



## 25 Things Not To Miss When Traveling To Vietnam

A famous British website specialized in tourism - Rough Guides - has voted 25 attractions and things not to miss when traveling to Vietnam. Foreign tourists can [get Vietnam visa on arrival](#) at Noi Bai airport in Hanoi, Tan Son Nhat airport in Ho Chi Minh City and Da Nang airport to visit the beautiful country.

1. Ethnic markets  
Spectacular traditional dress and a lively atmosphere make the ethnic minority markets a must – especially those in Bac Ha and Can Cau.
2. Temples and pagodas  
Vietnamese temples and pagodas reflect the country's diverse range of religions: Long Son Pagoda in Nha Trang is a good example.
3. Tết festival  
The most important festival in the Vietnamese calendar, Tet sees the New Year ushered in with colourful flower markets, spectacular fireworks and exuberant dragon dances.
4. Cu Chi tunnels in Ho Chi Minh City  
Look out for the spiked booby traps that Vietnamese guides reveal for visitors to the Cu Chi tunnels.
5. Bia hoi  
Bia hoi bars are fun, friendly, cheap and a great way to mingle with the locals. Order a bia hoi (lager-like draught) in any of the back lanes in the Old Quarter of Hanoi.
6. The Citadel, Hué  
The former capital's historic citadel, mausoleums and gardens are idiosyncratic enough to impress even the most jaded traveller.
7. Water-puppets  
Enjoy a performance of mua roi nuoc, an art form developed in the Red River Delta around Hanoi.
8. Express silk tailoring  
Visit one of the many Hoi An tailors who can rustle up a made-to-measure silk dress or suit in just a few hours.
9. Trekking around SaPa  
Trek in the northern mountains around SaPa – a small market town perched on a plateau facing FanSiPan, Vietnam's highest peak.
10. Lak lake  
Paddle the serene waters of Lak Lake in a dug-out canoe, ride on an elephant or take a guided trek into the surrounding forests before a sunset feast overlooking the water.

11. Hoi An  
With its rich cultural heritage, beautifully preserved merchants' houses and slow pace of life, Hoi An is a captivating place to spend a few days.
12. The Red River Delta  
Slow the pace down with a trip to the countryside and experience a lifestyle little changed in centuries. For more information, see the section on Far North of Vietnam.
13. The Mekong Delta  
Putter through this fertile farming region, surrounded by classic Vietnamese scenery.
14. Take a cyclo ride  
The quintessential Vietnamese mode of transport gives you an up-close view of street life. For more information, see the section on local transport.
15. A trip on [Ha Long Bay cruises](#)  
The thousands of limestone islands jutting out of these silent waters have been dubbed the eighth natural wonder of the world.
16. Chill out on Phu Quoc  
Unspoilt beaches lined with coconut trees circle the island. You can also sail south to the unspoilt An Thoi islands for fine snorkelling.
17. Ride the Reunification Express  
Load your bike on, then sit back and relax as the train slowly chugs its way between Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi.
18. Colonial architecture  
The legacy of French rule can be found in the impressive examples of colonial architecture, such as Hanoi's Opera House.
19. Traditional music  
Music is the most important of all Vietnam's performing arts and a traditional performance should feature on every itinerary. For more information, see the section on music and theatre.
20. Browse the markets  
Markets such as Binh Tay are good grazing grounds for snacks. Have a soup, spring roll, sticky rice cake – or even a baguette filled with pâte—to keep you going while you shop.
21. Adventure sports  
Rock-climbing, kitesurfing, kayaking and mountain biking are just a few of the heart-pumping activities awaiting thrill-seekers.

22. Cao Dai Cathedral

Vietnam's most charismatic indigenous religion goes in for exuberant architecture and ceremonies.

23. Bahnar villages

Spend the night in a communal house (nhà rông) where timeless ceremonies are performed and village decisions made.

24. Street food

Soak up the atmosphere at a street kitchen and have your plate piled high with a selection of fresh food for next to nothing. For more information, see the section on street food on [www.dulichso.com](http://www.dulichso.com).

25. Nha Trang

Take a snorkelling trip in the emerald waters of the outlying islands around Nha Trang, or simply chill out on the beach.