



ANANTARA

HOI AN • RESORT

DISCOVERY GUIDE



## WELCOME

Venture into the real Vietnam with immersive journeys and laidback cruises from our door step.

Anantara Hoi An Resort occupies a prime riverfront location minutes from the UNESCO World Heritage Site of ancient Hoi An.

Delve beneath the surface. Discover a diverse array of experiences that uncover the hidden treasures of this wonderful region.

Embrace signature Anantara experiences that introduce you to tradition and charm through adventurous tours, whether they be on land or river or through the exceptional culinary culture.

We invite you to peruse our carefully selected range of excursions to help stimulate your sense of curiosity and adventure. From these inspirational possibilities, we look forward to helping you curate adventures that nurture your passions and create unforgettable memories.

With best wishes,

Anantara Hoi An Resort





## ABOUT HOI AN.

From the 2nd to the 10th centuries, Hoi An was the busiest seaport of the Champa kingdom. Persian and Arab documents from the latter part of the period mention Hoi An as a provisions stop. The area was annexed by the Tran Dynasty in the 14th century after a long war between Dai Viet and Champa.

By the 15th century, peace had been restored, allowing normal commerce to resume. Chinese, Japanese, Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish, Indian, Filipino, Indonesian, Thai, French, British and American ships came to Hoi An to purchase high-grade silk fabrics, paper, porcelain, tea, sugar, molasses, areca nuts, pepper, Chinese medicines, elephant tusks, beeswax, mother of pearl, lacquer, sulphur and lead.

The Chinese and Japanese traders sailed south in the spring, driven by winds from the northeast. They would stay in Hoi An until the summer, when southerly winds would blow them home. During their four month sojourn in Hoi An, the merchants rented waterfront houses for use as warehouses and living quarters. Some traders began leaving full-time agents in Hoi An to take care of off season business affairs. This is how foreign colonies got started, although the Japanese ceased coming to Hoi An after 1637, when the Japanese government forbade all contact with the outside world.

In 1999, the old town was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO as a well preserved example of a Southeast Asian trading port of the 15th to 19th centuries, with buildings that display a unique blend of local and foreign influences.

# CULINARY

Whether you'd like to learn the hidden secrets to Vietnamese cuisines or curate your own unique culinary adventure, Anantara Hoi An Resort has a range of creative ways to explore the distinctive global and local flavours.

## SPICE SPOONS - ANANTARA COOKING SCHOOL

Uncover the exotic culinary culture of this diverse country in an interactive cooking class. A blend of influences, the ingredients and traditions from China, Asia and France combine to create this wonderful cuisine.

Learn the theory behind each dish as our expert chef leads you through the steps to create the perfect meal. Share tips with other class members as you enjoy the fruits of your labour for lunch. Receive your certificate along with a Spice Spoons bag, apron and recipes to take home.





## DINING BY DESIGN

Dine at an elegantly decorated table in a private pavilion with a signature Anantara experience, Dining by Design.

Under the stars by the river with lanterns floating by and traditional Vietnamese décor, treat yourself and someone special to a unique celebration. Your personal chef will prepare an exquisite meal with aromatic special flavours to delight the palate. Precious moments are shared with your loved one, as a private butler caters to your every whim.

Savour the ultimate romantic evening with exquisite views of the Thu Bon River. Soak up the ambience of this beautiful tropical setting as you celebrate your love, or simply a spectacular holiday.

# CULTURE



## WET RICE CULTURE

Venture behind the agricultural scenes with this hands-on farm experience. Gain a deep appreciation for the hard work of Vietnam's rice farmers and try the cultivation techniques yourself.

**Departure:** 8.30 am or 2.00 pm

**Duration:** 5 hours



## FISHING VILLAGE AND BASKET BOAT EXPERIENCE

Offering social and cultural insights into the Vietnamese way of life, this enriching experience is a real hands-on adventure. Visit Cua Dai fishing village to learn traditional round net and cast net angling techniques with local fishermen. Master the oars as you paddle a bamboo basket and join in a fun race. Explore the coconut mangroves. Enjoy a local style fisherman's meal, cooked and served by your captain.

**Departure:** 8.00 am or 1.30 pm

**Duration:** 4 hours



## ANANTARA RIVER CRUISE

See Hoi An and the surrounding countryside from a new perspective as you sail down the Thu Bon River in a traditional style boat. Take in a beautiful sunset as you drift gently down the river.

Departure: 10.30 am or 2.30 pm or 4.30 pm  
Duration: 1 hour

## FARMING AND FISHING

Enjoy an in-depth insight into the local farming and fishing communities, some of Hoi An's most important industries. Spend a leisurely morning or afternoon by bicycle exploring the country roads and visiting a vegetable village where you get involved with the daily activities of planting and tending to the crops and taking a ride on a water buffalo.

Step aboard a boat for a cruise along the river to meet local fishermen and learn some techniques of traditional net fishing. There's also the chance to navigate the iconic Vietnamese bamboo basket boats.

**Departure:** 8.30 am

**Duration:** 6 hours

## RICE PLANTING AND FISHING

Rice is one of the staple commodities in Vietnam and there are countless rice paddies in and around Hoi An. This tour takes you to Cam Thanh Ecological Village where you will jump on a bicycle for short ride and take part in the sowing, ploughing and grinding of the rice crops, as you experience all aspects of the process of rice growing, complete with riding a water buffalo.

The next part of this experience takes you to a traditional fishing village, where you board a boat and learn how to catch local fish, take a ride in basket boat and then get creative with some origami creations from coconut leaves. The boat's captain will prepare some delicious local treats for you to enjoy as you reflect on the day's experience.

**Departure:** 8.30 am

**Duration:** 6 hours



## SUNRISE FISH MARKET

As the sun rises, the local Hoi An fishermen are returning home with their catch after a long and tiring night fishing in the Cua Dai Sea. With fishing skills handed down from father to son, their boats are laden with a wide variety of fish, crabs, shrimps and shellfish from the Cua Dai Sea. Meanwhile the fishermen's wives are waiting at the dock to receive the catch and quickly offer it fresh for sale at the nearby bustling Hoi An market.

This is a daily ritual in the life of the Hoi An fishing families. Jack Tran's sunrise Fish market will bring you into the daily life of the local Hoi An fishermen – a privileged experience.

**Departure:** 5.00 am

**Duration:** 2.5 hours