Local Life in the Old Quarter

This amble around the Old Quarter and the fringes of Hoan Kiem Lake is the ideal way to get to grips with inner city Hanoi. You’ll encounter craftsmen carving, street vendors hawking and there’s plenty to tempt your wallet en route.

**Start** Ngoc Son Temple

**Distance** 3km

**Duration** two hours

1. **Cross the scarlet The Huc bridge to Ngoc Son Temple** on Hoan Kiem Lake.

2. **Pass the Municipal Water Puppet Theatre** then head north past cheap shoe shops lining P Hang Dau.

3. **A traditional merchant’s house, Heritage House** is one of Hanoi’s best-restored properties.

4. **Bach Ma Temple** is said to be the oldest temple in Hanoi.

5. **Continue via the city gateway to Dong Xuan Market**, which has hundreds of stalls.

6. **Wend your way south via P Thuc Bac**, passing herb merchants, tin-box makers and silk shops.

7. **Graceful, neo-Gothic St Joseph Cathedral** is one of Hanoi’s most famous landmarks.

**Take a Break...** There’s a cluster of good cafes around St Joseph Cathedral.