



A TRAVEL GUIDE *to Viet Nam*

Places # Festival # Food # Travel tips

**A travel guide to
VIETNAM**

Places # Festival # Food # Travel tips

*Enjoy yourself. There is so much to do and see, but remember that you are on holiday
and you never have to travel alone!*

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Why Vietnam?

Vietnam, in the eyes of the beholder

Let's go see Vietnam together, a beauty without equal. From Lung Cu peak to Ca Mau cape, Vietnam is endowed with wonders from head to toe.

Vietnam, a tasestry weaved from 54 subcultures, dyed in the generous and friendly colors from the heard of people. The Vietnamese cuisine's charm is made from subtle recipes, local fresh and organic making. Zestful summer over the beaches. What says "summer" better than miles of colorful beaches, fancy resorts and hotels, local attractions. Natural heritage is sprinkled in every corner of Vietnam with uncover the unique traditional architectures.



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Where to go

Listed below is the must-go destinations while your trip in Vietnam from the north to the south of the land. Let's GO with US!

Sapa

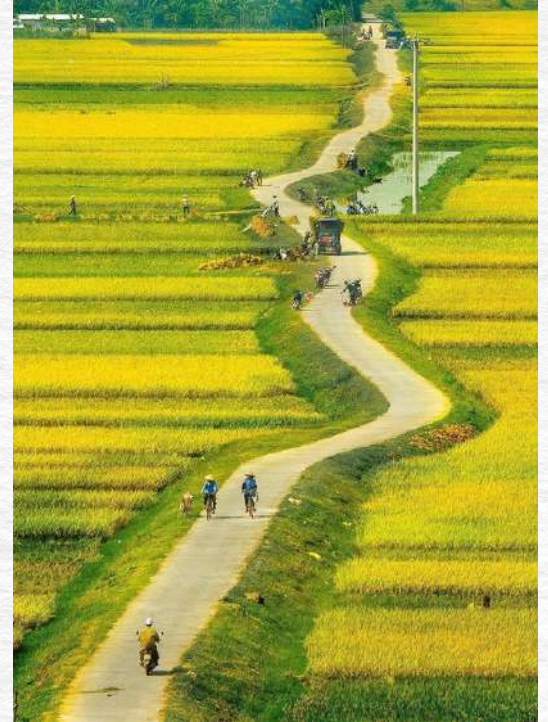
This mountainous town "City in the mist" is inhabited by colorful hill tribes of several ethnic minority. It situated within Hoang Lien Son massive mountain range with the majestic natural scenery and rice terraces, which includes Fansipan, the highest peak of Indochina peninsula.

Ha Giang

A high mountain border province in the Northern Vietnam with the zigzag roads winding along the cliffs, where the landscape of limestone pinnacles and granite outcrops continues to dazzle all who visit, in which Dong Van Karst Plateau Global Geopark is most spectacular scenery in Vietnam.

Hanoi

The capital of Vietnam "River-bound City", well known for its a thousand-year-old unique cultural relics, ancient pagodas, top museums, elegant French colonial buildings and delectable street food.



Halong

Majestic and mysterious, inspiring and imperious words alone cannot do justice to the natural wonder that is Halong Bay, Gulf of Tonkin. "A mythical seascape sculpted by nature" has been recognized as a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO for its breathtaking caves and more than 2,000 limestone karsts sitting on the water.

Hue

The ancient capital relics of last emperor Nguyen dynasty (1802-1945) along the peaceful Perfume river, which now is home to the UNESCO World Heritage Imperial City.



Hoi An

A well-preserved UNESCO heritage site with unique architecture and sparkling decorative ancient houses, a beguiling riverside position, sandy beaches and a tranquil village-like atmosphere.

Hochiminh City

A city "The pearl of Indochina" is never sleep with buzzing streets, coffee culture and colonial architecture.

Mekong Delta

Mangrove forests, ethnic communities and on-the-water villages.

Phu Quoc

A perfect tropical tear-shaped island locates inside the Gulf of Thailand with 40 kilometers coastline, turquoise seas and and soft white sand beaches.



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What to do

Travelling through Vietnam will give you to get experience a country that both is a natural wonderland and a mosaic of complex cultures rich with history, and to see the full spectrum of life in Vietnam from locals farming rice in the highlands to local life in the city.

Trek through tribal villages in Sapa

Laying in the far north of Vietnam, Sapa set itself apart from other cities in this country with colorful ethnic minorities, cool weather year-around and endless terraced fields. The trek can be done in a day, but it is recommended that hikers go overnight, up to hill and the tremendous valley covered in green and yellow “waves” starts to fill in your eyes.

Traditional boat or overnight in luxury cruise in Halong Bay

Whole day to enjoy the incredible range of natural wonders spread over tropical evergreen, oceanic and seashore ecosystem, then step into another world through the expansive caves dotted throughout the islets. Each cavern contains jagged stalactites and stalagmites in a vast spectrum of shapes.

Try fabulous street food everywhere you go

In Vietnam, every place and each corner has their distinctive kinds of food that will amaze you. It's one of the world's healthiest and most mouth-watering cuisines. Typically, Northern dishes uses herbs for modest flavour toppings. Central food influenced by the imperial past with more lavish and colorful cuisine. The Southern cuisine relies heavily on spices, feathery herbs and fresh vegetable. Beef or chicken noodle soups (Pho bo ga), egg coffee in the street-side cafes





Discover the hidden charm of Hue on a local cyclo (rickshaw) ride

A perfect recipe for your Hue trip is a cyclo (rickshaw) and a friendly driver. They will take you on a tour around the city, and will act as an amateur tour guide but know many interesting corners that only locals know.

Sit on a small boat around Hoi An seven-acre water coconut forest

Seven-acre water coconut forest is a famous eco-tourism area in Cam Thanh, Hoi An. Sit on a basket boat to explore the green coconut forest, admire the basket dance displayed by local guys, boat racing and enjoy local foods.

Crawl through the eminent Cu Chi Tunnels

Explore the vast network of underground tunnels from the 1940s, during the American War, guerrilla Viet Cong forces expanded to cater for larger frames, but still a tight fit. Try to squeeze in the tight tunnels and discover innumerable trap doors, living areas, storage facilities, classrooms and weapon factories.

Enjoy bustling Saigon nightlife

Hochiminh city (Saigon) is a bustling city in the southern Vietnam. Whether you're zooming by on a motorbike or sipping designer cocktails at a rooftop bar, there is much to explore in a city of harmony and chaos with pop-up music, lightings and irresistible food smell.

Joining the floating market in Mekong Delta

Go early to join the sampan boat traffic jams in the surrounding areas buzzing floating markets and see a thousands of conical hats bob and weave as exotic fruits and Dong notes change hands.

Sun-seeking in Phu Quoc

Dive the reefs, kayak, snorkel or dive in the bays, eat up the back-road miles on a motorbike, relax in the elegant resorts fringed with white-sand beaches.



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Vietnam destination map



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Food in Vietnam

Diverse, exquisite, fabulous Vietnamese foods. GIVE IT A TRY?



Beef or chicken noodle soup (Pho bo-Pho ga)

Irresistible aroma of herbs and a sweet and bold taste of the soup after being simmered for hours with meat (beef or chicken), bones and specific recipes. Traditionally served for breakfast, its popularity has led to street-side cafes serving Hanoi's specialty at all hours of the day.

Fish dish with a vermicelli noodles (Cha ca)

The fragrant dish starts with fish fried in a pan at the table. Throw in vermicelli noodles, peanuts, chili, spring onions and dill. Add a dash of shrimp paste and fish sauce.



Ground pork patties with vermicelli noodles (Bun cha)

Hanoi's favourite lunch food. This noodle dish is made of vermicelli noodles topped with ground pork patties and in a sweet-sour broth, made with pickled vegetables, vinegar, minced garlic and fish sauce. Some will even throw in a fried spring roll of mixed ingredients (crab, shrimp, pork, onion, mushroom and eggs) sauce.

Cold spring rolls (Goi cuon)

Boiled pork, shrimp, vermicelli and a rice paper wrapping around. Simple yet memorable. Dip the rolls in special fish sauce or soy sauce. Best place to try: Hanoi, Saigon

Vietnamese baguette sandwich (Banh my)

Quick, tasty and efficient. A crunchy sandwich filled with meat (roasted pork belly or grilled pork or Chinese barbecued pork, poached chicken, boiled sausages), Vietnamese pate, butter, soy sauce, chili, pickled vegetable and cilantro. Best place to try: Hanoi, Hoi An, Saigon

Sweet soup (Che)

It is made of green/red/black bean with some shredded coconut, coconut milk, sugar, and crusted peanut on top. It will be added in the sweet potato, banana, corn, or lotus seed. Best place to try: Everywhere

Crispy pancake (Banh xeo)

The ingredients are rice flour, coconut cream, turmeric, onions and salt, mixed with water. The batter is then added into a frying pan brushed with vegetable oil and forms a thin layer of pancake. Then scatter some pork, shrimps and bean sprouts on half of the cake surface then fold. The pancake will be cut into two to three pieces and rolled in sheets of rice paper together with some lettuce. The dish is often served with traditional sauce made from fish sauce mixed with lemon, garlic and chili. Best place to try: Saigon

Vietnam's traditional coffee (Café)

The bold, bitter, and sweet taste is distinctive to the traditional coffee in Vietnam. It is popularity of image to street-side or alley café with a cup of coffee. Best place to try: Everywhere



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Vietnam Festival Celebrate with Us



Tet Festival (Lunar New Year)
Nationwide, Vietnam
January

Perfume Pagoda Festival
Hanoi, Vietnam
January



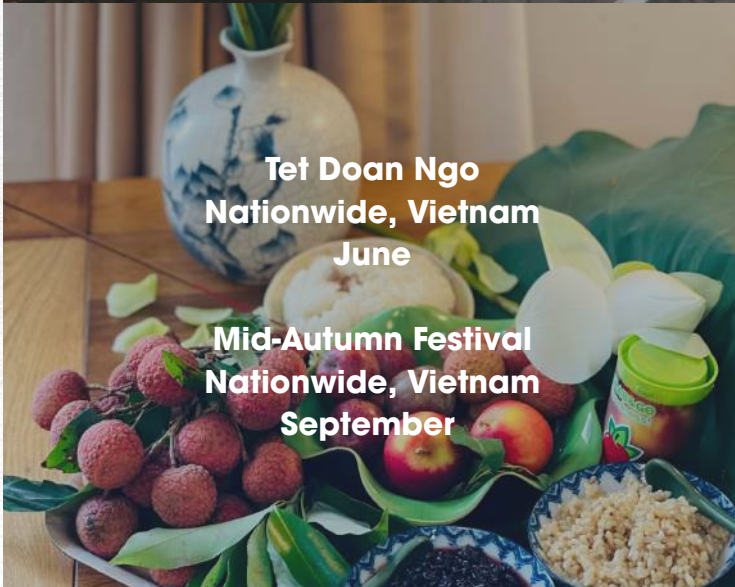
Lim Festival
Bac Ninh, Vietnam
February



Tet Nguyen Tieu (Lantern Festival)
Nationwide, Vietnam
February



Hue Festival
Hue, Vietnam
June



Tet Doan Ngo
Nationwide, Vietnam
June

Mid-Autumn Festival
Nationwide, Vietnam
September



Danang International Fireworks Festival
Danang, Vietnam
30 April

Hoi An Lantern Festival
Hoi An, Vietnam
Monthly

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Travel tip Quick fact

Population

98,170,000 (as of January 2022)

Language

Vietnamese

Currency

VND (Vietnamese Dong)

Electricity

220V – 50 Hz. Plug type A, C & F is available

Local Money

Local currency can be exchanged at the banks or authorized agencies.

Popular banks are Vietcombank, Vietinbank, BIDV, MB and Techcombank.

Popular international airport

Noi Bai Airport (HAN), Hanoi

Cam Ranh Airport (CXR), Nha Trang

Da Nang Airport (DAD), Danang

Phu Quoc Airport (PQC), Kien Giang

Tan Son Nhat Airport (SGN), Ho Chi Minh City

Van Don Airport (VDO), Quang Ninh

MOBILE NETWORK

Mobile network in Vietnam is quite strong with 4G data network available. It is possible to use the free Wi-Fi of the hotels, restaurants or café everywhere. However buying a Vietnam SIM card to keep your stay connected during your trip is highly recommended. A prepaid tourist 4G data SIM card will cost less than 300,000~500,000 VND (13.00~20.00USD), giving about 3GB~5GB of data. Viettel, Vinaphone and Mobiphone are popular providers.



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Travel tip - Visa

VISA INTO VIETNAM

Getting a visa

In order to enter Vietnam, a visitor needs a Vietnam visa, unless he or she holds a passport of a country in ASEAN and is eligible for a Visa exemption. Below is three types of Vietnam visas.

Type	Visa Before Arrival	Visa On Arrival	E-visa
What	Get the Visa stamped to your passport prior to leaving.	Get the a Visa Approval Letter prior to leaving. Then, present the letter at the Custom border along with other documents for visa approval.	Get an electronic visa sent to your email's inbox.
Pros	Pay only once. No waiting at the Custom border in Vietnam. Enter the country any way.	Cheaper. Can apply online.	100% online application.
Cons	A bit pricy. Must apply at the Embassy via mail or in person.	Pay several times during the process. Lengthly process. Enter the country via air only.	Single entry only. Non-extendable. Non-refundable when being refused. Only 46 eligible countries. Maximum 30 day validity.

Visa exemption for entry, exit and transit and its conditions

To promote tourism in Vietnam, the Vietnamese Government has agreed to extend a three years visa exemption period for 25 countries' citizens, run until 14th March 2025. This unilateral Vietnam visa exemption, of which temporary stay period of at least 14 days up to 90 days from the date of entry is being granted by Vietnamese authorities. Details will be referred on website: <https://www.xuatnhapcanh.com.vn>

In Vietnam

Businesses

Banks

Shops & restaurants

Usually

Open 8am - Close 6pm Monday to Friday

Open 8am - Close 4pm Monday to Friday

Open 9am - Close 9pm Monday to Sunday

Occasionally

Open 8am - Close 12pm Saturday

Open 8am - Close 12pm Saturday

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Travel tip Moving around

TRAIN

Available for limited local railway routes. There are four classes on a train, including hard seat, soft seat, hard bed and soft bunk. Transfers are rather comfortable if you choose the “soft seat” or “soft bunk” classes. Besides short distance railway route such as Quang Binh to Hue, Hue to Da Nang, Nghe An (Vinh city) or Danang to Quy Nhon, you will book the long distance railway route from Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) by super express train (SE). To buy train tickets in advance, refer the Vietnam Railways booking site.



AIRLINES

Domestically, there are five airlines in Vietnam including Vietnam Airlines, Bamboo Airways, Pacific Airlines, Vietjet Air, Vietravel Airlines. Vietnam Airlines is the premium 4-star airline and the other four are budgeted airlines.

*Delays are normal when taking flights in Vietnam, no matter which airline you are with. Don't freak out.

BUS

Taking the bus is the cheapest way to move around major cities like Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh; Or to get out of the inner city to visit villages or the suburbs and beyond. The bus is also a good means of transport to travel from one city to another and discover other outlying regions of the country. Most of the time, buses are minivans, but you can also take night buses (buses with bunk beds) for longer trips.

For intra-city, a bus ride costs around 6,000 to 9,000 VND (USD0.26-USD0.40)/route and the waiting time is typically 5 or 10 mins.

For inter-city, it costs 90,000 VND (USD4.00)/100km for eco buses and 150,000 VND (USD7.00)/100km premium buses, on average.

FERRY

Beside cruise and boat tours, ferries are still in charge to help people cross rivers or move between cities that have harbours or piers. Tickets can be purchased at the station.

MOTO-TAXI

Moto taxis (Traditional Xe Ôm or technology motorbike taxi-Grab motorbike) are everywhere! On any street corner, parked on sidewalks, moto-taxi drivers will enthusiastically offer you their services wherever you want to go. Grab motorbike charges typically from 20,000 VND (USD1.00)/km with fix price based to the route. There is no meter for traditional Xe Ôm, so be aware to fix price before the departure. Don't hesitate to bargain.

RENT A MOTORBIKE

More economical, exciting and challenging. If you really want moving around like the Vietnamese do, you won't have any problem finding an agency or a hotel that rents motorbikes (automatic or semi-automatic) with helmets to foreigners. However, just beware of the dense and chaotic traffic in Vietnam. The law clearly forbids any foreigners without a valid Vietnamese license from driving a motorbike (international licenses don't apply in Vietnam) and most travel insurance policies don't cover travelers for motorbike accidents.

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Travel tip Health and Safety



TRAVEL TIP – Try street food

Eat on local time

The best stalls only open a few hours each day for breakfast, lunch and dinner respectively: 6am to 8am, 11:30am to 1pm, and 5:30pm to 7:30pm.



Season to taste

Vietnamese use chili, kumquats, vinegar, and fish sauce to adjust the taste of each dish to their taste. Try it!



Eat first, pay later

The enjoyment of the meal is highly appreciated in Vietnam. You can always completing eating before paying the bill.



Learn to share

Meals in Vietnam are often served family-style, with dishes for everyone to share.

Help yourself!

TRAVEL TIP – Health

The most common disease for travelers is related to digestive or intestinal problems, ranging from stomach ache to diarrhea. Fully equipped hospitals are available in all big cities as Hanoi, Da Nang and Hochiminh city (Saigon). There may be local clinics for basic medical treatment application in rural and remote areas.

TRAVEL TIP – Safety

Petty crime is not confined to the backpacker districts but also occurs in the major tourist shopping areas and thief or robbery just prefers tourists.

*Don't walk alone in secluded locations or dark roads. If you have to, make it quickly or find an accompany.

*Put all your handbags or backpack in front of your body for full-time surveillance.

*Keep your phone and wallet out of sight.

*Don't bring valuable stuff with you on the street.

*Use hotel (homestay) safety box to store valuables, money and passport.

*Vietnam is known for its chaotic yet predictable traffic. Do not wait for the street to be empty. Some pavements have become de facto parking lots, therefore pedestrians have no option but to share the walking road with traffic. In this case, be on high alert.

EMERGENCY DIAL: POLICE - 113

FIRE - 114

MEDICAL - 115

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Travel tip Culture and Etiquette

#1 Bargain technique. Negotiation is not rude by expected. Why not trying to haggle for the best price! Try "walking away" to get a better price. If that doesn't work, you can go back to the vendor later. Have fun experience!

#2 Be a sensitive snapper. Most Vietnamese love having their photos taken, but always ask first.

#3 Bring gifts to someone is appreciated but do not gift handkerchief, black stuff, yellow flowers or chrysanthemums.

#4 Dress code conservatively where possible, especially in religious sites. To pack a shawl or extra shirt to cover your shoulders.

#5 Do not do finger-crossing. It means bad things, really bad.

#6 Do not lose your temper. Keep a cool demeanour, avoid loud arguments and public displays of affection.

#7 The oldest is king, respect them by all means!

#8 Talk local with easy phrases. You surely will receive a welcome smile and enthusiastic support from the local person. Hello is "Xin chào". Goodbye-"Tạm biệt". Thank you-"Cám ơn". Sorry-"Xin lỗi". Male person older than you-"Anh". Female person older than you-"Chị". Younger person-"Em".































#9 Tipping


While tipping is not expected, especially not at street-side eateries and small local restaurants, international venues have become used to the practice. Leave enough for some cases: 50,000 VND~200,000 VND (2USD~5USD)


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Best time to travel


In Vietnam, most regions have a typically tropical climate, hot and humid with a lot of rain. The seasons in Vietnam have change very erratically. However the best time to travel Vietnam is usullay from October to April. For your best journey to visit Vietnam, we highly recommend you to start planning four months in advance.


VIET NAM	DESTINATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
NORTH - EAST	HA GIANG	Cold season 10°-25° High humidity 		Best season 15°-30° High humidity 				Hot season 30°-40° High humidity 				Best season 15°-30° Low humidity 		Cold season 10°-20° 
	HANOI													
	HALONG BAY													
	NINH BINH													
NORTH - WEST	LAO CAI (SAPA)	Cold season 10°-20° High humidity 		Best season 15°-30° Low humidity 			Changeable season 15°-35° High humidity, rainfalls 			Best season 15°-30° Low humidity 		Cold season 10°-20° 		
CENTRAL COAST	QUANG BINH		Best season 20°-30° Low humidity 				Hot season 25°-35° High humidity 				Storm season 20°-30° 			
	HUE													
	DANANG (HOI AN)													
	QUY NHON													
CENTRAL HIGHLAND	KOM TUM		Best season 15°-30° High humidity 				Changeable season 20°-35° High humidity, rainfalls 				Hot season 20°-30° High humidity 			
	PLEIKU													
	BUON MA THUOT													
	DALAT													
SOUTH	HCMC	Best season 25°-35° 					Rainy season 25°-35° 				Best season 25°-35° 			
	PHAN THIET (MUI NE)													
	VUNG TAU													
	MEKONG DELTA													
	NHA TRANG	Rainy season 25°-35° 		Best season 25°-35° 				Rainy season 25°-35° 						
	PHU QUOC	Best season 25°-30° 		Rainy season 25°-30° 		Storm season 25°-30° 	Rainy season 25°-30° 	Best season 25°-35° 						
	CON DAO		Best season 15°-35° 				Rainy season 20°-35° 		Best season 25°-35° 					


 Hot, dry and sunny climate

 Changeable season

 Cold season

 Hot season and high humidity

 Rainy season

 Stormy season



OUR CONTACT

Website: www.goodaygo.com Email: info@goodaygo.com

Telephone: (+84 24) 2200 6789 / (+84) 91 338 1576

Office: Room 1404 Building CT2, No. 536A Minh Khai St., Hai Ba Trung Dist., Hanoi city, Vietnam