

A walkabout in Bac Ha

Bac Ha is most famous for its Sunday market. However, the area is much less touristy than Sapa and populated by the very colorfully garbed flower H'mong. When I arrived on Thursday afternoon there was not a single other foreigner in town, since most people only come in to town on the weekend, if they even stay a night at all. My first full day in town, I decided to head out to see the countryside by foot. With only my sense of direction to guide me I set out following paths up the surrounding mountains. This strategy never seems to fail me and anytime I set out with not particular destination in mind I end up having an amazing day. This day was no exception after wondering through some rice terraces I emerged at a small house and was invited inside for a drink that turned into lunch. The men and women ate at different tables. And the men seemed to get more food and then pass there leftovers on to the women's table. Not wanting to take anyone else's portions I ate sparsely and upon leaving gave the family some money for the food. While the family didn't have much they did have a spectacular view out over the valley. From their village I continued hiking up to the peak of one of the mountains and then followed the ridge until the path dropped down in to another very scenic area full of women working in the rice terraces.



The view out in front of the house where I ate lunch. They didn't have much but they had a million dollar view. Bac Ha.



Eating lunch with the flower H'mong. I always find it interesting how people decorate their house. It seems glamour posters of young attractive models and random scenic posters are the preferred decor, Bac Ha.



Family I ate with relaxing after the meal. Bac Ha.



Family I ate with outside there house posing with a water buffalo. Bac Ha.



Landscape around Bac Ha.



H'mong girl walks along a rice field. Bac Ha.



Plowing the rice patties with a water buffalo. Bac Ha.



View from the top of the mountain I hike to, the red X shows where I started from in, Bac Ha.



Flower H'mong woman with her two boys. Bac Ha.



Flower H'mong woman walks through terraced rice fields. Bac Ha.



View of the landscape near Bac Ha.



**Flower H'mong women replanting rice.
Bac Ha.**

