



Street food, Hoi An

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.



Daily Costs

Budget Less than US\$40



Hang Son Doong cave

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.



Gibbon

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 D4
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.



