

VIETNAM

HA GIANG LOOP



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**2026
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**PLUS
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FOREWORD



Thanks for downloading this FREE interactive travel guide. You've made an excellent choice if you plan on **GETTING OFF THE BEATEN TRACK** in (add country). Before you delve into the content of this travel guide, please take a few minutes to read this foreword. It outlines how to make the best use of the information contained within.

First-hand experience: This travel guide has been put together using first-hand experience gained from traveling to, and exploring, all the locations presented within. The information and photos featured in my travel guides, have been collated over years of putting boots on the ground. There is no second-hand information, or information which is plagiarized from other travel sources, within this guide. Every cave, waterfall, river, viewpoint, jungle trail, temple site, guesthouse and restaurant presented, or promoted, I have been to and seen and/or experienced myself.

Getting off the beaten track: The primary focus of my travel guides is ADVENTURE TRAVEL (and activities) to locations which are non-mainstream tourist destinations. As an example, there is no information for mainstream tourist locations (except as transit hub's before heading off to a more remote location) listed in this travel guide. As such, the information in this guide is directed towards travelers (not tourists) who are keen for a bit of adventure - caving, climbing, jungle trekking, kayaking - in an off the beaten track location, of South East Asia. If these types of activities aren't to your liking, then this travel guide won't be much use to you. There's no information in here about the party towns in South East Asia.

Budget travel: Knowing the importance of making the most of your hard-earned currency, my travel links (12GO ASIA) and accommodation links (AGODA) are predominantly budget orient-ed. They provide a range of options for getting to a central hub, or base, from which you can make your daily explorations.

Independent sightseeing: Instead of going on group tours, I strongly promote the idea of renting your own vehicle (car or motorbike) and venturing out yourself. To help you get to the exact location, there's always a **GOOGLE MAPS** link to show the route from a hub (hotel or guesthouse) to the sightseeing attraction. If there's a local tour operator offering excellent adventure type tours, or activities, I'll provide links to their web-site. A good example of a great adventure tour operator is **SABAIDEE ADVENTURES LAOS**, who offer excellent caving, kayaking and trekking tours throughout Laos.

The Table of Contents: This is page four of the travel guide and has a sequential list of sections, which you can go to directly by clicking on the **GREEN** numbered tab.

YouTube Links: These take you directly to my YouTube Vlog (**Megaworld Asia**) where you can see short, high quality travel videos of the numerous attractions listed in my travel guides. If you enjoy the videos, please hit the like button and don't forget to **SUBSCRIBE** to see my upcoming adventures.



Megaworld Asia Facebook Link

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Your next adventure is just one click away

Safe travels,

MEGA

HA GIANG LOOP

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**It's Time To Get
Off The Beaten Track**

How To Use This Interactive Travel Guide

The Table Of Contents: To effortlessly move from the TOC to the page you want to view, simply click on the **page number**: 

YouTube Links: These will take you to a short highlights video, of the sightseeing attraction, in the section you're looking at:



Other Links: These take you to ancillary services such as recommended restaurants, or car and motorbike rental agencies, in the location you're traveling to:

ANCILLARY SERVICES

Travel Links: This takes you to **12GO ASIA**, an excellent travel group which provides a range of options for getting around the region:



The Table Of Contents: To move back to the TOC, click on the **yellow arrows**, at the bottom of each Page: 

Google Maps Links: These provide a route from a designated location (e.g., a hotel) to a particular sightseeing attraction:



Information Links: These links take you to information sites, such as Wikipedia or Wiki-voyage, to provide more in-depth info on a particular subject or location:



Accommodation Links: This takes you to the Agoda website to check accommodation availability and make bookings:



It's Time To Get Off The Beaten Track



HA GIANG LOOP: GENERAL INFO

About: This motorbike tour through Ha Giang Province is an ADVENTURE EXPERIENCE which has gained almost legendary status over the past decade. It's something which seems to be on every backpacker's bucket list: a must do of travel in Southeast Asia. Having recently completed the loop trip in October 2025, I can appreciate the hype about this quite splendid motorbike tour. The SCENERY is SPECTACULAR, and it certainly is an adventure to be remembered.

Best Weather: According to local information sources, OCTOBER is the single best month for doing the loop tour. The rainy season is finished, the humidity is lower, and the weather is still reasonably warm.

Ha Giang Province: Ha Giang Province is in the far north of Vietnam, up against the Chinese border, and as such it's still an OFF THE BEATEN TRACK location. The terrain is some of the most rugged and mountainous in the country.

Less Development: Tourism hasn't been developed to the extent of the more popular areas of the country. For this reason, there are places on the loop trip where you can be surrounded by jungle covered landscapes with hardly a building in site. The beauty of the mountain scenery is remarkable.

Getting to Ha Giang: There's no airport in Ha Giang so the primary method of getting there is on a BUS or MINIVAN. The bus departure points are varied and will depend on which bus company you travel with. The cheaper buses normally depart from MY DINH BUS STATION while other more expensive rides, such as deluxe minivans, can depart from BUS COMPANY OFFICES.

Travel Distance & Time: The distance from MY DINH BUS STATION (Hanoi) to HA GIANG BUS STATION = 286 km. **Travel time** = 6 hours (approximately)

Bus Booking: The best option for checking prices, the type of bus, and details of departure points, is to book through 12GO ASIA. They offer a selection of bus types and fares to suit everyone's budget level. **Click the following 12GO ASIA link for booking inquiries:**



Spectacular Scenery

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HA GIANG LOOP: GENERAL INFO

Sleeper Buses: Many of the buses are advertised as being VIP sleepers and for the most part they are. However, the cubicles are designed for the stature of Vietnamese people and the six-hour trip tends to become quite uncomfortable for long legged foreigners.

Food & Toilet Stops: There is usually one toilet and food stop on the way, which enables foreigners stretch and get some relief from the small sleeper cubicles. **Note:** Many of the sleeper buses do travel through the night but some will depart from Hanoi during day time hours.

From Noi Bai Airport: There are bus services direct from NOI BAI AIRPORT to HA GIANG. Check with 12go Asia for bus bookings from Noi Bai Airport.

Mid-range Accommodation: If you're not on a budget and can afford a better standard of accommodation, the PHOENIX HOTEL is a great three star choice. The rooms are large and comfortable with views over the nearby Lo River. Click the following AGODA link for booking inquiries:



Sleeper Bus

Hostel & Motorbike Rental: If you're planning to do the loop trip, the best options are often the GUESTHOUSES, or HOMESTAYS, which also PROVIDE MOTORBIKE RENTALS and GUIDED LOOP TOURS. An excellent choice in this location is the LOOP TRAILS HOSTEL & MOTORBIKE RENTAL: Click the following AGODA link for booking inquiries:



The Phoenix Hotel

HA GIANG LOOP: GENERAL INFO

Motorbike Rental: The majority of the bikes are HONDA SEMI AUTOMATICS (125 cc) but for the more EXPERIENCED riders, there's also the option (a bit more expensive) of renting a MANUAL OFF ROAD BIKE (Honda XR 150). **Note:** Some of the smaller roads on the loop are bit rough (undergoing roadworks). If you're an experienced rider, renting an XR 150 is definitely a better choice for stability and ground clearance.

Rental Contract: Prior to getting underway (or signing a rental contract) everyone is asked to do a TEST RUN on the motorbike they're planning to hire. This is simply to determine if you've got the NECESSARY SKILLS to ride independently. Anyone who looks LOW ON ABILITY is given the option of being paired with a guesthouse staff member, and going as a PILLION PASSENGER. Once this is sorted out, contracts are then signed (and fees are paid) for the duration of the hire. **Note:** As security, your PASSPORTS are required to be left with the guesthouse management. In this regard, make sure you've got a COPY of your passport before hitting the road.

Organised Tour: If you're INEXPERIENCED with riding motorbikes, the safer choice is to go on an ORGANISED TOUR with one of the guesthouses. Simply because much of the loop route runs through MOUNTAINOUS AREAS with narrow, twisting roads.



Off Road Motorbike

Independent Tour: If you're an EXPERIENCED rider, and you have the TIME, the best option is to rent a motorbike and do the loop INDEPENDENTLY. This will give you the flexibility to check out many of the OFF THE BEATEN TRACK LOCATIONS, which the organised tours don't stop at. For independent motorbike rental, including off road bikes, LOOP TRAILS TOURS AND MOTORBIKE RENTALS are highly recommended. Click the following link to see their website:

LOOP TRAILS & TOURS



Loop Trails Hostel

AROUND HA GIANG CITY: THE VIEWPOINT

The Ha Giang City Viewpoint: This site is located on a peak, in the middle of the city. The access road is off QL4C Road, and is one of those smaller cement lane-ways which zig-zags its way up to a parking area, next to NUI CAFE. **Note:** If you're not an experienced motorbike rider, use due care when coming down the access road because some of the corners are HAIRPIN BENDS which, if you're going too fast, may see you go over a precipice. **Click the following GOOGLE MAPS link for the location of the Cafe:**



AROUND HA GIANG CITY: THAC 6 WATERFALL

Thac So 6 Waterfall: This waterfall site is a HIDDEN GEM, near Ha Giang City, and one of the best swimming spots in the area. A nice size waterfall feeds into a large PLUNGE POOL is a great place to cool off during the high humidity weather in Ha Giang. The surrounding landscape is a beautifully scenic area with thick jungle and vegetation down to the edges of waterfall site.

Getting There: Use the Google tracker to get to the turn-off from QL 2 Road (coming from Ha Giang, the turn-off is on the left). From the turn-off, follow these instructions as there's no signage to point you in the right direction. Follow the cement laneway for approximately 1.5 km until you arrive at a fork. Take the laneway on the LEFT and ride up a small hill to the end of the laneway.

On-site: At the end of the laneway there's a parking area along the edge of a couple of guest-houses. To get an excellent view along the river, and up to the waterfall, the HOMESTAY THAC 6 (the last building along the laneway) has an amazing balcony to chill out on and enjoy a quiet coffee. Click the following **GOOGLE MAPS** link for directions from Loop Trails Hostel, to the Parking Area:



Crossing the Stream: To get to the waterfall, you'll then need to cross the river (by rock hopping) and follow the trail along the left embankment, for approximately 200 meters, until you reach the waterfall. Note: This waterfall is actually better than any of the waterfalls on the Ha Giang Loop. This site gets few visitors. The swimming hole is large and deep. Its a great spot to spend a couple of hours swimming. Click the following **GOOGLE MAPS** link for the location of the waterfall:



AROUND HA GIANG CITY: BY LO CAVE

Bo Ly Cave: This interesting cave site is not on the Ha Giang Loop. It's located 13 km EAST of Ha Giang City and is best visited as a day trip (separate to doing the loop) as it's not on the loop route. From Ha Giang City, it's approximately a 30 minute ride to the cave parking area. **Click the following GOOGLE MAPS link for directions from Loop Trails Hostel:**



On-site: The entrance to the cave is up a short flight of stairs. This cave has been developed for tourism and has internal illumination. However, due to the low numbers of sightseers going there, the INTERNAL LIGHTING is often SWITCHED OFF. If you have lights, proceed with due care as there's NO DEVELOPED TRAIL.

Doing the Cave Tour: There is TWO ROUTES. The easiest is the SHORT ROUTE which does a LOOP through the FRONT AREA of the cave. There is DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE, at regular intervals, to bring you back to the entry/exit point. This short route can be COMPLETED in approximately 15 minutes.

Long Route: This is more CHALLENGING and has a penetration of approximately 800 meters. The start point for the long route BRANCHES (to



the left) from the short route and is accessed through a SMALL TUNNEL. There is indicating signage for this.

Adventure Cave: This long route is a DEAD END CAVE (not a loop) which means you return on the same route you go in on. Note: The directional signage has both ENTRY and EXIT MARKINGS on each sign. Additionally, there's no established pathway and the ground is muddy, and slippery, in many areas. Note: To avoid confusion, only follow the YELLOW directional signs and not RED ARROWS which have been painted on the cave walls.



DOING THE HA GIANG LOOP: GENERAL INFO

Independent Tour: This tour/schedule is directed towards the independent type of traveler who isn't in a hurry and ideally, is competent enough to ride a motorbike around the mountain roads of Ha Giang Province without any problems. Keep in mind that if you go on a group tour, led by a tour company, you'll be on their schedule and will, no doubt, miss quite a few sightseeing locations.

Group Tours: The standard loop, on a group tour, is 4 days/3 nights with overnight stops in YEN MINH, MEO VAC and DU GIA, before heading back to Ha Giang. In between these overnight stops, there are bucket list sightseeing stops which all the groups head to. This is mainly because of ease of access (right next to the road) while other attractions, which are a few km off the highway, are missed. A prime example of this is on day one: all group tours stop at HEAVEN'S GATE but pass THAM LUONG CAVE, in their rush to get to Yen Minh.

Time Period: While this guide covers a good number of locations over a SIX DAY period, it is no by means comprehensive. There are quite a few locations I missed, which are well off the beaten path. Additionally, there were a couple of locations I visited (caves) which were closed, or had no proper access. **Click the following GOOGLE MAPS link to see a complete map of the LOOP TRIP:**



International License: If you don't have the correct INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT for Vietnam, you'll be at risk of paying a fine/penalty to the HA GIANG POLICE. The correct International Driving Permit is the 1968 VIENNA CONVENTION, and NOT the 1949 PERMIT.

Warning: Because of the numbers of foreigners riding motorbikes in Ha Giang, the police have turned this into a money making exercise. **Note:** The Police in the rest of Vietnam, don't make this an issue. If you're doing the tour as part of an organised group with one of the Guesthouses, there's a low risk of being stopped by the police. If you're doing it SOLO, or INDEPENDENTLY with a small group of friends, the risk of being stopped is SIGNIFICANT.

Checkpoint Locations: These are normally located a few km outside Ha Giang City, along Hwy's QL4C & QL34.

Penalties: As of October 2025, the fines/penalties are as follows Motorbikes of 125 CC capacity, or less, the penalty is 2 MILLION VND. Motorbikes ABOVE 125 CC capacity, the penalty is 6 million VND. Make sure you get the correct International Driving Permit, in your HOME COUNTRY, before departing for Vietnam. **Note:** If you PAY the penalty ONE time, you will NOT be penalised again. Take note of the TIME, DATE, and LOCATION where you were stopped and the AMOUNT you PAID. If you get stopped again, you will need to provide this information for VERIFICATION.



HA GIANG LOOP: DAY ONE - HA GIANG to QUAN BA

Distance = 55 km. Travel time = approx. 8 hours with all stops. From Ha Giang City, head north on ROUTE QL4C towards Tam Son. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for a full map of the following stops:



On the way, and in order, these are the suggested sightseeing stops:

- **Tham Luong Cave** (nice cave approximately 3 km off the highway)
- **Bac Sum Pass** (try an iced yogurt coffee)
- **Buckwheat Flowers** (if in season)
- **Nha Hang Thac Son Restaurant** (excellent local food)
- **Heavens Gate** (a standard stop on day one)
- **Fairy Bosom Mountain Viewpoint** (fewer visitors and great views over Quan Ba)

Recommended Overnight Stop in Quan Ba:
THE AN KHANG HOTEL. This is a clean and comfortable Vietnamese 2 star hotel, right next to the highway. The rooms are spacious, and the hotel has an elevator (lift). Additionally, the hotel sits directly across the road from the route you need to take to LUNG KHUY CAVE, for day two.



Click the following **AGODA** link for booking inquiries:



HA GIANG LOOP: DAY ONE - HA GIANG to QUAN BA

Tham Luong Cave: This site is located approximately 33 km north of Ha Giang City (off QL4C Road) and is an attraction which very few loopers stop at. No doubt due to the fact it's a FEW KM OFF THE MAIN ROAD, and getting to the cave entrance involves a HIKE up a cliff face. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location of Tham Luong Cave:



On Site: The cave is on the grounds of a local temple (PAGODA) in a beautifully scenic location. As with the majority of caves in the region, getting to the entrance involves an arduous hike up a long flight of stairs (approximately 15 minutes at a steady pace). On the way up there's some great views of the surrounding landscape.

Safe Sightseeing: The cave is well set up for safe sightseeing. There's a solid cement walkway (which does a circuit through the cave) and some colorful internal lighting, which provides adequate illumination throughout. Being inside the cave is also a great way to cool off after the sweaty hike up to the entrance. At a leisurely pace it will take around 30 minutes to go through the cave.



HA GIANG LOOP: DAY ONE - HA GIANG to QUAN BA

Bac Sum Pass (and viewpoint): This is a VIEW-POINT location, a few km North of Tham Luong Cave. It also has a great little coffee shop which serves an unusual blend: ICED YOGURT COFFEE. There's also a LOOKOUT, up a short stairway, where you can get great views of the surrounding terrain. For one reason or another, most of the tour groups don't stop here. They prefer to go straight on to HEAVEN'S GATE. This is a good place to stop for a coffee if you want a quieter location. Click the following **GOOGLE MAPS** link for the location:



Nha Hang Tach Son Restaurant: This is a nice restaurant, directly across the road from the BUCKWHEAT FLOWERS Farm. The interior is clean and spacious with some interesting wooden carvings along the wall. The food is basic Vietnamese, and the coffees are the standard Viet style with sweet milk. The prices are reasonable. Worth a short stop if you're feeling hungry or want to have a look at the buckwheat flowers. Click the following link for the location:



Great Coffee Stop



Good Restaurant



Buckwheat Flowers Farm

HA GIANG LOOP: DAY ONE - HA GIANG to QUAN BA

Heaven's Gate: This is a BUCKET LIST stop on the Ha Giang Loop. It's located 47 km north of Ha Giang City and generally the first COFFEE STOP for the tour groups. It's got an outstanding view from the parking area and is worth stopping for. However, with the large numbers which are often there, you may have to wait for a while to get that all important selfie. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location:



Fairy Bosom Mountain Viewpoint: This is another excellent viewpoint along QL4C Road and, remarkably, one which FEW PEOPLE doing the loop will stop at. Possibly because they've already stopped at Heaven's Gate, just 2 km back along the road. There's no cafe here, so that may also be less of an incentive to stop. There's a short hike up a stairway to an excellent VIEWING PLATFORM at the TOP of the hill. From this you get SWEEPING views of the terrain to the north, as opposed to the eastern views you get at Heaven's Gate. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location:



Restaurant in Quan Ba

Recommended Restaurant in Quan Ba: NA HANG LAN ANH. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location:



Day one summary: This ride for day one is relatively easy. The first stop, at THAM LUONG CAVE, is probably best sightseeing activity. The YOGHURT COFFEE at Bac Sum Pass is enjoyable. Take an EARLY LUNCH at the Nha Hang Tach Son Restaurant. Be sure to stop at the FAIRY BOSOM VIEWPOINT as it provides the BEST views across QUAN BA VALLEY.



Fairy Bosom Viewpoint

HA GIANG LOOP: DAY TWO - QUAN BA to YEN MINH

Distance = 62 km. Travel time = 8 hours with all stops. From Quan Ba, head NORTH on ROUTE QL4C towards Yen Minh. **Note:** The access road to LUNG KHUY CAVE is directly across the road from the AN KHANG HOTEL. Once you've completed the cave tour, you'll need to return to Route QL4C, the same way you came in, to continue on the DAY TWO loop route. Click on the following **GOOGLE MAPS** link for a full map of the following stops:



On the way, and in order, these are the suggested sightseeing stops:

- Lung Khuy Cave (an excellent cave site but a 1.5 km hike uphill to the entrance)
- Yen Minh Direction Sign (the turn to the right is the SHORTER ROAD to Yen Minh. The road going STRAIGHT is longer, but MORE SCENIC)
- Café Diem Dung Chan (amazing views down the valley and a good coffee stop)
- Cloudy Cafe & Camping (a fantastic spot for a coffee and some food)

Recommended Yen Minh Restaurant: NHA HANG PHUC CHAI. Click the following **GOOGLE MAPS** link for the location:



Recommended Overnight Stop in Yen Minh: THIEN SON HOTEL. Click the following **AGODA** link for booking inquiries:



Refueling in Quan Ba: There's a PETROLIMEX GASOLINE STATION 800 meters East (along Hwy QL4C) from the An Khang Hotel. Click the following **GOOGLE MAPS** link for the location:



The Shorter Road to Yen Minh

HA GIANG LOOP: DAY TWO - QUAN BA to YEN MINH

Lung Khuy Cave: This is an interesting cave site, a FEW KM off QL4C Road. However, for anyone who's interested in coming here but be warned, there's a fairly tough HIKE to get up to the CAVE ENTRANCE.

Getting There: Coming from QUAN BA, the access road is on the LEFT, directly across the road from the AN KHANG HOTEL. The access road is one of those CEMENT LANE WAYS and it takes you through some very SCENIC terrain, to the PARKING AREA for your motorbikes. Note: The distance from QL4C road to the PARKING AREA is around 4 km. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location the Parking Area:



Uphill Hike: From the parking area there's a 1.2 KM HIKE through a majestic landscape, to the CAVE ENTRANCE. The final section of the hike is up a long flight of steps which will certainly have you perspiring and breathing hard, by the time you get to the ticket office. **Note:** if come here on a warm afternoon, take plenty of drinking water. The ENTRY FEE for the CAVE is 30,000 VND. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location of the Cave Entrance:



Cave Tour: The cave has been properly set-up for tourism. There's a CEMENT PATHWAY, with HANDRAILS, which does a CIRCUIT through the cave. From the entrance you travel down the right-hand side of the cave, and return along the left. The DISTANCE to the back end of the cave is approximately 300 METERS. The cave has internal ILLUMINATION but for back-up, you can grab a head lamp at the ticket office. The cave has a large internal volume (larger than Tham Luong Cave) and a lot of IMPRESSIVE SIZED FORMATIONS (stalactites and stalagmites) for viewing.



HA GIANG LOOP: DAY TWO - QUAN BA to YEN MINH

The Road to Yen Minh: Just across the CAU CAN TY BRIDGE, a directional sign provides TWO OPTIONS for getting to YEN MINH. The SHORTER option branches to the RIGHT. This road is smaller and more challenging, than continuing on ROUTE QL4C. Going STRAIGHT keeps you on the main highway but the distance to Yen Minh is LONGER.

Better Road: Route QL4C follows a river for approximately 9 km, from the bridge, before turning away and heading up into the mountains. The road winds it's way through some SCENIC LANDSCAPES with lots of SMALL VILLAGES nestling against the sharp corners. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location of the Directional Sign:



Café Diem Dung Chan: This coffee stop and viewing platform is at the top of a long road which comes up the side of a mountain. It's the last stop before the road goes over the peak and heads north to YEN MINH. There's an excellent view back down the valley. As you sit there enjoying a quiet coffee/drink, you can watch the loop tour groups coming up the road below. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location:



HA GIANG LOOP: DAY TWO - QUAN BA to YEN MINH

Cloudy Cafe & Camping: This is another excellent viewpoint which has a large viewing platform. It's also a bit of a party stop for the group tours as there's usually music pumping out from the nearby café. If you don't feel like indulging in early beer, there's a good selection of coffees available, including EGG COFFEE. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location:



Day Two Summary: Most of the sightseeing locations, with the exception of LUNG KHUY CAVE, along this section of the loop are just viewpoints near the road. There's no real need to detour too far off the highway, unless you want to get off the beaten track. The tour up to Lung Khuy cave will take most of the morning (half day) due to the long hike up and down, and having to negotiate 4 km of a small, mountainous pathway. Additionally, you'll need to return to Hwy QL4C along the same route after the cave tour is completed.

Recommended Restaurant in Yen Minh: NHA HANG PHUC CHAI. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location:



HA GIANG LOOP: DAY THREE - YEN MINH to DONG VAN

Distance = 61 km. Travel time = 8 hours with all stops. From YEN MINH, head East on Route QL4C towards DONG VAN. Click on the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for a full map of the following stops:



On the way, and in order, these are the suggested sightseeing stops:

- Chin Koanh Ramp (spectacular views of weaving mountain road)
- Ripe Steeped Coffee (great coffee & excellent views down the valley)
- Dong Van Plateau Observation Point (rugged karst landscape)
- Two Options (two routes to Dong Van Township)
- Khe Lia Panorama (spectacular mountain views)
- Hmong Coffee (excellent coffee shop in Dong Van)

Refueling in Yen Minh: There's a PETROLIMEX GASOLINE STATION 500 meters East (along Hwy QL4C) from the Thien Son Hotel. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location:



Recommended overnight Stop in Dong Van: HOANG NGOC HOTEL. Click the following [AGODA](#) link for Booking Inquiries:



HA GIANG LOOP: DAY THREE - YEN MINH to DONG VAN

Chin Khoan Ramp: This is a winding section of road on the Dong Van Karst Plateau. It's quite an exhilarating ride on your motorbike as you weave down the levels and drop into the next valley. There are several little coffee shops along the edge of the road which also have lookout platforms for taking in the view. The RIPE STEEPED CAFÉ is a good option for a quiet coffee, away from the tour groups. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location:



Dong Van Karst Plateau Geo-park: This, according to an information area near the road, is the start point of the DONG VAN KARST PLATEAU. The main feature of the ride from here to Dong Van is the rugged karst (sedimentary limestone) terrain which route QL4C runs through, on the way to Dong Van Township.

Limestone Peaks: The ride is quite spectacular with lots of small peaks (hills) covered with jagged limestone rocks.

Rocky Observation Point: This is another LOOKOUT, on route QL4C, which gives fantastic views across the KARST TERRAIN of the DONG VAN PLATEAU. It certainly gives the appearance of a LUNAR LANDSCAPE (MOON SURFACE).



Ripe Steeped Cafe

Sightseeing Trail: There's a cement pathway which leads off along the side of a nearby hill, for approximately 200 hundred meters, allowing sightseers to get a closer look at the karst terrain. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location:



At the Chin Khoanh Ramp

HA GIANG LOOP: DAY THREE - YEN MINH to DONG VAN

Northern Route: A few hundred meters further ahead of the OBSERVATION POINT you can decide to take the SHORT (Southern) or LONG (Northern) ROUTE to Dong Van. A left turn at the fork will put you on the longer route. **Note:** taking route DT182B to Dong Van is 5 KM LONGER than QL4C. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location of the road fork:



Khe Lia Panorama: This location has a couple of cafes and a large VIEWING PLATFORM. It's a regular STOP for the tour GROUPS, before they head north to the LUNG CU FLAGPOLE (this is considered to be an important LANDMARK in the far North of Vietnam). ROUND TRIP distance to the flagpole is 32 KM. **Note:** If you make the detour to the flagpole, you need to RETURN the same way to get to DONG VAN.

Better Views: There's a small hill to the right of the viewing platform which provides the opportunity for better views down the valley. To get to DONG VAN, take the road which heads DOWN HILL from this stopping point. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location:



HA GIANG LOOP: DAY THREE - YEN MINH to DONG VAN

Hmong Coffee: This is an excellent café right in the middle of DONG VAN TOWNSHIP. It is conveniently located to the restaurants and hotels along the center of the township. Click the following **GOOGLE MAPS** link for the location:



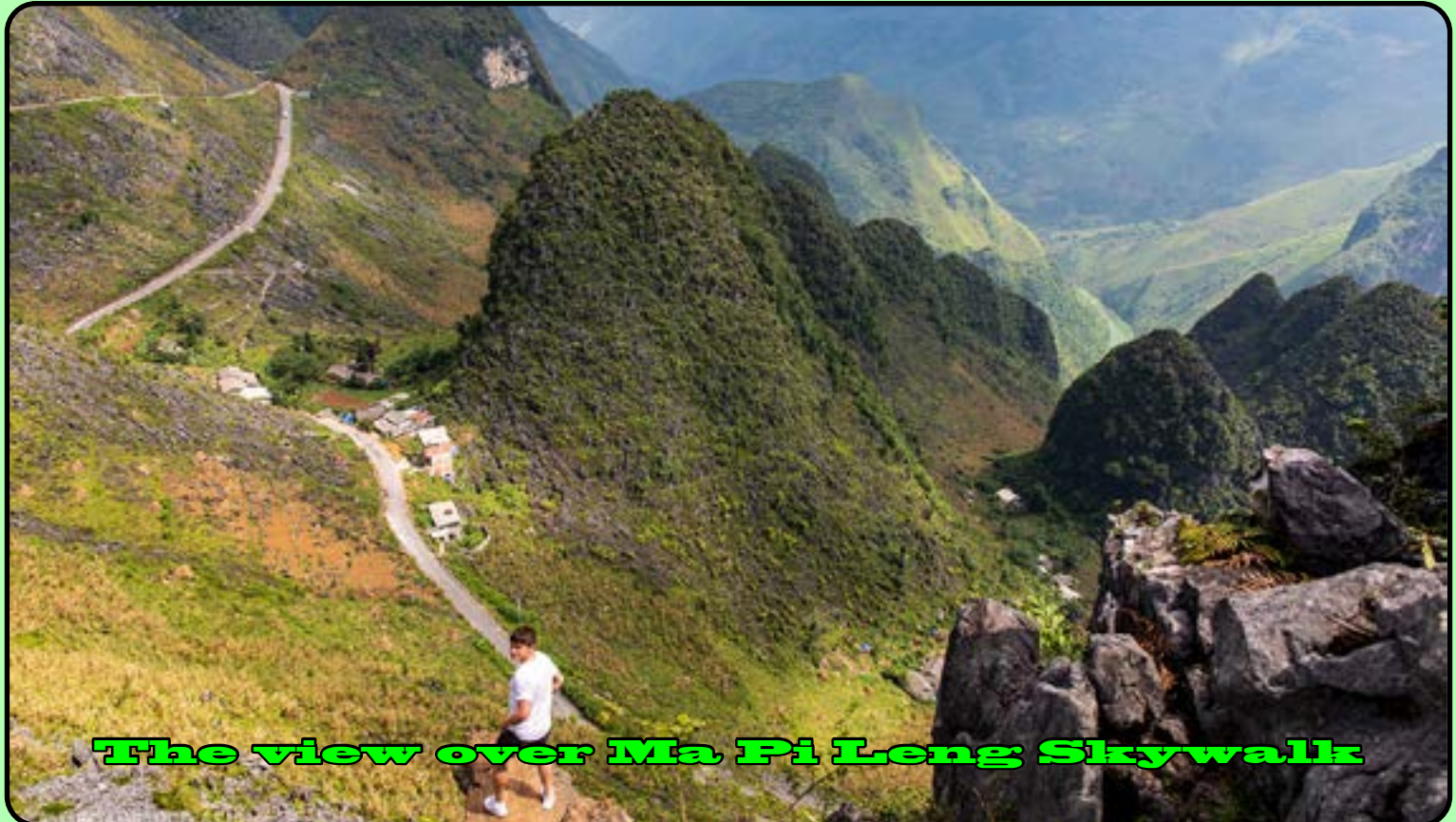
Day Three Summary: The third day of this schedule is, perhaps, the easiest. There are no long hikes or caves to detour off to. All of the stops are LOOKOUTS/VIEWPOINTS situated, along the roadside. The scenery on the way is quite SPECTACULAR, and UNIQUE (Karst terrain).

A Slower Pace: For this reason it's recommended to take your time, enjoy the SCENERY enroute, and spend a bit LONGER at the viewpoints to enjoy the coffees and the AMBIENCE. **Note:** If you decide to go up to LUNG CU FLAG POLE, that will add at least THREE HOURS to your TRAVEL time from Yen Minh to Dong Van.

Day Three Overnight: DONG VAN TOWN is in a valley between some very dramatic karst peaks. One of the advantages of overnighiting in Dong Van is it puts you much closer (for the following morning) to what are probably some of best sightseeing attractions on the loop tour: TA LUNG CAVE, The MA PI LENG SKY WALK and TU SAN CANYON.



Recommended Restaurant in Dong Van: NHA HANG CAO NGUYEN. Click the following **GOOGLE MAPS** link for the location:



HA GIANG LOOP: DAY FOUR - DONG VAN to MEO VAC

Distance = 47 km. Travel time = 8 hours with all stops. From DONG VAN, head South on QL4C Road towards MEO VAC. **Note:** TA LUNG CAVE is a short DETOUR (approx. 5 km) South from DONG VAN. After seeing this cave you need to return to Dong Van, and continue on Hwy QL4C. Click on the following link for a full map of the following stops:



On the way, and in order, these are the suggested sightseeing stops:

- Ta Lung Cave (biggest & best cave on the loop)
- Sky Walk Monument (turn off to Ma Pi Leng Sky Walk)
- Needle Rock Lookout (popular viewpoint along the Sky Walk)
- Ma Pi Leng Panorama (great views down Tu San Canyon)
- Tu San Slot Tour (boat tour through Tu San Canyon)

Refueling in Dong Van: A PETROLIMEX GAS STATION is located 500 meters East (Hwy QL4C) from the HOANG NGOC HOTEL. Click the following GOOGLE MAPS link for the location:



Recommended overnight stop in Meo Vac: SNOW HOTEL. This hotel is a quite. The rooms are clean and comfortable, and there's a lift. It's located away from the busier/noisier area of town and isn't used by the tour groups. Click the following AGODA link for Booking Inquiries:



HA GIANG LOOP: DAY FOUR - DONG VAN to MEO VAC

Ta Lung Cave: This cave is the BEST SPELUNKING ADVENTURE on the Ha Giang Loop. If you're a caving ENTHUSIAST, or spelunker, it might just be the single BEST ATTRACTION on the loop trip. The cave is partially developed for sightseeing. There's an ACCESS stairway, up to the entrance and a DEVELOPED TRAIL which penetrates approximately 600 meters into the cave. TA LUNG CAVE is situated approximately 5 km South of Dong Van City, along ROUTE 182. Click the following **GOOGLE MAPS** link for the location:



Ta Lung Cave

On-site: The large entrance into the cave can be easily seen from the nearby road. Safe parking for your motorbike is 100 meters further along the road, next to a local shop. There's a stairway up to the entrance. At the top of the stairs, pass through a hole in the fence and you can begin your descent into the cave entrance area.

Cave Tour: As mentioned, this cave has been partially developed for sightseeing. There's a cement pathway which goes approximately 600 meters into the cave. However, the last 400 meters of this is in the dark zone. If you don't have good lights (not a phone torch) it's not advisable to go

beyond the ambient light zone. Once you reach the end of the developed pathway, return on the route you came in on. Approximately halfway back, the path splits into two. Take the right side path and look for a stairway which ascends into an upper cave room. Once again, without proper lights, it's not advisable to ascend to this upper room. The stairway is steep and slippery in places. If you make the ascent to the top, you'll be rewarded with a fantastic sight: a large Golden Buddha statue, flanked by two smaller deities. Once you've finished looking at the Golden Buddha, return to the cave exit via the steep stairway.



Cave Entrance

HA GIANG LOOP: DAY FOUR - DONG VAN to MEO VAC

Sky Walk Monument: This LARGE STATUE, located eight km south of Dong Van Township, is a MEMORIAL to the workers who lost their lives building happiness road. It's also the START POINT for the pathway to the SKY WALK LOOK-OUT. **Note:** The START of the Sky Walk Pathway is on the left side of the museum. Click the following **GOOGLE MAPS** link for the location:



Ma Pi Leng Sky Walk: This is the pathway which takes you to the base of the lookout. It's an exhilarating ride with fantastic views and steep drops into the valleys below. If you're not confident, or comfortable, about riding a motorbike along a narrow pathway, you can leave your bike at the MONUMENT PARKING AREA and walk the one km to the lookout.

Needle Rock Lookout: This is the most popular spot for great views and excellent selfies. However, it tends to get quite crowded in the later hours of the day. The parking area is small, just a narrow pathway between two hills, and gets really packed with motorbikes. The feature attraction is the NEEDLE ROCK, which protrudes from the cliff face, approximately fifteen meters above the lane-way.



Due Care: There's a rocky trail up to the needle rock but the final part, where you climb out onto the rock, is quite HAZARDOUS. If you don't have a head for heights it's probably one to avoid. Click the following **GOOGLE MAPS** link for the location:



HA GIANG LOOP: DAY FOUR - DONG VAN to MEO VAC

Ma Pi Leng Panorama: This is another excellent roadside stop on the loop trip, perhaps even the best. The views down Ma Pi Leng Canyon are spectacular. Grab a coffee or a drink, and if it's not raining, sit down in the outdoor seating area to the left of the cafe. For even better views, you can take the stairway to the lower level viewing platform. **Click the following GOOGLE MAPS link for the location:**



Tu San Slot Boat Tour: When you get to the very BOTTOM of the access road (route 193A) there's a HAIRPIN BEND which then runs to the LEFT along the riverside. Right on this hairpin bend, there's a dirt road which runs in the OPPOSITE direction. This is the road which leads up to the PARKING AREA and TICKET OFFICE.

Tour Price & Duration: Pay the 5000 VND PARKING FEE, then walk down to the TICKET OFFICE area. The charge for the BOAT TOUR = 120,000 VND, and it lasts about ONE HOUR. After you get the ticket, a MINIVAN will then transport you to the BOAT DEPARTURE area (which is actually on the grounds of the hydro-electric dam).



Note: If you're doing the loop solo (not in a group) try to avoid being put on a boat full of locals. **Click the following GOOGLE MAPS link for the location of the Parking Area:**



HA GIANG LOOP: DAY FOUR - DONG VAN to MEO VAC

Day Four Summary: Although it's only a relatively SHORT DISTANCE from Dong Van to Meo Vac, the time taken to visit all the recommended SIGHTSEEING ATTRACTIONS makes progress SLOWER for this leg, than the others. The BOAT TRIP through TU SAN CANYON will absorb at least 2 - 3 hours, when the ride down (and back) to the river is taken into consideration. For this reason it makes more sense to overnight in Meo Vac, rather than risk riding in DARKNESS to get to DU GIA.

If you're CONTINUING on the DU GIA, without overnighting in MEO VAC, this is the last stop to get some FOOD and REFUEL your bike before starting the 70 KM RIDE (to Du Gia Village). There are several small RESTAURANTS and CAFES along Route 182 (in Meo Vac Township) before the road heads out into the rural area.

Meo Vac Town Square: This is the focal point of Meo vac Township. There are a good selection of GUESTHOUSES and cheaper hotels in this location, as well as restaurants and cafés. If you're staying OVERNIGHT in Meo Vac, this is the most convenient location to stay in. The SNOW HOTEL (recommended accommodation in Meo Vac) is just off the town square on ROUTE 182.



Recommended Restaurant in Meo Vac: MAY CO QUAN. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location:



REFUEL in Meo Vac: At the PETROLIMEX GAS STATION. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location:



HA GIANG LOOP: DAY FIVE - MEO VAC to DU GIA

Distance = 70 km. Travel time = 8 hours with all stops. From MEO VAC head WEST on ROUTE DT182, then south on ROUTE DT176 towards DU GIA. Click on the following **GOOGLE MAPS** link for a full map of the following stops:



On the way, and in order, these are the suggested sightseeing stops:

- **The View Coffee - Lung Phin** (small roadside cafe & great views of karst terrain)
- **M Shaped Turn Viewpoint** (large viewing platform with good café)
- **Nha Hang Giang Diep Restaurant** (Good local food)
- **Sa Li Pass** (Coffee & a good viewing platform)
- **Old French Military Post** (the ruins of an old French Colonial outpost)
- **Lung Ho Panorama** (Spectacular mountain views across to Lung Ho Village)
- **Lala Land Viewpoint** (when the mist fills the valley below, it does look like Lala Land)

Overnight stop in Du Gia: THE STREAM LODGE is the recommended accommodation for your stay in DU GIA. This is a new guesthouse with PRIVATE ROOMS and DORM accommodation, along the edge of the RIVER.



All the rooms have air conditioning. The dorms are LARGE and comfortable, with good sized shared bathrooms. The owner is very FRIENDLY and helpful, and the BREAKFAST (banana pancakes & scrambled eggs) was excellent. If you're not on a group tour, with prearranged accommodation, the STREAM LODGE is a GREAT choice for your time in Du Gia. Click the following **GOOGLE MAPS** link for the location:



HA GIANG LOOP: DAY FIVE - MEO VAC to DU GIA

Route 182: This is the first 17 km section (MEO VAC to LUNG PHIN) of the 70 km ride to DU GIA VILLAGE. For some bizarre reason, it then becomes ROUTE 176 (at Lung Phin). Click the following **GOOGLE MAPS** link to see this section of the route:



Lung Phin Valley: From LUNG PHIN there's some fantastic scenery as you ride through the valley. Stop for a coffee and enjoy the fantastic Views at THE VIEW COFFEE. Note: There's several roadside coffee stalls along this section of road. The VIEW COFFEE is the third one on the left, with the best view down the valley. Click the following **GOOGLE MAPS** link for the location:



Route 176: From LUNG PHIN to DU GIA, you are on ROUTE 176. The distance is approximately 50 km. It's a nice ride and has some excellent MOUNTAIN SCENERY along the way. **Note:** The road gets MORE MOUNTAINOUS, and more challenging, as you get CLOSER to Du Gia Village.



M Shaped Turn Viewpoint: This is another good place to stop for a break, or another coffee, as there's easy parking and a couple of large viewing platforms which project out over the drop off. Good coffee, fruit shakes, and under cover seating. Click the following **GOOGLE MAPS** link for the location:



HA GIANG LOOP: DAY FIVE - MEO VAC to DU GIA

Nha Hang Giang Diep Restaurant: This is a good option for a LUNCH STOP. It's the one used by most of the tour companies. Approximately 2 KM BEYOND this restaurant there's a FORK in the road. This gives you the option of heading BACK to YEN MINH, on a continuation of ROUTE 182 , or CONTINUING to DU GIA VILLAGE on ROUTE 176. From this point, it's the FINAL SECTION of the ride to Du Gia Village. **Click the following GOOGLE MAPS link for the location:**



Nham La View: Another excellent viewing location on the road to Du Gia. So many great places to stop and get some memorable photos.

Sa Li Pass Coffee: This is a great place to stop for a coffee and FANTASTIC VIEWS. There are other locations on enroute, such as NHAM LA VIEW and MA DUE, but those locations are just roadside stops. SA LI PASS COFFEE gives you the opportunity to take a break from the ride, with a bit of comfort, and take in some of the BEST VIEWS along ROUTE 176. **Click the following GOOGLE MAPS link for the location:**



Old French Military Outpost: This old FRENCH FORT is worth a 30 minute stop to check out a bit of COLONIAL HISTORY. Although it is now a ruin, the fort is easy enough to access and walk through. **Click the following GOOGLE MAPS link for the location:**



HA GIANG LOOP: DAY FIVE - MEO VAC to DU GIA

Lung Ho Panorama: This location has properly constructed VIEWING PLATFORM which you can walk out onto and get some EXCELLENT PICTURES of the landscape and LUNG HO VILLAGE in the distance. One of the BEST viewing spots on ROUTE 176, and well worth stopping for. There's also a small coffee shop here if you're in need of another boost before continuing on to DU GIA. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location:



Lung Ho Valley

Lala Land: Memorable views of MAJESTIC MOUNTAIN scenery as you get closer to Du Gia. This is arguably the BEST VIEWPOINT on the road between Meo Vac and Du Gia. There's an excellent café here with a broad viewing platform, and seating.

Get There Early: The best time to be in this location is before 08.00 am, when the mist fills the valley below. If you're traveling independently, this is doable. If you're part of a tour drink which normally gets up late, maybe not. Click the following [GOOGLE MAPS](#) link for the location:



Lala land Cafe



Lala Land Viewpoint

HA GIANG LOOP: DAY FIVE - MEO VAC to DU GIA

Day 5 Summary: The benefit of spending a night in Meo Vac, is you'll arrive in DU GIA early enough to get to the waterfall on the same day. However, if you arrive at the waterfall site after 4.00 pm, expect to see at least 100 PEOPLE there in the LATE AFTERNOON. The routine for the TOUR GROUPS seems to be arriving in Du Gia fairly late in the afternoon and heading straight to the waterfall before it gets dark.

Du Gia Waterfall: This is a very scenic location, and a great SWIMMING SPOT, near Du Gia Village. The best way of getting there is to use GOOGLE MAPS GPS to get to the PARKING AREA. The FEE for motorbike parking is 20,000 VND. From the parking area it's then a 200 meter hike, along a dirt trail, to the WATERFALL.

Note: If you want to beat the crowds (tour groups) ARRIVE EARLY (at least by 2.00 PM). Additionally, if you're in Du Gia on a WEEKEND, expect this waterfall to be CROWDED with locals by midday. Alternatively, you can visit the waterfall the FOLLOWING MORNING before beginning the ride back to HA GIANG. Click the following GOOGLE MAPS link for the location:



Parking Area

Restaurants and cafe's: If you're staying at the DU GIA STREAM LODGE, simply cross the bridge into the town center and you'll see the RESTAURANTS and CAFE'S approx. 100 METERS further on.

Pizza & Pasta: For good WESTERN FOOD, the best option is the QUYNH NHU ITALY PIZZA & PASTA RESTAURANT. Click the following GOOGLE MAPS link for the location:



A Crowded Du Gia Waterfall

HA GIANG LOOP: DAY SIX - DU GIA to HA GIANG

Distance = 80 km. Travel time = 8 hours with all stops. From Du Gia head North on Route DT176, then West on Route DT181, then take the WATERFALL LOOP back to QL4C, then south to Ha Giang City. Note: Stay on Route QL4C all the way into ha Giang City to avoid POLICE CHECKPOINTS along QL34 ROAD. Click on the following GOOGLE MAPS link for a route map:



On the way, and in order, these are the suggested sightseeing stops:

- Lala land Café (amazing mist filled landscape before 8.00 am)
- Coffee Deo Gio (pine forest landscape)
- Thac Nuoc (fantastic waterfall right next to the road)
- A Boong Waterfall (café's, restaurants, and an excellent waterfall with a swimming hole)
- Cau Thuan Hoa Bridge (the point where the waterfall loop road joins HWY QL4C)

The Waterfall Loop: This is a NEW ROUTE which has become popular for the FINAL DAY'S ride back to HA GIANG CITY. In years past it was normal just to take Routes 176 & 181 straight back to Hwy QL4C.



Mountain Terrain

The stretch of road with all the waterfalls, branches LEFT off route 181, and works south through MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN, before intersecting HWY QL4C, approximately 11 km north of Ha Giang City.

Refuel in Du Gia: At the PETROLIMEX gas station, on ROUTE DT176, approximately 500 east of the Stream Lodge. Click the following GOOGLE MAPS link for the location:



On The Waterfall Loop

HA GIANG LOOP: DAY SIX - DU GIA to HA GIANG

Lalaland Café: If you miss this fantastic view-point on the way into Du Gia, don't pass the opportunity on the way out. Especially if you can get there early (before 8.00 am) and see the mist enshrouded peaks while you enjoy a hot **LAO STYLE COFFEE**. Note: Having a coffee here is probably a good idea, because the next location, on the route back to Ha Giang, is some considerable distance away. Click the following **GOOGLE MAPS** link for the location:



Coffee Ba Tien Pine Hill: This is an excellent viewpoint and café on ROUTE 181, on the ride back to Hang Giang City. It's in an elevated mountainous area which is surrounded by **HIGH PEAKS** and **PINE FORESTS**. The way up, from Du Gia is a twisting, winding road which was **DAMAGED** in many places after the severe weather of September 2025. It's a great spot to take a break before getting onto the **WATERFALL LOOP ROAD**. Click the following **GOOGLE MAPS** link for the location:



HA GIANG LOOP: DAY SIX - DU GIA to HA GIANG

Nouc waterfall: This enchanting waterfall is a pleasant surprise, simply because it spills right next to the roadway. You come around a corner and there it is right in front of you. Park your motorbike next to the concrete barricade wall and get some excellent photos. The falls drop into a stream which runs under the road bridge. There's supposed to be some cafes nearby so you can spend a bit more time there, enjoying the ambiance of the location. **Click the following GOOGLE MAPS link for the location:**

NUOC WATERFALL

A Boong Waterfall: This is a BUCKET LIST stop for all the tour groups doing the loop. Simply because this is the BEST WATERFALL on the loop. There's a big parking area with a couple of CAFES where you can chill out for a few minutes before starting the HIKE up to the waterfall. The STAIRWAY up to the falls is directly ACROSS THE ROAD from the parking area. It's then a 300 METER TRAIL to the waterfall and SWIMMING HOLE. This is a great spot for a swim. **Click the following GOOGLE MAPS link for the location:**

8 A BOONG WATERFALL



A Boong Waterfall



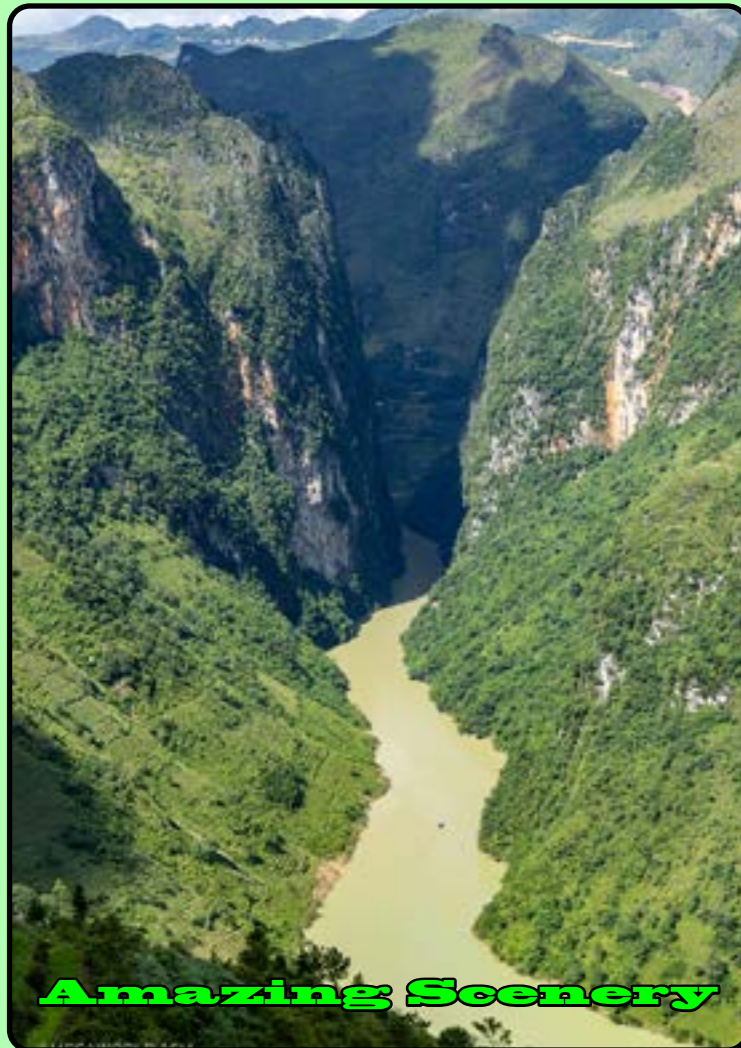
Nuoc Waterfall

HA GIANG LOOP SUMMARY

Independent travel: This tour/schedule is directed towards the independent type of traveler who isn't in a hurry and ideally, is competent enough to ride a motorbike around the mountain roads of Ha Giang Province without any problems. Keep in mind that if you go on a group tour, led by a tour company, you'll be on their schedule and will, no doubt, miss quite a few sightseeing locations.

Group tours: The standard loop, on a group tour, is 4 days/3 nights with overnight stops in Yen Minh, Meo Vac and Du Gia, before heading back to Ha Giang. In between these overnight stops, there are bucket list sightseeing stops which all the groups' head to. This is mainly because of ease of access (right next to the road) while other attractions which are a few km off the highway, are missed. A prime example of this is on day one. All group tours stop at Heaven's Gate but pass by Fairy Bosom and Lung Khuy Cave, in their rush to get to Yen Minh.

Time period: While this report covered a good number of locations over a six day period, it is no by means comprehensive. There are quite a few locations I missed, which are well off the beaten path. Additionally, there were a couple of locations I visited (caves) which were closed or had no proper access.



Amazing Scenery



One of the Bucket List Stops

MEGAWORLD ASIA

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With
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