Asia Concierge

THE ART OF TRAVEL DESIGN



THE CULTURAL COMPANION

VIETNAM

BOOKS, FILMS AND SERIES TO ENJOY BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

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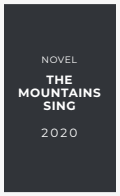
Vietnam's story is far richer than the war that made it famous. Our selection pairs classic novels of 1950s Saigon with contemporary family sagas, a cycling memoir and exquisite cinema, so you arrive ready to discover the country's food, landscapes and warmth of spirit.

• TO READ

FICTION



The Quiet American · Graham Greene · 1955
Love and politics in 1950s Saigon, in Graham Greene's classic novel.
UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



The Mountains Sing · Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai · 2020
A multi-generational family saga, told by a grandmother and her granddaughter, spanning Vietnam's 20th century.
UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



Paradise of the Blind · Dương Thu Hương · 1988
A beautifully written novel of a Hanoi family across the decades.
UK AMAZON
USA AMAZON



The Sorrow of War · Bảo Ninh · 1990
A haunting, lyrical novel by a North Vietnamese veteran about memory, love and loss.
UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



The Sympathizer · Viet Thanh Nguyen · 2015
The Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of a double agent at the end of the war.
UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



Dust Child · Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai · 2023
Two sisters, a GI and an Amerasian man cross paths in Saigon, then and now, in search of family and forgiveness.
UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS

NON-FICTION



Catfish and Mandala · Andrew X. Pham · 1999
A Vietnamese-American cycles the length of Vietnam in search of home and identity.
UK AMAZON
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



Vietnam: A New History · Christopher Goscha · 2016
An engaging, prize-winning history of Vietnam told from Vietnamese perspectives.
UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



Dispatches · Michael Herr · 1977
A celebrated piece of war reporting, often called the best book about the Vietnam War.
UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



Vietnam: Rising Dragon · Bill Hayton · 2010
A sharp, readable portrait of modern Vietnam: its economy, politics and people.
UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



Into the Vietnamese Kitchen · Andrea Nguyen · 2006
An award-winning cookbook and introduction to Vietnamese food culture.
UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



The Sacred Willow · Duong Van Mai Elliott · 1999
Four generations of one Vietnamese family, from mandarin scholars to war and exile, told by a granddaughter.
UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS

TO WATCH

In Vietnamese *In French, all with English subtitles. All other titles are in English.*

FILMS & SERIES



Indochine · Régis Wargnier · 1992
Catherine Deneuve stars as a French plantation owner in colonial-era Indochina, partly filmed in Ha Long Bay.
UK APPLE TV · AMAZON
USA APPLE TV · AMAZON



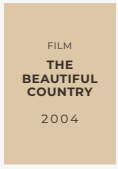
Apocalypse Now · Francis Ford Coppola · 1979
Coppola's hallucinatory war epic follows a river mission deep into the jungle.
UK APPLE TV · AMAZON
USA PARAMOUNT+ · AMAZON



The Sympathizer · Park Chan-wook · 2024
An adaptation of Viet Thanh Nguyen's Pulitzer-winning novel about a spy in the last days of the war.
UK HBO MAX · SKY GO
USA HBO MAX · APPLE TV



The Scent of Green Papaya · Trần Anh Hùng · 1993
A gentle, beautiful film about a young servant girl in a 1950s Saigon household.
UK *Not currently available*
USA APPLE TV · AMAZON



The Beautiful Country · Hans Petter Moland · 2004
An Amerasian youth leaves Vietnam to find his American father, with Nick Nolte.
UK AMAZON
USA APPLE TV · AMAZON



The Quiet American · Phillip Noyce · 2002
Michael Caine stars in Graham Greene's tale of love and politics in 1950s Saigon.
UK PRIME VIDEO
USA AMAZON · KANOPY (FREE WITH LIBRARY CARD)

DOCUMENTARIES & TRAVEL SERIES



The Vietnam War · Ken Burns & Lynn Novick · 2017
A landmark documentary series told through the voices of people from all sides.
UK APPLE TV · AMAZON
USA APPLE TV · AMAZON



Street Food: Asia · Netflix · 2019
The Ho Chi Minh City episode meets the vendors behind the city's much-loved street food.
UK NETFLIX
USA NETFLIX



Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown · CNN · 2016
Includes the famous Hanoi episode in which Bourdain and President Obama share bún chả.
UK PRIME VIDEO · AMAZON
USA HBO MAX · APPLE TV



Somebody Feed Phil: Saigon · Netflix · 2018
Phil Rosenthal slurps his way through Saigon, from street-side bánh mì to broken-rice stalls.
UK NETFLIX
USA NETFLIX



Daughter from Danang · Gail Dolgin & Vicente Franco · 2002
An Oscar-nominated film about an Amerasian woman, airlifted out in 1975, reuniting with her family in Da Nang.
UK *Not currently available*
USA KANOPY (FREE WITH LIBRARY CARD)



Rick Stein's Far Eastern Odyssey · BBC · 2009
Rick Stein explores the cooking of Southeast Asia, including a delicious journey through Vietnam.
UK SKY GO · U (UKTV)
USA PRIME VIDEO

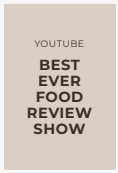


Top Gear · BBC · 2008
The famous Vietnam Special sees Clarkson, Hammond and May ride motorbikes from Saigon to Ha Long Bay.
UK BBC IPLAYER · SKY GO
USA PRIME VIDEO · PEACOCK

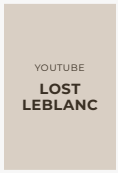


Gordon's Great Escape · Channel 4 · 2011
Gordon Ramsay cooks his way across Southeast Asia, from Mekong Delta markets to the kitchens of Saigon.
UK CHANNEL 4 · SKY GO
USA APPLE TV · AMAZON

YOUTUBE CHANNELS TO FOLLOW



Best Ever Food Review Show · @BestEverFoodReviewShow
Sonny Side's adventurous food series, exploring local dishes across Southeast Asia.
WATCH YOUTUBE



Lost LeBlanc · @LostLeBlanc
Christian LeBlanc's cinematic travel films from across Asia.
WATCH YOUTUBE

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WE KNOW ASIA INTIMATELY.

ASIA KNOWS US.

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INDONESIA · SINGAPORE · JAPAN · CHINA

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