



# Ho Chi Minh City

Photo: saiko3p/Shutterstock



Christian Wittmann/Shutterstock.com

On the banks of the Mekong River, Ho Chi Minh City emerges as a dazzling metropolis, where past and present collide in vibrant harmony. With over 9 million people bustling about, it's a sprawling urban jungle where modern skyscrapers kiss the sky while well-preserved colonial buildings whisper tales of yesteryears. Amidst the chaos of motorbike symphonies, intrepid explorers uncover remnants of its turbulent history, savour its mouth-watering cuisine, sip on a cup of robust Vietnamese coffee, and discover its lively nightlife.



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NAM HOA/Shutterstock

## Featured



### Scooter Tour

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### Mekong Delta

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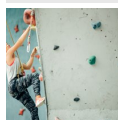
### Cao Dai Temple

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### Cu Chi Tunnels

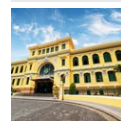
The tunnels of Cu Chi hide an entire world including classrooms, kitchens an...



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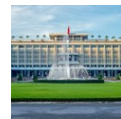
Saigon Outcast is a vibrant venue particularly favored by the younger crowd,...

## Top 5



### Central Post Office

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### The Independence Palace

Located just a 6-minute walk from the Notre Dame Basilica, the Independence ...



### The Venerable Thich Quang ...

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### Notre Dame Cathedral

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### Cho Lon (Chinatown)

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## THE CITY



Prasit Rodphan/Shutterstock.com

Formerly known as Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City is a vibrant testament to Vietnam's rich history and rapid modernisation. Its origins trace back to the 4th-century Khmer settlement and later flourished as a vital port during the Cham Empire. The city's narrative took a significant turn during French colonisation in the 19th century, blossoming into a bustling hub of commerce and culture marked by elegant boulevards and grand colonial architecture.

Despite enduring the crucible of conflict during the Vietnam War and witnessing intense battles as the capital of South Vietnam, the city emerged with resilience after the fall of Saigon in 1975, eventually being renamed in honour of Ho Chi Minh, the revolutionary leader.

Today, Ho Chi Minh City pulsates with energy, blending old-world charm with contemporary dynamism, offering a unique mix of ancient pagodas, French colonial landmarks, sleek skyscrapers, and lively markets.

## DO & SEE



noina/Shutterstock

Many of the tourist attractions, including the main walking streets or the famous Ben Thanh Market, are located in District 1. Here you will also find a range of temples and landmark buildings, as well as the Museum of Vietnamese History which houses 2,000 years of Vietnam's past and enables you to gain deep understanding of the historical and cultural context.

### Central Post Office



The historic Saigon Central Post Office, which has long been one of the city's symbols, continues to offer postal services such as mailing and money exchange to-date. One interesting fact about the Post Office is that it was designed and constructed by the renowned French architect Alexandre Gustave Eiffel, who is best known for the eponymous Eiffel Tower. Eiffel derived artistic inspiration from Western neoclassical architecture and Asian decor styles before harmoniously fusing them during the construction of the Central Post Office.

Photo: Efired/Shutterstock.com

Address: 2 Paris Commune Street, Ho Chi Minh City

### The Independence Palace



Located just a 6-minute walk from the Notre Dame Basilica, the Independence Palace, also known as the Reunification Palace, is

another not-to-be-missed destination in Vietnam's second city. The Independence Palace was first designed by a French architect and originally given the name Norodom Palace; it once served as living and working quarters to French and Japanese colonist-generations.

Photo: Richie Chan/Shutterstock.com

Address: 106 Nguyen Du, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Sun - Sat 7:30 AM - 11:00 AM 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Internet: [www.dinhdoclap.gov.vn/index-en.html](http://www.dinhdoclap.gov.vn/index-en.html)

### The Venerable Thich Quang Duc Monument



In times of conflict between the Vietnamese government and the country's Buddhist population, Thich Quang Duc calmly sat down in

lotus position in the midst of Buddhist protesters and lit himself on fire as a sing of protest. In memory of his sacrifice, a monument was inaugurated in 2010, showing him surrounded by flames.

Photo: mcography/Shutterstock.com

Address: Cách Mạng Tháng Tám, Ho Chi Minh City

### Notre Dame Cathedral



Notre Dame Cathedral is a harmonious combination of Roman architecture and late medieval Gothic features. The most unique features

of the Church - the two 60-meter high bronze bell towers - were added years following original construction in to magnify the Church's beauty. Until now, the Church still remains in a near-undisturbed original state due to the special bricks used in its construction: they were originally created in France and shipped directly to Vietnam.

Photo: Preto Perola/Shutterstock.com

Address: Ben Nghe Ward, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Mon - Sat 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Phone: +84 28 3822 0477

### Cho Lon (Chinatown)



Cho Lon, also well-known as Chinatown, is an area of Ho Chi Minh where many Chinese immigrants reside and earn their living. Within Cho Lon,

the biggest and most crowded trade hub is Tan Binh Market, where you can find a wide range of clothing and knick-knacks at very low prices (although be warned the assortment is mostly made up of obscure dried edibles and Chinese ritual paraphernalia).

An interesting time to visit Cho Lon is when locals celebrate the Chinese New Year Festival. During Tet, all shops and eateries are lavishly decorated with multi-coloured lanterns, and streets seem to become deluged with the lucky colour red.

Photo: Nguyen Nguyen/Shutterstock.com

Address: Cho Lon, Ho Chi Minh City

### Emperor Jade Pagoda



Many beautiful pagodas (temples) are located in Ho Chi Minh City while the Emperor Jade Pagoda is considered to be the finest and most lavishly decorated temple. To understand more about the meaning of the carvings and statues and the purpose of different rooms, it is recommended to visit with a local guide.

Photo: Pavel Szabo/Shutterstock.com

Address: 73 Mai Thi Luu Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Phone: +84 28 3820 3102

### War Remnants Museum



The War Remnants Museum contains exhibits reflecting the restless effort and deep devotion of people who endured the hardship of war, more specifically the Vietnam War and the First Indochina War. More than 20,000 valuable war documents, artefacts and films are exhibited here, but the biggest draw must be the outdoor exhibition of military equipment: the M48 Patton tank, aircraft, and original attack bombers.

Photo: Scott Biales/ Shutterstock.com

Address: 28 Vo Van Tan Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Phone: +84 28 3930 5587

Internet: warremnantsmuseum.com

### Cu Chi Tunnels



The tunnels of Cu Chi hide an entire world including classrooms, kitchens and medical facilities underground. Today you can see the tunnels from above and even try to go down one, so as to better understand the hardships that Vietnamese soldiers had been through during wartime. One is left utterly amazed by the determination and endurance of those who dug through solid soil, gravel and sand to construct this 200-kilometer (125 miles) long underground network.

Photo: xuanhuongho/Shutterstock.com

Address: TL15 Phu Hiep, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Sun - Sat 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Phone: +84 28 3794 8830

### Mekong Delta



The Mekong River flows from the Tibetan Plateau and ends in the area close to Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam. The delta, dubbed a 'biological treasure trove', is also home to over 17 million people who live their daily lives on the river. Several different tour operators offer day and overnight trips to the Mekong Delta. On these tours, you will get to see both the magical nature and the floating market.

Photo: Indochina studio/Shutterstock.com

Address: Mekong Delta

### Núi Bà Đen (Black Virgin Mountain)

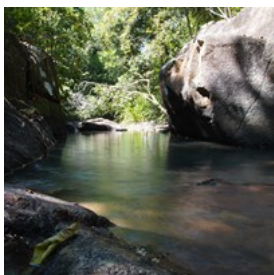


With 1000 metres in height, this mountain is not a giant, however the flat surroundings of the now extinct volcano make it seem like one. Located 2 1/2 hours north from Ho Chi Minh City, you can ride cable car up to the peak of the mountain or go for a hike with amazing views and beautiful temples, shrines and pagodas.

Photo: Hoang Tuoc/Shutterstock.com

More Info: The easiest way to get to the mountain is by scooter or motorbike.

### Nui Dinh Mountain and Waterfalls



A 2 1/2 - 3 hour motorbike or scooter drive from Ho Chi Minh City, the Nui Dinh Mountain rises around 500 meters into the sky, remotely off the beaten tourist paths in Vietnam. Hike up the mountain and along the nearby Suoi Tien River and you will discover several waterfalls and opportunities for refreshing dips as well as a fairly untouched nature.

Photo: Dong Nhat Huy/Shutterstock.com

### Cao Dai Temple



Also known as Holy See, Cao Dai Temple is the center of Cao Dai faith, an indigenous Vietnamese religion that incorporates the teachings of Taoism, Buddhism, Confucianism as well as part of Islam and Christianity. The balcony on the 2nd floor is the best vantage point from which the religious ceremony can be

viewed.

Photo: Indochina studio/Shutterstock.com

Address: Long Thanh Bac Commune, Ho Chi Minh City

### Vinh Nghiem Temple



This is a seven layer temple and southern Vietnam's most majestic one. It was the first pagoda in Vietnam that was built in Vietnamese traditional architectural style but with concrete. Here you will find a large standing monument of Buddha and a beautifully decorated pagoda, which awaits you upstairs.

Photo: John Nguyen263/Shutterstock.com

Address: 39 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia, Ho Chi Minh City

Phone: +84 28 3848 3153

### Scooter Tour



There are multiple local companies offering scooter tours of the Vietnam capital. These tours range greatly in thematic focus (street food to historic landmarks) and duration, and depend on the individual provider, but details can often be agreed upon on an individual basis. On these tours, an individual driver is normally assigned to each visitor, who then hops on the back of the scooter as a passenger. Helmets should normally be provided.

One motorbike tour of Ho Chi Minh personally tested out by the editor is Non-profit Student Tour, an incredible initiative that works surprisingly well.

The coordinator links up tourists with available local student volunteers, allowing the students to

practice their English and bringing overseas visitors into contact with locals. Each traveller is assigned an individual driver (this even works with larger groups). Drop them a WhatsApp message to arrange the date and time.

Photo: chuttersnap/Unsplash.com

Phone: +84 1688590550 (WhatsApp)

Internet: <https://sunintheair.wordpress.com/home>

### Museum of Fine Arts



Housed in a restored building, the Museum of Fine Arts offers a beautiful selection of Vietnamese and international artwork and ancient artifacts alongside contemporary works. You will be amazed by the number of pottery, sculpture and weapons exhibitions and how detailed the information is.

Photo: ngoc tran/Shutterstock.com

Address: 97A Pho Duc Chinh, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Tue - Sun 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Phone: +84 28 3829 4441

### Museum of Vietnamese History (bao Tang Lich Su)



The Museum of Vietnamese History first opened its doors in 1929. The Museum houses an unique collection of interesting artefacts of Vietnam's history, from ancient times to modern day. A statue of the Buddha with 1,000 eyes and 1,000 arms is also part of their collection.

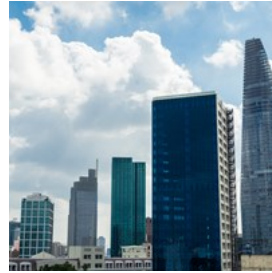
Photo: TK Kurikawa/Shutterstock.com

Address: 2 Nguyen Binh Khiem Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Tue - Sun 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Phone: +84 28 3829 8146

### Bitexco Financial Tower Skydeck



From the 49th level in Bitexco Financial Tower you can enjoy the panoramic view over the city and its surroundings. The design of the tallest building in the city is inspired by a Lotus bud, which makes it stand out against the city skyline.

Photo: Nils Versemann/ Shutterstock.com

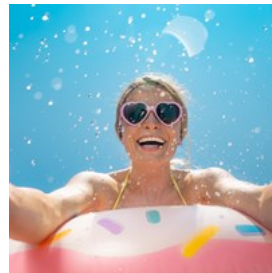
Address: 36 Ho Tung Mau Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Sun - Sat 9:30 AM - 9:30 PM

Phone: +84 28 3915 6156

Internet: [www.bitexcofinancialtower.com](http://www.bitexcofinancialtower.com)

### Dam Sen Water Park



To cool you off from the hot and bustling city, Dam Sen Water Park offers several swimming pools, water slides and rides that will keep you occupied and excited for a whole day. It is a very family-friendly destination, where you can try different levels of water slides, from easy to challenging ones.

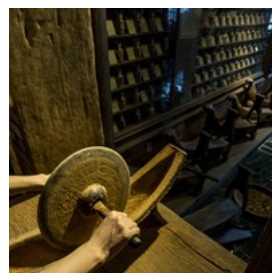
Photo: Sunny studio/Shutterstock

Address: 3 Hoa Binh Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Phone: +84 28 3858 8418

Internet: [www.damsenwaterpark.com.vn/en](http://www.damsenwaterpark.com.vn/en)

### Museum of Traditional Vietnamese Medicine



Though it is quite small, the modern exhibition rooms of this compact museum contain a range of interesting exhibits dating back to different periods in the history of traditional Vietnamese medicine. You can easily understand everything with the help of an English-speaking guide.

Photo: Tran Qui Thinh/Shutterstock.com

Address: 2 Nguyen Binh Khiem Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Phone: +84 28 3864 2430

Internet: [www.fitomuseum.com.vn](http://www.fitomuseum.com.vn)

### Giac Lam Pagoda



Built in 1744, Giac Lam Pagoda is one of the oldest and most popular Buddhist pagodas, a place of pilgrimage during the Tet Holiday. It

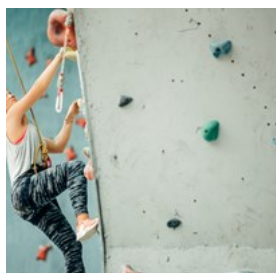
was officially accredited as a national cultural and historic site by the Vietnamese Department of Culture and Information. In addition, there are a lot of precious statues of Buddha and Bodhisattvas made of both wood and bronze in the pagoda.

Photo: Claudine Van Massenhove/Shutterstock.com

Address: 565 Lac Long Quan, Ho Chi Minh City

Phone: +84 28 3865 3933

### Saigon Outcast



Saigon Outcast is a vibrant venue particularly favored by the younger crowd, where all manner of events, festivals and movie screenings (every

Thursday) are held throughout the year - the "Wednesday free food" event enjoys an understandable popularity. There's even a climbing wall on-site, plus a miniature skate park. Check their website for event schedules and flea markets.

Photo: UfaBizPhoto/Shutterstock.com

Address: 88/1 Nguyen Van Huong Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Tue - Sun 10:00 AM - 12:00 AM

Phone: +84 90 236 5780

## DINING



Krysanov maxim/Shutterstock.com

Much like the rest of Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh is a city where a fantastic plate of food is never too far away. From high-end restaurants to backwater eateries, there's plenty to discover beyond 'pho' alone. A great place to start is Thi Sach Street, lined with many small restaurants.

### Nam Giao



Another recommended venue for enjoying Vietnamese food, Nam Giao offers a range of excellent Hue-styled central Vietnamese

cuisine including 'nem lụi' and 'bánh nậm'. Although prices are slightly higher than average, the relaxing atmosphere is great for friend and family gatherings.

Photo: Shaiith/Shutterstock.com

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

Opening hours: Sun - Sat 7:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Phone: +84 28 3825 0261

### Nha Hang Asian Kitchen



Nha Hang Asian Kitchen, which is one of the favourites among backpackers, serves wonderful Asian food including curry chicken and a range of vegetarian options of high value for money.

Photo: sta/Shutterstock.com

Address: 185/6-8, Pham Ngu Lao, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Sun - Sat 7:00 AM - 11:00 PM

Phone: +84 28 3836 7397

### Cyclo Resto



Looking to try some homemade Vietnamese food? Cyclo Resto is your ideal place to go. On top of enjoying fresh and authentic Vietnamese food, you will be served by attentive staff in a home-style atmosphere. Want to make your trip more memorable? You can even cook here yourself (with instructions from the chefs) and enjoy the results afterwards.

Photo: Willem Deenik/Shutterstock.com

Address: 6 Cach Mang Thang Tam Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Sun - Sat 12:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Phone: +84 28 6680 4235

Internet: [www.cycloresto.com.vn](http://www.cycloresto.com.vn)

Email: [cycloresto@gmail.com](mailto:cycloresto@gmail.com)

### La Villa French Restaurant



La Villa specialises in French cuisine. To accompany the meal, the wine selection offers a wide choice of options. Enjoy your dinner in the beautiful dining room or out in the lush garden

by the swimming pool.

Photo: Visionsi/Shutterstock.com

Address: 14 Ngo Quang Huy, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Mon - Sat 11:45 AM - 1:30 PM, 6:45 PM - 9:30 PM

Phone: +84 28 3898 2082

Internet: [www.lavilla-restaurant.com.vn](http://www.lavilla-restaurant.com.vn)

Email: [reservation@lavilla-restaurant.com.vn](mailto:reservation@lavilla-restaurant.com.vn)

More Info: Dress code: Smart Casual

### Ciao Bella



At Ciao Bella, the waiters and staff take good care of guests in the welcoming dining room. Home-made bread and dip are complimentary upon arrival and high-quality Italian dishes come out from the kitchen. The cosy setting makes this restaurant perfect for a romantic evening.

Photo: Mauro Pezzotta/Shutterstock.com

Address: 11 Dong Du Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Daily 10am-10pm

Phone: +84 28 3822 3329

Internet: [www.ciaobellavietnam.com](http://www.ciaobellavietnam.com)

Email: [info@ciaobellavietnam.com](mailto:info@ciaobellavietnam.com)

### Baba's Kitchen



This restaurant explores Indian flavours in a bustling ambience. Baba's Kitchen is located in the backpacker district of the city and attracts travellers searching for a good place for a drink and, perhaps, a chat companion for the evening.

Photo: norikko/Shutterstock.com

Address: 274 Bui Vien, Pham Ngu Lao, Ho Chi Minh City

Phone: +84 28 3838 6661

Internet: [www.babaskitchen.in](http://www.babaskitchen.in)

### Pizza 4P's



Pizza 4P's is a contemporary restaurant with a not-so-common cuisine combination: Italian and Japanese fusion. The Japanese chef makes delicious pizzas with their homemade cheese in a wood-fired oven. Since the opening of Pizza 4P's in 2010, it has been mentioned in several magazines and appeared on a number of TV shows.

Photo: El Nariz/Shutterstock.com

Address: 8/15 Le Thanh Ton Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Daily 10am-11pm

Phone: +84 28 3622 0500

Internet: [www.pizza4ps.com](http://www.pizza4ps.com)

Email: [pizza4psd1@gmail.com](mailto:pizza4psd1@gmail.com)

### Hum, Cafe & Restaurant



For vegetarian visitors to the city or anyone looking to dine meat-free, Hum, Cafe & Restaurant is the place to go. With its small garden with lotus flowers, this is a peaceful and quiet venue in the bustling city perfectly suited for enjoying a range of cuisines, including basil fried rice and crispy veggie chips.

Photo: Karissaa/Shutterstock.com

Address: 32 Vo Van Tan Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Phone: +84 28 3930 3819

Internet: [www.hum-vegetarian.vn](http://www.hum-vegetarian.vn)

### Shamballa Vegetarian Restaurant & Tea House



“Shamballa” in Sanskrit stands for a “place of peace, stasis and joy”. Following that motto, Shamballa aims to offer organic, vegetarian cuisine like bowls, salads and hotpots. You will find yourself in a very relaxed environment, the interior balancing out rural and urban Vietnamese style.

Photo: xuanhuongho/Shutterstock.com

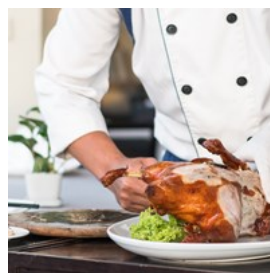
Address: 17-19, Trinh Van Can Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Mon - Sun 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Phone: +84 91 787 67 88

Internet: [www.theshamballa.com/](http://www.theshamballa.com/)

### Lai Cantonese Restaurant



Lai is one of Ho Chi Minh City's best venues for authentic Cantonese cuisine. Peking duck, dim sum and other classics are served either inside or out on the terrace - with a breathtaking view over the city. You can also book one of their ten private rooms for a special dining experience.

Photo: Chinnapong/Shutterstock.com

Address: Tang 28 Sedona Suites 92-94, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Mon - Thu 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM, 6:00 PM - 10:30 PM. Fri - Sun 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Phone: +84 1800 234579

Internet: [www.laivn.com/#home](http://www.laivn.com/#home)

## CAFÉS



Art\_Photo/Shutterstock.com

Coffee enjoys immense popularity in Ho Chi Minh City, where a thriving café culture is deeply woven into the local lifestyle. The city is renowned for its distinctive coffee traditions, particularly the robust and aromatic Vietnamese drip coffee, often enjoyed with sweetened condensed milk, known as 'cà phê sữa đá'.

Cafés are ubiquitous, ranging from quaint street-side vendors to sleek, modern establishments. These coffee shops are more than just places to get a caffeine fix—they act as social hubs where people gather to chat, work, and unwind.

### Eden Coffee House



Eden Coffee House offers a wide range of premium local coffees and international foods, including poached eggs with mashed avocado and

an all-day breakfast menu. Make your way into the inviting courtyard if you wish.

Photo: vichie81/Shutterstock.com

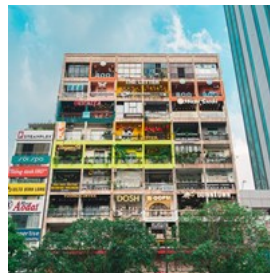
Address: R3-85 Khu Pho Hung Phuoc 1, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Wed - Mon 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Phone: +84 12 6490 1905

Email: mark11958@hotmail.com

### The Cafe Apartments



42 Nguyen Hue was once a relatively unremarkable residential building - that is until apartment owners began renting out their spaces to local

businesses. Today, the entire building consists almost exclusively of eateries, tea shops and boutiques, each occupying a former apartment of their own. It's a fun place to explore with plenty of choices: Partea is a local tea-lovers favourite, and food offerings at various cafés range from steak to poke bowls.

Photo: Simon Vu/Shutterstock

Address: 42 Nguyễn Huệ, Bến Nghé, Quận 1, Ho Chi Minh

### Café 343



This café brings western European coffee and beverage culture to Vietnam. Pick from a wide selection of drinks, including freshly pressed

juices and smoothies, or go for a light lunch. The menu in both Vietnamese and English makes ordering easier.

Photo: stockcreations/Shutterstock.com

Address: 343 Nguyen Trai Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Phone: +84 28 3920 0988

Email: cafe343@hcm.vn.vn

### Bread & Butter



Bread & Butter is a great spot to meet fellow travellers in the backpacker's district. They serve Western-style

food like steak and fries,

plus more.

Photo: Nitr/Shutterstock.com

Address: 40/24 Bui Vien Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Sun - Sat 11:00 AM - 1:00 AM

Phone: +84 28 3836 8452

### The Old Compass Cafe and Bar



The Old Compass Cafe & Bar promises “an old Saigon experience” and is appreciated for its relaxed ambiance. It serves breakfast, lunch

and dinner, as well as alcoholic beverages like craft beer and wine. Daily happy hour is from 5pm to 7pm.

Photo: Geewon Jung/Shutterstock.com

Address: 63/11 Pasteur, Ben Nghe, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Sun - Tue 8:30 AM - 10:00 PM, Wed 8:30 AM - 11:00 PM, Thu - Sat 8:30 AM - 12:00 AM

Phone: +84 28 3823 2969

Internet: [www.oldcompasscafe.com/](http://www.oldcompasscafe.com/)

### Miyama - Modern Tokyo Restaurant Cafe



Miyama Café brings the essence of modern Tokyo to the heart of bustling Ho Chi Minh. Designed to evoke the feeling of sitting in Tokyo, watching

the hectic streets of Shibuya and Shinjuku, Miyama offers an immersive experience and a tasty menu of freshly-made Japanese-flavored desserts and Tokyo cuisine.

Photo: Sushman/Shutterstock.com

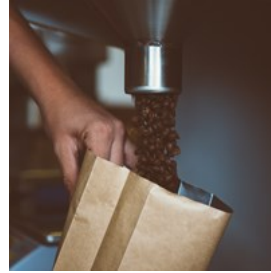
Address: Saigon Center, 65 Le Loi Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Daily 9:30am-9pm

Phone: +84 28 2253 1076

Internet: [www.instagram.com/miyamacafe](http://www.instagram.com/miyamacafe)

### The Workshop Coffee



The Workshop is one of Ho Chi Minh’s most popular coffee spots. Here you can find freshly brewed Italian coffee, alongside many breakfast and lunch options, as well as other beverages. The interior is industrial but cozy, with long tables bathed in light from the floor-to-ceiling windows.

Photo: Click and Photo/Shutterstock.com

Address: 27 Ngo Duc Ke, Ben Nghe, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Mon - Sun 8:00 AM - 09:00 PM

Phone: +84 28 3824 6801

### Little HaNoi Egg Coffee



Little HaNoi Egg Coffee started with tea and egg coffee, a traditional Hanoi drink. Many people in Hanoi once could not afford condensed milk and put yolk and sugar in their coffee instead, creating a beverage now emblematic of Vietnamese coffee culture. As of lately, the cafe offers breakfast options, like eggs and toast, and has participated in the Say No to Plastic campaign.

Photo: Nguyen Quang Ngoc Tonkin/Shutterstock.com

Address: 119/5 Yersin, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Mon 10am-10pm, Tue-Sun 8am-10pm

Phone: +84 90 452 23 39

More Info: Another branch can be found in Floor 2.212 Le Lai Street, Ho Chi Minh City

## BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Moritz Mentges/Unsplash

District 1 is the best place to go when the sun goes down, especially around Hai Ba Trung and Dong Khoi. In Ho Chi Minh, you can have fun and dance the night away in the company of like-minded revellers. As is the case with bars, the best nightclubs are also in District 1. They usually have a cover charge and no particular dress code to get in – you're welcome in as you are.

### Pham Ngu Lao / Bui Vien Street



Pham Ngu Lao / Bui Vien Street (also known as 'Backpacker Street') is home to some of the city's most vibrant nightlife, with a plethora of bars, clubs, and street food stands stretching along it. There is also a high concentration of hostels here, which means tourists are represented in abundance, but it's a beloved local hangout hot spot, too.

Photo: T.B. photo/Shutterstock

Address: Pham Ngu Lao Street, Ho Chi Minh City

### Hoa Vien Brauhaus



In this popular micro-brewery you'll find some of the best Saigon beers. This venue can host over 600 guests and is a paradise for beer and European food lovers as it offers dark and light beers, as well as Czech and German specialities.

Photo: DisobeyArt/Shutterstock.com

Address: 18 Bis Nguyen Thi Minh Khai Street, Ho Chi Minh City

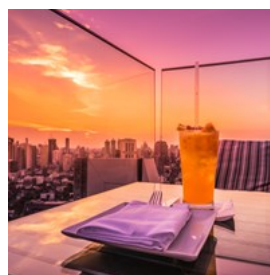
Opening hours: Sun - Sat 9:00 AM - 11:00 PM

Phone: +84 28 3829 0585

Internet: [www.hoavien.vn](http://www.hoavien.vn)

Email: [hoavienbia@vnn.vn](mailto:hoavienbia@vnn.vn)

### Rooftop Garden Bar



Being one of the best bars in Vietnam, Rooftop Garden Bar offers you a breathtaking view over the city, lovely drinks, local cuisine and a great atmosphere. Enjoy your favourite cocktail at sunset.

Photo: Kawin Ounprasertsuk/Shutterstock.com

Address: 141 Nguyen Hue Boulevard, Ho Chi Minh City

Phone: +84 28 3829 2185

Internet: [www.rexhotelvietnam.com/dining/rooftop-garden](http://www.rexhotelvietnam.com/dining/rooftop-garden)

### Ruong Pub & Hub



Looking for a pub to spend your night with new friends and good beer? Ruong Pub & Hub is the place to go. This pub offers a wide selection of beer including crafts.

Photo: id-art/Shutterstock.com

Address: 33 Nguyen Trung Truc, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Daily 6:30am-1am

Email: ruongpub.hub@gmail.com

### Banana Mama Rooftop & Kitchen



Banana Mama offers drinks and food on the 10th floor of WMC Tower. If you want to watch the sunset in a cozy bar with beach-style interior, this

is the place.

Photo: Travelerpix/Shutterstock.com

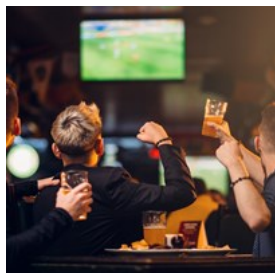
Address: ABC, 102, Cong Quynh Phuong Pham Ngu Lao, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Tue - Sun 5:00 PM - 02:00 AM

Phone: +84 707 533 172

Internet: [www.banana-mama.business.site/](http://www.banana-mama.business.site/)

### Phatty's Sports Bar and Grill



Phatty's is an expat-owned sports bar, popular with both travelers and locals. Choose one of the various

beverages and watch sports like football, basketball, and even cricket.

Photo: Nomad\_Soul/Shutterstock.com

Address: 48 Ton That Thiep, Ben Nghe, Ho Chi Minh City

Phone: +84 28 3821 0796

Internet: [www.phattysbar.com.vn](http://www.phattysbar.com.vn)

## SHOPPING



Tony Duy/Shutterstock

From the bustling Ben Thanh Market, offering items like clothing, souvenirs, and local delicacies to the upscale boutiques of Dong Khoi Street, showcasing designer fashion and luxury goods, there's something for every taste and budget in Ho Chi Minh City.

Visitors can expect to find unique handicrafts, silk garments, lacquerware, and authentic Vietnamese coffee among the treasures awaiting discovery. While haggling is common in markets, it's essential to do so respectfully and with a smile, as it's part of the cultural experience and can lead to fantastic deals and memorable interactions with local vendors.

### Ben Thanh Market



Ben Thanh Market is the most famous and oldest marketplace of Ho Chi Minh City, as well as one of its prominent landmarks. Here you can

buy almost anything, especially handicrafts and souvenirs, but also local food. Bargaining is key for a successful shopping tour.

Photo: David Bokuchava/Shutterstock.com

Address: Cho, Le Loi, Phuong Ben Thanh, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Mon - Sun 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

### Saigon Kitsch



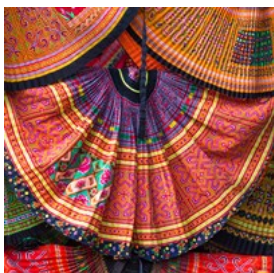
A great store to browse through for fun Vietnam-themed gifts and souvenirs that aren't you typical Chinese imports. Some of their best buys

include wallets made from recycled storage bags, high-quality retro posters on rice paper, and unique postcard collections. They also stock a fantastic selection of books on all things Vietnam (in English).

Photo: Diego Fiore/Shutterstock.com

Address: 43 Tôn Thất Thiệp, Bến Nghé, Quận 1, Ho Chi Minh  
Phone: +84 28 3821 8019

### Tan Dinh Market



Tan Dinh is mostly known for its impressive assortment of fabrics, so if you're in the market for those, make sure to work Tan Dinh into your

itinerary. There are also lots of street food stalls here serving Vietnamese cuisine and drinks like drip coffee and juices.

Photo: Tony albelton/Shutterstock.com

Address: Tan Dinh Ward, Ho Chi Minh City  
Opening hours: Sun - Sat 5:00 AM - 11:00 PM  
Phone: +84 28 3829 9280

### Vincom Center



Conveniently located in the city centre, Vincom Center is a shopping complex that contains a substantial collection of stores and boutiques, of both local and international brands, plus a food court with several good casual dining spots. It's a

great option for those who prefer a fixed-price shopping experience.

Photo: ESB Professional/Shutterstock.com

Address: 72 Le Thanh Ton, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Sun - Sat 9:30 AM - 10:00 PM

Phone: +84 93 706 0197

### Takashimaya Ho Chi Minh City



The reputable Japanese department store brand Takashimaya is present in Ho Chi Minh, too. It enjoys a reputation of a slightly more upscale

shopping centre, with above average prices and an excellent selection of high-quality international brand shops.

Photo: PONG HANDSOME/Shutterstock.com

Address: 92-94 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Sun - Sat 9:30 AM - 9:30 PM

Phone: +84 28 3821 1819

Internet: [www.takashimaya-vn.com/en](http://www.takashimaya-vn.com/en)

### Saigon Square



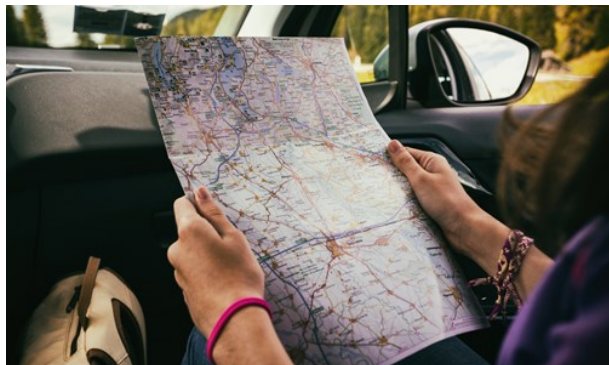
Saigon Square is a sprawling collection of vendors mainly dealing in clothing and accessories. Haggling is expected.

Photo: Dragon Images/Shutterstock.com

Address: 81 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia, Ben Nghe, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Mon - Sun 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM

## TOURIST INFORMATION



Mostovyi Sergii Igorevich/Shutterstock.com

### Passport / Visa



Travellers to Vietnam generally need a visa to enter the country, although some countries, such as Japan, South Korea, and several

ASEAN member states, are exempt for short stays. For longer stays, visitors typically require a visa, which can be obtained from Vietnamese embassies or consulates. Another convenient option is to apply online for an e-visa, available for citizens of over 80 countries.

Photo: ConvertKit/Unsplash

### Best Time to Visit

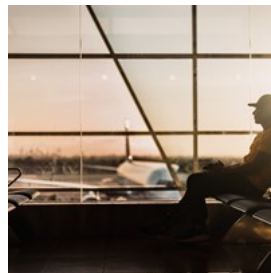


From December to April, Ho Chi Minh City enjoys moderate temperatures and light rainfall, which would probably make it the best time to visit.

Note that the hottest months are from March to May with temperatures reaching as high as 39°C.

Photo: Kadagan/Shutterstock

## Tan Son Nhat International Airport (SGN)



Tan Son Nhat International Airport, Vietnam's largest international airport, lies 7 km north of the city centre. Several public buses, including the Yellow Airport Bus 109, Yellow Airport Bus 49, and Public Bus 152, offer transportation to the city, with cash payment required.

Taxis are the quickest option, taking around 45 minutes to reach the city centre. Make sure the meter is used or agree on a fare beforehand.

Photo: Marco López/Unsplash

Address: Tan Son Nhat International Airport

Internet: [www.vietnamairport.vn/tansonnhatairport/en](http://www.vietnamairport.vn/tansonnhatairport/en)

### Public Transport



Ho Chi Minh City boasts an efficient public transit bus network with 150 green routes spanning the city, making it a cheaper and safer option than many alternatives. The ticket is bought from the fare collector on the bus. For shorter trips, however, ride-sharing apps, such as Grab, or cabs may prove to be more convenient and inexpensive.

Photo: Earn35mm/Shutterstock

### Taxi



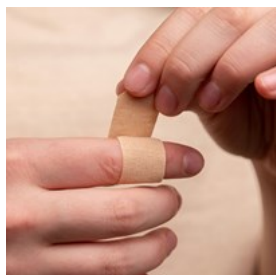
Taxis are the most comfortable way of getting around affordably. It's easy and safe to catch one off the side of the road, but do

make sure the meters work properly and enquire as to the estimated total.

Ride-sharing apps like Grab are also in use; in Vietnam, you can choose between Grab for scooters or cars (helmets are provided for the former).

Photo: Gustavo/Unsplash

## Pharmacy



Some main pharmacy chains you will find in Ho Chi Minh City include Pharmacy — one of the largest and most well-known pharmacy chains in Vietnam —, Guardian, Long Châu, and An Khang.

Photo: Diana Polekhina/Unsplash

Address: Nhà thuốc Pharmacy - 102 Phạm Hồng Thái, Phường Bến Thành, Quận 1, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Daily 6am-11:30pm

Phone: +84 1800 6821

Internet: [www.pharmacy.vn](http://www.pharmacy.vn)

## Post



The main post office is located on Dong Khoi in District 1 (it's more of a tourist attraction these days, but it's still a fully functional post office).

Postal services such as mailing, money exchange, postcard and stamp sales are offered here.

Photo: Adrian Baker/Shutterstock

Address: Saigon Central Post Office - 2 Công xã Paris, Bến Nghé, Quận 1, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 7:30am-6pm, Sun 8am-5pm

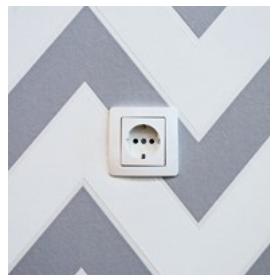
## Telephone



Country Code: +84 Area code: 08

Photo: Miryam León/Unsplash

## Electricity



In Vietnam, electrical outlets typically operate at 220V/50Hz and commonly use plug types A and C. Type A features two flat parallel pins, while type C has two round pins. Travellers are advised to carry a power plug adapter to ensure compatibility with local sockets when visiting the country.

Photo: Neven Krčmarek/Unsplash

## Population

9.3 million (2023)

## Currency

Vietnamese dong (VND)

## Internet

[www.visithcmc.vn/en](http://www.visithcmc.vn/en)

## Newspapers

Saigon Times (English): <https://english.thesaigontimes.vn>

Việt Nam News (English): <https://vietnamnews.vn>

Le Courrier du Vietnam (French): <https://lecourrier.vn>

## Emergency numbers

Police: 113

Fire: 114

Ambulance/ First Aid: 115

## Tourist information

HCMC Visitor Information and Support Center

188 Đ. Phạm Ngũ Lão, Phường Phạm Ngũ Lão, Quận 1, Ho Chi Minh City

+84 28 3920 3040

Opening hours: daily 8am-8:30pm

