687098	2
7	District 4	Urban District	180980	10.759243	106.704890	1
8	District 5	Urban District	171452	10.756129	106.670376	0
9	District 6	Urban District	249329	10.746928	106.634495	1
10	District 7	Urban District	244276	10.736573	106.722432	1
11	District 8	Urban District	408772	10.740400	106.665843	0
12	Go Vap District	Urban District	522690	10.840150	106.671083	1
13	Phu Nhuan District	Urban District	174535	10.800118	106.677042	2
14	Tan Binh District	Urban District	421724	10.797979	106.653805	2
15	Tan Phu District	Urban District	398102	10.791640	106.627302	1
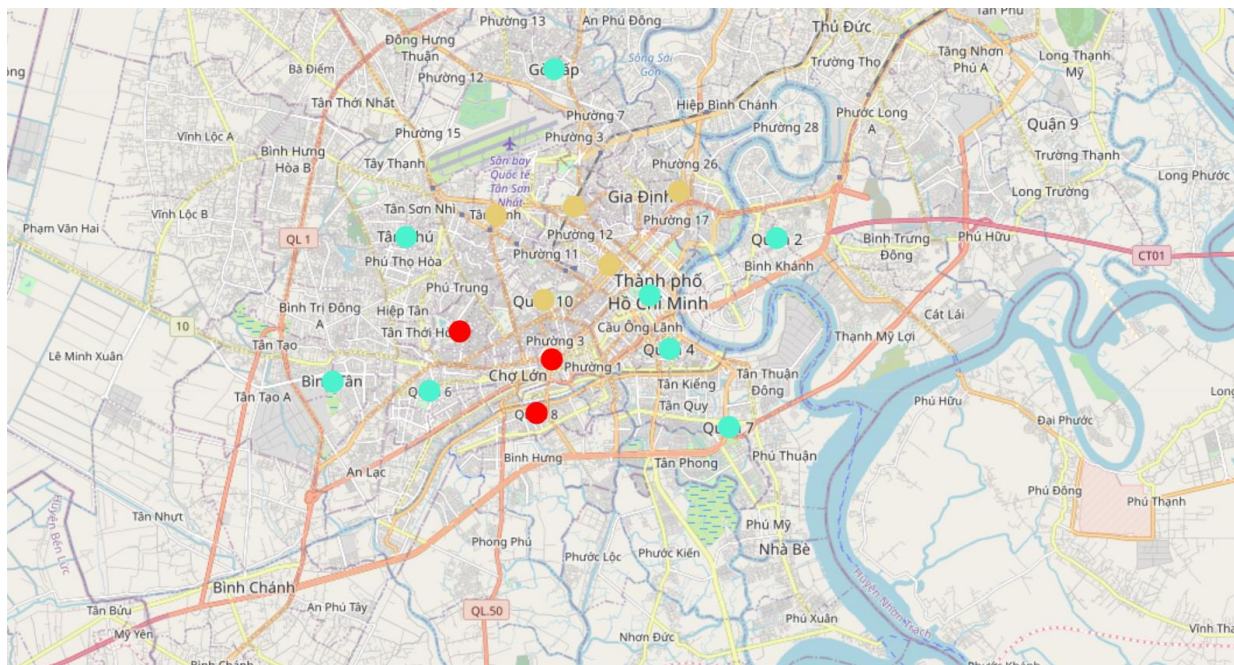
4.2. Clusters in Hanoi

There are 2 clusters in Hanoi.

The Elbow Method showing the optimal k
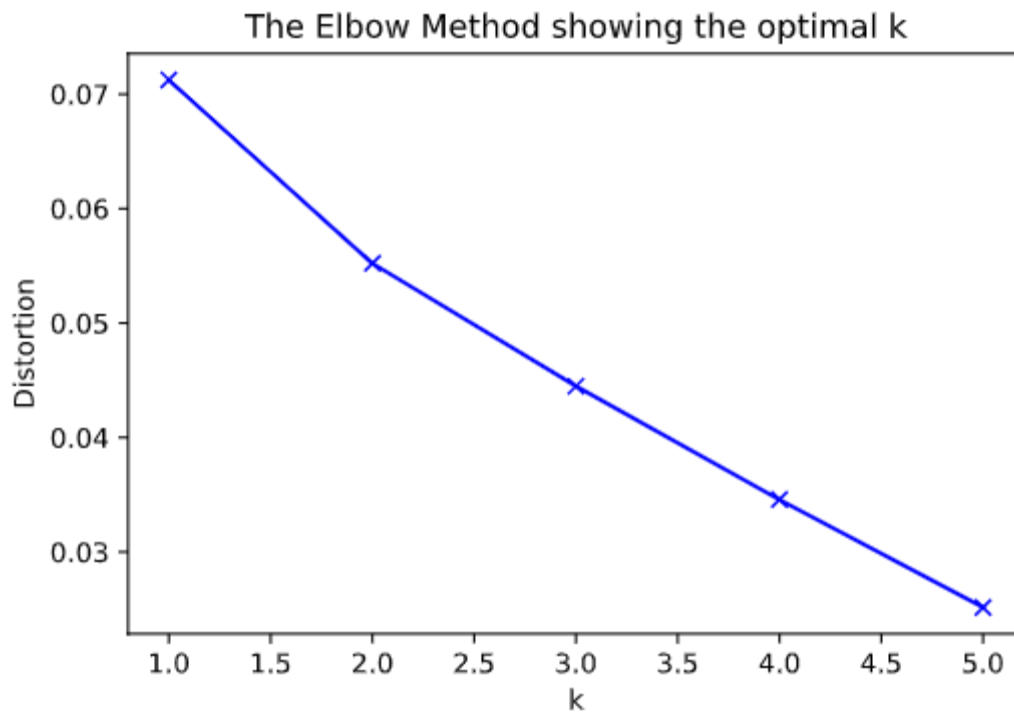
	Full name	Status	Population	Latitude	Longitude	Cluster Labels
0	Ba Dinh District	Urban District	225910	21.035549	105.824840	1
1	Cau Giay District	Urban District	225643	21.027277	105.791464	1
2	Dong Da District	Urban District	370117	21.012920	105.827196	1
3	Hai Ba Trung District	Urban District	295726	21.005970	105.857484	0
4	Hoan Kiem District	Urban District	147334	21.028524	105.850716	0
5	Long Bien District	Urban District	226913	21.037154	105.897839	1
6	Nam Tu Liem District	Urban District	169586	21.012846	105.760874	1
7	Tay Ho District	Urban District	130639	21.079042	105.815432	1
8	Thanh Xuan District	Urban District	223694	20.993687	105.814301	1
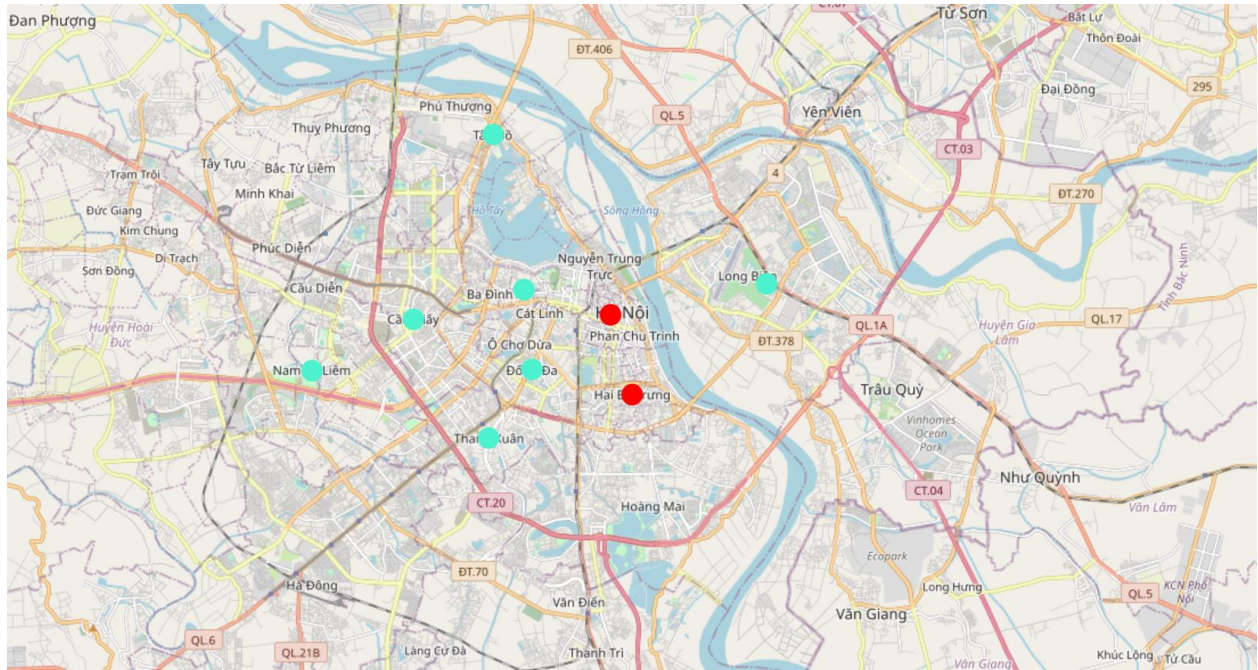
5. Result and discussion

In terms of venues, the 2 most popular in 2 cities are: Cafe/Coffee Shop and Vietnamese Restaurant. The 2 cities do not differ regarding this aspect. They are both great destinations to explore coffee culture and cuisine of Vietnam.

In terms of restaurants, the 3 most popular restaurants in HCMC are: Vietnamese Restaurant, Seafood Restaurant, Chinese Restaurant. In terms of restaurants, the 3 most popular restaurants in Hanoi are: Vietnamese Restaurant, Japanese Restaurant, Fast Food Restaurant. For seafood lovers and Chinese food lovers, HCMC is a better destination. However, for Japanese cuisines and fast-food lovers, Hanoi must be their choice.

In terms of diversity, given the research scope, the number of restaurants per resident in HCMC is: 1 per 12667, slightly lower than that of Hanoi, which is 11452. The number of different types of restaurants in HCMC is: 31, slightly lower than that of Ha Noi, which is 33. Thus, food-lovers may prefer Hanoi, but the difference is not that much. The 2 cities appear to be similarly the same regarding diversity of restaurants' choices of cuisine and restaurant density.

According to the map, the 3 clusters in HCMC based on restaurant venues are:

+ Cluster 0: Dist. 11, Dist. 5, Dist. 8, where Chinese restaurants dominate the foreign cuisine market, though Vietnamese restaurants are popular.

+ Cluster 1: Binh Thanh Dist., Phu Nhuan Dist., Tan Binh Dist., Dist. 10, Dist. 3, where foreign cuisines are diverse, and Vietnamese restaurants are extremely popular.

+ Cluster 2: Dist. 1, Dist. 2, Dist. 3, Dist. 4, Dist. 7, Binh Tan Dist., Dist. 6, Go Vap Dist., Tan Phu Dist, where foreign cuisines are diverse, and Vietnamese restaurants are also popular. However, the diversity of cuisines there is higher.

Therefore, for travelers desiring to explore Vietnamese cuisine, it is advisable to visit eateries in Binh Thanh Dist., Phu Nhuan Dist., Tan Binh Dist., Dist. 10, Dist. 3 while for Chinese cuisine lovers, it is a must to visit Dist. 11, Dist. 5, Dist. 8.

Meanwhile, as can be seen in the map, the 2 clusters in Hanoi based on restaurant venues are:

+ Cluster 0: Hai Ba Trung District, Hoan Kiem District, where Vietnamese restaurants are popular and relatively easier to find compared to other districts

+ Cluster 1: all remaining urban districts

Therefore, for travellers desiring to explore Vietnamese cuisine, it is advisable to visit eateries in Hai Ba Trung and Hoan Kiem District first.

With regards to clusters, HCMC is divided to more distinct clusters apparently, thus it is more interesting. This also helps travelers plan their visits easier so that they can explore all cuisines available there without wasting time searching places.

6. Conclusion

The comparison of HCMC and Hanoi from the perspective of a food hunter ends here after giving some hints on the differences and similarities between 2 cities. Definitely, each of the cities proves to be a great land to explore domestic foods as well as foreign one. However, there are still some differences worth keeping in mind before choosing their holiday destination.

Final decisions are up to travelers based on their preferences for any specific cuisine and their available time. With less available time, one should visit Hanoi for their

first travel to Vietnam to explore cuisines. With more time, one should consider Ho Chi Minh City for their first travel as the clusters are more distinct and more districts deserve exploring.