

Nhân Dân

Hanoi in the hearts of international friends

Hanoi always has a special attraction and leaves good impressions on many foreigners living and working here. Moreover, there are people who consider Hanoi as their second home and decide to stick with this city for a long time.



Xavier Depouilly

French businessman, living and working in Hanoi for the past 24 years

"Hanoi is not only an economic center but also 'The most charming capital in Southeast Asia' with a unique combination of traditional culture and modern development."



Daniel Van Houtte

Belgian economic expert, lecturer at the International Joint Training Program - National Economics University, has more than 25 years of experience with Hanoi

"Hanoi always focuses and succeeds in maintaining its cultural identity in the context of increasingly strong international integration."



Isabelle Müller

German writer, first came to Hanoi in the 1990s

"Although more or less influenced by modernization, Hanoi still preserves its cultural heritage and many traditions. This makes Hanoi an attractive place. Hanoi will continue to develop strongly with a harmonious combination of old and new, between tradition and modernity."



Mr. Xavier Depouilly came to Hanoi in 2000 to work at the Economic Department of the French Embassy. He is currently the CEO of market research consulting company Indochina Research Vietnam.

"I am very impressed with the lively atmosphere in the morning in Hanoi, especially around West Lake and Hoan Kiem Lake. In these places, there are often people's fitness activities taking place from early morning. Dance groups and aerobic exercise groups gather to start a new day together in a friendly, exhilarating atmosphere. The Old Quarter is a unique place that I love to visit on foot, especially during the daily lunch break, to observe and feel the bustle of the shops in the Old Quarter and the typical traditional craft streets of Hanoi."

Mr. Xavier Depouilly shared with Nhan Dan reporter.

Mr. Xavier Depouilly driving with his motorbike through the streets of Hanoi



Mr. Xavier Depouilly said that Hanoi still retains its traditional culture and identity, with a focus on preserving the capital's iconic locations such as the Old Quarter and the Temple of Literature. Tu Giam, Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, Tran Quoc Pagoda... These symbols are not only the cultural heritage of Hanoi but of the whole of Vietnam. Therefore, disseminating and raising people's awareness about the cultural and historical value of these places not only helps preserve heritage but also enriches the experience for residents and tourists every time they visit.

Mr. Xavier Depouilly visiting the Temple of Literature - Quoc Tu Giam

Hanoi has been transforming and developing strongly in the opinion of Ms. Isabelle Muller. She said: Compared to the 1990s, when she first came to Vietnam, Hanoi has had many positive changes in all aspects.



Writer and social activist Isabelle Muller

"Every time I return to Hanoi, I have new but always close and familiar feelings, from the appearance of the city as well as daily life. Many modern neighborhoods have been built, the planning of Hanoi's areas is also more orderly, convenient and spacious, with larger bridges and roads."

Life has become much more vibrant recently. There are many bustling commercial centers, many bustling residential areas, many international banks and hotels. Hanoi's infrastructure has also been invested in to modernize and make it more convenient. Information technology and the Internet system are also developing strongly. Life and work here are very convenient.

In particular, many ancient buildings in Hanoi are still preserved with unique architecture, old quarters, traditional markets and ancient communal houses, pagodas and villages. Besides the excitement and bustle, Hanoi still has a peaceful appearance, with many small, quiet and green neighborhoods, providing a comfortable and pleasant living space.

Today, Hanoi is expanding, with many modern spaces and architectural works, giving the city a modern, dynamic and internationally integrated character.



Ms. Isabelle Muller visiting the Ly Thai To monument near Hoan Kiem Lake, Hanoi

For Isabelle Muller, she is very interested in the field of fashion and dress culture of Hanoi people: Although there has been a recent influence of the introduction of world fashion culture, Hanoi still retains its fashion culture. its uniqueness, especially the ao dai outfit. More and more Vietnamese women proudly wear traditional ao dai during festivals and important events.

For Daniel Van Houtte, Hanoi is like his second hometown. Having been in this land for more than 25 years, everything is very familiar and close to him: Hanoi people deeply respect the traditions and history of their ancestors. Traditional festivals are still held solemnly and widely. Hanoi has many historical and cultural relics such as: Temple of Literature, One Pillar Pagoda, Old Quarter... These places are not only tourist attractions but also symbols of Hanoi's cultural heritage.

In recent times, Hanoi has always focused on educating young generations about the importance and meaning of cultural heritage. Schools and families play an important role in transmitting values and traditions to future generations. It is important that Hanoi knows how to absorb modern elements while still preserving and preserving its own identity.

Having been in Hanoi for more than two decades, Mr. Daniel Van Houtte has a clear understanding of this city: Hanoi is a city with a harmonious interference between past and present. Traditional features are deeply imbued in family, community and social culture. We can

see this in festivals, communal houses, temples, pagodas... Hanoi people in particular and Vietnamese people in general have a strong sense of solidarity, respecting their ancestors and elders. seniors. One of the typical cultural experiences when coming to Hanoi is water puppet shows and walking around Hoan Kiem Lake, helping us better understand culture and life in the city. Furthermore, self-exploration in Hanoi's alleys brings unique and interesting experiences.



Mr. Daniel Van Houtte speaking at an event of the National Economics University



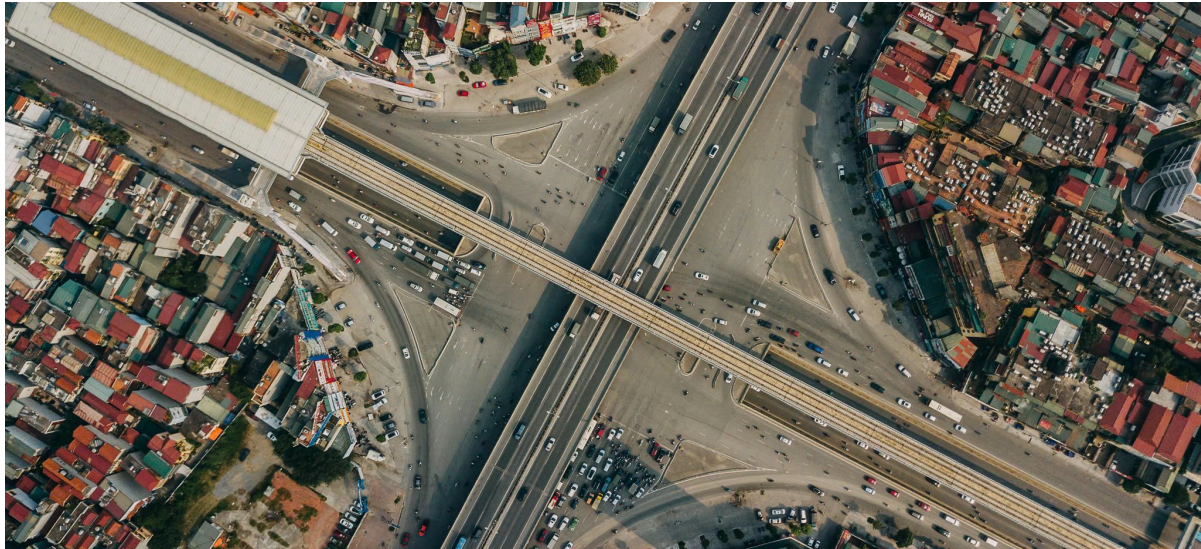
Hanoi also has a unique cuisine, with diverse dishes that attract many foreigners, especially those who have lived and worked here for a long time.

Mr. Daniel Van Houtte: Hanoi's dishes are rich and typical. Pho, bun cha, and banh mi are dishes not to be missed. One of the things that attracts foreigners about Hanoi cuisine is the variety and flavors of herbs and the balance between sweet, salty, sour, and spicy flavors. Street meals are also interesting culinary experiences, with many delicious dishes. I like pho the most, with bone broth and spices like cinnamon, star anise, and ginger to create a rich flavor. The noodles are soft but chewy, with some herbs like coriander and basil. In Hanoi, we can enjoy dishes at small shops, traditional markets or on the street from street vendors.

Mr. Xavier Depouilly: Hanoi's dishes are very diverse, depending on the season. In winter, I especially like fish cake, a grilled fish dish with a unique preparation and enjoyed in a cozy space.

Ms. Isabelle Muller: Hanoi cuisine is increasingly known by many people around the world. Hanoi is home to many delicious traditional dishes. Here you can also find diverse and rich dishes from all regions and many parts of the world. My favorite dish in Hanoi is chicken pho. I love the taste of the broth with pho noodles and chicken, along with herbs, onions and lemon. I also enjoy banh cuon for breakfast. The thin rolls, steamed and stuffed with minced pork, mushrooms and fried onions are truly attractive. I often eat banh cuon with fish sauce and raw vegetables. Third is fish cake. The fish is marinated with turmeric and then grilled, served on a layer of dill and green onions, served with vermicelli, roasted peanuts, herbs and fish sauce. Great!

Strong development, upgrading infrastructure, urban planning, opening up economic integration and improving administrative procedures along with investment attraction policies make Hanoi an increasingly popular destination. It's attractive not only for investors but also international tourists



Hanoi is developing strongly in the eyes of international friends.

Mr. Xavier Depouilly: Compared to 24 years ago, when I first came to Hanoi, the city has changed a lot. Hanoi expanded in scale, creating more development motivation. Many urban development projects have been implemented in suburban areas to reduce the load on the city center. Furthermore, many public services have been established in these areas to optimize space usage for Hanoi. Hanoi is considered one of the most attractive tourist destinations in Southeast Asia. Simplifying electronic visa procedures is a positive step to attract international tourists. Organizing walking areas in the city center is very appropriate, helping to protect the environment and giving visitors many experiences.

Mr. Daniel Van Houtte: Since starting to implement the Doi Moi policy, Hanoi has achieved an average economic growth rate of 5-6% per year. This is an impressive number. Hanoi's gross domestic product (GDP) increased by an average of 7.41% per year. Per capita income also increased significantly. Hanoi's commercial sector has also been upgraded and modernized, with the appearance of many large commercial centers. Hanoi's tourism industry is also growing strongly, with attractive cultural events and festivals. Hanoi is one of the cities with the fastest tourism growth in the world.

In recent times, Hanoi's investment attraction policy has been highly appreciated by many foreign investors.

According to Mr. Daniel Van Houtte: First of all, Hanoi has implemented reforms well to simplify administrative procedures, reducing time and costs for investors. The city has offered many tax incentives and exemptions for some taxes. Hanoi is also interested in investing in improving infrastructure, roads, bridges and public transportation systems... In particular, the political and economic stability of Hanoi in particular and Vietnam in general. create a favorable

environment for long-term investment. Along with that, a young, well-trained workforce is a great advantage for foreign investors.