

Wonders of Vietnam

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3M0TmN2TsK4>

A long, **narrow** country squeezed in between the South China Sea and the Laos and Cambodia borders, Vietnam is a land of **striking** landscapes.

Ranging from the **lush** rice terraces and forested mountains in the north to the **picturesque valleys** of the Central Highlands and the **fertile** delta and beautiful beaches of the south.

Included in the mix are **booming** cities, **colonial** towns, **traditional** villages and **otherworldly** islands. Here's a look at the best places to visit in Vietnam.

10. Dalat.

Year-round cool weather and **idyllic** scenery of misty valleys, **lush** pine trees and colorful flowers are some of the reasons that Dalat was once used by Vietnamese emperors and French colonials as a summer retreat.

Today, this **charming** town in the South Central Highlands of Vietnam is a popular **destination** for those looking for **relief** from the heat. A **walkable** city, Dalat is a beautiful scene of French **colonial architecture** and villas set amid **picturesque** landscapes.

#9. Tam Coc.

On paper, Tam Coc can be described as rice paddies surrounded by limestone **cliffs** and rock formations. In reality, Tam Coc is one of the most breathtakingly beautiful **destinations** in Vietnam.

The best way to explore is by boat, and you can set off on a rowboat that takes you up alongside the **lush** green paddies and between **striking** limestone cliffs. You'll even float through three tunnels that run through the mountains, which were carved over time by the river itself.

#8. Ho Chi Minh City.

Lying along the Saigon River near the Mekong Delta in southern Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City was formerly known as Saigon and served as the capital of South Vietnam during the Vietnam War. Today, it is the largest city of the reunified country, offering plenty of reasons to visit, from its blend of **historic** and modern **attractions** to **vibrant** shopping, **dining** and nightlife.

#7. Mekong Delta.

Colorful floating markets, fruit orchards, rice paddies, bird sanctuaries and **quaint** villages are all what draw many to the Mekong Delta in southwestern Vietnam. Nicknamed "Vietnam's Rice Basket," the Mekong Delta is an **agricultural** region made **fertile** by the maze of **canals** and streams fed by the Mekong River.

Stretching from the Gulf of Thailand to Ho Chi Minh City, the delta **region** feeds more than a third of the country from its rich plantations, rice paddies and fish farms.

#6. Nha Trang.

Located on one of Asia's most beautiful bays off the coast of South Central Vietnam, Nha Trang is a popular seaside resort city. **Picturesque** mountains, beaches and **lush** islands all make it a favorite **destination** among tourists, Vietnamese and scuba divers.

Adorned with resorts, palm trees and a lovely **promenade**, Nha Trang's beach is its main draw. Amusement and water parks provide fun for everyone with roller coasters and wave pools.

#5. Sapa.

Located in the remote northwest of Vietnam, the mountainous town of Sapa is known for its culturally **diverse** population as well as its **proximity** to incredible scenery. From the town, there are many organized tours that aide tourists in mountain hikes and exploring the nearby rice paddies and remote villages. These tours present views of beautiful waterfalls and the opportunities to experience the food, customs and way of life among the local tribes.

#4. Hue.

Situated on the banks of the Perfume River in Central Vietnam, Hue once served as the **imperial** capital of the Nguyen dynasty. Today, the **vestiges** of this **former** glorious period are reflected in the city's **architecture**, culture and **cuisine**. Of the city's **monuments**, the Citadel is the most famous.

Once the seat of the Nguyen emperors, the Citadel is a **sprawling** complex of grand palaces, **ornate** temples, walls and gates. Another important landmark is the city's official symbol, the Thien Mu Pagoda.

#3. Hoi An. Located off the coast of the South China Sea, Hoi An is a beautiful, old city dating back 2,000 years to the Champa Kingdom. The city's historic **architecture**, traditional culture and **textiles** make it a popular destination in Vietnam. At the heart of Hoi An is its **atmospheric** Old Town which is small enough to walk around easily. The **narrow, winding** lanes of the Old Town are lined with beautiful old architecture, **traditional** wooden houses and hundreds of tailor shops selling clothing, shoes, bags and **souvenirs**.

#2. Hanoi. As the **booming** capital city of a reunified Vietnam, Hanoi is an exhilarating blend of eastern and western culture. French colonialism is visible through **cuisine** as well as **architecture**, particularly in the French Quarter in the Hoan Kiem District. Hanoi is packed with incredible temples, and a visit to the 11th century Temple of Literature is a must-do activity. The side-by-side Ho Chi Minh Museum and Mausoleum are also major attractions in Hanoi, and both are **striking** buildings from the **exterior**.

#1. Halong Bay. One of the best-known **destinations** in the entire country is Halong Bay. Its reputation is well deserved, because it is truly beautiful. Halong means descending dragons, which is **indicative** of the **silhouette** of the limestone outcrops that poke out from the water. Day cruises are a spectacular way to experience the beauty of this otherworldly bay and to see as many of the islands as possible. You can go swimming, look for caves to explore or find some of the more **remote, uninhabited** islands while cruising through Halong Bay.

Vocabulary:

narrow - adj. limited in size or scope; not wide; very limited in degree; lacking tolerance or flexibility or breadth of view; characterized by painstaking care and detailed examination; noun a narrow strait connecting two bodies of water; verb make or become more narrow or restricted; become tight or as if tight; become more special; define clearly

striking - adj. having a quality that thrusts itself into attention; sensational in appearance or thrilling in effect; noun the act of contacting one thing with another; the physical coming together of two or more things

lush - adj. full of juice; produced or growing in extreme abundance; characterized by extravagance and profusion; noun a person who drinks alcohol to excess habitually

picturesque - adj. suggesting or suitable for a picture; pretty as a picture; strikingly expressive

valley - noun a long depression in the surface of the land that usually contains a river

fertile - adj. capable of reproducing; marked by great fruitfulness; bearing in abundance especially offspring; intellectually productive

booming - adj. used of the voice; very lively and profitable

colonial - adj. composed of many distinct individuals united to form a whole or colony; of or relating to or characteristic of or inhabiting a colony; of animals who live in colonies, such as ants; noun a resident of a colony

traditional - adj. consisting of or derived from tradition; pertaining to time-honored orthodox doctrines

otherworldly - adj. existing outside of or not in accordance with nature

idyllic - adj. excellent and delightful in all respects; suggestive of an idyll; charmingly simple and serene

charming - adj. possessing or using or characteristic of or appropriate to supernatural powers; pleasing or delighting

destination - noun the ultimate goal for which something is done; written directions for finding some location; written on letters or packages that are to be delivered to that location; the place designated as the end (as of a race or journey)

relief - noun the act of freeing a city or town that has been besieged; aid for the aged or indigent or handicapped; assistance in time of difficulty; sculpture consisting of shapes carved on a surface so as to stand out from the surrounding background; the feeling that comes when something burdensome is removed or reduced; (law) redress awarded by a court; the condition of being comfortable or relieved (especially after being relieved of distress); the act of reducing something unpleasant (as pain or annoyance); a change for the better; someone who takes the place of another (as when things get dangerous or difficult); a pause for relaxation

walkable - Can be walked on foot. Flat.

cliff - noun a steep high face of rock

historic - adj. important in history; belonging to the past; of what is important or famous in the past

attraction - noun the quality of arousing interest; being attractive or something that attracts; a characteristic that provides pleasure and attracts; an entertainment that is offered to the public; the force by which one object attracts another; an entertainer who attracts large audiences

vibrant - adj. of colors that are bright and striking; of sounds that are strong and resonating; vigorous and animated

dining - noun the act of eating dinner

quaint - adj. strange in an interesting or pleasing way; very strange or unusual; odd or even incongruous in character or appearance; attractively old-fashioned (but not necessarily authentic)

agricultural - adj. relating to or used in or promoting agriculture or farming; relating to rural matters

canal - noun long and narrow strip of water made for boats or for irrigation; (astronomy) an indistinct surface feature of Mars once thought to be a system of channels; they are now believed to be an optical illusion; a bodily passage or tube lined with epithelial cells and conveying a secretion or other substance; verb provide (a city) with a canal

region - noun the extended spatial location of something; a large indefinite location on the surface of the Earth; the approximate amount of something (usually used prepositionally as in 'in the region of'); a part of an animal that has a special function or is supplied by a given artery or nerve; a knowledge domain that you are interested in or are communicating about

Adorn - verb make more attractive by adding ornament, colour, etc.; furnish with power or authority; of kings or emperors; be beautiful to look at

promenade - noun a march of all the guests at the opening of a formal dance; a square dance figure; couples march counterclockwise in a circle; a public area set aside as a pedestrian walk; a formal ball held for a school class toward the end of the academic year; a leisurely walk (usually in some public place); verb take a leisurely walk; march in a procession

diverse - adj. distinctly dissimilar or unlike; many and different

proximity - noun the property of being close together; a Gestalt principle of organization holding that (other things being equal) objects or events that are near to one another (in space or time) are perceived as belonging together as a unit; the region close around a person or thing

imperial - adj. belonging to or befitting a supreme ruler; befitting or belonging to an emperor or empress; relating to or associated with an empire; noun a piece of luggage carried on top of a coach; a small tufted beard worn by Emperor Napoleon III

vestige - noun an indication that something has been present

former - adj. referring to the first of two things or persons mentioned (or the earlier one or ones of several); (used especially of persons) of the immediate past; belonging to the distant past; belonging to some prior time; noun the first of two or the first mentioned of two

cuisine - noun the practice or manner of preparing food or the food so prepared

monument - noun an important site that is marked and preserved as public property; a structure erected to commemorate persons or events; a burial vault (usually for some famous person)

sprawling - adj. spreading out carelessly (as if wandering) in different directions; noun an ungainly posture with arms and legs spread about

ornate - adj. rich in decorative detail; marked by elaborate rhetoric and elaborated with decorative details

textile - adj. of or relating to fabrics or fabric making; noun artifact made by weaving or felting or knitting or crocheting natural or synthetic fibers

atmospheric - adj. relating to or located in the atmosphere

winding - adj. of a path e.g.; marked by repeated turns and bends; noun the act of winding or twisting

souvenir - noun something of sentimental value; a reminder of past events

exterior - adj. situated in or suitable for the outdoors or outside of a building; noun the outer side or surface of something; the region that is outside of something

indicative - adj. (usually followed by `of') pointing out or revealing clearly; relating to the mood of verbs that is used in simple declarative statements; noun a mood (grammatically unmarked) that represents the act or state as an objective fact

silhouette - noun a drawing of the outline of an object; filled in with some uniform color; an outline of a solid object (as cast by its shadow); verb represent by a silhouette; project on a background, such as a screen, like a silhouette

remote - adj. far apart in nature; inaccessible and sparsely populated; apart in space; separate or apart in time; very unlikely; noun a device that can be used to control a machine or apparatus from a distance

uninhabited - adj. not having inhabitants; not lived in