

VISA

Most visitors to Vietnam require a **visa** to enter the country and all travelers must have a **passport valid for six months** after the date of your arrival in Vietnam.

Tourists holding ASEAN passports do not need a visa for a visit up to 30 days.

A tourist visa is a single-entry visa, which requires that if you exit Vietnam – for example for a side trip to Cambodia – you will require a new visa to re-enter the country. Travellers intending to do this are advised to apply for a **Multiple Entry Visa**. The validity of a standard Tourist Visa is 30-days.

Fees vary from one country to another. A visa requested as a multi-entry at embassies abroad is often issued as a single entry; it is recommended to double-check the visa stamp when collecting your passport. Multiple entry visas can also be arranged on arrival.

The Vietnamese Immigration Department issues E-visas to foreigners through an online application process. E-visas are issued with a validity period of up to 90 days, one-entry for 25 USD or multiple entries for 50 USD, and payable via bank transfer. E-visa holders may enter and exit Vietnam through 42 designated international border gates, including all international airports.

MEDICAL

Generally, no vaccinations are required for visiting Vietnam.

However, visitors should be sure that they are inoculated against typhoid, cholera, hepatitis A and B, tetanus and polio.

Malaria and Dengue Fever are present and it is advisable to take precautions particularly if traveling off the established tourist trail. If you plan to take anti-malarial tablets, you usually need to start the course of tablets one week before arrival. Prior to travel we recommend seeking a qualified medical practitioner's advice about vaccinations and up to date precautionary medicine based upon your itinerary.

All travelers should take out comprehensive travel insurance prior to travel that will cover any overseas medical costs, including medical evacuation. If you require a particular medication, ensure that you take an adequate supply as it may not be available locally.

WEATHER

Because of its geographical shape (Vietnam stretches over 2,000 km from North to South) the climate varies greatly across the various regions of the country, with three distinct climatic zones.

November is considered an overall good time to travel in Vietnam

The **North** of the country has good autumn weather with plenty of cool and clear days. The average temperature is around 23 °C in the lowland and the coast whilst on the mountainous areas could be 2 or 3 °C cooler. Most of the time during the month it is dry and the sky is clear.

The **Centre** is different and will most likely still be in the rainy season making it wet. Storms may even occur during this time. The areas north of Hai Van Pass include Hue and Quang Tri is where there are normally large rainfall during this time with average temperatures around 25 °C. South of the Pass including Hoi An, Quy Nhon and Nha Trang it is warmer with less rain expectancy. The central Highland area including Da Lat usually has good weather with cool temperature and less rain. It is, therefore, advisable to bring a raincoat or umbrella while visiting Central Vietnam in November.

The **South** of Vietnam including Mui Ne, Ho Chi Minh City, Mekong Delta, Phu Quoc and Con Dao Island enjoys favorable weather in November. Blue sky and clear days usually dominate the whole month. Both rainfall and humidity decrease noticeably and temperature stays milder at around 29°C.

CURRENCY

The currency in Vietnam is the Vietnamese Dongs (VND) and abbreviated in the domestic market as “đ”.

Upon arriving in Vietnam, you'll want to have some cash in the local currency. You can find ATMs accepting international cards just outside the arrival gates at all major airports. ATMs are a common sight in Vietnamese cities, and you should have no trouble locating one in most destinations. International cards such as Visa are accepted at more than 20,000 ATMs nationwide.

While cash is used for small purchases and street vendors in Vietnam, most establishments accept payments from major credit card providers such as Visa.

Wondering how much money to prepare for your trip in Vietnam?

Here is some approximate sample prices (for purposes of a general idea only):

Sidewalk coffee - 25,000 VND (1 USD)

Cappuccino in a cafe - 55,000 VND (2.50 USD)

Inner city taxi - 35,000 to 100,000 VND (1.50 to 4 USD)