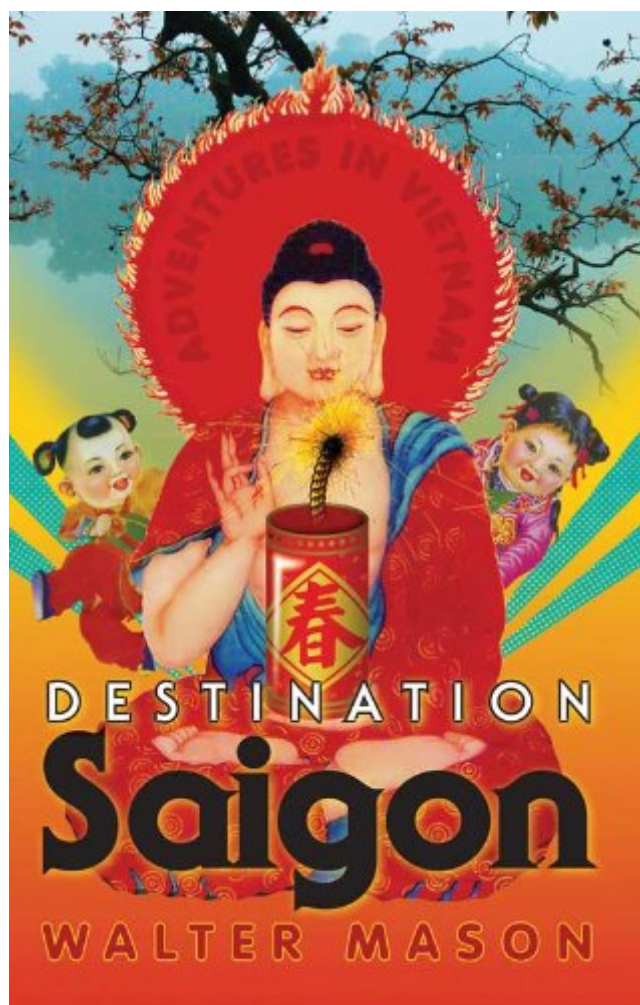


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# Destination Saigon: Adventures In Vietnam



## Synopsis

Get a taste of the real Vietnam and its people on a sometimes funny, always fascinating journey from the bustling cities to out of the way villages, into Buddhist monasteries and along the Mekong. From the crazy heat and color of Saigon to the quieter splendor of Hanoi, this is a rare, joyous, and at times hilarious insight into 21st century Vietnam. Seduced by the beauty and charm of its people and the sensuousness of its culture we can almost taste the little coconut cakes cooked over a fire in a smoky Can Tho kitchen, or smell the endless supplies of fresh baguettes and croissants just out of city ovens. As colorful city cafes and bars make way for visits to out-of-the-way shrines and temples, we take an impromptu visit to forbidden fortune tellers, and glimpse a little of the Cao Dai religion, made famous in Graham Greene's *The Quiet American*. Traveling off the beaten track to far-flung villages and lesser-known towns, we cruise along the Mekong, board hopelessly overcrowded local buses, or perch perilously on the back of motorbikes. Behind-the-scenes visits to Buddhist monasteries reveal a quieter and more transcendent world beyond the busy day trips of tourists, and in the process, we begin to see the country through the eyes of its people.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I read this for research before recently traveling to Saigon. It deals with the whole country contrary to what the title suggests. In this respect I was disappointed. It's bizarre adventures of a 'large' Australian who lived on and off in Saigon but traveled all over the country. It's the friends he makes, the adventures he has and the problems he faced living in Vietnam. It's an interesting read but not what the title suggests.

A great read about the author's adventures in Vietnam. Not only in Saigon; he gets pretty far afield, too, from tiny villages to Hanoi. Struck a chord with me because of my own wanderings in VN. Made me want to go back yet again, to my own favorite place in the country: Hanoi - the Ho Chi Minh area and the old town. Read it; you'll enjoy it - especially the interactions with the Vietnamese people.

'Destination Saigon' contains a delightful series of vignettes about life in today's Vietnam as experienced by the author during his travels through the cities and countryside. Sometimes hilarious, always charming they bring that country vividly to life. Particularly funny is the story of his boat trip on the Mekong River where the captain's wife sets your fare after meeting you and determining your net worth and status.

An eye-opening look at a culture separate from my own. It is a light, easy read. If you are interested in travel stories, you will likely enjoy this.

Mason has written of the most entertaining travel memoirs I've come across. He has a great sense of self-effacing humor and pure love for Vietnam that I can appreciate. I've been there several times, and he really made me re-live some of my experiences and introduced me to so many more.

Not a travel book, but a book of stories of being in the world in Vietnam .... Funny, moving, thoughtful, pragmatic... At times beautiful.

First few sentences were already so exciting that I could not put the book down. Don't start reading it just before bedtime :-)) I felt as if I was traveling with the author, words were rich and well chosen. Thank you Walter for the amazing book.

There are lots of very funny moments in this colorful travel memoir. It's a light, easy read which paints a vivid picture of the region.

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