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SEPTEMBER 2026

VIDOTOUR IN FOCUS

Launched in early June 2026, Vidotour’s **amateur smartphone photography course** brought together Hanoi participants in a fully online format. Despite the challenges, they showed great enthusiasm, creativity and a strong desire to learn and improve. After the course, participants put their new skills into practice – observing, experimenting and capturing moments through their own creative perspectives.

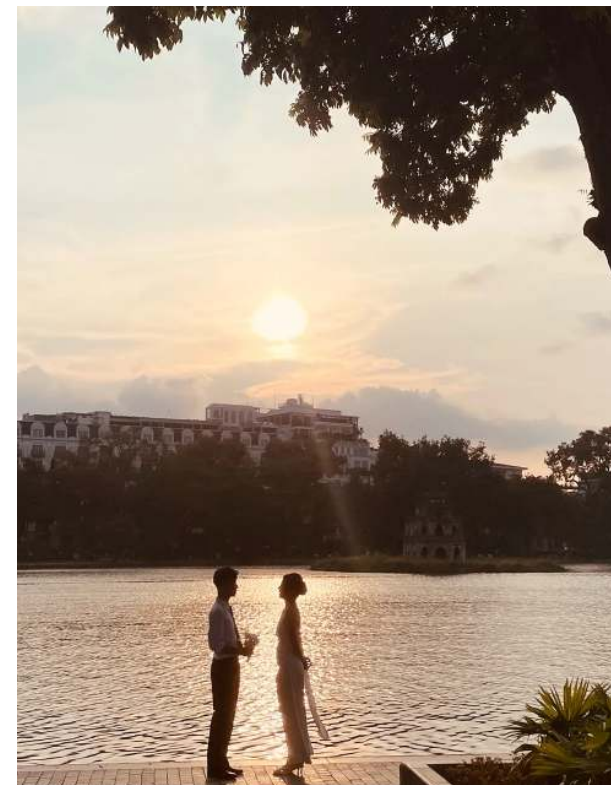
The **"Creative Amateur Photos of 2026"** awards celebrate these efforts and encourage a lasting passion for photography. The winners were celebrated at an online awards ceremony on 28 August 2026.

The judging panel selected the **Top 14 "Promising Photographers"** before honouring the **"Top 6 Best Amateur Photos"**:

1. Cột cờ Hà Nội (Phạm Thị Tú)
2. Khoảnh khắc hoàng hôn ngưng đọng (Đinh Thị Thu Hương)
3. Nụ cười gánh hàng (Nguyễn Thị Hồng Gấm)
4. Âm–Dương (Cao Quốc Chung)
5. Những cánh cổng thời gian (Nguyễn Đức Thuận)
6. Đôi bạn thân (Nguyễn Thu Giang)



Cột cờ Hà Nội



Khoảnh khắc hoàng hôn ngưng đọng



Nụ cười gánh hàng



Âm-Dương



Những cánh cổng thời gian



Đôi bạn thân

The **Best Storytelling Award** honours the words that make a photograph “speak” – bringing its story, emotion and meaning to life. Đinh Hương and Hồng Gấm shared the top prize as joint winners.

The **Breaking the Frame Award** celebrates bold creativity, unconventional composition and a fresh perspective that dares to break the rules. The award went to Nguyễn Minh Anh.

The **Future Filmmaker Award** celebrates a standout video with creative ideas, engaging shots, dynamic editing and a distinctive storytelling style – revealing the promise of a future filmmaker. The award went to Nguyễn Thị Hồng Gấm.



Best Storytelling Award



Breaking the Frame Award



Future Filmmaker Award

TRAVEL UPDATES

VIETNAM

LUXNAM* Phu Quoc

Managed by The Lux Collective, LUXNAM* Phu Quoc is scheduled to open in late 2026, following several adjustments to its original tentative 2024 launch date.

Located on the remote northern coast of Rach Tram in Phu Quoc, the resort will feature 126 designer villas. It is set to become Vietnam's first full-scale, Maldivian-style overwater resort, with a striking dragon-shaped layout extending above the shallow waters of the Kien Giang Biosphere Reserve.

Factsheet

- **Type:** Vietnam's first luxury overwater resort. A modernist gem tucked between the jungle and the beach on the remote island of Phu Quoc.
- **Accommodation:** 109 overwater villas arranged in a dragon-shaped layout, 13 beach pool villas, two penthouses and two beachfront mansions
- **Amenities:** Four swimming pools, a LUX* ME Spa, a fitness centre and a four-kilometre jetty



HIGHLAND WELLNESS BY AIR

Available on selected dates, this exclusive **3-day / 2-night escape at Garrya Mu Cang Chai** offers a rare opportunity to experience the terraced rice fields at their most spectacular – from breathtaking aerial views to immersive encounters on the ground.

The **first exclusive departure is scheduled for 1 September 2026**, during Mu Cang Chai's golden season. Available to a limited number of guests, the journey combines a scenic helicopter flight with a carefully curated wellbeing retreat.

This creates a strong high-end combination of **scenic flight + wellbeing + mountain culture**.

Inclusions

- Round-trip helicopter transfer between Hanoi and Mu Cang Chai, approximately 60–70 minutes each way
- 3 days / 2 nights in a Wellbeing Suite or Wellbeing Pool Suite
- Curated wellbeing experiences throughout the stay

Early booking is highly recommended, as availability is strictly limited. Please contact Vidotour for further details and reservations.



A NEW LUXURY HOTEL COMING TO HANOI

The Theodore Hanoi is an upcoming luxury hotel in a prime “diamond location” at 22–32 Lê Thái Tổ Street, directly overlooking Hoàn Kiếm Lake. Developed by BRG Group, the hotel will feature 98 elegant rooms within walking distance of the Old Quarter and Hanoi’s main cultural attractions.

Inspired by Hanoi’s rich cultural heritage and reimagined through a contemporary architectural lens, the hotel blends timeless elegance with modern sophistication.

Facilities will include a swimming pool, fitness centre, O Spa by Amadora, modern Italian dining at Theodore, French pastries at La Fournée and exclusive private dining spaces.



HILTON'S TAPESTRY COLLECTION DEBUTS IN HOI AN

NHAAN Resort & Spa Hoi An, Tapestry Collection by Hilton, is a five-star boutique lifestyle resort in Cam Thanh Coconut Village, set along the tranquil De Vong River. Opened on 1 August 2026, it marks the debut of Hilton's Tapestry Collection in Southeast Asia. Its name combines the Vietnamese words "Nhà", meaning home, and "An", meaning peace, reflecting the resort's focus on nature, wellbeing and local heritage. Designed by renowned Vietnamese architect Võ Trọng Nghĩa, the property features distinctive biophilic architecture, lush green spaces, locally sourced timber and natural stone.



HALONG – WELLNESS AT SEA

Bhaya Soul is strengthening the idea of the cruise as a **wellness retreat rather than simply sightseeing**, with only 20 suites and programmes including meditation, yoga, therapies and slower exploration of Halong and Lan Ha Bay.



LAOS

Vang Vieng Upgrades

- **Nam Song River:** 32 km western ring road upgraded for easier access.
- **Kaeng Nyui Waterfall:** Improved roads and trails for safer visits.
- **Visitor Facilities:** 11 access roads, waste systems and bilingual signage being upgraded.



New Tourism Development Zones

A national tourism master plan for 2026–2036 prioritises Nam Ngum Reservoir and the Nakasang–Don Det–Don Khon corridor, supporting new nature, community and river-based tourism products.



Rail Connectivity

Laos is now linked to a wider rail network connecting Southeast Asia with Central Asia via the Laos–China Railway, which runs from Vientiane to Kunming and connects with China’s national rail system.

Laos – Vietnam Railway

The proposed 554 km line will connect Vientiane with Vietnam’s Vung Ang Port, giving landlocked Laos direct sea access. Construction of the Lao section is planned for 2026.



CAMBODIA

Sihanoukville Connectivity

Direct flights link Sihanoukville with Ho Chi Minh City, Siem Reap, Kuala Lumpur, Kunming and Guangzhou, supporting regional and coastal itineraries. Seasonal schedule changes may apply.



Cambodia New Air Routes

Air Cambodia has recently expanded routes from Phnom Penh to Cam Ranh and Phu Quoc, with a new Siem Reap to Cam Ranh route scheduled to begin in mid-2026.

Emerging Urban and Cultural Experiences

- **Chaktomuk Pedestrian Walkway:** One of Phnom Penh's newest tourism products, this walkway is gaining popularity as part of the city's transformation into a modern urban hub.
- **Walk Street Festival:** A recurring weekend event along the river in Phnom Penh featuring live entertainment, music shows, and food stalls.
- **Phnom Penh Public E-Bike Share:** Rolled out alongside new cycling tracks to combat traffic, this green public transit infrastructure lets urban tourists navigate the capital's heritage core sustainably.
- **Film Tourism Strategy:** The Ministry of Tourism is developing "Film Tourism" as a new driver to attract visitors, aiming to allow tourists to experience destinations they have encountered on screen.
- **Miracle Angkor Project:** A proposed redevelopment of the former Siem Reap airport into a nearly 200-hectare cultural and commercial hub, featuring a digital museum and exhibition center.

Song Saa Private Island Spa Extension

For high-value wellness travelers, the pristine luxury resort island off Sihanoukville launched an eco-wellness sanctuary highlighting local holistic Khmer healing treatments.



HANDPICKED STAYS & SPOTS

VIETNAM

An Nhiên Garden Vegetarian – refined vegetarian dining in a nearly 500-year-old heritage garden in Huế, where cuisine, culture and nature come together.

Vibe: Zen, heritage, fine dining, art

Cuisine: Refined vegetarian dinng

Must try:

- Steamed lotus seed rice wrapped in leaf
- Signature roll tray
- "Silent" rice noodles
- Chả giò Hồng Nhung
- Lima bean sweet soup (Hue dessert)

Address: Alley 11, Nguyen Dinh Tu, Hue

Hours: 10:00 AM – 9:30 PM Daily

Reservation: +84 (0) 94 810 60 66



Le Corto, a premium French fine-dining venue famous for hosting prestigious culinary events, including a state dinner for former French President François Hollande.

Vibe: Intimate, elegant, and cozy; features chic European bistro interiors, warm ambient lighting, private dining rooms, and an open-kitchen chef's counter.

Cuisine: Contemporary French

Must try:

- Seared Foie Gras with caramelized apple
- Pan-fried French Veal Chop
- Slow-cooked Beef Cheek
- Dry-age duck breast

- Grand Marnier Soufflé

Address: 5D Nguyen Sieu, Saigon Ward, Ho Chi Minh City

Hours: 11:30 AM – 10:00 PM Daily

Reservation: +84 28 3822 0571

The Haflington Hanoi

Speakeasy Bar

A stylish, museum-inspired cocktail bar hidden in Hanoi's Old Quarter, known for its dramatic vintage interior, fossil displays and creative signature cocktails. It earned prestigious international recognition by ranking on Asia's 50 Best Bars list.

Vibe: Mysterious, sophisticated and atmospheric, with a hidden entrance down a narrow alley, giving it the feel of a true speakeasy.

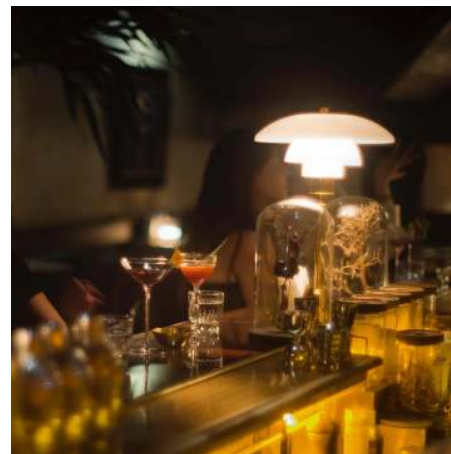
Must try:

- The Rabbit Habit (mezcal, carrot juice, cinnamon)
- Pho-inspired cocktail

Address: 94 Hang Ma, Hoan Kiem, Hanoi

Hours: 03:00 PM – 01:00 AM Daily

Reservation: +84 (0) 879499094



LAOS

Emerging Luxury and Nature Stays

The Namkhan | Luang Prabang | 5-star boutique retreat

A tranquil wellness resort that recently highlighted its collection of luxury tents and villas designed for "slow mornings" and riverfront relaxation.

<https://www.thenamkhan.com/u>

Namkat Yorla Pa Resort | Odomxay | 4-star resort

Located in a rainforest, this resort offers elegant safari-style tents alongside modern amenities and multiple outdoor pools.

<https://yorlapa.com/>

Rosewood Luang Prabang | 5-star resort

A riverfront resort known for its breathtaking "tree top tents" and refined farm-to-table dining.

<https://www.rosewoodhotels.com/en/luang-prabang/overview/location>

Sabaidee Valley Resort | Bolaven Plateau | 4-star resort

A highland escape in southern Laos that offers a combination of nature-focused lodging and a local souvenir shop.

<https://www.sabaideevalley.com/>

Traditional Specialties and Souvenirs

- **Handmade Chocolate:** Brands like "Chocolate Dream by Mikaël" offer organic, handmade Lao chocolate as a newer specialty gift option.
- **Brocade and Textiles:** High-quality handwoven silks and textiles remain a primary product, particularly at boutiques like Kanchana in Vientiane or the Riverside Night Market.

CAMBODIA

Immersive Eco & Sustainability Workshops

Move beyond standard sightseeing with community-driven, hands-on experiences that connect travellers with local traditions and sustainable practices.

- **Natural Botanical Dyes Workshop:** In partnership with the local Goel Community in Phnom Penh, guests discover traditional weaving and natural textile dyeing using locally sourced organic materials.
 - **Trash-to-Treasure Upcycling Experience:** A hands-on introduction to responsible consumption and waste reduction, where travellers learn about local waste sorting and transform discarded plastic into creative, functional souvenirs.
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TOUR OF THE MONTH

VIETNAM

ETHNICITY & HALONG ON THE WATER 4D/3N

Binh Lieu & Halong Bay

No need for long detours to Sapa or Ha Giang. Just a few hours away, Binh Lieu reveals the North's unspoilt ethnic landscapes. Meet the Dao Thanh Phan, a community unique to Binh Lieu, known for their distinctive costumes and headdresses, and immerse yourself in their traditions.

ITINERARY

Day 1: HANOI – BINH LIEU (290 km – 4 hrs 30 mins)

Drive from Hanoi to Binh Lieu and hike through the forest along a historic trail to a Dao Thanh Phan village. Enjoy a convivial dinner with a local Dao family while learning about their traditions, then overnight at Khe Tien Clay House in the heart of the village. [L,D]

Day 2: BINH LIEU

Visit the local ethnic market if travelling on a Saturday or Sunday and meet members of the Dao, San Chi and Tay communities. Trek through forests of cinnamon, star anise and medicinal plants, walk across terraced rice fields, and try traditional ethnic embroidery. [B,L,D]

Day 3: BINH LIEU – HALONG BAY

After breakfast, continue discovering Binh Lieu's ethnic communities and visit the local market if available. Drive to Halong Bay and board a cruise for a relaxing journey through its spectacular limestone landscapes. Overnight on board. [B,L,D]

Day 4: HALONG BAY – HANOI

Continue cruising through Halong Bay in the morning before disembarking and returning to Hanoi. [Brunch]



