



VIETNAM

Travel Notes

Welcome to Vietnam

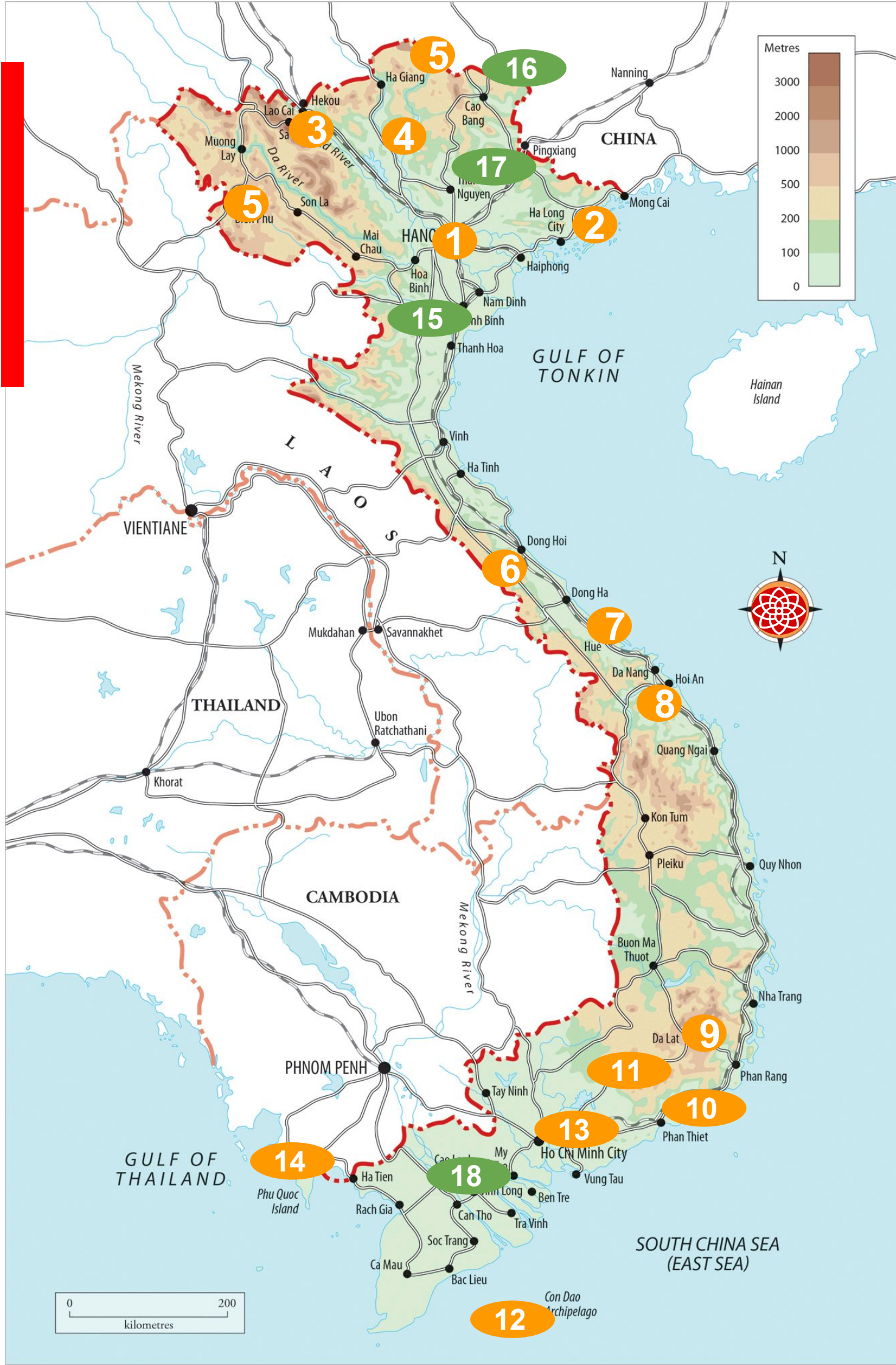
Vietnam is a country of breathtaking natural beauty with a unique heritage. Blessed with a stupendous coastline and towering mountains, historic sites and one of the world's best cuisines, the nation is a sensory overload.

Self-confident and fast-developing, Vietnam is a country going places. Economic progress is booming in the country's metropolises, where the pace of change is intoxicating. Here ancient, labyrinthine trading quarters of still-thriving craft industries are juxtaposed with grand colonial mansions from the French era, all overseen from the sky bars of 21st century glass-and-steel high-rises.

Away from the urban centres, you'll find unforgettable experiences everywhere. There's the sublime: gazing over a surreal seascape of limestone islands from the deck of a traditional junk in Halong Bay. The inspirational: exploring the world's most spectacular cave systems in Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park. The comical: watching a moped loaded with honking pigs weave a wobbly route along a country lane. And the contemplative: witnessing a solitary grave in a cemetery of thousands of war victims.

Take time to savour Vietnam's incredibly subtle, flavoursome national cuisine on a street-food tour or attend a cooking class. Scoot around the rural back roads that fringe the historic old trading port of Hoi An or hike the evergreen hills of Sapa. And for horizontal 'me' time, you'll find outstanding spas from marble temples of treatments, lotions and potions, to simple, inexpensive family-run massage salons.

"...you'll find unforgettable experiences everywhere"



Top Destinations

- 1 Hanoi Capital
- 2 Ha Long Bay
- 3 Sapa Trekking
- 4 Ba Be National Park
- 5 Extreme Northern Vietnam
- 6 Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park
- 7 Hue - Ancient Capital
- 8 Hoi An Ancient Town
- 9 Da Lat City - Little Paris
- 10 Mui Ne
- 11 Cat Tien - National Park
- 12 Con Dao Islands
- 13 Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)
- 14 Phu Quoc Island
- 15 Trang An
- 16 Ban Gioc Waterfall (Border)
- 17 Bac Son Valley
- 18 Mekong River Delta

Need to Know

Currency

VND

Language

Vietnamese

Vietnam Visa

Complicated & fast-changing
Need help on Vietnam Visa?

[Get Vietnam Visa](#)

Time

Vietnam is +7 GMT/UTC

Important Numbers

Country Code: **84**
International
Access Code: **00**
Police: **113**
Emergency: **114**

Daily Costs

Comfortable room: **\$25 - 50**
Meal in a restaurant: **from \$8**
Ten-minute taxi ride: **\$4**

Arriving in Vietnam

1. Tan Son Nhat International Airport (Ho Chi Minh City a.k.a Saigon)
2. Noi Bai International Airport (Hanoi)
3. Da Nang International Airport
4. Cam Ranh International

[Airport Car Pickup](#): from \$25

[Airport Fast Track](#): from \$25

Getting Around

Train: Reasonably priced and comfortable enough in air conditioned carriages.

Plane: Cheap if you book ahead and the network is pretty comprehensive.

Car: Very useful for travelling at your own pace or for visiting regions with minimal public transport. Cars always come with a driver.

Bus: On the main highways services are very frequent, although it's not a particularly relaxing way to travel.

Motorbike: You can consider to use Grab or Uber or rent a bike, It's very free and self-advanture.

Cyclo: Exciting travel with cyclo to view-traveling

Check List

- Check out the visa situation; you may need to apply in advance
- Make sure your passport is valid for at least six months past your arrival date
- Check your immunisation history
- Arrange appropriate travel insurance
- Pre-book internal flights and trains
- Inform your debit/credit card company

Bargaining

Bargaining is essential in Vietnam, but not for everything. Sharpen your haggling skills when shopping in marketplaces and small shops and when arranging local transport like cyclos and motorbike taxi. In restaurants, prices are fixed.

What to Wear

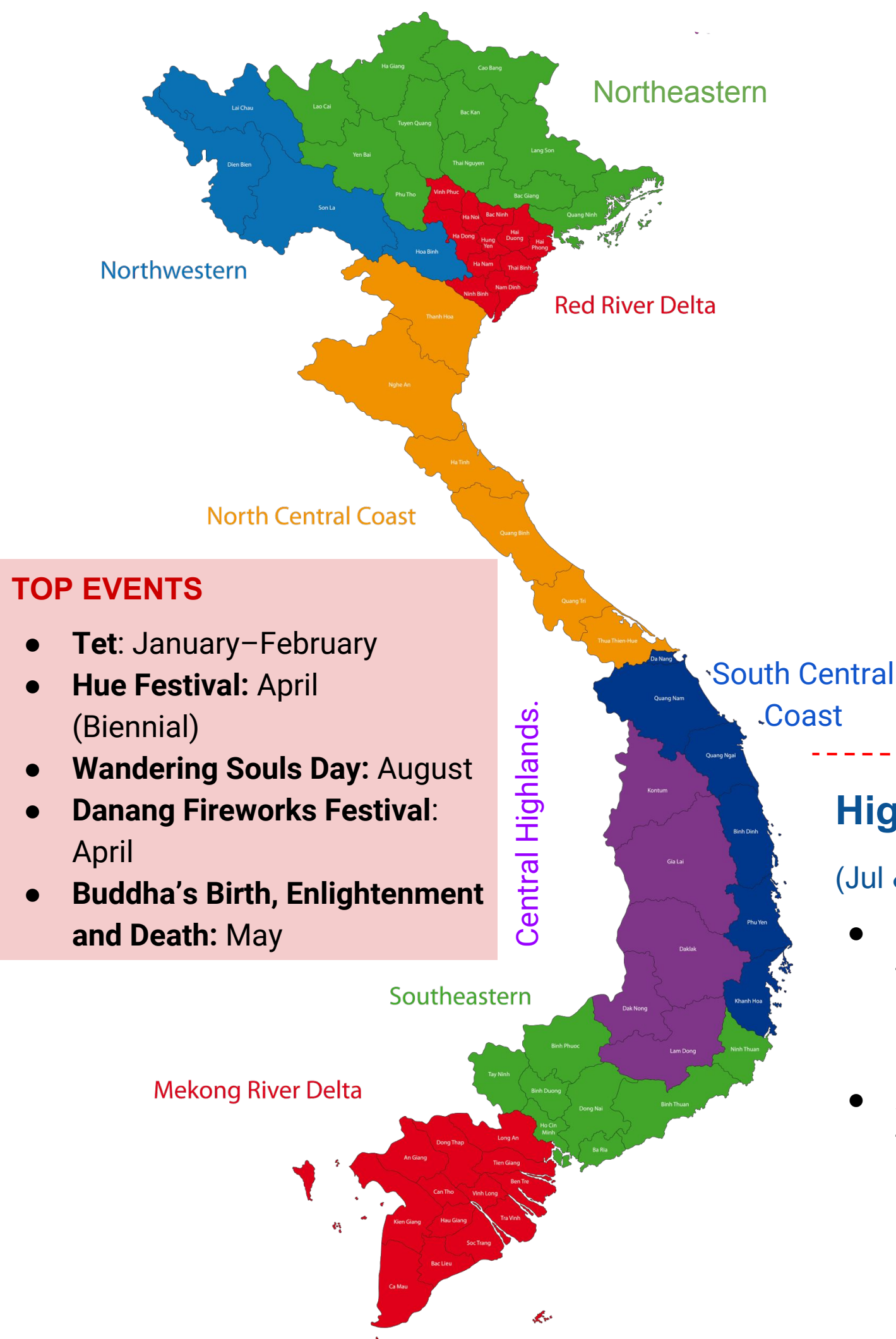
Yes, Vietnam is in the tropics, but visit anywhere north of Hoi An between October and March and it can be cool, so pack some layers (a fleece or two). The rest of the year, and in the south, flip-flops or sandals, a T-shirt and shorts are likely to be your daily uniform.

What to Pack

- Mosquito repellent with DEET
- Rain jacket
- Electrical adapter
- Torch (flashlight)
- Flip-flops or sandals
- Binoculars

Tipping

- Hotels Not expected. Leave a small gratuity for cleaning staff if you like.
- Restaurants Not expected; 5% to 10% in smart restaurants or if you're very satisfied. Locals don't tip.
- Guides A few dollars on day trips is sufficient, more for longer trips if the service is good.
- Taxis Not necessary, but a little extra is appreciated, especially at night.
- Bars Never expected.



- ### TOP EVENTS
- **Tet:** January–February
 - **Hue Festival:** April (Biennial)
 - **Wandering Souls Day:** August
 - **Danang Fireworks Festival:** April
 - **Buddha's Birth, Enlightenment and Death:** May

When to Go

Climate & Region

- **Warm to hot summers, mild winters:** Northwestern, Northeastern, Red River Delta
- **Tropical climate, wet & dry seasons:** North Central Coast, South Central Coast, Central Highlands, Southeastern, Mekong River Delta

Time to Go

- **Mar–May & Sep–Nov:** Northwestern, Northeastern, Red River Delta.
- **Mar–Sep:** North Central Coast, South Central Coast, Central Highlands.
- **Nov–Feb:** Southeastern, Mekong River Delta.

High Season

(Jul & Aug)

- Prices increase by up to 50% by the coast; book hotels well in advance.
- All Vietnam, except the far north, is hot and humid, with the summer monsoon bringing downpours.

Shoulder

(Dec–Mar)

- During the Tet festival, the whole country is on the move and prices rise.
- North of Nha Trang can get cool weather.
- In the south, clear skies and sunshine are the norm.

Low Season

(Apr–Jun, Sep–Nov)

- Perhaps the best time to tour the whole nation.
- Typhoons can lash the central and northern coastline until November.

Vietnam Cuisine

Regional Specialities

TABLE ETIQUETTE

Have your bowl on a small plate, chopsticks and a soup spoon at the ready. Each place setting will include a small bowl at the top right-hand side for nuoc nam (sh sauce) and other dipping sauces. Don't dip your chopsticks into the central bowls of shared food, but use the communal serving spoons instead. Pick up your bowl with your left hand, bring it close to your mouth and use the chopsticks to manoeuvre the food. If you're eating noodles, lower your head till it hangs over the bowl and slurp away. If you're dining in a private home, it is polite for the host to offer more food than the guests can eat, and it's also polite for guests not to eat everything. Also, remember not to leave chopsticks standing in a V-shape in your bowl as this is a sign of death.

Travelling north to south is a Vietnamese journey that, geographically and gastronomically, begins in China and ends in Southeast Asia. Differences in history, culture and geography combine for many techniques, ingredients and tastes, all linked by the Vietnamese love for vibrant flavours, fresh herbs, noodles and seafood.

Northern Vietnam

- Bun Cha
- Banh Cuon.
- Pho Bo

Southern Vietnam

- Canh Chua Ca
- Banh Mi.
- Banh Xeo

Central Vietnam

- Banh Khoai
- Bun Bo Hue
- Bun Bo Hue



Vietnam Visa for You



The (very complicated) visa situation has recently changed for many nationalities, and is fluid – always check the latest regulations.

Vietnam Visa Exemption

The following nationalities do not need Visa to arrive Vietnam:

Countries	Days
Myanmar, Brunei	14 days
UK, Italy, Germany, France, Spain, Belarus, Denmark, Finland, Japan, South Korea, Norway, Russia, Sweden	15 days
Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia Singapore	30 days

Visa On Arrival (VOA)

Definition: It is also called Vietnam Visa Online which is valid at 4 international airports only: Hochiminh, Hanoi, Danang and Camranh airports.

Procedure:

- 1st: Filling the application form online and pay Visa fee
- 2nd: Receiving the Vietnam Visa Approval Letter via email after 2 working days
- 3rd: Print the letter out and use it to get Visa stamp at Vietnam airport upon arrival

Visa Types and duration:

VOA is available for Tourist and Business Visa type which includes: 1 month single/multiple entry, 3 months single/multiple entry, 6 months multiple entry and 1 year multiple entry.

Where to apply?

<https://www.vietnam-visaonline.org>

for the official site of Vietnam Visa on Arrival

Note: Your passport must be valid for 6 months at least from the arrival date.

Visa Extension

In case, you want to stay longer in Vietnam, you are able to extend your Visa in some Local Visa Agent.

Procedure:

Contact us directly via email visa@vietnam-visaonline.org with your passport scan including your Visa stamp and Visa sticker. Then we will confirm you the extension fee.

Processing time:

7 working days in normal case and 2 working days for Urgent case.

Note:

Remember to contact us before your Visa is expired to avoid the penalty fee for overstaying.

VIETNAM

Astonishingly exotic and utterly compelling, Vietnam is a country of breathtaking natural beauty with a unique heritage, where travel quickly becomes addictive.

We're happy to support people like you, who love to travel Vietnam from anywhere. If you've gotten something useful from our site or just want help us introduced to the world, please take a second to engage (like, share, comment) with us on social network..



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VISA ONLINE

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