



Top tourist attractions in Vietnam

World Heritage Sites:

1. Complex of Hue Monuments in Central Vietnam (1993)
2. Ha Long Bay in North Vietnam (1994, 2000)
3. Hoi An Ancient Town in Central Vietnam (1999)
4. My Son Sanctuary in Central Vietnam (1999)
5. Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park in Central Vietnam (2003)
6. Central Sector of the imperial Citadel of Thang Long – Hanoi (2010)
7. Citadel of Ho Dynasy (2011)
8. Trang An Landscape Complex (2014)

NORTH OF VIETNAM

1. Hanoi:

The Red River, in the heart of the northern delta locates the capital of the Socialist of Vietnam. It is the country's political, economic, cultural and commercial center and also a major tourist attraction. It was founded in 1010 AD during the reign of King Ly Cong Uan.

Many ancient architectural features are still preserved in the city, particularly in its Old Quarter. There are many standard and [luxury hotels in Hanoi](#), over 600 pagodas, and there is also water everywhere, with dozens of hectares of lakes interlaced among tree-lined streets, the most notable of which being the fabled Hoan Kiem and West Lake. Traditional handicrafts also thrive in Hanoi, including bronze casting, silver carving, lacquer work and embroidery.

2. One Pillar Pagoda:

One Pillar Pagoda is on Chua Mot Cot Street, Ba Dinh District, Hanoi. The One Pillar Pagoda is a cultural and historic relic, unique for its architectural features. The actual One Pillar Pagoda is the miniature reconstruction of a large, ancient, royal Buddhist building.

3. Tran Quoc Pagoda:

Tran Quoc Pagoda is located on an islet of West Lake in Hanoi. Tran Quoc Pagoda is one of the oldest pagodas in Vietnam and a cultural symbol of Vietnamese Buddhism. As a religious relic among spectacle scenery, Tran Quoc Pagoda is a favorite stop-over of many foreign visitors and pilgrims.

4. Ho Tay (West Lake):

Ho Tay is the largest of all the lakes in Hanoi. The lake is on the northwest part of the city. Long ago, the lake was a branch of the Red river but later, as the river changed course, the lake remained a body of water just west of the river. There are many legends associated with West Lake. The most popular is the legend of the golden buffalo.

5. Hoan Kiem Lake (Sword Lake or the Restored Sword Lake):

It is located in the center of Hanoi. Also called Lake of the Restored Sword. This name is derived from a legend. After ten years of hard fighting (1418 – 1428), the Lam Son insurrectionists led by Vietnamese King Le Loi swept the foreign invaders out of the country of Dai Viet (former name of Vietnam), ending the Ming's 20-year domination over the Viet people. Le Loi became a national hero, proclaiming himself kings, called Le Thai To and establishing his capital in Thang Long. On a beautiful day, the king and his entourage took a dragon-shaped boat for sight-seeing on Luc Thuy Lake, which was located

in the center of Thang Long Capital (present-day Hanoi). As the boat was gliding on the lake, suddenly there was a great wave and on top of the wave, the Golden Tortoise Genie appeared, telling the king: "Your Majesty, the great work is completed. Would you please return the sacred sword to the King of the Sea?". The precious sword was formerly lent to Le Loi by the King of the Sea and was always beside him throughout his battles and helped him win over the Ming invaders. At the time the Tortoise Genie spoke, the sword hung at the King's waist. It then moved out of the scabbard and flew towards the Genie. The Genie kept the sword in his mouth and dived under the water and bright lightning flashed up to the sky.

Since then, Luc Thuy Lake has been called the Restored Sword Lake or the Sword Lake for short. It is said that when visiting Hanoi, if the visitor does not see the Sword Lake, then they would not have actually been in Hanoi. Today when the weather changes, the tortoise emerges on the water surface to take a sun bath, seeming to prove his existence and remind the young generation of their national history of defending their country from foreign invaders.

6. Central Sector of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long – Hanoi

The Thang Long Imperial Citadel was built in the 11th century by the Ly Dynasty, marking the independence of the Dai Viet (the very old name of Vietnam). It was constructed on the remains of a Chinese fortress dating from the 7th century, on drained land reclaimed from the Red River Delta in Hanoi. It was the center of regional political power for tens of centuries without interruption. The Imperial Citadel buildings and the remains in the 18 Hoang Dieu Archaeological Site reflect a unique South-East Asian culture specific to the lower Red River Valley, at the crossroads between influences coming from China in the north of the country and the ancient Kingdom of Champa in the south of the country.

7. Trang An Landscape Complex

The Trang An Landscape Complex is a spectacular landscape of limestone karst peaks permeated with valleys, many of them partly submerged and surrounded by steep and vertical cliffs. Exploring caves at various altitudes has revealed traces of human activities over a continuous period of more than 30,000 years. Hoa Lu, the ancient capital of Vietnam was strategically established here in the 10th and 11th centuries AD. The property also contains temples, pagodas, paddy- fields and small villages

8. Citadel of Ho Dynasty:

The 14th-century Ho Dynasty citadel testifies to the flowering of neo-Confucianism in the late 14th century and it spreads to other parts of eastern Asia. According to these principals it was sited in a landscape of great scenic beauty on an axis joining the Truong Son and Dong Son mountains in a plain between the Ma and Buoi rivers. The citadel buildings represent an outstanding example of a new style of south-east Asian imperial city.

9. Ha Long Bay:

It is World Heritage Site, about 180kms far from Hanoi with over 3,000 thousands of islands and islets, among which approximately 1,000 islands are named. The islands are infinitely varied in shape, evoking all kinds of animals, hence their names: Dragon Island, Monkey Island, Toad Islet, Turtle Islet, Fighting Cock Islet, and so on. Ships and motor boats are available to cruise in Ha Long bay among the many islands and caves, allowing to explore

hidden marvels of nature. You can book a cruise tour with local travel company like [Đặt khách sạn](#) or at any hotels in Hanoi.

10. Tuan Chau Island:

Tuan Chau Island is located on the south-west side of Halong City. It is a schist island, very pretty with a luxuriant forest. It has an area of 220 ha, and to the east and south are two beaches endowed with very white and fine sand. In 1962, Ho Chi Minh visited Halong Bay and made a stop here for vacation. Nowadays, Tuan Chau Island is one of the most attractive destinations in Halong City.

11. Tra Co Beach:

Tra Co is one of the most beautiful beaches in Viet Nam and an ideal place to spend holidays. Located in Quang Ninh province, next to Viet Nam – China border, Tra Co – a good and charming place for vacations is only 8 - 9 kilometers away from Mong Cai town. Tra Co Beach is a famous tour attraction in Vietnam with broad fine sand beaches stretching for 17 kilometers from the cape named Got in the north to the cape named Ngoc in the south. The coastline is bordered by 3-4 meters high sand dunes and peaceful fishing villages.

12. Sapa:

More than 300 km northwest of Hanoi, Sapa rises in the immense forests and clouds indistinctly. The hill resort is over 100 years old. The name of “Sapa – a foggy city” appeared obviously as gift of the Creator. At the height of 2,000 meters, visitors will enjoy the excellent climate favored by the nature. Sapa has a regularly average temperature of 15 – 20°C, like a huge natural air-conditioner. It has four seasons in a day. Spring is in the morning; summer comes around mid-noon, the cool air despite of the sunny sky; in the afternoon cloud and fog lower than makes it cold, the gentle cold of autumn and at night, it gets colder as if winter were coming.

Source: [Visa for Vietnam](#)