



Tour Name

Crowd-free Hanoi: Morning Highlights

Tour City

Hanoi

Tour Snapshot

Just arrived in Hanoi? Need an introduction to this buzzing city? Leaving soon and haven't seen any of the highlights yet? Never fear, join this Hanoi tour which covers the historic hot spots, must-see monument, and special spaces that you'd kick yourself for missing and see them all in the early morning to beat those crowds!

Highlights

- Explore the 1000-year-old university at the Temple of Literature
- Discover the soul of Vietnam in its traditional tea arts.
- Visit the so-called “Hanoi Hilton” – the infamous Hoa Lo Prison that housed POWs during the Vietnam War
- Stroll along the legendary Sword Lake to admire the reflections of its stunning bridge and Ngoc Son temple
- Marvel at the largest and oldest church in Hanoi, famous for its resemblance to the Notre Dame de Paris
- Eat lunch like the locals do and taste our traditional Pho

Local Impact: How you taking this tour will benefit the local community:

- We visit an old and traditional tea house near the Temple of Literature where you will taste and discover traditional Vietnamese tea. By patronising this family-run establishment we're supporting local people and helping to preserve local culture and traditions.
- The Pho Noodle Restaurant that we visit for lunch is another family-run business that's off the beaten tourist trail, ensuring that local people benefit from tourism in their city.

Inclusions: Local English speaking guide, one-way transportation, Temple of Literature ticket, Hoa Lo Prison ticket, Ngoc Son Temple entrance fees, Vietnamese green tea with green bean cake, traditional noodle Pho for lunch.

Exclusions: Items of a personal nature, tips / gratuities for driver or guide.

Schedule details

- Duration: 4 - 4.5 hours
- Meeting point:
Front entrance of the Hanoi Opera House, [1 Trang Tien Street, Hoan Kiem, Hanoi](#) at 8.00 Am.
- Find the exact meeting point with what3words: [///living.clash.splashes](https://www.what3words.com/?w=3w=3w=3w&w=3w=3w=3w&w=3w=3w=3w)
- Starting time: 8.00 AM
- Ending point:
Ngoc Son Temple, Hoan Kiem lake.

Full Itinerary

Dive into the sights, sounds, and smells of our bustling city on our Hanoi city tour, a sure way to cross off some of the major Hanoi highlights.

Start the city tour with a visit to the Temple of Literature. Originally built in honour of Confucius by King Ly Thai Thong in 1070, a university was added to the grounds six years later. The university provided education to the royal family and children of the aristocracy or "mandarins". The University remained here until King Gia Long moved the country's administrative capital from Hanoi to Hue at the beginning of the 19th century.

Drop into a traditional teahouse to taste some of the best Vietnamese flavored green teas, and listen to thousand-year-old stories explaining the significance of tea leaves to local cultures. Tea is even better when served with some authentic snacks such as sweetened lotus seeds and green bean cake.

Continuing on our Hanoi tour, we'll head to the Hoa Lo Prison Museum. Used by French Colonists for political prisoners till 1954 and later by North Vietnam for American POWs, the prison complex was sarcastically nicknamed the "Hanoi Hilton" by American pilots during Vietnam War (1954-1975). Famous ex-prisoners of war include Pete Peterson (the first US ambassador to a unified Vietnam in 1995), and US Senator John McCain.

Our next stop will be the largest and oldest church in Hanoi. St Joseph's Cathedral was built in 1886 with an architectural style often compared to the Notre Dame de Paris, this Gothic Revival church is not only a religious site, but is also a popular photoshoot backdrop for local teenagers.

We'll continue to the heart of Hanoi - the Hoan Kiem Lake, with its magnificent The Huc Bridge and Ngoc Son Temple. Experience the spiritual harmony of different religions coexisting in the same place. We then stop for lunch for a traditional bowl of Pho before ending the tour, which is definitely a must-do while you're in Vietnam.

You may then continue your own exploration of the area or our tour guide will assist you in getting a taxi back to your hotel.

Additional information

Inclusions: Local English speaking guide, one-way transportation, Temple of Literature ticket, Hoa Lo Prison ticket, Ngoc Son Temple entrance fees, Vietnamese green tea with green bean cake, traditional noodle Pho for lunch.

Exclusions: Items of a personal nature, tips / gratuities for driver or guide.

Dress standard: Dress standards are conservative throughout Asia, especially outside major cities. To respect this and for your own comfort, we strongly recommend modest clothing. This means clothing that covers your shoulders and knees. Loose, lightweight, long clothing is both respectful and cool in the predominantly hot Asian climate.

Your Trip: This tour is offered on a "join-in" basis. Maximum group size is 12.

Confirmation of booking: If you have your voucher, your booking is confirmed. We'll see you at the start point. Get in touch if you have any concerns or require more information via the email address or phone number (business hours only) on your voucher.

Child Policy: Children between the ages of 6 and 11 inclusively are permitted on this tour at the rate listed above. Please select 'child' above when booking. Children below the age of 6 are not permitted on this tour.

Local contact

Office phone number: +84 (0) 904 193 308

Email address: info@hanoiurbanadventures.com