

# Spotlight on Ha Long/Hanoi



## HISTORY

Hanoi is amongst the world's most attractive and interesting cities, originally named Thing Long or "City of the Ascending Dragon." The name Hanoi, in fact, means "bend in the river" and denotes the city's strategic location along the vital waterway. In 1802, the city of Hanoi continued to flourish, especially after the French took control in 1888 and modeled the city's architecture to their tastes, lending an important visual to the city's rich heritage, even expanding the city and adding rail connections over the Long Bien Bridge in 1902. In 1954, after the French departed, Hanoi was declared Vietnam's capital once again. The city boasts more than 1,000 years of history, and that of the past few hundred years is marvelously preserved.

## DOCKING / TENDERING

Cruise ships tender into Ha Long Bay.

## SHORE EXCURSIONS

Please check your tour ticket for the correct meeting time and location for your tour. Your cruise line representative will direct you to your transportation.

## TRANSPORTATION

Public transportation in Hanoi includes taxis and minibuses. They are widely available throughout the city.

## SHOPPING

Hanoi is great for shopping. Silk items top the list, with lots of shops and designer boutiques selling quality clothing and accessories. The local handicraft shops featuring lacquer ware, ceramics and mother-of-pearl inlaid items and many art galleries offer unique quality presents or souvenirs.

## STORE HOURS

Shops generally open from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm or later Monday to Saturday.

## BANK HOURS

Banks are generally open from 8:30 am or 11:30 am to 1:00 pm or 4:00 pm Monday to Friday, and Saturdays from 8:30 am to 11:30 am.

## POST OFFICE

The Post Office is located at 6 Dinh Le St., Hoan Kiem District. It is open daily from 6:30 am to 10:00 pm.

## EMERGENCY

In case of an emergency, dial 115 or 113 for the police

## GUARANTEE

Shop with confidence, knowing that all merchants on this map have been carefully selected and each offers a 60-day guarantee to passengers. This guarantee ensures buyers that all recommended merchants will repair or replace any unsatisfactory item, excluding buyer's negligence or buyer's remorse. For purposes of determining quality and value of jewelry related to a buyer's complaint, only appraisals secured by a buyer from independent graduate gemologists, not affiliated with any retail jeweler, will be acceptable. Please inquire about individual store return policies before finalizing any purchase. The port shopping program is operated by Onboard Media, Inc. Participating merchants have paid an advertising fee to Onboard Media for inclusion in this program. Cruise Line receives a promotional fee from Onboard Media. Onboard Media handles all customer relations claims relating to the guarantee.

If you become aware of a problem during the cruise, please contact the Port & Shopping Guide onboard for immediate assistance. If a problem arises after the cruise but within 60 days of the purchase date, contact the Customer Relations Department at

Onboard Media:  
1691 Michigan Ave Suite 600, Miami Beach, FL 33139  
Phone: (800) 396-2999, Fax: (305) 673-2741  
Email: shoppingissues@onboard.com  
Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 7:00 pm - Friday 9:00 am to 5:30 pm (Eastern Standard Time)

Please send a letter and include the name of the ship, cruise date, store name and merchandise problem. Also enclose a copy of the sales receipt and any relevant documents relating to the sale. Onboard Media will contact the recommended store on your behalf for repair or replacement, and you will be notified accordingly.

Look for this banner in all recommended and guaranteed stores.



# HA LONG/HANOI

## PORT & SHOPPING MAP



## CAPITAL

The capital of Vietnam is Hanoi.

## SIZE

Hanoi is approximately 829 square miles in size.

## LOCATION

Hanoi sprawls along the Red River (Song Hong), which is spanned by three bridges.

## POPULATION

Approximately 3.5 million people live in Hanoi.

## LANGUAGE

The official language of Hanoi is Vietnamese.

## CURRENCY

The official currency in Hanoi is the Dong. United States dollars are accepted throughout Vietnam.

## TIME ZONE

Hanoi follows GMT + 7.

## PLACES TO SEE

### AMBASSADOR'S PAGODA

This famous Pagoda was built between 1936 and 1942. It houses some of the country's stone sculptures of past, present and future Buddha's.

### HAI BA TRUNG TEMPLE

This temple overlooks a lake that is dedicated to the Trung sisters. In the first century AD, the sisters drowned themselves rather than surrendering to the Chinese.

### HO CHI MINH MUSEUM

This museum opened in 1990 in celebration of the centenary of Ho Chi Minh's birth. It displays Ho's life and work from his early wanderings around the world to his final victory over the south. He was revered father of the nation.

### ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL

St Joseph's Cathedral was built in 1886, and is one of the first buildings in Hanoi. It was completed just one year after the Treaty of Tientsin, which gave France control over Vietnam.

### OPERA HOUSE

The Hanoi Opera House is an iconic landmark. It was built between 1901 and 1911 by Francois Lagisquet and is one of the finest colonial buildings in the capital.

Tune in to Shopping Channel 22

