

APRIL 2026



- Travel Updates
- Handpicked Stays & Spots
- Tour of the month

# APRIL 2026

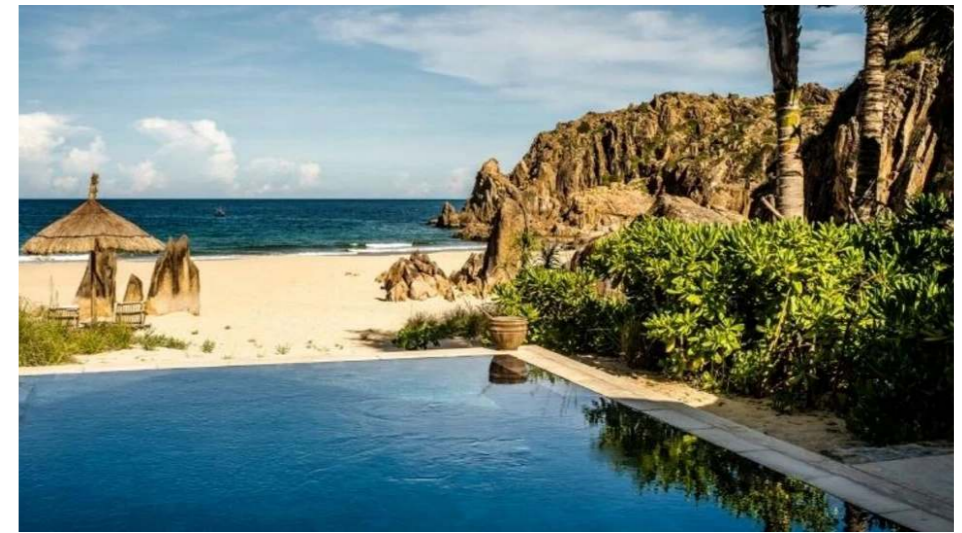
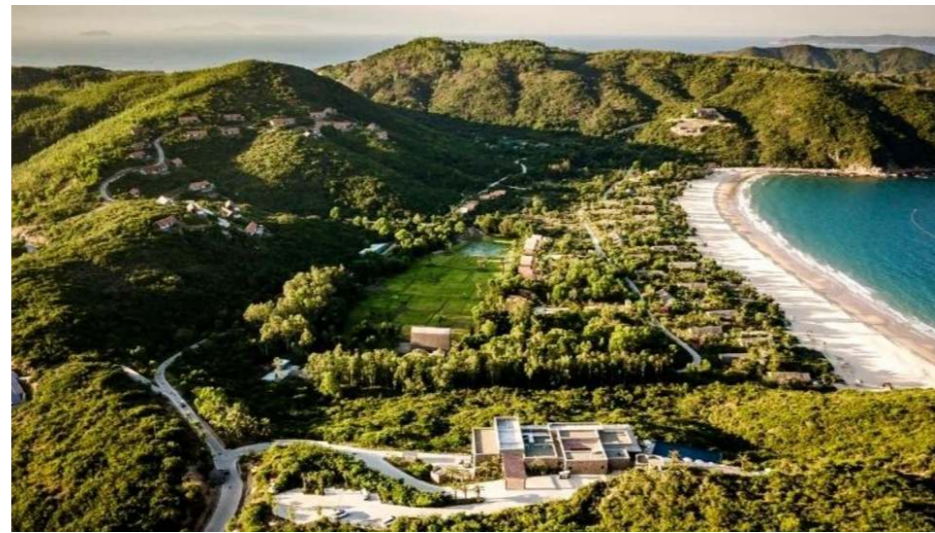
## TRAVEL UPDATES

### VIETNAM

#### ZANNIER BÃI SAN HÔ REOPENING ON 1 APRIL 2026

Zannier Bãi San Hô (Bai San Ho) plans to reopen on **1 April 2026** following extended repairs due to storm damage and flooding. The **Beach Pool Villas**, the most affected category, are expected to return to full availability from **1 July 2026**. Existing bookings remain confirmed, with alternative villa options to be offered if required.

The resort will continue to provide updates should operational timelines change



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#### CRUISE INTO SUNSET WITH NAMIA

**Namia River Retreat** (Hoi An) introduces **a complimentary daily sunset cruise on the Thu Bon River** (approx. 1 hour, weather permitting).

- Guests enjoy cocktails, mocktails, and light canapés while taking in scenic evening views.
- Limited to 20 guests per cruise; advance reservation required.



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### HERITAGE LINE VIOLET: PEARLS OF THE BAY EXPERIENCES

From 2026, **Heritage Line Violet** introduces an exclusive **3-day/2-night cruise in Bai Tu Long Bay**, a quieter and more remote alternative to Halong Bay.

#### Experience Highlights

- “Pearls of the Bay” journey focused on cultural encounters and relaxed exploration.
- Activities include kayaking, Tai Chi, meditation, and cultural workshops.

#### Onboard Experience

- Boutique vessel in French-Indochinese Art Deco style, ideal for privacy and romantic stays.
- Just 6 luxury suites, accommodating up to 12 guests.



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### **HALONG BAY SEAPLANE OPERATIONS TO END**

Beginning 1 April 2026, operations of the seaplane service between Hanoi and Halong Bay will officially cease.

Introduced in 2014, this service has offered a unique premium transfer experience, providing clients with spectacular aerial views of Halong Bay's iconic karst scenery.

Today, overland transfers remain the most practical option, ensuring a comfortable journey of approximately two and a half hours each way.



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**PARADISE SAILS (HALONG BAY)**

Paradise Sails has officially ceased operations as of 15 March 2026.



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#### **NEW DIRECT FLIGHTS: HO CHI MINH CITY – PHUKET**

**Vietnam Airlines** will launch a new direct route between **Ho Chi Minh City and Phuket starting 2 April 2026.**

- SGN-HKT / 12467 / 16:00-17:50
- HKT-SGN / 12467 / 18:45-20:45
- Five weekly flights: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.
- Enhances multi-country travel opportunities, combining Vietnam and Thailand in one seamless itinerary.
- Connects Ho Chi Minh City with Phuket, one of Thailand's leading tropical destinations.



#### **NON-STOP HANOI-AMSTERDAM SERVICE LAUNCHES**

**Vietnam Airlines** will launch the first-ever nonstop route between **Amsterdam** and **Hanoi**.

- Launch date: **16 June 2026**
- Operated by Airbus A350 (304 seats)
- Flight time: approx. 12 hours 10 minutes

#### **Flight Schedule**

- 2,4,6 / VN83 / HAN-AMS / 03:50-11:00
- 2,4,6 / VN82 / AMS-HAN / 14:00-06:00+



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### **DA NANG INTERNATIONAL FIREWORKS FESTIVAL (DIFF) 2026**

The festival will light up Vietnam's central coast this summer, promising nights of fierce competition and artistic expression. Eight teams will vie for the coveted championship title, including 3 new participants – the **United States, Germany and China** – joining teams from **Finland, France, Italy and Poland**, alongside host **Da Nang, Vietnam**.

#### **DIFF 2026 – Schedule:**

- **8 June** – *Opening Night: Vietnam vs France* – “Made of Unique Culture”
- **15 June** – *Italy vs United States* – “Made of Natural Wisdom”
- **22 June** – *Germany vs Poland* – “Made of Love Inspiration”
- **29 June** – *China vs Finland* – “Made of Fairy Tales”
- **13 July** – *Grand Finale* – “Made of Young Generation” – Each team performs for 20–22 minutes

Plan ahead and book your accommodation early to ensure you don't miss this festival and the opportunity to experience it.

**For enquiries and bookings, kindly contact [Vidotour Vietnam](#)**



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## LAOS

### HIN NAM NO: LAOS'S NEW UNESCO HIDDEN GEM

Recently inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2025, Hin Nam No National Park is emerging as a destination for adventurous travellers in Laos. Still largely untouched and little visited, it offers dramatic karst landscapes, vast cave systems, and rich biodiversity. A place for those who love exploring raw, unspoilt nature, it remains a hidden gem—quietly waiting to be discovered.

For tour details, please contact [Vidotour](#)



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## CAMBODIA

### NEW DIRECT FLIGHTS: PHNOM PENH – VIENTIANE

**Cambodia Airways** has launched a new route between **Phnom Penh and Vientiane in early March 2026**.

- KTI-VTE / 47 / KR765 / 14:10-15:55
- VTE-KTI / 47 / KR766 / 16:55-18:50
- Operates twice weekly: Thursdays and Sundays.
- Strengthens regional connectivity between Cambodia and Laos and opens new travel opportunities.



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#### **VESAK BOCHEA FESTIVAL - Cambodia**

Vesak Bochea (Buddha Day) is Cambodia's most sacred Buddhist festival, marking the Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and passing into Parinirvana. The day is observed with dawn alms-giving, prayers, candle lighting, and shrine circumambulation, creating a serene and luminous atmosphere.

**Location:** Celebrated nationwide at pagodas and temples, with major gatherings at Oudong Mountain (Preah Reach Troap) in Kandal Province, north of Phnom Penh.

**Date:** Full moon of the sixth lunar month - **Friday, 22nd May 2026**

**For travellers:** Dress modestly and respectfully when visiting temples. Arrive early to witness dawn chanting and alms-giving. Visitors are welcome to attend respectfully and may bring simple offerings such as flowers, candles, incense, or food as a traditional act of devotion.

Plan ahead and book your accommodation early to ensure you don't miss this festival and the opportunity to experience it.

**For enquiries and bookings, kindly contact [Vidotour Cambodia](#)**



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## HANDPICKED STAYS & SPOTS

### VIETNAM

#### **VietCharm CULTURE & DINING SHOW - Ho Chi Minh City**

A premium multi-sensory dining and performing arts experience set within the historic grounds of the Reunification Palace in the heart of Saigon. Combining refined cuisine with artistic storytelling, the show invites guests on a journey through Vietnam's cultural heritage in an elegant and immersive setting.

#### **Highlights:**

- **90-minute cultural journey** through Vietnam's history and heritage.
- **Unique art & dining experience** blending stage performance with refined cuisine.
- **Carefully choreographed performances** celebrating traditional Vietnamese arts.
- **Folk dances and imperial-inspired scenes** showcasing the richness of Vietnamese culture.
- **International-friendly format** using music, lighting, and dance instead of spoken dialogue.

- **Immersive storytelling** offering a vivid glimpse into Vietnam's identity and traditions.



### STREET FOODS STREETS – Ho Chi Minh City

Ho Chi Minh City's street food is everywhere, making the city feel like one big open-air restaurant. More than just the food, it's the lively atmosphere and local energy that make street dining one of Saigon's best experiences.

#### Top Picks:

- **VINH KHANH street** has become a buzzing night-time food hub, lined with hundreds of seafood and street-food stalls stretching nearly a kilometre and drawing crowds until midnight. Famous for snail dishes, grilled shellfish and local specialities, it was recently ranked among the world's coolest streets by Time Out and is home to standout venues such as the Michelin-selected Ốc Oanh—a vivid showcase of the city's evening food culture.

**Fried sea snails** with chilli salt and grilled scallops with spring onions. (Ốc Oanh @ 534 Vĩnh Khánh Street)



- **HO THI KY street** was once known for its night flower market. Today, nearby alleyways are packed with street food stalls, making it a lively spot with a buzzing atmosphere and hidden food gems.

**Chicken feet** in spicy-sour Thai sauce (Chân gà rút xương)

**Korean fried chicken** (Gà Sốt Cay Hàn Quốc)

**Street bites** – spicy octopus sticks (bạch tuộc chiên), skewers (nem lụi), grilled quail eggs (trứng cút chén)



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### CULTURAL NIGHT OUT - Hanoi

**GOm Show** – The Sounds of Ceramics – a musical art performance inspired by Vietnam’s ceramic heritage, blending indigenous melodies with handcrafted clay instruments to create a rich and evocative soundscape.

- Time: 19:30–21:30
- Days: Every Thursday & Friday
- Venue: Red Scarf Theater
- Address: 36 Ly Thai To Street, Hoan Kiem Ward, Hanoi
- Web: <https://gomshow.vn/>



## CAMBODIA

### PHARE PONLEU SELPAX – A Circus with a Purpose

**Phare** is a leading contemporary circus and social enterprise in Siem Reap. Often compared to Cirque du Soleil for its powerful, human-centred acrobatics, Phare blends theatre, music, dance and circus arts to tell authentic Cambodian stories—from traditional folklore to modern social themes.

- **Showtime:** Nightly at 8:00 pm (approx. 1 hour)
- **Pre-show:** Venue opens at 5:30 pm with Cambodian street food, drinks and an ethical handicraft boutique
- **Location:** Approximately 2km from the Old Market and Pub Street
- **Education & Training:** Performers are students and graduates of *Phare Ponleu Selpak*, a non-profit arts school in Battambang founded by former refugees.
- **Community Support:** Ticket proceeds fund free education and social programmes for over 1,200 Cambodian children.
- **Family-friendly & Ethical:** Suitable for all ages; performances address meaningful themes and **use no animals**.



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## TOUR OF THE MONTH

### LAOS

#### ETHICAL ELEPHANT SANCTURAY – Laos

**The Mekong Elephant Park** in Pakbeng, Laos, is an ethical sanctuary on the Mekong River that rescues elephants from logging and mass tourism, offering a protected forest habitat, with **daily half-day and full-day programmes available, as well as an ecolodge stay option**.

#### Experiences:

- **Elephant Encounters:** Walk alongside elephants in the forest and observe their natural behaviors.
- **Bathing Observation:** Watch elephants bathe and swim in the Mekong River.
- **Educational Workshops:** Full-day tours may include making "energy balls" for elephants and observing traditional crafts like bamboo weaving.

#### Tour Packages:

- **Half-Day "Elephant Wonders":** 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, includes a presentation, forest walk, and lunch.
- **Full-Day:** 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, adds afternoon activities like health check-ups and craft workshops.
- **Overnight Stays:** The Mekong Elephant Park Ecolodge offers jungle accommodation packages.

#### Ethical Commitment:

- ACES Gold-certified for high welfare standards.
- Strict no-riding and no forced interaction policy.
- Supports local mahouts and promotes sustainable livelihoods.

