

1. [National Geographic Vietnam](#) by Jim Sullivan

This guide to Vietnam, published in the National Geographic attractive visual style, features hundreds of photographs, full color maps and good information on history, nature, culture and travel in Vietnam. (VNM93, \$22.95)

2. [Understanding Vietnam](#) by Neil Jamieson

A site plan and pocket guide to the city of Angkor at a scale of 1:40,000. (CBD16, \$12.95)

3. [Lonely Planet Vietnamese Phrasebook](#) by Nguyen Xuanthu

A handy palm-sized guide to pronunciation, grammar and essential vocabulary for the traveler. (VNM20, \$8.99)

4. [A Traveller's History of Southeast Asia](#) by J.M. Barwise | Nicholas J. White

A compact history of the region, including the Khmer and the various ancient kingdoms that produced Borobudur, Angkor and other architectural marvels. (SEA36, \$14.95)

5. [Fire in the Lake](#) by Frances FitzGerald

A classic historical, political and cultural portrait of a nation at war, this powerful book won both the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award. FitzGerald, a staff writer at the New Yorker and a reporter in Vietnam, presents a vivid image of a revolution. (VNM12, \$18.99)

6. [The Civilization of Angkor](#) by Charles Higham

A concise history of the origins, development and rise of the kingdom of Angkor by a leading archaeologist. It's an up-to-date, accessible overview of the civilization from prehistory through the fall of Angkor in 1431. (CBD26, \$24.95)

7. [Culture Smart! Vietnam](#) by Geoffrey Murray

Take along this concise, well-illustrated and practical guide to local customs, etiquette and culture. (VNM87, \$9.95)

8. [Eyewitness Guide Vietnam and Angkor Wat](#) by Eyewitness Guides

Featuring innovative site diagrams, local maps and hundreds of color photographs, this handy companion introduces the culture, history and attractions of Vietnam. (VNM102, \$25.00)

9. [Lonely Planet Vietnamese Phrasebook](#) by Nguyen Xuanthu

A handy palm-sized guide to pronunciation, grammar and essential vocabulary for the traveler. (VNM20, \$8.99)

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12. [Vietnam: Journeys of Body, Mind, and Spirit](#) by Nguyen Van Huy | Laurel Kendall

A marvelously illustrated portrait of culture and society in contemporary Vietnam, featuring informed essays by diverse contributors with accompanying color photographs. (VNM66, \$50.00)

13. [Angkor Cities and Temples](#) by Claude Jacques | Michael Freeman

One of the nicest books of its kind, this is a gorgeous, oversized portrait of the monuments, temples and exquisite sculptures of Angkor. Claude Jacques, who directed much of the site excavation, writes with authority about individual temples, inscriptions and Khmer culture. (CBD18, \$80.00)

14. [A Dragon Apparent, Travels in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam](#) by Norman Lewis

A classic account of travels and adventure during the last years of French Indochina, strong on atmosphere and including wonderfully detailed descriptions of local cultures and archaeological treasures. First published in 1951. (SEA40, \$33.95)

15. [Catfish and Mandala, A Two-Wheeled Voyage Through the Landscape and Memory of Vietnam](#) by Andrew X. Pham

Much more than the story of a road trip, this book combines the author's family history with his many and often-gritty adventures by bicycle through foreign lands including Mexico, Japan and, notably, Vietnam. (VNM50, \$16.00)

16. [Descending the Dragon, My Journey Down the Coast of Vietnam](#) by Rob Howard | Jon Bowermaster

Bowermaster and a team, including his long suffering foreign press monitor and photographers, set forth from Hanoi by kayak to explore the long coast of Vietnam on a two-month-long journey of discovery. With dozens of color and black-and-white photographs. (VNM121, \$21.95)