

5 TOP TOURISM
ATTRACTIONS IN

HALONG



Jonke

5 Top Tourism Attractions in Halong

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Halong Bay is by far one of the most popular for tourist from all over the world, with its peaceful scenery, **splendid limestone**, pristine beaches, azure water and harmonious blend of mountain and sea. Most of tourist choose to stay on a cruise ship to discover Halong Bay. When the ship is in midst of Halong Bay, it offer an extraordinary vibe of Halong. There are some places you must visit in your itinerary in order to get the most of your traveling experience in Halong, [halong bay tour](#).

Tuan Chau entertainment center

Tuan Chau is the biggest entertainment center of **Tuan Chau island** – a mustvisit destination in Halong Bay. With a wide range of hotels, restaurants and many more under construction, Tuan Chau is growing rapidly. Tuan Chau themselves does offer gracious amenities and entertainment activities including Dolphin and **Seagull performance**, water music performance, outdoor playgrounds, etc..



Tuan Chau entertainment center

Bai Tho monument complex

Bai Tho is a historical and cultural monument complex comprising Bai Tho mountain, Long Tien pagoda, Shrine worshiped Tran Quoc Nghien, Hon Gai church (the biggest church of Quang Ninh province), quang Ninh museum, Cai Lan harbor, Hoang Gia international park, Halong shopping malls and more, [halong bay day trip](#).

Uong Bi city

Uong Bi is famous for Yen Tu mountain – the destination is regarded as home of Vietnam Buddha. . In addition to this is a year-round mountain hidden in clouds, to Yen Tu, you will admire the beauty of the temple on the mountain mass, particularly Dong Pagoda which is located on top of the mountain. Delve the legend of rice circuit unfailing, hooked in the cool waters flowing from the mountains, perched in the clouds on a capsule, "cows" on the stone steps, sighing after conquering the stairs, watching the city from above in Uong Bi

will make you feel extremely exciting. In addition to Yen Tu, the two sites do not forget to look at this city and the Truc Lam Yen Trung tourism area.



Dong temple
Cam Pha city

Reu island, **Con Coc island** (frog island), Dau Nguoi stone , Oan stone, Mat Quy, Thien Nga, Vung Duc grotto and Hanh grotto are tourist attractions of Cam Pha city. All of these attractions are located at Halong Bay and Bai Tu Long Bay. It's convenient for tourists to enjoy watching them while staying on a cruise ship.



Cam Pha city
Mong Cai city

Mong Cai is situated along the bank of Ka Long river, about 178 km away from Halong.

There are a lots of tourist attractions such as Mong Cai market – a bustling market located at boundary between China and Vietnam, Tra Co beach – one of the most beautiful beaches in Vietnam, Tra Co pagoda – the old pagoda with unique architecture, 700 year-old trees. Deep in tradition, Mong Cai remains its nostalgic beauty that revoke images of old peaceful Vietnam villages. Tourists will indulge in tranquil atmosphere here and enjoy daily life of local people which make you feel time pass by slowly.

Aside from beloved destinations, there are more places in Quang Ninh that are worth a visit such as Van Don harbor – the first commerce harbor of Vietnam, Quan Lan – an unspoiled island, Co To – an idyllic island, etc.. Make sure you don't fail to miss it.

References

Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

Ha Long Bay, located in the Gulf of Tonkin, within Quang Ninh Province, in the northeast of Vietnam, is 165 km from the capital of Ha Noi. Covering an area of 43,400 ha and including over 1600 islands and islets, most of which are uninhabited and unaffected by humans, it forms a spectacular seascape of limestone pillars and is an ideal model of a mature Karst landscape developed during a warm and wet tropical climate. The property's exceptional scenic beauty is complemented by its great biological interest.

The outstanding value of the property is centered around the drowned limestone karst landforms, displaying spectacular pillars with a variety of coastal erosional features such as arches and caves which form a majestic natural scenery. The repeated regression and transgression of the sea on the limestone karst over geological time has produced a mature landscape of clusters of conical peaks and isolated towers which were modified by sea invasion, adding an extra element to the process of lateral undercutting of the limestone towers and islands.



Criterion (vii): Comprised of a multitude of limestone islands and islets rising from the sea, in a variety of sizes and shapes and presenting picturesque, unspoiled nature, Ha Long Bay is a spectacular seascape sculpted by nature. The property retains a high level of naturalness, and

despite its long history of human use, is not seriously degraded. Outstanding features of the property include the magnificent towering limestone pillars and associated notches, arches and caves, which are exceptionally well-developed and among the best presented of their type in the world.



Criterion (viii): As the most extensive and best known example of marine-invaded tower karst in the world Ha Long Bay is one of the world's most important areas of Fengcong (clusters of conical peaks) and Fenglin (isolated tower features) karst. Abundant lakes, occupying drowned dolines, are one of the distinctive features of the Fengcong karst, with some appearing to be tidal.

Possessing a tremendous diversity of caves and other landforms derived from the unusual geomorphological process of marine invaded tower karst the caves are of three main types: remnants of phreatic caves; old karstic foot caves and marine notch caves. The property also displays the full range of karst formation processes on a very large scale and over a very long period of geological time, possessing the most complete and extensive exzample of its type in the world and providing a unique and extensive reservoir of data for the future understanding of geoclimatic history and the nature of karst processes in a complex environment.



Integrity

All elements necessary to sufficiently protect the outstanding scenic and geological values of the Ha Long Bay property are included within the boundaries of the property and its size and area provide sufficient integrity for the large scale geomorphological processes to operate unhindered. It benefits from being completely surrounded by a large and extensive buffer zone with both the size and area providing sufficient integrity for the large scale geomorphic

processes to operate unhindered.

Located within an area of high tourism, marine transport, fisheries and the daily activities of people living and conducting their business on Ha Long Bay, management of the area, instituted since inscription of the property, applies strict regulation and control of activities in an attempt to minimize impacts on the integrity of the property. There is a continuing challenge to improve the integrity and quality of the environment. The natural scenic features, geomorphology, landform values and cultural heritage along with key features such as islands, caves and grottoes remain intact and the property retains a high level of naturalness despite the long history of human use in the area



Protection and management requirements

Ha Long Bay was established as a historical and cultural relict and classified as a National Landscape Site in 1962. Subsequently designated as a Special National Landscape Site under the Cultural Heritage Law amended in 2009, land tenure is held by the Provincial Government. The property is protected effectively by a number of relevant provincial and national laws as well as governmental decrees including; the Cultural Heritage Law, the Bio-Diversity Law, the Tourism Law, the Environmental Protection Law, the Fishery Law and Marine Transport Law. Under these laws, any proposed action within the property that could have significant impact on the property's values must have official approval from the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, along with other relevant ministries.



The Ha Long Bay Management Department was established after the inscription of Ha Long Bay on the World Heritage List, with the main functions of management, conservation and promotion of the property's values. The Department takes into account the requirements of the World Heritage Convention, recommendations of the World Heritage Committee and other regulations issued by both the Vietnamese Government and the Quang Ninh Province. Day-to-day management involves collaboration with various relevant stakeholders at different levels, especially local communities, to maintain the integrity of the property and monitor socio-economic activities.

Socio-economic activities on Ha Long Bay are well regulated, carefully observed and effectively managed. Management and protection are further strengthened through regulations, master planning, and action plans at the provincial level. These include regulations on operation of tourist boats, mud dredging, land filling, fishermen and floating house management. They also provide for education and promotion, and enhancing community awareness of heritage values and their protection. There are several specific plans dealing with environmental protection, tourism development and management and conservation planning. These include Ha Long Bay to 2020, the master plan on conservation, management and development of the values of World Natural Heritage approved by the Prime Minister in 2001, and the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Ha Long Bay World Heritage Site 2010 - 2015 approved by the provincial authority in 2010.



In the long-term, management of the property will focus on: ensuring the integrity of the scenic, geological and geomorphologic values, as well as the property's environment; strengthening the legislative provisions; carefully monitoring of the socio-economic activities on Ha Long Bay; increasing the use of technology in heritage management; undertaking research to gain better understanding of the property's values; improving the staff capacity and enhancing community awareness and involvement.

Increasing visitor numbers and associated impacts continue to impact on the management of the property. The sensitivity, aesthetic quality and attention to public safety of infrastructure such as pathways, steps and boardwalks is of a high standard and with steadily increasing visitor numbers the quality of visitor management is also steadily improving. Development pressures associated with growing tourist numbers continue to be an issue for government authorities and an appropriate balance between conservation and development, while difficult to maintain, is important to ensure the protection of the natural values of the property.



Towering limestone pillars and tiny islets topped by forest rise from the emerald waters of the Gulf of Tonkin. Halong translates as 'where the dragon descends into the sea' and legend tells that this mystical seascape was created when a great mountain dragon charged towards the

coast, its flailing tail gouging out valleys and crevasses. As the creature plunged into the sea, the area filled with water leaving only the pinnacles visible. The geological explanation of karst erosion may be more prosaic, but doesn't make this seascape any less poetic.



Designated a World Heritage site in 1994, Halong Bay's spectacular scatter of islands, dotted with wind- and wave-eroded grottoes, is a vision of ethereal beauty and, unsurprisingly, northern Vietnam's number one tourism hub. Sprawling Halong City is the bay's main gateway but its dowdy high-rises are a disappointing doorstep to this site. Most visitors sensibly opt for cruise-tours that include sleeping on board within the bay, while a growing number are deciding to eschew the main bay completely, heading straight for Cat Ba Island from where trips to less-visited but equally alluring Lan Ha Bay are easily set up.

Halong Bay attracts visitors year-round with peak season between late May and early August. January to March is often cool and drizzly, and the ensuing fog can make visibility low, but adds bags of eerie atmosphere. From May to September tropical storms are frequent, and year-round tourist boats sometimes need to alter their itineraries, depending on the weather. November's sunny blue-sky days and lack of crowds make it the best time to make a beeline here



Halong bay party cruise



Halong bay party cruise

Halong Bay is the ideal place to organize a series of events such as weddings, golden, silver or diamond wedding anniversary on the yacht, Gala dinner at one of the most beautiful beaches or caves in Halong or eating in floating restaurant in the middle of water in Halong with [Halong bay party cruise](#). Please join us to create the most memorable trip on Halong Bay with Halong Sails...

High quality and best services of Halong bay party cruise

With over 10 years experience in management of the service sector in Halong Bay, Poem Jsc is proud to organize successfully lot of events which leaves the not-forgotten impression in the heart of travelers.



Halong bay party cruise

With nearly 20 years of experience, business criteria and professional ethics as well as service quality are the first concerns of us associated with the slogan “**Quality is the development**” therefore from the leadership to each employee, we will try our best to

provide the best service to customers.

A rich menu of Vietnam and international culinary

Restaurants of Halong bay party cruise with typical menu of Vietnam traditional culinary culture which is harmony with international cuisine, will give visitors the most pleasant experience.



Halong bay party cruise

The restaurant is also suitable place to hold birthday parties, luxurious cocktail party. This is one of the ideal places to sunbathe in the sunrise and watch the sunset over the romantic Halong Bay with many kinds of drinks and snacks.

Pearly Sea Cruise



See Halong Bay with Pearly Sea Cruise, you will feel warmth, comfort and elegance in each uniquely designed cabin by local designer, Asian décor. The Pearly Sea Cruise, offers unforgettable ambiance of relaxed elegance. Revel in the tranquility of the natural seascape dotted with around 3,000 islands and rocky outcrops. Start your day with Tai Chi in the calm of a Ha Long Bay morning. Enjoy a divine culinary experience before taking in the serenity of the sun setting over the Bay



Day 1: Hanoi – Halong – Vong Vieng Fishing village (L/D)

08:30: Our guide and driver will pick up for a drive to Halong Bay. On the way, we stop for refreshment and photos.

12:00: Boarding Sea Wind Cruise. Welcome drink is served.

12:30: Lunch is served while cruising through Bai Tu Long Bay till 14:30. Roam around the labyrinth of the Bay through the Bai tho Mountain, Oan Mountain, Studio of famous movie

“Indochina”, Am Moutain (teapot), Dragon Moutain, Chuong Moutain and many other beautiful small islands.

14:30: Arrive at Vong Vieng fishing village, there will be taken one of 2 option: – discover the village by bamboo rowing boat with visiting the communal house of the village, fish breeding farm, pearl breeding farm – Or kayaking around.

16:30: Heading to Trong Cave

18:00: Anchoring for overnight at Trong cave

19:00: Dinner is served on board

20:00: Enjoy the music at bar or a fishing

Day 2: Ha Noi – Halong (180km) (B/L)

08:00: Buffet breakfast is served until 10:30 AM

08:30: Tender to visit Sung Sot cave

09:30: Back to Sea Wind Cruise

09:30: Cruising back to Halong wharf and visit Fighting Cock Rocks, Dinh Huong Moutain, Ba Hang floating villages...

10:30: Luggage pulls out. Clear all bills.

11:30: Arrive at the pier. Time to say Goodbye.

12:00: Our driver will take you back to Hanoi

Finding Halong's 'Dragon Eye'



Finding Halong's 'Dragon Eye'

Halong Bay is considered one of northern Vietnam's most famous tourist attractions. One can leisurely cruise through the thousands of islands here, big and small, feast on the fantastic scenery or take a dip in the crystal clear cool water. Most of the islands in the bay are already well-known among local and foreign tourists.

Finding Halong's 'Dragon Eye'

However, those seeking adventure always manage to find new spots in the bay and have recently discovered an island called **Bai Dong** (also known as Mat Rong or Dragon Eye Island), which is located on the southern edge of Halong Bay. The island, untouched by humans, is far away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Although we were just a group of inexperienced backpackers, we were, however, as curious and excited on hearing about a new place. Having had a great time on the Bai Chay beach, without any hesitation, we picked up our bags and set off to explore Mat Rong Island.

Mat Rong is a small island, shaped like an octopus with a big head and long tentacles that twist and turn. There is a lake, round like an eyeball, in the middle of the island that resembles an octopus head. The island is named Mat Rong because of its location in Ha Long Bay (which means Descending Dragon in Vietnamese).



Finding Halong's 'Dragon Eye'

From **Cam Pha**, we headed to the Vung Duc harbor, asking locals who had travelled to every corner of Ha Long Bay, such as Bai Tu Long and Lan Ha Bay, about Mat Rong, but no one had heard of this island.

I then recalled the description of Mat Rong on the Internet and burst into laughter; although they had never heard the name, the place I was referring to was just 20km from the harbor and about an hour on a wooden boat.

After a 30 minute high-speed boat ride, we finally arrived at the crescent-shaped area. Except for a 30m sandy shore during low tide, we were surrounded by rocky mountains. This paradise island with its 300-400m natural white sand beach impressed and excited us with its pristine magnificent beauty.

Since there was no fresh water, tourist services nor even cellphone signal on the island, we decided to spend the day bathing and enjoying the island, and later return to the mainland instead of camping overnight on Mat Rong. We pitched a small tent on the beach to rest.

“Why don't we hang our three hammocks?” my brother Nguyen Tuan Son suggested.

After we had settled, we set off to explore the island through the bushy mountain pass, behind which was a whole new world. In the middle of the island, as we had expected, was a round lake that looked like a giant well, about 100m in diameter and surrounded by rocky hills. Surrounding the water was the foliage hanging from the rocky cliffs. The landscape was absolutely stunning, not to mention the mystical blue shade of the water. This was salt water despite its paler shade, probably because the lake is connected to the sea through a deep cave system. Around the edge of the lake, I noticed peculiar varieties of kelp and seaweed that I hadn't seen in the sea or in any fresh water marsh.

“If only we had some kayaks to sail, that would have been fantastic!” I thought to myself.

The beauty of Halong's dragon eye

Millions of years ago, this island was probably a lush limestone mountain. Time, rain, wind

and the waves had eroded it completely, and now, there was no soil left on the island. The limestone inside the rocks had also worn away, leaving behind the core that consisted of slates of black rocks with sharp edges stacked on top of each other.

The trees were hard as steel with their strong roots going deep through the cracks of the rocks. Along the foothills was a small sandy shore, only visible when the tide was low.

We lay on our hammocks hung between the huge tree trunks, instead of resting inside the tent. The sun was shining bright and the breeze from the water cooled us. The water was unusually still. It was an amazing experience to lie down under the lustrous forest cover and enjoy the beautiful orchestra of the birds of different species here. Crows and hawks hovered above our heads.

We enjoyed the food we had prepared on the mainland — boiled chicken, sticky rice, cucumber, fresh herbs and 3 cans of beer. It had been a long time since I last felt so disconnected from the hustle and bustle of urban life and ate such a basic meal. This was a feeling only an adventurous backpacker would experience and understand.



Finding Halong's 'Dragon Eye'

"As long as the pristine beauty of the island is kept intact, I wish there were more recreational services for tourists visiting the island, such as food catering and kayak rental," my companion Nguyen Hoang Thang said.

"You're crazy. You would get bored in a wild place like this. Now you wish there were services for the sake of your convenience," I teased him.

After finishing our meal, we took just one more dip because the water was getting cold and the boat was waiting to take us back to the mainland.

I will definitely return soon to Mat Rong once there are more services here; one can then even camp overnight. I was not brave enough yet to spend a night on a wild island like this. Who knows what mystery it may hold?

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