

Discover Vietnam's top regional sights, and experience it through an inspiring list of themes

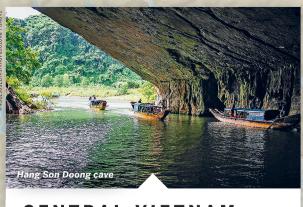


When to Go

High Season Jul & Aug All Vietnam, except the far north, is hot and humid, with the summer monsoon bringing downpours. Prices increase by up to 50% by the coast; book hotels well in advance.

Shoulder Season Dec-Mar Expect chilly conditions in the north. In the far south, clear skies and sunshine are the norm. During the Tet festival, the whole country is on the move and prices rise.

Low Season Apr-Jun & Sep-Nov Perhaps the best time to tour the whole nation. Typhoons can lash the central and northern coastline until November.



CENTRAL VIETNAM

PHONG NHA-KE BANG NATIONAL PARK C2

With jagged hills shrouded in verdant rainforest, and mountain rivers coursing through impressive ravines, the Phong Nha-Ke Bang region is one of Vietnam's most spectacular national parks. Head to Hang Son Doong, the world's largest cave, for even more proof that this area should be part of any Vietnamese itinerary.

HOI AN D3

Vietnam's most cosmopolitan and civilised town, this beautiful ancient port is bursting with gourmet restaurants, hip bars and cafes, quirky boutiques and expert tailors. Immerse yourself in history in the warren-like lanes of the Old Town and dine like an emperor on a peasant's budget.

HUE C3

The capital of the nation in the 19th and early 20th centuries, Hue is perhaps the easiest Vietnamese city to love and spend time in. Its location on the banks of the Perfume River is sublime, its complex cuisine justifiably famous, and its streets are relatively traffic free.

DEMILITARISED ZONE C3

The DMZ has the greatest concentration of battle sites from the American War, though most of the bases and bunkers have long vanished.

There are trails through mountain scenery in and around towns including Dong Van and Meo Vao.

This French hill station 🎢

stupendous vistas.

trails and offers

A1 Hill

A crucial vantage point

Phu, it features tanks

Minh casualties.

in the battle of Dien Bien

and a monument to Viet

is a base for trekking

THA GIANG PROVINCE

Ba Be National Park Has a network of rugged trails through spectacular karst scenery to minority villages

NORTHERN

Northern Vietnam

Pho bo (beef noodle soup) is a northern culinary highlight. A good pho hinges on a flavoursome broth.

The capital is the place to get stuck into street food, which is diverse and delicious and 🔀 available everywhere

Temple of Literature (1) A rare example of well-preserved traditional Vietnamese architecture, this Hanoi temple dates back almost 1000 years.

Cuc Phuong National Park (1) There are excellent trail through superb forest and past ancient trees and caves.

stretch of paradise.

OHALONG BAY

Cat Ba Island

Kayaking has exploded in popularity around Halong Bay where it's possible to paddle through Built by the French in 1896 spectacular limestone outcrops.

Hong Van Beach

Fine white sand, turg

and virtually no foreig

this is an off-the-beat

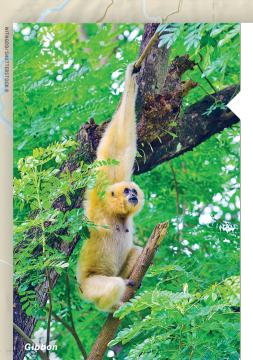
Bich Dong Pagoda

and home to US POWs

during the American War.

Hoa Lo Prison Museum

Also known as the Jade Temple, this spectacular cave is often heady with incense.



SOUTHWEST HIGHLANDS

CAT TIEN NATIONAL PARK D5

An accessible and impressive protected area, Cat Tien National Park lies conveniently midway between Ho Chi Minh City and Dalat. Popular activities include trekking, cycling and wildlife spotting: the Wild Gibbon Trek is a must.

Dalat is as popular now with travellers as it was in the days when French colonial officials came to this laidback town in the southwest highlands to escape the lowland heat. These days, adventure sports are the draw, with abseiling, canyoning, mountain biking, hiking, whitewater rafting and kayaking all possible in the temperate climate.

KON TUM D3

Kon Tum's relaxed ambience, friendly locals, river setting and relatively traffic-free streets make it a great stop for travellers intent on exploring the surrounding hill-tribe villages, of which there are 700 or so dotting the area mostly Bahnar, but also Sedang and Jarai.

Hike pristine mountain and valley trails to the world's largest cave, Hang Son Doong.

PHONG NHA-KE BANG NAT Explore the Vinh Moc Tur

በ and the Khe Sanh Comba

DEMILITARISED ZONE

CENTRAL VIETNA Citadel (1)

Built between 1804 and 1833 the Citadel (Kinh Thanh) is still the heart of Hue

Ancient city that's famous for its complex, often highly refined imperial cuisine tradition and unique snacks

Vietnamese emperors constructed 📤 dazzling monuments around this city Don't miss Tu Duc and Minh Mang





