

Contents

List of Maps

vii

What's New in Vietnam

1

1 The Best of Vietnam 4

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1 The Best Vietnam Experiences | 4 | 6 The Best of the Outdoors | 6 |
| 2 The Best Sites (According to UNESCO) | 5 | 7 The Best Luxury Accommodations | 7 |
| 3 The Best Temples & Archaeological Sites | 5 | 8 The Best Midrange Accommodations | 8 |
| 4 The Best Museums | 6 | 9 The Best Dining | 9 |
| 5 The Best Beaches | 6 | 10 The Best Shopping | 9 |

2 Planning Your Trip to Vietnam 10

- | | | | |
|--|----|---|----|
| 1 The Regions in Brief | 10 | 10 Staying Connected | 41 |
| 2 Entry Requirements | 12 | <i>Online Traveler's Toolbox</i> | 43 |
| 3 When to Go | 13 | <i>Ask Before You Go</i> | 44 |
| <i>Less Is More: Packing & Clothing in the Tropics</i> | 14 | 11 Packages for the Independent Traveler | 44 |
| <i>Calendar of Events</i> | 15 | 12 Escorted General-Interest Tours | 44 |
| 4 Getting There | 17 | 13 Special-Interest Trips | 47 |
| <i>Getting Through the Airport</i> | 19 | <i>More Online Tools: Activities & Adventures</i> | 47 |
| 5 Money & Costs | 21 | <i>Tours for Vietnam Veterans</i> | 48 |
| 6 Travel Insurance | 23 | 14 Getting Around Vietnam | 50 |
| 7 Health | 25 | <i>"What's With All the Honking?"</i> | 51 |
| <i>Recommended Vaccinations</i> | 26 | <i>A Brief Guide to Riding a Motorbike</i> | 52 |
| <i>AIDS in Vietnam</i> | 28 | 15 Tips on Accommodations | 54 |
| <i>Avian Influenza</i> | 30 | 16 Tips on Dining | 56 |
| 8 Safety | 32 | 17 Recommended Books & Films | 56 |
| <i>Responsible Tourism</i> | 34 | <i>Fast Facts: Vietnam</i> | 57 |
| 9 Specialized Travel Resources | 35 | | |
| <i>Frommers.com: The Complete Travel Resource</i> | 40 | | |

3	Suggested Itineraries in Vietnam	66
1	Doing It All: Vietnam & Cambodia in 28 Days	67
2	Vietnam in 14 Days: North to South	71
3	World Heritage Tour (9 Days)	73
4	Get Your Motor Runnin'—Vietnam by Motorcycle or Jeep	74
5	A Side Trip to Cambodia	76
4	Hanoi	77
	<i>Flying Dragons & Thieving Turtles: Hanoi's Founding</i>	78
1	Orientation	79
	<i>Make Friends with Vietnam Heritage</i>	82
	<i>The Neighborhoods in Brief</i>	83
2	Getting Around	84
	<i>Rigged Taxi Meters</i>	84
	<i>Fast Facts: Hanoi</i>	86
3	Where to Stay	90
4	Where to Dine	101
	<i>The Best Authentic Local Fare</i>	102
	<i>Have You Tried the Snake?</i>	112
5	Exploring Hanoi	113
	<i>Walking Tour: The Old Quarter</i>	116
6	Outdoor Activities & Other Fitness Pursuits	128
7	Shopping	129
	<i>Piracy & the Proletariat</i>	133
8	Hanoi After Dark	137
9	Day Trips From Hanoi	141
5	The Northern Highlands	143
1	Lao Cai	143
	<i>Hilltribes in Northern Vietnam</i>	144
2	Sapa	148
3	The Dien Bien Phu Loop	156
	<i>The Minsk: A Guide to Renting & Enjoying Your Big Honkin' Soviet Motorbike</i>	158
4	The Northeastern Highlands Loop	166
6	Northeastern Coast	171
1	Haiphong	171
2	Halong City	176
3	Halong Bay	177
4	Cat Ba Island	181
7	North-Central Vietnam	188
1	Ninh Binh	188
2	Vinh	194
	<i>Who was "Uncle Ho"?</i>	196

8	Central Vietnam	200
1	Hue	200
	<i>Fast Facts: Hue</i>	204
2	The Demilitarized Zone	216
3	Bach Ma National Park	220
4	Lang Co Beach	221
5	Danang	222
	<i>Who Are the Cham?</i>	224
	<i>Fast Facts: Danang</i>	225
6	Hoi An	228
	<i>Fast Facts: Hoi An</i>	231
9	The Central Highlands	249
1	Dalat	249
	<i>Central Highland Ethnic Minority Hilltribes</i>	252
	<i>Fast Facts: Dalat</i>	257
2	Buon Ma Thuot	267
	<i>Fast Facts: Buon Ma Thuot</i>	268
3	Pleiku & Kontum	273
	<i>Fast Facts: Kontum</i>	275
10	South-Central Vietnam	279
1	Quy Nhon	279
	<i>Fast Facts: Quy Nhon</i>	282
	<i>Revisit the My Lai Massacre</i>	285
2	Nha Trang	286
	<i>Fast Facts: Nha Trang</i>	289
3	Outside Nha Trang	303
4	Phan Thiet Town & Mui Ne Beach	304
	<i>Fast Facts: Phan Thiet & Mui Ne</i>	305
11	Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)	311
	<i>A Veteran's Trip Back</i>	312
1	Orientation	314
2	Getting Around	316
	<i>Fast Facts: Ho Chi Minh City</i>	318
3	Where to Stay	320
4	Where to Dine	333
	<i>Quest for the Perfect Noodle</i>	341
5	Exploring Ho Chi Minh City	342
6	Shopping	351
7	Saigon After Dark	355
8	A Side Trip to Vung Tau	358
9	A Side Trip to Lang Hai	361
10	A Side Trip to Con Dao Archipelago: Con Son Island	363
11	A Side Trip to Cat Tien National Park (Vuon Quoc Gia Cat Tien)	369

12 The Mekong Delta 372

1 Visitor Information372	<i>Fast Facts: Chau Doc</i>381
2 My Tho376	5 Phu Quoc Island382
3 Can Tho376	<i>A Unique Breed: The Phu Quoc Ridgeback</i>383
<i>Fast Facts: Can Tho</i>377	<i>Fast Facts: Phu Quoc</i>385
4 Chau Doc380	

13 Cambodia 390

1 Getting to Know Cambodia391	<i>Fast Facts: Phnom Penh</i>409
2 Planning Your Trip to Cambodia . . .397	4 Southern Cambodia422
<i>Some Important Safety Tips</i>399	5 Siem Reap & Angkor Wat431
<i>Telephone Dialing Information at a Glance</i>403	<i>Give of "Yourself" in Siem Reap</i> . . .432
<i>Fast Facts: Cambodia</i>404	<i>Fast Facts: Siem Reap</i>435
3 Phnom Penh406	<i>The Magic Hours at Angkor Wat</i> . .454
	6 Battambang462

Appendix A: Vietnam in Depth 468

1 Who Are the Vietnamese?468	3 A Look at the Past: Vietnam the Country, Not the War470
2 Vietnamese Religion470	

Appendix B: The Vietnamese Language 479

1 The Basics479	2 Getting Around483
---------------------------	-------------------------------

Index 487

List of Maps

Suggested Itineraries	69	Hoi An	229
Hanoi	92	Central Highlands	250
Hanoi: Old Quarter	97	Dalat	251
Walking Tour: The Old Quarter	117	South-Central Coast	281
The Northern Highlands	147	Nha Trang	287
Sapa	149	Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)	322
Northeastern Coast	173	Mekong Delta	373
Haiphong	175	Cambodia	393
North-Central Vietnam	189	Phnom Penh	407
Central Vietnam	201	Siem Reap	433
Hue	203	Angkor Wat	451
Danang	223		