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2020-11-02
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Ho Chi Minh



Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh City, commonly known as Saigon, is located in the southeastern region of Vietnam and is the country's largest city. During your stay, you will be living in a dorm on college campus right in the center of the city.

Ho Chi Minh

 All meals included	Yes ⁽¹⁾
 Free beverages	Yes ⁽²⁾
 Persons per room	4-6
 Wifi in public areas	Yes ⁽³⁾
 Laundry facilities	Yes ⁽⁴⁾
 Safety box	Yes
 Lockable rooms	Yes
 Hot shower	Yes ⁽⁵⁾
 Private bathroom	Yes
 Bed linen	Yes
 Towels	No
 Mosquito protection	No
 Fan	No
 Air conditioning	Yes

(1) On weekends brunch instead of breakfast and lunch

(2) Water, coffee, tea at the accommodation

(3) Wifi may be unstable/ limited

(4) At extra cost

(5) In an effort to go green, we have installed a hot water solar system, as such, there may be a shortage of hot water during cloudy days or at night time.

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", where you can go to if you want some peace and quiet. We have books and magazines available here for you to borrow.

There is the nice local café 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 curfew

Food Arrangements

Basic Vietnamese meals are provided on campus. Food include some western dishes such as sandwiches, spaghetti and bread.

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 several ATMs in the area where we stay. The nearest one is about 10 minutes walking distance from our campus.

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

Mandatory Orientation Day

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 and handling of documents.
- Vietnamese Do's and Don'ts, Vietnamese Culture Lessons and Vietnamese Language Lessons.
- Tour around the compound and local area; where to find local shops, and arrange a sim-card if necessary.
- Lunch
- Activities with local students and more

Activities & Events

Wednesday Afternoon

Football is arranged for the participants every Wednesday together with the local coordinators.

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 'backpackers area' of Ho Chi Minh City. There are 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, Southeast Asia. As of July, 2018 and the 14th 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.

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 is top 10 Water Park of 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 on 3 Tháng 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 actually a series of small islands where jut out from the mainland near HCMC. This nature reserve comprises of 80,000 hectares of mangroves and water coconut forests.

Ba Den mountain (The black virgin mountain)

The Ba Den Mountain is a part of 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 a 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, markets - selling household goods and street food. It takes 2 hours by plane or 2 days 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 Phang Xi Pang 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.