

VIETNAM BACKPACKER PHOTO JOURNEY #1 WANDERING HANOI

Adventures by Scott David Plumlee

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CHINA

VIETNAM



LAOS



Sapa

Hanoi

Cat Ba

Halong Bay



Welcome to Vietnam Backpacker:

I have loved the past three months backpacking Southeast Asia across Thailand, Laos and Cambodia.

I'm now starting the next chapter of my adventure across Vietnam; traveling from north to south, from the capital of Hanoi, and then down the coastal beaches to Saigon.

After three quiet weeks on a remote island off of southern Cambodia, I am purposefully flying into the capital city of Hanoi as a gateway into the remote northern mountains and some green hiking terrain.





November 8th: I woke at 6:30am, quick yoga practice, packed my duffle bag, rode a tuk-tuk to the Phnom Penh Airport, and started a new book: Michael Moore's *Stupid White Men*. I am so super excited to arrive in the capital of Vietnam and get my 48th country stamp.



Descending below the cloud cover, there were green farm fields as far as the eye could see.



Touchdown! We landed in Hanoi at 2pm. I got my \$45 visa on arrival, then finally located my beloved duffle bag, and took a taxi to the central Hoan Kiem Lake District.

I wandered down a few crooked streets until I stumbled upon this hostel sign for \$4 a night and had to ask if the beer was also free—it wasn't, but still cheap and quite good.

Eager to explore the city and try some local food, I locked my duffle, brushed my teeth, and went out to discover what there was to be seen in the capital city.





What I found was absolutely chaotic “bat-shit-crazy” traffic throughout the streets of Hanoi.



Scooter horns filling my mind with a migraine-inducing symphony of beep, beep, beeping.

Photo Credit: Paul Arps



As an astounding variety of fresh vegetables passed by in bamboo baskets to the market.



And balloon-selling hawkers appeared as colorful islands in a turbulent ocean of traffic.

Photo Credit: Christine Chauvin



Despite this apparent chaos, the endless waves of scooters did allow people to cross the road, where I found tranquility by the lakeshore with a beautiful sunset to balance my Hanoi day.

Famished from my travels, I found an open-air cafe that specialized in the Vietnamese noodle soup that is known as *Pho*. It has thin rice noodles that are served in a beef broth with beef, shrimp, eggs and wontons—yum.

I also tried my second brand of Vietnamese beer, *Bia Ha Noi*, and this one was much smoother with a full body flavor—wow.

I think I'm going to really like my time in Vietnam!





Hunger satisfied, I wandered through the Old Quarter to experience the city's nightlife.

Thank you for joining me on this 15-page free preview to visit Hanoi city, to continue the adventure with me to the Jade Temple, purchase the full 50-page eBook at Amazon.com.

Won't you join me for my next adventure to hike Mt Fansipan from Sapa in Northern Vietnam?

The author, Scott David Plumlee, seen below with a monkey on his head, is an avid world traveler, photographer, and writer. He has traveled to over 50 countries, taken millions of photos, and is always willing to share his jokes, stories and philosophies. Plumlee is also the author of the New Zealand Photo Journal eBook series, and currently loving life in Thailand.

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