

BEST: STRAT

MY NOTE: Based on LP Cen Hilands MAP, Laos > Ngoc Hoi, THEN, NE on HCM Hlwy/RT14 > Da Nang, CUZ Kon Ton & Pleiku both S on HCM HiWY/ RT 14

GET Local Knowledge in Pakse

Pakse > Attapeu > Ngoc Hoi twn (Kontum) > Da Nang (Rt 18B) /?/ Hoi An > Hue (?):

May include stops en route: Paksong > Sekong > Attapeu, THEN, Ngoc Hoi > Da Nang BUS fare includ: Lunch fee @ Attapeu(@ VIET REST) very delicious!

"Mai Linh Express" BUS CO we really trust "

most (only) reliable VIET BUS co; all includ drivers well trained, gentle & kind thus no stress; no over charging & scams, no rough altitudes etc.BUT BUSs not punctual

& **Dien Hong's Express minibus**: "Mai Linh Express" owns ; Ford or Benz) BEST)

Timetables: regly/day direct; BUT NOT on SCHED: ASSUME: +/-1hr late @ ea point below

DP From Pakse:

DP From Attapeu:

no fixed BUS STA yet, but pick up from in frt of Thanh Nga GH

Agent: ?

mini-BUSs > Bo Y: (DP: 1st :07:00a, THEN thru > about 10:00; > Bo Y: 80,000 kip.(119km from Attapeu > Bo Y.

THEN, after PP CHK (3 hrs), vans continue > Ngoc Hoi twn, 18km inside VN

Ngoc Hoi- onward TRANS OPT: about anywhere

Paksong: Laos or VIET REST

Sekong: Laos or VIET REST

Tha Teng: Laos or VIET REST

Ngoc Hoi

Ngoc Hoi <> Danang or Hoi An

Quynh (?) Ngoc BUS company's minivan(Ford) that runs btwn Gia Lai & Dong Ha via Da Nang & Hue —Tel(mobile):0989.354.354 (I caught on NR.14 in frt of my GH)

ACCM: 3 GH

GH (\$7-10) LOC in frt of MKT & BUS STA along NR. & 1 big HOT (expensive) where foreign TRAVs can stay.

Dang Khoa HOT (former name: Viet Lao HOT)--recent 160VND price

http://www.travelfish.org/accommodation_profile/VIET/central_highlands/kon_tum/north_of_kon_tum/all/3437

Dong Duong HOT

http://www.travelfish.org/accommodation_profile/VIET/central_highlands/kon_tum/north_of_kon_tum/all/3435

Nha Nghi (HOT) Hoa Binh--(agent 4 TIK of Dien Hong's direct BUS > Pakse/Attapeu)

http://www.travelfish.org/accommodation_profile/VIET/central_highlands/kon_tum/north_of_kon_tum/all/3436

Internet: @ house behind Post Office BLDG along NR,-- "Post Office Internet" 1 hr=2,500VND (not25,000VND!)

Kon Tum LP 293: Laos or VIET REST

Kon Tum, Viet MAP



Kon Tum

Sights

- 1 Immaculate Conception Cathedral..... C3
- 2 Kon Harachot..... B3
- 3 Kon Tum Konam..... D3
- 4 Kon Tum Kopong..... D2
- 5 Seminary & Hill-Tribe Museum..... C2
- 6 Vinh Son 1 Orphanage..... C3
- 7 Vinh Son 2 Orphanage..... B3

Sleeping

- 8 Dakbla Hotel..... A3
- 9 Family Hotel..... B2

- 10 Indochine Hotel..... A3
- 11 Viet Nga Hotel A3

Eating

- 12 Dakbla Restaurant A3
- 13 Quan 58..... C1

Drinking

- 14 Eva Café D1

Information

- Highland Eco Tours..... (see 11)
- 15 Kon Tum General Hospital A1
- Kon Tum Tourist (see 8)

Cuc Phuong

TIC: Kon Tum Tourist 386 1626; ktourist@dng.vnn.vn; 2 D Phan Dinh Phung (in Dakbla
HOT: ENG spkrs,

LOC: 68km east of Ngoc Hoi

ACCM:

Family HOT: p295 \$15

Dakbla HOT: p295, \$10

Viet Nga HOT \$8-15

Mai Linh LOC: not sure, but think on way > Kon Tum BUS STA in N part of city CNTR along NR.14,

(relevance?) also can book or reserve 4 being picked-up by direct BUS coming from Gia Lai @ **Dak Bla HOT** (big & old but not expensive)LOC: beside of Dak Bla RIV in S part of city CNTR.

TRANS:

BUS STA: 279 D Phan Dinh Phung: > Pleiku & Danag on RT 14,
XE OM **Eva Cafe:**

Pleiku (Gia Lai PROV): Laos or VIET REST



Mai Linh Express's Gia Lai office: w/in Duc Long BUS STA (2km from city CNTR) but not inside of TERM BLDG, but out side of (beside Duc Long GH in BUS TERM--good GH but foreigners not permitted > stay here by Cong An)

Mai Linh Express's Gia Lai=Pleiku office--Tel.no. 0987.087.811(mobile)

Da Nang: (Rt 18B)

"Ben Xe Trung Uong Da Nang"(Da Nang Central BUS STA) ---**NOTE**: -Da Nang has several big BUS STA!

OLD INFO: ***Mai Linh Express's Direct BUS or MiniBUS SCHED**

ALT: * Dien Hong's Express minibus: (Ford or Benz) BEST)

DP from "Ben Xe Trung Uong Da Nang"(Da Nang Central BUS STA) ---**NOTE**: -Da Nang has several big BUS STA!

* BUS fare & Dep.time of Express minibus from Da Nang > Kon Tum (Ngoc Hoi, same BUS) ---110,000ND (raised up now) / / 06:30am/07:00am/07:30am/09:30am/11:30am/12:30pm/13:30pm/17:00pm----(Aug.2010)

Sidebar p310: Mai Linh Express minibus: (1/d @ 7am. 4h,

Dong Ha via Da Nang & Hue —Tel(mobile):0989.354.354 (I caught on NR.14 in frt of my GH)

NOTE: (if necessary) *Hoi An > Da Nang--public BUS or taxi or mtrbike taxi available, about 30 mins

Hoi An:

*Hoi An > Da Nang--public BUS or taxi or mtrbike taxi available, about 30 mins

jp_g really knows his stuff, read & learn.

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LAOS > VIET: Viet Visa: C Pakse or Vientiane Viet Visas

Da Nang: OOM happening, (1T,1 N,1T) (1T,1 N,1T)

TRANS- IN:/OUT p181

AIR:

Pakse or Attapeu: Apparently possible

Flight Details:

- Lao Airlines:** PKZ 13:00 → 1 stop → DAD 21:50, 8h 50m
- Vietnam Airlines:** 13:00 Pakse PKZ – 14:00 Siem Reap REP (1h 0m)
- Long Connection:** Siem Reap REP (6h 0m)
- Vietnam Airlines:** 20:00 Siem Reap REP – 21:50 Da Nang DAD (1h 50m)

Price Comparison:

Provider	Price (USD)
CheapOair	\$285
OneTravel	\$285
Priceline	\$352

> Hanoi: (\$38, 3/d)

> Airport: 2km W of CNTR, Taxi: 55k d, (Mai Lihn 356-5656 ; BUS co)

BUS: p186 Danang < Hoi An:

Inter City BUS STA: LPm188

YEL public BUS: (hrly, 1h)

Sinh Tourist open-tour BUS: need booking 4 off PU

> **HUE:** (2/d or evry 20min, 2 ½ h)

> **Hi An:** (2/d, 1h)

> **Hanoi:** (2/d, 14hr)

TRN: Danang > Hue: Excellent, OOViet Best See p182m

Hue: (8/d, 2-4hr)

Hanoi (\$22-43, 6/d, 15 -21h)

TRANS-LOCAL:

Cyclo & Xe Om: bargain, p187

TRANS-OUT:

Hai Van Pass & Tunnel: Spec views on beautiful days ½D

LOC / DIRECS:

buy TIK @ Danang STA: (50cents > seaside Lang Co VILL on other side of mt range & TRN DP @ 8.59am. TRAV >> back lanes of Danang till reach outskirts of city & after crossing several bridges, climb up mt range begins w/ spec views across bay looking back > Danang.(can buy local food from many vendors on TRN @ little whistle stop STAs on way.)

After arriving @ Lang Co DP TRN & ignore many motorbike taxis & walk across bridge into twn: many over priced touristy seafood rest on water on your left **but** keep going further into twn THEN, ask any of little cafes 4 home made oyster & prawn soup: \$6 4 bowl > feed 8 peep.

TO RETURN: hail Mai Linh taxi & negotiate price back > Danang **over pass & not through tunnel**. \$20 > \$25 & take heaps of photos!

TIP: DON'T STOP @ top of pass as vendors there like pack of Hyenas around fresh kill.

Local TRN w/ upright wood seats, open windows, 90min, TIKs: Danang STA DP: 8:59a, ;

THEN, @ Lang Co disembark walk across bridge > twn; in Twn: ask 4 "homemade oyster & prawn soup, THEN, negotiate taxi 4 return > Danang over pass: \$25

ACCM:**HW:**

Yes Funtastic Danang HOS: 9.1, 4\$8dm,

REV: Pro: GUD ENG, (excel staff, brkfst, LOC (near TRN STA, rest), mtrbike, clean, bunk curtains,

Con:

FAC: brkfst, wifi, w/d, lug stor, hot show, linen, shuttle BUS, /c, KIT, lock, TRAV,

Yes: Hachi HOS: 8.7, 4\$6dm,

REV: Pro: GUD: staff (very friendly), clean, quiet, hot show, wifi, TRAV help, free bike,

Con: limited brkfst,

Near BCH:

Funtastic BCH HOSD: 9.4, \$8dm,

REV: Pro:

Con: Elevator, linen, TRAV, /c, wifi, hot show, KIT, lock, brkfst, w/d, lug stor,

FAC:

Danang Nemo HOT: 8.6, r\$8

REV: Pro:

Con:

Kara GH: 8.7, \$5dm, GUD REV, but must drive > twn

? May be 2 far from TWN

Hai Van HOT: \$12-19

Winn , Bao Ngoc, HOT: \$20

Danang HOS

Gold Summer

SITES: few worth while site

LPm182

4h**Han riverfront stroll**

1½h

~D6 Cham Sculpture MUS: Read Wiki's Cham people 1st

1h

~B3 Cai Dai TEMP: lrg VIET bldg, M/W segregated, multi-religion

½h

~D5 Danang CATH: Catholic, FRCH 1923,

½h

~B6 Phap Lam Pagoda: recent, mixed TripAdv, lng shr/pants

½h

NO!!! HCM MUS:

Thats All, Folks!!!

DTs: AROUND Danag:**2½DT**~~ **YES** Linh Ung: Ba Na Hill Sta VIET (see: "Danang 1 REG LPm157.pdf) LPm180

½DT

~D1 ? **YES** Nui Son Tra (Monkey MT) (NE Danang 3 AROUND LPm187) LPm188::

1DT

TOP's Views Worth it?

scenic trip around peninsula coast: How long > bike or mtrbike around/ Conditions?

~~ **YES** Marble MT: (SE off Danang 3 AROUND LPm187): P187:

1DT

Take head lamp; scooter: ins, license, enuf power

5 craggy marble outcrops represent 5 nat elements: Thuy Son (water), moc Son (wood), Hoa Son (Fire), Kim Son (metal/gold), Tho Son (Earth)

~D4 Thuy Son (water): fee, 7a-5p) nat caves w/ Hindu & Buddha sanctuaries

TRANS: Local BUSES: btwn Danag <Hoi AN: drop off @ Marble Mt (PU also **don't know**)

Scooter GU OPT cuz well paved, > top,

ROUTE:

Access Path: use 1 closer > BCH @ VILL end

THEN, > staircase's top gate: Ong Chon (pocked w/ bullet holes)THEN, > **Linh Ong Pagoda**

THEN< behind pagoda thru 2 tunnels > caverns w/ Buds & Cham carvings

Another stair > another cave (partially open > sky) w/ 2 seated Buds

THEN, **back track > Ong Chon gate**: There, immediately L as if entering gate again: MainPath > rest of Thuy Son -----1st : **Xa Loi Pagoda**: w/ viewsNEXT, stairway off main path > **Vong Hai Da** w/ spec China BCH panorama

Continuing R into mini gorge

THEN, on L: **Van Thong Cave** & opposite : cement Buddha

EXIT gorge thru battle scarred GATE

THEN, > R , rocky path > **Linh Nham**: tall chimney shaped cave w/ sm altarNearby, another path > **Hoa Nghiem** : shallow cave w/ BuddhaLeft of here (?), **Huyen Khong Cave**: cathedral-like opened > sky

ENTRY guarded by 2 Administrative Mandarins (.L) & 2 MIL mandarins (>R)

Random Buddha & Confucius shrines

ON R, chamber door > VC Field Hospital

Plaque: Women's MEM: 19 US planes shot-down

RETURN > Main Path:Just > L of masonry gate: **Tam THai Tu Pagoda**THEN; < oblique path > R > Monk's RESOR, take stairs > L > **Vong Giang Dai** w/ 'other ' Marble Mts

HOI AN: p190 graceful, historic

TRANS-IN/OUT:

BUS:

Open-tour **BUS**: best: > HUE: reg, 4h) ? > Da Nang

BUS STOP: on rd side [WHT w/ blue/blk text & says "Danang / Hoi An #1"] in frt of clothes shop.



Look 4 yellow **BUS**, w/ "Danang / Hoi An" on frt,

wave it down but be ready > jump on

Remember: tourists normally pay more than locals!
.(40mins direct > Hoi An **BUS STA**.)

BUS STAs:

N BUS STA: D Le Hong Phong: > Danang: (more freq, 1h)

Main BUS STA: 96 D Hung Vuong: > Danang(?, 1h, 18k d)

TRANS-LOCAL:

Foot: particularly OT

BIKE: (20k d/d)

GUD RT: > Cua Dai BCH: scenic rice paddies, follow RIVbank 4 5km,

Thanh Ha: 3km W toward My Son

Mtrbike: \$5/d

BOAT on RIV:

ACCM:

No hostels; most budgets > NW around D Hai Ba Trung & D Ba Trieu or E along D Cua Dai
HW:

? **HSE BP**: 7.7; famy, , help w/ tours,

REV: Pro: GUD: quiet **LOC** near **OQ**, rest (next door), gud satff,

Con:

FAC:

? **Hoian Salute HOT**: 8.7; d\$12, **LOC**: maybe too far

REV: Pro: quiet, GUD wifi, rm, staff helpful

Con: no where > eat @ HOS w/c, only 1 key, bad staff, BAD qwifi, no dm lock,

FAC: /c, brkfst (not gud) ,rest,ceil fan,wifi, luf stor, bike, shuttle **BUS** , tou rs

LP:

Thanh Van HOT: \$15: OObest VAL, GUD **LOC**: brkfst, GUD staff,

Hoang Trinh HOT: \$20-30; GRT staff, big, clean rm, brkfst,

Phuong Dong HOT: \$10; simple rm, GUD bed, fan, /c, rm wifi,

Vinh Huy: \$10-12; cheap, clean, fan, friendly staff, ; not **LOC**: 15 min > OT

Nhi Trung HOT: \$16+; GUD staff, brkfst, **LOC**: 1.5 km N of OT

Hoa Binh HOT: \$12-18, **but change w/ demand**; budget chic - simple, wifi, /c,

NO Golden RIV: 7.9, 5/3dm , ,

REV: Pro: GUD **LOC** bars, rest, , ;;;

Con: (1 key dm), hard sell tours**,

SITES: Create walking tour if none**9h****Old twN:** UNESCO protected : 800 HIST BLDFGs; 18 open > PUB, revisit if tour plague

Old twN TIK req'd: 5 attractions , 3 days)

Old Houses : still private; Tottering Japanese Merchant RES:**Sidebar Lp196: Hoi An House: Closer Look**

All but Diep Dong Nguyen & Quan Thang, hav shrt guided tours w/post self-wandering

Big Tour STRAT:

- * **~B3 Japanese Covered BRIDGE:** LP194 (1590), 1¼ h
monkey & dog STATs, FREE, but TIK 4 little (unimpressive) TEMP
- 13B3 **Phung Hung Old RES:** suspended altar 1½/h
- * **~E3 Assembly hall of Fujan CHI Congregation:** (1975) 1½/h
- * **~C4 Tan Ky RES:** (1812?), VIET merchant, 7 generations, ¾h
CHI/JA ARCH influences, INT: beautiful, courtyard:, recent flood marks, 2 pulleys, INT: wood ,
EXT: tile : **temp control STRAT?**
- * **~D3 Tran Family Chapel:** (1802), 3 door-funtion, altar's wood boxes, 1½/h
sm GARD: baby placentas buried,
- ~~~~ **Chuc Thanh Pagoda:** **LOC:** NNE off "VIET Hoi An 2 LPm-INDEX.pdf" 1½/h
- ~~~~ **Phouc Lam Pagoda:** 8 yr old monk> MIL> monk > cleaning Hoi An MKT 1½/h
LOC: NNE off "VIET Hoi An 2 LPm-INDEX.pdf -- further beyond Chuc Thanh Pagoda
- 14E3 **Quan Cong TEMP:** carp shaped rain spouts, 1½/h
- 11D3 **Trading Ceramics MUS:** Old twN bldg restoration explanation, old ARCH interesting;
GO upstairs 4 view
- 5D3 **CHI All-Community Assembly Hall:** 1773, free, assault on senses - interesting 1½/h
- 2F3 **Assembly Hall of Chaozhou CHI Congregation:** 1752, ¾ h
gleaming woodcarvings, stunning intricacy, Specifiically, altar door of 2 women,
- 16G4 **Tran Duong RES:** 1 of block of such RES, antiqu French & CHI furniture ¾ h
- 1C3 **Assembly Hall of Cantonese CHI Congregation:** 1½/h
spectacular mosaic STAT of dragon & carp, 2nd draghon sculpture,
- 3E3 **Assembly Hall of Hainan CHI Congregation:** 1½/h
108 merchants mistakenly killed as pirates.
- 6D4 **Diep Dong Nguyen RES:** wealthy CHI merchant, aopthecary-like, 1½/h
- NO!!! 9D4 MUS of Folklore in Hoi An:**
- 12C2 **Phac Hat Pagoda:** ceramic & murals facade, snake-like dragon roof, 1½/h
- NO!!! MUS of Sa Huynh Culture** 1½/h
- 4D2 **Ba Le WELL:** Cham era, still used 1½/h

MISC: Silks:

2h

If Planning > BUY:

- 1) Know fabrics & preferences including details: thread color, linings, buttons
- 2) IF SILK: TEST 4 SILK: synthetics melts, Silk BURNS
- 3) DBL seam stitch, (blanket stitching: binds edge , oversewing fabric)

Lp's Best Ones

are (in alphabetical order): **A Dong Silk** (☎386 3170; www.adongsilk.com; 40 Đ Le Loi); **B'lan** (☎386 1866; www.hoianblan.com; 23 Đ Tran Phu); **Kimmy** (☎386 2063; www.kimm tailor.com; 70 Đ Tran Hung Dao); **Long Life Silk** (☎391 1955; www.longlifesilk.com; 47 Đ Nguyen Phuc Chu); **Thu Thuy** (☎386 1699; www.thuthuysilk.com; 60 Đ Le Loi) and **Yaly** (☎391 0474; www.yalycouture.com; 47 Đ Nguyen Thai Hoc).

AROUND Hoi An:

Thanh Ha: 3km W toward My Son Toward My Son (below)	2h
NNE off "VIET Hoi An 2 LPm-INDEX.pdf"	
My Son LP211: 35km NW off "VIET Hoi An 2 LPm-INDEX.pdf SEE " My Son LPm pdf"	1DT
Cham (Champa Kingdom) remains, 20 deteriorated of orig 68, but enthralling , Early: DP Hoi An by 5am	
TRANS ✕: Earliest PUB: 8am; 4 5am DP: xe om: 150,000 including waiting time	

Chien Dan: elegant, but Cham TOW,, ~~~**LOC:** 47km S of Hoi An, > R of RD on approach > Tam Ky**Chien Dan**

The elegant Cham towers at **Chien Dan** (Chien Dan Cham; Hwy 1; admission 12,000d; ☎8-11.30am & 1-5.30pm Mon-Fri) are located just outside the town of Tam Ky on a wide open field; the only other building nearby is a small museum. Dating from the 11th or 12th century, each *kalan* faces east. Many of the decorative friezes remain on the outside walls.

The middle tower was dedicated to Shiva; at the front left-hand edge of its base there are carvings of dancing girls and a fight

All BLDGs designated by ALPHA system: Group , A1,
B-H & K: so use LP description directly: LP211, 212m

scene. Look for the grinning faces high up between this and the left tower (honouring Brahma) and the two elephants at the rear. The right-hand tower is dedicated to Vishnu.

Although the towers escaped the bombing that ravaged My Son, scars from the American War are evident – witness the numerous bullet holes in the walls.

This rarely visited site is to the right of the road on your approach to Tam Ky, 47km south of Hoi An.

NO , nothing left of DMZ near Dong Ha: DMZ vist base tours

HUE: ('hway')

TRANS-IN:

TRN: Yes , but where >?

DESTINATION	AIR	BUS	MOTORBIKE	TRAIN
Hanoi	from US\$30, 1hr, 3 daily	US\$18-27, 13-16hr, 8 daily	16hr	US\$20-41, 12-16½hr, 5 daily
Danang	n/a	US\$3, 3hr, every 20min	2½-4hr	US\$3-6, 2½-4hr, 8 daily

AIR: > Hanoi

Viet Air: (3/d,

Jetstar: ?

BUS:

Main BUS STA:

> Danang

An Hoa BUS STA:

> Dong Ha: (evry ½ hr, 2h)

Open Tour BUS:

TRANS-LOCAL:

Airport > twn:

mtr'd taxi or minibus:

Viet Air shuttle:

ACCM: Many OPT in Hue**HW: *:****DBL CHK LOC Hue Happy Homestay:** 9.2, 6dm\$6,**REV: PRO:** famy, friendly/helpful, **GUD:** beds, wifi, clean, **ENG,** /c ;;; **LOC:** (CHK loc agan ?), far from **BUS** stop, not party,**CON:** diff > find, pushy owner, **NO brkfst, no lock, bad beds,****FAC:** w/d, brkfst, wifi, hot show, lug stor, **TRAV,** /c, elevator, **KIT****YES: Hue BP HOS:** 8.0, 10dm\$8,**REV: PRO:** **GUD;** very staff, clean, lock, **LOC,** mtrbike rent,**CON:** party,**FAC:** ceil fan,wifi, lock,w/d, lug stor (insecure), **TRAV,** /c, bikes,brkfst, hot show, linen, rest,**TOP Huenino GH:** HBK 98%, ;\$14r, famy, pre-book**REV: PRO: very GUD staff, ENG,,****CON: DM?****FAC: GUD:** staff, brkfst, lopck, rest, w/d, **TRAV,** lug stor, brkfst, linen**NO, too far Beach Bar Hue:** 9.0: 4dm\$10, **LOC:** 15km on **BCH,** far from **TWN****REV: PRO: LOC:** on bch, clean, **GUD:** staff, , **NOT** oarty, beds, moskie nets,**FAC:** hot show,linen,rest, **TRAV,** brkfst, wifi, lug stor, /c, ceil fan, w/d, shuttle **BUS****NO Tigon HOS:** 7.8, 4/10dm\$7,**REV: PRO: GUD:** staff, **LOC,** ;;;**ENG,****CON:** over priced **BUS Tik bkking,** no lock, few plugs, rats, dirty/smelly linen,**FAC:** Aiporttransfers (?) , bike rents, elevator, linen,lock,shuttle **BUS,** /c, wifi, hot show, w/d, lug stor, rest, **TRAV,** \$2 brkfst feast,**NO Kim's Homestay:** 8.2, 8dm\$5, **LOC:**gud,**REV: PRO:** dm bed w/ ind fan,**CON:** bed bugs (), bro & wife sleep in dm, ac 2 sm, ants, kids & dogs loose in dm**FAC:** hot show,lug stor,brkfst, bikes, ceil fan, lock,shuttle **BUS,** wifi**NO Hue Amazing HomeStay:** 8.1**REV: PRO:** cheap, friendly famy, really homestay, **CON:** no **ENG,** dirty/depressing,**Google HOT:** HBK 70%; 8dm, \$15d,**REV: PRO:** dm; nice **FAC:** new, chic, **GUD** beds, ;;; pets, rest,**Jade HOT:** 9.4;**LP:****Hue Thuong HOT:** r 25k d, **FAC:** new renov, clean, linen**GH Nhat Thanh:** r\$13, **LOC:** CNTR;**FAC:** **GUD:** beds, famy, clean,**Halo HOT:** r\$15, **LOC:** BP alley**FAC:** **GUD** staff,**Hung Vuong Inn HOT:** r\$11,**FAC:** **LOC:** OK, rest,? **Binh Minh Sunrise 1 HOT:** r\$10, **LOC:** CNTR,**FAC:** 6 flrs (?), **STAFF:** OK, clean, budget opt: EXclude brkfst, /c (fans)? **Bamboo HOT:** r\$11,**FAC:** simple brkfst,**FOOD:*** **Take** (JA)**Dong Ba MKT:****Trang Tien PLaza:**

SITES: READ Sidebar LP173 "Craftsmanship Fit 4 King"

CITADEL (Kinh Thanh): 1804-1833, encircling moat, 10 gates;

1D

on N side **Mang Ca FORT:** -- still MIL base

3E1Duc Thanh: 82 D Phan Dang Luu: silk embroidery art

5C5 Flag TOW (Cot CO):

THEN, near gates > either side of Flag TOW

11D4 Ngan Gate & Cannons: 4 seasons

13C5 Quang Duc Gate: 5 cannons: 5 elements: metal wood water, fire, earth

Nine Holy Cannons:, 1804,

... near Ngan Gate: 4 cannons = 4 seasons

... near QuangDuc Gate: 5 cannon = 5 elements

Imperial Enclosure:

Perimeter: TEMP's, & RES: best along SW wall,

SE Section: GARD, PKs & lake

16C4 Thai > Mieu TEMP complex ruins: S corner of complex)

restored walled complex:

Behind > U of Arts THEN, behind U of Arts > GARD, PK & lake

12C4 Ngo Mon Gate (noontime Gate-facing Flag TOW):

(prime entry > IMP Enclosure)

Gate's TOP: Ngu Phung: huge drum & bell, 1945 Nguyen EMP abdicated > HCM

CNTR passage w/ YEL doors & lotus pond bridge 4 EMP only.

15C4 Thai Hoa PAL (of Supreme Harmony):

ornate wood roof, 80 carved lacquered COL

Impress~ audio display: ARCH, HIST

9C4 Halls of Mandarins: **LOC:** in courtyard directly behind Thai Hoa PAL

Off & prep; > R: fascinating old PIKs, etc

THEN, behind above courtyard

1B4 Can Chanh PAL ruins w/ 2 beautiful recon red lacquer galleries

THEN, behind PALs -----

6B3 Forbidden Purple City: (Tu Cam Thanh):@ very CNTR of Enclosure)

Citadel w/in citadel- EMP only, concubines & eunuchs: 6m H & 2.5km long: several walled sections

Almost all destroyed, > R -----

CAUTION: Walk carefully -- dangerous holes

14C3 Royal Theatre: still functions; rebuilt, TRAD dance, opera,

Behind > ---

4B3 EMP's Reading Room:

exquisite, crumbling, 2 story; only FRCH 1947 survivor;

CLOSED, but Gaudi-esqe roof mosaics visible

17B5 IN S Corner >. Mieu TEMP Complex: walled, well restored; shrine & EMP photos,

GARD

1st bldg on entry

Hien lam PAV: 3 tiered,

ON 1 side (?) ---

9 Dynastic Urns: 1835-1836, 4 ea. Nguyen sovereign, SYM: power & stability

LRGst: EMP Gia Long

Also, in courtyard R...

2 dragons: 'trapped' in red phone booth-like boxes

On other side of PAV ----

>. **Mieu TEMP**: EMP's shines /PIKs, FRCH restricted which cud be honored

Pretty GARDs

Flanked by:

Small robing house:

'Soil god' shrine:

Behind these ---- into sm walled enclosure

Hung >. Mieu TEMP: 1804 reconstruct, > honor EMP Gia Long's parents

2B4 **Dien Tho RES**: 1804, stunning, partially ruined, 4 queen mother's RES,

Behind 2 un-named TEMPS > Dien Tho RES

Just outside res > -----

Pleasure PAV: carved wood, above lily pond.,

> L ----

Tinh Minh BLDG: MED clinic & Bao Dai's PRIV RES

18A4 Truong San RES: 1844, OOM appealing, but terribly war damaged

Imposing gate w/ prancing dragons ?phoenixes

INT: partially restored w/ elaborate COL & tiles

Overlooking **Dong Ba Canal** ---

~E1 **Dieu De NAT Pagoda**: 1841, 4 low TOWs 4 low TOW,

Strong Buddha STUD opposition > S Viet Gov't

PAV on either side:

~D7 **NAT School**: 1896, OOM Viet Fam; many FAM peeps: HCM

~~~ **Royal Fine Arts MUS**: (SE off VIET Hue 1 LPm166.pdf) **LOC**: An Dinh PAL: murals, ceramics, furniture, royal clothing

~~~ **Bao Quoc Pagoda: 1670, LOC/DIRECS**: S from D Le Loi on Dien Bien Phu, THEN, take 1<sup>st</sup> R after Xing RR trks

LOC: hilltop, S **Perfume RIV** bank

DIRECS: S from D le Loi on D Dien Bien Phu, take 1st R after RR trks

triple gated entry, monk CEM,

On R: Monks's training CNTR

10C7 **Ho Chi Minh MUS**: Better than most; PIKs & ENG captions

~~~ **Tang Tau Lake (Ngoc Huong Pagoda)**: **LOC**: (NW off VIET Hue 1 LPm166.pdf)

**LOC**: on isle in lake NE of Tinh Tam LakePK & GARD

## AROUND HUE:

22h

**Royal Tombs:** (1802-19450, extravagant mausoleums, planned during lifetime & RES; rent bike

> tour

**USUAL DESIGN:** 5 essential elements:

**Stele PAV:** accomplishments, exploits, virtues      **TEMP:** worship of EMP & wife

**Sepulchre:** enclosed      **Honor Courtyard:** stone elephants, horses, civil/MIL mandarins

**Lotus Pond:** surrounded w/ frangipani & pine trees

**LOC:** along Perfume RIV banks: 2-16km > S

**Tu Duc TOMB:** most impress/ POP, self-designed,

½ D

**LOC/DIRECS:**

Entry path leads > **Luu Khiem Lake** ('modest') LK,

... on R: **Tinh Kheim ISL** (hunt sm game)

... across water > L **Xung Kheim PAV** (read/rite poerty > chicks)

**THEN,** **Hoa Kheim TEMP:** (EMP & wife worshipped)

... > R of TEMP & behind **Minh Kheim Chamber** (ORIGy theatre),

... directly behind TEMP > **Luong Kheim TEMP** (mom's);

**THEN,** Just around lakeshore **Honour Courtyard's** diminutive elephants, horses & mandarins,

Continue > **Stele PAV** w/ 20 ton stone tablet,

**THEN,** > [5km S on Van Nien Hill in Doung Xuan Thuong VILL]

**Tomb** (not here, remains UNKWN; 200 servants were beheaded)

**TIP: Dong Khanh TOMB:** **LOC:** 500m behind Tu Duc Tomb ;  
CLOSED: **CHK!** 2h

? **Thieu Tri TOMB:** **LOC:** 7km, 2km x-country track from Dong Khanh Tomb;



**Minh Mang TOMB:** EMP planned, but bilt afterward **ARCH** & natural setting,

3h

**LOC/DIRECS**

THEN, >> 3 gates on E side of wall > **Honor Courtyard,**

THEN, 3 granite staircases > **Stele PAV** (Dinh Vuong),

**THEN,** via 3 terraces & rebuilt **Hien Duc Gate** > **Sung An TEMP,**

... On other side of TEMP > 3 stone bridges which span **Trung Minh Ho Lake**

**THEN,** on top of 3 super-imposed terraces (heavens, earth, water) >

**Minh Lau PAV** (PAV of light)

... > L: **Fresh Air PAV**

... > R: **Angling PAV,**

...?...THEN, @ **Tan Nguyet Lake** (Lake of New Moon)

... cross stone bridge > monumental staircase w/ dragon banisters (nagas/) > **Minh Mang's sepulcher,**

**NOTE:** Minh Mang's ACTUAL tomb : 12km from Hue Why?

? **Khai Dinh TOMB:** **LOC:** 10km ? In Chau Chu VILL

Penultimate FRCH puppet EMP,

? **Gia Long TOMB:** **LOC:** 14km Nguyen dynasty, 1802, ruled, 1819, rarely visited, Emp & wife, ruins only w/ no wall,



\* **Thanh Toan BRIDGE**: classic JA covered footbridge, Novel, kinda difficult > find 3h

**LOC**: 7km E of  
Hue in **Thuy Thanh**  
**VILL** See pdf

**DIRECS**: On D Ba Thieu > Citadel HOT sign, THEN, turn R on bumpy dirt rd 6km (past VILLs, rice pads, pagodas)



**Hai Van Pass & Tunnel**: Spec views on beautiful days 1/2D

**LOC / DIRECS**:

buy TIK @ Danang STA: (50cents > seaside Lang Co VILL on other side of mt range & TRN DP @ 8.59am. TRAV >> back lanes of Danang till reach outskirts of city & after crossing several bridges, climb up mt range begins w/ spec views across bay looking back > Danang.(can buy local food from many vendors on TRN @ little whistle stop STAs on way.)

After arriving @ Lang Co DP TRN & ignore many motorbike taxis & walk across bridge into twn: many over priced touristy seafood rest on water on your left **but** keep going further into twn THEN, ask any of little cafes 4 home made oyster & prawn soup: \$6 4 bowl > feed 8 peep.

TO RETURN: hail Mai Linh taxi & negotiate price back > Danang **over pass & not through tunnel**. \$20 > \$25 & take heaps of photos!

**TIP**: DON'T STOP @ top of pass as vendors there like pack of Hyenas around fresh kill.

**TIP**: DON'T STOP @ top of pass as vendors there like pack of Hyenas around fresh kill.

**Local TRN** w/ upright wood seats, open windows, 90min, TIKs: Danang STA DP: 8:59a, ; THEN, @ Lang Co disembark walk across bridge > twn; in Twn: sk 4 "homemade oysetr & prawn soup, THEN, negotiate taxi 4 return > Danang over pass: \$25 VIDEO: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3keVzhKJBpg>

**Thien Mu Pagoda**: (early morn -BEST B4 tours) VIET icon

2 1/2h

**W side upper 3rd**; **VIET HUE 3 AROUND Lpm175.pdf**

**LOC**: 4km SW of Citadel on Perfume RIV on hiill

**DIRECS**: scenic bike : GO SW (parallel > Perf RIV on riverside D Tran Hung Dao turns into D Le Duan after Phu Xuan Bridge, THEN, X RR tks forward on D Kim Long

**Thap phuoc Duyen TOW**: 21m HI, octagonal

> R of TOW: **PAV** w/stele, (1715) on massive turtle,

> L of TOW: 6-sided PAV w/huge bell,

In inner courtyard past triple gate > TEMP: w/ 3 Buddha STAT, ,

**Famous 1963 Saigon self-immolation MONK Thich Quang Duc's Austin car**

**Lp177 sidebar**



**Tu Hieu Pagoda: (1843):** twin TEMPs, 70 monks; chanting: 4:30a, 10a, noon, 4p, 7p 2½h

**LOC:** 5km from Hue CNTR en route > Tu Duc Tomb

**Thuan An > Ving Hien:** p178 [See download](#)

**NO Ho Quyen:** royal pastime watching elephants & tigers fight, **DISGUSTING**

**Nam Giao Esplanade:** OOM IMP RELIG sites, sacrificial offerings (last 1946); 1h

**Nearby Fasting PAL** p178

**LOC:** S end of D Dien Bien Phu, 2km from RR trks

**DIRECS:** scenic

**SKIP DMZ:** LP 158: cuz nothing there anymore

**Dong Hoi > Phong Nha-Ke Bang NP: NPA, CAVES: OVN****4D****TRANS-IN:****HUE > Dong Hoi:****TRN:** from Hue (9/d, 2 ½-6hr)**BUS:** Hue: (6/d, 5hr)**Hung Thanh** BUS DP from 49 Chu Van An @ 16:30 & arrives @ Easy Tiger @ around 21:30. This will drop off @ our door.**Dong Hoi > 50km NW > Son Trach VILL****Local BUS:** 2hr) from outside BUS STA (1.3 km from TRN STA)

(DP: 5:30a, 6a, thereafter evry 1&gt;1 ½ h until 5:30PM, 1 ½ h, )

**TRA STA > Local BUS:****MINI BUS:** btwn Da Nang> Hue > Dong Ha > Phong Nha Farmstay**TRANS-LOCAL:****TRANS- OUT****Son Trach > Dong Noi:** local knowledge ( local BUS / **Phong Nha Farmstay**)**Dong Hoi > Hanoi:****TRN:** from **Dong Hoi:** (7/d, 9-12½hr)**BUS:** from **Dong Hoi** (?/d, 7hr)**ACCM:****Easy Tiger HOS: in Son Trach: Review Easy Tiger site? TRANS again ???**

TL20, Phong NHA, Sơn Trạch, Bồ Trạch, Quảng Bình, VIET;; +84 52 3677 844

**TRANS:** Sort this out 4 separate page**TRN:** book > Dong Hoi , (not Dong Ha)**Hue BUS:****OPT #1:** Dong Hoi > Son Trach> Easy Tiger: **OPT #2: ; OPT #3:****DP:** outside BUS STA (1.3km from TRN STA) (evry 1-1 1/2h, 1 1/2h,**Dong Hoi BUS > Son Trach:** Easy's transfer \$22**FAC:** Clean, Mr. Tung, bike, GUD Trva info, , staff, ;;; 4DMs GUD, huge lock, Book BUS & tours across ST,**NO Phong Nha Farmstay:** no dm, TOO expensive(no /c), r\$25,

NO more dorms, cuz moved &gt; Easy Tiger HOS ??

**LOC:** 13km S of Son Trach**TRANS:** PUs from Dong Hoi, FAC: Aussie/Viet couple, bike/mtrbike, views,**TOURS:****Phong Nha Farmstay TOUR:** 900,000 d minibus \$40; , \$65 wow big increase**JB Jungle Tour** unexploded ordnance ?**Paradise Cave,**

turquoise river, ecotrail of Nuoc Mooc &amp; war shrine known as Eight Lady cave

**Phong Nha Ke Bang Tourism Center:** Phong Nha cave & Dark Caves**Phong Nha-Ke Bang NP:****Phong Nha Caves & Boat Trip: OPT: 1: Tien Son Cave:**

**Hanoi:****TRANS-IN:**

**TRN:** Hanoi TRN STA:

**Main TRN STA main TRN STA:**

**LOC:** near of Hoan Kiem CNTR, on Le Duan ST.

**DIRECS:** easiest, W on Ly Thuong Kiet directly > STA.

**actually 2 STA:** across trk from ea other, can't walk btwn them -- have > go via ST that take around block

Issue arises cuz trains scheduled > DP @ 1 STA sometimes rerouted > other 4 logistical reasons. Even if told exactly which STA > go >, arrive early enough > switch STA. only takes few min, but whole thing can be confusing.

**STA 'A':** DP > S,

**STA 'B':** DP > N,

**NORTH:** > Sapa, (w/no STA, but stopping @ Lao Cai: 40 km away.

**Lao Cai STA > Sapa:** Regular shuttles: \$2. Jeeps & moto-taxis also available.

Lao Cai: 300 km <<(DP: Hanoi nightly/sleeper: 20:35, 21:10 & 21:50 ( SP trains 7, 1 & 3) & ARV Lao Cai( 4:55, 5:25 & 6:15 respectively).

**PROCEDURE:** simply hop on board, tuck into bunk, sleep, & wake up there. **'hard sleepers':** sound worse than: thin mattress w/ thick blanket -- most slept just fine.(\$ w//c 355,000 > 450,000 VND ; **soft sleeper** bunks w//c from 515,000 VND)

**Presumably these S bound TRN go reverse RT.:**

**Hue: Hard sleeper** w/ /c: 654,000–804,000 VND, **soft sleeper** w/ /c: 840,000–850,000 VND, 13 h

**Da Nang: Hard sleeper** w/ /c: 724,000–890,000 VND, **soft sleeper** w/c: 930k–940kVND, 15.5 h

**TRANS-LOCAL:**

**BUS:** LP82: Get Xe Buyt Hanoi ( Hanoiis BUS Map from Thang Long Bookshop: LP75

**Main DP Point:** N end of Hoan Kiem Lake

**TAXIS:** **ONLY use** :Thanh Nga Yaxi: 3821 5215; others dishonest;; or **Van Xuan:** 3822 2888

**TRANS- OUT**

**> Airport:**

**Airport Shuttle:** (Airlines)

**PUB BUS #17(?)** from Long Bien BUS TERM, N of OQ 20 min walk; 17 picks up along Tran Quang Khai @ eastern edge of Old Quarter. Fare 4,000/5,000 VND.

**AIR:** TUC > Hanoi: LP511

**Airport> OQ:** 35km, 45 min, **USE Local Knowledge**

**VIET AIR mini- BUS:** BUT mafia

**BUS:**

often more convenient > buy @ TRAV agency, **if PU @ hostel;** IF INDEPENDENT: add price > STA > overall price.

**Luong Yen & Gia Lam STA:** close > Old Quarter, if choice.

**Luong Yen BUS STA (Ben Xe Luong Yen T): (04) 3987 4885**

TIK: 06:00 > 23:00

4 most, only BUS STA needed; M convenient STA > OQ. Hai Phong & N, E & S

**DIRECS:** GO> Tran Quang Khai side of Hoan Kiem District, THEN, head 2 km S ; good 4 DP >.

**Hoang Long BUS company** (<http://www.hoanglongasia.com>)

REVERSE ?

**Dong Ha** (Quang Tri): 370,000, 12 h

**Hue:** 360,000, 13 h

**Da Nang:** 480,000, 15 h

**Hai Phong:** DP every 10 min 04:50-21:00, costs 70,000 VND, 2 h

**Gia Lam BUS STA:** (*Ben Xe Gia Lam T*): (04) 3827 1529

, TIKs: 05:00 > 18:00

**LOC:** E of Red RIV on Ngo Gia Kham, 2km from far side of Chuong Duong or Long Bien Bridges.

**DIRECS** > get here, take either Chuong Duong or Long Bien Bridges > Pho Ngoc Lam which runs E-W btwn 2 bridges. ??? THEN, < 2km later R turn sign 4 BUS STA & left turn 4 TRN STA.

**Hai Phong:** DP from 07:00 > 18:00 every h except @ 12:00. Costs 70,000 VND, takes 2 h

**Hon Gai (Halong City):** DP 06:00-16:00, every 20 min, costs 115,000 VND, takes 4 h

**Lao Cai:** DP @ 18:00, costs 300,000 VND

**My Dinh BUS STA** (*Ben Xe My Dinh T*): (04) 3768 5549;

DP > N, S & E cities; Major cities below ;;; **TIKS:** open 04:30-23:00; 7km W of Hanoi.

**DIRECS:** take Tran Phu west from Old Quarter, THEN, @ end turn left onto Son Tay eventually becomes Kim Ma Keep going straight > & >> roundabout > Cua Giay, THEN, continue until road crosses under an overpass. THEN, take left on > Pham Hung.

**Bac Ha:** (Flower H'mong MKT) DP @ 07:15, 08:15 & 09:35, costs 180,000 VND.

**Bac Kan** (4 Ba Be Nat'l Park): 05.50, 06.20, 13.30 & 15.30, costs 100,000–180,000 VND, 3.5 h

**Bai Chay** (Halong Bay): DP every 15 min from 05:30 > 18:00, costs 90,000 VND, 3 h

**Cao Bang:** DP 05:00-20:00 (15 DP), costs 117,000 VND, 10 h

**Lai Chau:** DP every 30 min 17:00-20:00, costs 300,000 VND, 10 h

**Lao Cai:** DP @ 07:30, costs 200,000 VND, 10 h

**Nho Quan** (4 Cuc Phuong Nat'l Park): DP 06:00-16:00 (every 15 min), costs 80,000 > 100,000 VND, 3 h

**Southern BUS Terminal** *Ben Xe Phia Nam T*: (04) 3864 1467,

**TIK:** open ticketing 05:00 > 18:00

**DIRECS:** 5 km S of OQ on Duong Giai ; dominated by private comfortable long distance- rt BUSs DP > N, E & S;

**Hue/Da Nang:** First class sleeper w/ food DP @ 16:00, costs 340,000 VND. First class seated w/ food DP @ 17:00, costs 260,000 VND, 14 > 16 h. Operator: Kim Chi, 0913 422 687

**FOOD:**

CAUTION: dog meat = “*thit cho*”

**Avoid “Pho Nghi Tam” REST area 10 km N of Hanoi**

Lp 65 Sidebar: “Top 10 ST Food Experiences”

LP 69 Sidebar: “Specialty Food ST”

**MISC: MONEY:**

**ATMs:** some limit > 3,000,000d = \$134.64

**TET:** late Jan or early Feb;

### ACCM: ??? GOOG search 4 LP hostels, none R in HW

Budget: in or around OQ; ave \$20-25; mini-boom: efficieny-run HOS & dm\$6-9;

**YES 1 Hanoi Riverside HOT:** 98 8/12dm\$5/4.55,

**REV: PRO:** Gud: NOT pushy, flexible, **airport PU**, staff, brkfst, ENG, wifi++, cln+, ;;; :

**FAC:** /c, elevator, wifi pub area, **pets???**, lock, rest, hot show, TRAV, bike, w/d, cafe, comrm, **KIT**,, lug stor, brkfst,linen,

**YES 1 Central BP HOS:**87

**REV: PRO: GUD:** staff, rm, brkfst, ENG, clean, LOC, beds, safe area, ;

**FAC:****a/c**, wifi: pub only,rest,hot show,TRAV, bike, w/d, elevator, lug stor, brkfst,linen, **airport PU**,

**YES 1 GRN ST HOT:** 93.3; 6/8dm\$5/6,

**REV: PRO:** Gud: grt staff, **airport PU**, clean, LOC, gud dm, ;;; dm: cln,

**Query: Lug stor,???**

**FAC:** /c, wifi pub areas, hot show, TRAV, bike, w/d, elevator,

\* **Hanoi BP 2:** dm\$6-9, LOC:

**REV: PRO:**

**FAC:** clean dm, rest, tours,

\* **Hanoi Gecko 3:** dm\$6;

**REV: PRO:** less social, more 'local' OQ section,

**FAC:** simple bunk dm, rest,

\* **Thu Giang GH:** dm \$5,

**REV: PRO:** modest, quiet alley (?) , famy, overspill branch,

**CON:HW:**

**Flipside HOS:** 9.0, 7/8\$8dm,

**? Little Hanoi HOS:** 9.0, 6\$7dm

**REV: PRO:** clean, quiet, GUD: wifi, GRT staff, i ;;; **6dm: 1st flr**

**CON:** **tour/ BUS tik - more \$ than others(2)** , DM: **no lock**, tour pushy, e HOT more than HOS,

**FAC:** airpt trans, cafe, wifi,lock, brkfst, common RM, lug stor, /c, bike, hot show, linen, rest, TRAV

**Hanoi Rendezvous HOT:** 9.0, 6\$8 dm; more HOT than HOS,

**REV: PRO:** Gud: dm (cln, not bunks,beds) ENG , brkfst, staff,

**FAC:** /c, bike, wifi,lug stor, rest,brkfsy, hot show, lock,TRAV

**Hanoi OQ HOT:** 9.4, s\$20, ONLY 2 REV

**REV: PRO:** Gud: grt staff, **bkk'd1, stayed 4**; clean, brkfst,

**FAC:** /c, bike, w/d, shuttle BUS, airport trans, **elevator**, lug stor, rest, TRAV, brkfst, ceil fan, wifi,

**Splendid Jupiter HOT:** 9.4, s\$20 new/renov,

**REV: PRO:** Gud: staff, wifi, cln, Mgr Philippe

**FAC:** /c, bike, wifi, w/d, lug stor, airport > TRANS, cafe, rest, brkfst, **elavator**, hot show, lock, TRAV, shuttle BUS, air

**??? Get from OWC BU**

**REV: PRO:** GUD: clean++, grt staff, lock, LOC, ENG, dm:quiet,mxd GUD, plug & lite; but **no wifi**, ;;;TIP: if no wifi, get nextdoor cafe 's PW

**CON:** 2ng rates, diff exch, cold show?,

**FAC:** /c, brkfst, wifi, hot show, w/d, lug stor, TRAV, airport TRANS, ceil fan, linen, shuttle BUS, bikes, cafe, comRM, **KIT**, lock, REST,

**NO Hanoi ST HOT:** 9.7, s\$20, no REV

**REV: PRO: Gud:**

**CON:** no linen,

**FAC:** /c, bike, wifi, lug stor, airport TRAN, cafe, **elevator**, w/d, rest, TRAV, brkfst, comrm, hot show,

**NO Little Hanoi Diamond:** 9.2, 8\$7dm

**REV: PRO:** NON-smok, GUD: LOC, staff, ENG, ;; dm w//c & fan,

**CON:** no common area, **NO elevator (DM 6flrs)**, dirty bath,

**FAC:** Airport TRANS, bike, lock, TRAV, cafe, lug stor, shut BUS, /c, brkfst, ceil=fan, wifi, rest, linen,

**LP:**

**NO** Hanoi Rocks HOS: 8.9, 18/14\$5dm,

**REV: PRO: CON: noisy (2 clubs)**

**FAC:** a/c, lock, comm, rest, hot show, TRAV, elevator, pub area wifi, \$18 airport PU, Lug RM, brkfst, new dm, bike rent,

Riverside PAL HOS: 8.8/95%; , r\$10.50

VIET BP HOS- DwnTwn: 8.8, \$5dm,

Hanoi Old TWN HOT: 8.8, r\$8

New Vision HOS: 8.7, r\$7.5

VIET BP HOST- ORIG: 8.7, \$6dm,

Hanoi Rendezvous HOS: 8.5, \$5dm, no map

**LP:**

**DBL CHK ThornTree forum 4 latest on HOS scams etc**

### **NO DORMS:**

Serenity HOT: no dm,

Hanoi GH: no dm,

Camel City HOT: no dm,

Rising Dragon HOT: no dm,

Thuy Nga GH: no dm,

Sports HOT: no dm,

Manh Dung GH: no dm,

## OQ WALKING TOUR:

½D

Lp76 Sidebar: "OQ ST nakes LIST"

Start @

1) **2C1 Ngoc TEMP**

THEN, return over red

2) **Huc Bridge** .... >

3) **1D1 Martyr's MON**

THEN, follow P Dinh Tien Hoang >

40 **53E5 Muni Water**

**Puppet Theater (LPm48, pre-book)**

Lp75 Sidebar: "Punch & Judy in Pool"

THEN, N on O Hang Dau >

5) **shoe shops**

THEN, cross P Cau Go > P Hang Be's

6) **Local MKT** on P Gia Ngu

THEN, back on P Hang Be, > N > P Hang Bac & C ...

7) **artisans carving stone gravestones**

THEN, up P Ma May >

8) **2E3 Memorial House @**

#87 SEE "87 Ma May House.pdf"

THEN, return > P Hang Bac, passing ...

9) **jewelry shops** .... >

10) **House 102** (includes fully functioning TEMP)

THEN, retrace slightly & up narrow alley >

11) **P Ta Hien (str)** (POP after dark bars)

THEN, turn L on P Hang Buom >

12) **~D2 Bach Ma TEMP**

THEN, continue on >

13) **1D1 Cua O Quan Chuong** (well preserved Old E Gate)

THEN, continue N on P Thanh Ha >

14) **ST MKT**

THEN, veer L >

15) **55C1 Dong Xuan MKT**

THEN, backtrack S on Nguyen Thien Thuat & turn R on > P Han Chieu past

16) **straw mats & rope SHOPS** .... > (NOTE: P Han Chieu **changes** > P Hang Ma

17) **P Hang Ma:** (here, 'ghost money' sold 4 Buddha ceremonies)

THEN, follow 'ears' > ( NOTE: near corner of P Lo Ren & P Thuoc Bac)

18) **Blacksmiths** (Note: adjoining P Thuoc Bac & P Lan Ong,

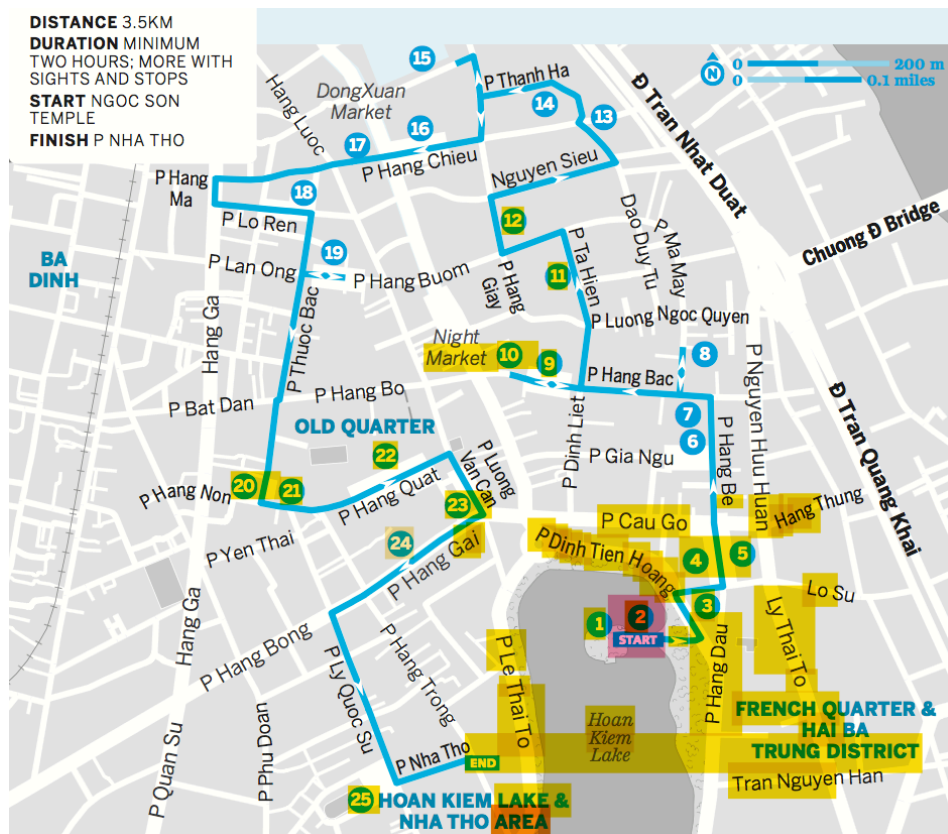
Thanh Binh STORE: TRAD rice wine: **maybe learn something!!!**

THEN, coontinue on P Lan Ong >

19) **herb merchants** (pungent fragrances)

THEN, dbl back > P Thuoc Bac turn S > pass

20) **tin box makers** ...





opposite mirror shops on P Hang Quat

**21) Mirror shops**

THEN, continue L on P Hang Quat >

**22) Buddha altars & STATS SHOPS**

THEN, along P Luong Van Can's

**23) Toy SHOPS**

THEN, along P Hang Gai's (PHG)

**24) elegant silk SHOPS** ( Khai Silk, 57C5 96 PHG; Hadong Silk: 56C5 102 PHG;

NOTE: Hom MKT: LPm58: LOC: NE corner: P Hue & p Tran Xuan Soan: 4 fabrics

THEN, S on P Ly Quoc Su >

**25) 3B2 St Joseph's CATH**

THEN, along P Nha Tho's

**CAFES ..... END**

**OLD QUARTER SITES:**

> DO: MUST: ride across Long Bien Bridge on xe om

2h

½h

**MKTS:**

Night MKT: LPm48: N-S >> OQ, PED, pick pockets

GEN: st: narrow, congested, pho stalls, 1000 yr HIST,

"dykes" LOC: along Tran Quang Khai,; "tunnel" / "tube" houses: > avoid tax on frontage footage;

**50 ST = different products/services:** EX: Hang Quat = red candle sticks;

P Hang Gai: silk, laquerware, "ao dai" TRAD Nat dress

Lp76 Sidebar: "OQ ST nakes LIST"

**Dong Xuamn MKT:** LPm48,

1h

rebuilt 1994 fire, lrg, non-touristy,

**Ancient Hanoi Citadel:** LOC: W side of OQ;; (Emp Gia Long), NOW: MIL base;



below

**Bach Ma TEMP:** LPm48: oldest: 11<sup>th</sup> C; old wood doors,

white horse STAT; red lacquered funeral palanquin; Confucius shrine, 1839;

**Memorial House** (TRAD merchant's house) LPm48: best restored OQ sites,

1h

2 courtyards, hi steps btwn rm: stop bad energy flows;

## AROUND HOAN KIEM LAKE: VIET Hanoi Hoan Kiem Lake-AROUND LPm54.pdf 5¾h

- ~**C1 ELECT TRN CARS**: OQ & Hoan Kiem LK, Make loop 4 fun, 40 min, 8:30a-10:30p) ¾h  
**STOPS: any of mus (LocKnow)**
- ~**D2 Hoan Kiem LK**: Old Hanoi CNTR, Turtle/Sword legend,  
**2C1 Ngoc TEMP**: LPm52: WT  
**LOC**: on isle @ N of lake via elegant scarlet bridge w/ flags  
 Dedicated: Gen that defeated Mongols, 13<sup>th</sup> C;
- 1D1 Martyr's WHT, MON**: Viet independence WT  
**4C2 Thap Rua** (Turtle TOW): ramshackle: LOC: ¼h  
**CU Rua's Youtube capture 4 MED**
- 3B2 St. Joseph CATH**: LPm52: (5a-?p) 1886, ½h  
 tw'n bell TOW, elaborate altar, stain glass windows,
- \* ~**A4 Hoa Lo Prison MUS**: LPm52: "Hanoi Hilton"; (8a-5p) Frch , 1896; ¾h  
 100's escaped over walls /. Sewer; Frch guillotine;  
 AMER pilot exhib: McCain's flt suit, rescue PIKs; contrast: 'nice' PIKs w/ McCain's torture (?)
- ~~~ **Viet Women's Prison**: LPm52: (8a-4p) 1½h  
**SE off VIET Hanoi Hoan Kiem Lake-AROUND LPm54.pdf**  
**OObest** MUS, renov, GUD ENG,  
 Ind women's: heroic contribs; propaganda posters,
- \* ~**F4 Nat MUS VIET HIST** LPm52: 1925, (8a-4:30p) 1¼h  
 ARCH (elegant, ochre, Fr & CHI blend) &  
 Stuff (3<sup>rd</sup> C bronzes, Khymer/Champa STAT, Imp Viet: jewelry, etc), GUD ENG, ¾h
- ~**F4 MUS of Viet REV**: LPm56: LOC: across from HIST MUS (\*-11:30a & 1:30p-5:15p)

**W of OLD QUARTER: VIET Hanoi W of OQ LPm56.pdf****6¾h**

\* **~A3 HCM Complex:** LPm56- W of OQ: holy site;

**6B3 HCM Mausoleum:** (MORN ONLY: Dec-Sep: 8a-11a, NO Mon & FRI)

2h

**Strict Rules:** 1) pants, 2) no cam, 3) respect, 4) NO hand in pockets, 5) hats off in bldg

Roof & peristyle: evoke either TRAD communal HSE or lotus flower

**INT:** glass sarcophagus: frail HCM body: Queue: moves quickly,

**EXT:** Changing of Guards: PIKs OK,

**7A2 HCM Stilt HSE & PRES PAL:** fee, closed Mon, 8a-11a & 1:30p-4p)

1h

**LOC:** behind mausoleum

**Stilt HSE:** just as left

**HCM cars:** adjacent bldg

**9B2 PRES PAL:** restored COL BLDG, 1906,

**DIRECS:** when Main ENTRY closed, enter from D Hung Vuong near PAL BLDG

**NO 5A3 HCM MUS:** (Mausoleum shud B enuf) LPm?; fee, LOC: adjacent > HCM Mausoleum

**8B3 One Pillar Pagoda:** 1049,

¼h

SYMB: 'purity rising out of sorrow', FRCH 'purposely' destroyed;

**2B3 Ba Dinh SQ:**

½h

Site of HCM's 9-2-1945 Proclamation of Independence of Demo Rep of

\* **~C4 VIET MIL HIST MUS:** EXT of weapons, Soviet/CHI w/ French,

1h

USA; poignant: Mig-21 surrounded by French aircraft wreckage & US F111

...4C4 **Flag TOW:** **LOC:** nearby,

¼h

...11C4 **Lenin STAT:** **LOC:** opp MUS in sm PK

\* **~B4 Fine Arts MUS:** Fee 20k d, /C, (Yes, if time)

¼h

1st BLDG: (quickly, if @ all) 2nd BLDG: Champa stone carvings, Guan Giin effigies, 100 eyed/armed goddess, remarkable wood Buddha Monk STATs,

\* **~B5 TEMP of LIT:** LPm56: 1070, > Confucious (Khong Tu),

¾h

well preserved VIET ARCH; 1484, 82 stelae record outstanding (CHI ?)scholars;

ENTRY GATE: imposing, plaque: Horse dismount;

THEN: thru formal GARD > Khue Van PAV, 1802, > Irg SQ pond: Well of Heavenly Clarity

**1D6 Ambassador's Pagoda:** LPm56: Trip Adv;

¼h

ORIG, RES 4 visiting foreign Buddha ambassadors

**10B1 Quan Thanh TEMP:** LPm56: 1225,

½h

**LOC:** on Truc Bach Lake shore near D Thanh Nien & P Quan Thanh intersection

**FRENCH QUARTER: VIET Hanoi Fr Q LPm58.pdf****1¼h**

\* ~D3 Hai Ba Trung TEMP:

½h

1A2 Lenin PK:

½h

2B2 Lenin PK Main Gate

¼h

**GREATER HANOI: VIET Hanoi 1 INDEX MAP.pdf****5h**

Viet MUS of Ethnology: W of MAP's SW corner LPm44: cam fee,

2h

OO Best MUS, VIET minorities, , GUD ENG, TRAD VILL houses, Bahnar communal structure, ; thatched roof Girarai TOMB w/ risqué wood STATS;

LOC: Cau Giay district 7km from CNTR

DIRECS: Local BUS from P Dinh Tien Hoang on E side of Hoan Kiem Lake; get off @ Nghia Tan BUS STOP ( 2 blks from MUS) , THEN, head &gt; D Nguyen Van Huyen

Tay Ho (W Lake): LPm44: 2 TEMPs : Tay Ho &amp; Tran Quoc -- amid rest &amp; HOTs, 3h

GUD Bike ride around lake: RENT @ Don's Chef Bistro @ lakeside

2 legends: 1) Dragon King drowned 9 tailed fox, 2) Buddha monk w/ bronze gift, makes bell , calling CHI calf who creates lake

Tay Ho Pagoda: MAP's above SW corner M POP Hanoi worship site,

Tran Quoc Pagoda: LPm44: LOC: MAP's SE corner E shore, VIET's oldest: rebuilt in: 15th, 1842;

Truc Bach Lake: LPm44: Other side of SW corner bridge

LOC: separated from Tay Ho LK by D Thanh Nien ST:

1st: PAL: on lake shore, THEN reformatory 4 'wayward concubines';

**AROUND HANOI: 1 ½ d + 1h****13h****HCM Trail MUS:** 13km SW of H , (Open: M-Sat: 7:30a-11 & 1:30-4:30p)

1.5- 2 h; on RT &gt; Perfume Pagoda, little ENG,

3h

LOC: BUS no 1 that goes past museum. That BUS actually starts @ Long Bien BUS STA. That's about 1.5 kms north of Hoan Kiem lake, but &gt; save going up &gt; BUS STA, can catch that BUS about 4 or so blocks west of lake. I'm pretty certain it's BUS no 1, but it's best &gt; confirm that w/ tourist office on north side of that lake.

THEN stay on that BUS (5,000 dong) all way > where it stops. It also goes past Van Phuc handicraft village, if you're into that sort of thing. Once BUS reaches its terminal (I can't remember name), head out of BUS STA & turn left. After 30 yards or so, you'll cross small canal. Turn left onto one lane dirt road immediately after you've passed canal. After couple hundred yards or so, you'll see entrance > military facility. Turn right just before barrier & go about 100 yards or so > museum, which will be on your left. museum actually run by Army, which why it's on an Army base.

DIRECS:

Ask MUS attendant &gt; show 20m edl film FIRST

Model of trail tunnels in back garden which museum guard will open 4 .(sm \$1 fee)

TIP: combine w/ &gt; silk village trip: Van Phuc,

**Handicraft VILL: Van Phuc: SILK:**

½DT

LOC 8km SW of H,

DIRECS: City BUS #1: from Long Bien BUS STA

**Perfume Pagoda:** 60 km from H, \$15 tours (easiest OPT) **Worth it ? Not if high season crowds**

½DT

**Thay & Tay Phuong Pagodas:** \$40 DT on cliffs, dramatic, **Worth it ? Can't find out.** ½DT

SEE "Thay & Tay Phoung Pagodas, Hanoi, VIET.pdf"

LOC: 30 km W of H

TRANS: ( anything else on tour : Ba Vi NP ?)

Maybe **Duong Lam ancient VILL:** on outskirts of Hanoi aka laterite MUS cuz 300 3-4C old houses built w/ lateritic bricks

**Thay Pagoda:** (aka Thien Phuc):

Buddha STATs, pond puppet stage, steep path around main pagoda > 'beautiful' sm pagoda

**Tay Phuong Pagoda:** 3 levels on hillock, looks like: buffalo, IMP: 'jackfruit' wooden carved figures

NO site no interest Ba Vi NP: 65km W of H

NO site no interest Co Loa Citadel:

NO site no interest Tam Dao Hill STA : Mainly Viet rest /bart resort, not pretty

# NE VIET

## Cat Ba Island: Best OPT

5D



**NOTE: If Hanoi Based OVN Cruise: don't go cheap- danger**

\$80-90/ OVN, includes: trans, , meals, maybe - hike

**NO Halong City: CAUTION:** all boats R SCAM laden

### Cat Ba TWN:

Biking, hiking, personal kayaking(?); Lan Ha Bay, , ½ : Nat Pk, INT: lakes, waterfalls, grottos,

**TRANS-IN: VAR boat & BUS combios from Hanoi ( or Halong City)**

**Hoang Long Company (reverse of above)** (DP: 7:15a, 9:15a, 1:15p, 3:15pm) (another source: (DP:7:20, 11:20, 13:20 ?)

**Hanoi >< Cat Ba: CAUTION: Check TIK B4 leaving TIK window that date correct**

- 1) DP from **Luong Yen BUS STA** w/ **Hoang Long** company (DP: 10a, 2p,4p) 3hr, 210kd,- well run) > **Haiphong BUS TERM**, (3h)
- 2) THEN, minibus (40min) > **Dinh Vu port** (near Haiphong),
- 3) THEN, boat (20 min) > **Cai Vieng harbor** (aka Phu Long) on Cat Ba Island,
- 4) THEN, mini BUS (30min)> **Cat Ba twN**

**Other Haiphong OPT,**

### TRANS-IN:

>Hanoi: easiest : BUS + speed Boat + BUS .; find: on main beach road by docks.

HOAN TUYEN TRAV & Hoang Long company sell combined(?) TIK daily (240,000

VND: Cat Ba > Hanoi.(4,5 h).

### TRANS-LOCAL:

#### Motorbike:

easily **rent**: any hotel -\$5 (standard)/d or less if serarch or low season.

**1.5L bottle of petrol**: NO more than 50,000 dong, bought in some small towns or poert near town's end; Bike rental include: photocopied island map \$ planning, etc.

**MT Biking: Blue Swimmer Adventures**: best quality bikes:

**RT**: OOBest: isle heart past Hospital Cave down > W coast mangroves, THEN, loop back past tidal flats & beaches > Cat Ba TWN

**Sailing karst islands**: Blue Swimmer:

Sailing excursions, also OVN Lan Ha Bay > Nam Cat BCH, bamboo hut sleeping \$39

Kayak Rentals:

Also: Butterfly VAL hike /tour: independent?

**TOURS:** only use LP vetted companies ----

**3C2 Blue Swimmer** (of course): (Vinh - Handspan founder) : CHI Junk sailing around Cat Ba

Trek 4500 bike new : Rental:

Half day: \$8. (9am-12pm or 1pm-4pm).

Full day: \$15. (9am-4pm)

Local guide on mtrbike: \$20. (9am-4pm)

**4C2 Cat Ba Ventures:** Mr. Tung:

**Asia Adventures:** sailing

**ACCM:** (below: low season rates), Sad HOT boom,

**HW:**

**Catba Central HOS: 8.9, \$5dm OOB**

**RE: Pro: GUD:** beds, clean, wifi, lock, mtrbike, staff (**King Kong**), dm: big, lug stor?, **brkfst**,

**Con:** /c sucks,

**FAC:** cafe, elevator, non-smok,

**Catba HOS: 7.8, \$2dm, r\$2.5**

**REV: Pro: GUD:** staff, clean, mtrbike, **wifi:rm**, ceil fan: noisy,

**Con:** //c bad, pushy tour,

**FAC:** no brkfst, wifi, rest, cafe, w/d, /c, ceil fan, leg stor

**Cat Ba GH: NEW**, only 1 REV,

**REV: Pro: GUD:** simple, clean, LOC: quiet, gud brkfst\$,

**Con:**

**FAC:** wifi, /c, rest, bike,

**LP:**

**Cat Ba TWN:**

**Phong Lan HOT: \$8+r;**

**FAC:** Request FRT rm w/ balcony, ENG, TRAV agency,

**Thu Ha: \$8+r;**

**FAC:** /c, wifi, GUD sea LOC, **renov**, negotiate HARD \$ frt room views

**Cat Ba Dream: \$10+r;**

**FAC:** perfunctory SERV, but acceptable if can score seafront rm

**Duc Tuan HOT: \$8+r;**

**FAC:** simple, famy, rest, local trav info

**D Nui Ngoc (BU area):**

**Vien Dong (aka Far Eastern): \$12+r;**

**FAC:** grt views, clean, GUD ENG, GUD Bargain

**NO:**

**NO Noble HSE: \$8+r,**

**FAC:** simple, BUT above POP bar

**NO Catba Central HOT: 9.3, \$3dm, r\$9,**

**REV: Pro: GUD:** grt staff, clean, **new**,

**CON:** Lock & rm: sm, DO NOT BK tours, **OWN lies**, Show: broken, ltd water,

**FAC:** \$2 brkfst, wifi, /c, cafe, lock, TRAV, hot show, LUG stor,



**SITES:****1D2 HCM MONT:****2A1 MKT:****Lan Ha Bay:** karst islands, few Haplong City tourist boats**Cat Ba NP: PK HQTR: Trung Trang:** **DIRECS:** GRN QH public BUS: 20min, 5am, 8:10, accessible, golden-haired langur; Cay Kim Gao tree's anti-poisonous,**Hang Trung Trang** cave: (ask if open), (**headlamp, rain gear, H2O**)**HIKES:** LP101end @ Viet Hai, w/ shuttle boats > Cat Ba TWN, short HIKE OPT,**Cat Co Cove:** **DIRECS:** 15 min walk > SE,**FT Cannon:** Spec views; LP off m102 **DIRECS:** 30 min steep walk from Cat Ba TWN**1) NP: 2hr walk > 'peak viewing TOW', 2) frog Pond & nature walk (4h RT), 3)****Caves: NOT impressive, 4) Hospital Cave, 5) Cannon FT****Boat Trips**

- 4 cheapest boat trips: down > **Bến Bèo** (1km from Cat Ba main strip): ALL tour boats DPs.  
 Plastic chair RESTs: R kayak rental / boat trip vendors. Short trip: USD 21, long trip USD 24 (May, 2014)

**Boat Trips & Trekking,****HOAN TUYEN TRAV.** 221 1/4 ST (inside post office, not post office cafe) & 228 1/4 ST., ☎

+84 1666867786. w/ Mr TOAN &amp; Mr LUC.

**Daily Lan Ha bay & Ha Long bay tours:** grt landscapes w/ 100s of limestone islands,**Kayaking:** inside rock arches, natural limestone tunnels &**Floating Fishing VILLs.****Trekking tour Cat Ba National Park.**

Motorbikes &amp; Bicycles rentals services

**Mr. Zoom hotel & restaurant (Cat Ba island),**

25 1/4 nui ngoc ST, ☎ 01649444024, Mostly good meals, but offers huge (2kg) round-looking crab creature thing, save \$35.

**Phường Phương Restaurant,**232, 1/4 ST, cat ba twn (*near Nam Dương Hotel*), ☎ 01687556989. REST sea views, Viet food & EURO food. Airy space, @ an affordable price. Be wary of very long wait.

•

## NE VIET - mainland (from Hanoi):

3DT

**DT or Tour: Ba Be NP** (aka Ba Be Lakes): (LP89): breathtaking, waterfalls, caves, lakes,

**Ba Be CNTR Tourism:** trekking, kayak, homestay,

**Park staff tours** (\$30/solo,:

boat trip around lakes & along Nang RIV & Hang Phoung cave, Tay VILL, Ao Tien lagoon, >  
An Ma Pagoda

**Thac Dau Dang (aka Ta Ken Falls)**

### ACCM:

1. Gov't owned complex: REST,
2. VILL stit HS OPT
3. Hon Son GH:

**TRANS:** (6hr,

**Tour OPT:** (LP79)

**Handspan.com :** SEE "Ba Be National Park (3 days) Handspan.webarchive"

**Ocean Tours:** SEE "Oceantours - Ba Be NP.webarchive"

**Cao Bang:** ONLY, if part of TOUR:(4D+ min) more base, than destination: 4 HCM hide out, cheat - free minority MKTs; SEE LPm114

**TRANS:** Hanoi > Cao Bang: ( BUS: 12/d, 9hr,

**Ban Gioc FALLs & Nguom Ngao Cave:** ONLY, if part of TOUR: CHi bord, impress & scenic context, ;

**TRANS:** minibus (6:30a & 7:30a) from Cao Bang

**NO Bai Tu Long Bay:** -- although GUD 4 island exploration

## NW VIET:

**SAPA:** see downloaded Handspan Sapa page

4OVN

### GEN:

Rice terraces, Touristy, spec views, local hill tribes : KEY

DAYS: ), ENG,

**TIC:** Sapa Tourism CHK: [www.Sapa-tourism.com](http://www.Sapa-tourism.com)

### TOURS:

Handspan: mt bikes,

*Sapa Tourist Map*: walking trails, hand-drawn *Sapa Trekking Map*

### TRANS-IN:

1a) Baolau's "Sapa Shuttle

**BUS'**: (6h) See pdf

[Online TIK BKKG: click1BUS.](#)

OR,

1b) **TRN**: Hanoi > Lao Cai (Sapa),

[serving information of timetables & fares](#)

[online reservation system](#)

Hanoi RR STA & Lao Cai RR STA

*\*Note: compare Shut BUS vs TRN: [baolau.vn/s/Hanoi/Sapa](http://baolau.vn/s/Hanoi/Sapa)*

THEN,

**Minibus**: Lao Cai > Sapa: (btwn 5a-5p; 40kd, 1hr)

**BUS**: LP138 SUM of NW VIET BUS connections

### TRANS-LOCAL:

Walk

Mtrbikes: \$7/d, BUT, NOT place > learn

### SITES:

~A3 Sapa MKT:

most days Key: Sat: "nite's "Love MKT": coy, but commercial recently,

LP122 sidebar: "BLDG Stronger H'mong Future"

**1B1 Chieu Suong massage:**

bonafide foot & body massage

**Local VILL Treks > & OVNs**: Get map, all VILL w/in Hoang Lien NP

**STRAT**: xe om 10km > Start

Point, THEN, 14km loop

**Tribe etiquette** LP465

**Cat Cat**: 3km S

**Ta Phon VILL**: (Red Dzao): 10km



### HANOI-LAO CAI TRAINS

#### From Hanoi

| DEPARTURE | HARD SEAT<br>(PRICES FROM) | SOFT SEAT<br>(PRICES FROM) | HARD SLEEPER<br>(PRICES FROM) | SOFT SLEEPER<br>(PRICES FROM) |
|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 6.10am    | 110,000d                   | 133,000d                   | n/a                           | n/a                           |
| 7.40pm    | 125,000d                   | 150,000d                   | 195,000d                      | 290,000d                      |
| 8.35pm    | 125,000d                   | 150,000d                   | 195,000d                      | 290,000d                      |
| 9.10pm    | 125,000d                   | 150,000d                   | 195,000d                      | 290,000d                      |
| 9.50pm    | 125,000d                   | 150,000d                   | 195,000d                      | 290,000d                      |
| 10pm      | 120,000d                   | 145,000d                   | 190,000d                      | 270,000d                      |

#### From Lao Cai

| DEPARTURE | HARD SEAT<br>(PRICES FROM) | SOFT SEAT<br>(PRICES FROM) | HARD SLEEPER<br>(PRICES FROM) | SOFT SLEEPER<br>(PRICES FROM) |
|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 6.55pm    | 110,000d                   | 133,000d                   | n/a                           | n/a                           |
| 7.30pm    | 125,000d                   | 150,000d                   | 195,000d                      | 290,000d                      |
| 8.05pm    | 125,000d                   | 150,000d                   | 195,000d                      | 290,000d                      |
| 8.45pm    | 125,000d                   | 150,000d                   | 195,000d                      | 290,000d                      |
| 9.20pm    | 120,000d                   | 145,000d                   | 190,000d                      | 270,000d                      |

**HIKE:** w/ spec views; hi rideg E of Sapa >> BLK H'mong VILL: Sa Seng & Hang Da down > Ta Van RIV THEN, TRANS back > Sapa

**COM Tours:**

**NO Fansipan MT:** 19km/1 way,

**Tram Ton Pass:** 15km from Sapa, RD btwn Sapa & Lai Chau; incredible winds /views,

**Trac Bac falls:** 12km from Sapa 'loop track' Alongside road,,

100m-hi Thac Bac (Silver FALLs); loop track steep & scenic. FALLs sometimes included on tours offered by Sapa TRAV agencies & another OPT > get there > rent mtrbike.

**Read more:** <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/VIET/northwest-VIET/sapa/activities/hiking-trekking/tram-ton-pass#ixzz3pJhRQWTe> , fee

**ACCM:** dbl on weekends, some MID-range have Buddha OPTs; **AVOID: charcoal heats-DANGEROUS**

**HW:**

**Sapa Stunning View: 9.0, r\$8**, only 2 REV

**REV: PRO:** GUD staff, clean, quiet, brkfst?

**FAC:** wifi, TRAV, w/d, shuttle BUS, LUg stor, rest,

**Pumpkin HOT: 8.1, r\$6**

**REV: PRO:** GUD: loc; quiet, excellent guide, Mao; mtrbike, **CON:** damp rm,

**FAC:** cafe, wifi, rest, no brkfst, TRAV, bike, lug stor, shuttle

**Elysian Sapa HOT: 9.4, r\$8** Not HOS, but better qual,

**REV: PRO:** GUD: staff, rest fd, ENG, LOC, no /c,

**FAC:** bike, rest, cafe, wifi, lug stor, TRAV, NO brkfst, shuttle BUS,

**? Mt View HOS: 8.2, \$8dm** better own responses,

**REV: PRO:** GUD: cln, show, bed,

**CON:** fd overpriced, **NO free BUS STA PU as adv**, rm: damp smelly & stuffy,

**FAC:** cafe, lock, brkfs, com rm, wifi, hot show, w/d, lug stor (not locked, rest

**LP:**

**Sapa HOS:** dm\$5, s\$12: 2LOCs: HOS 2: < \$;

**Pinocchio HOT:** \$15r; Staff: young,friendly, rest,

**Casablanca Sapa HOT:** s\$17- rear rm < \$; GUD ENG,

**Luong Thuy \$ FAM GH:** s\$10+

**Cat Cat View HOT** \$\$ but..: Buddha wing : across rd : \$10-15

**Baguette & CHOC:** \$22 (charity based), brkfst, pre-book (4 rm only)

**Thai Binh HOT:** \$22, teachers, brkfst, **NO:**

**NO Go Sapa HOS: 8.2, \$5dm, r\$10;** own responses seem 'canned' recm'd homestay not gud

**REV: PRO:** GUD: views, brkfst, ENG, ;;;,

**CON:**, dirty, & smelly, no moskie nets, noisy w/ ear plugs, LOC: up hill, but near cafes,

**FAC:** cafe, KIT, lug stor, bike, , no brkfst-hi\$, com rm, w/d, wifi, lock , but dm do not lock, rest,

**NO My Tra Homestay:** 9.7, \$8dm, BAD LOC:

**NO Sapa Volunteer Homestay:** 8.4, \$6dm BAD LOC: 8km from Sapa

**Bac Ha: OVN (NE of Sapa):** ( Sinho --better experience LP125) **Re-visit this if going > E**

**GEN:** N Highlands tribes, KEY: Sun MKT

**TRANS-IN:**

**BUS:**

> Hanoi:

> Lao Cai:

**ACCM: GH**

Hoang Vu HOT: r\$8; fan,

Toan Thang HOT: r \$10, new better rm - overpriced

**SITES:**

Bac Ha MKT: **OVN** Sat 4 best early **Sun morn/sunrise** experience,

Exotic Flower H'mong women: dazzling clothes,



**DT:**

**NO Sinho** more DIFF TRANs than Bac Ha

Sinho VILL: LP122 sidebar: "Sinho Village":

**GEN:** tribes: authentic, non-touristy local MKT,Sat & Sun(best): wildly colorful

**TRANS-IN:**

**Coc Ly MKT: TUE:** LP135: 35km SW of Bac Ha: Dzao, Flower H'mong, Tay, Nung peeps,  
Acces from sapa or MUSY access from Bac Ha?

**BUS:**

Sinho > Lai Chau: DP: 1:15p, 2hr

Lai Chau > Sinho: (6:30a & 1:30p, 2/d, 2hr, 35kd)

**ACCM: ONLY**

Thanh Binh HOT: r\$25, clean, gud bviews, brkfst

**TREKS:** 3-10km arranged > 2 VILL, internet,

**AIR:**

UAL eTicket #:062 1 (800)

UAL FLT Confirm #: 5UYRTC:

Cheapoair Bkkg #: 31320081

| SERVICE   | DATE  | FROM | >   | DP    | ARV   | Flt h/m  | SEAT |
|-----------|-------|------|-----|-------|-------|----------|------|
| ANANH0858 | 07MAR | HAN  | HND | 2:35p | 9:00p | (4h 35m) | n/a  |

NOTE: connecting FLT wait time (NRT) 21h 20m

MUST transfer HND (Tok-Haneda) &gt; NRT (TOK - Narita) airport

NOTE: Flt Time: ???m Layover: 2hr 10m??

|       |       |     |     |       |        |       |     |
|-------|-------|-----|-----|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| UA838 | 08MAR | NRT | SFO | 6:20p | 10:35a | (9¼h) | n/a |
|-------|-------|-----|-----|-------|--------|-------|-----|

NOTE: Flt Time: 9h Layover: 2h 15m

|         |       |     |     |        |       |      |     |
|---------|-------|-----|-----|--------|-------|------|-----|
| UNx5407 | 08MAR | SFO | TUS | 12:50p | 3:51p | (2h) | 11D |
|---------|-------|-----|-----|--------|-------|------|-----|

NOTE: Flt Time: /h Layover: NA

NOTE: \$1146 TOTAL TRIP Time:

**TRANS-IN:****TRANS-LOCAL:****TRANS- OUT****ACCM:****FOOD:****MISC:****SITES:**