

Pre-arrival guide

HCMC & Hanoi • Vietnam

Welcome to Vietnam

Incredible food, insanely good coffee, second-to-none scenery, and rich history instilled in every corner. Trust us, you will love it!

To make the most of your trip, check out some suggestions in this guide, from essential travel tips to the places for authentic cuisines and fun things to explore.

Enjoy the ride and see you soon!

RMIT Vietnam
Global Experience Office



Travel guide



What to mind



What to eat



What to do



Travel tips



Packing checklist

Documentations



**Valid
passport**

Should be valid
for >6 months
after your return.



Identification documents

As a backup in case
your passport is
inaccessible.



Scans of personal docs

All important docs
should be scanned
and stored online.



Cash to go
for a few days

Best to be VND.



Prescription meds

Copies of prescription scripts should be useful too.

Luggage & personal belongings



**Phone &
laptop chargers**

It's a no brainer
that's easy to forget.



European or
universal adapters

You might need to charge several devices at the same time.



**Appropriate
clothings**

1 set of formal clothes.
Hanoi has a cold winter.
HCMC is hot all year
round. Beware of the
sunlight and insects.



Entertainment
for long flights

Long flight, stay comfortable and entertained!



**Reusable
water bottle**

Stay sustainable
during your trip &
on the campus.

Payments & transports

Payments



Cash

Lots of zeros to count,
so learn your notes
and be extra careful!



Cards

Not always available.
Always ask first!



E-banking

Suggested banks:

- [HSBC](#)
- [Shinhan](#)
- [Vietcombank](#)
- [ACB](#)



E-wallets

Most common ones:

- [Momo](#)
- [Zalo Pay](#)
- [Apple Pay](#)

Transports



Taxis

Reliable brands:

- [Mai Linh](#) (Hanoi & HCMC)
- [Vinasun](#) (HCMC)

Check the spelling of brand
names carefully!



Ride-hailing apps

Vietnam's versions of Uber:

- [Grab](#) (recommended) 
- [Be](#)
- [XanhSM](#)



Walking

Be extra mindful of the weather
and traffic.

Always look both ways when
crossing roads and be aware that
bikes may come from anywhere!



Useful tips



Keep your phone and wallet with you at all times
Avoid dangly jewelry and beware of snatchers.



Lots of MOTOBIKES! Pedestrians must be alert when
crossing the street and walking on the sidewalk.



Tipping in Vietnam is more common among tour
guides and in spas, but less so in restaurants. If you feel
the service warrants a tip, feel free, but you are under
no obligation to tip in Vietnam



Don't let yourself get pressured into buying
something.



Laws around drug possession, use, and dissemination
are severely strict. It's best to refrain altogether.

Useful phrases

Hello: Xin chào (*sin chow*)

Thank you: Cảm ơn (*calm earn*)

- it's not common to use "please" in Vietnamese

I'm sorry/ Excuse me: Xin lỗi (*seen loy*)

Excuse me waitress/waitor: Chi oi/Anh oi (older than you)
Em oi (younger than you)

Check, please: Tinh tien!

How much?: Bao nhieu? (*bow yew*)

Too expensive: Mac qua! (*mac wa*)

What to eat



Banh mi

Banh Mi Huynh Hoa

- 26 Le Thị Riêng, District 1.

Banh Mi Bay Ho

- 19 Huynh Khuong Ninh, Da Kao ward, District 1.

Banh Mi Hoa Ma

- 53 Cao Thang, Ward 3, District 3.

Pho

Pho Phuong 25

- 25 Hoang Sa, District 1

Pho Le

- 415 Nguyen Trai, District 1.

Pho Hoa Pasteur

- 260C Pasteur Street, Ward 8, District 3.

Bun Bo Hue

Bun bo Vi Da Xua

- 2 Le Van Thiem, Tan Phong ward, District 7.

Bun bo Chu Ha

- 300 Vo Van Tan, District 3.

Bun bo Ganh

- 110 Ly Chinh Thang, Ward 8, District 3.

Com Tam (Broken rice)

Com tam A Dung

- 12 Hoang Dieu, Ward 12, District 4.

Com tam Minh Long

- 607 Nguyen Thi Thap, Tan Hung Ward, District 7.

Com tam Nguyen Van Cu

- 74 Nguyen Van Cu, Nguyen Cu Trinh Ward, District 1.

Restaurants

Quan Bui

- District 1, Binh Thanh District, Thu Duc city

Di Mai

- District 1, District 7, Binh Thanh District

Ngon Restaurant

- 160 Pasteur, District 1.

Home kitchen Xu Quang (Bep Nha Xu Quang)

- 16 Tran Cao Van, Da Kao Ward, District 1.

Propaganda

- 21 Han Thuyen, District 1

Cuc Gach Quan

- 10 Dang Tat, Ward Tan Dinh, District 1.

Ai Hue Restaurant

- 338 - 350; 412 - 418 Tran Hung Dao B, Ward 11, District 5.



Vegetarian options

Hum Vegetarian

- District 2 (Thu Duc city); District 3

Chay Garden

- District 3; Thao Dien (Thu Duc city)

Shamballa

- District 1; Hoi An city; Da Nang city

Here & Now

- 74/1 Pham Viet Chanh, Ward 19, Binh Thanh District.

Rou

- 567A Tran Hung Dao, Cau Kho Ward, District 1.

Hong Lien Restaurant

- 143/9 Phan Đang Luu, Ward 2, Phu Nhuan District.



Pho

Pho Xao Bap Bo Trang Meo

- 11 Hang Buom, Hoan Kiem.

Pho Bo Ly

- 27B Phung Hung, Hang Ma, Hoan Kiem.

Pho Khoi Hoi

- 50 Hang Vai, Hang Bo, Hoan Kiem.

Pho Cuon

Pho Cuon Chinh Thang

- 7 Mac Dinh Chi, Truc Bach, Ba Dinh.

Pho Cuon Huong Mai

- [Address](#)





Bun Ngan

Thuy Ngan Chay Toi Hang Luoc

- 49 - 51 Hang Luoc.

Bun Ngan Tron Hang Da

- 34 Hang Da, Hoan Kiem.

Bun Ngan Co Lan

- Alley 34 Hang Da, Cua Dong, Hoan Kiem.



Bun Cha

Bun Cha Huong Lien (Bun Cha Obama)

- 24 Le Van Huu.
- 14 alley 59 Lang Ha, Cho Dua, Dong Da.

Bun Cha Hang Quat

- 74 Hang Quat, Hang Gai, Hoan Kiem.

Bun Cha Cua Dong

- 41 Cua Dong, Hang Bo, Hoan Kiem.

Restaurants

1946 Restaurant

- 3 Yen Thanh, 61 Cua Bac, Ba Đình.
- 50 Mai Anh Tuan, Ho Hoang Cau, Đống Đa.
- 292 Nghi Tam, Yen Phu, Tây Hồ.

Tam Vi

- 4B Yen The, Van Mieu, Đống Đa.

Giang My

- [Address](#)

Coco A

- 13A Le Dai Hanh, Hai Ba Trung.

Vegetarian options

Uu Dam Chay

- 55 Nguyen Du.

White Cloud Vegan

- 143 An Duong Vuong, Phu Xa, Tay Ho.

Buffet Chay Hương Thiên

- 261 Xa Dan, Nam Dong, Dong Đa.

Chay Vi Lai

- 67 Ly Thuong Kiet, Hoan Kiem.

Veggie Castle

- 7 Yen Ninh, Ba Dinh.

Sadhu - Vegetarian Buffet

- Udic Complex, N04 Hoàng Đạo Thuy
- 87 Ly Thuong Kiet

What to do



Sightseeing

1. War Remnant Museum

- 28 Vo Van Tan, ward 6, district 3.

2. Jade Emperor Pagoda

- 73 Mai Thi Luu, District 1.

3. Independence Palace

- 135 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia, Ben Nghe ward, District 1.

4. Saigon Central Post Office

- 02 Cong xa Paris, Ben Nghe, District 1.

5. Ben Thanh Market

- Ben Thanh, District 1.

6. HCMC Museum of Fine Arts

- 97A Pho Duc Chinh, Nguyen Thai Binh ward, District 1.



Embracing Coffee Culture

Okkio Caffè

- [Address](#) (6 branches in HCMC)

La Viet Coffee

- [Address](#) (5 branches in HCMC)

Notre Dame street coffee

- 01 Cong xa Paris, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1.



Handcraft workshops

Meow Pottery Workshop

- 100 Tran Quoc Toan Str. Ward 7 Dist.3.
- [Website](#)

Tipsy Arts

- 6B Nguyen Canh Chan, Nguyen Cu Trinh ward, Dist.1.
- [Website](#)

Candle Making - Coming Home Candle

- Level 1, 158/17 Nguyen Cong Tru, District 1.
- [Website](#)



Art shows & spaces

Bamboo Circus A O Show

- Saigon Opera House, 07 Cong Truong Lam Son, Dist. 1.
- [Website](#)

Saigon Outcast creative space

- 188/1 Nguyen Van Huong, Thao Dien, Dist. 2, Thu Duc city, HCMC
- [Website](#)

Craig Thomas Gallery

- Address: 27i Tran Nhat Duat, Dist. 1.
- [Website](#)



Shopping

Takashimaya

- 77-89 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia, Ben Thanh ward, District 1.

The New Playground

- 26 Ly Tu Trong, Ben Nghe, District 1.

Oh Quao concept store

- 58/12 Pham Ngoc Thach, District 3.
- No. 19, street 18, Thao Dien, District 2.

Vesta Lifestyle

- Flagship Store - 34 Ngo Quang Huy, Thao Dien, Thu Đức city, HCMC.
- Store 2. 33A Thao Điện, Thao Dien, Thu Duc city, HCMC.

Saigon Square

- 77-89 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia, Ben Thanh ward, District 1.

Thiso mall

- 10 Mai Chi Tho, Thu Thiem ward, Thu Duc city, HCMC



Sightseeing

Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum

- Hung Vuong, Dien Bien, Ba Dinh.

Hoan Kiem lake

- city center, Hoan Kiem.

Hoa Lo Prison Relic

- 1 Hoa Lo, Tran Hung Dao, Hoan Kiem.

Imperial Citadel of Thang Long

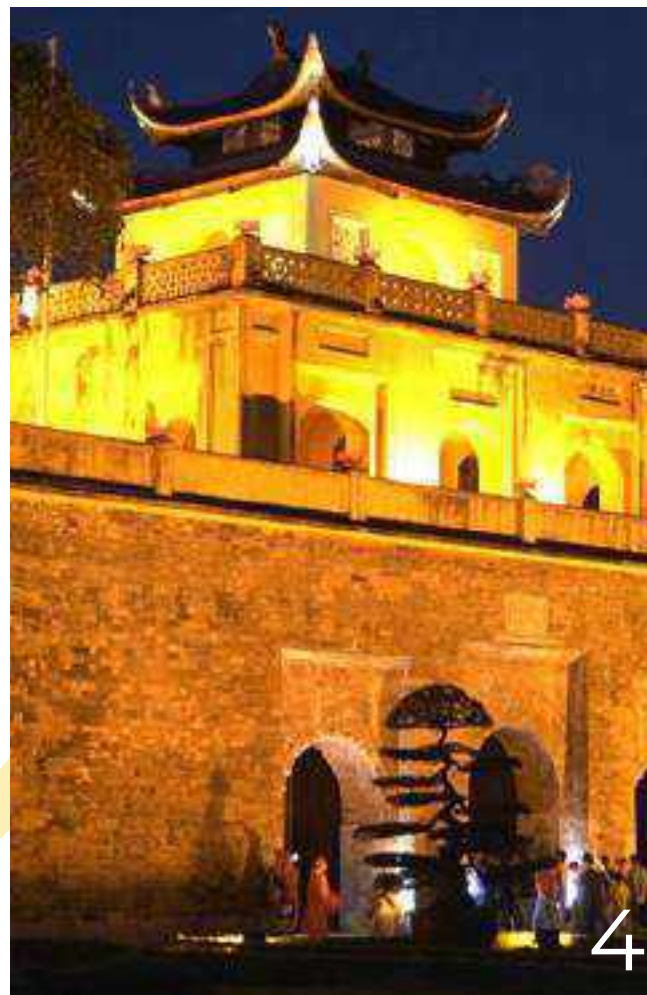
- 19C Hoang Dieu, Ba Dinh.

Hanoi's Train street

- 3 Tran Phu, Hang Bong, Hoan Kiem.

Hanoi's Memorial House

- 87 Ma May, Hang Buom, Hoan Kiem.



Embracing Coffee Culture

Cafe Giang

- 39 Nguyen Huu Huan, Hoan Kiem.
- Foodhall level 3, Lotte Mall Tay Ho.

Tranquill Books & Coffee

- 5 Nguyen Quang Bich, Hoan Kiem.
- 8 Nguyen Quang Bich, Hoan Kiem.

Thai Yen

- 71A Nguyen Du, Hai Ba Trung.
- 182-184 Quan Thanh, Ba Dinh.
- 21 alley 42 Giang Van Minh, Ba Dinh.
- 9 alley 539 Nguyen Van Cu, Long Bien.



Art shows & spaces

Vincom Center for Contemporary Art (VCCA)

- B1-R3 Floor, Royal City, 72A Nguyen Trai, Thanh Xuan.

Aea Space - an experimental arts spaces

- Lane 59, Ngo Gia Tu, Long Bien.

Hanoi Opera House's shows

- 1 Trang Tien, Hoan Kiem.

Thang Long Water Puppet show

- 57B Dinh Tien Hoang, Hoan Kiem.

Bat Trang Pottery - Visiting & Making

- Bat Trang, Gia Lam.



Shopping

Lotte Mall West Lake Hanoi

- 683 Lac Long Quan - 272 Vo Chi Cong ,Tay Ho

Trang Tien Plaza

- 24 Hai Ba Trung, Trang Tien, Hoan Kiem.

Collective Memory - The House of Curios

- 12 Nha Chung, Hang Trong, Hoan Kiem.

Dong Xuan Market

- Dong Xuan, Hoan Kiem.





Enjoy Vietnam