



Destinations



Escape To
Saigon / Bali / Beijing

Say Hello To Saigon

The InterContinental Asiana Saigon, in the heart of Ho Chi Minh City, delivers the genuine warmth and insider's view of this bustling Vietnamese city.

Whatever notions one might have of Saigon are swept away when their destination InterContinental Asiana Saigon, an exciting new landmark, which opened in September 2009, in the heart of Ho Chi Minh City. The 21-story luxury hotel rises above cosmopolitan Hai Ba Trung Street, and is within walking distance of all major attractions, office buildings and consulates.

Because of InterContinental Asiana Saigon's close proximity to all there is to see in Ho Chi Minh City, there is a decided dedication by hotel staff to providing local, authentic and enriching travel experiences for guests, and there's never a dull moment in this bustling metropolis of five million formerly known as Saigon.

What makes Ho Chi Minh City so exceptional is the contrast between the old and the new. Well-preserved temples, pagodas and buildings from bygone eras, plus new developments create an exciting mix, with plenty to do and see.

Inhabitants zip by on motorbikes — about two million of them on last count, but this fascinating city is also a great place for walking tours. Whether it is

exploring Saigon's boutiques and fascinating shopping options along Dong Khoi Street or taking a tour through the famous Notre Dame Cathedral, InterContinental Asiana Saigon's In The Know service has the insider's knowledge to connect guests to the pulse of modern Saigon, or provide a glimpse into the storied history of the city.

The art appreciation tour begins just a few steps away from the hotel on Dong Khoi Street, which is full of fine art galleries, and perfect for an on-foot tour. To discover more about the Vietnamese fine arts history and treasures, The Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts Museum is housed in a former commercial building dating from the turn of the twentieth century.

The large structure features three floors, with the first floor devoted to changing exhibits of contemporary art by local and international artists. The second floor galleries house the museum's permanent collection of contemporary art. The collection features sketches, paintings and statues, many of which focus on the resistance to the various colonial rulers. On the third floor, space is devoted to older works from the first century to the early twentieth century.



There is interest by many visitors in the American involvement in Saigon, and a tour to Cu Chi Tunnel, which Vietnamese guerrillas used as their hiding spots, is one of the most popular tourist attractions. Visitors can make their way through seventy-five miles (121 kilometres) of complex tunnels. There's also more to see above ground including abandoned United States military tanks.

A tour through the first Museum of Traditional Vietnamese Medicine (FITO) shows nearly 3,000 items relevant to traditional Vietnamese medicine dating back to the Stone Age. Equipped with modern audio-visual technology, the museum regularly screens "A Century of Health Care Experiences", a documentary film about the history of Vietnam's traditional medicine.

The Vietnamese are strong believers in Buddhism and there are a wide range of pagodas to tour across Vietnam, including many in Saigon. InterContinental Asiana Saigon's team is well versed to help visitors navigate the terrain and can suggest which pagodas to visit. A special insider package takes visitors to a Buddhist blessing ceremony performed by monks and held to restore harmony and remove any negative energy.

To experience local culture, guests can attend a water puppet show, a unique art which has its origin in the delta of the Red River during the 10th century. Farmers in the region devised a form of entertainment using whatever natural medium they could find, such as wood, bamboo or chaff, and would stage impromptu shows in the ponds and rice paddies after harvest.

Coffee culture also plays an integral role in the social life of the Vietnamese. Coffee abounds in Saigon,

and throughout the day and into the evening, people congregate around small tables to drink, and discuss news of the day. This coffee culture comes from a time when Saigon was the capital of the French colony of Cochinchina, and its coffee culture reflects this alignment.

InterContinental Asiana Saigon also offers an insider package that takes guests inside a private home for cooking class at which they can learn about the local cuisine from a Vietnamese family, sampling Pho in Saigon or Hanoi style, fresh herbs and leaves, pork and shrimp rolled by rice papers, and tropical fruits.

When it's time to retire to your room at InterContinental Asiana Saigon, a turndown bedtime story recounting Vietnamese legends and tales awaits. ■



InterContinental Asiana Saigon, Corner Hai Ba Trung Street. & Le Duan Boulevard, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Phone +84.83520.9999, or www.intercontinental.com/saigon.

Uncover The Hidden Secrets of Bali

Secluded within the boundaries of the exclusive neighbourhood of Jimbaran Bay on Bali's southern coastline, InterContinental Bali Resort has much to discover.

The isle of Bali is often referred to as Paradise, and it is not difficult to understand why — with miles of white sand beaches and an intriguing traditional culture that has been preserved amidst the modernization of Indonesia's most popular destination, there are many reasons to choose Bali for a tropical escape. And nowhere on this island is more idyllic than InterContinental Bali Resort, located on the pristine beaches and tranquil blue waters of Jimbaran Bay and set within magical gardens and magnificent pools, fountains, and a winding lagoon.

The Balinese people are known for being gracious hosts, welcoming guests to experience their culture and the many delights of their homeland. The seemingly endless beaches are one of the first things that come to mind, but Bali offers so much more than fun in the sun. With countless graceful Hindu temples, tempting and flavourful local cuisine, and a lush jungle landscape teeming with exotic native flora and fauna, visiting Bali is a true adventure.

Sports enthusiasts will be in their element, with surfing, scuba diving, boogie boarding, yoga, bike tours, and more activities readily at hand. Surfing and scuba



lessons and gear rental are easily arranged by the resort's concierge.

Bali is known for its yoga tradition, and learning the local version of this ancient practice is the type of intangible souvenir visitors will carry with them long after they have left this idyllic land. Alternatively, guests can participate in classes in Bayu Suci, which can be described as the Balinese version of Tai Chi. Bayu Suci combines elements of Balinese dance with a form of self-defense known as Pencak Silat, resulting in a relaxing and inspiring art form that guests can experience at InterContinental Bali Resort.

After participating in one of these athletic endeavours, visitors can relax and unwind at the resort's Spa Uluwatu. As the resort is blessed with a serene ocean-front landscape, Spa Uluwatu draws inspiration from the basic spa philosophy of "health by water." There is an underlying oceanic theme to the menu and treatments that make use of natural ingredients such as sea salt, marine algae and seaweed, as well as herbs, spices and flower extracts.

With a variety of treatments available in a beautiful setting in the resort's gardens, the options at Spa Uluwatu blend classic Balinese techniques and ingredients with



Inspiration Space

Inspiration Space is a unique resort initiative that has been created for the exclusive use of Club InterContinental guests. Club InterContinental is the premier accommodation category at InterContinental Bali Resort that is characterised by a stylishly appointed collection of rooms and suites secluded within a private wing. Club InterContinental was conceived with the sole intention of anticipating every possible need of the seasoned traveller.

Inspiration Space encompasses a welcoming environment that fosters recreational activities and pastimes that are a direct reflection on Bali, its artistic legacy and cultural traditions.

As a place of leisurely relaxation, the Inspiration Space encourages guests to become aware and satisfy their sense of curiosity. This can be simply in the form of borrowing a CD of soothing meditation music, browsing through a book on tropical garden design, or attending one of the resort's regular talks and demonstration sessions.

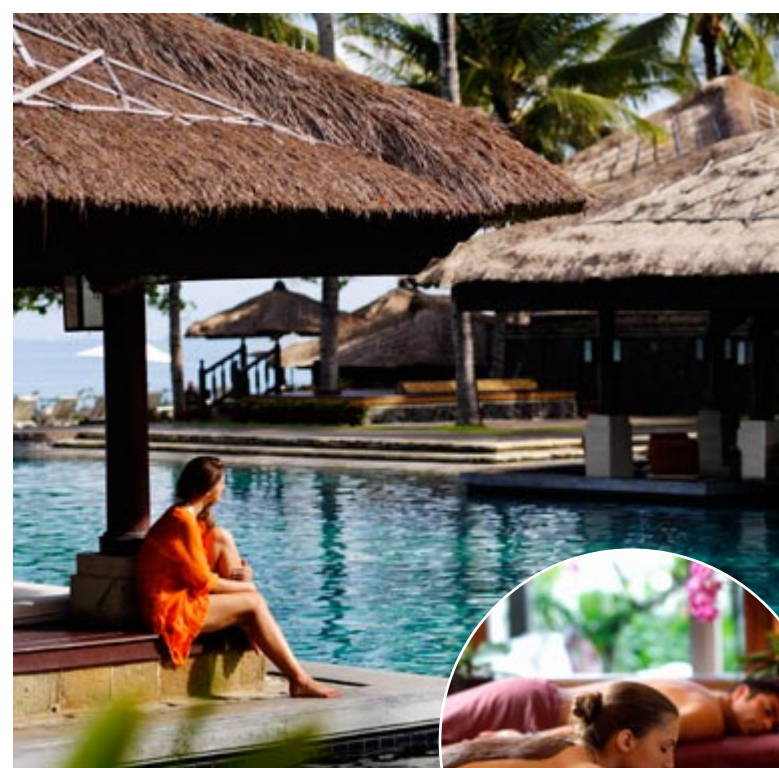
With Bali's rich and beautiful history, a diverse collection of topics are designed to provide enriching in-house experiences for guests during their time in this beautiful paradise.



contemporary spa technology, resulting in an experience that is a treat for all the senses. Guests can also choose from receiving treatments beachside or in the hotel's own lush gardens, with both choices offering a relaxing and rejuvenating atmosphere.

When you are ready to venture out, one of the best ways to see Bali is how the locals get around — on a bike. Guests at the InterContinental Bali Resort can arrange a variety of destinations, including sunset tours of nearby Hindu temples, excursions to the traditional fishing village and market of Kendongan, and a route that allows guests to embrace "the colours of Jimbaran," taking them through a Balinese marketplace, a banjar or village gathering hall, a Hindu temple, and a modern ceramics workshop. Bike tours make it possible for guests to fully experience the varied terrain of the island, from lush rice paddies to rugged black volcanic cliffs, and, of course, the legendary beaches.

Not surprisingly, one of the many pleasures of visiting Bali is its variety of food choices. The many dining options at the resort ensure that guests can sample everything from sublimely fresh local seafood, Japanese delicacies and rustic Italian dishes. At the Teppan counter at KO, the resort's Chef provides artful entertainment that precedes the preparation of food with a menu that is simple, yet stylish and prepared on a grill right before guest's eyes, while



Italian food and international wine takes center stage at the Bella Singaraja. Carefree alfresco tables create the perfect atmosphere for dining and relaxing in the Jimbaran gardens.

There are many reasons Bali is considered a bona fide paradise — miles of white sand beaches, the rich natural landscape of jungles and rugged mountains, and the gracious, vibrant local culture are merely the beginning. However, InterContinental Bali Resort on the Jimbaran Bay adds another layer of luxury, giving travellers all the more incentive to choose Bali as their ultimate tropical escape. ■

Contact InterContinental Bali Resort, Jalan Uluwatu 45, Jimbaran 80361, Bali, Indonesia. Call +62.361.701.888.

Contemporary Style In The Cradle Of History

Experience all that is Beijing from your doorstep at InterContinental Beijing Beichen.



Modern comfort is introduced to age-old traditions of the Orient at the Beijing Beichen, the latest InterContinental property to debut in this commercial, political, and cultural hub of China.

The sleek architectural masterpiece of steel and glass is located in the Olympic Green near the Bird's Nest and the Water Cube, yet only fifteen minutes from the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, the National Grand Theatre, and other historical destinations. The Beijing Beichen embodies both China's glorious past and bright future.

Although the 2008 Summer Olympics skyrocketed Beijing's prominence to worldwide attention, the city has long been considered one of the most exciting destinations for business and leisure travel. With stunning historical treasures such as majestic Ming dynasty buildings and courtyards, as well as upscale restaurants and clubs, elegant shops, and soaring skyscrapers, Beijing represents both China's history and its future.

In addition to the Olympic Centre and other modern developments, visitors can experience how Beijing residents have lived for centuries by visiting residential

hutongs -- close-knit networks of pedestrian-only streets and alleys. Tours through the city's many temples and markets, including the Tian Tan Park (Temple of Heaven), a gorgeous example of Ming dynasty architecture, and the Panjiayuan Market, Beijing's largest outdoor antique and flea market, offer a bird's-eye glimpse into Old Beijing.

Beijing's burgeoning art scene is experiencing a contemporary revival. Guests can explore the Chinese art scene in the 798 District, which is comprised of a mix of renovated industrial buildings, a post-industrial landscape that is home to hundreds of artists.

Beijing's National Museum, a favourite with residents and visitors alike will reopen in 2010 following a major renovation. The Military Museum and the Capital Museum provide history buffs insight into Beijing and Chinese history.

InterContinental Beijing Beichen's location makes it an ideal location for exploring the city and beyond. It is a mere ninety-minute drive to the Mutianyu section of the Great Wall, built over 2,000 years ago to protect China from invaders, and stands in remarkably good condition today. The hotel is an hour away from the Summer Palace, a vast imperial retreat of parks, pavilions, gardens, and



In the Know in Beijing

The hotel's concierge can arrange a variety of In the Know experiences in the Beijing area including a relaxing day at the Hou Hai Back Lakes, a unique neighbourhood featuring restaurants, unique shops, and ancient dynastic architecture.

One of the most intriguing sights is the Arrow Tower, a fragment of the old Ming city wall. It houses an ancient Chinese coin collection and gallery of classical art, and the views from the top of the tower are spectacular, encompassing the entire expanse of the Back Lakes.

Ask a Beijing Beichen concierge for more information on the Hou Hai Back Lakes In The Know Experience, and other fascinating destinations in the city and the surrounding regions.

InterContinental Beijing Beichen is located at 8, Beichen West Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing. Call +86.10.8437.1188 for information.

temples where China's emperors have retired from the city's summer heat for centuries.

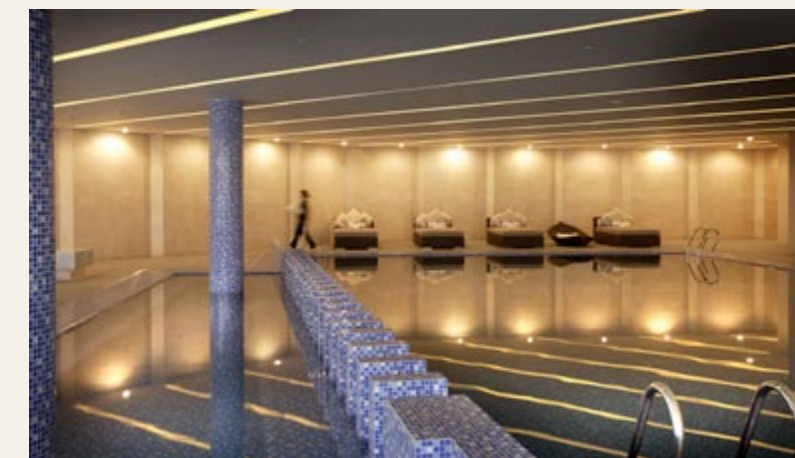
With 337 well-appointed rooms spread over sixteen floors, InterContinental Beijing Beichen's warm, residential ambiance makes it a Chinese home away from home. The contemporary amenities found in the forty-two Signature Suites and the Club InterContinental Lounge ensures that doing business at the Beijing Beichen is stress free. In fact, the Lounge was designed with the singular goal of anticipating every possible need of connoisseur executive travellers, making it the ideal choice for business as well as leisure.

Guests can also take advantage of the more than 1,700 square feet of meeting and function space, all fully equipped with wireless Internet and the latest technology for corporate as well as social events. Spa InterContinental offers a variety of indulgent massage therapies and treatments to wash away the cares of the day.

Dining variety and bar choices set the standard, including Café O2, open throughout the day and featuring international dishes; DI, a classical Chinese restaurant that specialises in modern Cantonese cuisine and other Chinese specialties; Va Piano, an Italian restaurant with

an extensive wine cellar, and the always accessible Lobby Lounge, which is the perfect venue for a casual cocktail and cozy conversation.

When it comes to dazzling energy and optimism grounded in Chinese tradition, there is nowhere else more impressive, exciting, and charming than the country's capital city – and within that city is the twenty-first-century standard of luxury, InterContinental Beijing Beichen. ■



Destination Vietnam

Escape to Hanoi for an incredible journey through a city rich in history at the InterContinental Hanoi Westlake, a peaceful oasis perched on the edge of Ho Tay Lake.



“Is it possible to fall in love with a city? I wouldn’t have thought so once, but that was before I had been to Hanoi,” writes Pamela Scott in her book “Hanoi Stories.” Scott, an Australian, made three brief business trips to Hanoi, and was so enthralled by the place she made a permanent move there.

She writes, “Once you have been seduced by Hanoi’s charms it can be hard to escape.” With its lakes and pagodas, its Chinese shrines and European churches, Hanoi’s charm is old fashioned.

The new InterContinental Hanoi Westlake on the beautiful banks of Ho Tay Lake and overlooking the eight hundred-year-old Golden Lotus Pagoda is a peaceful oasis near the city centre. Featured on “Condé Nast Traveler’s” prestigious 2008 Hot List, the hotel earned this honour for its sublime and picturesque waterfront locale. Each of its 359 luxurious rooms overlook either the city or peaceful West Lake.

Hanoi, the northern capital city of Vietnam, is a place rich in history. Often called the Paris of the Orient, the city is dotted with cafes and markets, broad-tree lined streets and parks. Hoan Kiem Lake in the city centre is considered one of the most scenic attractions, while traditional flower markets populated by locals offer visitors the chance to get a flavor of the real Hanoi.

To experience all of its wonder, the InterContinental Hanoi Westlake offers special “Insider” packages that allow you to see Hanoi up close and personal.

The “Culture through Architecture” experience features the best of Hanoi’s architectural gems, from Chinese pagodas to European churches, colonial French villas and ancient gates. It’s definitely a must for anyone interested in design and architecture.

Immerse yourself in the true spirit of local Vietnamese everyday life with a visit to the Cho Market, where the wonderful flavours of local foods come alive. A tour guide

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will then take you on a shopping trip to uncover the city's hidden treasures.

Explore Hanoi at night — with an experience that is uniquely Vietnamese and definitely Hanoian. Go truly local at a famous “bia hoi” tavern in town. Sit on small chairs and taste the refreshing flavour of Vietnamese beers. Then walk through the alleys of along the lively Old Quarter, the city's commercial heart since the fifteenth century; and dine at “Cha Ca La Vong,” one of the finest proponents of traditional Vietnamese cuisine.

For first time visitors to Hanoi, there are a few “must dos” including a stop at the Ho Chi Minh mausoleum, where the leader's body still lies in state, and the Temple of Literature built in 1070. At more than two hundred years old, Hanoi Cathedral is also one of the most visited architectural attractions. Hanoi Opera House rises magnificently at the end of the Trang Tien Street. Built by the French in 1911 and renovated in 1997, it features the same architectural style as the Opera House in Paris. The 900-seat house hosts visiting foreign performers as well as Vietnamese symphonies.

You'll see many paintings throughout the hotel by Hanoi artists that may inspire you to seek out some of the city's contemporary art that has recently experienced an explosion of sorts. Art Vietnam Gallery is a good place to start with its showcase of contemporary Vietnamese art including painting, sculpture, photography and video. Having outgrown its original gallery, Art Vietnam recently moved from its “tube house” on Hang Than to around the corner at 7 Nguyen Khac Nhu. The Fine Arts Museum in Hanoi, previously the French Ministry of Information, is located just opposite the Temple of Literature and exhibits approximately 10,000 art works in 16 showrooms. In addition to displaying a wide range of stylish art collections, the Fine Arts Museum in Hanoi exhibits several fine art pieces such as ancient stone sculpture, pieces from the Bronze Age, antique pottery, ethnic minority painting and lacquer painting.

After a busy day discovering Hanoi, return to InterContinental Hanoi Westlake to relax and indulge in all the hotel has to offer. Milan Saigon, located inside the hotel, introduces a brand new concept in international

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Insider Experience

InterContinental Hanoi Westlake Hotel offers three Experience More packages that provide an enriching Hanoi experience.

Culture Through Architecture

Explore the best of Hanoi's architectural gems, a fascinating reflection of the city's rich history. From Chinese pagodas to European churches, colonial French villas to ancient gates, this tour is a must for anyone interested in design and architecture.

Experience “Cho Market”

Spend half a day immersed in the true spirit of local Vietnamese everyday life. Experience the wonderful flavours of local food and accompany your tour guide on a shopping trip to uncover hidden treasures.

Explore Hanoi at Night

A night tour, uniquely Vietnamese and definitely Hanoian. Go truly local at a famous “bia hoi” tavern in town. Sit on small chairs and taste the refreshing flavour of Vietnamese beers. Then walk along Old Quarter alleys to discover and dine at “Cha Ca La Vong” – one of the finest proponents of traditional Vietnamese cuisine.

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dining in Hanoi, fusing the best Italian cuisine with an exciting showcase of pan-Asian food. Diners may select simultaneously from both menus, offering the ultimate in style and selection.

Since Vietnam was once a French colony, it remains heavily influenced by the French. The hotel's Café du Lac exudes a contemporary air of French brasserie. Here you'll savour delectable dishes and the authentic flavours of France will send you to a French city.

The Diplomat Lounge is the place where guests delight in traditional afternoon tea. During the winter, cozy up by the fireside and have a glass of cognac or red wine.

The Sunset and Milan Saigon Bars are magnificent places to getaway. The Sunset Bar is dramatically

positioned on its own island in the middle of Westlake. Walk across the torch lit bridge during the evening for a romantic arrival. The Milan Saigon bar is a lounge with private dining rooms which create informal, yet trendy and chic nighttime experiences.

The InterContinental Hanoi Westlake opened in December 2007 and immediately established itself as a singular Hanoi attraction. Located 10 minutes from the heart of Hanoi, the waterfront hotel evokes a resort-like ambiance with its torch-lit Venetian promenades and hard-to-find spaciousness in Vietnam's bustling capital. The hotel is a mere 40 minutes by taxi from Noi Bai International Airport. ■

