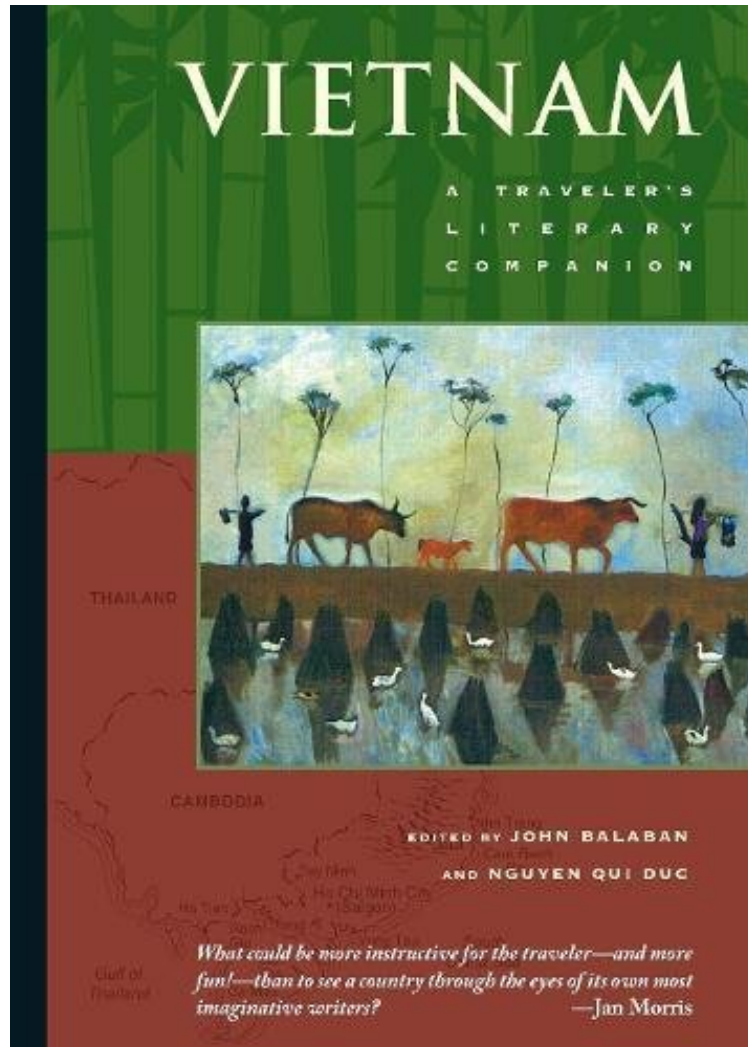


(Download free pdf) Vietnam: A Traveler's Literary Companion (Traveler's Literary Companions)

Vietnam: A Traveler's Literary Companion (Traveler's Literary Companions)

John Balaban, Nguyen Qui Duc
ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#317434 in Books Balaban, John (EDT)/ Nguyen, Qui Duc (EDT) 1996-10-01
Ingredients: Example
IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.36 x .72 x 5.02l, .57 #File Name: 1883513022256 pages |
File size: 76.Mb

John Balaban, Nguyen Qui Duc : Vietnam: A Traveler's Literary Companion (Traveler's Literary Companions) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Vietnam: A Traveler's Literary Companion (Traveler's Literary Companions):

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A Literary Journey Through VietnamBy TravelerI've been reading many books in preparation for a three week trip to Vietnam in May. I've intentionally stayed away from books about the war in favor of snapshots of everyday life. Vietnam:A Treveler's Literary Compananion, provides a very intimate

look into the everyday lives of Vietnamese from all strata of society. The collection of stories provides insights into how the Vietnamese view their lives, country and relationships. This is a perfect compliment to travel guides. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Highly entertaining, educational
By Lawrence Welch
The book contains a series of fictional short stories which are original and creatively written. I thought the imagery of Vietnam to be stimulating. As a resident of Hanoi and two year traveler through North Vietnam I found themes to be interesting from a historical perspective as well as culturally to know and understand what the writers considered important in their day to day lives. All of the writers were Vietnamese. I would highly recommend this book to anyone, but most of all to readers who have an interest in Asian studies generally or Vietnam in particular. I haven't often read fictional short stories, but it reading this book I am a convert to read more, particularly about Southeast Asia. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good travel companion
By Lynn Wang
I bought this book as a travel companion on my trip to Vietnam. The book is very appropriate for that purpose, but as a literary collection, the stories are of varying quality. My guess is that a lot gets lost in translation. I wish there were more footnotes or some sidebar to give context to some cultural issues that I'm not aware of or to just give me basic info about the other singers, poets, authors, etc. mentioned in the stories. Additionally, some of the stories felt like they had interesting themes but were poorly written, and I wonder if the translations have something to do with that. Overall though, I think it's great book to read before or during a trip to Vietnam.

Since relations between the U.S. and Vietnam have normalized, many more people are traveling to this exotic country, previously closed to a generation of Western visitors. Vietnam provides one of the first chances for Americans to know the Vietnamese outside the context of war. Vietnamese have been telling stories for thousands of years, in poetry and in song, in Chinese script and then in Vietnamese, and more recently, in novels and short stories. These 17 stories, from contemporary Vietnamese writers living in Vietnam and abroad, take the literary traveler to extraordinary places: from the jungle-clad mountain ranges of the North to the mysterious silence of the old capital along the Perfume River. Proximity of the spirit world, love of family, exhaustion from war, one's Confucian, Taoist, and Buddhist obligations, social protest, and the hunger for a better life these are some of the concerns to be encountered in these thrilling landscapes. Contributors include Nguyen Huy Thiep, Linh Bao, Nguyen Ba Trac, Thich Duc Thien, Ho Anh Thai, Le Minh Khue, Doan Quoc Sy, Vu Bao, Duong Thu Huong, Andrew Q. Lam, Nguyen Qui Duc, Qui The, Bao Ninh, and Pham Thi Hoai.

.com This anthology begins with Nguyen Huy Thiep's disarmingly simple but riveting tale of Mr. Dieu's monkey hunt in the Dau Da Forest on a warm spring day, starting off with "A month after the new year is the best time to be in the jungle. The vegetation is bursting with fresh buds, and its leaves are deep green and moist." Fifteen stories follow "Salt of the Jungle," organized under the sections "Hanoi," "Rivers," "Ho Chi Minh City," "Dalat," and "Villages," ending with a "Remembrances" series, including Nguyen Ba Trac's "The White Horse," in which Mr. Nguyen, ever running red lights and earning parking violations, can't stop traveling back and forth between past and present, between his current abode in the United States and his memories of the old neighborhood in Ban Co District. "Memory is a horse on an ephemeral path," he writes, "but you can't stop it. It goes where it wants to go. It goes all the way back to Dalat, galloping freely upon green hills in an afternoon in which the hues of sunshine are as light and thin as smoke and clouds." These stories, penned by Vietnam's best writers, are a beautiful introduction to Vietnam. From "The Stranded Fish," Doan Quoc Sy's unassuming elaboration on a century-old folk poem, to "Fired Gold," a complex, Borgesian piece by Nguyen Huy Thiep, these literary pieces evoke the land, culture, people, concerns, and soul of Vietnam like no travel guide could ever hope to do. They are a pleasure to peruse, regardless of your Vietnam travel plans. --
Stephanie Gold
From Publishers Weekly
The idea behind this series is simple and elegant: Explore a place like Vietnam (or, as in past volumes, Costa Rica or Prague) not through maps or guidebooks but through the writings of that country's best writers. Although there is a section called "Remembrance," the 17 short stories don't dwell exclusively on the recent war but instead include section that focus on topographies (Jungles, Rivers, Villages) or cities (Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City). Although every contribution is strong, certain ones stand out. In "Salt of the Jungle," Nguyen Huy Thiep describes a slightly surreal story of a man hunting a monkey in mesmerizing prose. ("At around this time, your feet sink into carpets of rotting leaves, you inhale pure air, and, sometimes, your body shudders with pleasure, because a drop of water has struck your bare shoulder.") Le Minh Khue's "A Small Tragedy" of a catastrophe befalling a powerful family is a more urban drama, one that gives a sense of the uneasy balance between a mystical past and industrialized future in present-day Vietnam. And "Scent of the Tiger," by Qui The, a tragic romantic tale about a college professor and his tiger-tamer wife, evokes a melancholy that seems uniquely Vietnamese. According to Balaban, "While Vietnamese have been telling stories about themselves for 2000 years... almost all of that literary expression has been through poetry. . . . Thus the Western-style short story and novel are fairly recent acquisitions." It is this poetry stated or implied at the heart of every story that makes this collection worthwhile. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From Library Journal
Fiction can convey a sense of place and culture, as it does in this fresh collection of 17 recent short stories written by Vietnamese and set in Vietnam. Most of the stories are translated from

the Vietnamese (the others are written by Vietnamese Americans in English) and provide a window through which to view the country today. These are not stories of politics or war, although the characters' lives have been very much disrupted by those events. The stories concern the everyday life of the people in the cities and villages. Of special poignancy are the stories of Viet-kieus, or Vietnamese Americans, going back to visit their families. Three more such collections on Costa Rica, Prague, and Israel will soon be available from the publisher. Librarians should welcome this series of modestly priced books to both their travel sections and their multicultural fiction collections. Harold M. Otness, Southern Oregon State Coll. Lib., Ashland Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.