

= Vietnam Airlines =

Vietnam Airlines (Vietnamese : Hãng Hàng không Quốc gia Việt Nam) is the flag carrier of Vietnam . Founded in 1956 under the name Vietnam Civil Aviation , the airline was established as a state @-@ owned enterprise in April 1989 . Vietnam Airlines is headquartered in Long Bien District , Hanoi , with hubs at Noi Bai International Airport and Tan Son Nhat International Airport . The airline flies to 52 destinations in 17 countries , excluding codeshared services .

From its inception until the early 1990s , Vietnam Airlines was a minor carrier within the aviation industry as it was hampered by a variety of factors including the socio @-@ economic and political situation of the country . With the government 's normalization of relations with the United States , the airline was able to expand , improve its products and services , and modernize its ageing fleet . In 1996 , the Vietnamese government brought together 20 service companies to form Vietnam Airlines Corporation , with the airline itself as the centrepiece . In 2010 , the corporation was restructured into a limited liability company and renamed Vietnam Airlines Company Limited . A seven @-@ seat management board , members of which are appointed by the Vietnamese Prime Minister , oversees the company .

As passenger transport constitutes its core activity , Vietnam Airlines plays a crucial role in the economic development of the country . It owns 100 % of Vietnam Air Service Company ? a regional airline in southern Vietnam , 70 % of the low @-@ cost carrier Jetstar Pacific Airlines , and 49 % of the Cambodian national airline Cambodia Angkor Air . In addition , the corporation earns revenue from airline catering and the maintenance and overhauling of aircraft through a number of its subsidiaries , including Vietnam Airlines Engineering Company and Vietnam Airlines Caterers . The company has also diversified its investments in the aircraft @-@ leasing and airport ground @-@ servicing industries , and is looking to manufacture aircraft components . It controls and operates a cargo division , Vietnam Airlines Cargo .

Vietnam Airlines became a member of SkyTeam in June 2010 , making it the first Southeast Asian carrier to have joined that alliance . It is expected to be restructured and partially privatized by 2015 to help it streamline its services and better compete with other airlines . This would facilitate its long @-@ term development plan that involves the improvement of its products and services , and the expansion of its fleet and flight network , as the airline aspires to become the second @-@ largest full @-@ service carrier in Southeast Asia by 2020 .

= = History = =

= = = Beginnings = = =

Vietnam Airlines has its origins in January 1956 (1956 @-@ 01) , when it was established by the North Vietnamese government under the name " Vietnam Civil Aviation " following the nationalization of Gia Lam Airport . It was instituted after the government signed the Decree No. 666 / TTg . The airline was created as part of the air force for civilian purposes with support from both the Soviet Union and China ; initially , its fleet consisted of two Lisunov Li @-@ 2s that were later replaced by two Ilyushin Il @-@ 14 and three Aero Ae @-@ 45s . This was due to an embargo that prohibited the airline from leasing and / or buying American technology or components .

The airline 's development and expansion was seriously hampered by the Vietnam War (1954 ? 1975) . Following the war , its first international destination was Beijing , followed by Vientiane in 1976 . During that year , the airline was known as General Department of Civil Aviation in Vietnam , and began full operations ; it carried around 21 @,@ 000 passengers , one @-@ third of whom were on international flights , and 3 @,@ 000 tonnes (6 @,@ 600 @,@ 000 lb) of cargo . In 1978 , another important destination of Vietnam Airlines was added , with flights offered to Bangkok . The late 1980s and early 1990s saw the expansion of the network to Hong Kong , Kuala Lumpur , Manila and Singapore .

In 1990 , the company initiated discussions regarding the incorporation of Western @-@ built

aircraft into the fleet . Later that year , however , the carrier had to cancel the acquisition of two Airbus A310s due to their use of US @-@ manufactured engines . By July 1991 (1991 @-@ 07) , the airline struck a wet @-@ lease agreement with Dutch lessor Transavia . The aircraft involved was a Boeing 737 @-@ 300 , that arrived in Vietnam Airlines ' livery . However , the aircraft was returned after the U.S. State Department pressured the Dutch lessor to remove the aircraft from Vietnam . Subsequently , Vietnam Airlines organized a similar but more complicated deal with TEA Basle , who spent the rest of 1991 negotiating a deal with US authorities . Eventually , a solution stating that " [the Boeing 737] must be positioned outside Vietnam , with no logo or lettering of Vietnam Airlines . On these conditions , it could operate on behalf of Vietnam Airlines " was reached . In December 1991 (1991 @-@ 12) , Cathay Pacific and Vietnam Airlines agreed on a 50 ? 50 joint venture to operate between Hong Kong and Vietnam , as the airline 's Tupolev Tu @-@ 134 fleet did not meet Kai Tak Airport 's noise restrictions .

In October 1992 (1992 @-@ 10) , the Boeing 737 was supplemented with an Airbus A310 . However , a dispute with Bulgarian Jes Air over who should pay for the repairs after the aircraft sustained an engine failure led to its replacement with another A310 from GATX , also operated by Jes Air . A similar dispute with United Technologies encouraged the airline to switch from Airbus to Boeing . Hence , a Boeing 767 @-@ 200ER , leased from Ansett Worldwide Aviation Services (AWAS) , arrived in January 1993 , and a Royal Brunei Airlines Boeing 767 @-@ 300ER , arrived the following year . In October 1993 , the first Airbus A320 @-@ 200 was incorporated over a two @-@ year wet @-@ lease contract with Air France . Vietnam Airlines by now had started discussions with Air France about a partnership , and the French carrier agreed to lease its Airbuses to Vietnam Airlines , and also to provide customer support and pilot / crew training . By that time the route network had further expanded internationally , seeing the incorporation of destinations such as Paris , Tokyo , Seoul , Taipei , Sydney , and Melbourne . In 1993 , the airline carried 1 @-@ 06 million passengers , 418 @-@ 000 of whom were on international flights .

= = = New enterprise : 1993 ? 2006 = = =

The airline became the flag carrier of Vietnam in 1993 , after having completed a restructuring programme that was started four years earlier . In that year , the airline split from the Civil Aviation Administration of Vietnam (CAAV) and became a state enterprise . The move was similar to the reorganization of the Civil Aviation Administration of China into several regional airlines in 1987 . Despite the fact that the airline gained some independence from the CAAV , it was still known as Civil Aviation Administration of Vietnam within the 1993 ? 1996 period .

In February 1994 (1994 @-@ 02) , US President Bill Clinton lifted the trade embargo to allow Vietnam Airlines the ability to acquire Western @-@ built aircraft . Consequently , Vietnam Airlines announced in April of the same year that it would be phasing out its inefficient Soviet planes . By April 1995 (1995 @-@ 04) , the fleet consisted of nine Airbus A320s (all of them leased from Air France) , 11 Antonov An @-@ 24s , four ATR72s , two Boeing 707 @-@ 300s , three Ilyushin Il @-@ 18s , nine Tupolev Tu @-@ 134s and three Yakovlev Yak @-@ 40s ; at this time the route network comprised 14 domestic destinations (including Ban Me Thuot , Da Nang , Dien Bien Phu , Hue , Nha Trang , Phuoc and Pleiku) and 16 international destinations (including Bangkok , Hong Kong , Kuala Lumpur and Singapore) . On 27 May 1995 (1995 @-@ 05 @-@ 27) , the airline , along with a number of other aviation @-@ related businesses , were incorporated to establish Vietnam Airlines Corporation . Two Fokker 70s were purchased in mid @-@ 1995 for US \$ 50 million ; they were aimed at partly replacing the Tu @-@ 134 fleet on domestic routes as well as at serving as VIP transport . In December 1995 (1995 @-@ 12) , discussions with GECAS for the lease of three additional , second @-@ hand Boeing 767 @-@ 300ERs were under way ; these ex @-@ Continental Airlines aircraft would act as a replacement for wet @-@ leased Boeing 767 aircraft (three -300ERs and one -200ER leased from AWAS and Royal Brunei) in the fleet .

In September 1996 (1996 @-@ 09) , Vietnam Airlines started offering business class services and in 1999 , the airline launched its frequent @-@ flyer program , Golden Lotus Plus ; During 1996 , Vietnam Airlines looked for aircraft which would substitute the A320s wet @-@ leased from Air

France when the deal was over . Apart from acquiring further A320s , the airline considered Boeing 737s and McDonnell Douglas MD @-@ 90s . In February 1996 (1996 @-@ 02) , GECAS delivered the first of three Boeing 767 @-@ 300ER to the carrier , on dry @-@ lease for five years . In October the same year , two Boeing 767 @-@ 300ERs and a Boeing 767 @-@ 200 , on lease from AWAS and Royal Brunei Airlines , respectively , were returned to the lessors , but in early 1997 another Boeing 767 @-@ 300ER was phased in on a one @-@ year lease from AWAS . With its freedom to operate Western @-@ built aircraft , Vietnam Airlines considered the acquisition of long @-@ haul aircraft to better service Vietnamese living overseas . The Airbus A340 , Boeing 747 and the McDonnell Douglas MD @-@ 11 were topics of discussion . Meanwhile , two Fokker 70s were acquired in May and July to replace the twelve Tupolev Tu @-@ 134s . On 3 September 1997 , the crash of a Tupolev Tu @-@ 134B , on approach to Phnom Penh 's Pochentong Airport in bad weather , resulted in more than 60 fatalities .

A new livery was introduced in early 1998 , initially unveiled on a Boeing 767 . In December 2001 (2001 @-@ 12) , Vietnam Airlines signed a historic agreement with Boeing for the acquisition of its first ever US @-@ built aircraft , signalling the start of trade under the Bilateral Trade Agreement between the two countries . The deal involved four Boeing 777 @-@ 200ERs . The transaction was valued at US \$ 680 million ; the first aircraft was initially scheduled for delivery in 2003 . These four aircraft , along with six others of the same type that are leased from International Lease Finance Corporation (ILFC) , are the flagships of the airline , and serve on medium and long @-@ haul routes , respectively . During that year , the airline carried 3 @-@ 4 million passengers , 1 @-@ 9 million of whom were on domestic flights ; flights to Beijing resumed and services to Kunming were launched . During 2002 , Vietnam Airlines considered a lease offer from Airbus for two Airbus A340 @-@ 300s . On 4 September 2003 , a landmark ceremony celebrated the airline 's receipt of its first Boeing 777 @-@ 200ER purchased outright from Boeing . On 28 October , the airline decided to move its operations in Moscow from Sheremetyevo International Airport to Domodedovo International Airport .

In June 2005 (2005 @-@ 06) , Vietnam Airlines ordered four Boeing 787 @-@ 8s . Twelve additional 787 @-@ 8s were ordered in late 2007 , some of them to be directly acquired from the company , and the rest to be purchased by the carrier 's subsidiary Vietnam Aircraft Leasing Company (VALC) . These new aircraft were to allow Vietnam Airlines to expand its network and replace some leased aircraft . Regarding the delays from Boeing , CEO Pham Ngoc Minh remarked in September 2009 (2009 @-@ 09) , " We are not happy about the constant delays . It affects our business plan . We expected to get our planes in 2009 , then 2010 , and now nobody can confirm to us which is the exact delivery date . I can be patient but it gives us a lot of headaches . " In 2010 the airline switched its Boeing 787 order from the ? 8 to the ? 9 model , stating that 787 @-@ 8s did not meet all the requirements Boeing initially promised ; it is expected the airline will receive its first aircraft of the type in 2015 .

On 20 June 2005 , the airline launched direct services to Frankfurt after having discontinued services to Berlin . It came after the 2004 ? 2005 period when travel between the two countries soared 70 % . The following year , Vietnam Airlines was admitted into IATA . As part of the move , Vietnam Airlines had to meet the association 's IOSA safety standards .

= = = Expansion : 2007 ? current = = =

According to a number of newspaper reports in 2007 , the Vietnamese government planned to partly privatize Vietnam Airlines . In the plan , the government considered selling 20 ? 30 % of the airline 's stake to outsiders , with the government holding the balance . This was a small part of a bigger proposal by the government to privatize its state @-@ owned companies , due to be completed by 2010 . Vietnam authorized the plan the following year ; however , the plan was not carried out as the airline missed its deadline scheduled by the government , which was arranged for 2010 , due to the Global Financial Crisis .

On 1 October 2007 , the airline and VALC signed an memorandum of understanding for the purchase of ten Airbus A350 XWBs , and 20 additional Airbus A321s . The Airbus A350s will

supplement the Boeing 787s already ordered by the airline . This single order will result in Vietnam Airlines becoming one of the largest Airbus operators in Asia . The two companies also ordered five extra ATR 72 @-@ 500s in December 2007 (2007 @-@ 12) .

Vietnam was chosen as the host of Miss World 's 60th contest in 2008 . As the country 's national airline , Vietnam Airlines was selected as the sponsoring airline for the beauty pageant . Therefore , it was tasked the job of managing all the transport matters for the contest , to be carried out during September and October , just before the beginning of the competition . However , it was later decided to carry out the event in Sanya , China , following speculations of Vietnam withdrawing . In August 2008 (2008 @-@ 08) , Vietnam Airlines added Nagoya , the airline 's fourth point served in Japan besides Fukuoka , Osaka and Tokyo , to the route network .

In 2009 , Vietnam Airlines and the Government of Cambodia established a joint @-@ venture , having 49 % and 51 % stockholding , respectively , with the goal of boosting tourism in Cambodia . The joint @-@ venture was a new Cambodian national airline named Cambodia Angkor Air , which started flying in July the same year , using ATR @-@ 72 equipment ; an Airbus A321 joined the fleet in September . Also in 2009 , the carrier signed a deal for another 16 Airbus A321s plus two Airbus A350s , during the Paris Air Show . In addition , Vietnam Airlines launched a new bilingual website in October to simplify bookings and adopted a new passenger service system designed by IT provider Sabre Airline Solutions .

On 26 August 2010 , the airline teamed up with Boeing during the unveiling of its interior modernization programme to increase passenger comfort . From late September to early October , Vietnam Airlines discounted up to 85 % of its 90 @,@ 000 fares to celebrate Thang Long @-@ Hanoi 's 1000th anniversary . In November 2010 , the airline awarded Honeywell a US \$ 100 million contract to retrofit the Airbus A321s ' aircraft flight systems , which is calculated to save Vietnam Airlines US \$ 10 @,@ 000 per aircraft per year .

In February 2012 (2012 @-@ 02) , Vietnam Airlines boosted its stake in the low @-@ cost carrier Jetstar Pacific Airlines to 70 % , with Qantas holding the balance . The Vietnamese flag carrier was the major shareholder in Vietnam 's second largest airline , but its stake had been transferred to the Ministry of Finance , and subsequently to the Vietnamese State Capital Investment Corporation (SCIC) . The carrier 's takeover of SCIC 's stake in Jetstar Pacific will capitalise the low @-@ cost carrier with US \$ 27 million , an amount that will be directed towards fleet renewal . In late April 2012 (2012 @-@ 04) , the aircraft lessor ALC announced the placement of an order for eight Boeing 787 @-@ 9s , which will be leased to Vietnam Airlines ; deliveries are expected to start in 2017 . In late May 2012 (2012 @-@ 05) , the carrier signed an agreement with Vietnam 's Exim Bank for a loan worth US \$ 100 million , which the carrier will use to finance the acquisition of four Airbus A321s ; a further US \$ 100 million was loaned in April 2013 to finance the purchase of eight Boeing 787s . In a deal valued at US \$ 1 @.@ 7 billion , Vietnam Airlines signed a contract with General Electric in October 2013 (2013 @-@ 10) for 40 engines to power the Boeing 787 aircraft the airline has on order .

In July 2014 (2014 @-@ 07) , a new route to Tokyo @-@ Haneda from Hanoi was introduced . Vietnam Airlines received its first Airbus A350 @-@ 900 in late June 2015 (2015 @-@ 06) , becoming the second operator of the type worldwide after Qatar Airways . In August 2015 (2015 @-@ 08) , the airline 's first Boeing 787 @-@ 9 entered the fleet .

= = Future = =

As it is expected to be operating 170 aircraft in 2020 , Vietnam Airlines is aiming to become the second @-@ largest full @-@ service carrier in Southeast Asia . The airline is interested in launching services to the United States , where more than 1 @.@ 2 million Vietnamese reside . Such plans were confirmed in December 2003 , but have since been postponed because Vietnam is not yet part of Federal Aviation Administration 's International Aviation Safety Assessment Program . Vietnam Airlines also considered " opening new routes such as Ho Chi Minh City / Hanoi , Vietnam ? London ; Ho Chi Minh City / Hanoi ? Shanghai / Beijing , China ; Ho Chi Minh City ? Mumbai ; Ho Chi Minh City ? Brisbane ; and Ho Chi Minh City ? Doha " , according to CEO Pham Ngoc Minh in

2008 .

While the airline had launched flights to London @-@ Gatwick , Beijing and Shanghai , there are currently no flights to Mumbai , Doha , and Brisbane . The airline also plans to re @-@ open flights to Berlin , and commence flights to Adelaide , Perth , Amsterdam , Milan , Prague , Mandalay , Dalian , Nanjing , Hangzhou and African cities ; by 2020 , Vietnam Airlines is expected to serve 53 international destinations , up from 27 in 2011 . By 2020 , Vietnam Airlines plans to increase its annual revenue to US \$ 7 billion ? up from \$ 1 @.@ 86 billion in 2010 ? by carrying 620 @,@ 000 tonnes of cargo and 35 million passengers , using a fleet of 163 aircraft (later revised to 41 million passengers using 170 aircraft) . It aims to capture a 45 % market share of Vietnam 's aviation market . During its first 15 years of operation , from 1996 to 2010 , Vietnam Airlines carried a total of 82 million passengers on 678 @,@ 550 flights . In addition , Vietnam Airlines plans to transfer most of its international operations from its current hub , Tan Son Nhat International Airport , to the proposed Long Thanh International Airport . With a cost of approximately US \$ 6 billion , the airport will , according to Vietnamese authorities , help Vietnam Airlines boost its operations internationally as it seeks to bypass Thailand as the dominant gateway to the Greater Mekong region . London operations were transferred from Gatwick to Heathrow in 2015 ; the airline plans to operate its new Boeing 787 @-@ 9 aircraft to this destination , starting from July 2015 (2015 @-@ 07) .

In January 2011 (2011 @-@ 01) , plans were announced by the airline to re @-@ initiate an initial public offering (IPO) by the end of 2012 ; an earlier attempt was stalled by the 2007 ? 2010 financial crisis . Scheduled for mid @-@ 2014 after several delays , the IPO and subsequent share @-@ offerings will supply the funds to expand Vietnam Airlines ' fleet and network . With the company valued at US \$ 1 @.@ 5 billion , the government plans to initially keep 75 % of the shares . The IPO plan was submitted to the Vietnamese Ministry of Transport in June 2014 (2014 @-@ 06) . Scheduled to commence on 14 November 2014 (2014 @-@ 11 @-@ 14) , the IPO has already received two submissions from foreign companies , yet their names have not been disclosed . The corporation will be restructured by 2015 to bring it in line with other state @-@ owned enterprises and to shift its focus away from non @-@ core businesses . Following restructuring , the airline group will consist of Vietnam Airlines itself , as well as three carriers ; in total , the corporation will comprise 26 independently audited companies .

= = Corporate affairs and identity = =

Vietnam Airlines Company Limited is a limited liability company wholly owned by the government of Vietnam , having been restructured from Vietnam Airlines Corporation in June 2010 . Its role is to provide economic gains to the country , as its tasks , in addition to scheduled passenger and cargo transport , include " responsibility towards labor , contribution to the state budget , and providing chartered flights " , according to former CEO Dao Manh Hung . The airline is headed and overseen by a seven @-@ seat management team , members of which are selected by the Prime Minister of Vietnam . As of July 2015 , Pham Viet Thanh was the chairman of the company , whereas Pham Ngoc Minh was the President and CEO , as of March 2014 . As of March 2014 , the airline branch of the corporation had 10 @,@ 929 employees . The airline is headquartered in the Long Bien District of Hanoi ; previously it was headquartered at Gia Lam Airport in Gia Lam , Hanoi .

= = = Training = = =

In 2009 , the airline , Airbus and ESMA Aviation Academy created Bay Viet Flight Training Company to train pilots in the country , with the expectation that up to 100 trainees would graduate annually . In October 2010 , the company planned to train 60 pilots in Vietnam during 2011 ? 2012 . In 2010 , Vietnam Airlines needed 636 pilots , 60 % of whom were Vietnamese . It planned to raise that figure to 75 % by 2015 , meaning there will be at least 100 new recruits each year from 2010 until 2015 . Vietnam Airlines also contracts CAE Global Academy Phoenix in Arizona , United States , to train its cadets .

== Financial performance ==

Vietnam Airlines has enjoyed an average of 37 % increase in passengers flown per year until 1997 , when the Asian Financial Crisis and other contributing causes led to a loss in profits for the airline . Nevertheless , the airline remained profitable throughout the crisis . In 1996 , the airline carried 2 @. @ 5 million passengers , up 18 % from 1995 . The airline carried more than 4 million passengers in 2002 , which is an 18 % increase over the previous year . Its cargo traffic also climbed 20 % during the same period , resulting in a 2002 profit of US \$ 35 @. @ 77 million .

Despite the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak , the airline posted a US \$ 26 @. @ 2 million profit for 2003 . In 2006 , it carried 6 @. @ 8 million passengers (3 @. @ 7 million international) and earned revenue of nearly US \$ 1 @. @ 37 billion (first 11 months) . Vietnam Airlines carried more than 9 million passengers , of which 4 million were international travellers in 2007 , the year which saw the airline earning a gross profit of US \$ 23 million from a revenue of US \$ 1 @. @ 23 billion . It also transported 115 @. @ 100 tonnes of cargo . In 2009 , the airline 's revenue was US \$ 1 @. @ 3 billion , compared to US \$ 1 @. @ 56 billion it earned the previous year . During this period , Vietnam Airlines carried 9 @. @ 3 million passengers . According to Anna.aero , Vietnam Airlines ' passenger capacity for 2010 rose 30 % over the same period of the previous year . This also coincided with the increase in capacity at Vietnamese airports , at 21 % . In 2012 , the company 's total revenue totalled US \$ 2 @. @ 4 billion , with profits totalling US \$ 3 @. @ 3 million . The following year , the carrier posted a US \$ 25 million gross profit .

Vietnam Airlines held about 40 % of the market share of international passengers flying to and from Vietnam in February 2012 . At the time , Vietnam Airlines controlled 77 % share of the domestic aviation market , with 14 % covered by Jetstar Pacific . As of December 2012 , Vietnam Airlines controlled just below 70 % of the domestic market share .

== Subsidiaries and affiliates ==

Vietnam Airlines has at least 20 subsidiaries and affiliates . By the end of its restructuring in 2015 , the company will have offloaded its stakes in more than 10 enterprises .

== Aircraft maintenance and production ==

Vietnam Airlines is increasingly becoming involved in the maintenance , overhauling , and production of aircraft . Maintenance works are carried out by Vietnam Airlines Engineering Company (VAECO) , that was established on 1 January 2009 . VAECO was organized mainly upon the amalgamation of the A75 and A76 aircraft maintenance bases . VAECO carries out maintenance and technical services for Vietnam Airlines as well as for other airlines . The establishment of this company opens a new era to the aircraft maintenance field in Vietnam . As of 2013 , VAECO was capable of performing a wide range of maintenance on many different aircraft types ; this includes C @- @ checks for the Boeing 777 , Airbus A330 , Airbus A320 and Airbus A321 ; and D @- @ checks , the most thorough of all maintenance procedures , which are carried out on the ATR 72 and Fokker 70 .

In addition to its self maintenance facilities , Vietnam Airlines also has maintenance contracts with other airlines and maintenance organisations .

There are currently no production facilities in Vietnam for aircraft and spare parts . However , Boeing has managed to obtain 35 % of the distribution market in Vietnam , and GE Aviation , in turn , supplies jet engines for the Boeing aircraft . For the future , conversely , Vietnam Airlines is planning to build a maintenance factory in conjunction with Rolls Royce and other companies . It has also signed an memorandum of understanding with EADS , a pan @- @ European aerospace and defence corporation , that would let the corporation assemble and manufacture plane components in the future .

== Destinations ==

Vietnam Airlines has a network within East Asia , Southeast Asia , Europe and Oceania . With about 300 daily flights , the airline flies to 21 destinations domestically , and to 28 internationally . In addition , it has codeshare agreements with a number of airlines for other routes , some of which span to North America .

== Tet flights ==

Vietnam Airlines have traditionally increased flights among Vietnamese cities to cater for the heavy demands brought by the annual Tet celebration . This busy period , which could fall anywhere from late January to mid February , is Vietnam 's most important celebration ; hundreds of extra flights are scheduled by domestic airlines during this period to allow Vietnamese to return to their families , often in the rural areas , to celebrate the occasion . In 2010 , the airline increased its seat capacity from 45 % to 120 % on certain domestic routes . In 2011 , it increased additional flights on ten routes , adding more than 100 ,000 seats . About 63 ,000 of these seats were between the country 's capital and Ho Chi Minh City . This represented a remarkable 41 % increase against normal days . In 2013 , the carrier added an extra 174 ,000 seats during the celebratory period , of which 82 ,000 seats were on the trunk route between its primary hubs .

== Alliances ==

Vietnam Airlines joined SkyTeam on 10 June 2010 (2010 - 06 - 10) .

== Codeshare agreements ==

As of September 2015 , Vietnam Airlines had codeshare agreements with the following airlines :

== Fleet ==

== Current ==

As of December 2015 , Vietnam Airlines had a fleet of 99 aircraft . Several of these aircraft are leased to Cambodia Angkor Air and VASCO . If these aircraft are not considered a part of Vietnam Airlines 's fleet , the Vietnamese carrier operated a fleet of about 77 aircraft with an average age of 5 .1 years as of June 2013 . The carrier plans to expand its fleet to 110 aircraft by 2015 . In addition to its passenger service , the airline also operates an air freight division of Vietnam Airlines Cargo , providing cargo service to destinations in Asia , Europe , North America and Oceania , using its own passenger aircraft as well as partners ' planes .

Vietnam Airlines fleet

== Fleet gallery ==

Hover over each photo to view label detail

== Previously operated ==

Since its conception in 1956 , the airline has operated a wide range of aircraft , including Soviet , American , and European equipment . After having retired all its Soviet -made equipment , the airline currently uses Boeing , ATR , and Airbus aircraft .

Vietnam Airlines had operated the following equipment all through its history :

== Services ==

== Entertainment ==

On selected flights , Vietnam Airlines offers audio video on demand (AVOD) in @-@ flight entertainment via personal televisions . Entertainment options consist of films , games , TV programmes and music . Vietnam Airlines offers two in @-@ flight magazines , Heritage and Heritage Fashion , in addition to other reading material .

== Cabins ==

Business

Business class is the highest of three cabin classes offered by the airline . As is the case with business class cabins in most airlines , the amenities offered in this class are substantially different from economy class , and more services and products are available . On Boeing 777s , business class seats have a 160 cm (62 in) of leg room , and are able to recline with a pitch of 157 ° , depending on aircraft . Laid out in a 2 ? 3 ? 2 configuration , each seat is equipped with lumbar support and a 10 @.@ 4 in (26 cm) personal touch screen , capable of delivering AVOD . Hot meals are offered on flights lasting longer than two hours .

Deluxe Economy

Deluxe Economy class , Vietnam Airlines ' equivalent of premium economy , has a wider seat width and legroom compared to Economy with 36 ? 38 in (91 ? 97 cm) of seat pitch and 7 inches of recline , and is laid out 3 ? 3 ? 3 . This class is offered only on selected Boeing 777 flights . On flights over 90 minutes , snacks are served ; on two @-@ hour plus flights , as in business class , hot meals are served .

Economy

Economy class is available on all flights operated by Vietnam Airlines . Seats in this cabin feature seats ranging from 51 cm (20 in) (Airbus A330) to 53 cm (20 @.@ 9 in) (Boeing 777) in width . Seat pitch on this cabin class is 31 ? 32 in (79 ? 81 cm) , while seat recline ranges from 6 to 13 ° (5 @-@ 6 inches) . Like Deluxe Economy , snacks are served on flights over 90 minutes , with hot meals available on flights that are two hours or more .

== Accidents and incidents ==

According to Aviation Safety Network , Vietnam Airlines experienced six accidents / incidents since 1951 , with two of them leading to fatalities . Both deadly accidents occurred on final approach , and both involved Soviet @-@ built aircraft . The deadliest one took place on 3 September 1997 , when a Tupolev Tu @-@ 134B @-@ 3 crashed after hitting trees on approach to Phnom Penh International Airport ; the death toll rose to 65 . The other fatal accident occurred on 14 November 1992 , when a Yakovlev Yak @-@ 40 crashed on approach to Nha Trang Airport , killing 30 of 31 occupants aboard . The airline has also experienced a hijacking episode in 1992 , without any recorded fatality .