



# Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh

## Location

Serving as the country's largest city, vibrating with energy, innovation, and traffic, **Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon**, is the economic heart of Vietnam and the main hub of the southern region. A freewheeling, cosmopolitan, metropolis, HCHC's dynamic cityscape draws together old and new Vietnam in the most compact of spaces, representing the city's past as well as its future. The city is not only the leading economic center in Vietnam but also of many cultural and historical imprints during its more than 300-year history of development.

On the other hand, the accommodation center is located at 23/8 Hoang Viet Ward 4, Tan Binh District, Ho Chi Minh City. It takes you about ten (10) minutes (2.7 km) from the airport (Tan Son Nhat International Airport) and about fifteen (15-20) minutes from the city center.

Moreover, the center is surrounded by various facilities such as ATMs, restaurants, post office, swimming pool, gym, coffee shop and supermarkets. Therefore, you are free to relax and explore the city centers during your free time or after the program's schedules or on the weekends and have the best times of your stay!

## Geolocation

**Gps coordinates:** 10.795683, 106.659691

**Accuracy:** Approximate

## Accommodation & Food

### About the Accommodation

The accommodation is located on a campus in a college dorm. As such, it follows certain campus rules such as a night curfew.

We also have a room reserved as an "office" with 2 computers that you can use, and a beautiful rooftop where you can have a cup of tea and coffee, enjoy sunbathing, and have a chat with others.

There are nice local cafés, convenience stores, supermarkets, pharmacies, swimming pools, and restaurants next to our dorm. A beautiful and peaceful place where you can enjoy fresh juices, snacks, etc.

**\*\*\*Please be aware that this accommodation has a 24:00 - 6:00 curfew\*\*\***

## Available Room Types

	<b>Standard Room</b>
<b>All meals included</b>	Yes *
<b>Free beverages</b>	Yes **
<b>Persons per room</b>	6 - 8
<b>Wifi in public areas</b>	Yes
<b>Laundry facilities</b>	Yes ***
<b>Safety box</b>	Yes
<b>Lockable rooms</b>	Yes
<b>Hot shower</b>	No
<b>Private bathroom</b>	Yes
<b>Bed linen</b>	Yes
<b>Towels</b>	No
<b>Air conditioning</b>	Yes
<b>Swimming Pool</b>	Yes ****
<b>Fan</b>	No
<b>Mosquito protection</b>	No

\* On weekends brunch instead of breakfast and lunch

\*\* Water, coffee, and tea at the accommodation

\*\*\* At extra cost

\*\*\*\* The swimming pool is available except on Monday (cleaning day), a maximum of 10 people can use it at once.

## Food Arrangements

Three (3) good Asian style meals (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner) are provided every day of the program, and on weekends only brunch and dinner. However, meals will also be served based on your dietary requirements, but you need to inform us in advance.

## Facilities

There are many taxis around our campus. You can easily catch one from the main road to reach your destination of choice in Ho Chi Minh.

There are also several ATMs in the area where we stay. The nearest one is about 3 minutes walking distance from our campus.

There are nice local cafés, convenience stores, supermarkets, pharmacies, swimming pools, and restaurants next to our dorm. A beautiful and peaceful place where you can enjoy fresh juices, snacks, etc.

All necessary amenities can be found in the city, remember we are located in the country's capital after all!

## Mandatory Orientation Day

At this location, there is 1 mandatory orientation day offered. On the Monday of your first week at this location, you will join our orientation day, to familiarize you with the surroundings as well as local culture. Your program will continue as usual from Tuesday onward throughout the rest of the week.

## Schedule

- Introduction meeting, House rules, Setting Expectations, Health and Safety Advice, handling of documents and signing up of relevant documents.
- Vietnam Do's and Don'ts, Dress Codes, Vietnam Culture Lessons
- Project Meetings, Observations, and Preparations with assigned Local Program Coordinators.
- Tour around the compound and local area; and arrange a sim card if necessary.
- Lunch
- Basic Vietnamese Language and Culture lessons.
- Games and other Recreational Activities at the Campus.
- Family Dinner at a Local Restaurant.

## Activities & Events

### Monday Afternoon/Evening

Fun games, recreational and other activities are arranged and conducted at the campus open ground together with the local coordinators. This activity aims for everyone can socialize and interact with each other, and of course, have some fun and enjoyment. Thereafter, a family dinner alongside local coordinators at the Authentic Vietnamese Restaurants or the restaurant of your choice nearby also takes place.

Thus, immerse yourself in the vibrant festivity, and fun games and discover mouthwatering treasures of Vietnam's finest flavors. From delectable local cuisines or delicacies to Western cuisines, Vietnam has it all and has some promising gastronomic adventures like no other.

Finally, don't miss this opportunity to gather with fellow participants and local coordinators and experience the ultimate fun experiences, gastronomy, and culture of Ho Chi Minh.

## **Daily Activities**

Other games and sports activities ready at the accommodation such as: Table tennis, badminton, shuttlecock, chess, checker, domino, werewolf, parcheesi, go, uno, darts... you can pick one to play with local coordinator and/or other participants.

## **Sights & Surroundings**

Here are some interesting places to visit in your free time/weekends!

### **Within Ho Chi Minh**

As a large city, Ho Chi Minh has a lot to offer from shops to Vietnamese water puppet shows. Here are a few suggestions:

#### **Backpacker street**

Bui Vien Street is the main street, it is called the 'backpackers area' of Ho Chi Minh City. There is a wide variety of inexpensive restaurants, bars, souvenir shops, and hotels/hostels. You can shop, dine, and party on Bui Vien Street.

#### **Landmark 81**

Landmark 81 is the tallest building in Vietnam and Southeast Asia. As of July 2018, the 14<sup>th</sup> is the tallest building in the world.

#### **Bitexco tower**

There is an observation deck, Saigon Skydeck, open to the public daily and offering 360-degree panoramic views of Ho Chi Minh City. From floors 50 to 52, there are further F&B and entertainment offerings, including a fine dining restaurant and bar/nightclub.

#### **Nguyen Hue Walking Street**

A bustling pedestrian promenade located in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. It's a vibrant hub known for its lively atmosphere, lined with shops, cafes, and entertainment. This pedestrian-only area often hosts cultural events, street performances, and markets, making it a popular destination for locals and tourists alike seeking a vibrant urban experience in the heart of the city.

#### **Suoi Tien Amusement Park**

Suối Tiên Amusement Park is an amusement park in District 9, Hồ Chí Minh City, Vietnam. The park includes several entertainment areas. The landscaping and attractions in the park illustrate Vietnam's history and legends.

## **Dam Sen Cultural Park and Water Park**

Dam Sen Cultural Park is an amusement park located in District 11, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The park has an area of 50 hectares, of which 20% comprises lakes and 60% trees and gardens. Dam Sen Water Park was one of the top 10 Water Parks in Asia in 2014.

## **Thien Hau temple**

The Thien Hau Temple, officially the Ba Thien Hau Pagoda, is a Chinese-style temple of the Chinese sea goddess Mazu on Nguyễn Trãi Street in the Cho Lon of District 5 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

## **Vietnam Quoc Tu Pagoda**

The Viet Nam Quoc Tu Pagoda is located at 3 Thang 2, District 10 of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The pagoda, seven stories tall, is full of colorful, oversized statues of religious figures

## **Can Gio Island**

Also known as Monkey Island, Can Gio Island is a series of small islands jut out from the mainland near HCMC. This nature reserve comprises 80,000 hectares of mangroves and water coconut forests.

## **Ba Den mountain (The black virgin mountain)**

The Ba Den Mountain is a part of the Nui Ba Historical and Cultural Complex in Tay Ninh, Vietnam, which is famous for its artless scenery and mysterious tales. This is the highest mountain in the southeastern part of Vietnam, 986 meters high; it is the symbol of the people and the land of Tay Ninh.

## **Outside of HCMC**

### **Mekong**

The Mekong Delta in southern Vietnam is a vast maze of rivers, swamps, and islands, home to floating markets, Khmer pagodas, and villages surrounded by rice paddies. It takes 2-4 hours by bus.

### **Vung Tau beach**

Once a French colonial town, it's now a popular seaside resort that draws many visitors from Ho Chi Minh City. Its long, busy stretch of sandy coast, including Front Beach and Pineapple Beach, has the verdant Small Mountain and Big Mountain as its backdrop. It takes 2 hours by bus.

### **Mui Ne beach**

With a long, palm-lined stretch of sand, it has steady wind conditions (in the dry season) that make it a top destination for windsurfing, kitesurfing, sailing, and other water sports. It's also a popular weekend getaway from Ho Chi Minh City, with a busy strip of hotels, restaurants, and shops. It takes 5 hours by bus or 4 hours by train.

### **Da Lat**

Surrounded by hills, pine forests, lakes, and waterfalls and known as the "City of Eternal Spring" for its distinctive temperate climate, Đà Lạt was developed as a resort by the French in the early 1900s, and many reminders of its colonial heritage remain. It takes 6-8 hours by bus or 50 minutes by plane.

## **Nha Trang**

Nha Trang is a coastal resort city in southern Vietnam known for its beaches, diving sites, and offshore islands. It takes 8 hours by bus/train or 1 hour by plane.

## **Hoi An Ancient town**

Hội An is a city on Vietnam's central coast known for its well-preserved Ancient Town, cut through with canals. The former port city's melting-pot history is reflected in its architecture, a mix of eras and styles from wooden Chinese shophouses and temples to colorful French colonial buildings, ornate Vietnamese tube houses, and the iconic Japanese Covered Bridge with its pagoda. It takes 22 hours by bus or 1 hour 15 minutes by plane from Da Nang and transfers 45 minutes by bus.

## **Phong Nha- Ke Bang**

Phong Nha-Kẻ Bàng National Park is a protected area in north-central Vietnam bordering the Hin Namno Reserve in Laos. Characterized by mountains, tropical forests, and underground rivers, it's known for its ancient limestone karsts and vast network of caves. It takes 3 hours by bus from Hoi An or 1 hour 15 minutes by plane from Dong Hoi airport and transfers 45 minutes by bus.

## **Hue Ancient city**

Huế is a city in central Vietnam that was the seat of Nguyen Dynasty emperors and the national capital from 1802 to 1945. A major attraction is its vast, 19th-century Đại Nội Citadel, surrounded by a moat and thick stone walls. It encompasses the Imperial City, with palaces and shrines; the Forbidden Purple City. It takes 22 hours by bus from Hoi An or 1 hour 20 minutes by plane.

## **Ha Noi**

Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, is known for its centuries-old architecture and rich culture with Southeast Asian, Chinese, and French influences. At its heart is the chaotic Old Quarter, where the narrow streets are roughly arranged by trade. There are many little temples, and markets - selling household goods and street food. It takes 2 hours by plane or 2 days and 1 night by train.

## **Sapa**

A popular trekking base, it overlooks the terraced rice fields of the Muong Hoa Valley and is near the 3,143m-tall Fansipan peak, which is climbable via a steep, multi-day guided walk. Hill tribes, such as the Hmong, Tay, and Dao, make up much of the town's local population. It takes 5 hours by bus from Hoi An or 4 hours by train.

## **Ninh Binh**

The province is famous for a high density of natural and cultural attractions, including reserved parks in Cúc Phương National Park and Van Long, grotto caves and rivers in Tràng An, Tam Cốc-Bích Động and Mua Caves, historic monuments in the Hoa Lư ancient capital, Vietnam's largest Buddhist worshipping complex (Bái Đính Temple). It takes 2 hours 30 minutes by bus from Ha Noi.

## **Ha Long bay**

It is known for its emerald waters and thousands of towering limestone islands topped by rainforests. Junk boat tours and sea kayak expeditions take visitors past islands named for their shapes, including Stone Dog and Teapot islets. The region is popular for scuba diving, rock climbing, and hiking, particularly in mountainous Cát Bà National Park. It takes 3-4 hours by bus from Ha Noi.

## **Transportation**

From this location we do not provide free transport to other locations.