



Hanoi

Vietnam's most charming city, Hanoi is home to about 6 million people. Less vibrant and more reserved than its cousin to the south, Hanoi is a great place to explore on foot. If Ho Chi Minh City is defined by hustle and bustle and people on the move, Hanoi's trademark is green parks and tranquil lakes.

The city is divided into districts, many of which take their name from a lake within the district's boundaries. Each district has its own charms. Perhaps the most interesting district, is that of Hoan Kiem. At its center is Hoan Kiem Lake (Lake of the Restored Sword). A broad path encircles the lake, attracting residents to its shores throughout the day. At dawn you'll find young and old walking, jogging, practicing Tai Chi and playing badminton. After dark, young couples walk hand-in-hand or seek privacy under the trees and on the numerous park benches at the water's edge.

To the north and west of the lake is Hanoi's famed old quarter with its confusing maze of narrow cobblestoned streets. Home to numerous art galleries, restaurants, shops, guest houses and [mini-hotels in Hanoi's Old Quarter](#), the old quarter is worth a day of aimless wandering and discovery. Many visitors, particularly backpackers, choose this area as their base in Hanoi.

South and east of the lake, the wide tree-lined boulevards of the old French quarter offer a stark contrast to the confusion of the old quarter. The French colonial influence, obvious throughout the city, is particularly evident here. Many colonial villas are now home to embassies, upscale hotels and restaurants. Those spending more than a couple of days in Hanoi will want to explore other areas of the city as well. Ba Dinh District, west of Hoan Kiem, is the up-and-coming business center and home to the posh Hanoi Daewoo Hotel. Scenic Ho Tay District to the north is dominated by Ho Tay (South Lake) and boasts numerous historic sites and temples.

Hanoi awakes early, with activity in the parks beginning before sunrise and winding down by 7 am. Most offices, stores and museums open around 7:30 am, closing for lunch between 11 and 1, and reopening again until 5 pm. Most restaurants stop serving at 10 pm. Hanoi has four distinct seasons. Winters can actually be quite chilly; although snow is foreign to Hanoi residents. Summers are hot and rainy. Probably the best time to visit is spring and fall.

Discovery old town Hanoi

I've had several articles about tourist attractions in Hanoi, including articles on schedule, tourist attractions around Hanoi and [how to get Vietnam visa](#) online. But to go deep in one of the corners of the capital, it has not yet. This article was written after a day wandering the area of Hanoi's Old Quarter. It will help you be able to explore the ancient city of Hanoi your own way. You can follow this schedule, or against which to discover your own way.

Hanoi's Old Quarter area concentrated in Hoan Kiem district, located north and west of Hoan Kiem Lake. It focuses on residents, where 36 streets (called the old way)

traded commodities. Each city has focused one type of item sold separately (called merchant you, sell with ward). When visiting Hanoi, you should center around this area, both transport and entertainment facilities just visiting.

Walk to explore the old town "36 streets" can be your greatest pleasure to Hanoi. Not to forget the feeling on a beautiful day, you wander around the streets under the green trees (more surprisingly), shopping, drinking coffee, watching paintings and buy the book. Old town on sunny days not so wonderful. Guests everywhere on the streets, take leisurely and could not help breaking into shops, galleries extremely impressed with many different styles.

Between Trang Tien street bustling with the influx of ice cream to eat, there is a gallery of art to enjoy a very wide (and also the base of many international tourists!). If you love fashion cloth or silk, go to Hang Gai and the adjacent streets. Stalls bags, souvenirs, the guests on the show and then... not forever! Visit Hang Hom (rather than through the Hang Bac street) to buy silver, the silver bracelet with the nearly hundred thousand unique design and diversity.

If you love the legendary Che Guevara, the first visit Hang Voi. There is even a shop called hero Che Guevara with many souvenirs printed with Che (the T-shirt style is Rock).

The trishaw riders holding phone, calling each other mouths to place carrying a Western delegation. It seems very "alliance" with each other. They seem to understand a lot about the culture and history of the place, so you can safely walk around at night by cyclo neck.

Generally, every leisurely walk the Old Quarter of Hanoi you will understand why this place attracts many foreign visitors to the world. Even more stores due to foreign business people here like the clothes shop from Korea, China... And you also understand why I encountered many foreigners speak very fluently northern accent. I think maybe they love and attachment to Hanoi because their lives attached to the old town, rather than the new urban areas crowded around...