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1. Geographical location

The city of Ho Chi Minh is located in the south-eastern corridor of the country at approximately 1760 km south of the nation's capital Hanoi. Stretching all the way up to Cu Chi District and down to the South China Sea at Can Gio, the city covers a total amount of 2,095 sq. km in area. The entire cross-sectional distance of the city is about 102 km from north to south, while it is about 47 km from east to west.



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2. Neighbouring cities/countries

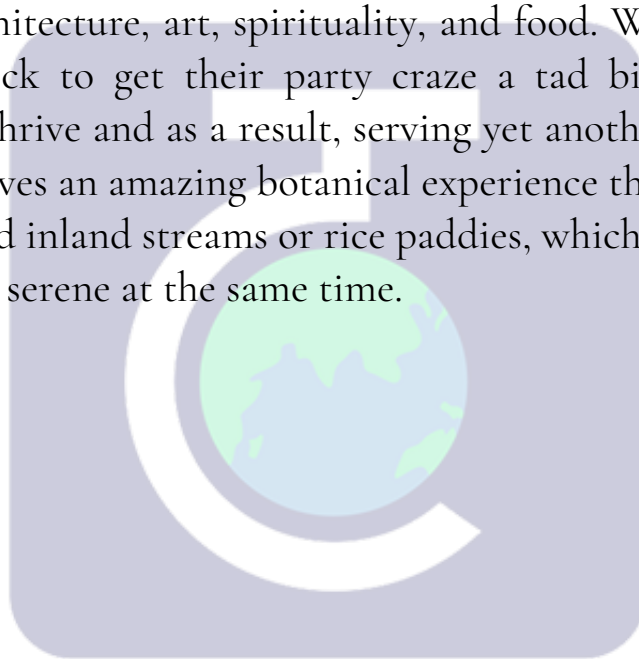
The Bordering Provinces In The North Of The City Are Tay Ninh And Binh Duong, Which Is 82 Km And 58 Km Away, Respectively, While The South Is Lined With The Shore Of South China Sea. The Coastline Of The City Extends To A Length Of About 15 Km. To The East Of The City Lies The Ba Ria-Vung Tau Province At A Distance Of About 74 Km, While The Long An Province Covers The West And Is Located Only 40 Km Away From Ho Chi Minh City



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3. Significance

The city has been talked about in terms of tourism for many factors. Incurring the imprints of both Asian and western influences alike, the first factor of the city lies in the ensemble cuisine it instills. The second factor which drives people to this city is its ageless spas, where the performed therapies and healing methods could be traced back to the ancient times. The place has quite a lot to offer in terms of history, architecture, art, spirituality, and food. With an array of clubs and bars, people flock to get their party craze a tad bit higher, letting the nightlife of the city thrive and as a result, serving yet another reason to visit this city. The city also serves an amazing botanical experience through various cruises along its coastline and inland streams or rice paddies, which is heavily considered to be enthralling and serene at the same time.



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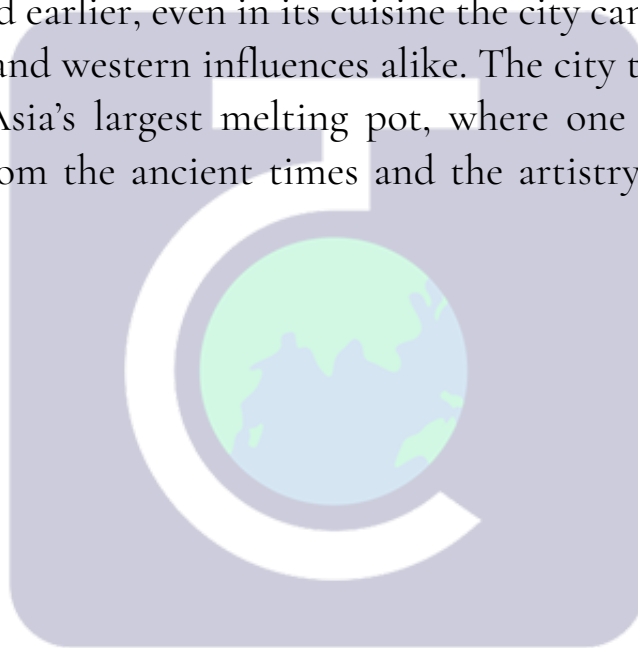
4. History

The city, that is now known by the name of Ho Chi Minh, had its humble beginnings as a fishing village of Khmer and was called Prey Nokor. The village remained in the hands of the Khmer until the 17th century during which Vietnamese immigrants flooded the village. After the uncontrollable immigration, the days of annexation got earmarked by Vietnam, and eventually, Prey Nokor came to be called as Saigon. During the mid-19th century, about two centuries into the Vietnamese rule, Saigon saw itself surrounded by the French and Spanish invading forces. Under the French rule, the city saw a rise in the number of French villas and western architecture, which remain to this day. The rise of the Nazi Germany disrupted many things, and France falling into it during 1940 complicated the scenario for Saigon. Fast forwarding a couple of years, Ho Chi Minh led the Communist Viet Minh and declared independence in Vietnam. In 1975, at the withdrawal of the United States' defense from South Vietnam after about 30 years, the city was devoured by the Communist North, and it was renamed as Ho Chi Minh City. This period is popularly termed as the “Fall of Saigon” by many, while the victors called it the “Liberation of Saigon”.

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5. Cultural identity

Ho Chi Minh City has a very diverse culture being a major hub for activities and drawing on western and Asian traditions alike. The impressions of the French colonial times are exquisitely prominent through the architectural artifacts that still remain in the city. A lot of Buddhist traditions can be observed in all the corners of the city which leaves a story from the prehistoric times through the arts and relics. As said earlier, even in its cuisine the city can be seen serving both the aspects of Asian and western influences alike. The city truly shows a blend of cultures making it Asia's largest melting pot, where one can come across the sources of healing from the ancient times and the artistry of Gothic European churches as well.



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6. Natural resources

The entire country is heavily enriched with natural resources. The recognized mineral deposits of gold, coal, phosphate, silver, chromate, bauxite, zinc, manganese, tungsten, and lead, are in abundance in this country. Offshore oil and gas reserves, along with hydropower enrich the country in resources of energy as well. Timber is yet another resource which can be found in abundance within the country.



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7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)**7.1. Paid****7.1.1. The Independence Palace**

Address : 135, Nam Ky Khoi Nghia Street, Ben Thanh, 1 Quan, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam 70000

Zipcode : 70000

Location : 10.7770794, 106.69541779999997

Contact : +84 838223652

Website : <http://www.dinhdoclap.gov.vn/>

Nearest Public Transport : Nguyen Thong – Train Station

Entry Fee : Adults: VND 30,000 / person Students: VND 15,000 / person Students (aged 6 to 17 years old): VND 5,000 / person For Group from 20 people upwards: Adults: VND 20,000 / person student: VND 10,000 / person students (aged 6 to 17 years old): VND 3,000 / person

Open & Close Timing : Daily 07:30hrs-11:00hrs, 13:00hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 25 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.2. War Remnants Museum

Address : 28, Vo Van Tan, 6, District 3, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam 70000

Zipcode : 70000

Location : 10.7791772, 106.69231070000001

Contact : +84 839306325

Nearest Public Transport : Nguyen Thong – Train Station

Entry Fee : Regular Ticket 15,000 VND; Preferential Deal 2,000 VND; Pupils, Students, Veterans, Armed Forces, Veteran Revolutionary Cadres 50% to 100% Reduction; Free for Families of Martyrs, War Invalids, Below 6

Open & Close Timing : Daily 07:30hrs-12:00hrs, 13:30hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.3. Di Đà O Cú Chi

Address : Ap Phu Hiep, Xa Phu My Hưng, Huyen Cu Chi, Ho Chi Minh, 733800, Vietnam

Zipcode : 733800

Location : 11.1423988, 106.46052280000004

Contact : +84 837948767

Website : <http://www.diadaocuchi.com.vn/>

Nearest Public Transport : Xuyen A – Bus Station

Entry Fee : Depends on the services or the tours

Open & Close Timing : Daily 07:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.4. Saigon Opera House

Address : 7 Lam Son Square, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. 70000

Zipcode : 70000

Location : 10.776517, 106.7030962

Contact : +84 838299976

Website : <http://www.hbso.org.vn/>

Nearest Public Transport : Nguyen Thong – Train Station

Entry Fee : Depends on time, event, and seat

Open & Close Timing : Daily Open 24 hours

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.5. Vietnam History Museum

Address : 2, Nguyen Thi Minh Khai, Ben Nghe, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam 70000
Zipcode : 70000
Location : 10.7879622, 106.70482259999994
Contact : +84 838298146
Website : <http://baotanglichsuvn.com/trang-chu.html>
Nearest Public Transport : Nguyen Thong – Train Station
Entry Fee : Adult 40,000 VND; Students 15,000 VND
Open & Close Timing : Monday Closed; Tuesday-Sunday 08:00hrs-11:30hrs, 13:30hrs-17:00hrs
Time Required : 2
Expected Wait Time : 10-15 minutes
Buy Ticket : No

7.1.6. Saigon Skydeck - Bitexco Financial Tower

Address : 36, Ho Tung Mau Street, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, 70000, Vietnam
Zipcode : 70000
Location : 10.771443, 106.70421799999997
Contact : +84 839156156
Website : <http://www.saigonskydeck.com/>
Nearest Public Transport : Phuong Trang – Bus Station, Nguyen Thong – Train Station
Entry Fee : Single Entry 200,000 VND
Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:30hrs-21:30hrs
Time Required : 2
Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes
Buy Ticket : No

7.1.7. The Golden Dragon Water Puppet Theater

Address : 55B, Nguyen Thi Minh Khai Street, Ben Thanh Ward, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam 70000
Zipcode : 70000

Location : 10.7762597, 106.69253739999999

Contact : +84 839302196

Website : <http://www.goldendragonwaterpuppetcom.vn/>

Nearest Public Transport : Nguyen Thong – Train Station

Entry Fee : 150,000 VND

Open & Close Timing : Daily 17:00hrs-17:50hrs, 18:30hrs-19:20hrs,
19:45hrs-20:35hrs

Time Required : 2.5

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.8. Fito Museum

Address : 41, Hoang Du Khuong Street, Ward 12, District 10, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Location : 10.7761634, 106.6719134

Contact : +84 0838642430

Website : <http://www.fitomuseum.com.vn/>

Nearest Public Transport : Nguyen Thong – Train Station

Entry Fee : Adults 120,000 VND; Children [less than 1.2m] 60,000 VND

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:30hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.9. Ho Chi Minh Fine Arts Museum

Address : 97A, Pho Duc Chinh, Nguyen Thai Binh, Quan 1, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam 70000

Zipcode : 70000

Location : 10.7696349, 106.699345

Contact : +84 838294441

Website : <http://www.baotangmythuattphcm.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Phuong Trang – Bus Station, Nguyen Thong – Train

Station

Entry Fee : Foreign Visitors 10,000 VND; Vietnamese Visitors 5,000 VND

Open & Close Timing : Monday Closed; Tuesday-Sunday 09:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 2.5

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.10. Ho Chi Minh City Museum

Address : 65, Ly Tu Trong, Ben Nghe, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam 70000

Zipcode : 70000

Location : 10.7759462, 106.6996464

Contact : +84 838299741

Nearest Public Transport : Nguyen Thong – Train Station

Entry Fee : Pupil 2,000 VND; Adults or Students 5,000 VND; Foreigners 15,000 VND

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No



7.2. Free

7.2.1. Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica of Saigon

Address : 1, Cong Xa Paris, Ben Nghe, Ho Chi Minh City, 701000, Vietnam

Zipcode : 701000

Location : 10.7797838, 106.69899480000004

Contact : +84 838220477

Website : <http://www.giothanhle.net/>

Nearest Public Transport : Pham Ngu Lao – Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily: Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 20 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.2. Saigon Central Post Office

Address : 2, Cong Xa Paris, Ben Nghe, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam 70000

Zipcode : 70000

Location : 10.7798294, 106.699882

Contact : +84 838221677

Nearest Public Transport : Nguyen Thong – Train Station Pham Ngu Lao – Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Saturday 07:00hrs-19:00hrs Sunday 08:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.3. Ben Thanh Market

Address : 32-30, 36-34-32-30, Phan Boi Chau, Ben Thanh, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam 70000

Zipcode : 70000

Location : 10.7725795, 106.69802770000001

Contact : +84 973756776

Website : <http://www.ben-thanh-market.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Cho Ben Thanh – Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Monday Closed Tuesday-Sunday Open 24 hours

Time Required : 2.5

Expected Wait Time : 15-20 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.4. Nhà th[?] Huy[?]n S[?]

Address : 1, Ton That Tung, Phạm Ngũ Lão, Quận 1, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam 70000

Zipcode : 70000

Location : 10.7686506, 106.68909669999994

Contact : +84 838330820

Nearest Public Transport : Phạm Ngũ Lão – Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 05:00hrs-17:30hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.5. Tao Dan Park

Address : 196, Nguyễn Thị Minh Khai, Phường 6, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam 70000

Zipcode : 70000

Location : 10.775016, 106.69320419999997

Contact : +84 973963372

Nearest Public Transport : Ben Thanh – Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily Open 24 hours

Time Required : 3

Expected Wait Time : 20 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.6. Chùa Văn Phất

Address : 66/P5, Q5, 14, Nghia Thục, Phuong 6, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam 70000

Zipcode : 70000

Location : 10.753262, 106.67535299999997

Contact : +84 838381955

Website : <http://www.chuavanphat.org/>

Nearest Public Transport : Phuong Trang - Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 2.5

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.7. Chùa Bà Thiên Hậu

Address : 710, Duong Nguyen Trai, Phuong 11, Quan 5, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

Location : 10.7530873, 106.6611613

Nearest Public Transport : Phuong Trang – Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 07:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.8. Chùa Giác Lâm

Address : 118, Lạc Long Quan, Phuong 10, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam 70000

Zipcode : 70000

Location : 10.7789146, 106.64919729999997

Contact : +84 838653933

Nearest Public Transport : Lac Long Quan – Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 06:00hrs-12:00hrs, 14:00hrs-20:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.9. War Surplus Market

Zipcode : 0

Location : 10.7662708, 106.69855610000002

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.10. 3A Alternative Art Area

Zipcode : 0

Location : 10.7796205, 106.70703639999999

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.11. saigon kitsch [?][?][?][?][?]

Zipcode : 0

Location : 10.773233, 106.70199200000002

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No



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8. Key sites sports & adventure

Although the city witnessed a slow rise in its outdoor activities, the adventure scenario has changed quite a bit in the recent years. Apart from regular water sports such as canoeing, kayaking, and so on, the city offers a fair amount of activities such as trekking and hiking because of its mountainous regions and pastures of forests. This city, being rich in flora and fauna, now offers a range of activities for tourists to add a dash of adventure.

- **Biking -**

Address : 840/121/10, Huong Lo 2, Binh Tri Dong A, Binh Tan District, Ho Chi Minh City, 70000, Vietnam

Location : 10.7663904,106.600670199999

Contact No : +84 1295868586

Website : <http://www.mytigertour.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Binh Tri Dong A – Bus Station

Entry Fees : Depends on the sport

Open / Close Time : Daily 08:00hrs-22:00hrs

Time Required : 4

Wait Time : 10 minutes

- **Speed Boating and Cruise -**

Address : 10B, Ton Duc Thang, District 1, Vuon Kieng Pier, Ho Chi Minh City, 70000, Vietnam

Location : 10.774637,106.70588499999997

Contact No : +84 1285920018

Website : <http://lesrivesexperience.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Ton Duc Thang – Bus Station

Entry Fees : Adult: VND 2499000 Child under 12 years: VND 1799000

Open / Close Time : Daily 08:00hrs-21:00hrs

Time Required : 3

Wait Time : 15 minutes

- **Hiking -**

Address : 123, Ly Tu Trong, Ben Thanh, Quan 1, Ho Chi Minh, 70000, Vietnam

Location : 10.7738761,106.6970245

Contact No : +84 838229068

Website : <http://www.vietnamadventuretours.vn/>

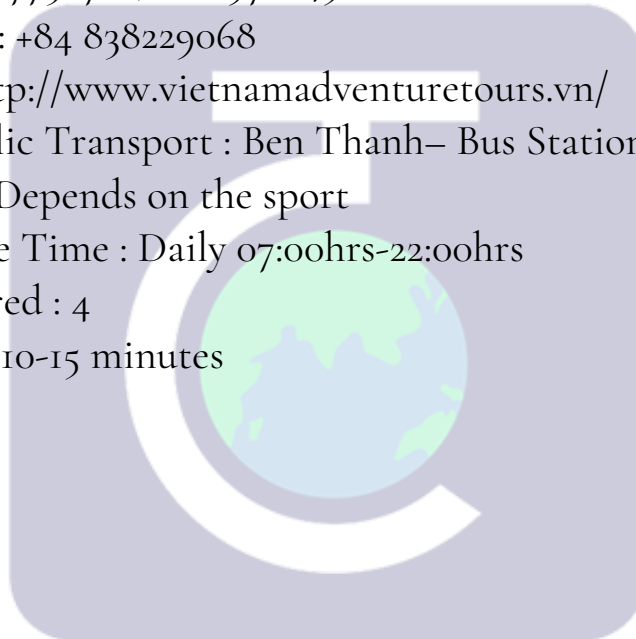
Nearest Public Transport : Ben Thanh– Bus Station

Entry Fees : Depends on the sport

Open / Close Time : Daily 07:00hrs-22:00hrs

Time Required : 4

Wait Time : 10-15 minutes



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9. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

With 91 football fields, 256 gyms, and 86 swimming pools, it is evident that the city people are quite the followers of sports. Being the most celebrated sport in the city, football has the largest stadium reserved for it.

- **Thong Nhat Stadium:**

Address : 138, Dao Duy Tu, Phuong 6, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam. 70000

Location : 10.7606803,106.66330659999994

Contact No : +84 8 5405 2008



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10. Spas and relaxation

All of Vietnam has been known heavily for its ancient and traditional therapies for natural rejuvenation and relaxation. With the growing time and tourist influx, numerous spas and massage centers began to open up across the city. Apart from the centers that specialize in Vietnamese ways, many establishments have also incurred Western, Japanese, and other Asian therapies of rejuvenation as well, to maintain variety.

- **Temple Leaf Spa and Sauna:**

Address : 32 Thai Van Lung, Ben Nghe, Quan 1, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

Location : 10.78011,106.70374360000005

Contact No : +84 1289841431

Website : <http://templeleafsauna.com/>

- **AAA SPA:**

Address : Quan 1, Backpacker St, 133 Bui Vien, Pham Ngu Lao, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

Location : 10.7664152,106.6920063

Contact No : +84 902453079

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/AAASpa/>

- **Miu Miu Spa:**

Address : 4, Chu Mạnh Trinh, Ben Nghe, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

Location : 10.7817047,106.70483160000003

Contact No : +84 909202890

Website : <http://miumiuspa.com/>

- **Saigon Heritage Spa & Massage club:**

Address : 69, Hai ba Trung, District1, Ho Chi Min City, Vietnam

Location : 10.776876,106.70449699999995

Contact No : +84 866846546

Website : <http://saigonheritage.com/>



11. Events calendar

Month

Events

Tet

Being the Vietnamese New Year, it is the most celebrated festival in the country. It is generally on the same day as the Chinese New Year and is celebrated with the same amount of vigor and glamor. During this day, the city streets are paraded with lion and dragon dances which are further accompanied by fireworks.

Lantern Festival

It is also known as the Tet Nguyen Tieu and is celebrated in the first Lunar month on the 15th day. The city streets are flooded with people along with the drum playing and displays of crafts, arts, and street performances. The lanterns form the key element of this celebration and the main parade.

Liberation Day

On this very day, Viet Cong captured the then known Saigon, and marked it as one of the crucial events in the book of

Vietnam's history. Although it is highly celebrated in the entire city, certain people who had to flee the war to a different country don't see this day as a moment for celebration.

King Hung's Commemoration

This is the day to honor and pay tribute to the 18 Hung kings mentioned in the Vietnamese history. Most of the celebration takes place in a temple located in District 9 at the Suoi Tien Park.
Tet Doan Ngo

This unique festival is in the name of good health and marks as a day of offerings to ward off evil spirits and prevent diseases. According to traditional Vietnamese belief, this time of the year is usually a time of illness, and the worship is in order to do away with the sickness.

Southern Fruit Festival

Various types, quality, and succulent taste of the numerous fruits from the city and neighboring provinces are showcased during this festival. It also hosts beauty pageants,

competitions regarding fruits, agricultural exhibitions, and much more.

Buddha's Birthday

It is a quiet celebration that is marked with lots of people visiting various temples and pledging their prayers. It is generally celebrated on the 15th day of the month four in the Lunar calendar.

National Day

This day marked the independence of Vietnam from the chains of French colonies. It is celebrated every year on 2nd September to commemorate the declaration of independence.

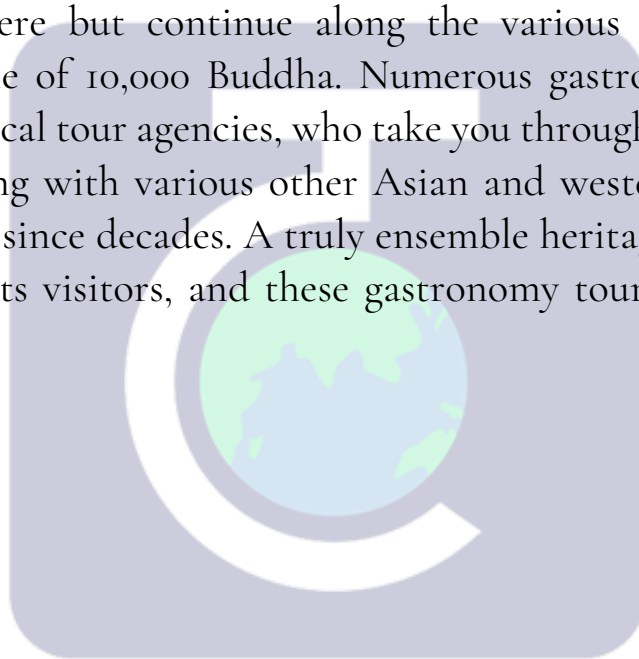
Christmas

Although it is not a public holiday in the country, this day is celebrated in all its true spirits. The area around the Saigon Opera House and the Royal Palace are major highlights during this time as they are festooned with Christmas decorations and bright lights.

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12. Key local guides and tours

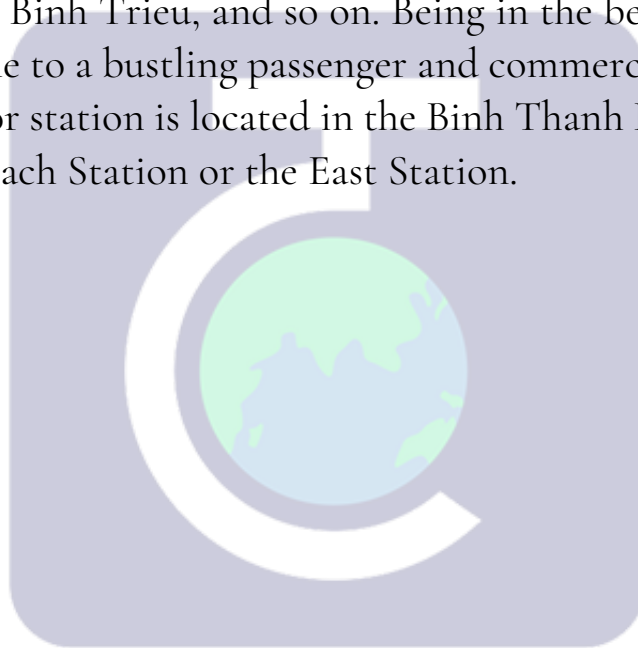
The city has numerous local agencies which organize various tours across the lengths and breadths of the city. Some of the most popular ones involve the famous Cu Chi Tunnels, a couple of the historical churches in the city, including the Notre Dame Cathedral, the traditional spots of commerce which have now turned into huge markets for handicrafts and arts, and so on. The sightseeing doesn't just stop there but continue along the various temples in the city, especially the Temple of 10,000 Buddha. Numerous gastronomy tours are also organized by many local tour agencies, who take you through the actual aspects of the local cuisine along with various other Asian and western recipes that have been used in the city since decades. A truly ensemble heritage cuisine is what Ho Chi Minh offers to its visitors, and these gastronomy tours take them through those lanes.



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13. Transportation hubs

The main airport that serves the city is also the largest one in the entire country and is known as the Tan Son Nhat International Airport. The main train station of the city is located in District 3 and is called the Saigon Railway Station. Although the city's rail transport is not completely developed, it has two main stations Sai Gon and Song Than, along with several smaller stations such as Thu Duc, Di An, Go Vap, Binh Trieu, and so on. Being in the best location on Saigon River, the city is home to a bustling passenger and commercial port. For intercity coach buses, the major station is located in the Binh Thanh District and is known as the Mien Dong Coach Station or the East Station.



14. Transportation cost

Many travel agencies lease cycles on a per day basis, including old fashioned basket-holding cycles, mountain bikes, and so on. The charge varies from place to place, however, on an average, it should fall somewhere between 20,000 VND to 30,000 VND, for the regular ones. The city also offers motorbikes for lease and is quite popular. The charge is usually 10,000 VND per km, along with some additional charge for foreigners. There are numerous taxis present in and around the city, and it isn't hard to flag one down at any time of the day at any place. While the regular charge is about 13,000 VND per kilometer, many may seek more. While cycles, motorbikes, and taxis are heavily used by many for their daily transportation, buses are the cheapest means of transport in the city with a charge of 4,000 VND to 8,000 VND per ride. For a longer distance of travel, however, especially in one of those private coach buses, the charge may get higher depending on the distance and location of the destination. There are no local trains.

Index**15. Baggage allowance**

In the local buses, only carry-on luggage is allowed without an extra penny. Although they are not weighed or measured, if the luggage seems to be more than just carry-on then an extra ticket needs to be bought for the luggage as well. Buses are the only mode of public transport and others are either rentals or the rates are negotiable. Taxis don't have a standardized rate



Index**16. Must try food and local savouries**

Vietnamese dishes incorporate distinctive tastes and flavors which are derived from ingredients such as fish sauce, soy sauce, Thai basil leaves, Saigon cinnamon, fresh herbs, shrimp paste, and so on. All the unique platters of Vietnamese cuisine are cooked with fresh herbs and selective meats, which are then combined with exquisite local spices. As a result, Vietnamese dishes are acclaimed as one of the healthiest in the world because of the negligible oil content and a balanced addition of spices.



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17. Restaurant & Nightlife

As much the city is revered for its culture and history, it houses some of the best places to eat in the entire country, especially in terms of local and French delicacies. The town also has a very lively nightlife with clubs and bars serving some of the freshest music and wildest of nights. Mentioned below are some places which should definitely find a place in any tourists' itinerary for a guaranteed good time. Although the entire restaurant scenario is quite spread out across the city, some of the best ones could be found in the region of Binh Thanh District and Quan I.

Food -

As much the city is revered for its culture and history, it houses some of the best places to eat in the entire country, especially in terms of local and French delicacies. The town also has a very lively nightlife with clubs and bars serving some of the freshest music and wildest of nights. Mentioned below are some places which should definitely find a place in any tourists' itinerary for a guaranteed good time. Although the entire restaurant scenario is quite spread out across the city, some of the best ones could be found in the region of Binh Thanh District and Quan I.

- **The Deck Saigon:**

Address : 38, Nguyen U Di, Thao Dien, 2, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

Location : 10.806938,106.744559200000

Contact No : +84 837446632

Website : <http://www.thedecksaigon.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 10:00hrs-23:00hrs

- **C?c G?ch Quán:**

Address : 10 Dang Tat, Tan Dinh, Quan 1, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam. 70000
Location : 10.7929916,106.688924400000
Contact No : +84 838480144
Website : <http://www.cucgachquan.com.vn/>
Open / Close Time : Daily 09:00hrs-23:00hrs

- **Propaganda:**

Address : 21, Han Thuyen, Ben Nghe, 1, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam
Location : 10.778805,106.698155900000
Contact No : +84 838229048
Website : <http://www.propagandasaiagon.com/>
Open / Close Time : Daily 07:30hrs-22:30hrs

- **Món Hu? Restaurant:**

Address : 57 Võ Văn Tần, phường 6, Quận 3, Hồ Chí Minh, Vietnam
Location : 10.777577,106.691528000000
Contact No : +84 1800 1111
Website : <http://www.nhahangmonhue.vn/>
Open / Close Time : Daily 06:00hrs-23:00hrs

- **Secret Garden Restaurant:**

Address : Top Floor, 158, Pasteur, Ben Nghe, Ho Chí Minh, Vietnam.
70000
Location : 10.7773131,106.699850400000
Contact No : +84 909904621
Website : <https://www.facebook.com/secretgarden158pasteur/>
Open / Close Time : Daily 08:00hrs-22:00hrs

- **Skewers Restaurant:**

Address : 9, Thai Van Lung, Ben Nghe, Quan 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Location : 10.7790405,106.704779299999

Contact No : +84 838224798

Website : <http://www.voo8.skewers-saigon.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:00hrs-14:30hrs, 18:00hrs-22:30hrs

- **La Villa French Restaurant:**

Address : 14, Ngo Quang Huy, Khu Do Thi An Phu, Thao Dien, Quan 2, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

Location : 10.8039641,106.732824499999

Contact No : +84 838982082

Website : <http://www.lavilla-restaurant.com.vn/>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Saturday 11:45hrs-13:30hrs, 18:30hrs-21:30hrs
Sunday Closed

- **Shri Restaurant & Lounge:**

Address : 72, Nguyen Thi Minh Khai, 6, 3, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

Location : 10.782576,106.697615100000

Contact No : +84 838279631

Website : <http://www.shri.vn/>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Saturday 10:30hrs-00:00hrs Sunday
16:30hrs-00:00hrs

- **Baba's Kitchen:**

Address : 164, Bui Vien Street, Pham Ngu Lao Ward, District 1, Ho Chi

Minh City, Vietnam. 70000

Location : 10.7666797,106.69221449999998

Contact No : +84 838386661

Website : <http://www.babaskitchen.in/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:00hrs-22:30hrs

- **Soul Burger:**

Address : 4, Phan Boi Chau Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam 70000

Location : 10.7724661,106.698773500000

Contact No : +84 1225171261

Website : <https://m.facebook.com/soulburgersaigon/>

Open / Close Time : Monday Closed Tuesday-Sunday 11:00hrs-14:30hrs, 16:30hrs-22:00hrs

- **Chill Skybar:**

Address : Tang 23, 76 Le Lai, Ben Thanh, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam 70000

Location : 10.770547,106.694294000000

Contact No : +84 938822838

Website : <http://www.chillsaigon.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 17:30hrs-02:30hrs

- **Lush:**

Address : Ly Tu Truong, Ben Nghe, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam 70000

Location : 10.7828437,106.70533790000002

Contact No : +84 838242496

Website : <http://www.lush.vn/>

Open / Close Time : Monday Closed Tuesday-Saturday

20:00hrs-04:00hrs; Sunday 20:00hrs-00:00hrs

- **HOPS Beer Garden:**

Address : 43, Nguyen Dinh Chieu, Da Kao, Quan 1, Ho Chi Minh 70000, Vietnam

Location : 10.7851346,106.696493599999

Contact No : +84 862991818

Website : <http://www.hops.vn/>

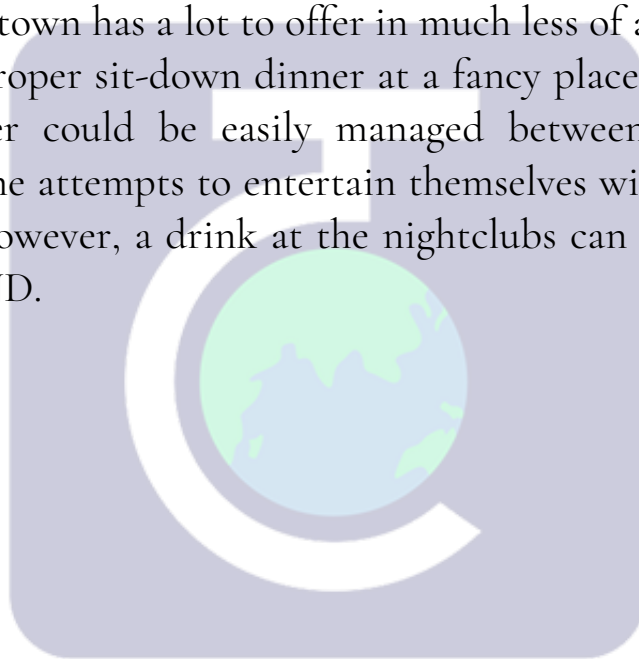
Open / Close Time : Daily 11:00hrs-00:00hrs



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18. Average meal cost

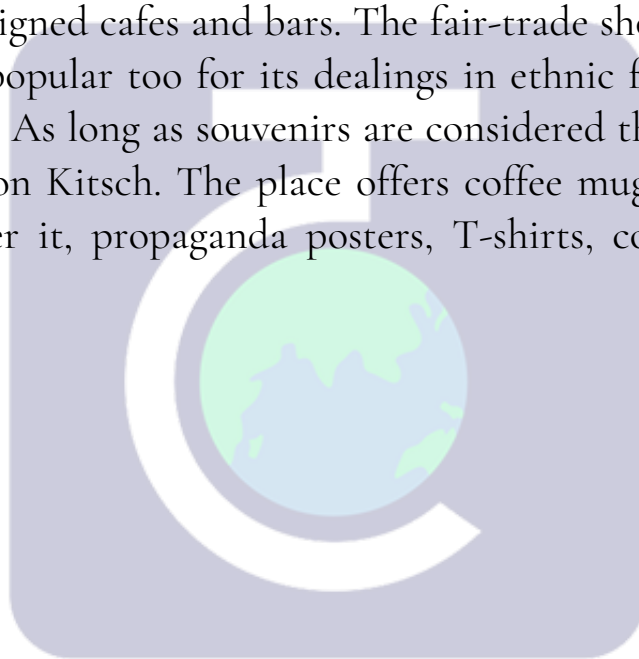
Ho Chi Minh City has always been modest in terms of their prices regarding food and drinks. The city offers a huge array of eating places, ranging from the Michelin Star ventures to the street vendors. With so many choices under the nose, one can easily get a budget breakfast within 20,071.36 VND to 39,919.71. A budget lunch could be well-managed in this town in about 39,919.71 VND to 80,062.44 VND. The town has a lot to offer in much less of a price when it comes to dinner. While a proper sit-down dinner at a fancy place could cost a handful but a budget dinner could be easily managed between 70,026.76 VND to 139,830.51 VND. If one attempts to entertain themselves with the local spirits, it can be very cheap, however, a drink at the nightclubs can range from 29,884.03 VND to 89,875.11 VND.



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19. Shopping

The city's most popular and lively market, which is centrally located, is the Ben Thanh. Second to that is the War Surplus Market, or as it's better known as the Dan Sinh market, which serves as the best spot to shop for authentic antiques especially from the days of the War. Art is best served in the 3A Alternate Art Area with a bunch of galleries, homeware shops, and street art combined with an array of uniquely designed cafes and bars. The fair-trade shop dealing at the Mai Handicrafts is very popular too for its dealings in ethnic fabrics, ceramics, and other souvenir items. As long as souvenirs are considered there is no other place better than the Saigon Kitsch. The place offers coffee mugs with revolutionary motifs emblazed over it, propaganda posters, T-shirts, coasters, among many others.



Index**20. Tourist benefits**

The VAT refund can only be applied for at the airport, which has six kiosks at different terminals to facilitate the process. The refund can be accounted for only 85% of the VAT levied on the list of eligible goods and the remaining will be charged as the service fee. The minimum amount of purchased goods eligible for VAT refund is 2,000,000 VND, upon which the levied VAT is 10%.



Index**21. Essential local apps**

For assistance in colloquial communication, Ulmon is highly recommended by fellow traveling foreigners. Foody comes in quite handy to search for the best places to eat and drink in the entire city uploaded with authentic customer reviews that help the process of deciding. Please provide more apps



Index**22. Driving**

Any foreign country's driving license would not be accepted by the authorities in this city, which makes having an International Driving Permit necessary to drive a vehicle here. Also, carrying the registration papers, or documents, of the vehicle while driving is highly recommended.



Index**23. Travel essentials**

The electric sockets in all of Vietnam are of 220 volts at 50 Hz. usually, the appliances from U.S.A. and Japan doesn't work here but an all-purpose adapter or a step-down voltage converter could solve the problem. The electric plugs are usually of Type G and C, with the standard 3-pin design.



Index**24. Essential clothes**

The electric sockets in all of Vietnam are of 220 volts at 50 Hz. usually, the appliances from U.S.A. and Japan doesn't work here but an all-purpose adapter or a step-down voltage converter could solve the problem. The electric plugs are usually of Type G and C, with the standard 3-pin design.



25. Local currency

The local currency of Vietnam, and thus Ho Chi Minh City, is Vietnamese Dong
 $1 \text{ US Dollar [USD]} = 0.000045 \text{ Vietnamese Dong [VND]}$



Index**26. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges**

Changing the currency is a little costlier in this city, especially at the airport. However, the banks of this nation are the best places to exchange the currency as they levy the minimum rates and are very helpful towards foreigners as well. The usual commission for each exchange transaction is about 2.5% of the principal amount that is to be changed. The ATMs in this city levy a charge of 20,000 VND as withdrawal fee.



27. Staying connected

There are a total number of seven telecom carriers in the city, which are Viettel Mobile, Vina Phone, Vietnamobile, EVNTelecom, MobiFone, S-Fone, and Beeline, however, the major and the most popular ones are Viettel Mobile, VinaPhone, and MobiFone. The sim cards in this city are available without any documentation or identification proof, so the process is quite simple. Usually, the price of the sim varies with the amount of preloaded balance it comes with which ranges from 50,000 VND to 500,000 VND.



28. Time Zone

The time zone that Vietnam falls under, and hence the city of Ho Chi Minh, is UTC +07:00.



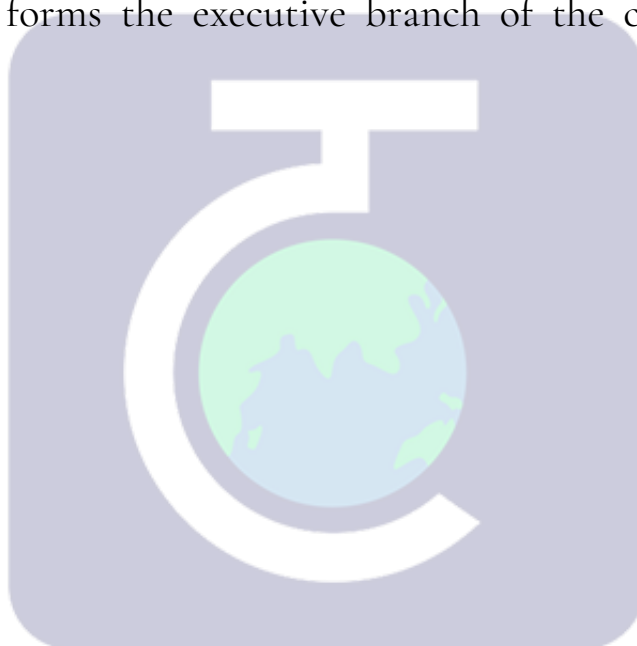
Index**29. Languages**

Although due to the prevalence of commerce and tourism in the city there is a good deal of people who speak English, Vietnamese is the major language spoken by all Saigonese. There is a prominent imprint of a variety of Chinese dialects in the city as well, including Hainanese and Cantonese, even Mandarin, however, very few people indulge in speaking this language.



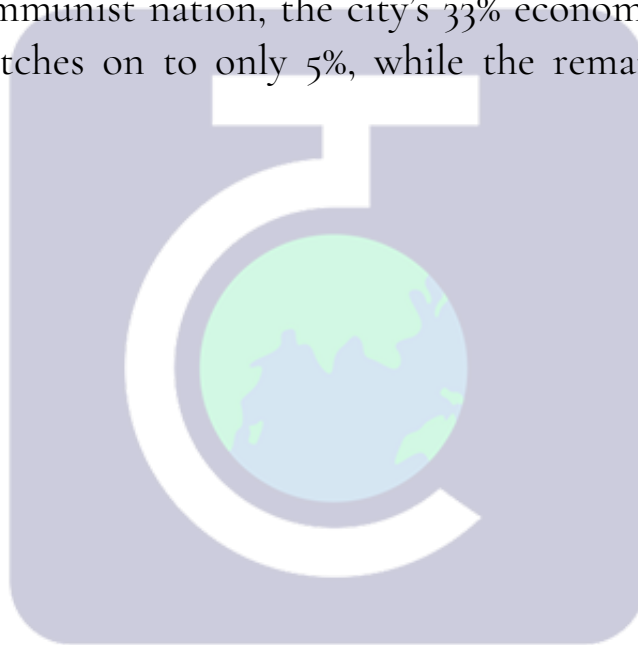
Index**30. Political Scenario**

The city of Ho Chi Minh is ruled as a municipality, as are the other provinces of the country. It comprises of 24 sub-divisions on district-level, which further is classified into 19 urban districts and 5 rural districts. Consisting of 95 members, Ho Chi Minh City People Council is the legislative branch of the city. The city's judiciary branch is the Ho Chi Minh People's Court, while Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee forms the executive branch of the city comprising of 13 members.



31. Economic Scenario

The wealth distribution like the entire world is quite uneven in the city, with about 8% of the local population of the city responsible for 20% of the country's GDP, a third of the country's shipping tonnage, and 28% of its industrial production. The industries which highly contribute towards the GDP here are agriculture, construction, commerce, mining, banking, processing of seafood, and tourism. Being a Communist nation, the city's 33% economy is state-owned and the private sector latches on to only 5%, while the remainder is rendered by foreign investments.



Index**32. Religious belief**

The most popular and dominant religions in the city are Taoism, Buddhism, and Confucianism. The Roman Catholic community forms the first minority, constituting about one-tenth of the entire population [10%], which is followed by Hindus, Protestants, Bahai, and Muslims. Both the ethnic Chinese and ethnic Vietnamese tend to observe the three major religions in the same place of worship.



Index**33. Visa requirements**

For further information or queries, kindly visit the following link: <https://vietnamvisa.govt.vn/> It is advisable to keep 2 pages free in your passport for arrival and departure stamps. In certain cases, it has been observed that applying and receiving a visa can be a process of 20-30 days. Hence, it is essential that you check the timeline with the relevant authority in the country where you intend to make the visa application.



Index**34. Essential vaccination**

The city requires no particular vaccination for the entry of tourists. Although it is not a must, some routine shots could be taken for vaccination, such as diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, DPT, mumps, rubella, measles, MMR, and poliovirus. For some travelers, even vaccinations for Rabies, Hepatitis B, Malaria, Japanese Encephalitis, Typhoid, Yellow Fever, and Hepatitis A, may be recommended.



Index**35. Theft and Safety**

The city is quite crime-ridden, unlike the rest of the country. Pickpockets and confidence tricks or scams like everywhere are present here as well, and so the tourists need to be a bit careful and cautious. Buyers beware of flashy deals and offerings by persuading street vendors. If driving, do not leave valuable things alone in the car. Avoid walking in isolated and dark areas to avoid mugging or violent crimes.



Index**36. Embassy/Consulate**

Many embassies are situated in this city. Major areas where the embassies are situated? Follow this link for any embassy related queries:
<http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-of/vietnam>



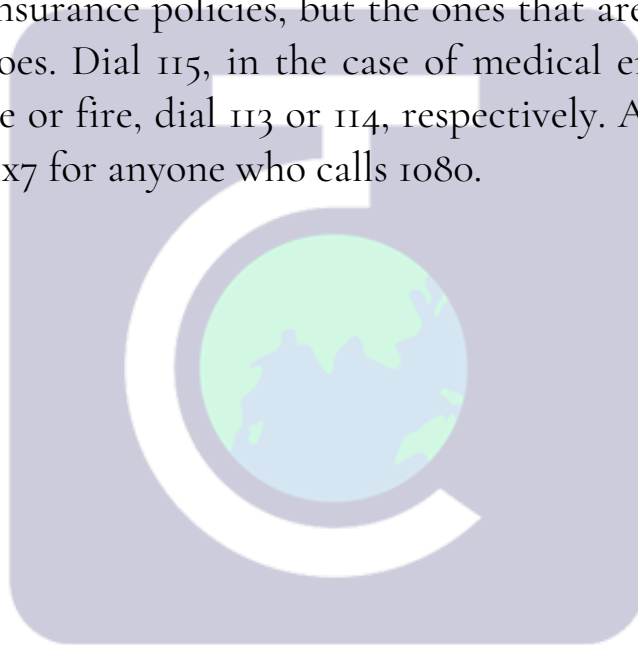
Index**37. Accessibility**

The city of Ho Chi Minh is prominently less accessible, with cluttered sidewalks, no ramps, and small public toilets. Although certain buses facilitate carrying a wheelchair and the hotels cater to their guests with restricted movement, nothing else is in the city to call it an accessible city for handicapped people.



Index**38. Emergencies**

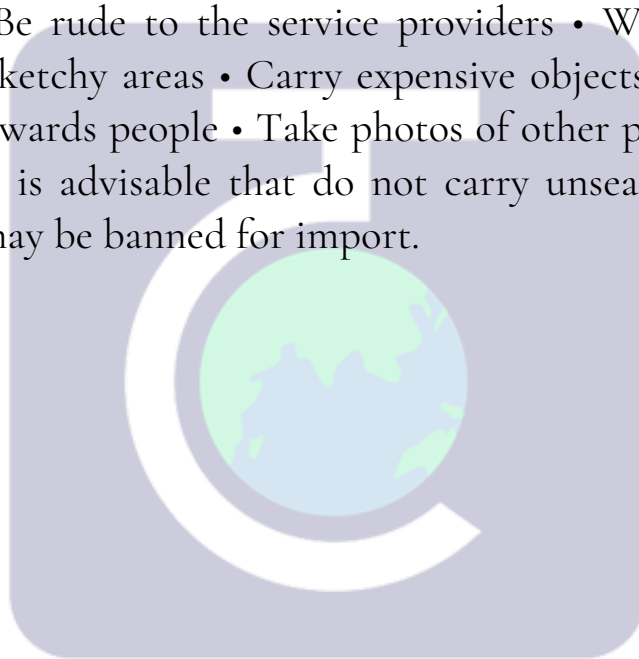
The Institute of Cardiology and the Cho Ray Hospital are among the most revered medical establishments in all of Indochina. The healthcare system of Ho Chi Minh City is highly developed comprising of a network of about 100 state-owned hospitals and medical centers spread across the city, along with about a dozen private ventures. All the private-owned or operated establishments may not accept overseas insurance policies, but the ones that are administered by the government surely does. Dial 115, in the case of medical emergency, to call the ambulance. For police or fire, dial 113 or 114, respectively. A general information service is provided 24x7 for anyone who calls 1080.



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39. Do's and Don'ts

Dos: • Learn basic Vietnamese phrases • Always carry some cash with you • Pay attention to your belongings • Dress in a more conservative manner • Avoid public displays of affection, as it is severely frowned upon • Take the shoes off when at the entrance of a Vietnamese home • It is advisable to carry a certified doctor's prescription along with the medicines to ensure hassle free import clearance. Don'ts: • Be rude to the service providers • Walk in isolated, dark streets or alleys, or sketchy areas • Carry expensive objects or items • Sit while pointing your feet towards people • Take photos of other people without asking their permission • It is advisable that do not carry unsealed/ unbranded food articles as the same may be banned for import.



Index**40. Tipping basics**

Although in Vietnam tipping was never a culture, but due to the increasing influx of tourists, certain trends for tipping have been initiated, especially at the restaurants. As the tip is not expected rather appreciated, 100,000 VND as a tip for outstanding service is common. While this was for the proper sit-down restaurants, 20,000 VND should suffice at any street food shops.



Index**41.Pet info**

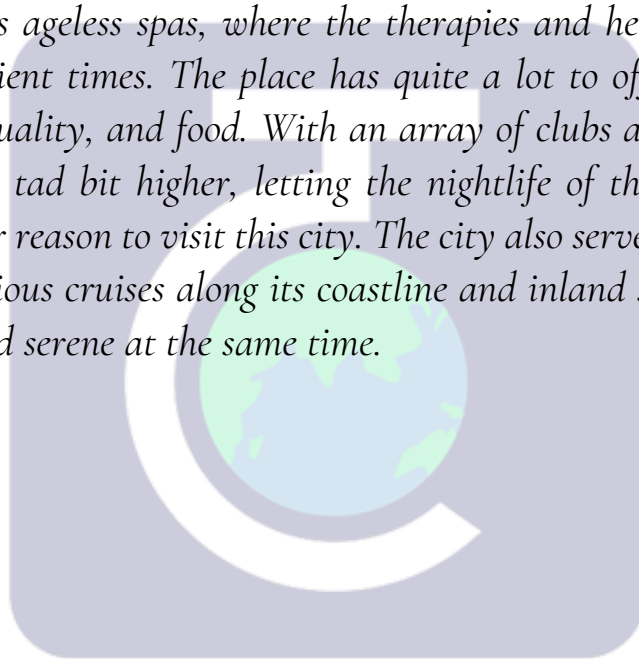
For pets to be imported into the country an import permit is required. Apart from the permit, all the necessary and stated vaccinations must be given to the pet just before flying inland. A blood titer test is necessary, along with a recently issued health certificate before flying. For dogs, the stated vaccinations are of rabies, Parainfluenza, leptospirosis, distemper, parvovirus, and hepatitis. For cats, the mandated vaccinations are leukemia, viral rhinotracheitis, rabies, distemper, and calicivirus.



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Conclusion – Why to select this destination

Ho Chi Minh is a pulsating city of discovery and energy. The city binds together the best of both worlds – from guesthouses to the finest of hotels, from street markets to high-end boutiques. Apart from this, the city has much to offer tourists. The following are some of the most enticing factors. Incurring the imprints of both Asian and western influences alike, the first factor is the ensemble cuisine it instills. The second factor which drives people to this city is its ageless spas, where the therapies and healing methods could be traced back to the ancient times. The place has quite a lot to offer in terms of history, architecture, art, spirituality, and food. With an array of clubs and bars, people flock to get their party craze a tad bit higher, letting the nightlife of the city thrive and, as a result, serve yet another reason to visit this city. The city also serves an amazing botanical experience through various cruises along its coastline and inland streams or rice paddies, which is enthralling and serene at the same time.



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