

# TOP 15 PLACES FOR ADVENTURE TRAVEL IN VIETNAM



Vietnam is an S-shaped country that attracts visitors with its beautiful landscape ranging from terraced rice fields in Sa Pa to white-sand beaches in Phu Quoc.

According to CNN (USA), Vietnam is proud to be one of Asia's most scenic destinations for "taking photos". Visitors can visit and find beautiful angles at the markets, temples, pagodas, winding roads "hugging" the mountain with the terraced fields.

Among many beautiful sights, CNN has selected the top 15 places for adventure travel in Vietnam to introduce to readers around the world.

## 1. Son Doong Cave, Quang Binh

About 3 million years old, Son Doong Cave, which was discovered by a farmer in 1991, is known as the world's largest cave. The cave could accommodate a 40-storey building from New York City.

Son Doong belongs to the Phong Nha - Ke Bang national park. The secret underground cave also has underground river systems, huge rock formations, and sloping holes where the sunlight can reach the cave. Oxalis travel company organizes Son Doong tours February 2-8 every year with a limited number of travelers.

## 2. Sa Pa plateau

The Sa Pa plateau, Lao Cai province attracts adventurous travelers. They are exploring waterfalls, terraces, bamboo forests, participate in backpacking tours, markets and cultural experiences with indigenous families.

In Sa Pa, visitors also conquer 3,143m high Fansipan peak by climbing or taking a cable car in April and May every year.

## 3. Can Tho

Can Tho is one of the most beautiful cities in the Mekong Delta with many canals, beautiful waterfronts, rice terraces, mangroves, and colorful floating markets.

Tourists can experience the Azerai Hotel Can Tho which is located in Con Au. They can join a boat tour and explore Can Tho city.

## 4. Vinpearl Nha Trang

Vinpearl Nha Trang cable car has the same architecture like the Eiffel Tower, passing the length of 3,220m long of Nha Trang Bay, connecting Nha Trang with Hon Ngoc Viet on Hon Tre island.

It is the world's longest cable car and also the largest cable car accommodating up to eight people in a cabin. Guests enjoy the dazzling and exciting experience of spectacular view of the wide-open ocean and the rolling mountains.

## **5. Phu Quoc**

Phu Quoc, Kien Giang province, also known as Ngoc island, is the largest island of Vietnam, is also the largest island among 22 islands, located in the Gulf of Thailand.

Visitors to the pristine island of Phu Quoc are delighted to bathe in sandy beaches, visit tropical forests, dive, and kayak.

## **6. Son Tra Nature Reserve**

Son Tra Nature Reserve, located on the northeastern coast of Da Nang, is famous for its beautiful natural scenery, many endemic species of plants and animals, especially the red-shanked douc langur - "treasure" of the peninsula.

The InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort is located in the area. Here, you can make a hiking tour into the green forests.

## **7. Hoi An**

Situated on the central coast, Hoi An is one of the most attractive destinations in Vietnam. The 15th-century ancient town was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1999, with old houses dyed yellow over time and the streets displaying typical lanterns and hats.

## **8. Dong Van plateau**

The Dong Van plateau in Ha Giang was recognized by UNESCO as a global geological park in 2010, featuring terraced fields, canyons and limestone mountains dating back 550 million years.

Visitors can experience the life of indigenous people and explore the peak of Ma Pung Pass in Meo Vac district at an altitude of nearly 2,000 meters above sea level.

## **9. Da Dia Reef**

Da Dia Reef in Phu Yen is famous for its unique scenery with prismatic stone blocks stacked neatly like the hands of some gods.

Scientists say that over the thousands of years, volcanic eruptions went into the sea. When reaching the cold water the lava become hardened, many layers of rock crushed and overlap each other, then formed Da Dia Reef as we know it today.

## **10. O Quy Ho Pass**

The O Quy Ho Pass on the 4D Highway crosses the Hoang Lien Son Range, connecting the two provinces of Lao Cai and Lai Chau. This pass is located 2/3 in the territory of Lai Chau province and the other one is located in Lao Cai province.

This is a rugged mountain pass that challenges people, with roads winding through cliffs. This is perhaps the longest recorded mountain pass in Vietnam's northwestern region, with a length of up

to 50 km.

The height, the ruggedness, and length of O Quy Ho make the pass known as "The King of North Pass". People on the road from Sa Pa to the Silver Waterfall pass the gate of Hoang Lien Son National Park at Tram Ton, one of the starting points of the conquering Fansipan peak, go a few km up to O Quy Ho Pass peak which is nearly 2,000 meters above sea level. The peak is in the middle of the cloud mountain so it is also called the Heaven Gate.

## **11. Lai Chau**

Lai Chau is famous for its beautiful valley surrounded by Fansipan and Pung Luong mountain ranges, not only terraced fields but also large and wide fields in the floating water here.

Than Uyen was created to give a system of rivers and streams, typically Nam Mu River which flows through the district with the length of 160 km. In addition, the cool green tea plantations throughout the countryside during the September to November harvest season provide an excellent experience for visitors.

## **12. An Bang Village**

An Bang Village, Phu Vang District, Thua Thien Hue Province is known as the "spiritual city" since the government devoted the large area of about 250 hectares to cemeteries with hundreds of monuments. An Bang village cemetery has been famous since the 1990s when relatives from overseas sent money to build tombs.

The tombs in are more splendid, luxurious with more sophisticated architecture than the modest, simple houses of the villagers. It is known that the tombs are designed as royal tombs with parallel decorations, colorful stone stele thanks to the hands of skilled ceramic mosaics.

## **13. Halong Bay**

Halong Bay, Quang Ninh was recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 1994. It is easy to visit thousands of limestone islands and caves as you hang out on a yacht. The Halong Bay's tourist attractions welcome millions of visitors every year.

Con Dao is an archipelago located off the southern coast of Ba Ria-Vung Tau province. Coming to Con Dao, visitors can experience the colorful coral reef, bathe in clean water, savor fresh seafood and especially visit the natural spawning grounds of sea turtles between June and September.

In addition, the spiritual attractions include Con Dao prison or martyrs of Vo Thi Sau at Hang Duong cemetery.

Recently, Superdong Speedway Corporation, Kien Giang Expressway serving Soc Trang - Con Dao was opened in July 2017 with the capacity of about 306 passengers and travel time of about 2.5 hours.

## **14. Ban Gioc Waterfall**

Ban Gioc Waterfall, Cao Bang is a group of waterfalls located on the Qui Son River at the Vietnam-China border. The waterfall is 70m high, 60m deep, 208m wide, including the main waterfall and the sub-waterfall. The falls are high with low elevations, flowing through low limestone steps. The remaining waterfall is smaller but higher, flowing smoothly like the hair of a young woman.

The best time to visit Cao Bang is from September to December, at this time the waterfall is full of blue water, dotted with flowers blooming throughout the mountains.

To Ban Gioc, not only going to Ban Gioc, but visitors can also visit nearby places such as Nguom Ngao cave, Pac Bo cave - Lenin stream or Thang Hen lake.

## **15. Da Lat**

The city of Da Lat, Lam Dong with many works of French architecture located at an altitude of about 4,900m above sea level, is the preferred destination of many visitors.

This foggy city has an "eternal spring" climate with hundreds of thousands of indigenous flowers blooming all year round, adorning green pine forest, tea landscapes, and imposing waterfalls.

Besides enjoying the flowers and watching the streets with the most beautiful flowers such as Tam Xuan, Mai Anh Dao, and Mimosa..., visitors can visit the highlights in Da Lat like Valley of love, Xuan Huong Lake, Tuyen Lam Lake, Bao Dai Palace, Truc Lam Zen Monastery, Datanla Waterfall, Prenn Waterfall or Langbiang Mountain.

Obviously, you have so many choices for an adventure in Vietnam. When you head out for a Vietnam adventure, remember that there are so many things and activities awaiting there. Take your time, travel slowly and enjoy.

How to get a Vietnam visa for your Vietnam adventure

Perhaps getting a Vietnam visa is a little bit more complicated than getting a visa to neighboring countries such as Thailand, Cambodia or Laos. You can't just show up at the border and buy a visa there. Citizens of up to 24 countries can get a Vietnam visa exemption, but it's only for a short time and sometimes conditionally. For most trips, you will need to arrange your visa ahead of time. If you wish to figure out whether you need a visa for your trip to Vietnam, how to get it and how much it costs, you are highly recommended to read the Vietnam visa policy.

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