

Things to do in Hanoi

If you need suggestions for things to do in Hanoi, I tell you that Hanoi at night is the most beautiful. If you cannot sleep one day, you should book a room at one of boutique hotels in Hanoi Old Quarter or you can go out to listen to Hanoi breath to feel Hanoi in old silent appearance. You can feel life truthfully of working class in Hanoi.

Hanoi in daytime is hustle and hurry contrary to the atmosphere at night. Sometimes people were swept away by the haste of daily life and there is not enough time to stop and watch the ancient beauty of 36 streets, of Thang Long thousand years of civilization. So, if you want to experience the beauty of ancient Hanoi, you have to wait until night, when there is no congestion and stuffiness.

Where to visit at night

Wonder things to do in Hanoi, just come to any place you like. If you don't realize the old houses and streets in the daytime, it's wonderful to enjoy at night. You can see the ancient houses with their fragrant gardens, locals' evening activities. You will be immersed in the sounds of the night, and will get to enjoy some great street food from the local vendors in non-touristy parts of the city favored by locals. Visiting Hoan Kiem Lake and strolling along Hanoi's Old Quarter is so exciting. Besides, you can visit Ba Dinh square, West Lake, St. Joseph's Cathedral (Nha Tho Lon), Ngo Quyen Street, Long Bien Bridge, Quang Ba flower market, Long Bien night market, etc

Night restaurants in Hanoi

There are some places you can choose when going out at night and be hungry:

- Some stalls next to Dong Xuan market
- Pho bo (Beef noodle) 27 Hang Ngang (open from 3 pm to 5 am)
- Chicken simmered Noodle at the crossroads of Hang Bo, Luong Van Can (open from 5 pm – 11 pm)
- Fish Noodle Hang Dau (Open 24/24)

Apart from these addresses above, you can choose some stalls of bun, soup, Pho... in the night market.

Some tips and tricks when going out at night in Hanoi:

It's so interesting when wandering around the city at night as everything is yours, nobody can interrupt your trip. However, please take note:

- Motorbike is the most convenient means of transport; remember to fill up because it's very difficult to find a gas station. If you don't have a motorbike, you should go by bike. It's also good to enjoy your trip.
- For safety, you should not go alone, at night may come up against theft, robbery, drug addict... Avoid dark places; don't stop at the deserted street for so long. You should report anything suspicious to the police or go fast. Bring your passport and your <u>Vietnam visa</u> with you.
- Keep warm, take along your personal identification to show the flying squad when being asked and don't bring things of great value like jewelry as a precaution.

Here is some experience of Hanoi at night:

If you like history, you should go to the Ba Dinh Square before 9 pm (I'd recommend at least at 20:30) to see the flag lowering ceremony with national anthem song. As it can be seen that, in Ba Dinh Square, there is a flag pole of Vietnam national flag. Every day, there are two ceremonies: The flag salutation and the flag-lowering. The flag salutation ceremony is done on all days of the year, regardless of the weather. It starts at 6 am in the summer and 6.30 am in the winter. And the flag – lowering is held in 9 pm every day with national anthem song. There are 34 soldiers who take part in the ceremony, 1 leader, and 11 lines, each line has 3 people. In the important events, the flag will be hanged up all day until finish the holiday. The soldier wears white suit because the white is the symbol of the bright mind and the loyalty. This is a sacred and solemn ritual to show our respect to country so many people go to Ba Dinh Square to see the soldiers take down the flag.

Quang Ba flower market opens at midnight, which is bustling and crowded. Many Vietnamese people have never got experience in a night flower market like that. If you really want to feel the life of many Hanoi people and Vietnam culture, you should come here. All these beautiful flowers will be transferred to all the city. Of course, flowers in this market is cheaper than others. Don't forget to buy some as the gift for your friends or your room.

Say goodbye to Quang Ba flower market, we visit Long Bien bridge and fruit and vegetable market. Maybe this is the most crowded places in Hanoi at night. You can see how hard are poor people in Hanoi to earn their living. Labor here mainly women. It's easy to realize the female porter here. Skinny women with old and ragged clothes are trying to complete their task to earn a little money to take care of their children and even their ailing husband. They seem unconscious of hard work.

Source: <u>www.dulichso.com</u>