



PRE TRAVEL

VIETNAM

GUIDE

You're traveling to Vietnam!

This short guide will help you prepare for your upcoming journey with Alluring Asia.

Passports & Visa

A passport with a minimum of six months validity remaining from the date of entry and evidence of onward/return ticket are required. A visa is required for United States citizens to enter Vietnam.

Click on bullet items below for more information.

- Apply for a passport
- Renew by mail
- Report and replace lost/stolen U.S. passport
- Correct or change U.S. passport information
- Visa information

Immunizations & Vaccines

We strongly recommend you seek the advice of your physician for all travel vaccinations. For additional information please visit www.cdc.gov/travel.

Tipping

Service charges of 10% are added to bills in most leading hotels and restaurants. Where it is not included, a tip of 10-15% of the bill would be appropriate.

Airport porter/hotel bellboy:

\$1.00 - \$2.00 USD per bag.

Your tour guide:

\$10.00 - \$15.00 USD per person per day.

Driver/assistants:

\$6.00 - \$8.00 USD per person per day.

Overnight Halong Bay Cruises:

It is customary to tip the crew \$25.00 per person per day.

What to Pack

Dress is casual and modest in style and the climate is hot and humid most time of year. Bring lightweight clothing in natural fibers like linen, silk, and cotton to be the most comfortable. At all times you should avoid wearing revealing clothing and large amounts of jewelry; they consider this offensive.

During certain times of the year it can be chilly in the evenings so be sure to pack a shawl, wrap or pullover.

Scarf, sarong or pashmina to cover your, arms, legs and shoulders when visiting religious sites or you may wear long sleeves and loose pants or long skirts.

Hiking/trekking shoes and/or good pair of walking shoes for the city.

Mosquito repellent, sunscreen, sun hat, sunglasses, hand sanitizer/handi-wipes, binoculars and a flashlight with extra batteries are all necessities.

An umbrella and rain jacket is essential during the rainy season from June-October in the north, September-December in the central and May-October in the south, but even during the other months it's wise to have one with you for those occasional showers.

Water purifier or a Safe Water Drinking Bottle since water is not safe to drink in Vietnam.

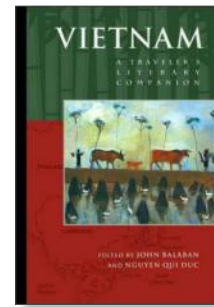
Public restrooms in Vietnam typically do not have toilet tissue, so you may wish to carry a small amount during your touring days.

Electronic chargers for your camera, phone, computer, etc. and extra camera memory card(s).

Electrical converter and outlet adapter. Their electrical voltage is 120/220 volts AC, 50HZ and they use two round prong and three square prong plugs.

Due to restricted weight limits on all the domestic flights (20kg or 44 pounds) it is recommended that you travel as light as possible.

Reading List



Vietnam, A Traveler's Literary Companion

Author: John Balaban & Nguyen Qui Duc, Anthology, 1996, 239 pages

Description: From rain forest and rural countryside to the cities,

these 17 stories from Vietnam's finest writers explore Vietnam's landscapes, myths and changing traditions.



Fire in the Lake

Author: Frances FitzGerald, History, 2002, 496 pages

Description: A classic historical, political and cultural portrait of the Vietnam War, seen through the eyes of the

Vietnamese. Winner of both the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award, FitzGerald, a staff writer at the New Yorker and a reporter in Vietnam, presents a vivid image of a revolution and a clear-sighted case for why the U.S offensive was doomed from the start. It's still essential reading 30 years later.



Understanding Vietnam

Author: Neil Jamieson, Cultural Portrait, 1995, 428 pages.

Description: Jamieson's ambitious primer addresses politics, social history, village life,

structural renewal, literature and the arts, illuminating the Vietnamese worldview with insight and depth. It does just what the title promises -- it illuminates the Vietnamese and their worldview.