

# DestinAsian

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# Cocooned in the Charms of Vietnam

Look to Phu Quoc and the island's award-winning La Veranda Resort for your next summertime getaway.

**D**reaming of a Southeast Asian beach vacation without the crowds? Up-and-coming Phu Quoc, Vietnam's Pearl Island, has natural charms aplenty and luxurious lodgings to suit both active families and the wellness-minded traveler.

Situated on a wide stretch of beach lapped by calm azure waters, the five-star boutique La Veranda Resort MGallery by Sofitel recalls the grandeur of a French-colonial mansion, with high ceilings, antique-style fans, interiors of polished wood, and all the creature comforts one could wish for. It has been recognized as Vietnam's "Luxury Boutique Hotel of the Year" in the 2016 Luxury Travel Guide, Asia's best in the Luxury Romantic Beach Resort category at the 2017 World Luxury Hotel Awards, and most recently in the 2018 TripAdvisor Traveler's Choice Awards.

Families are especially well taken care of this summer thanks to the Very Important Kid, or VIK, offer. Children under 12 can

look forward to welcome cookies and drinks, special in-room amenities, and even a teddy bear turn-down service. The in-house VIK Kids Club features an indoor library and play center, mini screening room, and Xbox gaming, while La Veranda's all-day beach activities are designed to keep guests of all ages entertained, with exciting treasure hunts and other benefits included in the room rate.

Beyond the resort lies a slew of attractions to discover. A must-see is the historic Dinh Cau lighthouse and temple, a popular place among locals to watch a tropical ocean sunset. You can ascend the 29 steps to a terrace at the base of the landmark blue-and-white striped lighthouse, stop by the shrine dedicated to sea goddess Thien Hau, and admire the view overlooking Duong Dong Town and its fishing port.

Nature lovers should head to Phu Quoc National Park in the island's northeast,



which hosts the last remaining stand of primary rain forest in southern Vietnam. Below the soaring dipterocarps with enormous buttress roots, the reserve shelters more than 200 animal species, including the great hornbill, silvered langur, small-clawed otter, and slow loris. Meanwhile, the smaller islands to the north and south of Phu Quoc are a wonderland for snorkeling or diving, with healthy coral reefs and colorful schools of fish.

Back at La Veranda, rejuvenate your mind and body with the Escape to Wellness, a special summer offer that provides a raft of complimentary activities such as daily yoga and meditation by the sea, along with workshops on the art of Vietnamese massage. Whether it's for a family or wellness holiday, Vietnam's La Veranda will have you covered.

For more information, visit [laverandaresorts.com](http://laverandaresorts.com)



Clockwise from this photo: A Junior suite at La Veranda Resort Phu Quoc; poolside at the French colonial-style property; guests can join morning yoga sessions by the beach.