

The world has just stopped to take notice of a tiny land tucked away at the far eastern corner of Asia. Vietnam. The country boasts of a rich cultural heritage, abundant natural beauty and a plethora of recreational and entertainment options. Vietnam is attracting tourists by the hordes and it is quite likely that you will be heading for Vietnam in your next holidays. So, stock upon the Vietnam tourist information so that you are not caught on the wrongfoot when you land up here.

Some Handy Vietnam Tourist Information

There are sundry things to know about Vietnam if you are planning a Vietnam travel guide and it is always worthwhile to enquire about when to go to Vietnam right at the outset. Vietnam doesn't suffer from extremes of climates, as such you can drop by at almost any time of the year. But it is a good idea to avoid the typhoon season in the north and central quarters of the country from July to November and the sultry and sweltering summer season in the southern part of the country from the end of February to May.

Also take an account of the Vietnam holidays while chalking out your Vietnam tourist guide. There are some Vietnam festivals and events, like the Tet Festival when almost the entire country, and that includes the hotels and other tourist services, goes on a leave for about a week. Make your arrangements beforehand.

Vietnam: Things to Know

Though Vietnamese is the most prevalent language in Vietnam, spoken by about 86% of the populace, recent times have seen English being established as the most popular foreign language. In fact, the study of English, albeit as a second language, has been made mandatory in many schools in Vietnam. Now this is one bit of Vietnam tourist information that is quite reassuring: it means you can get around Vietnam without much difficulty and without having to communicate with wildly flailing arms and legs.

French, Russian, Chinese and Japanese are some other foreign languages that are spoken here.

The currency of Vietnam is the Vietnamese Dong. On January 2020, 1 US dollar amounted to about 23,000 Vietnamese Dong. This quite low valuation of the Vietnam currency is surely a vital piece of Vietnam tourist information attraction, especially for the backpackers who are looking to explore the country on a shoe-string budget and of course, the shopaholics. Given the soaring popularity of Vietnam tourism, major airliners and cruise liners around the world are offering services to take you to Vietnam including [Vietnam visa](#). Besides there are also international train services from China to Vietnam.

Vietnam: Do's and Don't

A bustling country of around 90-million, the Vietnamese are warm and friendly and welcome outsiders among their midst and it can be only expected that as a courtesy towards them you will not ruffle their feathers. First-timers here will be benefited by the tourist information for Vietnam that concentrates on Vietnamese etiquette.

Vietnam tourist information like cutting back on the skin show whilst you are inside religious edifices and removing one's shoes when stepping inside a Vietnamese house, are really helpful in your wanderings across the country.

Vietnam – the hidden charm, a friendly and safe place to travel. But each country

has special differences, Vietnam too. The differences relate culture, history and life style... With a sprinkling of common sense, your trip should be smooth and trouble free. Do not be overly paranoid though. In general, Vietnamese people are very appreciative if they see you trying to abide by the customs and very forgiving if you get it wrong or forget. If you make the effort, you will be rewarded. With a cool head and sensible planning, one can avoid these problems. The below useful travel tips will help you to have a perfect trip to Vietnam:

DOS

- Greetings are not much different to western countries. There are no cultural formalities that as a foreigner you would be expected to know or practice.
- Store your cash, credit cards, airline tickets and other valuables in a safe place. Most 3-, 4-star [hotels in Hanoi](#), Ho Chi Minh City and other big cities have in-room safes, otherwise ask the reception to keep your valuable things in their deposit facility.
- Vietnamese dress conservatively. Not only for the prevailing weather, but also not to cause offense to the local people. Despite the heat, it's best not to show off too much skin. If you do, especially girls, you'll only draw stares from the locals. Vietnamese have conservative dress codes, and it is only in larger cities that these codes are a little more relaxed. Do not wear revealing clothing.
- Dress well when visiting pagodas. Long dresses are politely requested! Shoes are fine, and rarely will you have to remove them. If unsure, just follow what the locals do.
- Drink plenty of bottled water, especially when walking around sightseeing. No need to carry huge bottles around with you, a vendor is never far away and no doubt they will find you before you find them. During the summer months you should drink at least two liters of water per day. If you drink tea, coffee & alcohol you should increase your water intake accordingly as these will help to dehydrate you.
- Travel with recommend tour agencies. Even if you plan to buy tickets when in country, research your journey a little first on the Internet. A good resource is Lonely Planet's Thorn Tree Forum, where fellow tourists discuss travel in Vietnam. This way you avoid unreliable tour agencies and badly run hotels.
- Take a hotel business card from the reception desk before venturing out from your hotel. This will make your return to the hotel in a taxi or cyclo much easier.
- Carry a roll of toilet paper in your day-pack on long excursions from your base hotel. You never know when you might need it!
- If invited into a home, always remove your shoes at the front door when entering.
- Ask for permission when taking a photograph of someone. If they indicate that they do not want you to, then abide by their wishes.
- DO NOT offer money or push the issue.
- Check on your first day whether you need to reconfirm your next flight, if so do it then. Some airlines do not require this anymore but it is still worthwhile calling them so that they at least have your contact details, in case the flight is delayed or whatever.

DON'TS

- Never carry more money than you need when walking around the streets. Do not wear large amounts of jewelry. There are two reasons for not doing this:
 - It is considered impolite to flaunt wealth in public;
 - It is more likely that you may become a victim of a pickpocket or drive-by bag snatcher.
- Don't be paranoid about your security, just be aware of your surroundings.
- Don't wear singlets, shorts, dresses or skirts, or tops with low-neck lines and bare shoulders to Temples and Pagodas. To do this is considered extremely rude and offensive.
- Avoid giving empty water bottles, sweets and candies or pens to the local people when trekking through ethnic minority villages. You cannot guarantee that the empty bottles will be disposed of in a correct manner, and the people have no access to dental health. If you want to give pens, ask your guide to introduce you to the local teacher and donate them to the whole community.
- Never sleep or sit with the soles of your feet pointing towards the family altar when in someone's house.
- Never lose your temper in public or when bargaining for a purchase. This is considered a serious loss of face for both parties. Always maintain a cool and happy demeanor and you will be reciprocated with the same.
- Do not try to take photographs of military installations or anything to do with the military. This can be seen as a breach of national security.
- Never take video cameras into the ethnic minority villages. They are considered to be too intrusive by the local people. Wear a lot of jewelry or take a bag with you. Violent crime is highly unusual in Vietnam, but petty crime is more apparent. If you have a bag, or tout a digital camera around your neck, you are a potential target.
- When taking a ride by motorbike taxi (xe om) make sure your bag, if any, is not on display or easy to grab. Bag snatches, although still rare, are probably the most likely crime a tourist would encounter, and it raises the probability immensely if you are tailing a camera or a laptop in the wind.
- Physical displays of affection between lovers in public are frowned upon. That's why you may come across couples holding hands but not hugging or kissing.
- Remember, this is Vietnam, a developing country, and things don't quite work as you are maybe used to. Don't be paranoid about your safety, just be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not carry your passport and you should leave it in the safe in your hotel. A photocopy will suffice if local law states that you need to.