

Population:

6 551 900 (in 2008 Hanoi and neighbouring province Ha Tay merged together)

Currency:

Dong (VND)

Opening hours:

Shops are generally open from 8-8.30am to 9-10pm, but can close for lunch for one to two hours. Banks open Monday-Friday from 7.30-8am to 11.30am and from 1-4pm, and are closed on Saturday and Sunday.

Governmental offices are open 7.30-4.30pm, excluding a one-hour lunch, Monday-Friday and closed on Saturday and Sunday.

Internet:

www.vietnamtourism.com
www.vntourists.com
www.chinhphu.vn (Official government site)

Newspapers:

Nhan Dan (State newspaper, also available online in English)
Vietnam News (English daily)
The Vietnam Investment Review (English business publication)

Emergency numbers:

Police: 113
Fire: 114
Ambulance: 115

Tourist information:

7 Dinh Tien Hoang Street, Hoan Kiem
Opening hours: 8am-9.00pm
Tel: 84 4 9263366

HANOI

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Contents: The City, Do & See, Eating, Cafes, Bars & Nightlife, Shopping, Sleeping, Essential Information, Maps

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HANOI

If Saigon is the frenetic, commercial heartbeat of Vietnam then gentle, verdant, historic Hanoi is the sedate, intellectual soul of the country. Its leafy boulevards, serene lakes and sweeping white French colonial architecture set the scene as tourists and locals alike seem to go about their business at a pleasingly civilised pace. The city is the administrative capital of the country and its political metronome still beats to communist time, but with a distinctly modern nod towards welcoming tourists from all over the world to enjoy its rich and varied heritage.



THE CITY



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Most travellers want to be based in the central Hoan Kiem District - in the vicinity of lovely Hoan Kiem Lake whose pathways and surrounding greenery is the site of much activity as the sun rises. Don't be surprised to see graceful schools of tai chi-ers moving as one as the sun rises and Hanoi health fanatics doing jogging laps before work. As the day falls, couples stroll there for privacy and children wrap-up their games. Northwest of the lake is the legendary Old Quarter with its winding alleyways and hundreds of quaint shops, guesthouses, galleries and places to eat. Tourists adore it and the locals make hay - you'll find its establishments stay open long after the doors have shut elsewhere in the city. It's also crammed with temples and monuments to ponder over between eating and shopping. Ba Dinh District, to the west of the lake, is the place to head for a little historic enlightenment - The Mausoleum and Museum of Ho Chi Minh and the Hanoi Old Citadel all reside there - and the Old French Quarter, south of the lake, will transport you back to the days before the French realised that the Vietnamese were a force to be reckoned with. Upscale restaurants, hotels and embassies now occupy those stunning white villas.

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DO & SEE



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Where no individual telephone number is available, you can call 1080 inside Vietnam for general tourism information.

Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum

This is the number one tourist attraction in the city and it only opens from 8-11am (it's closed Mondays and Fridays) so prepare for very long queues. Watch out for the guards who will prod you hard if you linger, chat or fail to pay due respects.

*Address: 5 Pho Ngoc Ha
Underground: Ba Dinh District
Phone: +84 4 942 1061*

Ho Chi Minh Museum

The museum holds a collection of Ho Chi Minh's letters, snaps and military orders that explain the Communist Party's early days to the present.

*Address: 3 Ngoc Ha St.
Underground: Ba Dinh District
Phone: +84 4 846 3752*



Ngũ Xá Temple

This temple holds the largest bronze Buddha statue in Vietnam, weighing in at 10 tonnes.

*Address: Truc Bac Lake
Underground: Ba Dinh District
More information: Near Truc Bac Lake*

Vietnam History Museum

Open seven days a week, this rich collection of archaeological finds illustrates the development of Vietnam from ancient times up until the start of Communist rule.

*Address: 1 Pham Ngu Lao Street
Phone: +84 4 825 2853*

Ngoc Son Temple

Sitting on an island at the north end of Hoan Kiem Lake, this peaceful temple site honouring scholars and war heroes is best known for its preserved turtle corpse which links to the lake's mythology.

*Address: Dinh Tien Hoang St
Underground: Hoan Kiem District*

One Pillar Pagoda

The 11th-century wooden shrine, revered for its fertility and healing properties, was burnt by the French in the 1950s and is now replaced by a concrete one and is still a popular destination.

*Address: Pho Ong Ich Kiem, Ba Dinh Square
Underground: Ba Dinh
Phone: +84 4 942 1061*

Hoa Lo Prison

Constructed by the French in 1896, the prison was taken over by the Vietnamese in 1954 to house prisoners of war. The original guillotine room and stories told by the ex-inmates themselves make this a gruesome but compelling experience.

*Address: 1 Hoa Lo Street
Underground: Quan Su
Phone: +84 4 824 6358*

Temple Of Literature

This, the most revered of the city's temple

complexes and the 1076 site of Vietnam's first university, sits within the old Imperial City west of the old Quarter.

*Address: Pho Van Mieu, corner of Pho Quoc Tu Giam.
Underground: Ba Dinh
Phone: +84 4 847 2917*

EATING



© George Argyropoulos

Hanoi restaurants tend to centre around Vietnamese and Chinese food or European fare particularly French and Italian. You're more likely to find international dining in the Hoan Kiem District, but for local authentic flavours (and Hanoi's famous Pho noodle soup dish) head to the Old Quarter street vendors. Quality at either end of the scale is high. Note that most restaurants close at 10pm.

Emperor

Smart colonial premises give way to casual, laid back dining at this much-sought after restaurant serving Vietnamese delicacies such as bird's nest and shark fin soup.

*Address: 18b Le Thanh Tong Str, Hoan Kiem District
Phone: +84 4 826 8801*

Indochine

Set in a stunning colonial building, Indochine does upmarket Vietnamese cuisine presented beautifully and has traditional acts on in the evening.

*Address: 16 Nam Ngu Street, Hoan Kiem District
Phone: +84 4 942 4097*



Seasons Of Hanoi

Romantic colonial setting serving excellent, elegantly presented Vietnamese food and offering a great wine list.

*Address: 95B Quan Thanh
Phone: +84 4 843 5444*

Restaurant 69

In the heart of the Old Quarter in a traditional shop house, head to the second floor balcony for great people-watching while you choose from a menu featuring anything from seafood hotpot to the traditional Pho dish.

*Address: 69 Ma May Street, Hoan Kiem District
Phone: +84 4 926 1720*

Ngon Restaurant

A selection of local food including fresh spring rolls and different kinds of noodles at very reasonable prices in an open-air atmosphere.

*Address: 18 Phan Boi Chau
Phone: +84 4 9428162*

EXCLUSIVE Vine

Food connoisseurs rush to Vine for its unbelievably high quality dishes of all nationalities, and its wine list to die for. Wine fans can even don a cloak and go on a tasting tour of the expansive cellars.

*Address: 1A Xuan Dieu, Tayn Ho District
Phone: +84 4 719 8001*

MID-RANGE Al Fresco's

Raved about by Westerners who miss home cooking, Al Fresco's serves huge, tasty portions of ribs, burgers, steaks, pizza and pasta.

*Address: 23L Hai Ba Trung
Phone: +84 4 826 7782*

BUDGET Tandoor

A much-loved curry house patronised by backpackers tired of noodles and locals

looking for something different.

*Address: 24 Hang Be St, Hoan Kiem District
Phone: +84 4 824 5359*

CAFES



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129 Mai Hac De

Great for a cooling fruit smoothie or a quick sandwich after a tour of the nearby Lenin Park, 129 is very small but thoroughly recommended.

Address: 129 Mai Hac De Street, Hai Ba Trung District

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Che Thap Cam Cun

Serving only che (sweet green bean pudding) which is very cooling on a hot day, this is an old Hanoi favourite and popular with local women.

*Address: 72G Tran Hung Dao Street
Phone: +84 4 824 5642*

Fanny's Ice Cream

Sitting opposite Hoan Kiem Lake, Fanny's offers up the best ice cream in town and presents flavours such as rice and tamarind.



Address: 48 Le Thai To St, Hoan Kiem
Phone: +84 4 828 5656

Koto

Perfect for dropping into after roaming around the Temple of Literature, Koto stands for Know One Teach One and specialises in nurturing young staff. It also serves wonderful shakes and desserts.

Address: 61 Van Mieu
Phone: +84 4 747 0338

Au Lac Café

This is a relaxing spot to sit on the outdoor terrace and suck in the hurly burly of life across the road at The Metropole Hotel as you sip a cappuccino and munch a pastry.

Address: 57 Ly Thai To Street
Phone: +84 4 825 7807

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



© April Turner

Hanoi has only recently come to grips with the concept of nightlife past 10pm, and the result is there tends to be pockets of activity dotted around the city. Most tourists head for the bustling Bao Khanh Street in the northwest of Hoan Kiem, where late night hangouts and bars huddle together which attract the locals just as much as out-of-towners. There aren't a huge amount of actual nightclubs in the city, but the handful you do come across are riotous affairs which stay open until the small hours and pump up the volume.

Da Gino

This Italian wine bar has regular exhibitions by photographers and artists, and has a casual vibe that attracts the cooler expat crowd.

Address: 11B Dien Bien Phu Street, Ba Dinh
Phone: +84 4 747 0081

The Spotted Cow

Highly popular with the chaps who want a night of beer swilling and sport watching, the Spotted Cow, next to Al Fresco's, is a great joint for a boys' night out.

Address: 23C Hai Ba Trung
Phone: +84 4 824 1028

Funky Monkey

For loud music, live sports coverage and budget-friendly extended happy hours, try out this expat, backpackers' and young locals' favourite.

Address: 15b Hang Hanh
Phone: +84 4 928 6113

Le Maquis

Catering to a rather sophisticated crowd, Le Maquis serves some strong hard liquors and food from the Northern hill tribes.

Address: 2a Ta Hien
Phone: +84 4 828 2598

Apocalypse Now

Hanoi's most famous nightclub renowned for sweaty dancing and huge fun. Drinks are pricey by bar standards.

Address: 25C Pho Hoa Ma, Hai Ba Trung District
Phone: +84 4 971 2783

New Century Club

Huge multilevel club with thumping house music as standard fare, charging \$1 to \$3 entry depending on when you arrive. Karaoke rooms upstairs (\$8 entry) are always packed.

Address: 10 Pho Trang Thia, Hoan Kiem District
Phone: +84 4 928 5285



Club Q

The Hanoi Daewoo's hotel nightclub has a capacity of only 65, but feels like a major club and draws the city's movers and shakers.

*Address: 360 Pho Kim Ma, Ba Dinh District
Phone: +84 4 831 5000 (ext. 3216)*

Greenhoguom

A relaxed place with wonderful views over Hoan Kiem Lake, Green Ho Guom has Vietnamese singers who start after 9pm.

*Address: 32 Pho Le Thai To, next to the lake
Phone: +84 4 828 8806*

Relax Bar

Despite its name, Relax can get rather frantic, but is a nice split between the locals and expats and tourists. Fans cite its friendliness and good food and drink.

*Address: 60 Ly Thuong Kiet
Phone: +84 4 942 4409*

SHOPPING



© Alistair Bullock

Shopaholics should start off in the Old Quarter where the winding cobbled streets teem with shops and stores catering to every conceivable desire, from fine silk shirts to exotic sugared fruits. Clothes horses should stroll along to upscale Hang Gai and Nha Tho for their fix. Try Song, on the latter, for designer gear and Khai Silk on Nguyen Thai Hoc for high quality threads. Those looking for traditional crafts such as lacquerware, ceramics and mother-of-pearl inlay should head to Van

Mieu, for ethical traders Craftlink, or Yen The for Lan Vietnamese Handicrafts. Antiques can be found at shops around Hang Bach, Hang Be and Dinh Liet and Pinnocchio on Hang Bong does very individual wooden shoes. For a taste of everyday shopping in Hanoi, check out the December 19 Market on Ly Thuong Kiet Street in Hoan Kiem, which sells everything from dog meat to t-shirts. Hoan Kiem is also good for jewellery, art and art galleries and furniture with some very swanky shops springing up. Hom Market in the less touristy Ha Ba Trung is also a mecca for bargain hunters looking for typical Vietnamese products. If you're in need of a good book, set off for Trang Tien Street at the lower end of Ho Hoan Kiem, where a profusion of book stores sell everything from guidebooks to Shakespeare's sonnets.

SLEEPING



© Daniel Cole

EXCLUSIVE Daewoo Hanoi

Known as the most luxurious address in the city, the Daewoo is a five minute taxi ride to the centre of the action and well worth the trouble as no request is too small, and indulgence is the order of the day.

*Address: 360 Kim Ma Street, Ba Dinh
Phone: +84 4 831 5555
Internet: www.hanoi-daewoohotel.com*



Hilton Hanoi Opera Hotel

The Hilton sits opposite the stunning Opera House and is itself a glorious piece of French colonial architecture. This is a favourite with wealthy tourists as it's within walking distance of all the main attractions, yet provides a welcome respite from the heat and buzz of the city.

*Address: 1 Le Thanh Tong Street, Hoan Kiem District
Phone: +84 4 9330500
Price: Double room: from 3 850 000 VND
Internet: www.hilton.co.uk/hanoi*

Sofitel Metropole

This French colonial style building has stood proudly in the heart of Hanoi since 1901. The hotel has a rich history and a century long tradition of welcoming ambassadors, writers, heads of state and entrepreneurs. 265 rooms and suites with a beautiful interior garden. Excellent French cuisine at the Le Beaulieu and refined Hanoi specialities at the Spices Garden.

*Address: 15 Ngo Quyen
Phone: 84 4 8266919
Internet: www.sofitel.com*

GOOD VALUE

Quoc Hoa Hotel (bat Dan Minihotel)

Excellent-priced hotel in the Hoan Kiem District that is renowned for its well-populated late night bar on the ground floor which attracts those with a liking for beer and board games.

*Address: 10 Bat Dan Street
Phone: +84 4 828 4528
Internet: www.quochoahotel.com*

Church Hotel

This minihotel has been transformed into a rather luxurious boutique establishment right in the heart of café and shopping land near the old Catholic cathedral.

*Address: 19 Nha Tho Street, Hoan Kiem
Phone: +84 4 928 8118
Price: Double room: from 883 000 VND*

BASIC

Prince 1 Hotel

A well-established and popular guesthouse in the heart of Hoan Kiem, book well ahead for a cheap, large room ideal for families. You might even get a balcony.

*Address: 51 Luong Ngoc Quyen St, Hoan Kiem District
Phone: +84 4 828 0155
Price: Double room: from 241 000 VND*

Real Darling Café

This is a traditional backpacker stop off, but bag yourself a private room (don't be tempted by the dormitory) and you have digs in the heart of Hoan Kiem for very little money. It's also a great place to meet fellow travellers.

*Address: 33 Hang Quat
Phone: +84 4 8269386*

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



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Airport

Hanoi's sparkling new Noi Bai International Airport is 45km north of Hanoi, and there are lots of ways of getting between it and the city.

Hanoi city bus numbers 07 and 17 leave from the right side of the terminal exit and cost 5000 VND and take an hour, running from 5am to 10pm.

Airport minibuses congregate outside the arrival hall - the Vietnam Airlines minibus charges \$4 to take you to Hanoi and drop you outside their Hoan Kiem Lake office (south end) and takes about 40 minutes. Tickets are sold inside the terminal



building. However, many travellers opt for a taxi - there are hundreds outside the terminal exit gate all clearly advertising a \$10 fee to get to the city. Unlike the minibuses, which run only intermittently at night, taxis are present 24 hours a day.

Phone: +84 4 827 1513

Public transport

To get around the city, either take a taxi or cyclo but beware the latter can only seat one person and they get very hot! They are also not allowed in many streets these days, but do cost less than a taxi (about 8000 VND for a ten minute trip).

Taxi

Taxis are plentiful in the city, but charge not only by distance but also by duration (as there can be a lot of traffic). The starting fare is 11 000 VND and it goes up by 1000 VND units. A taxi ride that lasts a quarter of an hour from the southeast to the northwest areas of central Hanoi costs about 40 000 VND. Hanoi Taxis (+84 4 8533171) are recommended. Try to have the right change as taxi drivers often don't have change. Also remember to have your destination written down as pronunciation is often difficult.

You can also hire a bike but negotiating the roads is tough and it's only really advisable in the Old Quarter. Expect to pay about 19 000 VND.

Phone: Hanoi Taxi 84 4 8535353 CP Taxi 8262626

Post

Main Post Office

Address: 6 Dinh Le Street, Hoan Kiem District

Opening hours: Daily from 6.30am to 10pm

Phone: +84 4 825 7036

Pharmacy

The Family Medical Practice in Hanoi offers a 24 hour service.

*Address: Van Phuc Diplomatic Compound, 298 Kim Phuc
Phone: +84 4 843 0748*

Dentist

The Family Medical Practice offers dental care on the same number 24 hour service.

Phone: +84 4 843 0748

Telephone

Country code: +84

Area code: 04

Electricity

220V is standard in Vietnam. In Hanoi, many outlets fit round pins.

Use a surge protector when using computers.





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|---------------------|-------|---------------------|----------|
| Ba Dinh Square | A1 | | A1 |
| Bsu Hang Dong | B1 | Pham Ngu Lao | D3 |
| Cao Ba Quat | A2 | Phan Boi Chau | B2 |
| Chuong Duong Bridg. | D1 | Phan Huy Chu | D3 |
| De La Thanh | A4 | Pho 325 | B4 |
| Duong Bac Son | A1 | Pho Ba Trieu | C2 C3 C4 |
| Duong Bach Dang | D1 D2 | Pho Bat Dan | B1 |
| Duong Dien Bien Ph. | A1 | Pho Bui Thi Xuan | C4 |
| Duong Le Duan | A3 | Pho Cau Go | C1 |
| Duong Thanh | B1 | Pho Cua Dong | A1 B1 |
| Duong Tran Nghiep | C4 | Pho Dinh Tien Hoan. | C2 |
| Duong Tran Nhat Du. | C1 D1 | Pho Hai Ba Trung | A2 B2 C2 |
| Duong Tran Phu | A1 A2 | Pho Ham Long | C3 |
| Duong Tran Quang K. | D1 D2 | Pho Han | D3 |
| Hang Bac | C1 | Pho Hang Bai | C3 |
| Hang Bo | C1 | Pho Hang Bong | B2 |
| Hang Boum | C1 | Pho Hang Chuoi | D4 |
| Hang Can | C1 | Pho Hoa Ma | C4 D4 |
| Hang Chieu | C1 | Pho Hoang Dieu | A1 |
| Hang Cot | B1 | Pho Hue | C3 C4 |
| Hang Da | B1 B2 | Pho Kham Thien | A3 |
| Hang Dao | C1 | Pho Le Dai Hanh | B4 C4 |
| Hang Dieu | B1 | Pho Le Thanh Tong | D3 |
| Hang Duong | C1 | Pho Ly Nam De | B1 |
| Hang Khay Trang Ti. | C2 D2 | Pho Ly Thai To | D2 |
| Hang Luoc | B1 C1 | Pho Ly Thuong Kiet | B3 C3 |
| Hang Quat | C1 | Pho Mai Hac | C4 |
| Hang Thiec Thuoc B. | B1 C1 | Pho Ngo | D2 D3 |
| Hang Trong | C2 | Pho Ngo Thi Nham | C4 |
| Hang Voi Tong Dan | D2 | Pho Nguyen Cong Tr. | C4 D4 |
| Le Hong Phong | A1 | Pho Nguyen Huu Hua. | C1 D1 |
| Le Tach | C2 D2 | Pho Nguyen Khuyen | A2 |
| Le Thai To | C2 | Pho Nguyen Thai Ho. | A2 |
| Le Van Huu | C3 | Pho Phan Chu Trinh | D3 |
| Ly Quoc Su | C2 | Pho Phuc Tan | D1 |
| Ngo Cho Kham | A4 | Pho Phung Hung | B1 |
| Ngo Dinh Chieu | B4 | Pho Quan Su | B2 |
| Ngo Luong Su | A3 | Pho Quoc Tu Giam | A2 |
| Ngo Si Lien | A2 | Pho Tang Bat Ho | D4 |
| Ngo Thong Phong | A3 | Pho Tho Nhuom | B3 C3 |
| Ngo Thuong Hien | A3 B3 | Pho To Hien Thanh | B4 C4 |
| Ngo Van Chuong | A3 | Pho Tran Binh Tron. | B3 |
| Nguyen Tri Phuong | | Pho Tran Hung Dao | B3 C3 |



| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Pho Tran Nhan Tong | B4 |
| Pho Tran Thanh Ton. | D3 D4 |
| Pho Trang Thi | B2 |
| Pho Trieu Viet Vuo. | C4 |
| Pho Tue Tinh | B4 C4 |
| Pho Yet Kieu | B3 |
| Phu Hang Gai | B2 C1 |
| Phu Lo Duc | D4 |
| Phu Quang Trung | B3 C3 |
| The Huc Bridge | C1 C2 |
| Thien Hung | A3 |
| Tran Ng | D2 |
| Tran Xuan Soan | C4 D4 |