**Vietnamese**

**Nam Giao**

is worth the quest. Tucked away in an alley of cosmetic shops, behind Ben Thanh Market, it’s cheap, delicious and always packed with locals. The food here is Hue-style and superb. There’s a simple photo menu, but if you can’t choose, try the combo platter ( thap cam) for 10000d.

Open time: 8am-9pm

Admission: 6000-10000d

Address: 136/15 Le Thanh Ton, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Bo Tung Xeo**

Bo Tung Xeo is a popular indoor-outdoor eatery in the city center and it serves amazing cheap and tasty Vietnamese barbecued food. There are good seafood dishes on the menu and the cheerful staff speak English.

Address: 31 Ly Tu Trong, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Restaurant 19**

Serves a very tasty variation on Hanoi’s fish cakes (cha ca) and good Thai dishes as well

Address: 19 Ngo Duc Ke, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Restaurant 13**

A highly popular with locals and expats alike, and is near Restaurant 19.

Address: 13 Ngo Duc Ke, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Thy 4 Two**

Pronounced “tea for two” is a cosy little bistro doing Vietnamese fare. The lunch sets are very reasonable.

Open time: lunch & dinner

Admission fees: lunch 70000d

Address 20 Thi Sach, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Tib Restaurant**

Tib Restaurant is housed in a Sino-French villa, down a quiet alleyway. They do good Hue-style dishes, and a mean jackfruit salad with grilled sesame.

187 Hai Ba Trung, District 3, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Nam Bo**

Nam Bo is a remarkable outdoor eatery. Here a wide variety of traditional Vietnamese dishes can be ordered from a long time of clean Vietnamese food stalls.

Open time: 5am-midnight

Admission: mains 10000-15000d

Address: 199A Pham Ngu Lao, District 1, Ho Chi Minh city.

**Lac Thien**

Lac Thien was cloned straight from the trio of travelers restaurants, run by deaf people, up in Hue. The food is excellent and cheap.

Open time: 7am-midnight

Admission fees: mains 10000-20000d

Address: 28/25 Bui Vien, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Pho Bo**

Is a classic little hole in the wall that whips up tasty bowls of beef noodle soup.

Address: 96 Bui Vien, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City

**Gourmet Vietnamese**

**Lemon Grass**

Lemon Grass is one of the best Vietnamese restaurants in the city center. You’d be hard-pressed to find anything bad on the menu, so if you can’t decide what to order just pick something at random. Two women in traditional costume play musical instruments while you eat.

Open time: 11am-2pm & 5pm-10pm daily

Address: 4 Nguyen Thiep, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Mandarine**

Mandarine offers a fine selection of traditional dishes drawing from southern, central and northern cooking styles. The food is superb, and the pleasant décor and traditional-music performances make it an all- round good bet. A house special worth trying is the Hanoi-style cha ca.

Address: 11A Ngo Van Nam, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Other Asian**

**Encore Angkor**

May be the only restaurant in Vietnam specializing in Cambodian-inspired Khmer cuisine. This stylish little bistro is run by Daniel Hung, a French photographer born to Khmer-Vietnamese parents. He serves beautifully presented, traditional Khmer dishes at very reasonable prices.

Address: 5 Nguyen Thiep, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City

**Chao Thai**

Is one of Vietnam’s best Thai’s restaurants. The lunch sets here are good value. Recommended dishes include the prawn cakes, Chiang Mai sausages and winged-bean salad. Sawadee is another Thai choice nearby Thi Sach st.

Admission: lunch set 80000d, meals from 50000d

Address: 16 Thai Van Lung, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Hakata**

Serves some of the best Japanese fare in town and good sushi.

Address: 2 Le Thanh Ton, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Indian Heritage**

Serves an excellent lunch buffet.

Admission: lunch buffet US$5

Address: 26A Le Thanh Ton, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Ashoka**

Is another moderately priced Indian restaurant with lunch buffet and halal food.

Address: 17A/10 Le Thanh Ton, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**My Huong**

Is a highly popular indoor-outdoor restaurant serving up all kinds of good food, including superb noodle soup with duck.

Address: 131 Nguyen Tri Phuong, District 5, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Tiem An Nam Long**

Is noteworthy for tasty wok-fried dishes and sidewalk seating. There is an English menu with no prices, but everything is cheap.

Admission: most dishes under US$2

Address: Corner Hau Giang & Pham Dinh Ho, District 5, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Hong Phat**

Serves cheap and delicious noodle soup with pork

Address: 206 Hai Thuong Lan Ong, District 5, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Dong Nguyen**

Specialises in tasty roast chicken with rice (Com ga)

Address: 89-91 Chau Van Liem, District 5, Ho Chi Minh City.

**French Restaurants**

**Bibi’s**

Is a great place in the city for casual Frecnh bistro fare. The bright Mediterranean décor creates pleasant atmosphere.

Address: 8A/8/D2 Thai Van Lung, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Augustin**

Is another popular spot serving great bistro-style food. Many consider it the city’s beat cheap French restaurant.

Admission: most mains 50000d

Address: 10 Nguyen Thiep, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**La Fourchette**

For authentic but inexpensive French food.

Address: 9 Ngo Duc Ke, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**L’Etoile**

Serves terrific, if a bit expensive, French food. Their all-day “fast food” menu, however, is a good value.

Admission: all-day set meals 15000d

Address: 180 Hai Ba Trung, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Other European**

**Skewers**

Specialises in Mediterranean cuisine, notably barbecued skewered meat. There’s a nice atmosphere and an open kitchen so you can watch the cooks at work.

Open time: 11.30am-2pm & 6pm-11.30pm Mon-Sat, 6pm-11.30pm Sun.

Admission: mains 25000-50000d

Address: 8A/1/D2 Thai Van Lung, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Annie’s Pizza**

Does a good pepperoni and mozzarella and if you don’t feel like trekking over there, just phone from your hotel for a free delivery.

Admission: pizzas 40000-70000d

Address: 45 Mac Thi Buoi, District 1, Ho Chi Minh Chi City

**Givral**

Is a long-standing restaurant across the street from the Continental Hotel. It has a good selection of cakes, home-made ice cream and yoghurt. There’s also French, Chinese, Vietnamese and Russian cuisine on the menu.

Address: 169 Dong Khoi, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Why Not?**

Is a French-run place worth checking out for good European food, or a game of darts.

Address: 24 Thai Van Lung, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Santa Lucia**

Santa Lucia has some of the best authentic Itaian food in town

Address: 14 Nguyen Hue, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Gartenstadt**

Is a popular expat lunch spot, in the same area as Santa Lucia with good German fare.

Address: 35 Dong Khoi, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Globo Cafe**

One of the trendier bar-restaurant in the Dong Khoi area, does good French and Italian dishes, including praiseworthy pizza

Address: 6 Nguyen Thiep, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Café Latin**

Is Vietnam’s first tapas bar. It has a superb wine collection and fresh bread that’s baked daily.

Address: 25 Dong Du, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Paloma Café**

Is a stylish place with wooden tables, white tablecloths, polished silverware and aggressive air-conditioner. It’s very popular with young, fashion-conscious Vietnamese.

Address: 26 Dong Khoi, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Hoa Vien**

Is HCM City only Czech restaurant. The big drawcard is the draught Pilsner Urquell beer.

Address: 30 Mac Dinh Chi, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**ABC Restaurant**

A trendy joint for cheap and tasty late-night chow, has indoor and outdoor seating and an extensive menu – from noodle soup and fresh seafood to juicy steaks.

Open time: open till 3am

Admission: mains 25000-50000d

Address: 172H Nguyen Dinh Chieu, District 3, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Good Morning Vietnam**

Is the best of Pham Ngu Lao’s Italian eateries. It serves authentic northern Italian dishes and great home-made ice cream.

Open time: 8am-10pm

Admission: pasta 30000-50000d, pizza 35000-80000d

Address: 197 De Tham, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Kim Café**

A long-running hang-out for budget travelers, is a good place to eat and meet people.

Address: 266 De Tham, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Sinh Café**

Near Kim Café, is a nearly identical setup

Address: 246-248 De Tham, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Saigon Café**

On the corner of De Tham, is worthy of a plug and , along with Café 333 is where the largest numbers of expats congregate.

Address: 195 Pham Ngu Lao, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Seafood**

**Miss Saigon**

A stone’s throw from the Rex Hotel, serves respectable sea food and Vietnamese dishes. You can dine in air-con comfort or outside, surrounded by views of past and present-on one side an army tank and on the other a row of tennis courts, where HCM City nouveaux riches swat at fuzzy yellow balls in the heat.

Open time: 10am-11pm

Admission: mains 35000-50000d

Address: 86 Le Thanh Ton, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Vegetarian**

**Bodhi Tree**

Is in a narrow alley, two streets east of De Tham. The food is excellent and very cheap. One neighbor has cleverly opened up a place with the exact same name.

Address: 174/6 Pham Ngu Lao, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

**Dinh Y**

Serves very inexpensive and delicious vegie fare, and has an English menu.

Admission: 5000-10000d

Address: 171B Cong Quynh, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.