



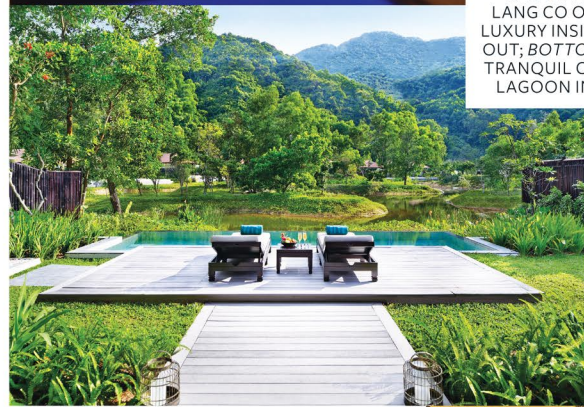
SUNSETS AND STREET PERFORMANCES IN HO CHI MINH, AND HOI AN'S FISHING COMMUNITY, BELOW



lang co

After a short internal flight, I arrived at the newly opened Banyan Tree hotel in Lang Co. After the frenzied chaos of Ho Chi Minh, the total calm and tranquillity of the resort was a welcome relief. Banyan Tree is made up of 49 private luxury one-bedroom villas: 17 located on the beach overlooking the South China Sea, and the remaining 32 set around the central lagoon with stunning views of the surrounding rainforest. The hotel's perfectly symmetrical decor comprises gently bubbling water features dotted with lotus flowers and colourful lanterns – it's the kind of place where you can actually feel stress evaporating off your body. At 7pm it was still 30C, so I headed to my villa for a pre-dinner swim and couldn't resist an Instagram session – with a private infinity pool, vast lounging area and free-standing bath, it would've been rude not to!

That night, I fell in love with the resort's signature Saffron restaurant. Perched on the hillside above the



LEFT AND BELOW, BANYAN TREE LANG CO OFFERS LUXURY INSIDE AND OUT; BOTTOM, THE TRANQUIL CAU HAI LAGOON IN HUÉ

resort, I tucked into delicious Thai-fusion food, including steamed sea bass, spicy wagyu beef salad and coconut crème brûlée, while taking in the dreamy view across the golden sands of Lang Co bay.



hué

The next day I woke up in my ridiculously huge, comfy bed feeling jet-lag free and excited about the day's sightseeing. The genius of Banyan Tree Lang Co is its close proximity to some of Vietnam's most famous sights, including three UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The Imperial City of Hué is one of them – this walled fortress and palace was home to the Nguyen dynasty, the last ruling family of Vietnam, who were in power from 1802 until the revolution in 1945. Even if you're not a history buff, you'll be bowled over by its incredible Chinese-inspired >

