

VIETNAM TRAVEL MAGIC #3

KAYAKING HALONG BAY

Adventures by Scott David Plumlee

Published by Davidchain at Amazon

Copyright © 2016 Scott David Plumlee

Special editorial thanks to: Judith Martin, Shirley Plumlee, and Alexandra Hasbrom.

Thank you for downloading this eBook. It is licensed for your personal enjoyment only and may not be resold or given away to other people. If you enjoyed this book, please post a book review and encourage your friends to download their own copy -- *Thank you.*

CHINA

VIETNAM



LAOS



Map Image: Wikimedia Commons

Welcome to Vietnam Travel Magic

I have loved the past three months backpacking Southeast Asia across Thailand, Laos and Cambodia.

The next chapter of my adventure takes me across Vietnam; traveling from the north, starting in the capital city of Hanoi, heading south along the coastal beaches to Saigon.

I flew into Hanoi to visit the chaotic Old Quarter for a few days before hiking Mt. Fansipan from Sapa, and now I'm traveling south to Cat Ba Island to go sailing through the legendary beauty of Halong Bay.





November 14th: I reluctantly opened my groggy eyes at 2:30am to discover that we had arrived back to Hanoi. The overnight bus stopped at some random street and threw all the luggage onto the sidewalk in the drizzling rain. Thankfully, the driver agreed to take me 8km into town to the actual Loung Yen bus station, which was completely deserted at this early hour. Luckily, I found one dry seat under an overhang to wait for sunrise.

Photo Credit: Denise Koryzma



With a trained ability to sleep anywhere, I slept two hours on the bus down to the ocean. We then took a small ferry from the mainland to Cat Ba Island, and then a second bus to Cat Ba city on the southern tip of the island. In transit, I played 20 questions with the frizzy-haired French girl—her name is Eugenie, she's from Paris, her favorite color is pink, she likes jazz, reads Eckhart Tolle, loves red wine and yes, she agreed to join me for dinner.



Once we arrived at the city of Cat Ba, we had pho noodles for lunch and walked along the harbor under graying skies. We finally found a good hostel and both got dorm beds.



CÁT BÀ KÍNH CHÀO QUÝ KHÁCH
WELCOME TO CAT BA

Cat Ba (which has a really long name in Vietnamese) is a fun harbor town with an active nightlife that is full of sports bars, seafood restaurants, and sidewalk cafe food vendors.



“Okay, ready, 1, 2, 3 - rock breaks scissors, paper covers rock, and scissors cuts paper.” After losing three rounds of rock-paper-scissors to Eugenie, she chose to skip the local seafood specialties and opted for some western pizza at a sports bar that had a pool table.



After a few rounds of pool, we shared our billiards game with a fun-loving Irish couple. We shared lots of laughs, told some really bad jokes, drank way too many Tiger beers, got drunk enough to sing Karaoke, and then sobered up slightly with another pizza.



November 15th: I woke up groggy at 6am with a fuzzy mind from last night's drinking and happily discovered a huge balcony on the third floor for my yoga routine with the sun rising over baby-blue skies; sometimes the smallest surprises can be the most blissful.



We set off to walk around the Cat Ba coastline to visit the local beaches and started into a hilarious conversation about why French people love to eat slimy escargot snails - ha!



Eugenie claimed that snails are tasty, as I wrinkled my nose in mock disgust with a “yuck.” She laughed and said that I was making an assumption, as I had never tried eating snails.



I had to admit this was a valid point and I did have a cultural bias against eating snails because it is not common in the USA; recognizing that I was making an assumption. Eugenie then asked me if I had read the philosophy of *The Four Agreements* by Don Ruiz.

As we walked along she explained that *The Four Agreements* had profoundly changed the way she interacted with people in her life, by agreeing to apply four ideals.

1. Practice impeccable speech.
2. Do not make assumptions.
3. Do not take things personally.
4. Always do your best.

I was impressed by these concepts, but soon got distracted by the broken sidewalk and complained.

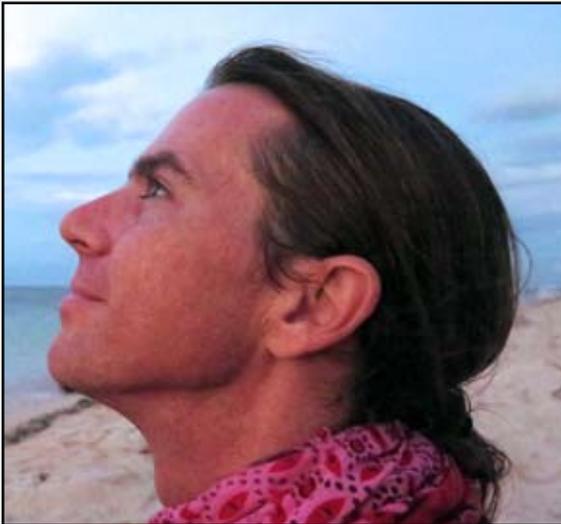
She asked “Why do you assume that the sidewalk should be perfect? If you can accept that the world is flawed, you will be much happier.”



Thank you for joining me on this 15-page free preview to visit Cat Ba Harbor, to continue the adventure with me to Halong Bay, purchase the full 50-page eBook at Amazon.com.

Won't you join me for my next adventure to go caving around Phong Nha National Park?

The author, Scott David Plumlee, watching the sunset fade away, is an avid world traveler, photographer and writer. He has traveled to over 50 countries, taken millions of photos, and is always willing to share his jokes, stories and philosophies. Plumlee is also the author of the New Zealand Travel Magic eBook series, and currently loving his life in Thailand.



The Art of Travel Magic:
www.travelmagic.world

All published books on Amazon:
www.amazon.com/author/plumlee

Follow the book publishing page:
www.facebook.com/travelmagan

Send me a friend request on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/scottdavid.plumlee