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## Things to do in hanoi culture trip

Tourists on boats line up on the Ngo Dong River with limestone mountains and caves in Tam Coc, Ninh Binh Province | © Hugh Mitton/Alamy Stock PhotoHanoi is the kind of place you should spend a few days and truly explore all the museums, landmarks, restaurants and nightlife. But when traffic and smog start to drive you crazy, leave the city behind you and get out into the countryside on a day trip. It can be difficult to narrow down your choices, so here are culture trip's 10 most recommended day trips from Hanoi. © pendulum spence / Alamy Stock Photo To get a glimpse of life as it was, visit calm and peaceful Duong Lam. This collection of villages serves as a living museum, where the traditional way of life still exists. There are settlements, temples of kings from the village, centuries-old homes and communities of people. Since Duong Lam is near Ba Vi National Park, most hiking groups bring both. Ancient capital of Hoa Lu Vietnam | © Derek Dryland/Alamy Stock PhotoBecause are both so close together, trips to Trang An and Tam Coc are often packed together for visits to the Hoa Lu ancient capital. As the name suggests, Hoa Lu was once the capital of Vietnam, in the 10th century. Small remnants of the original structures, but there are newer churches and buildings that honor the original dynastic families. The area is also nestled between steep hills, giving large pictures. Tam Coc Caves | © imageBROKER / Alamy Stock Photo Probably the most popular day trip from Hanoi due to the spectacular scenery, the journey begins a two-hour drive to Ninh Binh province, where it then boards boats and swims down the Sao Khe River. At Trang An, you swim into caves and glide past towering limestone karsts, and the world is in the landscape, unlike anywhere else in the world. After completing the Trang A boat trip (which takes about two hours) to make the short trip to Tam Coc. It only takes 10 minutes to travel between the two popular places. At Tam Coc, there are even more wonderful karst formations. Unless a tour group has decided for you, you have the option of either cycling or going on another cruise. Many companies run day trips in both places as a package deal, but it's really not that hard to just show up on their own. You can get a bus there and then rent a motorcycle to get between places. It all depends on how comfortable you travel on your own schedule. To truly immerse yourself in nature, travel two hours west to Ba Vi National Park. There are three peaks, which are the park's focal points, and at the second highest peak, Tan Vien, there is an 11th-highest peak. And after climbing the trails and going swimming, take a break from the spa. Phat Diem Cathedral Complex, Phat Diem | © Cavan Pictures / Stock PhotoChristianity was first brought to Vietnam by Portuguese missionaries four centuries ago. There are currently about 6 million Catholics in the country. Built in 1892, Phat Diem Cathedral is still a functional church. He had to close in 1954 when Catholics fled nationalist forces, and Graham Greene even mentioned the cathedral in his famous book, The Quiet American (1955). Perfume Pagoda River | © Inaki Olavarrieta Moro / Alamy Stock PhotoThe Perfume Pagoda is a busy tourist destination in the region because Vietnamese Buddhists often make pilgrimages here. From February to April, crowds flock to this pagoda, so keep in mind if you don't want to bump shoulders into tour groups; but even the busiest, the combination of natural beauty and rich cultural heritage still make it a day trip to consider. The cruise itself to get to the pagoda is incredible enough to justify the trip. The Beautiful Thay Church | © Vietnam Stock Images / shutterstockAsset up in the 11th century Nhân Tông in the Lý Dynasty, the Thay Temple is one of the oldest in Vietnam. It is still home to monks who maintain the temple and regularly hold a water puppet show during festivals. The temple itself has some of the best examples of Vietnamese Buddhist architecture. Since the church is only 30 km from Vano, it makes for an easy day trip. Mai Chau Valley | © Marcus Wilson-smith/Alamy Stock PhotoThus valley is another picture-perfect place, with rice paddies and lines of jagged ridges. Over three hours, the trip to Hanoi is an effort, but if you get here, you will experience the lifestyle of the region's ethnic tribes. Overnight private accommodation is popular, but stopping for a day is also a good option. You can cycle or hike in remote villages and even get a chance to spot some rare and exotic wildlife. Architectural Landmark, Historic LandmarkMotorbike carrying large porcelain vases, ceramic village Bat Trang | © imageBROKER/Alamy Stock PhotoBat Trang Village is just 30 minutes from hanoi old town, so this is a low-commitment excursion. The village is famous for its porcelain and ceramics, which are sought after throughout Asia because of their quality and traditional designs. A tour boat sailing around Ha Long Bay | © Sebastiaan Hamming/Alamy Stock PhotoNow is the crown jewel in tourism in Vietnam. Pretty much everyone who visits this country when they go to Long Bay. This is the first page of every travel guide you've ever written about Vietnam. It's a mystical place - almost otherworldly - and famous for good reason. Even though Ha Long City is fast going down the tubes, Ha Long Bay still deserves a day to see the sights. It is recommended to splash on an

ornate dinner boat or a quality tour guide. These recommendations shall be made by 31 December 2020. Spotted tourist | © kitzcorner/ShutterstockEasy to spend weeks in Hanoi and still find new things every single day. Whether you have completed all the main attractions or hoping to avoid them in the first place, let's take a look at the side of the city many tourists do not see. Market, Food Stall, VietnameseLong Bien Market | © Julie Mayfeng/ShutterstockLong Biên Bridge is certainly an amazing sight, but we're not here for the things that are on every must-see list ever written in Hanoi. For a truly local experience, head to the night market near the start of the famous bridge and where many restaurants in the area get the ingredients. This market is not for tourists, so do not expect to find interesting souvenirs or fashionable clothes. Bring some friends with you, because hotpots need to be shared. They are a steamer soup with a wide selection of vegetables and meats added as you wish. You can also go to Ha Tien Street and look for some good hotpot places, but this is for tourists. Phùng Hềng Street is more popular with locals. Find the word Lều as you explore them. It means hotpot. Phùng Hềng Street, Hoàn Kiếm district, Hà Nội, Vietnam The West Lake area is now one of the city's coolest ices and is very popular with expats. Many people prefer to ride a bike on the trail that goes around West Lake, but we love rowing on swan boats. The extra fun is to have your favorite drink. Swan boats are located on the south side of Lake Trúc Bếch, near the Coffee of the Highlands. Lake Trúc Bếch, Trúc Bếch district, Ba Đình, Hà Nội, Vietnam Despite the fact that this place is a poorly guarded secret, it really is not as touristy as it could be. Lotte Tower is one of the tallest buildings in Vietnam and is located on the 65th floor. You will also find the first sky walk in Southeast Asia, which has a glass floor. Lotte Center Hanoi, 54 Liu Giai, Hà Nội, Vietnam +84 433336000 Lotte Tower Hanoi | © Vietnam Stock Images/Shutterstock Do we know what you think: Isn't Lake Hoàn Kiếm at the heart of tourism in Hanoi? For sure, but only later in the day, when foreigners who spent all night partying ended up get up. In the morning, the lake where the locals go to practice and hang out. The sooner you get there, the better. Hoàn Kiếm Lake, Hanoi, Vietnam Relaxation | © Alexander Mazurkevich/Shutterstock Flowers for sale in Quang Ba | © gnomeandi/ShutterstockIf you're a flower fan, this is absolutely mandatory. It looks like it's far away on the map, but don't worry, it only takes about 20 minutes from Lake Hoàn Kiếm. The best time to go from midnight to 6:00, when the spotlights cast beautiful shadows over millions of flowers: roses, sunflowers, lilies and chrysanthemums. The market is still open later in the morning, but it's not that busy. At the famous Chè Cá Thăng Long restaurant, never mind the menu. Everyone who comes to this restaurant comes for one thing: Chè Cá. It's fried fish with some of the finest flavors I've ever tasted - even a dish that hanoiak make the most. Chè Cá Thăng Long, 19 - 21 - 31 Đường Thành, Hoàn Kiếm District, Hà Nội, Vietnam +84 24 3824 5115 Everyone knows Vietnamese coffee is fantastic, but you should also try egg coffee while you are here. This can be a little difficult to find, so we recommend you head to Giếng Cafe, where they are famous for their egg coffee. Giếng Cafe, 39 Nguyễn Hữu Huân, Hoàn Kiếm District, Hà Nội, Vietnam +84 98 989 22 98 The famous egg coffee | © travel oriented/Flickr When impersonators set up shop nearby, it's probably a good sign that you're doing something right. We weren't big fans of Bún Chè when we ate in the South, but after eating the Bún Chè Đạc Kim, it is perfectly understandable why Hanoians love it so much. Hanoi definitely does better with Bún Chè. Bún Chè Đạc Kim, 1 Hàng Mành, Hoàn Kiếm District, Hà Nội, Vietnam +84 24 3828 7060 Home of some delicious Bún ché | © Matthew Pike Cheap Clothes on the Night Market | © 1000 words / ShutterstockIf you are a woman on a weekend, you can check out the night market on Hàng Đào Street. At 8pm, traffic is blocked and people are free to browse the hundreds of stalls selling clothes, ceramics, jewellery and all sorts of souvenirs. The market is from Lake Hoàn Kiam Đông to the Xuân market. To mark Hanoi's millennial anniversary, community leaders and local businesses built a mosaic wall that ran almost four kilometres. The sheer number of small ceramic tiles needed to make the mosaic is astounding, and the artwork tells many vivid stories from the city's long history. Unless you like smog and noise, we do not recommend walking along the length of the street. For a better experience, rent a taxi or xe om (motorcycle taxi). If you want to request a ride from the old town to the address below, you will see most of the wall. 45 Âu Cê Street, Tây Hồ District, Hà Nội, Vietnam Only part of the long mosaic wall | © xiquinhosilva / Flickr All for sale | © Pete Niesen/Shutterstock Even if you have no intention of driving the length of Vietnam, this street is a cool look at the rich motorcycle culture of Vietnam. There are thousands of tours for sale and plenty of deals to be found. Located.

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