

# On the Road





# Hanoi

04 / POP 7.1 MILLION

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Moto-san Uber Noodle (p82)
- ➔ Minh Thuy's (p81)
- ➔ Tim Ho Wan (p83)
- ➔ La Badiane (p82)
- ➔ Maison de Tet Decor (p83)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ La Siesta Hotel & Spa (p76)
- ➔ Conifer Boutique Hotel (p77)
- ➔ Somerset Grand Hanoi (p77)
- ➔ Fraser Suites Hanoi (p78)
- ➔ Sofitel Metropole Hotel (p78)

## Why Go?

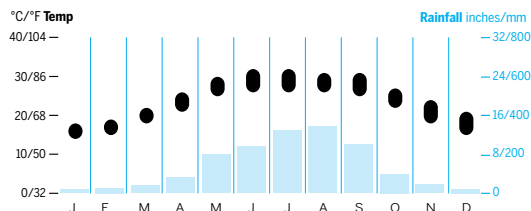
Vietnam's capital races to make up for time lost to the ravages of war and a government that as recently as the 1990s kept the outside world at bay. Its streets surge with scooters vying for right of way amid the din of constantly blaring horns, and all around layers of history reveal periods of French and Chinese occupation – offering a glimpse into the resilience of ambitious, proud Hanoians.

Negotiate a passage past the ubiquitous knock-off merchants and you'll find the original streets of the Old Quarter. Defiant real-deal farmers hawk their wares, while city folk breakfast on noodles, practise t'ai chi at dawn on the shores of Hoan Kiem Lake, or play chess with goateed grandfathers.

Hanoi is undergoing a rapid transformation. You can dine on the wild and wonderful at every corner, sample market wares, uncover an evolving arts scene, then sleep soundly in a little luxury for very little cost. Meet the people, delve into the past and witness the awakening of a Hanoi on the move.

## When to Go

### Hanoi



**Jan–Apr** Cooler days collide with the energy and colour of the Tet festival.

**Jun–Aug** Heavy heat and humidity signal low season in Hanoi: bargains on hotel suites abound.

**Oct–Dec** Clear, sunny days and cooler temperatures make this the ideal time to visit Hanoi.