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WELCOME TO  
**VIETNAM**

[www.vietnamtour.co.za](http://www.vietnamtour.co.za)

**VIETNAM PRE - DEPARTURE GUIDE**



# A LITTLE ABOUT VIETNAM

**V**ietnam is one of the most beautiful countries located in the South East Asia. In the North, Vietnam shares the long borderline with China. In the East, Vietnam is bordered by the Gulf of Tonkin and "Bien Dong" - the East Sea, in the South West by the Gulf of Thailand, and in the West by Cambodia and Laos. Stretching the length of the Indochinese Peninsula, Vietnam boasts a unique shape of an elongated S and a long coastline of 3,260km with a lot of wonderful sites.

## **SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

Population: 99.3 million

Total Area: 331.212 square kilometers

Capital City: Hanoi (8.5 million)

People: 54 ethnic minorities

Language: Vietnamese

Currency: Vietnam Dong (VND)

Time Zone: GMT +7 Hours

International Dialing Code: +84

# INFORMATION FOR TRAVELLERS



## 1. PASSPORT & VISA

Passports should be valid for six months from the date of return to your country of origin. We recommend you make a photocopy of your passport and keep it somewhere separate, or scan it and keep it in an accessible email account. Visitors must have a visa before entering Vietnam. You can find more information on [vietnamtour.co.za](http://vietnamtour.co.za) or contact us on +84 387 425 876 for support.

## 2. VIETNAMESE CURRENCY

The official currency in Vietnam is the Dong (VND) which is a non-convertible currency. Visa and MasterCard are becoming more accepted in hotels, restaurants and large stores, especially in the bigger cities. ATM's are widely available throughout the country, and there are a number of international banks in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.



## 3. TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS

To the rest of the world are widely available, however they aren't cheap. A Vietnamese SIM card is a less expensive way of calling other countries, however your phone will need to be unlocked in order for it to work. For example, 200,000VND worth of Viettel credit (\$10) can last for up to 30-45 minute call to your country. Internet access is available in all major tourist places and you will find WiFi in most coffee shops in built up areas.

## 4. TRANSPORTATION

The traffic in Vietnam is busy, but slow. It may look like chaos but don't be frightened to cross the road. Simply make your way shaking your whole hand at waist height. You'll soon see other people doing the same. Taxis are a popular way of getting around Hanoi but make sure you use a reputable company. A typical 10 minute journey should cost around 50,000 VND but prices tend to increase at night.



## 5. WEATHER

Vietnam has a diverse climate that varies significantly from region to region:

- The North (Hanoi to Sapa):
  - April to October: temperatures between 30-35°C with occasional bursts of heavy rain.
  - December to March: temperatures between 10-15°C. February and March can be damp with drizzle and overcast skies. The Centre (Hue to Nha Trang)

- Nha Trang: sunshine all year round apart from November and December when the area has heavy rain.

- Dalat: cooler than the coastal area, particularly from November to March.

- Da Nang and Hue: typhoons from mid October to mid December

- The South (Ho Chi Minh City to Phan Thiet)

- May to October: hot and wet

- November to April: hot and humid

Please note: The weather can be very unpredictable so it may be a good idea to carry an umbrella or raincoat with you. You can purchase these from supermarkets and general stores.

## 6. VACCINATION AND TRAVEL INSURANCE

Before travelling, please ensure you have adequate protection against disease. Contact your doctor for the latest medical advice on the vaccinations you need, no less than two months before your departure. Be aware that there is a malaria risk in rural parts of Vietnam.

Travel insurance is a cost effective way of protecting yourself and your equipment should any problems occur such as cancelled trips, delays, medical emergencies, baggage loss or damage. It also gives you peace of mind. Please also make sure your travel insurance covers all activities planned on your trip. You can ask [vietnamtour.co.za](http://vietnamtour.co.za) for a quote.





## 1. FOOD

Eating out in Vietnam ranges from street food to fine dining in luxury hotels. It cannot be denied that Vietnamese food is tasty and healthy. Rice is the staple cereal and fish-sauce “nuoc mam” is extensively used. The most popular dish among the local people is the Phở - a noodle soup with meat, beef or chicken, available at all food stalls at US \$1.50 per bowl. Another specialty is the spring roll, which is found in many versions, with varying ingredients used.



## 2. DRINKS

It is also recommended that you buy bottled water rather than drinking tap water. Don't miss out the “bia hơi” (meaning “beer gas”), as the Vietnamese call draught beer. Imported brands such as Carlsberg, San Miguel and Heineken are available along with local brands such as Tiger, Saigon, and 333 (pronounced “ba-ba-ba”). Ca phe trung – or egg coffee – is a must-try Hanoi treat. A creamy soft, meringue-like egg white foam is perched on dense Vietnamese coffee.



# VIETNAM

## CULTURE & CUSTOM



## 3. NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

- TET (Vietnamese New Year): generally takes place at the end of January or early February and lasts for at least three days.
- Liberation of Saigon: 30 April
- International Worker's Day: 1 May
- Hung King's memorial day: 10 March (lunar calendar)
- Vietnamese National Day: 2 September.

## 4. CLOTHINGS

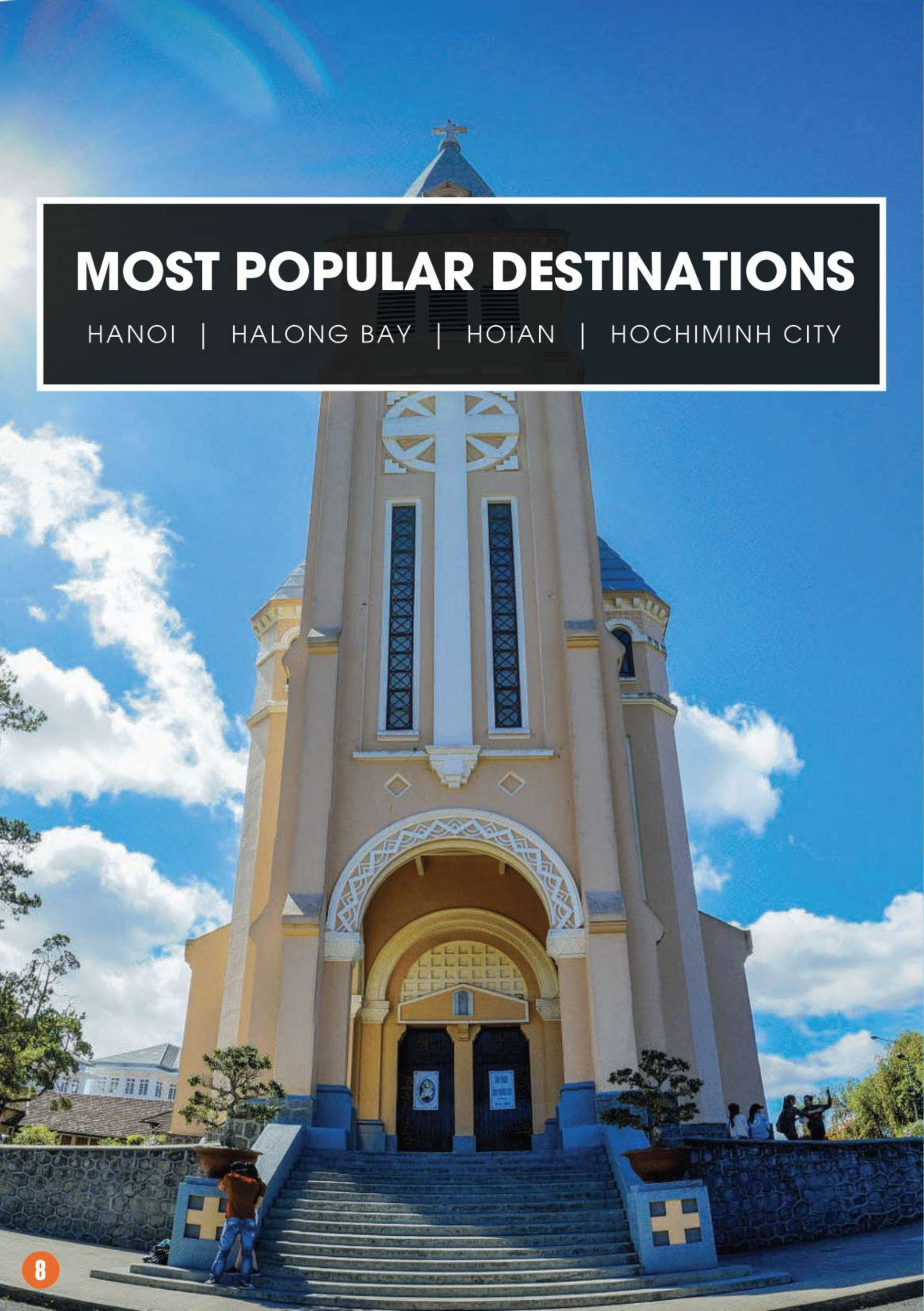
In Vietnam, there are 54 ethnic groups, each having unique and specific styles of clothing. Traits often include splendid colours, seemingly contradicting one another in each outfit: black and red, blue and red or blue and white. Ao Dai is the traditional dress in Vietnam. It's also a symbol of Vietnam.

## 5. LANGUAGE

The official language of Vietnam is Vietnamese, which is the mother tongue of the Vietnamese people who constitute 86% of Vietnam's population, and of about three million overseas Vietnamese. And it is the second language of the ethnic minority groups in the country. It is monosyllabic, with each syllable having six different tones that can change the meaning of the word. This makes it quite difficult for new learners. Beside the official language, each ethnic minority group has its own dialect that has been used and preserved in daily life.

# MOST POPULAR DESTINATIONS

HANOI | HALONG BAY | HOIAN | HOCHIMINH CITY



- SAPA
- HA LONG BAY
- HANOI
- NINH BINH
- LAOS
- THAILAND
- HUE
- HOANG SA
- DA NANG
- HOI AN
- DA LAT
- NHA TRANG
- MUI NE
- HO CHI MINH CITY
- PHU QUOC
- MEKONG DELTA
- TRUONG SA
- GULF OF THAILAND
- CAMBODIA

# HANOI

*Hanoi has been Vietnam's capital city for 1,000 years, save a century when Hue took the helm. Before that, the Chinese ruled Vietnam for a millennia. Nestled in a great bend of the Red River, Hanoi has a compelling charm not bestowed on its raucous southern sister, Ho Chi Minh City. If you're doing your research for a vacation to Vietnam or you'd like to learn more about this enigmatic city read on, and enjoy!*



## **Hoan Kiem Lake**

At the heart of old Hanoi is Hoan Kiem Lake (Lake of the Restored Sword), named after the sacred weapon that helped repel a Chinese attack in the 15th century. Ngoc Son Pagoda sits on a small island linked to the shore by a photogenic wooden bridge. The lake supports a large population of turtles.



## **One Pillar Pagoda**

The One Pillar Pagoda dates from 1049 and is one of the few surviving structures from the original city (although the central shrine was rebuilt in 1955). It is said to have miraculous healing powers.



## **Temple of Literature**

Hanoi's largest temple complex is the Temple of Literature, with five interconnecting courtyards. Van Mieu was a centre of learning for centuries, and it was here that the Confucian examinations took place.



## **Opera House**

Fully restored in 1997 at a cost of US\$15 million, the Opera House is one of the best examples of French colonial architecture in Hanoi. The interior is magnificent; try to catch a performance if you can.

## **Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum**

A visit to the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum is a good starting point for anyone interested in understanding the Vietnam of today. The national hero died in 1969 and was embalmed by Soviet experts. More detail on the great man is provided at the nearby Ho Chi Minh Museum, while Ho Chi Minh's house, also nearby, is one of the most peaceful places in modern Hanoi.





### Old Quarter

Hanoi's historic Old Quarter is also known as 'The 36 Streets'. This area, which is almost entirely devoted to commerce, dates back seven centuries to the time when a group of 36 guilds established themselves in the area, each on a particular street. Today many of the original street names survive. Examples include Hang Ma (Paper Street), Hang Bac (Silver Street), Hang Thiec (Tin Street) and Hang Chieu (Mat Street) – of these only Hang Bac still continues in its original craft, specializing in the sale of jewelry. The best way to see the Old Quarter is on foot, seeking out the most interesting sights, one of which is the lively Dong Xuan Market.

## Food & Drink



### Bun Cha

Is just one of the many dishes that are cherished by Hanoians. Comprising of mountains of vermicelli noodles, topped with a forest of fresh herbs and served with strips of pork and pork patties. The thing that really makes this dish special is the sweet and sour fish - based broth that will uncover a whole new palette of tastes.

#### Address:

- 34 Hang Than street
- 74 Hang Quat street
- 41 Cua Dong street
- 24 Le Van Huu street

### The Vietnam Museum of Ethnology

This museum is another place jam packed with history and culture. The exhibits focus on highlighting different areas of daily life for each of the 54 diverse and unique ethnic minorities in Vietnam. Here you can discover local traditions through a range of media including artefacts, videos, installations and photographs. Arguably, the most impressive elements are the life-size replicas of traditional houses from across Vietnam which are set in the shade of the wooded garden.



### The Water Puppet Theatre

This theatre is a well-established activity for the majority of people visiting Hanoi and with good reason. Skillfully carved wooden puppets are manipulated upon a stage of water to tell amusing anecdotes about life in rural Vietnam. All performances are accompanied by a soundtrack of live traditional Vietnamese musicians and vocalists. The charm of the show and slapstick comedy make for great entertainment for all ages.



### Egg coffee

Is a Hanoi specialty which is traditionally prepared with egg yolks, sugar, condensed milk and Robusta coffee. The drink is made by beating egg yolks with sugar and coffee, then extracting the coffee into the half of the cup, followed by a similar amount of egg cream, which is prepared by heating and beating the yolks.

#### Address:

- 39 Nguyen Huu Huan street
- 13 Dinh Tien Hoang street
- 11 Hang Gai street



### Bia Hoi

Bia Hoi is local beer, freshly brewed, light, and cheap. Hanoi takes on a whole new persona at night. As the fairy lights that crisscross the main streets flicker into action, the streets become alive with frivolity. The most famous spots to enjoy the fun are Bia Corner on Ma May and Ta Hien Street.

### Pho

Is a staple of Vietnamese cuisine, there are however subtle differences in the dish depending on where you are in Vietnam. Hanoian Pho, steaming hot and massively appealing, is characterized by a clearer broth compared to its southern counterpart. Best enjoyed at one of the many street-side restaurants, follow your sense of smell and the local customers to find the best bowl.

#### Address:

- 49 Bat Dan street
- 10 Ly Quoc Su street
- 42 Hang Voi street
- 1 Hang Trong street



# HALONG BAY



*Being known as a cultural, economic and political center of Quang Ninh Province, Ha Long city is one of the most attractive destinations in Vietnam. Located in the South of the city, Ha Long Bay is a World Natural Heritage Site recognized by UNESCO for its thousands of islands. Let's follow us to discover the breathtaking beauty of Ha Long Bay and find out some tasty specialities of this tropical paradise.*



## 1. When to go

One of the best times for Halong Bay is October and November – there are blue skies aplenty, temperatures are moderate and there's a good chance of calm seas. From May to September tropical storms can whip up without much warning (just few days). This is also high season in Halong, particularly from June to mid-August when domestic tourism peaks. December to February is often cool and drizzly, and the fog can make visibility low, though also adds an ethereal atmosphere.

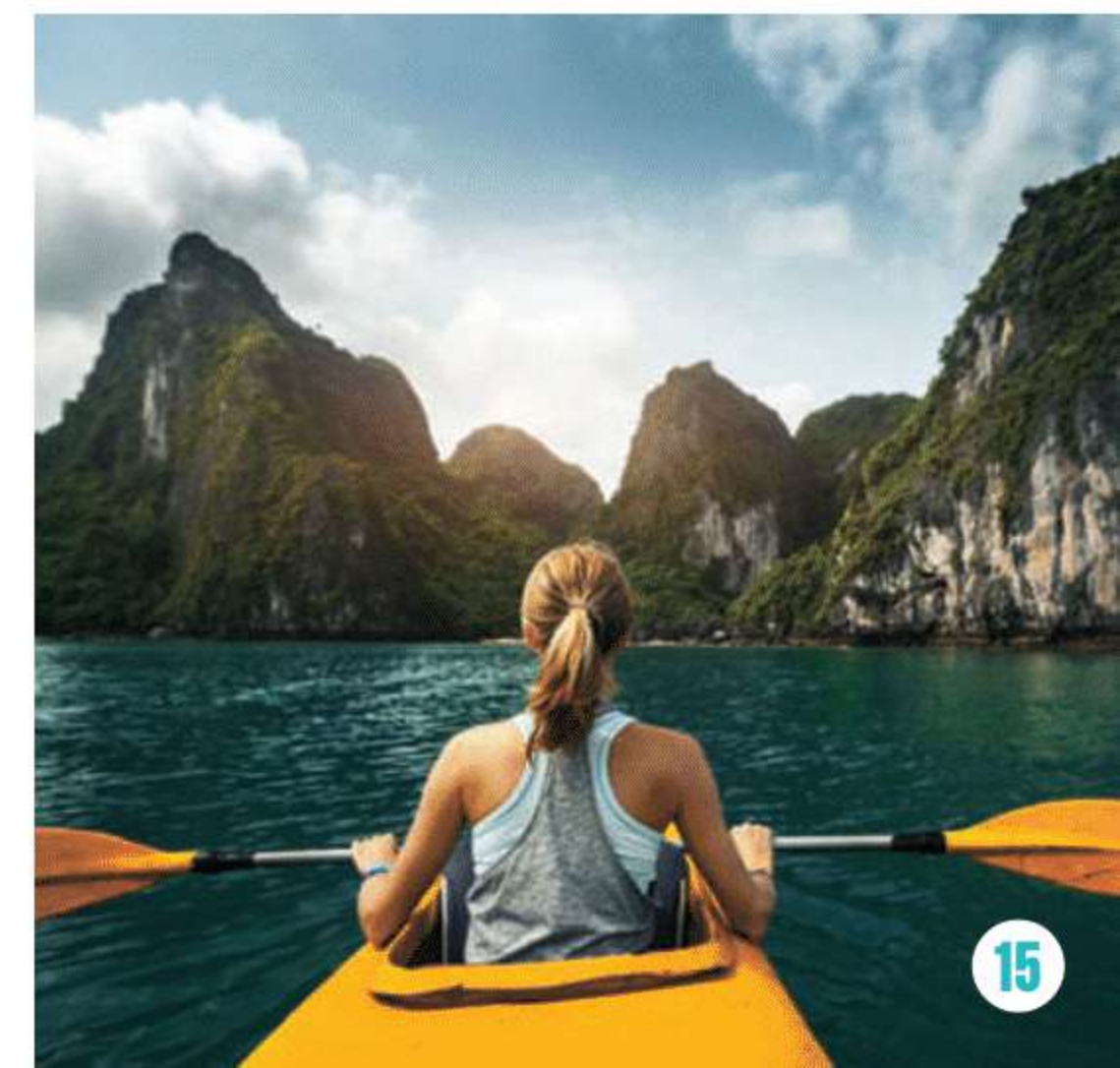
Year-round, cruises and tourist boats sometimes need to alter their itineraries, or trips can be cancelled with little warning depending on the weather and sea conditions (but don't worry because during a year of 365 days, there are only 6-8 days when the cruises need to be cancelled because of the weather.

## 2. How to get to Halong Bay

- From Hanoi, it's 160km from the center to Halong Bay and it takes 3.5 hours by car or 45 minutes by seaplane.
- From Hai Phong, it's 90km and it takes 2 hours
- You can travel to Halong Bay from Hanoi by private car, tourist bus or seaplane.

## 3. What to do on Halong Bay

- Cruising among thousand of stone islet. You may want to spend 1 night or 2 nights on the bay.
- Visiting pearl farm, surprising caves or floating houses
- Kayaking
- Swimming
- Fishing







#### 4. Hidden Grottos and Caves

Hidden among the dense jungles are the gorgeous caves and stunning grottos in various shapes and sizes. They feature a great number of stalactite and stalagmite allowing tourists to use their imagination. You can explore some of the most amazing caves in Halong Bay such as Sung Sot Cave, Thien Cung Cave, Dau Go Cave, Hon Trong Cave, Luon Cave and so on.



#### 5. Cua Van fishing village

Thanks to the natural beauty and tranquil atmosphere, Cua Van fishing village is one of the most charming attractions in Halong Bay. It is home to more than 200 fishing families. The boats were painted in vivid colors which created a beautiful picture bobbing on the vast bay. The unique characteristics of Cua Van Fishing villages have brought it to become one of 16 villages remaining pristine and glamorous beauty over the world.



#### 6. Grilled chopped Squid

Grilled chopped Squid has been put in the top 10 delicious food in Asia. The dish has its own sweet smell and exquisite taste which cannot be mistaken with any other dishes. The main ingredient created the brand of Ha Long's Grilled chopped Squid is the big fin reef squid living in Halong sea.

#### 7. Grilled oysters

Grilled oysters are considered as the most favorite Halong's item of food by Westerners. Oyster is a nutritious food and provides a plethora of energy for your body. After being cleaned and grilled on the charcoal stove, the oyster is sprinkled with lemon pepper salt and green onion. It is simple but very tasty.

#### 8. Horseshoe crab

Horseshoe crab is a type of arthropod crustacean which is used as the main ingredient of many delicacies such as fried horseshoe crab's eggs, sweet and sour fried legs, grilled chopped horseshoe crab, horseshoe crab sauteed vermicelli, etc. The flavors of these dishes always come with sour and hot spices of lemongrass, chili and vinegar. The dishes promise to satisfy even the toughest foodies.

# HOI AN

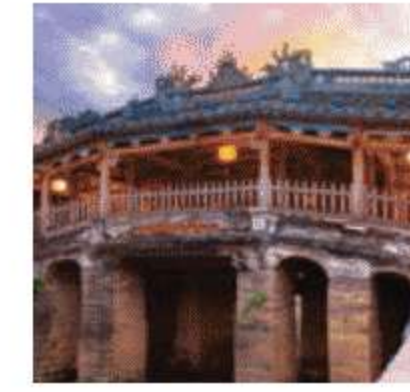
There is no doubt that Hoi An ancient town is a precious jewel on the central coast of Vietnam making thousands of tourists fall in love with its unique charms. The town remains the impression of the 15th to 19th century trading port with the stunning architecture influenced by Chinese, Japanese and French culture. What is more, this UNESCO heritage site also offers its visitors with splendid beaches, delectable cuisine and beautiful traditional handicrafts.



## MUST SEE

### Japanese Bridge

Signature bridge of Hoi An with intricately designed structure and a pedestrian passageway.



### The Chinese Temples

Various temples of Hoi An which were built by the Chinese merchant from the 18th century that display the cultural diversity of the architecture in Hoi An.



### My Son

An ancient complex of the Hindu Temple built by the kings of Champa. This temple is famous for its mysterious construction that no scientists know the exact details.



### Cua Dai Beach

Located a bit out of the way of Hoi An, you can reach this local beach easily by bikes with scenic rice field on both side of the road.

### An Bang Beach

The neighbor beach of Cua Dai, you will need to traverse further to reach it but the few extra mile is definitely worth it for the emerald water and pearly white sand.



### Tan Ky Chinese - style House

Constructed in the 18th century, this preserved building is full of antique as well as a great place for gift shop.



### Tra Que Village

The main source of greenery and vegetable for Hoi An. Visiting this town, you will have a glimpse of the farmer's life in Vietnam as well as take part into the process of growing and harvesting your own goods.

### Hai Van Pass

If you are in Hoi An, you will probably see this on your way from Da Nang. As one of the main route that connects Da Nang with Hoi An, it has a breathtaking sight overlooking the ocean and cities.

# SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

## Town walking

Obviously, this will be on your radar when visiting Hoi An. Just a simple walk through the old town seeing the small shops along the street along with the people going through their days is an enchanting. The town at night is even more magical with lit lanterns.



## Biking

It is a great idea for people who would like some outdoor activities also a great mean to reach outer destinations such as the beaches, Tra Que Village, etc.



## Having tailor-made clothes

Hoi An has tons of craft / tailor shop that can give you a great fitting suit with high quality fabric at an affordable rate.

## Drinking tea at Reaching Out Teahouse

Reaching Out Teahouse is highly praised for a good reason. With serene setting, fine tea, elaborative cutleries and unique service from the disabled people you will feel like being lost in a tranquil oasis in the middle of the busy town.



# WEATHER

## January to April:

Comfortable temperatures, low humidity, an overall great period to visit Hoi An. Though the earlier months can be a bit chilly.

## May to August:

The hottest months of Hoi An, the highest temperature can reach 38°C (100°F). Still a great time to enjoy Hoi An as you can cool off with the beach.

## September to December:

Hoi An's rainy season. October and November are most humid months.

# LOCAL FOODS



## Cao Lau (Rice Noodles With Barbecued Pork, Greens And Croutons):

This is the distinct dish of the central region of Vietnam which made with noodle, pork and green herbs. This is the unique invention of the cultural mix of the history of trading port.

Estimated cost: **VND 20,000 – VND 50,000** / bowl



## Banh Bao Vac (White Rose Dumplings)

This dish has the origin dated back to the 17th century and the name white rose was given by the French because of the shape of the dumplings.

Estimated cost: **VND 30,000 – VND 50,000** / dish



## Banh Mi (Vietnamese Baguettes)

Probably one of the most famous specialties of Vietnam and Hoi An is considered the best place to get a banh mi. With the crispy buns of the traditional French baguettes and the creative stuffings vary from pork, chicken, eggs, sausage, beef and the special sauces that leave everyone wanting more.

Estimated cost: **VND 15,000 – VND 30,000** / banh

Where to eat: Phi Banh Mi, Madam Khanh, Banh Mi Phuong



## Com Ga (Chicken Rice)

Who would have thought that rice combine with shredded chicken, green herbs and lime can be so delicious? Com ga has made its name among the travelers for a good reason with its fresh green, tender chicken and the light tang of the lime.

Estimated cost: **VND 30,000 – VND 50,000** / dish



## My Quang (Quang-styled Noodle)

It is actually originated from Quang Nam but the popularity and the tastiness of My Quang here in Hoi An is no worse compared to its root. Wide strand of noodles with hot broth and various topping such as shrimps, pork, beefs is the perfect gourmet dish for a full and hearty meal.

Estimated cost: **VND 30,000 – VND 50,000** / bowl

# Must-see sites in Ho Chi Minh City



## HO CHI MINH CITY

*Once called "The Pearl of the Far East" by the French, Ho Chi Minh City, also known as Saigon definitely has many things to offer. Embracing the harmonious combination of the present and the past with hundreds of modern skyscrapers, crowded streets amidst charming colonial buildings and oriental spiritual structures, Ho Chi Minh City is a special place with very unique ambience. Visitors will not only have a chance to experience the history and culture of the region but also taste the delicious Southern culinary as well as meet the most lovely and hospitable locals.*



### **Saigon Notre-Dam Cathedral**

Built in 1880 by French colonialists with Romanesque architecture style.



### **Reunification Palace**

Is a famous landmark in Ho Chi Minh City and was the home and workplace of the President of South Vietnam during Vietnam War.



### **Saigon Central Post Office**

Constructed in 1891 near the Notre-Dam Cathedral. It counts with Gothic, Renaissance and French influences.



### **Ben Thanh Market**

One of the earliest surviving structure of Old Saigon and is an importance symbol of Ho Chi Minh City popular with tourist seeking souvenirs and local cuisine.

# Must-try street food in Ho Chi Minh City



## **Hu Tieu (Rice Noodle)**

A subtitle version of 'Pho', featuring a clear pork-based broth, flat rice noodles, and an assortment of pork toppings. The most popular variation is Hủ Tiếu Xương, topped with pork ribs. Alternatively, you can enjoy Hủ Tiếu with shrimp, squid, or fish if you're not a fan of pork. Price for a bowl of Hủ Tiếu range from VND20,000 – 25,000 (~ USD 1 – 1.2)



## **Com Tam (Broken Rice)**

Meaning 'broken rice' in Vietnamese, usually served with fried egg, diced green onions, and a variety of meats such as barbecued pork, shredded pork skin, and steamed pork and egg patty. A dish usually cost VND 20,000 (~USD 1)



## **Bánh Xèo (Crispy Pancake)**

Named for the sizzling sound its batter makes on the skillet. It's made like a pancake and served like a crepe – if pancakes and crepes were filled with pork, shrimp and bean sprouts. Dipped in fish sauce. Unlike the ones you find in Nha Trang and Hanoi, bánh xèo in Ho Chi Minh City is much smaller in portion as it is usually eaten as a snack or appetizer. Price from VND 20,000 (~ 1 USD)



## **Oc (Water snail)**

Steamed or sautéed in tamarind sauce, fried or boiled in coconut milk, snails are an especially loved after-hours snack in Saigon. Whether sourced from land, sea or freshwater, snails in Vietnam are perhaps more approachable than French escargot, but just as tasty. Price from VND 30,000 (~ USD 1.5)

# WEATHER

The weather in Ho Chi Minh City is divided into two separated season: dry and monsoon season. Though each season has its signature characteristics, you can visit Ho Chi Minh city any time during the year:

**Dry season:** Running roughly from December to April, the Dry Season is generally thought of as the best time to visit Ho Chi Minh City. March, April and May are the hottest months, with temperatures reaching as high as 39°C (102°F), but there's less humidity, which makes it much more bearable.

**Monsoon season:** From May to November, the Monsoon Season sees higher humidity and, of course, more rain. Tropical storms are considerably more frequent, but it's still a perfectly good time to visit Saigon because the rain isn't non-stop all day; it usually falls in heavy showers, with sun in between.

# RECOMMENDED EXCURSIONS



## **Ho Chi Minh City After Dark Vespa Tour**

This Ho Chi Minh City night tour is part night excursion, part street food adventure. Experience Saigon nightlife the way locals do, all from the back of a vintage Vespa scooter.



## **Cu Chi Tunnels Tour**

The opportunity to visit the amazing tunnel network of Cu Chi. This incredible system, covering almost 250km in length was shelter to over 16,000 Vietcong guerrillas during the wars. you can even descend into the tunnels to learn more about the harsh conditions faced by Vietcong guerrillas who lived there.



## **Tra Su Cajuput Forest Tour**

Home to 140 types of flora, 70 species of birds, 11 types of animals, 25 species of reptiles, and 23 kinds of fish, the forest is a nature lover's dream. You can explore the area on a day trip in what turns out to be one of our most magical destinations in all of the Mekong Delta.

# EMBASSY CONTACT LIST



**EMBASSY IN HANOI**

| EMBASSY IN HANOI | ADDRESS                                       | PHONE NUMBER       |
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| Argentina        | 4th Floor, Sentinel Place, 41A Ly Thai To Str | (+84) 24 3831 5262 |
| Bangladesh       | Subway 675 Lac Long Quan Str                  | (+84) 243 771 6625 |
| Belarus          | 66 To Ngoc Van Road                           | (+84) 24 3719 2974 |
| Belgium          | 9th Floor Hanoi Tower, 49 Hai Ba Trung Str    | (+84) 243 934 6179 |
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| Brunei           | Villa 8-9 No 44/8-44, 9 Van Bao Str           | (+84) 243 726 0001 |
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| Cambodia         | 71A Tran Hung Dao Str                         | (+84) 24 3942 4789 |
| Canada           | No. 31 Hung Vuong Str                         | (+84) 24 3734 5000 |

|                 |   |                    |
|-----------------|---|--------------------|
| China           | No.46 Hoang Dieu Str  | (+84) 243 845 3736 |
| Cuba            | 65 Ly Thuong Kiet Str   | (+84) 243 942 4775 |
| Denmark         | 7th Floor, BIDV Tower 194 Tran Quang Khai Str                     | (+84) 243 823 1888 |
| North Korea     | 25 Cao Ba Quat Str  | (+84) 243 845 3008 |
| EU              | 56 Ly Thai To Str   | (+84) 243 934 1300 |
| Egypt           | 64 To Ngoc Van Str  | (+84) 24 3829 4999 |
| Finland         | Lotte Center Hanoi, 24th floor, 54 Lieu Giai Str                  | (+84) 243 826 6788 |
| France          | 57 Tran Hung Dao Str  | (+84) 24 3944 5700 |
| German          | 29 Tran Phu Str   | (+84) 24 3267 3335 |
| Hungary         | 9th floor, Hanoi Lake View Residence, 28 Thanh Nien Str           | (+84) 243 771 5714 |
| Indian          | 58-60 Tran Hung Dao Str   | (+84) 243 824 4990 |
| Indonesia       | 50 Ngo Quyen Str  | (+84) 243 825 3353 |
| Iran            | 54 Tran Phu Str   | (+84) 243 823 2068 |
| Iraq            | 66 Tran Hung Dao  | (+84) 243 942 4141 |
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| Italia          | 9 Le Phung Hieu Str   | (+84) 24 3825 6256 |
| Japanese        | 27 Lieu Giai Str  | (+84) 24 3846 3000 |
| Korean          | 28th floor, Lotte Center, 54 Lieu Giai St                         | (+84) 24 3831 5110 |
| Laos            | 40 Quang Trung Str  | (+84) 24 3942 4724 |
| Malaysia        | 43 - 45 Dien Bien Phu Str   | (+84) 24 3734 3849 |
| Mexico          | T-11, 14 Thuy Khue Str  | (+84) 24 3847 0948 |
| Mongolia        | Villa No 6, Van Phuc Diplomatic Quarter                           | (+84) 24 3845 3009 |
| Myanmar         | 298 A, Kim Ma Str   | (+84) 24 3845 3369 |
| The Netherlands | BIDV Tower, 7th floor, 194 Tran Quang Khai Str                    | (+84) 24 3831 5650 |
| New Zealand     | Level 5, 63 Ly Thai To Str  | (+84) 24 3824 1481 |
| Norway          | Hanoi Tower, 8th floor, 49 Hai Ba Trung Str                       | (+84) 24 3974 8900 |
| Palestine       | Room 201, E4B Trung Tu Diplomatic Compound, 6 Dang Van Ngu Str    | (+84) 24 3852 4013 |
| Pakistan        | Villa 44/2, Van Phuc Diplomatic Compound, Van Bao Str             | (+84) 24 3726 2051 |
| Philippines     | 27-B Tran Hung Dao Str  | (+84) 24 3943 7873 |
| Poland          | 3 Chua Mot Cot Str  | (+84) 24 3845 2027 |
| Romania         | 5 Le Hong Phong Str   | (+84) 24 3845 2014 |
| Russia          | 191 La Thanh Str  | (+84) 24 3833 6991 |
| Singapore       | No. 41 & 43 Tran Phu Str  | (+84) 24 3848 9168 |
| South Africa    | Floor 3, Central Building, 31 Hai Ba Trung Str                    | (+84) 24 3936 2000 |
| Spain           | 4, Le Hong Phong Str  | (+84) 24 3771 5207 |
| Sweden          | Daeha Business Center, 15th floor, 360 Kim Ma Str                 | (+84) 24 3726 0400 |
| Switzerland     | Hanoi Central Office Building, 15th floor, 44B Ly Thuong Kiet Str | (+84) 24 3934 6589 |
| Thailand        | 26 Phan Boi Chau Str  | (+84) 24 3823 5092 |
| Turkey          | Hanoi Central Office Building, 14th floor, 44B Ly Thuong Kiet Str | (+84) 24 3822 2460 |
| United Kingdom  | Central Building, 4th floor, 31 Hai Ba Trung                      | (+84) 24 3936 0500 |
| United State    | 7 Lang Ha Str   | (+84) 24 3850 5000 |



## EMBASSY IN HO CHI MINH

| EMBASSY IN HO CHI MINH   | ADDRESS   | PHONE NUMBER       |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Australia                | 20th Floor, Vincom Center, 47 Ly Tu Trong Str, Dist 1   | (+84) 28 3521 8100 |
| Poland                   | 11th Floor, Saigon Centre, 65 Le Loi Str, Dist 1  | (+84) 28 3914 2883 |
| Belgium                  | Phu Ma Duong Bldg., # Ground Floor, B 15 (Lot C4-1), (79/8 new No) Phu My Hung Intl Financial & Trade Center, Hoang Van Thai Strt | (+84) 28 5414 1196 |
| Cambodia                 | 41, Phung Khac Khoan, Dist 1  | (+84) 28 8829 2751 |
| Canada                   | The Metropolitan Building, Suite 1002, 235 Dong Khoi Str, Dist 1  | (+84) 28 3827 9899 |
| People Republic of China | 175 Hai Ba Trung Str, Dist 3  | (+84) 28 3829 2457 |
| Cuba                     | 5B, 45 Phung Khac Khoan Str, Dist 1   | (+84) 28 3829 7350 |
| Czech                    | 28 Nguyen Thi Minh Khai Str, Dist 1   | (+84) 28 3829 0585 |
| German                   | 126 Nguyen Dinh Chieu Str, Dist 3   | (+84) 28 3829 1967 |
| France                   | 27 Nguyen Thi Minh Khai, Dist 3   | (+84) 28 3520 6800 |
| Netherlands              | 29 Le Duan, Dist 1  | (+84) 28 3823 5932 |
| Korea                    | 107 Nguyen Du, Dist 1   | (+84) 28 3822 5757 |
| USA                      | 4 Le Duan, Dist 1   | (+84) 28 3520 4200 |
| Hungary                  | 21st floor, LIM Tower, 9-11 Ton Duc Thang Str, Dist 1   | (+84) 28 3622 1001 |
| Indonesia                | 18 Phung Khac Khoan, Dist 1   | (+84) 28 3825 1888 |
| Laos                     | 9B, Pasteur, Dist 1   | (+84) 283 829 7667 |
| Malaysia                 | 2 Ngo Duc Ke, Dist 1  | (+84) 283 829 9023 |
| Norway                   | 21-23 Nguyen Thi Minh Khai, Dist 1  | (+84) 283 822 1696 |
| New Zealand              | R 909/9th Floor, Metropole Building 235 Dong Khoi, Dist 1   | (+84) 283 822 6907 |
| Russia                   | 40 Ba Huyen Thanh Quan, Dist 3  | (+84) 283 930 3936 |
| Japan                    | 261, Dien Bien Phu Str, Dist 3  | (+84) 28 3933 3510 |
| Panama                   | 7A Le Thanh Ton, Dist 1   | (+84) 28 3825 0334 |
| Philippines              | 40-5 Pham Viet Chanh Str, Binh Thanh Dist   | (+84) 28 3518 0045 |
| Singapore                | 8th Floor, Saigon Centre, 65 Le Loi Str, Dist 1   | (+84) 28 3822 5174 |
| Switzerland              | Bitexco Financial Tower, 37th Floor, 2 Hai Trieu Str, Dist 1  | (+84) 28 6299 1200 |
| Thailand                 | 77 Tran Quoc Thao, Dist 3   | (+84) 28 3932 7637 |
| Sweden                   | 146-E15 Nguyen Van Huong Str, Dist 2  | (+84) 28 3519 2334 |
| United Kingdom           | 25 Le Duan Str, Dist 1  | (+84) 28 3825 1380 |
| India                    | 55, Nguyen Dinh Chieu Str, Dist 3   | (+84) 28 3823 7050 |

# INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALS

## 1. HANOI

### INTERNATIONAL SOS CLINIC

51 Xuan Dieu Street, Tay Ho District, Hanoi  
Tel: 024-3934-0666  
Hotline: 08-3829-8520 (for whole Vietnam)  
Email: vncommunication@internationalsos.com  
Website: www.internationalsos.com

### HANOI FRENCH HOSPITAL

1 Phuong Mai Road, Dong Da District, Hanoi  
Tel: 024-3577-1100  
Emergency: 024-3574-1111  
Email: contact@hfh.com.vn  
Website: www.hfh.com.vn



## 2. DANANG

### VINMEC DANANG INTERNATIONAL CLINIC

30/4 Street, Residence No.4 Nguyen Tri Phuong, Hoa Cuong Bac Ward, Hai Chau District, Da Nang  
Tel: 0236-371-1111  
Emergency: 0236-361-1611  
Email: clinic@vinmec.com / Website: www.vinmec.com

## 3. HO CHI MINH CITY

### COLUMBIA ASIA INTERNATIONAL CLINIC

8 Alexandre De Rhodes, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City  
Tel: 028-3823-8455  
Emergency: 028-3823-8888  
Email: customercare.sg@columbiaasia.com  
Website: www.columbiaasia.com/vietnam/hospitals/saigon/contact-us

### VINMEC SAIGON INTERNATIONAL CLINIC

2-2 Bis Tran Cao Van Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City  
Tel: 028-3520-3388  
Email: clinic@vinmec.com  
Website: www.vinmec.com



## DISTANCE FROM AIRPORT

### 1. Hanoi

Airport: Noi Bai International Airport  
IATA code: HAN  
Distance from the city center: 35Km  
Taxi: 300,000 – 500,000 VND  
Bus: 9,000 – 40,000 VND

### 2. Ho Chi Minh City

Airport: Tan Son Nhat International Airport  
IATA code: SGN  
Distance from the city center: 7-8Km  
Taxi: 100,000 – 150,000 VND  
Bus: 12,000 – 20,000 VND

### 3. Da Nang

Airport: Da Nang International Airport  
IATA code: DAD  
Distance from the city center: 3Km  
Taxi: 25,000 – 50,000 VND

### 4. Hoi An

Airport: Da Nang International Airport  
IATA code: DAD  
Distance from the city center: 30Km  
Taxi: 350,000 – 430,000 VND  
Bus: 25,000

### 5. Hue

Airport: Phu Bai International Airport  
IATA code: HUI  
Distance from the city center: 13Km  
Taxi: 160,000 – 180,000 VND  
Bus: 5,000 – 20,000 VND

### 6. Phu Quoc

Airport: Phu Quoc International Airport  
IATA code: PQC  
Distance from Dong Duong town: 10Km  
Taxi: 130,000 – 170,000 VND  
Bus: 50,000 VND

### 7. Nha Trang

Airport: Cam Ranh International Airport  
IATA code: CXR  
Distance from Dong Duong town: 36Km  
Taxi: 200,000 – 350,000 VND  
Bus: 10,000 – 55,000 VND



# HELPFUL TIPS



## 1. DONATIONS & GIFT GIVING

Although there is poverty in certain areas of Vietnam, please read the following points about donations and gift giving.

- Do not give money to people begging, especially children. This reinforces the belief that begging is an acceptable way to make a living. If children make money from begging, their parents are less likely to send them to school. Children working on the streets are also vulnerable to abuse.
- However in many places, it is considered acceptable to give to money disabled people or the elderly.
- Giving money and goods to beggars can accentuate an un-equal relationship between local and visitors, with tourists being seen as purely money givers.
- Do not give sweets to children in villages that we visit.
- Do not feel that you necessarily have to give material things. Sometimes, giving your friendship, time and interest to locals can be the best gift of all.

## 2. TIPPING

Tipping is a personal matter and travellers are encouraged to tip any amount they feel is appropriate. For your convenience, we have included a suggested tipping guide below:

- Bellboy: \$1-\$2 per room
- Chambermaid: \$1 per day
- Guides: \$5-\$10 per day, per person (depending on group size and performance)
- Drivers: \$2-\$5 per day, per person (depending on group size and performance)
- Restaurants: in smart establishments, you may find that the tip is already included in the bill. In local restaurants, tips are not expected but you may wish to leave loose change on the table.



## 3. PRICE ADVICE

Things are generally cheap in Vietnam. Here is a rough guide of how much things cost in main cities. Bear in mind that outside of the cities, things will be much cheaper.

### Food

- Street food: from 10,000 VND
- Restaurants: Western food: from 100,000 VND, Vietnamese dishes between 40,000 – 100,000 VND

### Drinks

- Soft drinks: 8,000 – 15,000 VND,
- Beer: 10,000 – 30,000 VND
- Fruit juice: 30,000 VND
- Water: 10,000 VND
- Spirit and mixer: 60,000 VND

### Other items

- Shorts/t-shirts: 80,000 – 200,000 (always haggle when buying clothes)
- DVDs: 15,000 – 30,000 VND
- SIM card –
- Cheap phone – 200,000 – 300,000 VND

## 5. SIMPLE VIETNAMESE SENTENCES

| English                      | Tiếng Việt                       | Tiếng Anh                        |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Vietnamese</b>            | Tiếng Việt                       | t'yengV'yet                      |
| <b>Hello</b>                 | Xin chào                         | sin chow, sinhjow                |
| <b>Good bye</b>              | Tạm biệt                         | Tarm Byert                       |
| <b>Yes</b>                   | Vâng                             | vahng, vuhng                     |
| <b>No</b>                    | Không                            | khong, hom                       |
| <b>Thank you</b>             | Cảm ơn/cám ơn                    | kahmuhn, cum urn                 |
| <b>You're welcome</b>        | Không có chi                     | khongkohtsee, homcohchee         |
| <b>Sorry</b>                 | Xin lỗi                          | sin loy'y, xinloi'ee             |
| <b>English</b>               | Tiếng Anh                        | t'yengahn, tee'engarn            |
| <b>Do you speak English?</b> | Bạn có biết nói tiếng Anh không? | bahnkohbyetnoyt'yengahn (k)hong? |

## 4. USEFUL EMERGENCY NUMBER

The importance of good preparation and getting useful travel information before making a trip to Vietnam ensures safety of tourists under unforeseen circumstances

### Emergency Number

Police: 113  
 Fire: 114  
 Ambulance – First Aid: 115  
 Weather forecast: 1080  
 International telephone service: 110  
 Note: When you make a phone call to above emergency numbers from a telephone, you just dial the number without adding any area code.

**Hotline of vietnamtour.co.za:**  
**+84 387 425 876**



# PRE - DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

## Check the following things before you go

- Travel Insurance
- Passport with at least six months validity from date of return
- Photocopy of passport
- Visa
- Vaccinations
- Foreign currency (US\$) and/or ATM, Credit Card
- All relevant tickets
- Reconfirmed flights
- Light weight clothing (summer months and the south)
- Warm Clothing (mountainous regions and Hanoi in winter)
- Appropriate shoes for trekking, cycling or walking
- Insect repellent
- Medication
- First aid kit
- Adaptor – 220V, 50Hz; 2 pin plugs
- Small daypack (for day and overnight trips)

**SPECIAL NOTES:** Domestic airlines do impose restrictions on baggage at approx 20kg maximum, so travel lightly where possible. Train cabins around the country, and boat cabins in Halong Bay have limited space so consider this when packing.

**Wish you a wonderful trip!**



## HANOI - VIETNAM

Zone 3, Viet Hung, Dong Anh Town, Hanoi, Vietnam  
+84 387 425 876  
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