What Makes Hanoi Tour a Dream Come True for Travellers?

by Thai Lien

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The vibrant capital city of Vietnam, Hanoi, presents a fascinating mix of museums, relics, unique culture, beautiful lakes, enthralling amusement parks and scintillating nightlife. Rich in history as well as in tourist attractions, Hanoi has been attracting visitors since many years and a Hanoi tour is on the top wish list of many a discerning traveller.

You can begin your city tour with a stop at the Vietnam History Museum. The rich history and tradition of Vietnam through the ages beginning from the Dong Son culture, carrying on through the colonial invasions and ending in its national victory is showcased beautifully in the museum. The museumâ€™s architecture is a blend of two styles; the French and the Vietnamese and is a sight to behold. The other museums worth a visit include the Museum of Ethnology, the Vietnam National Museum of Fine Arts, the Military History Museum and Museum of Revolution.

One of the more interesting relics is the One Pillar Pagoda also known as the â€˜Chua Mot Cotâ€™ going back to the 11th century. Legend has it that the King Ly Thai Tong was blessed with a vision of the Goddess Phat Ba Quan Am- Kwan Yin who guided him to a shrine in the middle of a lotus pond. The pagoda was then erected there by the King to honour the Goddess. The Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum is a beautiful replica of the Mausoleum of Lenin in Russia and has been erected in memory of the founding father of Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh. It contains many fascinating exhibits, lovely architecture and its beautiful gardens are lovely to see and stroll through.

Hanoiâ€™s streets are dotted with a huge number of French colonial style buildings which were made by early French settlers. Amongst the most beautiful buildings are the regal Presidential Palace, the Grand Opera House, the mighty CathÃ©drale St-Joseph whose spires soar high in the sky, the State Bank of Vietnam and the Sofitel Metropole hotel which is a well-preserved example of French architecture. The bustling streets of Hanoiâ€™s old quarter are awash with history and give you a glimpse of the unexplored side of Asia.

Hanoi offers non-stop entertainment and its cultural shows are something not to be missed. The Thang Long Water or the Mua Roi Nuoc Puppetry show is a kind of an opera show with soulful music and skits based on legends. The magnificently carved huge wooden puppets are manoeuvred deftly and it is definitely a chance to soak in Vietnamese culture at its best. For all shopaholics, Hanoi offers wondrous shopping delights and is filled with innumerable malls. Hanoi street food is considered to be amongst the best and you cannot leave the city without having tasted cha ca, pho ga, pho, com, bahn cuon and various other culinary delights. The nightlife is legendary and you can rock the night away in any of the innumerable nightclubs.

For first time visitors to Asia it is helpful to get their tour to Hanoi or travel to Cambodia organized by a reliable travel agency.

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