

HANOI

Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, is known for its centuries-old architecture and a rich culture with Southeast Asian, Chinese and French influences. At its heart is the chaotic Old Quarter, where the narrow streets are roughly arranged by trade.

The Absolute Best Things to see in Hanoi

Imperial Citadel of Thanglong

The Imperial Citadel of Thang Long is an intriguing relic of Vietnam's history and, signifying its historical and cultural importance, is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Standing 40 metres high, the central flag tower is the most recognizable feature of the Imperial Citadel and is often used as a symbol of Hanoi. This was the centre of ancient Hanoi and served as the political centre for eight centuries. Located in Ba Dinh, the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long is close to many other tourist attractions. *Opening Hours: Daily 8:00 – 12:30 & 13:30 – 19:30 | Location: Quan Thanh, Ba Dinh, Hanoi*

Water Puppet Theatre

The ancient art form of water puppetry has a long association with Hanoi and there are several theatres where guests can enjoy this uniquely Vietnamese take on Asia's puppet tradition. The original – and widely regarded as the best – theatre in town is the Thang Long Puppet Theatre. Puppets dance and slide elegantly over the liquid stage, controlled by a whole troupe of puppet masters hiding behind a screen. Most shows also feature the famous Legend of the Restored Sword of King Le which tells the tale of Hoan Kiem Lake and the giant tortoise.

Opening Hours: Daily 15:00, 16:10, 17:20, 18:30 & 20:00 | Tel: +84 43 824 9494

Address: 57B, Dinh Tien Hoang Street, Hoan Kiem District, Hanoi

The Perfume Pagoda

The Perfume Pagoda is a dramatic temple complex believed to have been first built in the 15th century. This series of Buddhist temples are built into a mountain range in a maze of alleyways carved into the rock with rich forests and flowing streams all around. Located around 60km south of Hanoi in the Son Mountains the journey here is an experience in itself: first you must take a two hour journey by car or bus before travelling by boat to the foot of the mountains. *Opening Hours: Daily 06:30 - 17:00 | Location: Huong Son, My Duc, Hanoi*

Hoan Kiem Lake (Turtle Lake)

Hoan Kiem Lake (Turtle Lake) is a central feature of Hanoi and is a popular hangout spot throughout the day with locals and tourists. Ngoc Son Temple sits on a small island in the centre of the lake and linked by a bridge, makes a beautiful background for a few photos. Around sunrise and sunset, this area becomes especially busy with joggers, couples enjoying the relaxing views across the lake, and the elderly practising Tai Chi and line dancing. Hoan Kiem Lake is free of charge, but there's a fee to visit Ngoc Son Temple, which sits on a small island in the centre of the lake. *Location: Hanoi Old Quarter*

Ba Vi National Park

Ba Vi National Park is a nature reserve of stunning beauty located around two hours (48km) from downtown Hanoi. Famous for its three-peaked mountain that juts steeply up into the sky and is often topped by cloud, Ba Vi National Park has dramatic scenery and a diverse range of jungle plants and animals. At the summit of the tallest mountain is an 11th century temple offering expansive views of the surrounding countryside and on the forest floor are natural hot springs. *Location: 58 kilometres west of Hanoi*

Hanoi Opera House

Hanoi Opera House, set in the heart of the French Quarter, is arguably one of the most elegant buildings in all of Hanoi. Built in 1911 and modelled after the Paris Opera House, this historical landmark exudes Parisian charm from its ivory-toned columns, ornate balustrades and Gothic domes. Priced at VND 100,000 upwards, visitors can enjoy classical performances ranging from Vietnamese opera and dance performances to sketches and music concerts by world-renowned artists. *Address: 1 Trang Tien, Hoan Kiem District, Hanoi | Tel: +84 43 933 0113*

Hotel details 03-06th March or 11-14th March

Pan Pacific Hanoi 5*

Premier room lake view - *Rs 45000 incl breakfast and taxes for 3 nights for double occupancy (Avg Rs 15000 per night)*

Sofitel legend Metropole hanoi 5*

Premium room opera wing - *Rs 72500 incl breakfast and taxes for 3 nights for double occupancy (Avg Rs 24000 per night)*

O'Gallery Magestic Hotel and spa 4*

Deluxe room - *Rs 16000 incl breakfast and taxes for 3 nights for double occupancy (Avg Rs 5300 per night)*

Hanoi la Siesta Hotel Trendy 4*

Cozy deluxe room - *Rs 18200 incl breakfast and taxes for 3 nights for double occupancy (Avg Rs 6000 per night)*

Note: The above rates are valid as of now and can change anytime without notice

How to get there...

There are Daily connecting flights available from Mumbai as well as Delhi via Bangkok to get to Hanoi