

VIETNAM TRAVEL MAGIC #6

FULL THROTTLE DANANG

Adventures by Scott David Plumlee

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VIETNAM



Map Image: Wikimedia Commons

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— Route

● Cities

Phong Nha

Hue

Danang

Hoi An

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 the chaos of Hanoi, hiked Mt. Fansipan from Sapa, sailed the legendary Halong Bay, explored caverns in Phong Nha, visited the imperial city of Hue, and now I'm riding a motorcycle south to the bridge city of Danang.





After yoga and an omelette breakfast, I left Hue on my rented motorcycle towards the ocean in anticipation of a refreshing swim. However, when I got to the beach a sign warned not to swim here due to the dangerous undertow that could carry you out to sea.



My disappointment at not being able to swim quickly passed when I stumbled upon this bounty of unique seashells, which were casually deposited by the turbulent ocean waves.



Farther down the beach, I discovered these curious fishing boats with a twin-tipped, crescent-shaped hull. A boat design that I assume is for stability in the rough surf.



Upon closer inspection I noticed that these surf boats were crafted from woven bamboo. Necessity being the mother of invention, they were constructed from split bamboo that had been woven like a basket to form the hull, and then waterproofed with black tar.



Back on the coastal highway I passed several fishing villages set among pine forests, then came upon these colorful structures just begging for further investigation.



Extending for several kilometers along the ocean, the City of Ghosts is a collection of family mausoleums that are decorated with colorful carved dragons and glittering mosaic designs - each outdoing the next in an ego competition for immortal prestige.



This graveyard was quite intriguing as it combined multiple religious iconographies. However, I'm dripping with sweat in the broiling sun and it's too hot for my curiosity.



Escaping the sweltering heat, I twisted the throttle of my motorcycle and zipped down the highway past flooded fields, letting the fresh ocean breeze dry my drenched shirt.



I stopped at the side of this bridge to check my map, which showed one last possible detour before I started climbing into the awaiting mountains between me and Danang.



Continuing around the peninsula, I discovered a sheltered beach for a refreshing swim. I parked my motorcycle in the shade, stripped down and ran into the cool ocean water. Swimming away from the shore, it occurred to me that I might not be alone in this cove. Just then - something brushed past my leg and my fight-or-flight instinct kicked in.

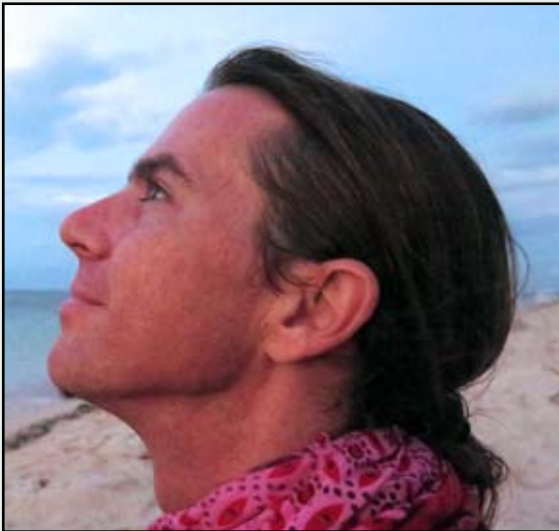


Trying to remain calm and not make any sudden movements, I started slowly backstroking towards the beach. I nearly screamed when the first shark fin crested the surface, then a surge of adrenaline as the second fin circled on my right. However, it was the third fin that snapped me into action; doing a record-breaking freestyle stroke back to the beach where I collapsed.

Thanks for joining me on this 15-page preview to go swimming with the sharks; continue the adventure to the Dragon Bridge of Danang by purchasing the full 50-page eBook at Amazon.

Won't you join me for my next adventure to explore the mysteries of Marble Mountain?

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.



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