



## Plan to forbid all vehicles from summits intended to protect city's volcanoes

Picture / Natalie Slade

## Late news: Two Kiwis die in Namibia gliding crash A3

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**NEW WORLD**





# Bar/fly

Go underground in the steps of Joan Baez

When it comes to sipping a cocktail, savouring a liqueur or knocking back a cold one in a decadent setting, Vietnam’s holiday resorts offer plenty. Here’s a pick of the country’s best hotel bars.

### Bamboo Bar

If you get bombed here, never fear — there’s an air-raid shelter just below. Joan Baez sought refuge inside it during the Christmas bombings in 1972 and recorded part of her album *Where Are You Now, My Son* in the subterranean warren.

Excavated in 2012 and opened to guests as a memorial, the shelter opens every day at happy hour. The Bamboo Bar is a popular social hub of one of South Asia’s grand dames, built in 1901 and so well refurbished in 2011 that magazines hailed it one of the world’s most stunning debuts.

You can enjoy a range of cocktails, including the signature Graham Greene Martini, light snacks, gourmet icecreams and coffee. *Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi, 15 Ngo Quyen St, Hoan Kiem District, Hanoi*

### Saigon Saigon Bar

From the rooftop bar of the Caravelle Hotel, Vietnam War correspondents and other spectators routinely watched Air Force jets streak over enemy strongholds, dribbling bombs that burst like pyrotechnic displays on the outskirts of Saigon.

These days the 10th-floor bar at the Caravelle endures as the most compelling perch in the city, although the panoramic attractions now feature



## Checklist VIETNAM

### GETTING THERE

Cathay Pacific offer airfares with daily connections to Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi and Da Nang with prices starting from \$1429. On sale until December 15, visit [www.cathaypacific.co.nz](http://www.cathaypacific.co.nz) for details.

a melange of LED billboards, construction cranes and skyscrapers as Ho Chi Minh City gussies up as one of Southeast Asia’s most dynamic destinations.

Saigon Saigon has a two-for-one happy hour from 4pm to 8pm daily.

*Caravelle Hotel, 19-23 Lam Son Square, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City*

### Emeraude

This bar on world-renowned Halong Bay is mobile. On the sundeck of a replica colonial-era paddle-wheeler, the Emeraude cruises past one of the world’s most compelling seascapes. Limestone karst towers up from emerald green waters in one of the world’s most fantastic displays of geology. Legends say it was an outraged dragon, thrashing with its tail, that formed the land this way.

[sales@emeraude-cruises.com](mailto:sales@emeraude-cruises.com)

### The Bar

This watering hole at The Nam Hai was tweaked recently to improve the terrace, which now features a glass roof and operable windows so that, rain or shine, guests can enjoy a wine or a cocktail while taking in the East Sea.

*Nam Hai Hotel, Hamlet 1, Hoi An*

### Le Gouverneur

In the lobby bar of the 1930-built La Residence Hotel and Spa in the former Imperial City of Hue, the *Arc of Life* mural curves with the rotunda wall depicting scenes of Vietnamese daily life.

Inspired by frescoes on the walls of the Musee des Colonies in Paris and the main post office in Lyon, this one-of-a-kind mural was created by French artist Roland Renaud. It was through these doors at Tet in 1968 that Viet Cong cadres infiltrated the hotel and made off with the highest ranking South Vietnamese official abducted during the war.

If that isn’t enough, the bar’s stocked with first-rate spirits and Cuban cigars.

*La Residence Hotel and Spa, 5 Le Loi Street, Hue*  
AAP



# Flight check

## Andrew Potter flies WOW Air WW206 from London to Keflavik in Iceland

**The plane:** As we board the plane, a song with the chorus “I don’t want to die” is piped through the cabin of the Airbus A320. This must be the WOW factor.

**Class:** Hagkerfi — that’s “Economy” in Icelandic.

**Price:** \$238, one way.

**On time?** A perfect on-time departure. Cool, as ice.

**My seat:** 20C, a comfortable enough place to park myself for three hours.

**Fellow passengers:** My sister and my girlfriend dominate the left side of row 20. Behind me is a giant Icelandic man with a face as red as lava and a volcanic temper to match. Clearly boozed upon boarding, he puts away cans of Icelandic brew like a demented, Scandinavian David Boon. When we arrive in Iceland, he staggers off looking bewildered.

**How full:** Fairly, but not completely.

**Entertainment:** An inflight magazine, nothing else. I’m packing my iPad, and using a handy splitter cable, so my lady and I watch the final two episodes of *Breaking Bad*. It’s cracking, but as soon as I see Iceland’s famous Blue Lagoon, I think of Walter White’s famous blue meth.

**The service:** The cabin crew are perky Icelanders with impish humour and quirky uniforms featuring Thunderbird-inspired hats. WOW, which is always capitalised, rose from the ashes of budget airline Iceland Express, keeping the same business model, but getting a jazzier name. Presumably, OMG Air and WTF Jet were already taken.

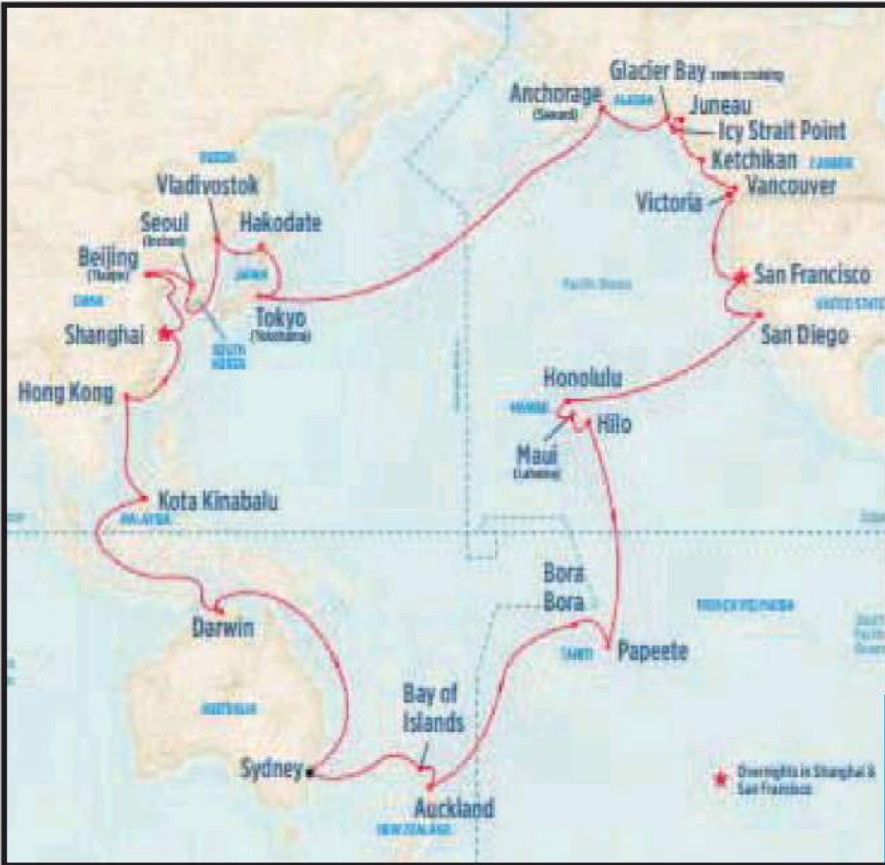
**Food and drink:** A trolley filled with expensive beer, salty snacks and watery coffee, which you could teleport into nearly any budget airline in Europe.

**The toilets:** Pretty standard stuff, but there’s a mini-moustache stuck to the mirror so you can give yourself a Groucho Marx-style selfie.

**Luggage:** Wheely bag in the overhead bin; anything else you pay for.

**The airport experience:** Keflavik is Iceland’s main international airport a 45-minute drive from the capital, Reykjavik. The Blue Lagoon is near the airport, and many travellers stop in at it before catching their flight.

**Would I fly this again?** Sure. It was a painless European budget airline experience.





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