

WorldDenver Presents:

STAYCATIONS

a new way to travel the world without leaving your home

VENTURE THROUGH VIETNAM

WorldDenver Airlines is thrilled to welcome our returning passengers, and gives a hearty hello to those just joining us. We will be taking off shortly, and while in air, will be serving Vietnam's main export of cashews and Cà phê đá, also known as Vietnamese Iced Coffee. Once landed, it is highly recommended that you visit Hạ Long Bay in Northeast Vietnam, a UNESCO World Heritage Site made magical with surreal pillars of limestone rising up from the sea. The bay's islands number around 1,600, and as they were formed by natural erosion, most of the islets are uninhabited. However, local legends claim the creation of these isles happened when a dragon descended from heaven, spraying jade and emeralds into the water to protect the Vietnamese people from invaders. Be respectful of the natural beauty and serenity of the area, or the dragon may once again descend!

CULTURE

Vietnam is known as a home for motorbikes, as data from the Ministry of Transport claim there are 45 million registered motorcycles. For a country with a population of 96 million, that's close to one bike for every two people! Vietnam is also home to an array of both inland and coastal waterways and the country's true beauty shines through the lush landscape—whether you are floating down palm-fringed canals and marveling at the beauty of lush green rice paddies, or arriving in time to enjoy the morning hustle and bustle of river merchants offering a bounty of exotic fruits. Float down the Ngô Đồng River in a Tam Coc river boat, and enjoy the 360 degree views provided from the comfort of your couch at home!

CUISINE

The Vietnamese folk religion is one of the few with its own deity for the kitchen. Known in English as the Kitchen God, Ông Táo is a rather eccentric character. He sticks strictly to rubber boots and shorts under his áo dài and, according to legend, Ông Táo makes his appearance just before the Vietnamese New Year (Tết) festival, which is usually in mid-February. During this time he rides on the back of a carp to give his annual report to the Jade Emperor on the activities of the family, which determines the fate of each household in the new year. There are several versions of the legend, but all agree that families should burn votive papers in honor of the deity, usually in the form of paper clothing or other essentials Ông Táo might need on his trip. Use rice paper to wrap these Vietnamese fresh spring rolls to enjoy while you “float” the river!

COCKTAIL

On any humid evening in Vietnam, it is common to see people gathering for beer over ice or other cool beverages. Many Vietnamese cocktails draw on the abundance of local fruits and herbs that are easily accessible to bartenders. This recipe is a bánh mì-inspired cocktail, made by Andrea Nguyen, author of Vietnamese Food Any Day: Simple Recipes for True, Fresh Flavors.

