

Five things to do in Hanoi, Vietnam

Hanoi is the capital city of Vietnam in South-East Asia. There are lots of interesting places to eat and things to see.

A This lake is in the centre of town and has trees all around it. There is a beautiful old bridge over the lake, which takes you to a pretty building that is a great place to take photographs! There is another beautiful building at the other end of the lake where, if you are lucky, you might see one of the very old turtles swimming. This building is called the Turtle Tower but you can't go there because it's built on an island.

B Nearly every street has street cafés with very small tables and chairs selling delicious Pho, which is a type of soup, and Bun Cha, which is made of grilled meat. The best advice is to choose a place that is very busy with local people and ask how much the food is before you order it. The food is very cheap and tasty.

C Not far from the centre of Hanoi is the place where the first university in Vietnam was built nearly a thousand years ago. You can see the academy buildings where students studied and relaxed many years ago. People who studied here had very difficult exams and the head of the country, who was like a king, asked the exam questions himself. Even today some university students come here to have their photos taken when they finish their university exams.

D This is a day trip by coach or taxi to see the beautiful World Heritage site. There are over a thousand small islands in the sea. You can take a trip on a boat and have a fish lunch with local people who live on boats that float in the sea. You can even visit some of the islands. This wonderful place has been used in many films, such as *Indochine* with Catherine Deneuve and was also the setting for a *Top Gear Special*, a BBC TV programme in which three men drove over a thousand miles on motorbikes from Ho Chi Minh City to Ha Long Bay.

E In the centre of Hanoi you can visit some of the old streets and shops. The streets still have the names of the professions that worked there, for example, Leather Road, Medicine Street and Fish Street. You can have a really interesting morning walking around these streets, see craftspeople making shoes and fixing bicycles, then stop for a special Vietnamese coffee with sweet milk.

1 Read the article quickly and match the headings (1–5) to the paragraphs (A–E).

- 1 Visit the Imperial Academy ____
- 2 Try street food ____
- 3 Visit the Old Quarter ____
- 4 Take a trip to Ha Long Bay ____
- 5 Visit Hoan Kiem Lake ____

2 Read the article again. Which paragraph (A–E) talks about:

- 1 visiting a place where people have sold things for years ____
- 2 seeing an old animal and a bridge ____
- 3 seeing where people studied hundreds of years ago ____
- 4 taking a photo of a pretty place that has been on TV and in film ____
- 5 seeing people who have finished university ____
- 6 eating with people who live on boats ____
- 7 having a coffee after a walk ____
- 8 having some traditional soup ____

3 Are these sentences true or false?

- 1 You can cross a bridge to get to the Turtle Tower. TRUE/FALSE
- 2 You should ask the price of street food before you buy it. TRUE/FALSE
- 3 The exams in the Imperial Academy were easy. TRUE/FALSE
- 4 You can walk to Ha Long Bay from Hanoi. TRUE/FALSE
- 5 Some craftspeople still make things in the Old Quarter. TRUE/FALSE