

 Rice Paddy Field, Vietnam

Trip Notes: Vietnam

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

U.S. citizens require a valid passport (6+ months validity, 1+ blank page) and a visa or pre-approval for Visa on Arrival (VOA) to enter Vietnam, with the 90-day E-visa being the easiest option for tourism/business. You can [apply online](#) for an E-visa (single/multiple entry, 90 days) or get a VOA with an approval letter, or a traditional visa via an embassy.

VACCINATIONS

No medication or vaccinations are required for entry to Vietnam.

CURRENCY

The currency of Vietnam is the Dong. Symbol: đ USD notes that are post 2006 and in mint condition are accepted at major shops and restaurants, but Dong are often required in small restaurants and at markets. A mix of both is recommended.

A convenient currency converter can be found at <http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

CREDIT CARDS

Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted, American Express less so. Cash is needed for shopping at small, local restaurants and shops. ATMs are easily found in major hotels and at airports.

TIME DIFFERENCE

Saigon is 12 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time and 15 hours ahead of Pacific Standard Time.

SHOPPING

Vietnam offers a dynamic shopping scene that blends tradition with modern style. From lively markets such as Ben Thanh Market in Ho Chi Minh City and Dong Xuan Market in Hanoi to sleek malls and designer boutiques, there's something for every shopper. Popular finds include locally produced coffee, lacquerware, conical hats, lanterns, silk, and expertly tailored clothing, all offering excellent value thanks to the strength of the Vietnamese dong. When shopping in markets, polite bargaining is expected, and it's worth seeking out high-quality local fashion for truly standout pieces.

POWER

Vietnam operates on 220 volts and the plug type is A, C or D. please visit

<http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/>

LANGUAGE

The official national language of Vietnam is Vietnamese. Older people speak Russian, but younger people, and those in the tourism industry are likely to speak English.



Ninh Binh



Golden Bridge



Halong Bay

CLIMATE

In Hanoi, May to October is hot and humid with high rainfall; November to April is cooler and dry. In Sapa, December & January can be particularly cold.

Central Vietnam experiences hot, dry weather between January and August when temperatures can hit the mid-90°F's; whilst high levels of rainfall can occur in September, October & November.

Southern Vietnam is generally dry and hot from November to April, and warm and wet between May and October, with the highest rainfall in June, July & August.

TIPPING

Tipping is appreciated. Before you tip in a western style restaurant, check to see if a 10% service charge has already been added. If it has not, 10% is appropriate. Guides should receive \$10 a day, drivers about \$5 a day. Housekeeping staff appreciate a gratuity at the end of the stay.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Vietnam is generally very safe for tourists with low violent crime, but petty theft (bag snatching, pickpocketing) is common in busy areas like Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, requiring vigilance, especially regarding scooters and scams like fake taxis or overpriced goods; exercise common sense, secure valuables, use trusted transport (Mai Linh, Vinasun, Grab), and be wary of overcharging, particularly around holidays.

PHONES

To dial Vietnam from the US: 011 + 84 + area code and then the local phone number.

To call the U.S. from Vietnam, dial Vietnam's exit code (00 or +), then the U.S. country code (1), followed by the U.S. area code and local number

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

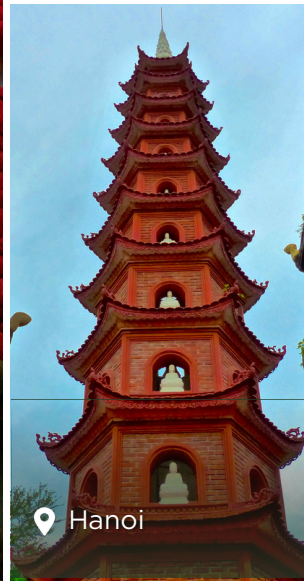
For Vietnam, pack lightweight, breathable clothing, layers for varied climates (especially the cooler North), comfortable walking shoes/sandals, swimwear, and essentials like a rain jacket, sun protection (hat, sunglasses, strong sunscreen), insect repellent, basic first-aid kit, and a power bank, plus documents like your passport and visa. Remember modest attire (scarf/shawl) for temples and consider affordable laundry services to pack lighter.

ETIQUETTE

At a pagoda: Remove shoes and hat when entering a pagoda or temple. Women should ensure that they cover their shoulders and knees when entering a pagoda or temple.



📍 Incense Drying Field, Vietnam



📍 Hanoi



📍 Danang Dragon Bridge

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2026

- 1 January - **New Year's Day**
- 16 February - **Vietnamese New Year's Eve**
- 17 February - **Vietnamese New Year**
- 18-21 February - **Tet Holiday**
- 26 April - **Hung Kings Festival (Observed 27 April)**
- 30 April - **Liberation Day**
- 1 May - **Labor Day**
- August 31 - 2 September - **Independence Day**
- 25 December - **Christmas Day**

OTHER USEFUL LINKS

[US State Department Travel Advisories](#)

[U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Vietnam](#)

[Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#)

[US Passports](#)

[International Travel Guidance](#)

This information is provided by Travel Answers as a guideline to the country you will be visiting. Further information is available to you at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Vietnam.html>. While Travel Answers endeavors to provide current information, regulations and requirements can change without notice and we are not responsible for travelers whose trips are interrupted due to documentary or medical non-compliance.