

HANOI

STIG ALBECK



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Hanoi

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Area Map

Links

City Map

Attractions



Historical outline	6
Tour 1: Hanoi	8
Tour 2: Hanoi	14
Day Tours from Hanoi	19
Facts about Vietnam	24

Hanoi

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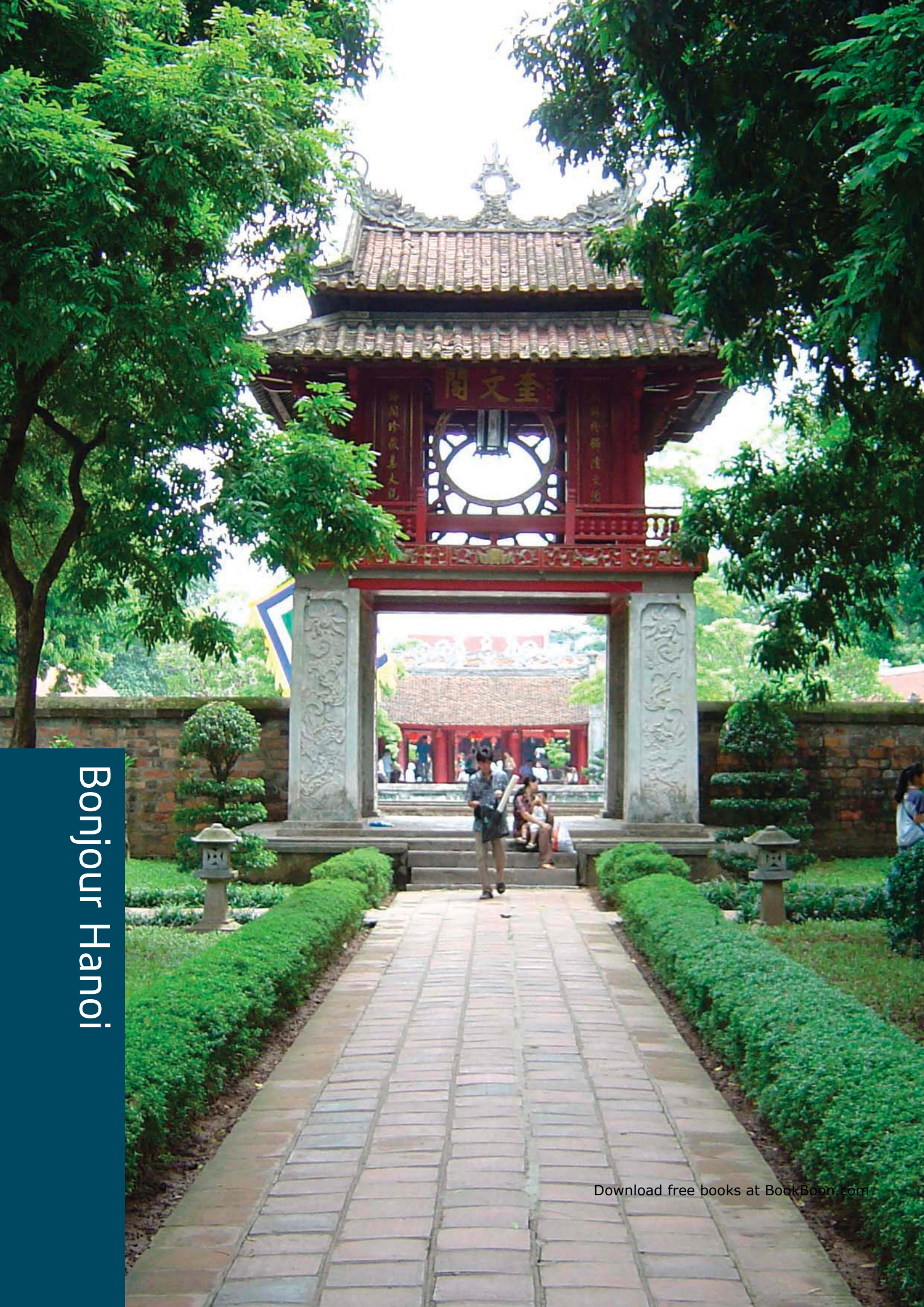
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Bonjour Hanoi

A visit to Hanoi/Hà Nội

Visitors to Hanoi experience an exquisite blend of the historical and political Vietnam, as well as recent colonial times, where French architecture and cultural influence are apparent. When strolling through the streets, the visitor can be transported back to French colonial times by going to the opera, or by visiting the city's Catholic Cathedral, perhaps the most visible symbol of the French influence. Alternatively one can take a walk among the buildings in the traditional Asian cultural landscape of the city, or among modern Vietnam's impressive buildings and beautiful museums.

Regardless which part one chooses to visit, Hanoi has everywhere that particular Asian charm characteristic of the great cities in this part of the world. Hanoi is unique in this context with its blend of temples, churches and pagodas from bygone centuries in the midst of a population of 3.4 million.

Have a good trip!

Historical outline

There have been settlements since ancient times on the fertile plain by the river delta where Hanoi is situated. During the centuries, several states have formed and disappeared in the area that is now Vietnam; for instance the Kingdom of Funan, which was founded 2000 years ago in the Mekong Delta in present-day Vietnam.

In the year 1010, the Ly Dynasty was established by King Ly Thai Po, who came from the nearby city of Dinh Bang. On that occasion he founded Than Long, the present-day Hanoi, which he made capital of the kingdom. Thang Long means "Ascending Dragon", and according to legend, Ly Thai Po chose the location upon seeing a dragon there.

This was the first time a Vietnamese dynasty had been independent of Chinese influence, and Thang Long developed rapidly. In the course of time, a number of institutions were established in Hanoi, including the One-Pillar Pagoda, which King Thai Tong Po built in 1049, and Vietnam's first university, the Temple of Literature, founded in 1070.

Apart from a few periods of scattered revolts and attacks from without, the city enjoyed peace and progress for many centuries. The city plan for Hanoi's Old City, with its many narrow and winding streets, took form in the 13th century, and the city progressed steadily.

Thang Long's status as capital ended in 1802, when Emperor Gia Long, who founded the Nguyen Dynasty, conquered the city along with North Vietnam and united it with the part of the country that today constitutes the central part of Vietnam. Gia Long made the city of Hue the new capital, since it was more centrally located. Thang Long was renamed Hanoi, a name which alludes to the city's location near the river, and it continued to be the administrative centre of the region in which it lay.

In the mid-18th century, France's colonial interests began to focus on Vietnam, French Indochina. The country was to function as the spearhead for greater French influence in the area, and beginning in 1848 the French repeatedly attacked Vietnamese territory.

In 1872 the French conquered the Jean Dupuis citadel in Hanoi, and this became the first step in the French colonization of the area. After a few years of scattered but persistent fighting, Hanoi was conquered, and North Vietnam officially became a French protectorate.

In 1887 Hanoi became the administrative centre for the French-Indochinese Union, and numerous mansions, theatres, churches and government buildings were built, which along with the city plan, featuring French-style avenues, show the French dominance of the area in the first several decades of the 20th century.

Following Japan's withdrawal from Vietnam in 1945, the Communist Party became the country's most successful anti-colonial movement. The idea of an independent Vietnam was made manifest on September 2nd when Ho Chi Minh proclaimed the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi's Ba Dinh Square.

Ho Chi Minh's proclamation marked the beginning of many years of war. The Vietnamese waged a guerrilla war against the French colonial power until the French were finally defeated by Dien Bien Phu in 1954. The war destroyed many of Hanoi's historic buildings, but some of the most important were later rebuilt.

Immediately following the French withdrawal from Hanoi and North Vietnam, an international resolution was agreed upon which provisionally divided Vietnam into the Communist North and the American controlled South, with a view to unifying the country in 1956. Hanoi was now established as the capital of Ho Chi Minh's regime. However, instead of the planned unification of the

country, many years of fighting broke out between the communist North on one side and American troops and Vietnamese factions supported by the United States on the other. At the time of the most intensive bombardments of Hanoi, in 1965-1968, large parts of the city were destroyed and most of the population was evacuated.

Ho Chi Minh died in 1969, but that did not affect the North Vietnamese Army, which slowly began to gain the upper hand in the struggle. In 1973 the United States withdrew from Vietnam, which was now reunited as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, with Hanoi as capital, and a mausoleum was built in the Ba Dinh Square in honour of Ho Chi Minh.

A great reconstructive effort was undertaken after Vietnam's unification and final independence, and most of the historical buildings were rebuilt. In the 1980s, the doors were opened to foreign investment, and the country began to invest in its tourist industry, which attracts more and more visitors because of Vietnam's nature, climate, fascinating history and great hospitality

Tour 1: Hanoi

1. Kim Lien Pagoda /Chùa Kim Liên

Quang An city quarter

The Kim Lien Pagoda was built in the 13th century (when it was called the Dong Long Pagoda), but its present appearance goes back to a major renovation in 1771. The pagoda was originally part of the Tu Hoa Palace from the Ly Dynasty. The pagoda is a beautiful and harmonious construction, and the entrance gate to the area is also interesting.

2. Tran Quoc Pagoda/ Chùa Tran Quoc



Eastern shore of West Lake

The Tran Quoc pagoda is Vietnam's oldest, with roots going back to the 6th century. However, it has only been in its present location since 1615, when it was removed from its original location by the Red River to the area by the dam.

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The pagoda's garden is well worth a visit. It contains, among other things, a typical rise with bonsai trees and a small artificial lake.

3. Quan Thanh Temple/ Den Quan Thanh

Quan Thanh

The Quan Thanh Temple was built in the 11th century, but its present appearance is due to several expansions made between then and 1677.

Just inside the temple's impressive entrance gate, there is a statue of Tran Vu, who, according to legend, helped An Duong defend the area in the 3rd century.

4. Presidential Palace/Phu Chu Tich



Phu Chu Tich/Hung Vuong

Vietnam's beautiful Presidential Palace was built in 1900-1908 as residence for the French Governor-General. When Vietnam became independent, Ho

Chi Minh chose not to stay in the palace because it symbolized French colonial power, and since then the palace has functioned as the country's official residence for foreign visitors, such as heads of state. Ho Chi Minh himself took up residence in a part of the servants' quarters.

5. Ho Chi Minh's Stilt House/ Nha San Bac Ho



Behind the Presidential Palace

In 1958 Ho Chi Minh moved from the servants' quarters of the Presidential Palace to this stilt house, built in traditional Northern Vietnamese style.

Ho Chi Minh used the ground floor for official purposes, and the 1st floor as office and bedroom. He lived in the house until his death in 1969.

6. Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum/ Lang Chu Tich Ho Chi Minh



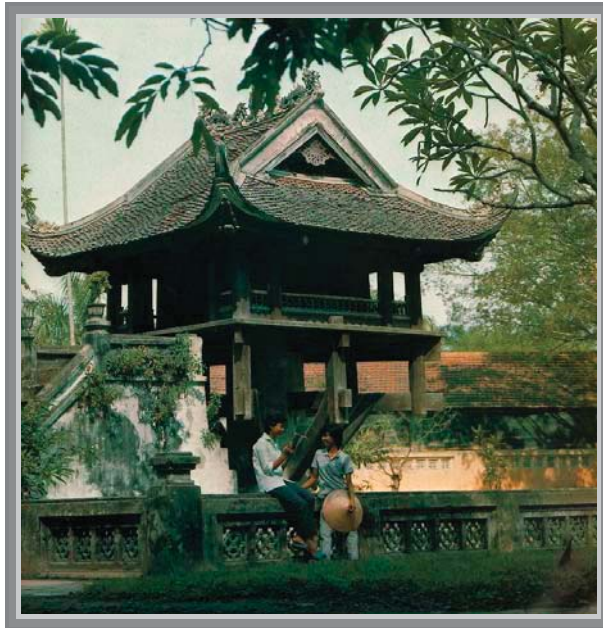
Ba Dinh

Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum was built in 1973-1975 in the Ba Dinh Square, which was the place where

he had proclaimed Vietnam's independence on September 2nd, 1945. Ho Chi Minh died exactly 24 years later.

Today soldiers guard the mausoleum, but it is possible to gain access. Please be aware that respectful clothing is a requirement for entering the mausoleum.

7. One-Pillar Pagoda/Chùa Một Cột



This pagoda's peculiar construction, resting as it does on only one pillar, is, according to legend, due to the circumstance that King Ly Thai Tong in 1049 had a dream about the Goddess of Mercy, Quan Am, where she sat in a lotus flower. Since a lotus flower rests on a single stem, a monk advised the king to build the pagoda after the same fashion.

The original pagoda was built in the 11th century, but the present one is a reconstruction done in 1955 after the original was destroyed during the French withdrawal from Hanoi the previous year.

8. Ho Chi Minh Museum/ Bảo tàng Hồ Chí Minh

Ngo Ha 3

This museum was built in honour of the unified Vietnam's founding father, Ho Chi Minh, and was opened in 1990 to mark the centenary of his birth.

The museum captures Ho Chi Minh's life very well, and thereby a large part of Vietnam's recent history. The collection is rich in effects, and different films featuring Ho Chi Minh are shown. The museum is a good place to get a sense of the significance their founding father has to the Vietnamese people.

9. Temple of Literature/Van Mieu



Quoc Tu Giam

Hanoi's Temple of Literature has since its foundation in 1070 been central to the city's cultural development. As early as 1076, a university was built by the temple, which served to educate the cream of Vietnam's youth. The university was in use until the status as capital shifted from Hanoi to Hue in 1802.

The temple is dedicated to sages and philosophers in the tradition of Confucius, and in the temple's strict symmetrical design it is possible to recognize some of the strongly patriarchal ideas in Confucianism.

En route to the centre of the facility, the Temple of Literature proper, the visitor passes by several temple courtyards. Of special interest is the courtyard containing memorial stone steles placed on top of stone turtles. The steles were placed in honour of the laureates of the university. The steles tell of the person in whose honour it was made and his contemporaries. They were all erected in the years 1442-1779.

10. The Vietnam National Museum of Fine Arts/Bao Tang My Thuat





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Nguyen Thai Hoc 66

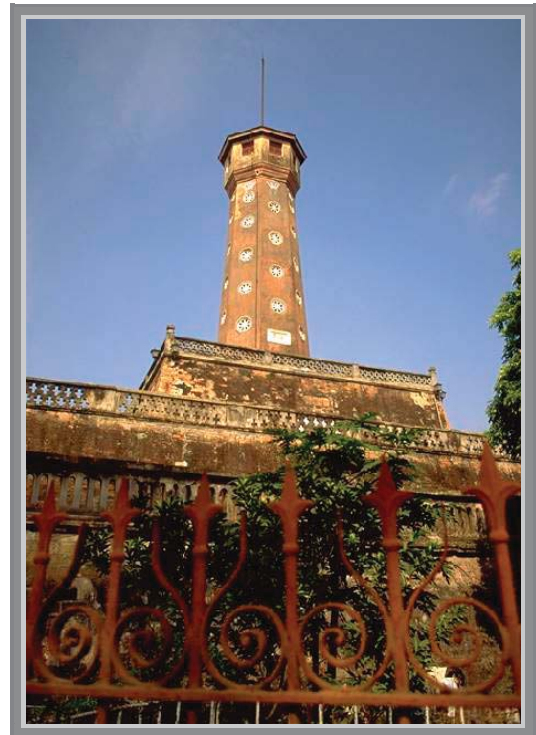
The National Museum of Fine Arts has a splendid collection showcasing the history of Vietnam's fine arts from its origins until present-day. The museum was founded in 1966, and it contains works of many different art forms. There are exhibits from historical time, through the era of the dynasties, to present-day art.

**11. The Army Museum/
Bao Tang Quan Doi****Dien Bien Phu 28A**

http://vnmilitaria.com/hanoi__museum.htm

The Army Museum of Vietnam was founded in 1958, and it is situated in the French Army's former barracks. The museum provides a narrative of Vietnam's Army through six important epochs, from the formation of the army to the time of the wars against the presence of the French and American colonial powers.

The museum also has a section devoted to the Vietnamese Air Force. This museum is located south of the city centre, and its exhibits include several aircrafts.

12. The Flag Tower/Cot Co**Dien Bien Phu**

The Flag Tower, Cot Co, was built in 1812. Because it was used by the French as an observation tower and communication post, it was one of the few military posts which were not destroyed by them

13. The Hanoi Citadel/Thang Long

Hoang Dieu and Phan Dinh Phung

The Hanoi citadel was founded during the Ly Dynasty between the 11th and 13th centuries, and it was expanded during succeeding dynasties until the status as capital went from Hanoi to Hue in 1802.

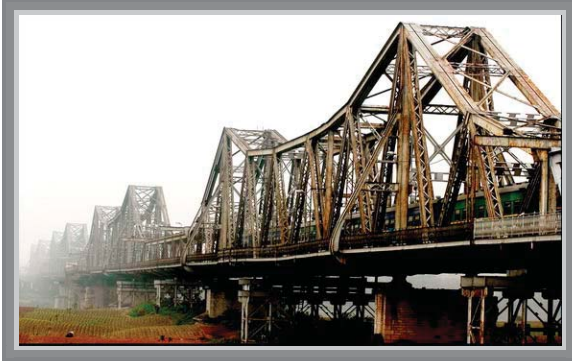
The original citadel had three circular walls, with the king and his family living in the forbidden temple area in the centre. The large area in the citadel's centre has been a military base for many years. Today, not many of the original temple and defence structures are evident. The most impressive feature is the entrance gate facing Phan Ding Phung Street.

Across from the Hanoi Citadel, the Lenin Statue can be seen, a present from the former Soviet Union.



Tour 2: Hanoi

14. Long Bien Bridge/Cau Long Bien



Cau Long Bien

The bridge over the Red River was built in 1898-1902. It is 1,683 metres long, which made it Asia's longest bridge at the time. It was the French Governor-General Paul Doumer who initiated the construction of the Long Bien Bridge, and it was initially named in his honour.

When the French left Hanoi, they did so via the Long Bien Bridge. The bridge also survived the bombardments during the Vietnam War thanks to regular repairs. Today the bridge is still open to pedestrian traffic, cyclists and trains.

15. Quan Chuong Gate/ Quan Chuong

Hang Chieu

The Quan Chuong Gate is located at the entrance to Hanoi's Old Quarter. It is the only one remaining of the original city gates.

The Old Quarter lies southwest of Quan Chuong. It is a fascinating place with its narrow streets, traditional Vietnamese atmosphere, countless small shops and fine restaurants.

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16. Hoan Kiem Lake/Ho Hoan Kiem

Ho Hoan Kiem

The centrally located Hoan Kiem Lake is a lovely oasis in Hanoi. There are several green areas around the lake, with, among other things, cafes. The lake was previously connected with other lakes in the city; it assumed its present size in the late 19th century.

16a. Ngoc Son Temple/Den Ngoc Son

Ho Hoan Kiem

The idyllically situated Ngoc Son Temple was built by Nguyen Van Sieu in 1864 on an island in the Hoan Kiem Lake. Access to the island is via the beautifully named Huc - the Morning Sunlight Bridge. By the bridge stands Thap But, the Pen Tower, which has the Chinese inscription, 'Ta Thanh Thien, meaning "writing on the blue sky". These words allude to the great Vietnamese writer and scholar, Van Suong.

South of Ngoc Son lies Tortoise Island, where the Tortoise Tower was erected in 1886. It is said to bring luck if one sees a tortoise on the island.

17. The National Bank/Vietcombank

The Vietnamese National Bank is located in an interesting building, built in a Modernistic style in the period 1925-1930 by the French architect Georges André Trouvé.

18. The Vietnam Museum of Revolution/Bao Tang Cach Manh

Tran Quang Khai 216

This museum focuses on Vietnam's history from 1945 until today, although the prehistory of the revolution, dating back to 1858, is included.

The exhibition is divided by themes, such as the period 1945-1975 and the country's struggle for independence and unification, Vietnam's economic development from 1976, and Ho Chi Minh and the Communist Party.

19. The National Museum of Vietnamese History/Bao Tang Lich Su



Trang Thien

This museum was founded in 1958, and its rich collections detail all periods of Vietnamese history until 1945, where the Museum of Revolution takes over.

Comprised of 7,000 thousand historical relics, the exhibition presents a broad impression of Vietnam's culture and development.

20. Hanoi Opera/Nha Hat Lon



Trang Thien 1

The Hanoi Opera House was built by the French in 1910-1911 in typical French Colonial style. The inspiration came from the famous Opera Garnier in Paris, but some claim that the Hanoi Opera is even more beautiful than the original.

The balcony of the opera house is the one from which the Viet Minh proclaimed its assumption of power in 1945.

The Opera House was renovated in 1997, and it remains one of the city's most beautiful buildings from the French colonial period.

21. Ba Da Pagoda/Chùa Ba Da

This pagoda was originally built in the 14th century, but it has been destroyed several times in the course of history. The present pagoda was built in 1950.

22. Hanoi Cathedral/Nha Tho Lon



Nha Chung 40

St Joseph's Cathedral of Hanoi was built with the Notre Dame in Paris as an obvious source of inspiration. The cathedral was built in 1884-1885 on the grounds of the previous Bao Thien Pagoda, and it is a striking reminder of French influence in Vietnam.

23. Hanoi Hilton/Hoa Lo

Hoa Lo 1

Hoa Lo, also known as Hanoi Hilton, is the prison that was used for American prisoners of war, as well as Vietnamese prisoners. The French, who called it Maison Centrale, built Hoa Lo in 1886-1889. Today, only part of the original prison complex remains; the rest has been replaced by modern constructions.

24. The Supreme People's Court of Vietnam/Palais de Justice

Ly Thuong Kiet

Hanoi's impressive Supreme Court Building was built by the French in 1900-1906. It is an exquisite example of French Colonial architecture.

25. The Vietnam Women's Museum/Bao Tang Phu Nu

Ly Thuong Kiet 36

The Vietnam Women's Museum opened in 1995. It details the important role of Vietnamese women in building the Vietnamese nation.

The Museum also functions as a cultural centre for achieving equal rights between the sexes.

26. Quan Su Pagoda/Chùa Quan Su

Quan Su 73

Quan Su Pagoda is also known as Ambassador's Pagoda, because it was used to receive foreign representatives of state in the 15th century during the Le Dynasty. The pagoda is located at Hanoi's original southern entrance gate. In the mid-20th century the pagoda underwent renovation and several extensions, and since 1958 it has been the home of the Vietnam Buddhist Association.

27. Palace of Friendship and Culture/ Cung Van Hoa Huu Nghi

Tran Hung Dao 91

The Palace of Friendship and Culture was built in 1978-1985 as a present to the Vietnamese labour unions from their Soviet counterparts. The Cultural Palace regularly hosts activities, including art exhibitions, conferences, exhibitions and sporting events.

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Day Tours from Hanoi

28. Dinh Bang

Dinh Bang, 15 kilometres East

The city of Dinh Bang is the birthplace of the 11th century Ly Dynasty founder Ly Thai To, who became the founder of Hanoi. Today, it is possible to visit the Den Do Temple, which was founded in the 11th century in honour of Ly Thai Po.

Dinh Bang's most famous building is its Communal House, which was opened in 1736 after decades of construction work. The Communal House is considered among the most beautiful of its kind in Vietnam; not least because its detailed fascinating woodcarvings are impressive to behold. Among the decorative motifs are found the four holy animals, Lion, Dragon, Phoenix and Tortoise. Some of the most important plants and fruits are also depicted, such as apricot and little bamboo.

The Communal House functions as temple for Earth, Water and Cultivation (of the land). In addition, six statues have been erected of the city's ancestors, who made a special contribution to its reconstruction after a great fire in the 15th century.

29. Scent Pagoda/Chùa Hương

65 kilometres Southwest

Scent Pagoda is the name of a complex consisting of several temples and pagodas located in the beautiful Scent Mountains.

The main temple was built during the reign of Le Chinh Hoa, from 1680 to 1705. The other buildings in the area were all erected at a later date. The Scent Pagoda itself is considered one of the most beautiful of Vietnam's pagodas, but the other buildings, as well as their surroundings, are very fascinating as well.

30. Master's Pagoda/Chùa Thầy

30 kilometres West

Master's Pagoda, or Chùa Thầy, is the name of a large area with various temple buildings and pagodas. The most important buildings in the area are the Pagoda of Heavenly Blessing/Chùa Thiên Phúc Tu, and the Mountain Top Pagoda/Chùa Dinh Son Tu

The Pagoda of Heavenly Blessing is a complex consisting of three buildings situated at the foot of the Sai Son Mountain, which forms a splendid background to the sacred buildings. In front of the pagoda, a lake with a pavilion contributes to the overall beauty of the scene.

The Mountain Top Pagoda lies behind the Pagoda of Heavenly blessing; it consists likewise of several buildings.

31. Pagoda of the West/ Chùa Tây Phương

38 kilometres West

The Pagoda of the West is beautifully situated on the Cau Lau Mountain, from which there are splendid views of the surrounding area. The pagoda is from 1794. It is, as most other pagodas, divided into three buildings. The pagoda's very beautiful wooden statues are among the most exquisite in Vietnam.

32. Tam Dao

Tam Dao, 80 kilometres Northwest

The French founded the town of Tam Dao at the beginning of the 20th century. It is located in the mountains at a height of 900 metres, which makes it an ideal place of recreation away from Hanoi and the heat of the lowlands.

Tam Dao has a few buildings in French Colonial style, such as a stone church and some villas. Most of the city's original French buildings were destroyed following French withdrawal from the

area, but for some decades buildings were constructed in a Soviet-inspired style.

Tam Dao is a small town set in an area of natural beauty. The mountains stand 1,400 metres above the plain, and there are countless stunning views of the hilly terrain from vantage points along the drive to the town.

33. Mia Pagoda/Chùa Mia

Mia, 50 kilometres West

The original Mia Pagoda was founded in the 12th century, but No Tu Ngoc Dieu, a native of the area who became queen, built the present one in 1632. She never forgot her background but founded the pagoda and the temple, which functioned as a local cultural centre.

The pagoda houses a total of 287 exquisite wooden Buddha statues, which in groups depict different themes and situations. The most beautiful among them is the statue of Tantrayana.

34. Hải Phòng

Hải Phòng, 90 kilometres East

The great city of Hải Phòng is, with a population of 1.7 million, Northern Vietnam's most important seaport, as well as one of the largest in the country. It is situated in the Red River Delta. During French reign, Hải Phòng was their naval base and therefore of great strategic importance militarily as well as in terms of trade. Because of its status as North Vietnam's seaport the city was bombarded by the Americans during the Vietnam War.

There is a nice atmosphere in the centre of Hải Phòng. It has many avenues, and also several buildings from the colonial period, including the theatre and the museum.

The city's historical Vietnamese buildings include the beautiful Du Hang Pagoda (Chùa Du Hang), which was founded in 1672, but its present appearance dates back to 1917.

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The city's Communal House, Hang Kehn, built in 1856, with its exquisite wood carvings, is well worth a visit.

Hải Phòng is also an excellent starting point for trips to the Bay of Halong and its many islands, of which Pearl Island (Cat Ba) is the best known. Pearl Island can be reached in about an hour from Hải Phòng.

35. Cat Ba

Cat Ba, 120 kilometres East

Cat Ba, Pearl Island, is the most famous island in the Halong Bay. It is an island of great natural beauty, with tropical jungle, delightful beaches, and limestone hills full of caves and grottos.

Every year on April 1, a festival is held in memory of Ho Chi Minh's visit to the island on this day in 1958. It includes, among other things, a dragon boat race.

36. Halong Bay



120 kilometres East

The Halong Bay is among the most beautiful natural sceneries in Vietnam. It has 1,969 beautiful and strangely shaped islands lying scattered in the ocean. The name Halong means "Descending Dragon", which alludes to the legend that the area was created by a dragon that spewed out the islands into the bay.

When visiting the Halong Bay, a sailing trip in the unique archipelago is highly recommended. The many traditional-looking Vietnamese boats offer different trips for the visitor to choose from. Alternatively, boat trips are arranged from Hanoi as well.



There are many interesting grottos to visit around the Halong Bay. Some of the most fascinating are Dau Go on Driftwood Island, Thien Cung, just outside Halong city and Quang Hanh, West of Cam Pha.

The Dau Grotto consists of three large caves, which were visited by Emperor Khai Dinh in 1917. Thien Cung is considered the most beautiful grotto in Halong Bay, while Quang Hanh, with its 1,300 metres, is the longest.

For those contemplating a longer stay in the Halong Bay area, the beautifully situated resort town Bai Chay might be the ideal place. Bai Chay has a good atmosphere, natural beauty, a lovely beach and cosy restaurants.



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With children in Hanoi

Hanoi Circus/Rạp Xiếc Zirkus (Tran Nhan Tong)

Hanoi Zoo (Park Thun Le, Ba Dinh):

www.hanoizoo.com

Thang Long Water Water Puppets (Dien Tien Hoang 57B, Hoan Kiem)

Zoological Museum (Le Thanh Tong 19)

Shopping in Hanoi

Hang Bong, Hang Dao, Hang Gai, Hang Khay, Dong Xuan

Dong Xuan Market (Pho Hang Khoai)

Factory Outlet (Pho Hai Ba Trung 17)

Trang Tien Plaza (Hoan Kiem District)

Vincom City Towers (Hoan Kiem District)

Public Transport in Hanoi

Busses in the Hanoi Area:

www.hanoibus.com.vn

Vietnam Railways:

www.vr.com.vn

Facts about Vietnam



Political

Official name	Socialist Republic of Vietnam Cộng hòa Xã hội Chủ nghĩa Việt Nam
Capital	Hà Nội (Hanoi)
System of government	Socialist Republic
Head of state	President Nguyễn Minh Triết
Head of government	Prime Minister Nguyễn Tấn Dũng
National Day	2 September
Independence achieved	2 September 1945 from France
Primary religions	Buddhism, Christianity
Language	Vietnamese
Area	331,690 km ²
Population (2008)	86,116,559

Borders on

North	China
South	The South China Sea
East	The South China Sea, Bay of Tonkin
West	Laos, Cambodia

Highest mountains

Fan Si Pan	3,142 metres
Ngoc Linh	2,598 metres
Chư Yang Sin	2,405 metres
Tam Đảo Bắc	1,592 metres
Phu Canh	1,420 metres
Núi Tản Viên	1,296 metres
Bù Rinh	1,291 metres
Núi Đồi Thờ	1,198 metres
Núi Hên	1,176 metres

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Largest Islands

Phú Quốc	574 km ²
Quần đảo Cát Bà	140 km ²

Largest lakes

Hồ Ba Bể	6.5 km ²
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Longest rivers*

Sông Mê Kông	4,350 km
Sông Hồng	1,149 km
Sông Đà	910 km
Sông Cả	612 km
Sông Đồng Nai	500 km
Sông Serepôk	406 km
Sông Mã	400 km
Sông Gianh	268 km
Sông Sài Gòn	225 km
Sông Bến Hải	100 km

Largest cities (2005)

Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh	3,467,000
Hà Nội	1,431,000
Đà Nẵng	752,000
Hải Phòng	603,000
Biên Hòa	407,000
Huế	287,000
Nha Trang	283,000
Cần Thơ	260,000
Rạch Giá	228,000
Quy Nhơn	210,000

Administrative Division		
Province	Capital	Area
Bắc Ninh	Bắc Ninh	804 km ²
Hà Nam	Phủ Lý	849 km ²
Hà Tây	Hà Đông	2,192 km ²
Hải Dương	Hải Dương	1,648 km ²
Hưng Yên	Hưng Yên	928 km ²
Nam Định	Nam Định	1,637 km ²
Ninh Bình	Ninh Bình	1,382 km ²
Thái Bình	Thái Bình	1,542 km ²
Vĩnh Phúc	Vĩnh Yên	1,371 km ²
Hà Nội	Hà Nội	921 km ²
Hải Phòng	Hải Phòng	1,503 km ²
Hà Tĩnh	Hà Tĩnh	6,056 km ²
Nghệ An	Vinh	16,487 km ²
Quảng Bình	Đồng Hới	8,025 km ²
Quảng Trị	Đông Hà	4,746 km ²
Thanh Hóa	Thanh Hóa	11,106 km ²
Thừa Thiên–Huế	Huế	5,009 km ²
Bắc Giang	Bắc Giang	3,822 km ²
Bắc Kạn	Bắc Kạn	4,795 km ²
Cao Bằng	Cao Bằng	6,691 km ²
Hà Giang	Hà Giang	7,884 km ²
Lạng Sơn	Lạng Sơn	8,305 km ²
Lào Cai	Lào Cai	8,057 km ²
Phú Thọ	Việt Trì	3,519 km ²
Quảng Ninh	Hạ Long	5,899 km ²
Thái Nguyên	Thái Nguyên	3,563 km ²
Tuyên Quang	Tuyên Quang	5,868 km ²
Yên Bái	Yên Bái	6,883 km ²
Điện Biên	Điện Biên Phủ	8,544 km ²
Hòa Bình	Hòa Bình	4,663 km ²
Lai Châu	Lai Châu	7,365 km ²
Sơn La	Sơn La	14,055 km ²

Đắk Lắk	Buôn Ma Thuột	13,062 km ²
Đắk Nông	Gia Nghĩa	6,514 km ²
Gia Lai	Pleiku	15,496 km ²
Kon Tum	Kon Tum	9,615 km ²
Lâm Đồng	Đà Lạt	9,765 km ²
Bình Định	Qui Nhơn	6,076 km ²
Khánh Hòa	Nha Trang	5,197 km ²
Phú Yên	Tuy Hoa	5,045 km ²
Quảng Nam	Tam Kỳ	10,408 km ²
Quảng Ngãi	Quảng Ngãi	5,135 km ²
Đà Nẵng	Đà Nẵng	1,256 km ²
Bà Rịa–Vũng Tàu	Vũng Tàu	1,975 km ²
Bình Dương	Thủ Dầu Một	2,696 km ²
Bình Phước	Đồng Xoài	6,856 km ²
Bình Thuận	Phan Thiết	7,828 km ²
Đồng Nai	Biên Hòa	5,895 km ²
Ninh Thuận	Phan Rang-Tháp Chàm	3,360 km ²
Tây Ninh	Tây Ninh	4,028 km ²
Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh	Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh	2,095 km ²
An Giang	Long Xuyên	3,406 km ²
Bạc Liêu	Bạc Liêu	2,521 km ²
Bến Tre	Bến Tre	2,287 km ²
Cà Mau	Cà Mau	5,192 km ²
Đồng Tháp	Cao Lãnh	3,238 km ²
Hậu Giang	Vị Thanh	1,608 km ²
Kiên Giang	Rạch Giá	6,269 km ²
Long An	Tân An	4,492 km ²
Sóc Trăng	Sóc Trăng	3,223 km ²
Tiền Giang	Mỹ Tho	2,367 km ²
Trà Vinh	Trà Vinh	2,226 km ²
Vĩnh Long	Vĩnh Long	1,475 km ²
Cần Thơ	Cần Thơ	1,390 km ²

Head of State since 1945**Democratic Republic of Vietnam (1945-1976)**

Hồ Chí Minh	1945-1969
Tôn Đức Thắng	1969-1976

Socialist Republic of Vietnam (1976-)

Tôn Đức Thắng	1976-1980
Nguyễn Hữu Thọ	1980-1981
Trường Chinh	1981-1987
Vô Chí Công	1987-1992
Lê Đức Anh	1992-1997
Trần Đức Lương	1997-2006
Nguyễn Minh Triết	2006-

Cochinchina (1946-1948)

Nguyễn Văn Thinh	1946-1946
Nguyễn Văn Xuân	1946-1946
Lê Văn Hoạch	1946-1947
Nguyễn Văn Xuân	1947-1948

Provisional government (1948-1949)

Nguyễn Văn Xuân	1948-1949
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State of Vietnam (1949-1955)

Bảo Đại	1949-1955
Ngô Đình Diệm Jean Baptiste	1955-1955

Republic of Vietnam (1955-1975)

Ngô Đình Diệm Jean Baptiste	1955-1963
Dương Văn Minh	1963-1964
Nguyễn Khánh	1964-1964
Dương Văn Minh	1964-1964
Nguyễn Khánh	1964-1964
Dương Văn Minh	1964-1964
Phan Khắc Sửu	1964-1965
Nguyễn Văn Thiệu	1965-1975
Trần Văn Hương	1975-1975
Dương Văn Minh	1975-1975

Prime Minister since 1944**Democratic Republic of Vietnam (1945-1976)**

Hồ Chí Minh	1945-1955
Phạm Văn Đồng	1955-1976

Socialist Republic of Vietnam (1976-)

Phạm Văn Đồng	1976-1987
Phạm Hùng	1987-1988
Vô Văn Kiệt	1988-1988
Đỗ Mười	1988-1991
Vô Văn Kiệt	1991-1997
Phan Văn Khải	1997-2006
Nguyễn Tấn Dũng	2006-

State of Vietnam (1949-1955)

Bảo Đại	1949-1950
Nguyễn Phan Long	1950-1950
Trần Văn Hữu	1950-1952
Nguyễn Văn Tâm	1952-1953
Bửu Lộc	1954-1954
Phan Huy Quát	1954-1954
Ngô Đình Diệm Jean Baptiste	1954-1955


Republic of Vietnam (1955-1975)


Nguyễn Ngọc Thơ	1963-1964
Nguyễn Khánh	1964-1964
Trần Văn Hương	1964-1965
Nguyễn Xuân Oánh	1965-1965
Phan Huy Quát	1965-1965
Nguyễn Cao Kỳ	1965-1967
Nguyễn Văn Lộc	1967-1969
Trần Văn Hương	1969-1969
Trần Thiện Khiêm	1969-1975
Nguyễn Bá Cẩn	1975-1975
Vũ Văn Mẫu	1975-1975

National Holidays and Memorial Days	
1 January	Tết dương lịch (New Year's Day)
January-February, date varies	Tết Nguyên Đán (Vietnamese New Year)
April, date varies	Giỗ tổ Hùng Vương (Hung Kings Commemorations)
30 April	Ngày giải phóng (Liberation Day/Reunification Day)
1 May	Ngày Quốc tế Lao động (International Labour Day)
2 September	Quốc khánh (National Day)

Various facts	
Currency	đồng
Currency code	VND
Time zone	Vietnam Standard Time (UTC+7)
International postal code	VN
Internet domain	.vn
Country code	+84

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Climate - Hanoi	Mean temperature (°C/°F)	Precipitation (millimetres/inches)
January	16/60.8	19/0.7
February	17/62.6	26/1.0
March	21/69.8	44/1.7
April	24/75.2	90/3.5
May	28/82.4	188/7.4
June	29/84.2	240/9.4
July	29/84.2	288/11.3
August	29/84.2	318/12.5
September	28/82.4	265/10.4
October	26/78.8	131/5.2
November	22/71.6	43/1.7
December	18/64.4	23/0.9

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Climate - Ho Chi Minh City	Mean temperature (°C/°F)	Precipitation (millimetres/inches)
January	25.8/78.4	14/0.6
February	26.6/79.9	4/0.1
March	27.7/81.9	9/0.4
April	28.7/83.7	51/2.0
May	28.2/82.8	213/8.4
June	27.4/81.3	309/12.2
July	27.1/80.8	295/11.6
August	27.3/81.1	271/10.7
September	26.9/80.4	342/13.5
October	26.6/79.9	261/10.3
November	26.2/79.2	119/4.7
December	25.7/78.3	47/1.8

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Climate - Da Nang	Mean temperature (°C/°F)	Precipitation (millimetres/inches)
January	21.5/70.7	102/4.0
February	22.4/72.3	33/1.3
March	24.3/75.7	30/1.2
April	26.5/79.7	33/1.3
May	28.3/82.9	64/2.5
June	29.3/84.7	86/3.4
July	29.3/84.7	91/3.6
August	28.9/84.0	109/4.3
September	27.5/81.5	308/12.1
October	25.9/78.6	592/23.3
November	24.2/75.6	367/14.5
December	22.0/71.6	224/8.8

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

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A man wearing a wide-brimmed hat, a tropical print short-sleeved shirt, and shorts stands on a brick-paved platform next to a silver train car. He is looking towards the right. The background shows a clear blue sky and the side of the train with several windows.

About the Author

Stig Albeck (1969) is the author behind the travel books at OnLibri.com. Stig writes the way you travel the destinations!

The books often take their departure in the world's most exhilarating cities and evolve to the attractions and sights in their vicinity. Stig is a devoted traveller and a passionate explorer which brings him around the world several times each year to search for new exciting destinations.

Going to big cities or more adventurous destinations, Stig writes his travel guides to help and inspire readers to get the full benefit of their destination of choice.

Travelling is about enjoying the moment, but also about taking home memories and gaining new knowledge. No matter how far or near by the destination might be there sure are great experiences waiting to be unveiled.

Stig holds a masters degree in marketing and tourism from Copenhagen Business School in Denmark. He has been working in the tourism industry and with global marketing of tourist destinations.

If you have questions or perhaps made a discovery that you would like to share, then send Stig an email to travelstig@gmail.com (if you attach photos you agree to letting us use these for future travel guides).

Stig offers lectures on his travel experiences, or any specific tour that you might be about to head out for. To learn more about things like touring Australia, visiting the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator, or enjoying a fresh smoked omul at the Lake Baikal in February, visit www.stigalbeck.com.

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