

Packing tips for traveling to Vietnam: *Bring as little as possible*, Vietnam has pretty much anything you can find back home.

Necessary documents

: your

passport

and

Vietnam visa

(with their copies); 2 photos (3cmx4cm), tour dossier (tour itinerary, address of travel agent or travel company operator, contact number...) and others (if needed).

Cash

in US\$5's, US\$10's, US\$20's and US\$100's (US dollars are commonly acceptable)

All the soaps and smellies are cheap and plentiful, and clothing, shoes and backpacks are all manufactured in Vietnam and available at a fraction of the price in the West. Tampons are available in all major towns and cities, but not in more remote areas.

A Swiss-army knife or equivalent come in handy, but you don't need 27 separate functions, just one blade and an opener. A torch (flashlight) and compass are also useful.

Other handy things to bring are

: name cards, as Vietnamese deal them out like a deck of cards; ear plugs to block the ever-present noise; a universal plug adaptor; a rain cover for the backpack; a sweater for the highlands and air-con bus trips; mosquito repellent to keep the bugs at bay; and a folding umbrella if you plan to visit during the rainy season (July and August are the wettest months).

T

he secret of successful packing

:

plastic bags

– not only do they keep things separate and clean, but also dry. That means a lot at the end of a long, wet day.

Luggage Packing tips

What needs to be brought in Vietnam?

- International Airline ticket
- Passport and photocopies of your passport
- Visa or Visa approval letter and some color passport photos (size 4x6cm) (at least 2)
- Insurance document (if any)
- Cash in USD or Euros (20's and 100's)
- Other equipment as follows;

More information about Vietnam visa application can be found at <http://www.vietnam-visa.com/>

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General

- Duffel bag - waterproof and with a lock, or easily wheeled suitcase
- 5-6 zip lock bags (They come in handy for all kinds of uses.)
- Sun glasses or reading glasses
- Good walking shoes and sandal
- Good trekking shoes (for trekking tour) or slippers (for beach relaxing tour)

Optional

- Camera and film
- Mobil phone
- Head phone and your favorite music compact disc (CDs).
- Favorite Books/ Vietnam Guide book/Diary
- Biro pens, pencils, note book
- Pictures of your family

Basic Clothes

- Good walking shoes or cloth sneakers (They are light and dry easily. Good for driving.)
- 3-4 pairs of socks
- Polar fleece pullover or jacket or sweater (if travel in the north from November to March)
- 4-5 T-shirts or blouses
- Wide-brimmed sun hat
- Underwear (3-5 sets, depending on your desire to wash)
- Mid-calf lightweight walking skirts or dresses or loose pants (women)
- 1-2 bandannas
- Bathing suit
- Long-sleeved shirts
- Raincoat or poncho

Notes: Dress in Southeast Asia tends to be quite casual because of the warm, humid, tropical climate. For women, casual cotton pants and skirts are most acceptable for daytime wear, but bare sundresses and short shorts are frowned upon, especially in pagodas & temples.

A sweater, sweatshirt, light jacket, or fleece pullover is a good idea when visiting the northern areas in the winter (from November to March); and, it is useful to have a windbreaker or rain poncho as protection against the unexpected rain showers that tend to occur.

Health equipment and Medical Items

No actual vaccinations are officially required. Malaria prophylaxis is no longer recommended but visitors are advised to check with their doctors or travel immunization clinics regarding the advisability of inoculation against typhoid, tetanus, hepatitis A & B.

Carry a medical kit with bandages, splints and the like. However, the leaders (tour guides) are not permitted to dispense personal medicines to clients. It is important if you bring a complete,

personal medical and first aid kit along with a few other essential items. Suggestion the following (Note: You will need to pack sharp objects in checked baggage due to tightened airline security):

- Aspirin or Tylenol Band-Aids and betadine ointment
 - Throat lozenges and cough medicine
 - Cold medicine and antihistamines
 - Cipro - an antibiotic for indigestion
 - Chaps tick
 - Suntan lotion 100% UV effective (25 SPF or higher)
 - Biodegradable soap (The blue bottles of Mountain Suds are excellent)
 - Pack towel/washcloth
 - OB tampons (women)
 - Hand/body lotion
 - Brush/comb
 - Toothbrush/toothpaste
 - Eye drops
 - Facial breathing filters (optional for Kathmandu)
 - Antiseptic toilettes
 - Insect/ mosquito repellent
- Sewing kit with scissors, tweezers, and needle. (Note: You will need to pack sharp objects in checked baggage due to tightened airline security.)

Frequent Questions to answer:

What credit cards do I need to take with me?

Take your major credit cards, such as, Visa, Master Card and American Express. Make sure they are really credit cards and not just debit cards with a credit card company's logo on them. Many locations require a credit card and will not accept a debit card, so they may have limited use on your travel.

Leave all your local store credit cards in a secure location at home; there will be no need to carry them with you. ***Why should I contact my credit card companies before I leave?***

You want to notify them of your trip. They may delay you if they are unaware you are traveling. The unfamiliar spending patterns might cause them to suspect that the card is being used fraudulently and delay your approvals.

They will be able to explain many of the services that they can provide while you are on your trip.

How can my credit card company help prepare me for my trip?

You can arrange to pay bills that will come due while you are gone.

They will be aware that you will be making charges from another country.

They will be able to give you an idea of how acceptable their credit card is in that particular country.

They can verify acceptance at certain foreign locations.

They'll be able to see if your PIN number will work in the countries you are visiting. They can also issue you another PIN number if your current PIN is unacceptable to the foreign bank's

system.

They can explain cash advance, ATM, foreign purchase and foreign exchange rate policies and fees.

They can explain any services they offer, such as, extra insurance for your rental car, luggage or purchases. Make sure the coverage offered extends outside the United States and will be valid in all the countries where you'll be traveling. Also, be sure to note any other exceptions.

They may need to give you another phone number to call in case you need to reach them. The 800 number listed on the back of your card may not work from foreign locations.

You can find out if they charge a currency conversion fee, so you can find the most economical card on which to place your foreign purchases.

Should I use my ATM card while traveling?

Yes, you'll have access to cash during your trip so you won't have to take as much cash with you and using your ATM card can also be a good way to get cash in foreign countries.

The ATM will issue money in local currency.

You should exchange at the bank's wholesale exchange rate. You may still want to shop around to different banks since some will charge a high usage fee for their ATMs. Although, even high ATM fees may be less than others will charge for currency exchanges.

Don't wait until you're out of money to go to an ATM, the machines can run out of money or break down.

What should I know about using travelers checks?

If the particular brand of travelers checks are accepted in the country you'll be visiting.

How widely they are accepted within the countries you'll be visiting.

Any fees for purchasing and using the travelers checks.

The travelers check company's loss, replacement and refund policies.

How can I protect my travelers checks while traveling?

Take the same precautions you would to protect your cash. Be sure to learn and follow the procedures required if you lose your travelers checks. You'll also need to make copies of your travelers checks before you go and keep separate from them the following information.

The serial numbers of the travelers checks.

The denomination of the travelers checks.

The date and location of their purchase.

The phone number to call to report them missing.

Source: <http://www.alltraveltips.com/>

Important Vietnam Phrases

Pronunciations can vary within Vietnam (particularly northern vs southern). Following is the list of important and/or frequently used Vietnamese Phrases that one should remember before traveling to Vietnam:

English

Vietnamese

Pronunciation

Hello/Hi/

Good morning/

Good afternoon/

Good evening/

How do you do

Xin chào

seen chow

Thank you

C ả m ả n

Gahm un

Sorry

Xin ỉ i

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

seen loy

I/ me

Tôi

toy

You

Anh/Chị

Ang (male) / chi (female)

Yes

Vâng

vung

No

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

Không

Khom

Good

Tốt

tote

Bad

Không tốt

khom tote

How much

Bao nhiêu

Bow nyew

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

Too expensive

Mức quá

Mahk qwa

Hotel

Khách sạn

Khách sạn

Airport

Sân bay

San pay

Ticket

Vé

Yeah (pronounced similarly to "yeah" in English)

Hot

Nóng

Nom

Cold

Lạnh

Lang

Coffee

Cà phê

cah feh

Hot black coffee

Cà phê đen nóng

Cah feh ten nom

Hot Coffee with milk

Cà phê sữa nóng

Cah feh swa nom

Iced Coffee with milk

Cà phê sữa đá

Cah feh swa dah

Tea

Trà

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

Chah

Oh my god

oi gi oi oi

oi zoi oi

You're welcome

Không có chi

khom go jee

You're beautiful

Cô đẹp quá

coh dep wah

Smile

Cười lên

kuy leen

bathroom

Phòng vệ sinh

fonh veah sin

Tips for Vietnam Domestic Flights & Int'l Flights

Domestic flights

Domestic flight coverage is fairly good in Vietnam with frequent flights to lots of cities at reasonable price, and airfare can be easily altered.

Flight booking tips: It is recommended to book Vietnam Airlines flights with local travel agents because it is significantly more expensive to book domestic flights outside of Vietnam.

Vietnam Airlines is the dominant and exclusive air carrier on domestic Vietnam air routes with regular flights to over 15 destinations. Vietnam Airlines flies a modern fleet of Boeing 777 and 767 aircraft, Airbus 321 and 320 aircraft, ATR 72 aircraft, and Fokker 70 aircraft. On-time arrival, on-time departure and the safety record of Vietnam Airlines are excellent compared to any international standards. Though cabin service does not quite yet match international standards, reliability, performance and constantly improving service are the hallmarks of Vietnam Airlines.

Jetstar Pacific Airlines, recently created as a low-cost carrier that also accepts online booking, serves domestic flights to 3 destinations and Vasco Airlines serves 4, and the two airlines will open more routes in the time to come. The Pacific Airlines normal fare is less expensive than those of Vietnam Airlines.

Vietnam Domestic flight Airfare/ Air tickets:

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

Flight Information

(US\$)Single Ticket

(US\$)Return Ticket

Flight From

Flight To

Carriers

Days

Time

Economy

Business

Economy

Business

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

Danang

Nha trang

VN Airlines

.2..5.7

Daily

10:30

14:10

70

N/A

140

N/A

Danang

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

Buon Ma Thuot

VN Airlines

Daily

14:05

60

N/A

120

N/A

Danang

Hanoi

VN Airlines

Daily

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

08:50
14:20
19:05

90

165

180

330

Danang

Saigon

VN Airlines

Daily
.....67
.2.4...
1.3.5..
12345..
.....67
Daily

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

08:00
13:30
13:30
18:10
19:30
19:40
21:40

90

165

180

330

Dienbien

Hanoi

VN Airlines

.2.....
1.34567
1..4567

10:40

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

11:40

15:15

43

N/A

86

N/A

Haiphong

Saigon

VN Airlines

Daily

20:10

110

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

205

220

410

Hanoi

Saigon

VN Airlines

Daily
Daily
Daily
Daily
Daily
Daily
.234.67
Daily
Daily
Daily
Daily

07:00

08:00
11:00
13:00
15:00
17:00
18:00

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

19:00

20:00

21:15

21:30

135

245

270

490

Hanoi

Nhatrang

VN Airlines

123.5.7

...4.6

07:00

11:00

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

130

215

260

430

Hanoi

Dalat

VN Airlines

.2..567

1.34...

11:30

08:00

130

N/A

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

260

N/A

Hanoi

Danang

VN Airlines

Daily

06:35

11:45

17:00

90

165

180

330

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

Hanoi

Hue

VN Airlines

Daily

06:30
12:40
19:25

90

N/A

180

N/A

Hanoi

Dienbien

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

VN Airlines

.2.....

1.34567

1..4567

09:00

10:00

13:35

60

N/A

120

N/A

Hue

Saigon

VN Airlines

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

Daily

09:10
17:10
20:10

90

N/A

180

N/A

Hue

Hanoi

VN Airlines

Daily

08:30
14:40
21:15

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

90

N/A

180

N/A

Nhatrang

Saigon

VN Airlines

Daily

.2..5.7

Daily

Daily

07:45

12:30

16:00

16:10

70

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

125

140

250

Nhatrang

Danang

VN Airlines

.2..5.7

Daily

08:35

12:05

70

N/A

140

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

N/A

Nhatrang

Hanoi

VN Airlines

123.5.7

...4.6.

09:40

13:40

130

215

260

430

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

Phu quoc

Saigon

VN Airlines

Daily

Daily

.2.4..7

Daily

Daily

07:35

08:20

10:50

11:55

14:30

70

N/A

140

N/A

Saigon

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

Dalat

VN Airlines

.2..567

1.34...

07:45

10:50

70

N/A

140

N/A

Saigon

Hanoi

VN Airlines

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

Daily
Daily
Daily
Daily
Daily
Daily
Daily
12.456.
Daily
Daily
Daily

06:30
09:30
11:30
14:00
15:30
17:00
18:00
19:00
20:00
21:15
21:30

135

245

270

490

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

Saigon

Nha trang

VN Airlines

Daily

.2..5.7

Daily

06:00

6:45

10:15

14:10

70

125

140

250

Saigon

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

Buon Ma Thuot

VN Airlines

Daily

.2.4567

10:20

18:30

50

N/A

100

N/A

Saigon

Danang

VN Airlines

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

Daily
.....67
.2.4...
Daily
12345..
Daily

06:00
11:20
11:20
16:00
17:30
19:30

90

165

180

330

Saigon

Rach gia

VN Airlines

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

Daily

06:30

50

N/A

100

N/A

Saigon

Hue

VN Airlines

Daily

07:00

15:00

17:25

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

90

N/A

180

N/A

Saigon

Haiphong

VN Airlines

Daily

17:20

120

205

240

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

410

Saigon

Phu quoc

VN Airlines

Daily

.2.4..7

Daily

Daily

Daily

05:55

06:30

06:40

10:15

12:50

70

N/A

140

N/A

Special Notes:

- Domestic departure tax is now included in the fare price.
- Flights can be altered at no cost.
- Vietnam Airlines also bans the carriage of fish sauce and durian.
- Fare Prices are subject to change without prior notice.

Airport Tax

1. International Airport Tax at Noi Bai airport (Hanoi): USD 14.00/person
2. International Airport Tax at Tan Son Nhat airport (HCMC): USD 12.00/person
3. International Airport Tax at Danang airport (Danang): USD 10.00/person
4. Domestic Airport Tax: Included in air fare.
5. Kids under two are exempt from the tax.

Taxi

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

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- Hanoi: Airport taxis from Noi Bai Airport to central Hanoi charge a flat rate of US\$20,00. The drive takes about 45 minutes. A minibus makes the trip for US\$4,00 per person.

- Ho Chi Minh City: a metered cab from Tan Son Nhat Airport to downtown costs around US\$10,00. The trip takes about 20 minutes.

For e-tickets, please click here www.SmileTravelVietnam.com

For cheap flights, please click here www.Kayak.com

Vietnam international flights

Flights to Vietnam: Most international flights will **arrive at** three international airports in:

- Hanoi
- Ho Chi Minh City
- Da Nang

Direct flights are available from:

- Australia
- France
- The US

Yet, most flights transit via:

- Bangkok
- Chinese Taipei
- Hong Kong
- Tokyo
- Singapore

Flights from Vietnam: The main carrier, Vietnam Airlines operates both direct and non-direct flights to the following destinations:

Area

Country

Arrival

Airport

Southeast Asia

Cambodia

• Phnom Penh (Pochentong International Airport, PNH)

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

- Siem Reap (Siem Reap International Airport)

Laos

- Vientiane (Wattay International Airport, VTE)
- Luang Prabang

Indonesia

- Jakarta (Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, CGK)
- Bali (Ngurah Rai Airport, DPS) - Bali International Airport

Malaysia

- Kuala Lumpur (Kuala Lumpur International Airport, KUL)

Singapore

- Singapore (Singapore Changi Airport, SIN)

Thailand

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

- Bangkok (Bangkok International Airport, BKK)
- Chiang Mai (Chiang Mai International Airport, CNX)
- Phuket (Phuket International Airport, HKT)

East Asia

China

- Beijing (Beijing Capital International Airport, PEK)
- Shanghai (Shanghai Pudong International Airport, PGV)
- Guangzhou (Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, CAN)
- Nanning (Nanning Wuxu International Airport, NNG)

Taiwan

- Taipei (Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport, TPE)

Japan

- Fukuoka (Fukuoka Airport, FUK)
- Nagoya (Chubu Centrair International Airport, NGO)
- Osaka (Kansai International Airport, KIX)
- Tokyo (Narita International Airport, NRT)

South Korea

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

- Busan (Gimhae International Airport, PUS)
- Seoul (Incheon International Airport, ICN)

Europe

France

- Paris (Charles De Gaulle International Airport, CDG)

Germany

- Frankfurt (Frankfurt International Airport, FRA)

England

- London (London International Airport)

Oceania

Australia

Tips and Things to remember Before You Go

Friday, 26 September 2008 10:09

- | |
|---|
| · Melbourne (Melbourne Airport, MEL) |
| · Sydney (Kingsford Smith International Airport, SYD) |

New Zealand

- | |
|---|
| · Auckland (Auckland International Airport, IATA) |
|---|

To check detailed flights for your case, please click here www.TripAdvisor.com
To book a flight, please click here <http://flighttovietnam.com>
