

## Hanoi



Halong Bay

## INSIDER TIP

For the inside scoop on what's happening in Hanoi, consult the expat-friendly **New Hanoian** website. [www.newhanoian.com](http://www.newhanoian.com)

## SHOP TALK

Buy a bottle of red or white to take with you or enjoy it onsite at **Mona Wine Shop**, which carries premium labels from Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, Italy and elsewhere. 106 D7 Trung Tu, Dong Da, tel: +84 (0)4 3573 8876

## JAVA JOLT

In a country with some of the world's finest coffee, **Café Mai** serves what is arguably the best. It's a Hanoi institution with sidewalk tables on a tree-lined street. 52 Nguyen Du, Hai Ba Trung, tel: +84 (0)4 3822 7713

## CHEAP EATS

More of a bolt hole than a proper eatery, **Café 129** boasts an extensive menu of Vietnamese and Western dishes. The English- and American-style breakfasts draw crowds on weekends. 129 Mai Hac De, Hoan Kiem, tel: +84 (0)4 0821 6342

## TOP TABLES

If you're partial to painstakingly restored French villas decorated with photos of

old Hanoi, **Au Lac House** is for you. The menu of Vietnamese dishes is extensive, there's a solid wine list and the service is first rate. 13 Tran Hung Dao, Hoan Kiem, tel: +84 (0)4 3933 3533 **SS**

## AT YOUR LEISURE

After a boozy night out in the Old Quarter, it may seem like the perfect time to get that smiling sunburst tattoo you've always wanted. **D&T Tattoo Shop's** resident artist Afong is dedicated to giving you the tattoo of your dreams. 3 Ta Hien St, Hoan Kiem, tel: +84 (0)4 828 2799

## LATE &amp; LIVELY

Homegrown live rock acts are the draw at the gritty **Holyland Ballad Saloon**. If you've got the licks, grab a guitar off the wall during the late-night jam-sessions and sing-alongs. 105 D7 Ngo, 4D Pho Dang Van Ngu, Dong Da, tel: +84 (0)4 3218 3801, [www.holyland68.com](http://www.holyland68.com)

## OVERNIGHT

**The Tung An Hotel** ensures that its guests enjoy a good night's sleep for a reasonable price. Clean and modern, it's nestled in a traditional Vietnamese neighbourhood and puts beer and delicious street food at your doorstep. 39 Ngo, 4 Phuong Mai, Dong Da, tel: +84 (0)4 5771498, [www.tunganhotel.com.vn](http://www.tunganhotel.com.vn) **SS**

## Ho Chi Minh City



The People's Committee Building

## INSIDER TIP

Venture out to the expat enclave of **An Phu** to explore some great off-the-beaten-path restaurants and cafes. Located just 20 minutes from downtown, you'll find a variety of western and eastern eateries.

## SHOP TALK

**Ninh Khuong** carries high-quality cotton clothing for babies and kids, some featuring beautiful embroidery. The linen items make great gifts. T-shirts start at VND69,000 (\$\$5/A\$4) and dresses from VND180,000 (\$\$14/A\$12). 83 Dong Khoi, District 1, tel: +84 (0)8 3827 9079, [www.ninhkhuong.vn](http://www.ninhkhuong.vn)

## JAVA JOLT

**Highlands Coffee** is Vietnam's answer to Starbucks. The coffee is homegrown and a wide variety of blends are served up in their contemporary cafes. A unique outlet can be found behind Saigon's Opera House. Lam Son Square, tel: +84 (0)8 3822 5017, [www.highlandscffee.com.vn](http://www.highlandscffee.com.vn)

## CHEAP EATS

Delicious wok-fried dishes with a decidedly Chinese bent are served up in a clean, modern space at newcomer **Red Hot Wok**. A must-try is the tasty fried squid with salt and chilli. 9/12 Huynh Thuc Khang, District 1, tel: +84 (0)8 3914 7667

## TOP TABLES

For delectable middle eastern cuisine in glamorous surroundings, head to **Warda**. Smoke a shisha pipe or try a rose martini before delving into some mezze or a tasty tajine. 71/7 Mac Thi Bui, District 1, tel: +84 (0)8 3823 3822, **SS**

## AT YOUR LEISURE

Vietnam is renowned for its tailors, among the best of which is **Cao Minh**, a Saigon institution for custom-made suits, trousers and shirts. Established in 1948, the brand has just opened a classy new outlet in the city centre. 77 Mac Thi Bui,

## LATE &amp; LIVELY

Trendy **ZanZbar** is an upmarket bar serving up a solid selection of beers and wines and some great cocktails incorporating local flavours. Contemporary bar cuisine is also available. 41 Dong Du, District 1, tel: +84 (0)8 3822 7375

## OVERNIGHT

The 3-star **Elios Hotel** is perfect for the budget-conscious traveller seeking a high level of comfort. Amenities include a well-equipped gym and a rooftop restaurant. 233 Pham Ngu Lao, District 1, tel: +84 (0)8 3838 5584, [www.elioshotel.vn](http://www.elioshotel.vn) **SS**