



Biannual Meeting 2026

November 1 - 5, 2026

Hanoi, Vietnam

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a traditional Vietnamese gate, likely the entrance to the Temple of Literature in Hanoi. The gate is made of stone and wood, with a large central archway and smaller side arches. A large bell is visible in the upper part of the gate. The scene is framed by lush green trees and foliage, with a warm, golden light suggesting a sunset or sunrise. A paved path leads through manicured hedges towards the gate.

Social Program



Sunday, November 1, 2026

From 02:00 pm **Check-in at [Sofitel Legend Métropole Hanoi](#)**

15 Ngo Quyen Street, Hoan Kiem Ward
Hanoi, Vietnam 100000
Phone: (+84) 243 826 6919

Our rooms and the scientific session hall are located in the
Opera Wing of the hotel with an entrance at 56 Ly Thai To Street.
The hotel staff will try to accommodate you if you arrive before 2 pm.
If that is not possible, enjoy lunch at the Le Club Bar until your room
is ready.

06:30 pm **Welcome Dinner at the La Veranda rooms in the Metropole Hotel**

The La Veranda is accessible from the Opera Wing Lobby.
Don't miss this special event as it introduces Vietnamese street
and staple foods to you.



HOTEL SOFITEL METROPOLE

The Grand Dame of Hanoi in the French Quarter of Hanoi celebrates its [125th anniversary](#) this year. There is an interesting exhibition about the hotel and its history as well as free tours of the war bunkers under the hotel. Nearby walkable attractions include the famous Hoankiem Lake and the night market at the northern end of the lake.

Our event contacts at the Metropole Hotel

are Ms Yen Nguyen (yen.nguyen@sofitel.com) and her assistant Ms Thu (thu.nguyen-minh@sofitel.com). You may email them directly to book limousine transfers or spa treatments, or make other enquiries. Indicate that you are an IIC attendee.



Monday, November 2, 2026

07:00 - 08:30 am

Group Breakfast at Le Beaulieu

Alternatively enjoy breakfast at any other Sofitel Metropole restaurant.

08:00 - 12:00 noon

[Walking Food Tour with Train Street Visit](#) (« page 9)

A curated itinerary featuring 3 food, 1 coffee and 1 dessert venue accommodating almost all dietary needs/restrictions.

Bus transportation from the hotel to the first venue and back is provided.

11:30 - 12:00 noon

[Guided History Tour of the Wartime Bunkers](#) (« page 10)

Within Sofitel Metropole Hotel.

12:30 pm

Group Lunch

La Veranda rooms, Sofitel Metropole Hotel.

02:00 - 06:00 pm

[Half-Day City Tour by Bus](#) (« page 11)

Pick up and drop off at Sofitel Metropole Hotel.

Visit major Hanoi sights. The tour includes some walking.

02:30 - 03:00 pm

[Guided History Tour of the Wartime Bunkers](#) (« page 10)

Within Sofitel Metropole Hotel.

07:00 pm

Group Dinner at LUKLAK Restaurant

Traditional Michelin Bib Gourmand Vietnamese restaurant

A 5-7-minute walk from Sofitel Metropole Hotel



Tuesday, November 3, 2026

07:00 - 08:30 am

Breakfast at Le Beaulieu

Alternatively enjoy breakfast at any other Sofitel Metropole restaurant.

08:00 - 12:00 noon

[Half-Day City Tour by Bus](#) (« page 11)

This tour is identical to the Monday afternoon tour.
Pick up and drop off at Sofitel Metropole Hotel.
Visit major Hanoi sights. The tour includes some walking.

11:30 - 12:00 noon

[Guided History Tour of the Wartime Bunkers](#) (« page 10)

Within Sofitel Metropole Hotel.

12:30 pm

Group Lunch

La Veranda rooms, Sofitel Metropole Hotel.

12:30 pm

[IIC Golf Tournament at Long Bien Golf Course](#) (« page 14)

Participants will leave right after the end of the scientific program.
Transportation to and from the Golf Course is provided.



Tuesday, November 3, cont.

02:30 - 03:00 pm

[Guided History Tour of the Wartime Bunkers](#) (« [page 10](#))

Within Sofitel Metropole Hotel.

04:30 - 5:45 pm

Tea Party at the LEICA store

Address: 14 P. Ngô Quyền, French Quarter, Hoàn Kiếm, Hà Nội

This is directly opposite the other entrance of the Metropole Hotel.

Have your portrait taken. Limited to 40 people.

6:00 - 08:00 pm

[Cyclo / Trishaw Ride from Metropole around Town](#)

[followed by a Water Puppet Theatre Show](#) (« [page 13](#))

The show will last approximately 1 hour (7 - 8 pm).

Dinner after the puppet show is on your own at the night market area or another restaurant of your choice.

Walk back or take a GRAB car to the hotel.





Wednesday, November 4

07:00 - 08:30 am

Group Breakfast at Le Beaulieu

Alternatively enjoy breakfast at any other Sofitel Metropole restaurant.

08:00 - 01:00 pm

Vietnamese Cooking Class (« page 12)

A full cooking experience – from visiting the local market, shopping for and prepping the ingredients to preparing and enjoying 3 to 4 signature dishes.

11:30 - 12:00 noon

Guided History Tour of the Wartime Bunkers (« page 10)

Within Hotel Metropole

12:30 pm

Group Lunch

At La Veranda rooms, Sofitel Metropole Hotel.

02:30 - 03:00 pm

Guided History Tour of the Wartime Bunkers (« page 10)

Within Hotel Metropole.

02:00 - 06:00 pm

Walking Food Tour with Train Street Visit (« page 9)

A curated itinerary featuring three food, one coffee and one dessert venue accommodating almost all dietary needs/restrictions. Bus transportation from the hotel to the first venue and back is provided.

06:30 pm

Farewell Dinner at Backstage Restaurant

The Michelin-selected restaurant is located on the first floor of the Capella Hanoi Hotel opposite the other entrance to the Metropole Hotel on Ngo Quyen Street.

Enjoy refined and contemporary Northern Vietnamese dishes in an opera-themed, theatrical setting.



Thursday, November 5, 2026

07:00 - 08:30 am

Group Breakfast at Le Beaulieu

Alternatively enjoy breakfast at any other
Sofitel Metropole restaurant

Check-out

09:00 - 09:30am

Departure for Halong Bay Cruise

Participation in all social activities (tours and dinners) requires registration.

All tours (except the IIIC Golf Tournament) are provided for free.

However, we must charge you a symbolic 1 EUR Booking Fee to complete your registration.

[Click here to register!](#)



A Tip from our President:

Custom Tailoring in Hanoi

"Tailoring in Hanoi is good and reasonably priced - but not dirt cheap.

If you wish to have a design from a magazine or a favourite garment replicated, Hanoi is the place for you!



One of the partners in my practice swears by [Hoa Fashion](#). I suggest you take a 20min GRAB car ride there on Monday morning and pick up your tailored clothes on Wednesday or on return from Halong Bay. If you prefer a tailor within walking distance, go to [Ngo Minh Tailor](#) which is just round the corner from the Metropole hotel. The shop specialises in men's tailoring but also makes women's clothing. Drop by on Sunday to give yourself more time to get fitted."

Hoa Fashion

Closed on Sundays.
Mo - Sa: 9 am - 12 pm and 2 - 7 pm

Address | [Google Maps](#)
Vietnam/1 Đ. Xuân Diệu, Tây Hồ
Hà Nội 100000

Phone: +84 98 909 9268

Ngo Minh Tailor

Open 7 days a week:
8 am to 7 pm

Address | [Google Maps](#):
8 Tràng Tiền, French Quarter,
Hoàn Kiếm, Hà Nội 100000

Phone: +84 37 257 3333



The Tours in Detail

Walking Food Tour with Train Street Visit (3.5 - 4 hours)

Monday morning (08:00-12:00 noon) and Wednesday afternoon (02:00 - 06:00 pm)

08:00 am / 02:00 pm

Departure from Sofitel Metropole Hotel
Stops and tastings at:



Quan Goc Da Restaurant

Sample four iconic traditional Vietnamese snacks such as crab spring rolls, pillow cake, fresh pho rolls and grilled lemongrass pork skewers. Vegetarian options are available.

Banh Mi Mama

Savor the incredible flavors of a classic, authentic Vietnamese banh mi.



Pho Ga Nguyet

Taste one of Vietnam's most legendary iconic dishes, Pho, at a place featured in the Michelin Guide for 4 consecutive years.

Avoccino

Treat yourself to an iconic local dessert such as avocado ice cream or sticky rice with mango ice cream.

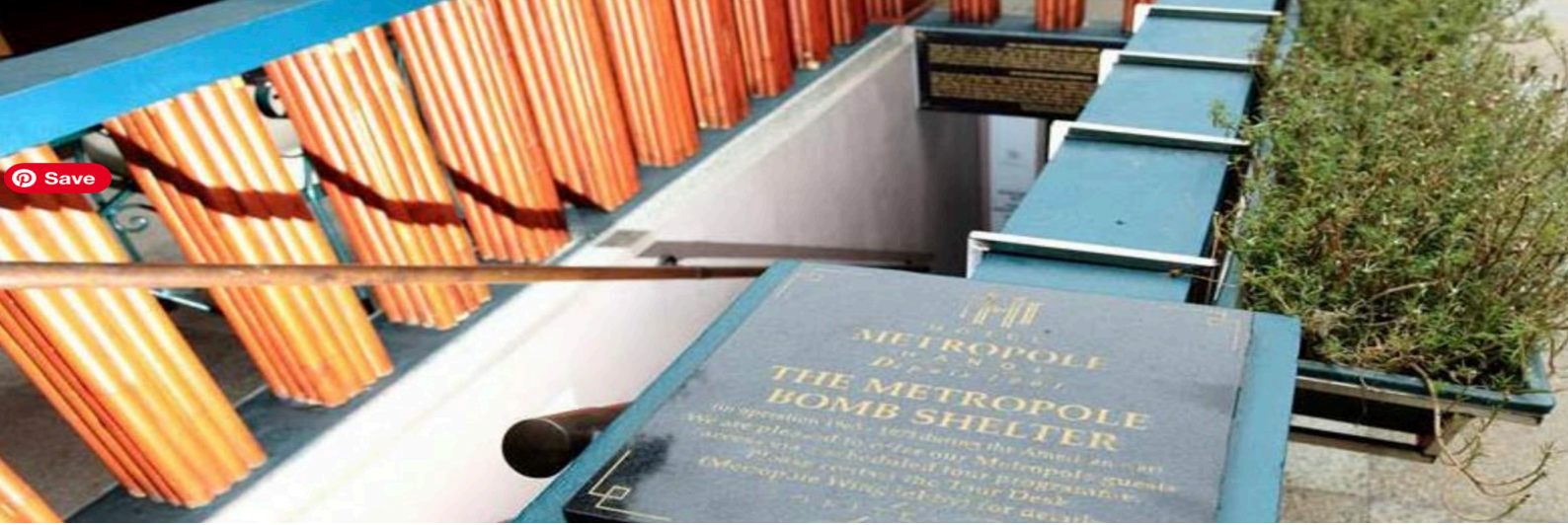


Coffee at Hanoi's iconic Train Street

Enjoy a reserved front-row seat with the absolute best view. Enjoy a Vietnamese coffee (or any beverage of your choice) as the train passes.

12 noon / 06:00 pm

Return to Sofitel Metropole Hotel



The Tours in Detail

Guided History Tour of the Metropole's War-time Bunker (30 minutes)

Offered twice daily (11:30 am - 12:00 noon and 02:30 - 03:00 pm)

Begin the expert-guided tour at the **Heritage Wing of the Sofitel Metropole Hotel** where archived photos and unique artifacts tell the hotel's story.

Descend into the original bomb shelter used by journalists, artists, and travelers during air raids in the 1970s.

Rediscovered in 2011, the shelter offers a haunting yet unforgettable atmosphere. The tour includes a moving soundtrack, including "Where Are You Now, My Son" by Joan Baez, recorded during her stay in 1972, amplifying the emotional experience.





The Tours in Detail

Hanoi Half-Day City Tour (3.5 - 4 hours)

Monday afternoon, 02:00 - 06:00 pm

Tuesday morning, 08:00 am - 12:00 noon

08:00 am / 02:00 pm Departure from Sofitel Metropole Hotel

Sights to be visited incl. Saint Joseph Cathedral
Hoa Lo Prison
Tran Quoc Pagoda, one of Hanoi's oldest temples, built in 541 AD
Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum (passing by only)
Golden Lotus Silk (rest stop)

12:00 noon / 06:00 pm Return to Sofitel Metropole Hotel

The Golden Lotus Silk - Experience Vietnamese craftsmanship firsthand!

Each floor features something special—from delicate embroidered paintings and premium silk garments (including lotus and bamboo silk) to exquisite Vietnamese jewelry. Sample local coffee, tea, and traditional treats.





The Tours in Detail

Vietnamese Cooking Class with Market Visit (5 - 6 hours)

Wednesday, 08:00 am - 01:00 pm

08:00 am

Departure from Sofitel Metropole Hotel

Itinerary

Welcome drink at the restaurant



The chef will recommend 3 - 4 signature dishes to cook and introduce you to the ingredients.

Learn some basic Vietnamese words to communicate with local shopkeepers.

Visit a traditional market to pick fresh vegetables & ingredients

Prepare and cook the food

Enjoy the dishes you cooked!

Receive a cooking certificate from the Chef

Return to Sofitel Metropole Hotel at approx. 01:00 pm





The Tours in Detail

Cyclo / Trishaw Ride and Water Puppet Show

Tuesday, 06:00 - 08:00 pm

- 06:00 pm Departure from Sofitel Metropole Hotel for a Cyclo ride through the city, drop off at Water Puppet Theatre
- 07:00 - 08:00 pm Water Puppet Show (approx. 1 hour)
- followed by Free and easy stroll through the night market.
Dinner on your own.
Individual return to Sofitel Metropole Hotel.





IIIC Golf Tournament

Long Bien Golf Course, Hanoi

Tuesday, 3 November, 2026

12:30 pm

Approx. 01:00 pm

Departure from Sofitel Metropole Hotel

Tee-off

Full round with shared golf carts and one caddie per player

Tournament Format

Ladies' Winner:

Single Stableford

Men's Winner:

Single Stableford

Group Winners:

Best group determined by the sum of Stableford points from all four members

Team Winners:

USA vs. Asia vs Europe

(combined Stableford points for the highest total)

A big thank you goes to Takashi Hida for organizing and continuing the IIIC Golf Tournament tradition!





I believe that our social program offers plenty of opportunities to connect and enjoy the local culture together. As you prepare for your visit, the practical information previously sent by email is repeated below.

I look forward to hosting all of you.

Ron Yeoh, IIIC President



Welcome to Vietnam!

PRE-TRAVEL TIPS

Visa Requirements

As of 2026, Vietnam has expanded its visa exemption list. [Click here](#) for an updated list categorized by stay duration.

Digital pre-arrival card

Submit your online digital pre-arrival card via this (free) website:

prearrival.immigration.gov.vn

Fast track clearance

A meet and greet agent will guide you through dedicated immigration counters without lengthy lines. If interested in this service (USD40 per person), [email Ron](#) to have it booked for you.

Currency

1 USD = 26,000 VND (Vietnamese dong)
Put another way, 1 million VND is about USD40.
(Tipping is neither required nor expected.)

ARRIVING IN VIETNAM

Transfer from Airport to Metropole Hotel

Use the GRAB app

GRAB is the UBER equivalent in Asia and ordering a GRAB car is the best way to get around in Hanoi. You may want to download the GRAB app before you begin your travel. Cost for drive to hotel ca. USD15.

VIETTEL Airport Car Transfer Service

Has two prominent booths in red and white on either side of the arrival hall after you exit the baggage area. Cost ca. USD24. The driver will come and bring you to the vehicle.

Limo Transfer

Arrange pickup with Sofitel Metropole Hotel. Cost ca. USD150.