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National Geographic Traveler: Vietnam, 3rd Edition



Synopsis

In this completely updated and revised guide to Vietnam, James Sullivan's enthusiasm for his adopted country is clear in his coverage of all of major sites, along with some lesser known surprises as well. The book begins in the ancient capital of Hanoi, moving on to surrounding sites including fabled Ha Long Bay and hilltribe villages tucked away in the jungle-covered mountains; North-Central Vietnam, including visits to Vietnamese tunnels related to the Vietnam War; the ancient cities of Hue and Hoi An; the Southern Central Highlands, featuring wildlife-filled Cat Tien National Park; bustling Ho Chi Minh City; and the vast Mekong Delta. Several in-depth features delve deeper into Vietnam's history and culture, including discussions on the hilltribes and the life of the boatpeople in the Mekong Delta; and self-guided walks and drives take you, for example, through Hanoi's picturesque Old Quarter and along the cliffside beauty between Hue and Danang. You'll also find lists of Not-To-Be-Missed Sites; experiential sidebars that guide you to get to know Vietnam more intimately, including where to see water puppets, train trips to Trai Mat, and the new "in" beaches to visit; and a hefty Travelwise section offers hand-picked hotels and restaurants. Aimed at active travelers who want authentic, enriching, cultural experiences and expert advice from a trustworthy source, National Geographic Travelers provide ways for people to experience a place rather than just visit, and give the true feel of each destination not easily found online.

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Customer Reviews

Armed with a graduate degree from the Iowa Writer's Workshop, JAMES SULLIVAN headed to Vietnam in 1993 to bike across the country. Along the way, he learned the language, became entranced with Vietnam's history and culture, and met his future wife. He lived in her hometown, Hue, for a year and told the story in his novel, *Over the Moat: Love Among the Ruins of Imperial Vietnam*, published in 2004. He has returned to Vietnam many times since, and he is currently living in Hue with his wife and two children, where they are refurbishing an ancient house. His travel stories have appeared in *National Geographic Traveler*, the *New York Times*, *Golf Digest*, *Bicycling*, *Golf & Travel*, and two Scholastic publications. British-born RON EMMONS updated and wrote new features for the 2010 edition of this guide. Now living in Chang Mai, North Thailand, Ron is the author and photographer of several books, including *Portrait of Thailand* and *Walks along the Thames Path*. His feature stories on travel, culture, nature, Buddhism, and photography appear regularly in a range of international publications. KRIS LEBOUTILLIER has photographed assignments for *National Geographic Traveler*, including stories about Tasmania, Singapore, Rajasthan, and Vietnam. He is the author and photographer of *Journey Through Phnom Penh* and *Journey Through Ho Chi Minh City*, both published by Marshall Cavendish. Represented by Getty Images, LeBoutillier has worked for such diverse clients as *Forbes Asia*, *Smithsonian*, *Spa Magazine*, and the *Discovery Channel*.

If you are used to Lonely Planet Travel Guides than you are going to hate this book. I personally bought it because the L.P. Vietnam got poor reviews. I am unhappy with my decision and will end up buying L.P. to plan my trip. First of all the book leaves so much blank space on each page around all the edges. They could have put more content and avoided wasted page space or increased the size of the small font. Also, while the pictures are nice they too are wasted space for a travel guide. If you are a backpacker this book serves no purpose. They have a small section in the back of the book for hotels and restaurants listing only a few with half being 4 & 5 star hotels. There is no listing of hostels in cities. There is no section for suggested itineraries. There is very minimal and basically no significant mention of Nightlife/Entertainment. And the few maps provided are nothing compared to the numerous detailed maps provided by Lonely Planet books. This is my first and last National Geographic Travel book. This is more of an informational book and much less a travel guide.

I don't review books as a rule but I do want to weigh in on this one. I bought it because of the glowing reader reviews but found it was next to useless as a travel guide. Information was scattered and slapdash, with eye-catching little tidbits in large print that as often as not were vague

generalities. The worst part is that it doesn't tell you how to get to many places -- I guess they assume that you will go there with a tour group, and not as an independent traveler. Yeah, it has pretty pictures. Like the National Geographic magazine. And like that, it's kind of slim on useful information. And the chapter on the history of Vietnam has 5 pages on the first 1500 years, and an equal number on the history since 1950. I went back and bought a Lonely Planet guide. At least they tell you how to get from place to place.

We found it to be helpful on our recent trip. Do not know anything about hotels or restaurants that were listed because we went on a tour.

We have scheduled a trip for Vietnam. This book provides enough information and a fair picture as to what is available in each city we plan to visit. I was pleased that it did not serve as an advertisement for Hotels, Restaurants, and other sites. Would recommend when reading the book, find out where or what you wish to visit and then use the internet as there is a large amount of information available for review.

Perfect - thank you!

Returned after a month in VN and bought this book as it's a great resource for looking back at area we saw. As all Nat Geo things it is well done and great pics.

A great read to give an overview of history, geography, culture, etc. Well written

thanks

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