



# Ho Chi Minh City

Photo: Tonkinphotography/Shutterstock.com



Christian Wittmann/Shutterstock.com

Located on the Mekong River, Ho Chi Minh City is the largest and most exciting city in Vietnam. The population of around 9 million people makes it one of the densest urban areas in the world, and it's still common for several families to share a living space.

Travellers will likely be amazed by the vibrant mix of old and new including war relics from the devastating Vietnam War and well-preserved colonial structures. The vibrant nightlife of Ho Chi Minh makes it stand out from other cities in Vietnam.



TonyNg/Shutterstock.com

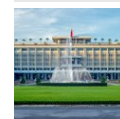


tache/Shutterstock.com

**QUIZ**  
*What Type of Traveller  
Are You Based on  
Your Travel IQ?*

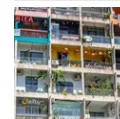
**TAKE THE QUIZ**

## Top 5



### The Independence Palace

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



### The Cafe Apartments

42 Nguyen Hue was once a relatively unremarkable residential building - that...



### The Venerable Thich Quang ...

In times of conflict between the Vietnamese government and the country's Bud...



### Núi Bà Đen (Black Virgin M...

With 1000 metres in height, this mountain is not a giant, however the flat ...



### Nui Dinh Mountain and Wate...

A 2 1/2 - 3 hour motorbike or scooter drive from Ho Chi Minh City, the Nui D...



## THE CITY



Prasit Rodphan/Shutterstock.com

Saigon or Ho Chi Minh City? The first used to be the first city of the French colony and the latter – the once-capital of the state of South Vietnam until the end of the war in 1975. Despite the historic connotations, you'll hear some locals still lovingly call it Saigon, while others rule in favour of the new name. Upon arrival, you'll immediately be plunged into a lively street atmosphere, cadenced by over 3 million motorcycles, racing along sidewalks dotted with colourful fruit stalls.

Ho Chi Minh did not escape the war but it's now a rapidly growing city. The nation's economic heart has embarked onto important urban and education developments. Some 50 universities and colleges attract over 300,000 students. You will also find dozens of supermarket chains, luxury shopping malls and modern fashion centres. But Ho Chi Minh is also a city with a rich past: heavily influenced by the French in terms of culture and style, the city is still characterised by elegant boulevards and historic colonial buildings.

## DO & SEE



tache/Shutterstock.com

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.

### 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 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 choice: Partea is a local tea-lovers' favourite, and food offerings at various cafes range from steak to poke bowls.

Photo: Marco Verch/Flickr (image cropped)

Address: 42 Nguyễn Huệ, Bến Nghé, Quận 1, Ho Chi Minh  
Opening hours: 8.00-22.00

### 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 sign 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

### Núi Bà Đen (Black Virgin Mountain)



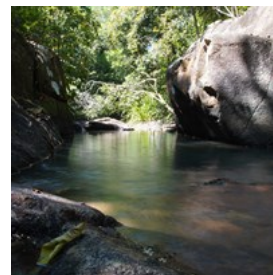
With 1000 metres in height, this mountain is not a giant, however the flat surroundings of the now extinct volcano make it seem like one. Located

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

### 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

### Cho Lon (Chinatown)



Cho Lon, also well-known as China Town, 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

Opening hours: Sun 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Wed 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Sat 12:00 AM - 11:59 PM

### 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

### 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, pubs 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: David Bokuchava/Shutterstock.com

Address: Pham Ngu Lao Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Sun - Sat 12:00 AM - 12:00 AM

### 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

### 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>

### Cao Dai Temple

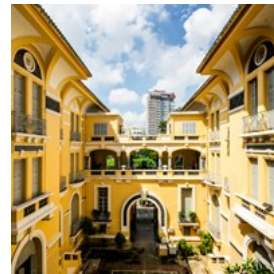


Also known as Holy See, Cao Dai Temple is the center of Cao Dai faith, an indigenous Vietnamese religion that incorporates the teachings of Taoism, Buddhism, Confucianism as well as part of Islam and Christianity. The balcony on the 2nd floor is the best vantage point from which the religious ceremony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

viewed.

Photo: Indochina studio/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Long Thanh Bac Commune, Ho Chi Minh City

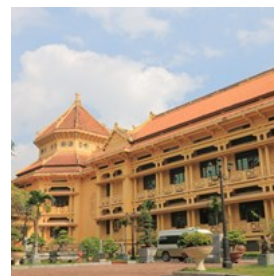
### Museum of Fine Arts



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

### 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, artifacts 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

Opening hours: Tue - Sun 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

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



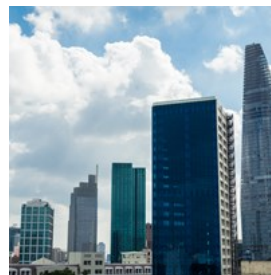
The Mekong River flows from the Tibetan Plateau and ends in the area close to Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam. The delta, dubbed a "biological

treasure trove," is also home to over 17 million people that live their daily life on the river. There are several different tour operators that 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

### 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 Verseemann/ 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

### 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: Prenn/Wikimedia Commons (image cropped)

Address: 3 Hoa Binh Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Wed - Mon 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

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 exhibit 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

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

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

### Central Post Office

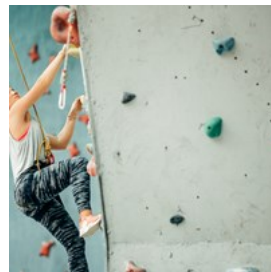


The historic Saigon Central Post Office, which has long been one of the city's symbols, continues to offer postal services such as mailing and money exchange to-date. One interesting fact about the Post Office is that it was designed and constructed by the renowned French architect Alexandre Gustave 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

### 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 the 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

### Song Ngu Seafood Restaurant



Song Ngu is one of the best venues for enjoying seafood; don't forget to try the seafood hotpot with a wide selection of fresh seafood. Short shows of traditional dances and old folk music are offered so you can even enjoy traditional arts here.

Photo: Vietnam Stock Images/Shutterstock.com

Address: 70-72 Suong Nguyet Anh Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Sun - Sat 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Phone: +84 28 3832 5017

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

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

### 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: Sun - Sat 7:30 AM - 11:00 PM

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

Opening hours: Sun - Sat 11:00 AM - 10:30 PM

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 home-made 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: Sun - Sat 10:00 AM - 11:00 PM

Phone: +84 28 3622 0500

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

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

### Hum Vegetarian Cafe & Restaurant



For the vegetarian visitors to the city or anyone looking to dine meat-free, Hum Vegetarian 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

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

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/)

### Five Oysters



If you are looking for inexpensive and authentic Vietnamese food, this locally-run seafood restaurant is the right place. Five Oysters serves vegan and vegetarian options as well - and every Friday you can look forward to a special offer on oysters.

Photo: 10 FACE/Shutterstock.com

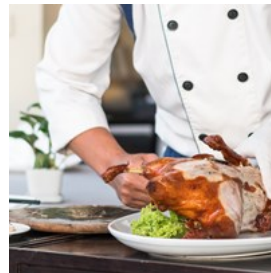
Address: 234 Bui Vien, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Mon - Sun 09:00 AM - 11:00 PM

Phone: +84 28 6291 6847

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

### Signature Restaurant



This high-class, elegant restaurant is located on the 23rd floor at the Sheraton Hotel & Towers. Internationally renowned chefs will indulge you with delicacies like lobster, seafood and steaks,

while you enjoy the 360-degree view of Ho Chi Minh City.

Photo: TonyFreelancer/Shutterstock.com

Address: 88 Dong Khoi, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Mon - Sun 6:00 - 10:00 PM

Phone: +84 28 3827 2828

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

More Info: Located at the Sheraton Hotel & Towers

### Le Bordeaux



One of the best restaurants serving contemporary French cuisine and wines, Le Bordeaux offers a wide range of French food, all

high value for money, including crab tartar and soufflé.

Photo: Maksim Toome/Shutterstock.com

Address: 72 Nguyen Gia Tri Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Sun - Mon 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM, 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Phone: +84 28 3899 9831

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

### Restaurant 13



Restaurant 13 serves traditional and flavourful Vietnamese food at reasonable prices, and has recently become increasingly popular with

travellers. Ask for the Clay Pot dish and you can even make the food on your own.

Photo: jantenthousand/Shutterstock.com

Address: 15 Ngo Duc Ke, Ho Chi Minh City

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

Phone: +84 28 3823 9314

## CAFES



Art\_Photo/Shutterstock.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 choice: Partea is a local tea-lovers' favourite, and food offerings at various cafes range from steak to poke bowls.

Photo: Marco Verch/Flickr (image cropped)

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

Opening hours: 8.00-22.00

### 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: markl1958@hotmail.com

### 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

### ABC Bakery



ABC Bakery serves a range of unique pastries and is the perfect place to enjoy freshly baked bread and lovely croissants. The menu also offers a wide

array of drinks including coconut coffee and light meals like sandwiches and cheesecake.

Photo: Shebeko/Shutterstock.com

Address: 223-225 Pham Ngu Lao Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Sun - Sat 6:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Phone: +84 28 3837 0489

Internet: phamngulao.abcbakery.co

Email: abcpln@gmail.com

### Shalom Coffee



This place is not only a splendid coffee shop but also a roastery, so the coffee brewed here comes from freshly-roasted beans. In addition to the popular coffee, the café serves a wide selection of salads, sandwiches, chocolates and smoothies.

Photo: Alena Haurylik/Shutterstock.com

Address: 53 Vo Truong Toan Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Sun 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM Mon - Sat 6:30 AM - 7:00 PM

Phone: +84 90 366 0922

Email: jonasvb@eliasinternational.com

### 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/

### Miyama – Modern Toyko Restaurant Cafe



Miyama welcomes you in two locations in Ho Chi Minh and describes itself as "speciality dessert cafe" - as you can tell by the name, the focus is on

Japanese treats. They serve other Japanese dishes for lunch and dinner as well, all to be had in the cafe's minimalist interior.

Photo: Sushman/Shutterstock.com

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

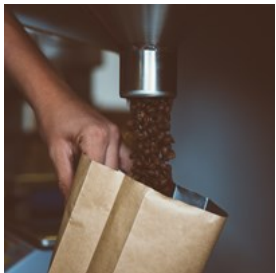
Opening hours: Mon - Sun 9:30 AM - 10:00 PM

Phone: +84 28 2253 1076

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

More Info: Another location in 217 Duong Nguyen Van Thu, Ho Chi Minh City

### 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 Cafe



Little Hanoi Egg Café started out with tea and the 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 café 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: 165 Bui Vien Street, Ho Chi Minh City

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

Phone: +84 90 452 23 39

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

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

### BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Nomad\_Soul/Shutterstock.com

District 1 is the best place to go when the sun goes down, especially around Hai Ba Trung and Dong Khoi. In Saigon, 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.

### 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

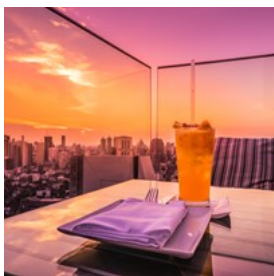
Opening hours: Sun - Sat 9:00 AM - 11:00 PM

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)

### Cloud9 Bar



Situated right next to the turtle lake, Cloud9 Bar features a fantastic roof terrace with a tropical setting of palm trees, bamboo and plants, which create a sense of being in a tropical rainforest.

Photo: Goami/Shutterstock.com

Address: 110 Pasteur, Ho Chi Minh City

Opening hours: Sun - Thu 3:00 PM - 12:00 AM

Phone: +84 98 316 0521

### 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: Sun - Sat 7:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Phone: +84 91 920 0227

### 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 'n' Grill



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



*Dragon Images/Shutterstock.com*

Welcome to a shopper's paradise! A rule of thumb is that anything without a price sticker on it can be purchased for a fraction of the price announced initially. Unique crafts and art work are to be had in abundance, and so are the expected knick knacks like the traditional cone hats that go for pennies.

### 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 handcrafts 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

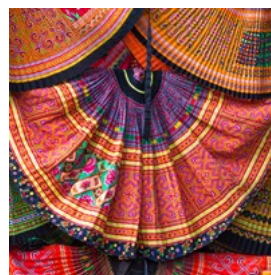
### Saigon Kitsch



A great store to browse through for fun Vietnam-themed gifts and souvenirs that aren't your 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

### Rubik Zoo

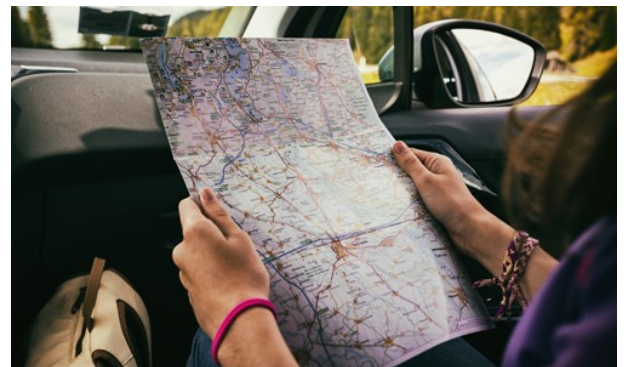


Rubik Zoo is a nice place to hang out, have a drink and browse through open air shops and cafes. It is located in a town of converted ship containers

by the river, and becomes a vibrant hangout venue at night.

Photo: BLUR LIFE 1975  
Address: 1 Bis Nguyen Thi Minh Khai, Ben Nghe, Ho Chi Minh City  
Opening hours: Mon - Fri 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM, Sat & Sun 9:00 AM - 10:00 PM

### TOURIST INFORMATION



Mostovyi Sergii Igorevich/Shutterstock.com

### Passport / Visa



Short (some as short as 15 days) visa-free stays are possible for citizens of Cambodia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore,

Thailand, The Philippines, Brunei, Myanmar, Belarus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Citizens of Chile can enter the country for 90 days, visa-free.



Citizens of a further 46 world countries are eligible for an E-visa as of February 2017, these are granted for a period of 30 days. To confirm whether or not you will need a visa to enter Vietnam, please contact your local consulate.

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com

### 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: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

### Airport



Located 7 km north of the city centre, Tan Son Nhat International Airport is the largest international airport in Vietnam. The air-conditioned airport

bus is the cheapest way into the city while one way ticket costs between 12 000 and 40 000 VND.

If you choose to take taxi, make sure the driver uses the meter and wears an official badge. A taxi from the airport to the city takes around 15-30 minutes and costs about VND150,000 - 200,000 including the mandatory toll fee.

Photo: Juan Garces

### Public Transport



Since 2004, Ho Chi Minh City runs an efficient public transit bus network. It's cheaper and safer than many of the alternatives. The buses are green and there are 150 routes throughout the city. The ticket is bought from the fare collector on the bus.

For short trips, however, it may be much more convenient and inexpensive to use ride sharing apps or cabs instead.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Phone: +84 28 3854 6110

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

### 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: ArrivalGuides

## Pharmacy



Luke's Pharmacy  
Address: No.2 Pham Van Nghi Street, Ho Chi Minh City  
City Tel: +84 28 5410 6630  
Opening hours: Sun - Sat 8:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Guardian Crescent Mall

Address: Crescent Mall, Ho Chi Minh City

Tel: +84 28 5413 7511

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

Photo: Gemma Garner

## 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, etc. are also offered here.

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: 2 Paris Commune Street, Ho Chi Minh City

## Telephone



Country Code: +84  
Area code: 08

Photo: Jardson Almeida

## Electricity

220 Volts, 50 Mhz



Photo: Stirling Tschan

### Population

8.9 million

### Currency

Vietnamese dong (VND)  
VND 10,000 ~ US \$0.43

### Opening hours

Government office: 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM from Monday to Friday

Banks: 7:30 AM / 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM from Monday to Friday

Supermarket and other stores: 8:00 AM / 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM / 10:00 PM every day

### Newspapers

Sai Gon Giai Phong (Liberated Saigon)

Tuoi Tre (Youth)

Nguoi Lao Dong (Labourer)

The Thao (Sports)

Saigon Times

### Emergency numbers

Police: 113

Fire: 114

Ambulance/ First Aid: 115

### Tourist information

HCMC Tourism Promotion Center

Address: 140 Nguyen Dinh Chieu Street, Ho Chi Minh City

Tel: +84 28 3827 7371

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

