

If you ever find yourself in Vietnam, Quang Binh national park is well worth the trip. Just take a look at this video and judge for yourself! Yantra tattoos are the traditional way to make tattoos in South East Asia and they date more than 2000 years back. It is made with a needle on the end of a bamboo stick that is dipped in ink and then tapped into the skin. Yantra tattoos are supposed to bring good luck, love and prosperity and different designs have different meanings.

I chose to get the beautiful five-line yantra, or Ha Thaew on my upper back. Each line has different meaning according to Hanoi Ink:

- 1, First row prevents unjust punishment and leans in your favor when the area is grey, cleans out unwanted spirits and protects the place you live in.
- 2, Second row reverses and protects against bad horoscope constellations and bad luck.
- 3, Third row protects you from the use of black magic and anyone who tries to put a curse on you.
- 4, Fourth row energizes your good luck, success and fortune in your future ambitions and life style.
- 5, Fifth row is to gain charisma and attraction to the opposite sex. It is also is a boost to the fourth row.

Here in Hanoi there are lots and lots of tattoo studios. The usual price for a bamboo tattoo is 20\$ per hour, which is quite cheap. Have a look at a few artist' work before you decide on one that you like. I went to a few places before I found The Master Tattoo. The place was very hygienic and the artist very professional. The tattoo took about an hour to make and it was a bit less painful then my previous tattoo on my arm, although this one was right on the spine. Bamboo tattoos take a lot shorter time to heal then tattoos made with a tattoo gun, which is a good thing when you want to be as soon as possible out and about in the sun and the sea.

Hanoi is Vietnam's second largest city and a big hub in the traveler's route in South East Asia. It is surrounded by lush forests and mountains and is much quieter than Ho Chi Minh city. It has a very artistic and relaxed atmosphere and the possibilities for tours in and out of the city are vast. I had about 9 days in Hanoi with my [extended Vietnam visa](#) and decided to do a five-day Thai massage course but managed to squeeze in a full day of cooking, few nights at the market and check out the nightlife. I would like to come back and do some mountain biking, climbing and that sorts of stuff.

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