

# THE INSIDERS' GUIDE TO HOI AN FOR FAMILIES



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FROM THE FAMILY WHO STAYED A YEAR





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# Hey, we're the Portors

## A full-time travelling family

We first arrived in Hoi An in March 2024, and what was supposed to be a few weeks turned into 4 months. We kept considering leaving, but stayed because it ticked SO many boxes for our family. In total, we've spent over 14 months (and counting) living in this town with our two kids, and it's become the place we've felt most at home since leaving the UK.

So when we say we know Hoi An, we really do know it. Not as tourists passing through for a week, but as a family who has lived, worked, explored, and built a life there. We've found the best restaurants, the hidden beaches, the activities that kids actually enjoy, and we've also made plenty of mistakes along the way so you don't have to.

We've seen families arrive and absolutely fall in love with the place. We've also seen families arrive and leave disappointed, and it's almost always for the same avoidable reasons. This guide is designed to make sure you're in the first camp.

Hoi An is one of those rare destinations that has something for everyone in the family. If you're after a beach holiday, it's there. But it's so much more than that. The Ancient Town is full of culture and history, there are water parks and adventure activities for the kids, craft workshops where they can learn to make lanterns or pottery, cooking classes, river boat trips, and shows that the whole family can enjoy together.

It's not a place where you'll be stuck entertaining bored kids by the pool for a fortnight. It's a place where they'll be exploring, doing, and relaxing when they need it. I like to describe it as 'yes day' every day here because activities are aplenty and incredible value for money.

This guide covers everything we wish we'd known before our first visit, and everything we've learnt from over a year of being there. Whether you're coming for a week or a month, we want to make sure your family gets the absolute best out of Hoi An.





# BEFORE WE GET STARTED

Some house keeping

All content in this guide is original and belongs to Two Kids and a Backpack. Please don't copy, share, or reproduce any part of it without our permission.

You'll find affiliate links throughout this guide. You absolutely don't have to use them, but if you do, we might make 30p or a couple of quid from it, and it buys the kids their ice-creams. The only experiences/stays in this guide are directly from our brains so you can be completely confident that the links have been added because we think they're great!

You can [download the Get Your Guide app](#) to see many activities in Hoi An and around the world. Use the code TWOKIDSANDABACKPACK5 for a discount at the checkout.

Prices are correct as of April 2026, so expect there to be some minor changes too.





BEFORE YOU GO

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Be prepared with when to go, where to stay, and conversations to have with your kids

## When to visit Hoi An

This is really important, and I'd go as far as saying it could make or break your trip. There ain't no better place than Hoi An when the sun is shining! Hoi An in good weather is absolutely stunning, and you'll have the best time. But if you visit during the wrong months, you could leave with a completely different impression of the place, and that would be a real shame.

**November and December** are the months to avoid.

This is the full-on rainy season, and we're not talking about the odd shower. Hoi An floods every year during these months. Streets become rivers, businesses close, and it's just not the experience you want for a family holiday. While the locals handle it brilliantly, it's not what you want to fly halfway across the world for.

**January** is one we'd suggest avoiding too. The weather can still be unsettled, it's cooler than you'd expect, and it just doesn't show Hoi An at its best.

**February & March** is a bit of a gamble. You can still get some cooler days, and there's always the risk of a late rainy season lingering, but generally it's fine. If February or March are your only options, go for it, but just be prepared that it might not be wall-to-wall sunshine. This is a good time to come if you enjoy cooler weather.

**April through to June** is the ideal time to visit. Hot, dry, and beautiful. This is Hoi An at its absolute best, and if you can time your visit for these months, do it.



**July and August** are hot. And when we say hot, we mean step-outside-and-immediately-start-sweating hot. If you and the kids can handle serious humidity, it's still a great time to visit, but you'll want to stay near a pool or the sea. Even the pools can feel warm at this time of year, though some of the larger resorts actually add cold water to keep them refreshing. If extreme heat isn't your thing, these are months to skip.

**September** is lovely. Still warm and dry, but the humidity drops compared to August, making it far more comfortable for days out and exploring.

**October** can be a bit unsettled as the rainy season starts creeping in, so it's a slight risk. You might be fine, or you might catch the early rains.

**Something to note if Hoi An is part of a longer Vietnam itinerary**, the weather varies massively between regions. The North, Central, and South often have good weather at completely opposing times of the year, so it's worth planning your route with this in mind rather than just looking at Hoi An in isolation. What's perfect weather in Hoi An could be miserable in Hanoi, and vice versa.

## How much time to spend in Hoi An

Take a look at the list of things to do and you'll see that you could spend a jam-packed 2 weeks here and not get bored! We've had visitors who have come for a week to 10 days and we've been out and about every day, with beach time along the way to relax.

Many people stop in at Hoi An as part of a longer Vietnam trip and spare just a couple of days, but you'll be left wanting to come back for more!

## Choosing which area to stay in

Where you base yourselves in Hoi An can really shape your experience, so consider what suits your family best. Here's a breakdown of the main areas and what to expect from each.

And when you're booking accommodation, look at a map to see where exactly the property is located. It's not uncommon for listings to have a location in the title, and when you check a map you find it's not actually in the correct place.

**Hoi An will keep you coming back for more!**

**Choosing the right location and time of year to visit Hoi An can make or break your trip**



### Ancient Town

We wouldn't recommend staying here unless you're only in Hoi An for a night or two. It's beautiful to visit, but it's busy and chaotic, especially in the evenings. It's a great place to explore but it can be loud and overwhelming.

When I hear people say they didn't enjoy Hoi An, it's almost always because they came at the wrong time of year, or they stayed only in the ancient town for a couple of days and deemed it 'too touristy' or 'too busy'. Hoi An is SO much more than the Old Town

### An Bang Beach

This is where we'd point most families, and it's where we've spent the bulk of our time. It's a brilliant spot for a holiday. You can walk to the beach, to restaurants, to small shops and gift shops, and the Ancient Town is just a ten-minute drive or 20 minute cycle, in a straight line.

An Bang is technically a village, though it's become very tourist-focussed. Plenty of locals still live here, but the main street running through it is now almost entirely geared towards visitors. For families, that's actually a huge benefit because it means you've got restaurants and amenities on your doorstep without having to jump in a car or on a bike every time you need something.

There is a quieter end and a busier end, and it's worth knowing the difference before you book. The side near Bikini Bottom and Blackfin gets quite hectic in the evenings with beeping horns and

general buzz. The end closer to [Vanessa Boutique](#) is much quieter and calmer, which tends to suit families better. Our top tip is to take advantage of the small alleyways that run between the beach and the main 'strip' in An Bang Beach, either for a quieter stay or just to walk along to get you from your accommodation to restaurants etc. It's far less stressful to walk through these alleyways with kids as there isn't constant traffic, and you won't be bothered by restaurant owners encouraging you in either.

One thing you absolutely should do is get up early and visit the daily food market in An Bang. It kicks off at around 6am and is usually wrapped up by about 9:30am, but the earlier you're there, the better! You can really get a sense of local life here; most locals are up super early for the day and you'll see restaurant owners here too stocking up on fresh produce. Meat and fish is sold on certain days, but there's always plenty of affordable fresh fruit and veg available. It's perfect for stocking up on snacks for little ones.

### Tan Thanh Beach

This is just the other side of a dilapidated development from An Bang Beach, and it's also known as South An Bang. Many hotels and homestays listed online as being in An Bang Beach are actually in the Tan Thanh Beach area, so double-check the exact location before you book (see map on the next page).



It's a nice area, though large sections of the beach here have been eroded away in storms. There is still beach access near Hit Ha cafe though, so you're not completely cut off from the sand. You've still got quick and easy access to the Ancient Town and other areas of Hoi An from here. It's quieter than An Bang and not as developed, so if An Bang feels a bit too hectic for your family, this could be a great alternative. There is a walkway next to the main road that you can use to walk between Tan Thanh and An Bang Beach in as little as 10 minutes.

### Cua Dai

This is another beach area, further along from An Bang. It's much quieter, but it is further out of the way than the other beach areas. If you're after peace and quiet and don't mind being a bit more removed from the action, it could work well. But if you want to be able to walk to restaurants and shops easily, An Bang or Tan Thanh would be better options.

### Cam Chau

This is a bustling area of Hoi An, away from the beach. Ba Le market is here, which is a big market selling everything from fruit, veg, and meat to lingerie and fabrics. There are plenty of restaurants and shops in this area too. It's a good option if you want to be in the thick of local life rather than in a tourist-focused beach area, though you'll never be short of food options here! We love the personality of Cam Chau, it's a great spot.

It's not too far from Ancient Town and around 10 minutes to the beach; all-in-all, a good option (and cheaper than the beach locations).

On the outskirts of Cam Chau are some rice paddies that are beautiful, and ideal for cycling around. You may need to cycle or get a Grab (more info on that later) to get to the main hub of Cam Chau, but this is a gorgeous area to stay too.

### Along the Riverside

If you're short on time and want to be close to the Ancient Town without being right in it, staying along the riverside is a lovely option. There are nice walks into town, and the views are beautiful. Just be careful with your exact location because some spots along the river can be noisy, particularly near where the Hoi An Memories show is held.

### Tra Que (Vegetable Village)

This is a quiet area that sits between the Ancient Town and An Bang Beach, which makes it a really handy location.

There are nice walking areas and easy access to the rice paddies, so if you want somewhere peaceful with a bit of countryside charm but still close to everything, Tra Que is a great shout.

### Areas to Avoid

We'd suggest steering clear of the area around Hoi An Memories and the basket boats area (sometimes called Coconut Village). Neither are great spots to be based in due to noise and traffic, and you can easily visit them on day trips without needing to stay nearby.

## Accommodation in Hoi An

Before we get stuck in, let's talk about mattresses.

Beds in Vietnam are renowned for being extremely firm (read that as backbreakingly hard). If you're staying in lower-cost accommodation, you're likely to have a hard mattress. If this is a concern for you, read reviews of the accommodation before booking and see if it's mentioned, whether that's in a positive or negative light.

My mum suffers from chronic back pain, which actually disappeared when she slept on the hard mattresses during her visit. I find that it takes me a few days to get used to, but then it's absolutely fine!

### Accommodation Options

There are a few different types of accommodation in Hoi An, and what you choose will depend on the size of your family, your budget, and how you like to travel.

Steam | 15

### Homestays

Think of these as Vietnam's version of a Bed and Breakfast. They're either purpose-built or converted family homes, and they're our favourite way to stay in Hoi An. You get a much more personal experience, the hosts are usually incredibly welcoming, and it gives you a real feel for local life. Most homestays are best suited to smaller families, though you can of course book multiple rooms if you're a family of 5+.

Many homestays have pools and offer laundry services too.

### Villas

If you've got a larger family or just want more space, hiring a villa is a good option. They give you room to spread out, which makes a big difference when you're travelling with kids. Avoid villas with outdoor kitchens though; rats will visit the kitchen overnight, and that's not a surprise anyone needs on holiday.

### Boutique Hotels

These are a lovely middle ground. They tend to be smaller, well-run, and have that personal touch without being as basic as some homestays. If you want a bit more comfort and polish, a boutique hotel is a great choice.

Typically, they have much softer mattresses, a pool, and a little bit of luxury about them.

### Large Hotels and Resorts

There are some beautiful hotels around. While these might feel like the safe option, we don't think you get the full experience of being in Hoi An if you stay at one. They tend to be on the outskirts, which means a longer journey in the car every time you want to go anywhere.



Vanessa Boutique

Part of what makes Hoi An so special is being able to step outside and be right in the middle of it, whether that's in the chaos or out in the rice paddies, and you lose that when you're tucked away in a big resort.

You also don't get to interact with the locals in the same way when you're at one of these resorts, and mixing with locals is our favourite thing to do in Vietnam.

Having said that, we appreciate that some people want a little luxury on their holidays, and there's certainly the opportunity for that in Hoi An!

### **Passports**

It's the law in Vietnam that all visitors are registered by hotels/hosts on a central database. Expect copies of your passport to be taken everywhere you stay.

### **Accommodation recommendations**

We've compiled this list based on accommodations that either we've stayed in, or friends and family have so we know that they're great options. There are hundreds of wonderful accommodation options in Hoi An so feel free to use our tips on location above and book what you feel is right for your family.

## Ancient Town

### **Song An Home** - [Book here](#)

This is a stunning villa in the heart of the Old Town, though in one of the quieter shopping and restaurant streets, away from the noisy nightlife. This street should in theory be pedestrianised, and while that doesn't stop motorbikes coming through, you won't hear traffic noise. It has plenty of space for a family and super convenient for those who like to be able to prepare food, have a fridge, and just have space to chill out after a warm day out!

We love the vibe of the decor here, it's Hoi An through-and-through.

### **Thanh Van 1 Hotel** - [Book here](#)

A lovely hotel with a unique layout, with the rooms all set around a central pool area. There are some stairs here and no elevator, though if mobility isn't an issue the kids will love crossing over bridges to get to their room.

This hotel is walkable to everything in Ancient Town, though it's on a busier road which does have traffic flowing constantly.

### **Allegro Hoi An** - [Book here](#)

This is the spot for you if you're looking for some luxury while still staying somewhere that feels intimate with fab service. It's located on the outskirts of Old Town, making it a 5-minute walk to the hustle and bustle, though you wouldn't believe it if you were sat by the pool here. This really is a gorgeous hotel and also has a 24-hour fitness room.

### **Dao Tien Homestay** - [Book here](#)

This homestay is just off the main road into Hoi An Ancient Town, putting you conveniently

on the outside and easily able to come away from the Old town when you need a break! It's a budget-friendly option and walkable to many restaurants and shops.

### **The View Homestay** - [Book here](#)

Steps away from the Ancient Town, this is a lower-cost option with incredibly helpful and friendly owners. There is a small pool for a dip to cool off, and a stunning rooftop deck to give you views over the Old Town.

### **Hoi An Vi Khoa Villa** - [Book here](#)

This budget-friendly homestay is a short walk to Ancient Town with many places to eat and grab a coffee nearby.



## An Bang Beach

### **Vanessa Boutique** - [Book here](#)

This is a real gem. The manager here is phenomenal, and the decor is beautiful with a lovely garden to the rear of this boutique hotel. There is an undercover pool, which you'll be grateful for if you come during the sunnier months.

Some families are accommodated here with an additional bed in the spacious rooms, and others go into the family rooms which have a small staircase for kids to have their own upstairs area. All the rooms are gorgeous!

### **Coco Villa** - [Book here](#)

This gorgeous hotel is down a quiet alley in An Bang, only a stones-throw from the beach.

It's a great location if you have beach-loving kids, with paddleboard and bodyboard hire available right at the entrance to the beach from this hotel.

### **Cashew Tree Bungalow** - [Book here](#)

Located down a quiet, local alley in An Bang Beach, this is a budget homestay with the most lovely owners. The attached restaurant is one of our favourites to go to for Vietnamese food and we can feed the whole family for less than 400,000 VND.

### **AIRA Boutique** - [Book here](#)

Another boutique hotel that's just beautiful. This one is down another quiet alley in An Bang Beach and has a pool. It gets booked up fast as it's in-demand so book ahead if you like the look of it!

### **An Bang Corner House** - [Book here](#)

A mid-budget homestay right near An Bang Beach's bustling morning market. This place gives you easy access out of An Bang via car and has a pool.

### **Dai An Phu Villa** - [Book here](#)

Another homestay near the An Bang Beach market, though a little further up the road if you'd prefer some peace and quiet. It's set back from the main An Bang street too, so is a nice quiet spot though still just a 5 minute walk to the beach.

### **The Pearl** - [Book here](#)

The Pearl is actually slightly outside of An Bang, though I included it here as it's very close by.



It's a large resort complex with a swimming pool and apartment-style accommodation with rave reviews from fellow worldschooling families about the breakfast here. You can walk to An Bang either along the beach (there is some rubbish/trash along the beach between the Pearl and An Bang as there are no properties there to maintain the area - though this isn't bad enough to put people off staying there), or walking along the main road, where there is a pavement.

Families also love that there's a gym here, fitness centre, and kids club too, so if you want more of a holiday-vibe while still being within walking distance to restaurants, this is a good spot.

## Elsewhere in Hoi An

### **Boutique Hoi An** - [Book here](#)

This is probably the largest of the boutique hotels that I've listed, with the others being more small and intimate than Boutique Hoi An. However, this is another lovely option for those wanting a somewhere that feels luxurious to relax on quiet days. It has a large pool, stunning rooms, and is set on the beach front within walking distance of Tan Thanh.

### **The Hoiana** - [Book here](#)

The great news is that when you 'blow the budget' in Vietnam and upgrade yourself to somewhere that feels special, it's still feels very affordable. That's the case with the Hoiana.

Personally, I'm not a fan of the location as it's quite a way along the coast from all the fun things happening in Hoi An, which is always going to be the case for such a large resort.

However, I wanted to give it a mention because for families looking for a truly relaxing holiday and would prefer to pop out occasionally to the

busyness of Old Town, restaurants, and other activities, this is a great hotel.

The food here is beautiful and it's great value for money.

### **Hoi An Rice Villa** - [Book here](#)

A homestay set in the rice paddies, perfect to make use of the bicycles that are free to use here. This is a lovely location where you can easily cycle into Ancient Town and then come back to relax in the pool.

### **Silk Sense Hoi An River Resort** - [Book here](#)

If you love pickleball, you're in luck because this small resort is right opposite a court! It's also right next to a quiet riverside street, and a short cycle on the free bikes to the beach. Our kids love the in-pool loungers that they actually use to slide off rather than relax in!

### **Jade Hoi An Rice Paddies** - [Book here](#)

This gem (did you see what I did there?!) is in a stunning area in the rice paddies, and a 30-second walk across to Le Locust Cafe that is mentioned here later on. The cycle routes in these paddies are quiet and perfect for cycling around with kids.

### **Hoi an Tranquil Lodge - Chon Binh Yen** - [Book](#)

This is a large homestay that's at the edge of the busy area outside of Ancient Town, yet still a stones-throw from some rice paddies and a 20 minute cycle to the beach. It's great value for money, has a large pool, and a great breakfast too!

### **Wafaifo** - [Book here](#)

This resort is within easy walking distance of Ancient Town yet it feels very exclusive. There are several on-site restaurants, a gym, spa, movie room, and kids club too! This place is a real treat and you'll be very well looked-after by the staff here.



# NEED TO KNOW

## BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

### Money, Money, Money

Vietnam is very much a cash society, and Hoi An is no exception. Getting your head around this before you arrive will save you a lot of hassle.

Some local restaurants do allow you to pay by card, but most will charge a 3-5% fee on top of your bill for doing so. The larger restaurants, chains, shops, and places in the Ancient Town generally take card payment without a fee, but if you're only eating and

shopping at those places, we think you're missing out on the best of what Hoi An has to offer. The small local spots are where the real magic (and the best food) is.

So you're going to need cash, and plenty of it.

Cash withdrawals from ATMs do come with fees, but not all banks charge the same. We'd recommend using VP Bank ATMs where possible, as these tend to have the lowest charges.

It's also worth looking into whether your bank at home offers a card with no foreign withdrawal fees before you travel. It makes a big difference over a week or two when you're withdrawing cash regularly, and you will withdraw it regularly!

Most cash machines only allow you to take out 3-5million VND, with each transaction costing you money.

One thing to be really careful with is the notes themselves. Vietnamese dong comes in large denominations and some of the notes look very similar to each other. It's easy to hand over the wrong one if you're not paying attention, especially when you're still getting used to the currency. Take a moment to familiarise yourself with the different notes early on, and always double-check before you pay.

We'd also recommend downloading the Moreta app before you arrive. It's an alternative way to pay via QR code, which is the way that most locals pay. This saves many trips to the ATM, and QR-pay is accepted by all businesses, even the small, local restaurants. There is a fee for Moreta (currently 1.5%), though it still works out much cheaper than ATM fees and saves you going back and forth to the ATM, where it's likely you'll queue in high season.

If you're planning to use Grab (which we'd highly recommend for getting around), set up your account before you arrive. It's much easier to do it at home than fiddling with it when you land. We'd also suggest linking a different card to your Grab account as we've had fraudulent activity in the past and we suspect that this is linked to cards we've added to Grab.

We use Starling Bank as they don't charge any foreign transaction fees (we just have to pay the

ATM fee for cash withdrawals, but that's not from Starling) and we create a 'virtual space' for Grab transactions, with a 'virtual card' set up for the space. This way, we know our money is safe and don't have to deal with any issues like losing access to our main bank card while we're abroad.

### **Tipping**

Vietnam is not a tipping culture, so you don't need to worry about adding a tip every time you eat out or grab a coffee. It's not expected and nobody will be offended if you don't.

That said, there are some situations where a tip is expected, such as on tours and boat rides where you'd tip the driver or guide.

If you tip in other situations, make sure it's at least 20,000 VND. Anything less is considered offensive, so it's better not to tip at all than to leave too little.

### **Safety**

#### **General Safety**

Hoi An is largely a very safe place, and we've never felt unsafe during our time here. Personal safety is good and violence levels are minimal, so it's a comfortable destination for families. But there are a few things to know so you're not caught off guard.

#### **The Beach and Water**

The sea can have strong currents and tides, particularly during stormy weather. Always keep an eye on conditions before letting the kids go in, and pay attention to any flags or warnings on the beach. If you're sitting at a busier beach area, locals will often signal to you not to go in the water if they feel it's unsafe, and you should listen to them.



We've found that for a few weeks around May, there tend to be quite a few jellyfish in the water. They're not harmful, but it's good to be aware of, especially with little ones who might get a fright.

### **Crossing the Road**

This is the one that takes the most getting used to. You might have heard people say that you 'just step out and the traffic moves around you'. That does happen to an extent, but there's more to it than that because if you just walk and expect that everyone will move around you, you'll be headed to the hospital quite quickly! You need to make eye contact with drivers so they know you're crossing, walk at a steady pace, and sometimes you simply have to wait for a gap. Don't just step out blindly.

Be warned that motorbikes will still turn right on a red light, so even when the lights are in your favour, you need to keep watching the traffic.

And zebra crossings are just for decoration here. Don't assume anyone is going to stop for you at one!

### **Motorbikes**

Think very carefully before hiring a motorbike. Yes, it's the most popular way for locals to get around, but if you're not an experienced rider, it's a big risk in Vietnamese traffic. You also need to check your travel insurance, because most policies won't cover you for motorbike use, which means any accident or injury would come entirely out of your own pocket. Ask yourself whether the convenience is really justified when Grab is so cheap and easy.

### **Pavements and Roads**

Pavements are not for walking on. They're used for parking motorbikes, setting up shop, and just about everything other than walking. You'll spend a lot of your time walking on the road, so keep the kids close and stay alert. Motorbikes will also ride down the wrong side of the road, which can catch you out if you're not expecting it.

This does make it more difficult to navigate with pushchairs, so consider a baby carrier, as even where you can walk on a pavement, there are often obstacles to navigate.

If you're walking near or between parked motorbikes, watch out for hot exhausts as they can give a nasty burn. If you hire a petrol

motorbike, you should also get off (and get your kids off) on the left side of the motorbike to avoid the exhaust. We've seen far too many burns on the back of calves to not let you know about this one!

### **Incense**

You may come across incense sticks burning on pavements or outside shops and homes. It's a cultural practice and completely normal, but keep an eye on young children around them.

### **Dengue Fever**

Dengue fever does exist in Hoi An, so you should always use mosquito repellent, particularly around dawn and dusk and during the more humid months. Having said that, we've experienced far worse mosquito situations in Thailand, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka. It's something to be sensible about rather than something to panic over.

### **Boats and Life Jackets**

If you're going on any boat trips, check that there are life jackets available before you set

off. Most operators will make you wear them anyway, but it's always better to check, especially for the kids.

### **Cycling**

If you hire push bikes (which is a brilliant way to get around Hoi An), make sure the kids wear helmets. You can usually get them from the rental shop, but ask upfront to be sure.

There are some seats available for smaller children, though lots of kids who are too big for those and too small to have their own bike sit over the back wheel of a parent's bike. I wince at the number of kids we know who have had their foot degloved (it's as horrific as it sounds) or broken their foot/leg by doing this. They do this by putting their foot between the spokes of the moving wheel, so if you're going to put your child on the back, it's best to terrify them out of doing this before you set off!

If your children are riding their own bike, they should be extremely competent riders as it can be intimidating when motorbikes come by quickly and they have to stay in a very straight line.



## Rabies in Vietnam

You'll notice quite quickly that there are dogs everywhere in Hoi An. They wander the streets and the beach freely, and while most of them are owned, they tend to take themselves for a walk each day. Some are perfectly friendly, but others are clearly anxious, and it's best to give those ones a wide berth.

As a family, we have a firm rule: our kids don't approach any dogs unless we know the owner. Even then, they are extremely careful, because dogs can be unpredictable. It doesn't matter how friendly a dog seems, the risk of rabies for us just isn't worth it.

There aren't many cats in Vietnam compared to the UK. There are monkeys in some parts of the country, including in the hills outside of Da Nang, though we've never seen any in Hoi An itself.

Time for some serious talk...

After I wrote all this out I considered deleting and just saying 'talk to your doctor', which is obviously sensible advice, and you should do that. But I think it's important to share our family's experiences here too after coming across families who have no idea of the risks, and who haven't sought treatment after potential exposure to rabies.

Dogs, cats, and monkeys can all carry rabies, and they may not be displaying any symptoms. Rabies is spread when an infected animal's saliva comes into contact with a wound, so it's most commonly passed to humans through a bite. However, scratches can also transmit the infection.

If anyone in your family is bitten or scratched by an animal, even if it seems small, even if the

animal appeared perfectly healthy, you must go to an accident and emergency centre immediately. There is a very small window of opportunity to treat the infection (potentially only 24 hours) before it is too late to do anything about it. A person can be symptomless for several months after exposure, but once the infection progresses, there is no stopping it and it will lead to death. I'm not saying this to frighten you, I'm saying it because I want to get across how important it is to seek urgent treatment, no matter how minor the bite or scratch might seem.

If you do need treatment, you'll be given a schedule of post-exposure vaccines that you must stick to rigidly. The schedule depends on the nature of the incident and whether you were vaccinated for rabies before the exposure. Can this be prevented?

You can get a course of pre-exposure rabies vaccines before travelling. It's important to know that even with these vaccines, you still **MUST** go for post-exposure treatment if you're bitten or scratched. The difference is that you'll require fewer post-exposure vaccines and the pre-exposure course also buys you more time after an incident. If you're had the pre-exposure vaccines, you have around 48 hours to seek treatment following an incident with an animal. Without them, that window drops to around 24 hours. That extra time can make a real difference if you're somewhere remote or unsure where the nearest medical centre is.

Whether you get the vaccines before leaving home is a decision you should make as a family, weighing up the risks against how close you're likely to be to a medical centre that stocks

post-exposure vaccines. Please discuss it with your doctor before you travel. I'm not a medical professional and this isn't medical advice.

We were unable to get the pre-exposure vaccines in the UK before we left, as there was a shortage at the time. I have personally had a full course of post-exposure vaccines, after being nipped by a very friendly teething puppy. These things happen, and it was a stressful experience even though the puppy clearly meant no harm, because we were travelling around at the time and I kept having to find vaccination centres to finish the treatment.

We're happy with getting the post-exposure injections if they're needed, and confident that we'll be able to seek treatment if required.

Trust me when I say, stroking dogs is just not the payoff you think it is when you factor in the worry and the hospital visits afterwards. I don't want to leave you with the impression that rabies is rife in Vietnam and it's a dangerous place to visit; it isn't at all. But there's a risk.

It's for this exact reason that we never visit places where over-confident monkeys are expecting to be fed by humans. It's just not a risk we're willing to take with our kids.

Check out the info on the NHS website - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/rabies/>

Image by [cristobalimaturangphoto](#)



# PREPARING YOUR KIDS

A little bit of preparation before you arrive goes a long way, especially with younger children. Hoi An is a wonderful place for kids, but there are some things that might catch them off guard if they're not expecting them.

## CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Talk to your kids about the cultural differences they'll experience. Vietnam is a deeply spiritual country, and they'll see temples, shrines, and offerings as part of everyday life. Explain what these are so they're not confused or tempted to touch things they shouldn't.

## THE HEAT

If your kids aren't used to serious heat, prepare them for it. Let them know it's going to potentially be much hotter than their home country and that they'll need to drink lots of water, wear sun cream, and take breaks in the shade. It sounds obvious, but a bit of expectation-setting beforehand can prevent meltdowns later.

## PEOPLE APPROACHING

In the Ancient Town especially, people will approach you to ask if you'd like massages, boat trips, or to come into their restaurant. They're not aggressive about it at all, but it can get a bit repetitive and younger kids might find it overwhelming if they're not expecting it. Let them know it's completely normal and that a polite 'no thank you' is all that's needed.

On that note, we always remind our kids not to stop and browse unless they're genuinely interested, and try not to touch anything on display. The moment you do, it invites sellers over and you'll find it much harder to move on. Our kids know to just carry on walking, even if they see something interesting!

## LEARN SOME VIETNAMESE

Practising a few basic Vietnamese phrases before you go is a lovely thing to do as a family. Even just 'hello' and 'thank you' will go down brilliantly with locals, and kids tend to love learning a few words in a new language.

# PREPARING YOUR KIDS

## RATS AND COCKROACHES

It's not unusual to see rats and cockroaches in Vietnam, particularly in the evenings. It's just part of life here and nothing to panic about, but if your kids have never seen either before, give them a heads up so they're not shocked.

## ATTENTION FOR BLONDE HAIR/CUTE KIDS

If your children have blonde hair, be prepared for them to get some attention. Vietnamese people (especially older generations) find blonde hair fascinating and may want to touch it or take photos. Having said that, locals are very used to foreign visitors in Hoi An, so it's not something that happens often, and you're more likely to encounter attention in more remote places, or those with tourists from other Asian countries. It's always done with warmth and kindness, but it can feel a bit much for kids who aren't expecting it. A quick chat beforehand about why it happens will help them feel more comfortable.

We have known some people who've felt that their kids personal space was invaded, often by a tourist to Vietnam trying (too hard) to get a photo with kids.

## STRAY DOGS

We've covered this in detail in the safety section, but it's so important that it bears repeating here. Talk to your kids about the dogs they'll see wandering the streets and the beach, and make it very clear that they shouldn't touch or approach any of them, no matter how friendly they look.

# BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

## What to prepare

### Travel insurance

This one's simple. Medical treatment abroad can cost thousands, and one accident or illness without cover could leave you in serious financial trouble. Don't risk it. Get a good policy that covers your whole family, check what's included (and what isn't), and make sure you're happy with it before you leave.

### What to pack

Take a look at our [Amazon Storefront](#) to see our packing recommendations.

You don't need to overthink packing for Hoi An; keep it light and simple. Bring lightweight clothing that you can layer up if needed. If you're coming during the cooler months, it often feels colder than it actually is (weird I know, but when we came one January and it was 15 degrees celsius, we were freezing!). I'd recommend a rain coat too for downpours, and if you're here in the dry season, a poncho will do just fine and take up hardly any room in your case.

It's easy and cheap to get washing done here, so you don't need to pack for every single day. Most homestays and hotels offer a laundry service, and there are plenty of local laundry shops too.

Don't bother bringing mosquito repellent from home as you can buy it here for a fraction of the price, and the local brands do a great job. The one sold in a blue/lilac bottle here seems to do the trick, and is available at supermarkets and minimarts.

[Steam](#) | 18

suncream is the exception though. Always bring your own from the UK (or wherever you are!).

A lot of the suncream sold in Vietnam contains a whitening agent as pale skin is favoured here, and you probably don't want to be putting on yourself or the kids. We use [Zinc suncream](#) on our faces as it tends to stay put, even when goggles are on/off all day, and doesn't run into your eyes.

We'd also recommend packing children's paracetamol. We use [Calpol Fastmelts](#) as they're easy to travel with and don't take up much room. You can find medicines here, but having your go-to from home gives you one less thing to worry about if a temperature strikes in the middle of the night.

### Phones and internet

Sort yourself out with an e-sim before you leave the home. When you land and switch your phone on, you'll have internet straight away, which means you can call a Grab, message your accommodation, pull up Google Maps, let loved ones know you've arrived, whatever you need. The alternative is standing in a queue at the airport with tired, hungry kids trying to buy a sim card, and nobody wants that.

On that note, we would say to avoid the sim card stands at the airport. They're well known for overcharging tourists and selling packages that aren't what they claim to be (telling you you've got 7 days at 5gb a day, when really you've got 2 days at 2gb a day!). We've heard plenty of stories from other families who've been caught out. Save yourself the hassle and get your e-sim sorted at home.

You can buy physical sim cards in Vietnam and they're cheaper than e-sims, but you'll need to take your passport with you to get one. Not a big deal, but the e-sim just removes the faff completely.

We use [this company for e-sims](#), and even though we spend months in one location, we still just get e-sims as it's the easiest thing for us. Use the code TWOKIDS for a 5% discount too!



image by cristobalimaturangphoto



# DURING YOUR VISIT

This is when all the fun really begins. I really love this part, when people arrive in Hoi An for the first time. Send me a message to let me know how you get on, we'd love to hear your thoughts!



## Getting to Hoi An

### From the airport

Hoi An doesn't have its own airport, so you'll fly into Da Nang, which is about 40 minutes away by car. The easiest way to get from the airport to Hoi An is by Grab (Vietnam's version of Uber). It's cheap, reliable, and you know the price before you get in, so there's no haggling or worrying about being overcharged.

There's a specific Grab pickup point at the airport that you'll need to find once you come out of arrivals. It's well signposted but can feel a bit confusing when you've just landed. In the Grab app, you can select the size of vehicle that you need; we always order a 7-seater for our family of 4 when coming from the airport so the luggage fits in the boot (and if you order 7-seaters anyway just to get around, there is usually air conditioning in the back too, not just the front!).

Alternatively, many homestays will arrange an airport pickup for you if you ask, which takes the stress out of it completely. Typically, these drivers hold up a sign at arrivals with your name on it and lead you to the car park to get in the car.

Da Nang is a very small airport, so it's very easy to navigate!

### Coming by overnight train

If you're coming to Hoi An from elsewhere in Vietnam, the overnight sleeper train is a great option if you'd like to avoid a flight. The kids will find it an adventure, it saves you a night's accommodation, and you wake up in a new city.

We always use the Lotus Train as it's been recommended to us as the cleanest of the

overnight sleeper trains. You book via the [Lotus Trains](#) website, but if you Whatsapp Mr Hieu before booking, he'll give you a code for a discount to use, and you can also ask him to allocate your beds after you've booked.

Ask Mr Hieu for a cabin in the middle of the carriage so that you're not over the wheels, and this will make the journey a lot quieter for you. Here's the WhatsApp number to use: +84 868 060 269

### Coming via sleeper bus

We're extremely cautious about long-distance buses, to the point we just don't use them in Vietnam despite using them elsewhere in Asia. The driving standards can be questionable, and there have sadly been many reported crashes and deaths involving overnight sleeper buses.





## Getting around in Hoi An

Once you're in Hoi An, Grab is your best friend. Set up the app and link a card to it before you leave home so it's ready to go when you arrive. The beauty of Grab is that the price is fixed before you book, so you always know exactly what you're paying. No meters, no negotiations, no nasty surprises.

**Grab is by far  
the best, most  
efficient, and  
cheapest way  
to get around**

The rides are cheap too. Getting from An Bang Beach to the Ancient Town will only cost you a couple of pounds/dollars, so there's really no reason not to use it. You can get Grab cars (which fit the whole family) or Grab bikes if it's just one of you heading somewhere quickly.

There are some electric golf-buggy style vehicles in the Ancient Town. They calculate the price based on the number of people travelling and the destination, and these are always more expensive than a Grab.

However, the fare is still cheap, relatively speaking and the experience can be fun for little ones!

# COMMON SCAMS

Despite what you might read online, scams in Hoi An (and Vietnam in general) are pretty uncommon. We've lived here for over a year and can count on one hand the number of times we've felt like someone was trying it on. But they do exist, and they're mostly concentrated in and around the Ancient Town, so it's good to know what to look out for.

The most common one is around cash. Vietnamese notes are similar colours and it's easy to get confused, especially when you're still getting used to the currency. Some sellers will take a note from you (say the blue 500,000VND note) and then claim you underpaid (by presenting you with the also blue 20,000 VND note), hoping you'll hand over more without questioning it. Others will short change you, banking on the fact that you won't notice. The best way to avoid this is to take your time when paying and counting your change. Don't let anyone rush you, and note that the 50,000VND note and 200,000VND are both red, so they're easily confused too.

You'll almost certainly come across the ladies carrying baskets of fruit on their shoulders in Ancient Town. They'll ask you to hold them, or offer to let you try carrying them for a photo. It seems friendly and fun, but once you've got them on your shoulders, they'll demand money for the privilege. Just politely decline and keep walking.

If you really want a photo with the baskets, agree to a price first; personally, I wouldn't pay any more than 30,000VND for this. Be cautious taking photos of these ladies without permission, as they will demand cash if they see you.

Taxi drivers can sometimes try to take you where they want you to go rather than where you've asked - another reason to use Grab. Coconut boats are a classic one. They'll suggest it, insist it's amazing, and conveniently drop you right at a place where they're getting commission. If you didn't ask to go somewhere, don't agree to a detour, and try to have a specific venue in mind before you leave home instead of letting someone else tell you where to go.

The old 'sorry, no change' trick comes up occasionally too. You hand over a large note for a small purchase or taxi ride and suddenly they can't break it. Carry smaller notes where you can so you're not relying on anyone else's honesty. This is very common with taxi drivers - you're hopefully seeing a theme now that you should use Grab and have your debit card set up on it! The place you're most likely to encounter scams is at the airport. Taxi drivers will charge astronomical prices, and some will hold up Grab signs or flash their phones at you pretending to be Grab drivers. They're not. Just open your own app, order your own Grab, and say no to anyone who approaches you. It's as simple as that.



# ETIQUETTE

## DURING YOUR VISIT

Vietnam isn't as strict as some countries when it comes to cultural etiquette, but there are a few things that are good to know so you're being respectful.

### **Photos**

Always ask before taking photos of people, especially locals going about their daily lives. Most people are happy to oblige, but it's just basic manners. Nobody wants a camera shoved in their face without warning.

### **Covering Up**

You don't need to cover up head to toe like you might in some countries, but the locals here cover up to avoid the sun on their skin. If you're at the beach or the pool, swimwear is obviously fine. But don't be the family wandering through the streets in bikinis and swim shorts because you're on holiday.

Parading about in your thong through a Vietnamese town just isn't the one. Although you won't cause any offence doing this, apparently the locals see it as very 'common' and it just doesn't feel respectful.



### **Keeping Your Cool**

Losing your temper in public is seen as a sign of weakness here. However frustrated you might get, keep it together. Raising your voice or getting visibly angry won't get you what you want and will only make the situation worse.

### **Shoes Off**

You'll sometimes need to remove your shoes before entering certain places. This is common at medical premises like dentists, doctors, and pharmacies, as well as massage places and some shops. It becomes second nature after a while, but it's good to know so you're not caught out wearing shoes that take ten minutes to get on and off.

### **Karaoke**

The Vietnamese absolutely love karaoke. And when we say love it, we mean LOVE it. It's loud, it's enthusiastic, and the singing is... well, let's just say it's not about talent (and they don't care, which we love for them. There are zero inhibitions when it comes to karaoke!). The good news is it always wraps up by 10pm, so it won't ruin your evenings. But if you're near a karaoke spot during the day, expect some

background entertainment whether you asked for it or not.

### **Handling Money**

When you're handing money to someone, use two hands. It's a sign of respect in Vietnamese culture and something the locals will notice and appreciate.

### **Temple and Pagoda Etiquette**

If you visit any temples or pagodas (and you should, they're beautiful), there are some rules to follow. Most of this is common sense, but it's good to go over it with the kids before you arrive so everyone knows what's expected.

Always remove your shoes before entering, cover your shoulders and knees, and take off hats and sunglasses. If you're planning a temple visit, just make sure everyone's dressed appropriately before you head out. It saves the awkward moment of having to turn around or fashion a cover-up out of a beach towel.

Bow as you enter. Some temples have a raised threshold at the entrance that you need to step over, which naturally forces you to bow as you go in.

Don't assume you can take photos inside. Most places don't mind, but always check first. If in doubt, keep the phone in your pocket. And while we're on the subject of phones, turn your sound off before you go in.

Make sure the kids understand that they need to be quiet and respectful. It doesn't need to be a big serious talk, just let them know it's a special place and people are there to pray and reflect.

You're welcome to participate if you'd like to. You can make offerings or burn incense, and nobody will think it's strange that you're joining in. It's actually a really lovely experience to share with the kids.

As you leave, it's customary to leave a small donation. Nothing huge, just some small denomination notes like 20,000 or 50,000 VND. There's usually a donation box near the entrance or exit.

### Negotiating

First things first: accept that you're going to pay more than the locals do. We call it the 'tourist tax' and it's just part of the deal. You're a visitor, prices will be higher for you, and that's fine. Fighting over every last dong isn't worth it.

At the local food markets, negotiating isn't really the done thing. If you feel like you're being overcharged for something, you can simply choose not to buy it and move on. No drama needed.

Where you can and should negotiate is at the non-food markets and in the shops. But there are some ground rules.

This is not a game. Please don't let your children treat it as one, because it's rude, and it's unfortunately something we witness a lot. Don't start negotiating for something unless you



genuinely intend to buy it. Walking up, haggling someone down to half price and then wandering off because you were just having a laugh is disrespectful. These are people's livelihoods. With that in mind, think about how much you really want to haggle; 10,000VND is worth 30p or 50 cents to you, but is worth more to the seller.

Sellers will often start at two to four times their lowest price, so there is room to negotiate, and they expect you to. But if you can't reach a price you're happy with, act graciously. Smile, say thank you, and walk away. No huffing, no eye-rolling, no making them feel bad for not giving you the price you wanted. Being prepared to walk away is actually one of the most effective negotiating tools anyway, because more often than not, they'll call you back.

We wouldn't bother trying to buy too much in the Ancient Town unless it's something you've really set your heart on. Rents are higher there, there are more tourists willing to pay whatever's asked, and you will absolutely overpay compared to buying the same thing elsewhere in Hoi An.



# FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

Where to go and what to expect

One of the best things about Hoi An is the food, and the good news is that there's something for everyone, including fussy kids. There are plenty of local Vietnamese options and western restaurants too, so nobody is going to go hungry.

Vietnamese food doesn't tend to be spicy, which is a relief if you've got little ones who won't go near anything with a kick. There's lots of rice, noodles, fresh vegetables, and grilled meats that kids tend to love.

Often, the cheaper the restaurant, the better the food. Some of the best meals we've had in Hoi An have been at tiny local places where the menu is falling apart and the furniture is so small you feel like you're back in reception class. Yes, you may well end up sitting on miniature plastic chairs and stools. The kids will find it fun!



One bit of advice we'd give is to commit to either local or western when you're choosing where to eat. If you're in a proper Vietnamese restaurant, their attempts at western food on the menu will almost always be terrible. Stick to the Vietnamese dishes and you'll have an incredible meal. If you want a burger or a pizza, go somewhere that specialises in it.

We have another rather controversial golden rule; if it's a Vietnamese restaurant and you can pay by card, it's not going to be your best meal. The best local spots are cash or QR pay only!

If anyone in your family is in the camp that thinks coriander (or cilantro if you're from across the pond) tastes like soap (Tim is firmly in this camp), always say 'no coriander' when you order. It crops up in loads of dishes, either cooked in or used as a garnish, and it can ruin a meal for those of you who can't stand the stuff.

One cultural thing to be aware of is not to leave lots of food on your plate, as it's considered rude. If you can't finish everything, politely ask to take it away. We do this even if we know we probably won't eat the leftovers, just so we're not causing any offence.

Finally, food comes as it's ready here. We're very used to waiting until everyone's food arrives in the UK before getting started, with dishes served at the same time. In Vietnam and many other Asian countries, the food is prepared and delivered, and you just get stuck in when it arrives.

### **Allergies, intolerances and dietary requirements**

If anyone in your family has a food allergy or intolerance, get it translated into Vietnamese before you travel. Have it written down on your phone or on a card that you can show to staff when you order. Don't rely on explaining it in

English, especially at local restaurants where the staff may not speak much English.

Be prepared to go further than just stating the allergy too. You might need to explain exactly what you need them to do. For example, if cross-contamination is a concern, do they need to wash their pan thoroughly before cooking your dish? Do they need to use a separate oil? Don't feel awkward about being specific! Note that dishes are often washed in cold water here.

In the more touristy areas, restaurants are fairly used to allergy and dietary requests, so you shouldn't have too many problems. It's at the smaller local places where you'll need to be more hands-on with your communication.

If you're gluten-free, there are a handful of places that cater for this. And if anyone in the family is vegetarian or vegan, you're in luck because there are dedicated vegetarian and vegan restaurants in Hoi An. We're not vegan ourselves, but we eat at these places all the time because the food is absolutely delicious.



## Foods to try

You can't come to Hoi An and not try the local food. Here are some dishes that we'd consider essential.

**Banh Xeo** is a crispy Vietnamese pancake stuffed with prawns, pork, and bean sprouts. You wrap pieces of it in rice paper with fresh herbs, though some restaurants serve it ready wrapped. The kids love getting involved with the wrapping and it's a fun one to share as a family.

**Hoi An Chicken Rice** is a dish that's unique to Hoi An and you'll see it everywhere. Shredded chicken served on fragrant yellow rice with fresh herbs and a light broth on the side. It's simple, it's delicious, and even the fussiest eaters tend to get on board with this one.

**Pho** is Vietnam's famous noodle soup is available on practically every street corner and it's just as good as you'd expect. A steaming bowl of pho for breakfast is one of those experiences that makes you feel like you're properly living the Vietnamese life. Note that you pronounce it like 'fur', apparently pronouncing it using English phonics sounds like the Vietnamese word for 'prostitute'!

**Banh Mi** is the Vietnamese baguette. Packed with a combination of meats, pate, pickled vegetables, fresh herbs, and chilli, they're cheap, they're filling, and they're ridiculously good. The kids can have them without the chilli and they'll still love them.

**Cao Lau** is another dish unique to Hoi An. Thick noodles with pork, greens, and crispy croutons in a small amount of rich broth. It has a completely different texture and flavour to pho (the noodles come from only 2 families in Hoi An who hold the secret recipe) and it's one of those things you can only get here, so make sure you try it.



**Vietnamese Curry** is milder and creamier than you might expect. It's coconut-based, packed with vegetables or meat, and served with bread or rice. It's a great option for kids who are a bit nervous about trying new things, because it's familiar enough to feel safe but still has that Vietnamese twist.





# RESTAURANTS

You'll never be short of options for good food in Hoi An! There's so much great local food around, and Western options too. You'll find many local restaurants that are not even on foreigner's radars, that are little gems. Be sure to explore close to your accommodation, and if you want to save yourself the trouble of wandering aimlessly in search of good food, you can use our recommendations below.

We love to get recommendations from others too. It's not unheard of in the area for cafes and restaurants to offer a freebie in exchange for a 5\* Google review, meaning you have to take some highly-rated restaurants with a pinch of salt. We've ended up at alleged 5\* restaurants and left disappointed on more than one occasion!

Our advice is to add the list below to your Google maps for those days where you just can't be bothered to search for somewhere to eat!

Some are definitely more rustic than others, but don't let the look of the restaurant put you off; all of these are on our list because we've had delicious meals (usually many times!) in each one.

## VIETNAMESE

**CASHEW TREE - AN BANG BEACH - [MAP](#)**

Cheap as chips and proper home-cooked Vietnamese food. Nothing fancy, just really good food at prices that'll make you wonder why you ever spent £15/\$20USD on a mediocre lunch in the UK/USA/Australia when you can spend £10/\$14USD here and feed the family!

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## VIETNAMESE

**VY'S DELI, ANCIENT TOWN - [MAP](#)**

This is one of the few places in the Ancient Town that we'd actually recommend eating at. Vy's Deli sits in the same building as Vy's Market, which serves loads of lovely Vietnamese dishes. The deli menu itself is a combo of western and local food, and the western options are decent here.

A little tip: if you're ordering from the Vy's Deli menu, they often don't mind if you ask to see the market menu and order from there too. So you can mix and match, which is great if half the family wants a burger and the other half wants something Vietnamese.

Upstairs is a totally different restaurant, so make sure you stay downstairs or you'll end up somewhere else entirely.

They also accept card payments with no fee, which is handy if you're running low on cash.

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## WESTERN

**PORT CITY BAGELS - ANCIENT TOWN - [MAP](#)**

Everyone we've met from North America absolutely raves about this place and says the bagels are just like home. We tried them and can confirm they're brilliant. If you're after a proper stuffed bagel for breakfast or lunch, this is the place.

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## VIETNAMESE

**HOCO - CUA DAI - [MAP](#)**

A typical Vietnamese cafe serving drinks and banh mi's, but the reason we keep going back is the vermicelli. It's so good and incredibly cheap, even by Hoi An standards.

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## BRITISH

**WEAVERS - AN BANG BEACH - [MAP](#)**

The kids made me include this one, and to be fair, I get it.

Weavers is British-owned and serves proper British food. We're talking giant Yorkshire puddings, Heinz baked beans, Bisto gravy, English breakfasts, and mash. If you've been travelling for a while and you're craving a taste of home, this place will sort you right out.

The quality is really good. It is on the expensive side compared to eating locally, but that's to be expected when the ingredients are coming from the other side of the world. Sometimes you just need a plate of something familiar!

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## WESTERN

**THE LIGHTHOUSE - AN BANG BEACH - [MAP](#)**

Run by the wonderfully welcoming Tram, The Lighthouse does great pizzas and is a lovely spot for a family dinner. They occasionally have live music too, which adds to the atmosphere on those nights when you get lucky with the timing

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## VIETNAMESE

**MR HOA'S - AN BANG BEACH - [MAP](#)**

This is one of our go-to spots and a place we keep coming back to. The local Vietnamese food here is brilliant, and it's right near the beach so you can combine a meal with a morning or afternoon on the sand.

They do serve pizzas too, which the kids enjoy, though if pizza is what you're after there are better options elsewhere in Hoi An. Where Mr Hoa's really shines is the Vietnamese menu. Their Banh Xeo comes ready-rolled here, which is a bit different to how you'll find it in other places but just as delicious and less messy.

When you sit down, they bring out a bruschetta as a free starter, which is a lovely touch and keeps the kids happy while you're waiting for the main event.

They're also really accommodating with dietary requirements and happy to adapt dishes, so if you need something tweaked, just ask. Mr Hoa's wife is lovely and the food is great value for being so close to the beach!

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## GREEK

**BLU STATION - AN BANG BEACH - [MAP](#)**

If you fancy something different from Vietnamese food, Blu Station serves gorgeous Greek-style dishes and it's become one of our favourites. Their chicken souvlakis and tzatziki are delicious, and in my opinion the best you'll find in the area (there are a few souvlaki stands dotted around but none of them come close).

You can also buy their feta cheese to take away, which is well worth doing if you're self-catering at all. It's so good.

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## DESSERT

**LA GOM - [MAP](#)**

If you're after lovely cakes, La Gom is the place. And if you happen to have a birthday while you're in Hoi An, they'll make a proper grown-ups birthday cake with a couple of days' notice. A nice little touch that can make a celebration away from home feel extra special.

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## WESTERN

**THE BUNGALOW - AN BANG BEACH - [MAP](#)**

This is actually a bar rather than a restaurant, but it's well worth including because it's probably the most 'pub-like' spot you'll find outside of the Ancient Town (aside from Hattrick's sports bar, An Bang).

There's a swimming pool that the kids can use, which is a great bonus. One thing to note though is that the tiles can be quite rough, so if the kids spend hours in there, they might come out with a few grazes. Water shoes are a good idea, or just limit their time in the pool to an hour or so.

You can order food here too. By day, it comes from Weavers on one side of The Bungalow, and by night you're served from The Lighthouse, which is right next door on the other side.

There's a pool table that operates on a 'winner stays on' system, and that is not to be messed with. When the grown-ups aren't playing, the kids can have a go, so it's a great spot to head to on a rainy morning for a chilled-out few hours.

It gets busy here in the evening and there's often live bands on the weekends. Plenty of draught beers on offer too, if the adults fancy one.

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## WESTERN

**DINGO DELI - CAM CHAU - [MAP](#)**

Run by Canadian owners, Dingo Deli is entirely western food and a great option if you need a break from Vietnamese cuisine. They have lots of gluten-free options too, which can be hard to come by elsewhere in Hoi An.

There's also a little shop attached where you can buy western foods to take away, which is handy for stocking up on familiar bits for the kids.

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## STEAKHOUSE

**EL GAUCHO - ANCIENT TOWN - [MAP](#)**

This is our treat spot. It's a steak house serving imported meat from the USA and Australia, and the steaks are absolutely delicious. Yes, it's expensive compared to local food, but sometimes you want a proper steak dinner and this is the spot! The service is excellent, and at the end of your meal they bring out a free shot for the adults and milkshakes for the kids. If you drink, accept the shot because it's gorgeous.

We'd highly recommend saving this one for a special night out as a family. You won't be disappointed!

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## VIETNAMESE

**RESTAURANT 328 - CAM CHAU - [MAP](#)**

A solid spot for Vietnamese food. Nothing flashy, just good, reliable local dishes.

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## WESTERN

**JEREMY'S - [MAP](#)**

Another great spot for cakes, and you can order through Grab if you don't fancy the trip. Perfect for when you want something sweet delivered straight to your door.

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## WESTERN

**COSY CORNER - AN BANG BEACH - [MAP](#)**

We love the smoothie bowls here. It's a nice little stop near the beach, and they have board games for the kids to play with, which is always a winner. You have to pay a deposit to use the board games, but it makes it a good spot to come to when it's raining or you just need some time out the sun. There's also a book swap if you're running low on reading material.

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## VIETNAMESE

**PURPLE LANTERN - AN BANG BEACH - [MAP](#)**

A nice local food spot in An Bang that's been around for a long time and has a solid reputation. The Vietnamese dishes here are great though I wouldn't recommend ordering off the western menu as it's not their strong point. Stick to the local food and you'll have a lovely meal (personal fave: the mushrooms in clay pot).

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## VIETNAMESE

**PHUONGS, AN BANG BEACH - [MAP](#)**

This is a beach-front spot in An Bang, and a great place to grab a sunbed and either eat on the beach or at the restaurant. It's a relaxed vibe, great service, and good local and Western food. You can also park up your bike here for free rather than paying to park it further along An Bang Beach, and there is a shower to rinse off after a dip in the sea. Despite its prime location, the dishes are reasonably priced and delicious.

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## INDIAN

**SRI SPICE - ANCIENT TOWN (OUTSKIRTS) - [MAP](#)**

We've tried many Indian restaurants in Hoi An and this is the best one, hands down. They serve both Indian and Sri Lankan food, and if you're craving a curry, this is where you need to go.

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## VIETNAMESE

**SOUL KITCHEN, AN BANG BEACH - [MAP](#)**

This place is a VIBE! It has a great atmosphere in the evenings with live music or DJs, and some great food which is a mix of Western and local foods. It's pricier than most local places but worth it.

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## WESTERN

**NOURISH - [MAP](#)**

A vegetarian restaurant serving delicious western food. I love the 'Kale & Co' dish, though I always swap out the blue cheese for feta. It's all good, hearty, and 'nourishing' food.

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## VIETNAMESE

**ROSIE'S CAFE, OUTSKIRTS OF ANCIENT TOWN - [MAP](#)**

A lovely little cafe tucked away in a residential area outside the Ancient Town. It's a great spot for breakfast or lunch and has a really relaxed feel to it. One of those places you'd never stumble across unless someone told you about it.

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## WESTERN

**MATE - NEAR CAM CHAU [MAP](#)**

Good Vietnamese food, but the reason this one makes the list is their takeaway-style Chinese menu. Now, if you're from the UK and expecting a Chinese like back home, it's not that. But the Americans here absolutely rave about it and say it tastes just like Panda Express. So if that's your thing, you'll love it.

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## WESTERN

**KURUMI - OUTSKIRTS OF ANCIENT TOWN - [MAP](#)**

A vegan restaurant that could genuinely convince me to go vegan. The food is incredible. It's about a 15-minute walk from the Ancient Town, but it's well worth the trip.

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## VIETNAMESE

**BÁNH MÌ PHUONG** - [MAP](#)

Crowned the best Banh Mis in Hoi An by Anthony Bourdain, this place ALWAYS has a huge queue outside. If you'd like to sit in, scoot past the queue and head inside.

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## BAKERY

**MARELLO BAKERY - ANCIENT TOWN (OUTSKIRTS)** - [MAP](#)

We wouldn't go out of our way to eat here, but they do super cheap birthday cakes so it's worth knowing about. If the kids have a birthday while you're in Hoi An and you want a cake without spending a fortune, this is your spot.

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## VIETNAMESE

**RED DRAGON - CAM CHAU** - [MAP](#)

Known for their unusually-coloured bao buns, which look a bit wild but taste delicious. They also serve a Vietnamese menu, so there's plenty to choose from. One of those places that's fun to try just for something a bit different.

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## VIETNAMESE

**MET HOI AN, ANCIENT TOWN** - [MAP](#)

Delicious Vietnamese food in a lovely setting. If you're eating in the Ancient Town, this is one of the places actually worth spending your money.

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## WESTERN

**HIT HA/SNIFF** - [MAP](#)

A beachfront spot that's lovely for breakfast, lunch, or just a nice drink while the kids play on the sand. The menu is great and it's a really relaxed place to spend a couple of hours.

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## VIETNAMESE

**WIN WIN, AN BANG BEACH - [MAP](#)**

Grab a banh mi from the stand, or sit in the restaurant to eat. We recommend this for Vietnamese food only! If you fancy some cheap local food, this is the place to come.

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## THAI

**MIN'S AUTHENTIC THAI FOOD - [MAP](#)**

This has only recently opened and it's already one of our favourites. It's on the main road between An Bang and Hoi An, so it's easy to get to from either direction. If you're craving Thai food, this is the place. The pad thai is the best we've had outside of Thailand, and that's not something we say lightly.

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## VIETNAMESE

**MORNING GLORY (ORIGINAL), ANCIENT TOWN - [MAP](#)**

There are three Morning Glory restaurants in the Ancient Town, so make sure you go to the original. We've always had great food here, and friends who've tried the others have all said the same thing: the original is the best one.

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## WESTERN

**BIKINI BOTTOM - RIVERSIDE AND AN BANG BEACH - [MAP](#)**

Another one I've been forced to include by the kids (Robyn, specifically, and she was very insistent).

It's entirely themed around Spongebob Squarepants, which the kids absolutely love. But beyond the theme, the burgers here are actually really good. They've got an all-day menu with plenty of family-friendly western options, so it's a safe bet if the kids are hungry and you need somewhere easy and fun.

There are 2 locations for Bikini Bottom, one along the riverside - [Map](#), and one in An Bang Beach (linked above). We're increasingly finding that the An Bang Beach location gets closed for a few days or a week, so don't make a special trip there! One way to check if it's open before you go is to hop onto Grab and search 'Bikini Bottom' in the food section. Either both locations will appear for orders, or just the Riverside one, leaving you safely assume the An Bang location is closed.

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# DRINK STOPS

Vietnam is famous for its coffee, and Hoi An is no exception. Whether you're after a traditional Vietnamese iced coffee, a smooth latte, or something more adventurous like an egg coffee, you'll find options all over town. Beyond coffee, the fresh fruit juices and smoothies here are incredible. There's no shortage of beautiful places to sit and enjoy a drink either, from cafes tucked away in the rice paddies to quiet spots hidden down An Bang's back alleys. Here are our favourites.



**ROVING CHILLHOUSE, OUTSKIRT OF CAM CHAU - [MAP](#)**

Tucked away in the rice paddies, this is one of the most beautiful spots in Hoi An to sit and have a drink. Grab one of the loungers and you'll be right in the middle of the paddies. It's incredibly peaceful.

It's at its best when the rice is green and lush before harvest. Once the paddies have been harvested and it's all muddy, it can get a little smelly, so time it right if you can.

**CHILLAX - [MAP](#)**

Another rice paddy stop, right near Roving Chillhouse. Lovely for drinks but the food is very average.

**SOUND OF SILENCE, TAN THANH - [MAP](#)**

A lovely quiet stop in Tan Thanh. If you want somewhere peaceful to sit and recharge, this is a good spot.

**MISS HA (MISS HOI AN) - [MAP](#)**

This cute cafe in the rice paddies has a very cool vibe. Go up to the second and third floors for a completely instagrammable backdrop or sit outside and enjoy the peace of the lake here.

**REACHING OUT TEA HOUSE, ANCIENT TOWN - [MAP](#)**

This is an incredible teahouse in the Ancient Town that employs people from the deaf community. There are little wooden blocks on the table that you use to communicate with your waiter. It's a really special experience and one that's great for kids to see (we always try to use this as an opportunity to teach them some sign language). The tea is beautiful too.

**POISON, ANCIENT TOWN - [MAP](#)**

The brownies here are to die for. It's a nice pit stop right near the Japanese Bridge, and if you sit outside you've got prime people-watching territory near the river. A great spot to rest your legs and let the Ancient Town buzz around you.

**PHIN LOUNGE, AN BANG BEACH - [MAP](#)**

Tucked down one of the alleys in An Bang, away from the hustle and bustle of the main street. A nice escape when you want a drink without the noise.

**TROPICAL COFFEE - [MAP](#)**

Another nice setting for a drink stop. A relaxed spot to take a break.

**MAISON MAROU, ANCIENT TOWN - [MAP](#)**

A chocolate cafe, and you absolutely must stop here for a hot chocolate. They also serve a selection of chocolate desserts that are incredibly rich; don't say I didn't warn you! If you don't fancy going in person, they're on Grab too, so you can order some luxury straight to your door.

**COFFEE XÓM CHIÊU, NEAR CAM CHAU - [MAP](#)**

This is a little coffee stop mainly used by locals in the rice paddies, that we used to meet friends at regularly. We're not coffee drinkers, but our friends were convinced this was the best coffee in Hoi An!

It's also walkable from the [badminton court](#), if you fancy a game first.

**LE LOCUST CAFE, NEAR CAM CHAU - [MAP](#)**

Another gorgeous spot in the rice paddies. They do pretty patterns on your coffee, very instagramable!

**CAFE SLOW, VEGETABLE VILLAGE - [MAP](#)**

Based in the Vegetable Village, this is a great place to stop after a ride around the paddies on the bikes. A cold drink here after a hot cycle is perfect.

# GROWN-UP DRINKS

If you manage to get a night off, here are a few spots worth checking out.

## MEZCAL SPEAKEASY BAR - [MAP](#)

A hidden gem with a great cocktail menu and a chilled atmosphere.

## RED LANTERN COCKTAILS - [MAP](#)

This is the place to go if you fancy a good cocktail in An Bang.

## HEM HOI AN - [MAP](#)

Another stunning cocktail bar in the Ancient Town.





Image by [cristobalmaturanaphoto](#)

## Supermarkets

There are many mart-style shops around, with several Winmart shops around. Aside from this, many foreign families visit Moonmilk to top up on familiar supplies. There are 3 locations: [Old town](#), [Cam Chau](#), and [Cua Dai](#). Here, you can buy fruit and veg, meat, snacks, along with bread and pastries.

**The markets  
are one of the  
best ways to  
experience  
local life**

## Markets

Be sure to pop to the local market at least once just for the experience. There are a few larger ones: [An Bang Beach](#), [Ba Le](#) in Cam Chau (the largest), [Chợ Tân An](#), as well as the [Ancient Town](#) one.

You're likely to pay a 'tourist tax' at the markets (i.e. pay over the odds). It's not normal to barter at the food market so if you feel you're being overcharged, then just say no thank you. Remember that seasonality of the fruit & veg affects the price, as does the size so if you go one day and are charged a different price the next, it could be for genuine reasons.



# THINGS TO DO IN HOI AN

## WITH KIDS

### Hoi An Ancient Town

Hoi An's Ancient Town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and when you see it you'll understand why. It's a beautifully preserved trading port dating back centuries, with narrow streets lined with colourful buildings, lanterns strung across every alleyway, and a mix of Chinese, Japanese, and Vietnamese architecture that you won't find anywhere else in the world.

The town isn't entirely pedestrianised though, so keep an eye out for motorbikes

weaving through and keep the kids close when you're walking around.

Our biggest tip is to get there early in the morning, preferably by 8am, before the crowds arrive and before the heat becomes unbearable. There's very little shade in the Ancient Town and by midday it can feel stifling, so getting there first thing means you'll actually enjoy the experience rather than rushing through it, desperate for air conditioning.

Then make sure you come back at night, because it transforms into something completely different after dark. The lanterns are lit, the streets are buzzing, and the whole place looks magical. It can be quite overwhelming with kids though. It's busy (especially on the bridge), people will be calling you over to their restaurants or offering massages, and you'll see things you weren't expecting (frogs on sticks spring to mind). But it's all part of the experience, and the Ancient Town at night really is something special if you stick with it and soak it all in.

If you're coming during the rainy season, it's likely the streets of the Ancient Town will be underwater and you won't be able to visit, unless you have a canoe!

In the Ancient Town, be sure to take a look at these sights:

- The Japanese Covered Bridge - [Map](#)
- Old House of Tan Ky - [Map](#) (pay to enter)
- Quan Cong Temple - [Map](#)

Aside from this, just wandering around the Ancient Town will have you taking in the many beautiful buildings and shops.

The Japanese Bridge side of the river is where the more traditional streets are, and if you cross the main bridge over the Thu Bon River, you'll be in the area that is perhaps less traditional and has a nightlife scene.

**Side note:**

If you visit the Ancient Town during the day, you may come across groups of local children wearing matching t-shirts who stop you and ask if they can practise their English. They're from English language schools and they'll have a little checklist of questions like 'how old are you?' and 'what is your favourite Vietnamese food?' At the end, they'll ask you to mark their English. Please take a few minutes to talk to them. It takes a lot of guts for these kids to pluck up the courage to approach strangers, and your time and patience means the world to them. Our girls have always loved these interactions too!



Image by cristobalimaturanaphoto

## THINGS TO DO IN HOI AN

### **DO A WALKING TOUR** [Book Here](#)

There's no better way to get to know a town than being shown around by a local. We've learnt so much from walking tours and would highly recommend it as a great way to find out more about the history and culture of Hoi An. We'd recommend this for older kids, as it's 2-3 hours long and not always the most interesting thing for little ones to be a part of! The tour linked above is a group tour, though if you think your family would be better off with a [private tour, you can do that too](#).

Note that the tour guides are usually exceptional and engaging, and are often underpaid. A tip goes a long way!

### **COOKING CLASS** [Book Here](#)

This is such a fab, hands-on activity to do with kids. The one we've linked here and recommend is in the vegetable Village, so you get to see how the many herbs and vegetables are grown in Hoi An before cooking up some delicious Vietnamese dishes, ready to recreate at home. It's great value for money for memories and recipes to take away.

### **HAT PAINTING WORKSHOP** - [MAP](#)

A fun little activity in An Bang Beach where the kids can paint their own traditional Vietnamese hat. It's inexpensive, keeps them entertained, and they'll have something to take home as a reminder of the trip. Simple but lovely.

### **GET SOME SHOES MADE** - [MAP](#)

There are many leather-work shops in Hoi An and you can get pretty much any style of shoe, boot or sandals made for a very reasonable price, made to perfectly fit your feet.



## THINGS TO DO IN HOI AN

### TAKE AN ART CLASS - [MAP](#)

Perfect for a rainy day or just for something different to do, we love Co Zin. Our kids go here regularly for lessons, though you can do a family session or join in with art classes. There's little English spoken here, with communication mainly being through demonstration. You can paint onto paper, canvases, and even tote bags for something memorable to take home.

Vin can point you in the right direction on WhatsApp and share prices and availability; here's the number: +84 79 944 4429

### PLAY AREAS

Hoi An isn't known for its play areas, there aren't many that we'd consider a good enough standard to play on, so it's a good job there's so many other things to do in Hoi An! However, sometimes play areas are great for burning off energy, so here are a few to note:

- There's one suitable for smaller kids at [Casamia Calm](#), near the restaurant. We'd say this is good for under 10's though younger kids will get the most from it
- [Sound of Silence](#) has a small play area for little ones
- [Dingo Deli](#) has a large, covered sand pit out the back

### HOI AN MEMORIES SHOW [Book Here](#)

The evening performance is around an hour long and the costumes, staging, and size of the performance is impressive. It tells various Vietnamese folk stories with signage in English so you can keep up.

This wasn't our favourite Hoi An activity, but many others love it so it's worth going to for a cultural evening. Outside of the show, there's fun things to see and do, so arrive early to take a look around!



### CYCLING AROUND THE RICE PADDIES

This is one of our favourite things to do in Hoi An. Cycling through the rice paddies when everything is green and lush is just beautiful, and it's the kind of thing that makes you stop and think 'how is this our life?'

There are some lovely spots to stop along the way for a drink and a rest. [Roving Chillhouse](#) and [Chillax](#) are both great options and perfect for a pit stop with the kids.

Always wear helmets, and know that while the roads through the paddies are quieter, they can still get motorbikes coming by, so stay alert and keep the kids close.

If you're staying in a homestay or hotel, check whether bike hire is included before you go paying for it elsewhere. Lots of places offer it for free or for a very small charge.

On your bike rides, it's likely that you'll come across water buffalo. There's no need to panic about riding past them as they graze on the banks as they're very placid, though I wouldn't recommend petting them without the farmer present as they're big, unpredictable animals after all. You can pay to sit on the back of one, though again, agree the price beforehand as we've known people to pay far too much for this experience. Balancing the desire to not be ripped off with a want to positively contribute to the area, we'd say that 100,000VND is a fair price for this. It's still considerably more than the average hourly rate, for what will be a short experience.



Image by [cristobalimaturangphoto](#)



### BASKET BOATS - [MAP](#)

Let's get one thing out of the way first: this is a prime tourist experience. Don't come here expecting anything authentic or peaceful.

But it is fun, and the kids will love it. The area around the basket boats is pretty chaotic. Everyone will be trying to get you into their restaurant or onto their boats the second you arrive. It can feel a bit full-on, and some areas are very loud. We'd suggest going with our recommended spot for picking up your boat, as it's much more peaceful and you can stop for a drink there too.

If you go to the restaurant we've linked, it's likely you'll be dropped off at the top of the lane as the road is very narrow. At the top of the lane, there's a ticket booth - ignore this. This is a booth for another restaurant, so just say 'no thanks' and continue to the location we've added here, or you'll actually be buying tickets for another location.

The linked location has a fixed price for the boat tour, which is very reasonable.

The boats usually fit two to three people, so you may need to split up as a family. You'll be given a life jacket and you have to wear it. Your driver will get in trouble if you don't, so just pop it on without a fuss.

(Side note: Tim has told me off for calling them drivers here, but captain feels a little big for a coconut boat. We'll accept any thoughts on this )

Once you're out on the water, you'll go through some quieter, narrower areas first, which are lovely. Then you come out to the big open area and that's where things get lively. Expect 'Gangnam Style' played loudly on repeat, karaoke, and general chaos all around you.

You'll also be invited to do a spin in one of the boats. This is where one of the drivers gets you into their boat and spins you around at speed. It's brilliant fun and costs around 100,000 VND per person. You have to climb from your basket boat into the spinner's boat, pay up, and then hold on tight. Again, agree the price of this part before getting into the boat.

Try to avoid going in the heat of the day. Even though the boats have parasols, it gets surprisingly hot out on the water and there's not much escape from the sun. Morning or late afternoon is a much better shout.

And don't forget to tip your driver at the end. We'd suggest 50,000 to 100,000 VND per boat.



### GET A FAMILY PHOTO SHOOT IN ANCIENT TOWN

If there was ever a place to get a family photoshoot done, it's Hoi An. The Ancient Town is perfect with its many lanterns and colourful buildings, the rice paddies, and the beach. The backdrops here are incredible and you'll come away with photos that you'll have on your walls for years.

Our friend Cristobal is a talented photographer living in Hoi An, and we couldn't recommend him more. He's brilliant with kids and he knows all the best spots.

How often do you actually get proper photos taken as a family where everyone's in the shot? Not selfies on someone's phone, but real, beautiful photos of all of you together? For most of us, the answer is almost never. A shoot in Hoi An is the perfect opportunity to change that, and you'll have something far more meaningful to bring home than a fridge magnet.

You'll see some of Cristobal's work through this guide; you can [visit his website](#) too, and get in touch with him [via Instagram](#).

### SILK VILLAGE - [MAP](#)

This is another one of those things to do that we hardly ever see recommended, and the entire history of Hoi An is built upon the silk trade!

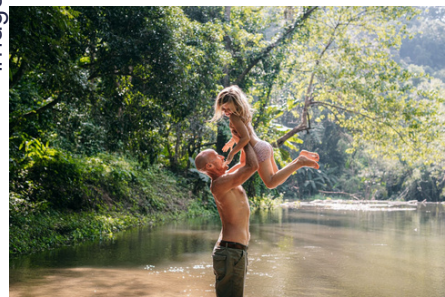
The Silk Village is a great educational opportunity for the whole family, and super interesting for kids to understand how silk is made. The kids can hold silk worms, and when you see the ladies remembering the long and complicated patterns to bring the material to life, your jaw will be on the floor.

This experience is mainly indoors, though there's no air conditioning, just the breeze through the doors and some fans to keep you cool.

This is one of our absolute favourite experiences in Hoi An with kids, so don't miss it! You'll spend around 1.5 hours to 2 hours here, so it's not too taxing on little ones

You can just turn up and enter, no need to book ahead, though if it gives you peace of mind then you can [book here](#). There's also a shop and a restaurant on-site, though we'd suggest just grabbing a drink here.

Images by cristobalmaturangphoto



### GET AN OUTFIT MADE AT THE TAILORS - [MAP](#)

Hoi An is world-famous for its tailoring, and getting something custom-made is one of those experiences you really shouldn't miss. You can be measured and have your finished outfit in your hands the next day, though most pieces take two to three days depending on what you're having made.

Something that a lot of people don't realise is that the majority of tailors in Hoi An aren't quite what they seem. The tailor will measure you in the shop, but it's widely reported that the measurements are then sent to a large factory and the clothes are actually made off-site. There's nothing necessarily wrong with this, but it's not the intimate, handcrafted experience you might picture when you think of a tailor.

We've found a family-run tailors that we've used multiple times, and many of our friends and family who've visited have used them too, always with great results. [Secret Beach Tailors](#) in Tan Thanh is the place. The lady who runs it is called Andy and she's absolutely wonderful.

All you need to do is take a photo of what you want made, or describe it to her, and then choose your fabric. She'll take your measurements and get to work. You don't need to negotiate on price with Andy because she's always fair, just accept her prices as they come. What you pay will depend on the complexity of the design, how much fabric is needed, and the quality of the fabric you choose.

Our advice would be to go with a good quality fabric so that your piece lasts. It might cost a bit more upfront but you'll get so much more wear out of it. Andy will also let you know any washing instructions for the fabric you've chosen, so make sure you take note of those before you leave.



### LANTERN BOATS BY NIGHT

This is another touristy, yet very worth-while activity to do while in Hoi An. Unlike the basket boats, this is a relaxing trip along the river through Hoi An Ancient Town. The lanterns and lights make this a truly special family experience, and you can even let your own lanterns go.

This is a tradition that dates back hundreds of years, when lanterns were released by locals at the full moon to bring luck and happiness. Nowadays, tourists release lanterns every evening (someone tidies them up the next morning), with a special event happening on the full-moon nights. From our point of view, the same thing happens on the full-moon evenings as every other evening, it's just busier on full-moon nights! Our advice would be just to head over when you can and get there early to enjoy your boat trip.

Tickets are sold at either side of the main bridge in the Ancient Town from mid-afternoon daily, and prices are set by the government (up to 200,000 VND per boat currently) and depend on how many people are going in your boat. You then buy your lanterns separately from one of the sellers nearby.

It's nice to tip your driver too; 50,000VND to 100,000VND is a good amount.

### DRIFTWOOD VILLAGE - [MAP](#)

I'm always surprised by how many people don't know that the Driftwood Village exists! It's a little place in the middle of nowhere, less than 10 minutes from both Ancient Town and An Bang Beach. Locals collect driftwood from the beaches and rivers and make it into all sorts of beautiful items, all carved and painted by hand.

You can observe these talented artists working hard on their craft, and you can even join in yourselves. Kids are welcome to join in, though I'd say that the carving is best reserved for kids aged 7+, though younger ones can do some painting. The official age for doing carving is 10+, though my daughter did just fine at age 7, with a little support from me.

You can send a WhatsApp message to get booked in, using this number: +84 89 922 59 69

You can expect to be here for a couple of hours if you're taking part in the carving, and you'll be under cover too so it's a good option if you need to hide from the sun or rain!

Please note it's unlikely that the person showing you how to carve speaks English, so it's very much a case of watch and learn.



## THINGS TO DO IN HOI AN

### LANTERN-MAKING - [MAP](#)

No visit to Hoi An is complete without making your own lantern!

You can choose to do as much or as little to your lantern as you like:

- Create the wooden frame - this is tricky, and we wouldn't say this is suited to kids
- Cover the frame in fabric - either a plain fabric ready for painting, or a patterned fabric
- Paint the fabric - if this is what you've decided to do

Covering the frame of your lantern in fabric takes time, a good attention span, and some strength to stretch the fabric across the frame. Little ones (perhaps under 7) will need help from a grown-up, and you might like to just cover the frame in the patterned fabric to keep the focus.

This is a lovely activity to do together as a family. Do it early in your trip as you might need to collect the lantern the day after you've made it once it's dry and don't panic about luggage space as they fold down to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the size of the actual lantern for transit. You should be able to just turn up and get started here.

### FUNNY LAND - [MAP](#)

This is very much a locals' soft play, and we mean that in the best possible way. There are a few rides outside and a soft play area inside, and the kids will have an absolute blast. There's the chance to try on dress-up clothes, go on a trampoline, and go on a bouncy castle as well as a few bumper cars.

There's a cafe right next to it where you can sit and still be comfortably close to the kids while they play, which is a bonus when you just need half an hour to sit down with a coffee.

One thing to be aware of if you have very young children: there's no barrier stopping them from wandering out onto the road, so keep a close eye on the little ones.

Funnyland opens from 4pm-11pm on weekdays to accommodate the local school kids, and at the weekends it opens from 8am-12pm, reopening at 4pm.



### VISIT THE CHAM ISLANDS

This tiny group of islands is just 15km from Hoi An by boat, and clearly visible from the An Bang Beach and even Da Nang. Day trips are offered here where you can head out on a boat and stop at multiple dive spots, visiting the main island for lunch and beach time.

Don't expect the Great Barrier Reef, but we were actually pleasantly surprised by the islands. There are reefs that you can swim to straight off the beach, and the beaches are gorgeous.

We stayed for a weekend rather than doing a day trip, which meant we didn't get to the dive sites, but I hear they're impressive. I can highly recommend staying over as you get to take in the beautiful beaches before and after the boats arrive, and there are several beautiful bays to explore. Some have docks that the kids loved jumping off, and there's still plenty of marine life to see from the beach, including starfish of all different shapes and colours, coral reefs, sea urchins, and many colourful fish.

Note that there are no cars on the island, so getting around by motorbike is the only way to explore. There are some huge hills making walking with little ones a challenge, and the bays are fairly well spread out. There are drivers here to take you around, or you can hire motorbikes on the island. Alternatively, you can get a ferry over and take your own motorbike from the mainland over.

We recommend [this accommodation](#) if you decide to stay over as it's near the main dock where you'll be dropped off and has lovely views over the sea.

Use Cham Island Divers if you want to do the boat tour, and if you want to organise your own ferry over to stay for a few days, you can pop down to the Cua Dai Port and someone will help you to organise it in advance. Remember to get a receipt and if you're taking a motorbike, make it clear as you'll need to get a specific ferry.

All ferries depart from Cua Dai Port, which is a maximum of 15 minutes from anywhere in Hoi An.



### GO TO KARAOKE - [MAP](#)

Please note this place doesn't have a Google business profile, and the map link above is actually to a premises opposite.

If you can't beat 'em, join 'em! We've already mentioned how much the Vietnamese love their karaoke, and going to a karaoke place as a family is one of the most fun things you can do in Hoi An.

There are loads of karaoke buildings around where you hire a private, soundproof room by the hour. You get the full set-up with screens, microphones, and a huge song list. The kids will go mad for it.

They do vary in quality though, so go with our recommendation rather than just picking one at random.

There are drinks available in the room which you'll be charged for at the end. We'd caution against ordering food though, as it tends to be expensive and not great. Just stick to the drinks and eat somewhere else before or after.

These sessions are super fun, but if you have younger kids, think about bringing some ear protection. It gets loud, especially when everyone's belting out their favourite songs in a small room.



## THANH HA POTTERY VILLAGE - [MAP](#)

We'd class this activity as unmissable with kids - they all love it!

This inexpensive trip out gives you the chance to wander around the pottery museum, and create and/or paint your own pottery.

It can be a little confusing when you first arrive, and locals will try to pull you in for a ticket.

Here's what you need to know:

- Just turn up - no need to book ahead
- The main place that you need to head to can quite clearly be seen, as it's walled and gated, with a ticket booth. THIS is where you need to buy your tickets from to get into the pottery village museum and cafe
- There is also an area inside this (on the ground floor) where you can make pottery for an additional cost, payable when you make your item
- You can do everything in here if you want to. However, if you want to wander around the rest of the pottery village which is arguably more authentic, and where you can make pottery with a local outside of the main area, then you can. You'll need to have purchased a ticket at one of the booths OUTSIDE of the museum area (remember I mentioned the people trying to pull you in to buy tickets as you enter?!)
- We actually think you get a nicer experience by doing your pottery outside of the museum, as you can walk around the village too. Also, you can get your pottery fired in the village, and you can't in the museum. You may need to leave your pottery a few days before collecting it, but it will be easier to transport home safely in your case if it's been fired.
- So, you can either buy 2 sets of tickets and make pottery outside of the museum, or you buy one set and let the locals who are trying to sell you tickets know that you're only going to the museum.



## Waterparks

This area is not short of water parks, and they're all great! Sometimes, amongst the culture and crafting, you need to throw yourself down some water slides :-)

Below are some of the nearby parks, with our thoughts on each. One thing to check out before booking any waterparks is the public holiday dates in Vietnam, as these places will be HEAVING on those days and should be avoided.

School holidays here are early June to the end of August, so this period will naturally be busier at the water parks.

There's no need to book any of these parks too far in advance, a day or two ahead is fine, then you can keep an eye on the weather.

### **MIKAZUKI 365** - [MAP](#)

This Japanese-inspired hotel has a lovely indoor and outdoor waterpark that you can enter as a day-guest. Indoors, there are a couple of slides (with weight restrictions, you have to be over 30kg to go on, 40kg for the bigger one, and under 90kg), a wave pool, and a small lazy river. In addition to that, there's an onsen area upstairs, an arcade, a spa, and a soft play area.

Outside, there's a lazy river, a kids pirate-themed splash pad, and some relaxing pools.

You can visit in the colder months and just use the indoor area, but we don't think it's worth it unless you have very young kids. Mikazuki is more of a 'chill' water park than a thrill-seeking one. It's a lovely place to spend the day moving between the different areas at your own pace, with a food court, coffee shop, and convenience store on site. If you have late teens or adrenaline junkies in the family, this probably isn't the right park for you, but younger children, tweens, and younger teens will have a brilliant time.

You can [stay overnight here](#) too, we've done it before and the hotel is lovely, with great options for evening meals, though note you'll only be allowed to enter the water park after check-in time and before checkout, so you might like to stay 2 nights.

Mikazuki is the other side of Da Nang, around a 50 minute drive from Hoi An. You can easily get a Grab here, and I'd recommend organising a pick-up time with your driver so they can take you back.

You can [book tickets online here](#), or turn up early on the day to get in.



## **HOT SPRINGS WATER PARK (NUI THAN TAI) - [MAP](#)**

Mostly visited by locals, this water park is a 1-hour drive inland from Hoi An, and isn't on the radar of most visitors.

As the name suggests, you'll find hot springs to bathe in here, along with large slides, and a huge splash pad. It's a great day out, though the park is extremely spread-out so there's plenty of walking between attractions.

Organise a driver ahead of time, as it's unlikely you'll get a Grab driver to pick you up from here and bring you back to Hoi An.

We've included the Klook link above, which is how we last booked.

## **VINWONDERS - [MAP](#)**

Based in Hoi An, this is a large waterpark, theme park, and zoo all rolled into one! It's a great day out and usually very quiet. The food onsite is cheap and good, and the animals seem well looked-after.

The slides and rides here are more adventurous for the thrill-seekers amongst us, and there's still plenty for little ones to do here too.

We recommend booking this one [directly on the VinWonders website](#), and booking without a dining package as it's not worth it. They've recently introduced a new zookeeper experience too that you can book alongside your tickets.



## Relaxing

### MASSAGES

You won't have any trouble finding a massage in Hoi An. People will be offering them to you everywhere you go, and a lot of them are in people's converted living rooms. Don't expect a luxury spa experience, but they do a really decent massage and the prices are cheap. Typically, the owner calls in people to give you your massage, which means you don't consistently get the same people but it's how the system works here! I imagine the ladies who do the massages probably work for several different salons.

Kids are welcome in most places, so don't feel like you have to leave them behind. Our favourite spot for a quick massage with the kids is [Kai's Spa](#), and you can WhatsApp to book in: +84 97 862 98 64. If I'm heading out on my own and want to treat myself to something a bit nicer, I pay a little more and go to [Citrus Spa](#) - this is where all the long-termers head. It's still very reasonably-priced, but has a consistently good service with an employed team. If you [book online](#), you also get a good discount (you still pay at the time of the massage :-))

If you fancy trying something different and LOVE having your hair washed at the hairdressers, [White Rose Spa](#) does a head spa that's well worth a visit. Book that via their [Instagram page](#).

### YOGA

Phin Flow Yoga is right above the Phin Lounge in An Bang Beach, and it has many classes each week including aerial yoga and pilates, as well as various yoga styles. You can see the schedule and [book online](#) for these classes, set in a peaceful location near the beach. There are dedicated kids classes too, so this is something the whole family can do.



## Beaches

### AN BANG BEACH - [MAP](#)

This is the most popular and the most developed. There are plenty of sun loungers, restaurants right on the sand, and a good atmosphere. It's great for families and you'll always find other kids playing on the beach.

Note that at the main entrance to the beach here, you'll be encouraged to park your motorbike or bicycle up and pay. If you hop down any of the alleyways instead, you'll be able to park at the restaurant that you'll get drinks or food from, free of charge.

### TAN THANH BEACH - [MAP](#)

Tan Thanh Beach is quieter and a bit more low-key. As we mentioned earlier, some sections have been eroded in storms, but there's still beach access near Hit Ha cafe.

### HIDDEN HAMMOCK BEACH - [MAP](#)

This beach is our little gem. There are only a few deck chairs here and one place serving drinks. The beach itself is lovely and wide (wide enough for some proper beach games - head here if you want space for a game of frisbee) and there's a wooded area that our kids love to build forts in (with shoes on to avoid splinters), and it gives plenty of shade. Sometimes you can be the only ones there. If you want a peaceful beach day without the crowds, this is the one.

### MY KHE BEACH, DA NANG - [MAP](#)

Over in Da Nang, this is about 40 minutes from Hoi An but if you fancy a change of scenery, it's well worth the trip. We actually think the beach itself is more beautiful than the ones in Hoi An. It's long, wide, and has this brilliant Miami city vibe with the Da Nang skyline behind you. It makes for a great day out and something a bit different from the usual Hoi An beach day.

Wherever you go, expect to pay between 50,000 and 100,000 VND for each sun lounger, no matter how long you have it for. You're also expected to buy drinks from the establishment whose loungers you're using, so don't bring a cool bag full of your own and plonk it down next to their chairs. It's only fair.





# BEACH CLUBS

For rest between activities

## BLUSH BEACH CLUB - [MAP](#)

Based between Hoi An and Da Nang, this beachside club with infinity pool serves delicious food and is super-relaxing.

Prices are currently 399,000 VND per adult, 299,000 VND per child (6–10 years old), and children under 6 are complimentary.

## SHILLA MONOGRAM, DA NANG - [MAP](#)

Perhaps the most luxurious-feeling, this is a beautiful hotel with day-pass access including the gym, sauna, and day beds, as well as the kids club. The hotel is halfway between Hoi An and Da Nang, so it is very accessible by car.

Prices are currently 350,000VND for adults, or 600,000VND pp with 300,000 food credit. Children aged 6–12 are charged at 50%, and kids under 6 are free.

## SHERATON GRAND, DA NANG - [MAP](#)

Featuring the longest infinity pool in Da Nang (that you can kayak in!), this pool day gives luxury vibes. It's based on the Hoi An side of Da Nang, so it's not too much trouble to get to in a car.

Prices are 550,000 VND per person, though this includes a 450,000 VND dining credit per person.

## HYATT REGENCY, DA NANG - [MAP](#)

As well as having a pool, the Hyatt Regency typically has other activities out for kids, such as games and even an inflatable obstacle course. This is also based on the Hoi An side of Da Nang, so should take less than half an hour to reach in a car.

## GARDEN BEACH CLUB, HOI AN - [MAP](#)

Based at An Bang Beach, this isn't a luxury beach club by any means, but it is a nice place to chill by the pool without going too far.

Pricing is erratic, likely because they haven't been open long, though our most-recent visit cost 90,000VND per adult, and 45,000VND per child. It's cheap enough to hang out at if you don't have a pool with your accommodation.

# THINGS TO DO

## Further Afield

One of the great things about Hoi An is how easy it is to get to some incredible places nearby. We wanted to include some of the activities that aren't technically in Hoi An, but are well within reach for a day trip.

### **MY SON SANCTUARY - [MAP](#)**

A beautiful ancient temple site about an hour from Hoi An, and a really nice day out if you want something cultural. The temples are spread out across an open area, so little ones can run around and explore without you having to keep them pinned to your side. It does get very hot here though as there's not much shade, so go as early as you can.

### **MARBLE MOUNTAINS - [MAP](#)**

A cluster of limestone mountains just outside Da Nang with caves, pagodas, and incredible views from the top. Our tip is to get the elevator up and walk down, as it saves your energy for the exploring. The elevator tickets are one-way, so you'll need to make your way down on foot. Go early if you can, both to beat the heat and to avoid the queues. We've ended up walking up the many stairs before because the lift queue was so long.

There's one area our kids love in particular where you go into a cave, climb up some rocks, and pop out the other side into the open air - a proper little adventure for them.

### **DRAGON BRIDGE, DA NANG - [MAP](#)**

The Dragon Bridge puts on a show every weekend evening at 8pm, and it's brilliant. The dragon breathes fire first (3 times), and then water (again, 3 times). If you stand on the bridge itself, there's a good chance you'll end up absolutely soaked, and even standing underneath it you can still get a sprinkling. It's great fun, but one thing to be very aware of is that the road opens up again very quickly after the show finishes with traffic moving almost immediately, so keep the kids very close. We'd recommend watching from underneath the bridge if you want a quick exit afterwards, and plan to sit it out somewhere with a drink for a while once it's done, because getting a Grab straight after the show is a nightmare.

# THINGS TO DO

## Further Afield

### **THE HAI VAN PASS BY EASY RIDER - [MAP](#)**

The Hai Van Pass is one of the most scenic roads in Vietnam, and doing it on the back of a motorbike with an Easy Rider guide is an unforgettable experience. We ride motorbikes ourselves and have done the pass independently, but we still got a guide to show us around and we're glad we did. The scenery is stunning, and you stop along the way to take in the views and have a dip in the fresh water springs. One for the grown-ups or older kids, really.

We used Luc before, here's his WhatsApp number: +84 90 565 67 26

### **WAR TUNNELS - [MAP](#)**

A fascinating and sobering day out. You get to see real war tunnels and learn about the history of the area during the Vietnam War. The tours are often led by someone with personal experience of the tunnels, which makes it incredibly powerful and moving. One for the older kids especially, as it brings history to life in a way that no textbook ever could.

You'll need to organise a driver to get here, and can purchase tickets when you arrive.

### **LADY BUDDHA, SON TRA PENINSULA - [MAP](#)**

The Lady Buddha statue on the Son Tra Peninsula, Da Nang, is huge and really impressive to see up close (you can see it from An Bang Beach on a clear day). The peninsula itself is beautiful, and you'll likely spot monkeys on the way up, which the kids will love. It's an easy half-day trip from Hoi An and combines well with a visit to Da Nang.



## Motorbike Rental

If you fancy getting around on two wheels, there are some things you need to know first. Most people can't legally drive a motorbike in Vietnam. You need the correct license, and chances are yours doesn't cover it, unless you can ride a large motorbike at home. Be careful with this because if something goes wrong and you don't have the right documentation, you're in trouble. Police often set themselves up at the side of the road specifically to pull over tourists who don't have a motorbike license, and you'll be expected to fork out at least 1million VND to the officer.

Our recommendation is to hire an electric motorbike instead. You don't need an international driving license for these, which keeps things simple and legal. You must wear a helmet. It's the law, no exceptions. And nobody here drives fast, so don't be the idiot who does :-)

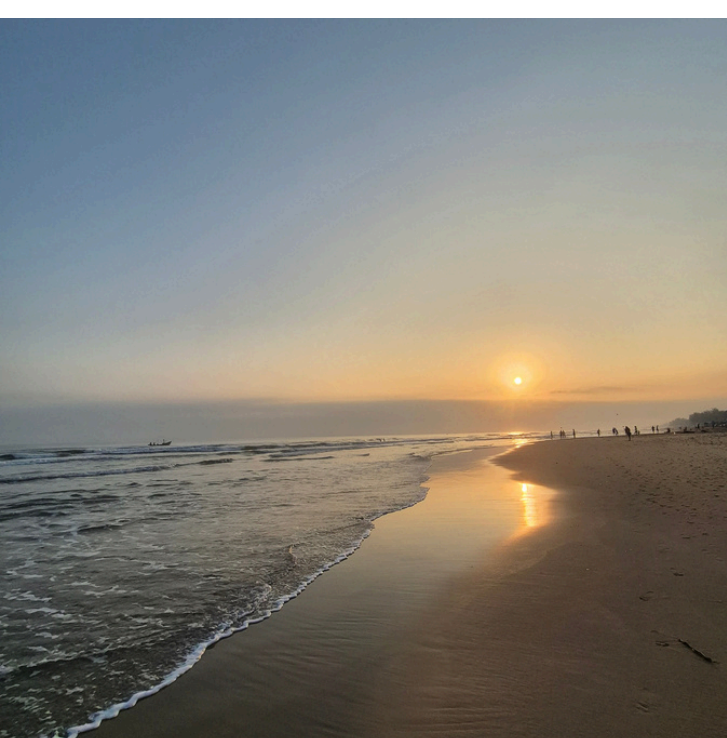
It's also very likely that your travel insurance won't cover you for riding a motorbike,

electric or otherwise. So keep that in mind before you set off and make sure the risk feels acceptable to you.

It might look like there are no rules on the road here, but there are. Most of them are the opposite to what you're used to back home, so before you jump on a bike and head off, spend some time observing how the traffic works. Watch how people turn, how they merge etc. Get a feel for the flow before you become part of it.

Unfortunately, we've witnessed tourists become irate at locals when they maneuver in a way that tourists believe to be incorrect, such as turning in front of them when they believe they have the right of way. Not only is it disrespectful to get angry in public in this way, but it also shows a disregard for the rules of the road here.

If you're hiring an electric motorbike, we highly recommend [Stephens Motorbikes](#), and you can contact him on WhatsApp: +84945762458



# ITINERARIES

For when you want someone else to make the decisions

## THREE-DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 1

Head out to the basket boats in the morning while it's still cool. Get there early and enjoy the chaos. Spend the afternoon at the beach, grab a sun lounger, and let the kids play. An Bang Beach is our pick for a first day as there's plenty going on and you can hire body boards, and you can get food and drinks right on the beach.

### DAY 2

Hire some bikes and spend the morning cycling through the rice paddies and the Vegetable Village. Stop for a cooking class while you're out there, and grab lunch at one of the cafes in the paddies (Roving Chillhouse or Chillax are both great). In the afternoon, head to the Ancient Town. Do a lantern-making workshop, have a wander around, and then stay into the evening to release a lantern on the river and see the town lit up after dark. Grab a rolled ice-cream or crepe while you're there to keep the kids going!

### DAY 3

Head back to the Ancient Town in the morning to explore it properly in the daylight. It's a completely different experience during the day, and you'll be able to take in the buildings, temples, and the Japanese Covered Bridge without the crowds of the evening. After that, head to Thanh Ha Pottery Village for a couple of hours where the kids can make and paint their own pottery. Grab some lunch, then spend the afternoon relaxing at Garden Beach Club by the pool.

# ITINERARIES

## FIVE-DAY ITINERARY

Follow the 3-day itinerary above, then add:

### DAY 4

Start the morning with a visit to Secret Beach Tailors in Tan Thanh to get measured up and choose your fabric for a custom outfit. Then head to An Bang Beach for the hat painting workshop, which is a fun, quick activity for the kids. In the afternoon, treat the family to massages at Kai's Spa, then spend the rest of the afternoon at the beach or by the pool. In the evening, head to a karaoke room as a family or treat yourselves to an ice-cream and a rest.

### DAY 5

Spend the morning at the Silk Village, which is one of our favourite things to do with kids in Hoi An. It's mainly indoors so it works in the heat or rain, and you'll be there for a couple of hours. Grab some lunch, then head to Driftwood Village in the afternoon for a carving and painting session (also under cover, so another good option if the weather isn't playing ball). Pop back to Secret Beach Tailors in the evening to collect your outfit if it's ready.



# ITINERARIES

## SEVEN-DAY ITINERARY

Follow the 5-day itinerary above, then add:

### DAY 6

Take a full day out at one of the water parks. If you've got younger kids and want a more relaxed vibe, Mikazuki 365 is our pick. If you've got thrill-seekers or want to combine water slides with a theme park and zoo, head to VinWonders. Either way, you'll be there for the whole day!

### DAY 7

A full day in Da Nang. Head to the Marble Mountains first thing in the morning before it gets too hot and too busy. Get the elevator up and walk down, and let the kids explore the caves. From there, head to My Khe Beach for lunch and an afternoon on the sand. The beach here is stunning, with a completely different feel to An Bang. If your trip falls on a weekend, stay in Da Nang for the evening and catch the Dragon Bridge show at 8pm. Grab some dinner and drinks nearby afterwards while you wait for the crowds to clear before getting a Grab back.



# IF THINGS GO WRONG

Nobody wants to think about illness or injury on holiday, but knowing where to go and what to do if something happens will save you a lot of stress.

## Medications

You can buy most medications over the counter in Vietnam without a prescription. We've bought antibiotics for ear infections and various other bits without any issues. It's incredibly convenient, but do be sensible with it. Just because you can buy something doesn't always mean you should be self-diagnosing and self-medicating. With great power comes great responsibility, so use it wisely!

## Going to the Dentist

Dental care in Hoi An is excellent and a fraction of the cost compared to the Western world. Plenty of people actually come here specifically to get dental work done because it's so much cheaper. We'd recommend [TGM dental](#); English isn't widely spoken but they're caring and Australian-owned. One thing we've noticed when receiving dental care in Vietnam is that they offer numbing injections sparingly, which is great if you like that but if you prefer to be numbed, just ask for it.



## Seeing a Doctor

If you or the kids need to see a doctor, don't panic. There are good options in Hoi An and we'd recommend the following:

- Dr Jeremy is a pediatric doctor from France, living in Hoi An. You can message him on WhatsApp to arrange a home visit using this number: +84 76 660 4824
- For more serious injuries or specialist doctors, go to [Pacific Hospital](#) in Hoi An. They have an international wing, where you generally pay 800,000VND (~£23 or \$30USD) for a consultation with a specialist doctor.
- If you're planning to take advantage of the good and cost-effective healthcare while you're here, I'd recommend heading over to Da Nang to the [Vinmec Hospital](#). It's more expensive than the above recommendations but set up to support foreigners, with English translation at appointments. Expect blood test results within a couple of hours, and you can have full medical assessments and any scans you'd like here for far less than the cost in the UK/USA/AUS/NZ.

## Pharmacies

Not all pharmacies are created equal in Hoi An. Be careful, because many of them (particularly the small ones that look like they're operating out of someone's front window) will overcharge you significantly. The price you're quoted can vary wildly from one pharmacy to the next for the exact same thing, and we've had one try to charge us £5/\$7USD for a sheet of paracetamol before!

We use [this one](#) regularly and the prices are fixed, so you know you're not being ripped off. Also note that it's normal to buy your medicine by the sheet, not in a box as we're used to doing at home.

# ENJOY YOUR TRIP!

We hope you found the guide useful

We'd love to hear about your adventures in Hoi An and beyond! Drop us a message to let us know what you thought of this beautiful part of the world :-)



## BEYOND THE BACKPACK

If you've read through this guide and have questions, or you'd like to chat through your plans with someone who's actually lived it, we offer Beyond the Backpack calls with Emma.

These are 60-minute one-to-one sessions where we can talk through anything from your itinerary and what to prioritise with the time you have, to the stuff that's specific to your family that a guide like this can't cover.

Whether you're nervous about travelling with little ones, unsure about how to plan your wider Vietnam trip, or just want a second opinion from someone who knows the area inside out, we're here to help. Just to be clear, we're not travel agents and can't make bookings on your behalf, but we can make sure you feel confident and prepared before you go!

[BOOK YOUR CALL](#)

# TRAVEL ITINERARY

## FLIGHT DETAILS

DAY 1:

## ACCOMMODATIONS

DAY 2:

## TRANSPORTATION

DAY 3:

## TO DO & SEE

DAY 4:

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DAY 5:

DAY 6:

## NOTES

DAY 7:

# Packing List

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## TECH & GADGETS

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