

*While many people are excited about the opening of pedestrian zones in Hà Nội, others are still sceptical about the effectiveness of such zones, especially when Hà Nội is planning to open several pedestrian streets additionally.*



Hoàn Kiếm Lake pedestrian space - the first of its kind in Hà Nội - was graced with advantages that others in the city are unable to compete with, particularly in terms of culture, history, architecture and landscape. — VNA/VNS Photo Thành Đạt

HÀ NỘI — While the general public is excited about the presence of pedestrian zones in Hà Nội, others are still sceptical about the effectiveness of the many walking-only areas that the capital city is planning to open.

The city now has three existing pedestrian zones, namely the Hoàn Kiếm Lake, part of the Old Quarter and Trần Công Sơn Street.

The fourth pedestrian zone of Hà Nội will be launched late this month around Sơn Tây Old fortress citadel, a military base built by King Minh Mạng in 1822 to protect Thăng Long Imperial Citadel.

Visitors to the zones will have a chance to enjoy contemporary art performances, street music,

folk dance, portrait painting, calligraphy, boat racing, fishing, and water puppetry.

Many art and photo exhibitions, book events, and activities for children will also be held together with culinary services, souvenirs stores and typical products of Sơn Tây.

Meanwhile, other areas across the city have been proposed to open pedestrian zones, including the night food street at Ngọc Island - Ngũ Xã in Ba Đình district; the business and service quarters around Ngọc Khánh Lake in Ba Đình District, a walking space around Thiệu Quang Lake in Hai Bà Trưng District, a pedestrian street in the South New Urban Area project, Ring Road 3 – Bitexco in Hoàng Mai District, and a walking space around Văn Miếu – Quốc Tử Giám in Đống Đa District.

Considered a tourism product, pedestrian spaces in Hà Nội are mostly following of the model that is applied to the Hoàn Kiếm lake pedestrian space.

However, it's easy to see that the Hoàn Kiếm Lake pedestrian space has advantages that others cannot compare to, at least those relating to the site's culture, history, architecture and landscape.

Many people are concerned that if the localities cannot choose a highlight that creates the "soul" of their walking space, it is likely that these spaces will be the same, or even just turned into a market for goods trading.

The walking space on Trần Công Sơn Street in Tây Hồ District was designed to be a space for performing arts and street food. The pedestrian street used to be quite crowded partly because it was new with abundant activities to offer. It also had the advantage of exploiting the space along the West Lake, quite a popular destination given the landscape and the range of cafes, restaurants, and bars that are oriented towards both locals and foreigners in the city.

# Pedestrian streets should focus on quality over quantity

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nhân viên của công ty này đã mua một chiếc máy ảnh để chụp ảnh và đăng tải lên mạng xã hội. Tuy nhiên, sau khi bị phát hiện, công ty đã yêu cầu họ xóa bỏ nội dung và xóa bỏ tài khoản. Đây là một ví dụ điển hình về việc các công ty sử dụng quyền sở hữu trí tuệ để bảo vệ lợi ích của mình, nhưng cũng có thể dẫn đến việc hạn chế quyền tự do ngôn luận và sáng tạo của công dân.