

# Welcome to Saigon Living Guide page of SAIGON VAN

## 1. Saigon 's facts:

Established in 1698, Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) is Vietnam's largest city with a flourishing community of nearly 8 million people. It is located in the southern part of the country and a short distance from the Pacific Coast. In 1975, Saigon became Ho Chi Minh City,

In the past few years, Saigon has rapidly regained its reputation as a thriving city as its GDP has been growing by a steady 8%! The ascension to the WTO at the end of 2006 is surely to keep this upward trend going. There are many tree-lined boulevards as well as numerous French Colonial buildings and street-side cafes, all of which are prominent reminders of the city's past. Saigon is a very busy and bustling city to say the least. Activity is seen every where, from the construction boom to its open markets and hectic traffic of motorbikes, which is still the main means of transportation in Saigon with over a thousand new registrations being added each month!

HCMC is divided into 22 districts. District 1, which lies in a major curve of the river, is the business core of the city including the location of the City Hall, the Opera House, the 'Notre Dame', most deluxe hotels, banks and among the best shopping areas. Close by is Cho Ben Thanh, a huge market where one can find all things-souvenirs, textiles, shoes, flowers, etc.- produced or sold in the country. Another well known district is 'Cholon', Dist. 5, the Chinese Quarter, which houses a large Chinese Market and is home to a closely knit community of Chinese ascent known for their entrepreneurial spirit. Dist. 2 'An Phu' is an old neighborhood where most of the expatriates chose to live and the location of the British School and International School. Dist. 7 'Saigon South' is a newly developing area and also the location of the American School.

There is a great diversity in Vietnam's climate due to its range of latitudes as well as its altitudes. In the tropical south, however, there is a rather consistent temperature of 25 C to 35 C year round. The two main seasons are the wet and the dry. The wet occurs between May to October and the dry from November to April, with late March to May being the hottest months. At this stage through the rainy season it will be very humid, between 80-100%, and only begins to cool down as the rain arrives. A product of monsoon winds blowing across the South China Sea, the rainfalls are heavy in Vietnam with a monthly average of 125 cm. As some districts have been developed on marshy land, flooding is a common problem in these areas during the rains but also a regular occurrence throughout the year due to strong tides on the river.

Vietnamese, the national language of the country is a tonal language. A different dialect is spoken and the 'north' and in the 'south', with northern Vietnamese being taught in most language centers. It was written using ideograms derived from Chinese which are still in use in Dist. 5, but today all transactions and official documents use the Roman alphabet to which tone and diacritical marks have been added.

There is still a street nearby the Cathedral named after Bishop Alexandre de Rhodes who brought together the Vietnamese tongue and roman characters in the seventeenth century. The main means of communication for business and the day to day life of the expat is English, though most times in a very basic form.

Saigon is considered a rather safe place for expatriates. As in any city of this size one must learn to be careful. Petty theft and purse snatching is a fact of daily life. Just as when traveling by taxi, make sure the meter is turned on and in good order. And lastly, if living in an isolated house it is wise to hire a security guard.

Saigon's vibrant restaurant and bar scene is an experience never to be missed. Most of the restaurants, bars, and pubs offer an excellent assortment of cuisine and drink for very reasonable rates. You will find the local people friendly and hospitable. Because there are numerous expat social circles, you guaranteed to run into at least one person you know when heading out for a drink or a bite to eat.

## 2. Useful contact numbers:

### Emergency Numbers

International Operator	110
Police	113
Fire Brigade	114
Emergency	115
Directory Assistance	116
Time Information	117
Telephone Information	1080/1088
SOS Medical Clinic – 24 Hour Emergency	3.823-6520

Columbia Saigon - 24 Hour Clinic	3.823 8888
Family Medical Practice - 24 Hour Emergency	3.822-7848/091-3234-911
FV Franco Vietnam Hospital	5.411-3333
International Medical Centre	3.827 2366

### Evacuation Services

SOS Ho Chi Minh Office	3.829 8520
Family Medical Clinic	3.822 7848

### General

Airport	3.845 6654 / 3.848 5383 x 3309
Electricity Problem	3.829 2241
Saigon Railway Station	3.931 2795 (booking tickets)
	3.931 8952 (checking schedule)
Saigon to Nha Trang "5 Star Express"	3.920 6868
Tourist Bureau (Saigon Tourist)	3.829 8914

### Water Problem (Areas)

District 1	3.829 7147
Cholon	3.855 2354
Giadinh	3.841 2656
Thu Duc	3.896 0240
Phu Hoa Tan	3.855 8410

## **3. GENERAL HEALTH PRECAUTIONS**

### **HEALTH**

Prevention is the best medicine. Be extra careful of hygiene and wash your hands regularly.

Many expatriates prefer to soak their fruits and vegetables in a vegetable wash (Vegy) in order to remove heavy pesticides. It is not recommended to buy meat, fish and poultry in local wet markets as the butchers have no refrigerators and hygiene is suspect.

In Vietnam, one should never drink tap water. Water should first be boiled for 5 minutes or distilled. Mineral water is widely available as is a large range of water purifiers and distillers. Please find below the list of some of the providers:

1. La Vie (Mineral water):
2. Sapuwa (Mineral Water):
3. Dapha (Reverse Osmosis Water):
4. Aquacool (Purified drinking Water):

### **HEALTH REQUIREMENTS**

Foreigners intending to apply for a work permit, permanent residency or get married must have a health certificate certifying that they do not have AIDS, mental disease, hepatitis, venereal diseases or lung disease. Sometimes the authorities will accept overseas certificates but often they require the tests to be done in Vietnam.

## VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNIZATION

Safe immunization is available in Vietnam at reasonable rates. The following inoculations are recommended for persons residing in Vietnam long term. Be aware that some vaccines are given in a series.

➤ Adult/Child:	*Hepatitis A *Rabies *Typhoid	*Hepatitis B *Japanese Encephalitis *Tetanus
➤ Infant:	*DTP *BCG *HIB *MMR *POLIO	*Hepatitis B *Japanese Encephalitis *Rabies *Chicken Pox *Yellow Fever

UTS SAIGON VAN **recommends** that you **first** consult your doctor about the following immunizations: Chicken Pox, Rabies, Yellow Fever and Japanese Encephalitis, in that they may not be necessary in some areas.

### AVIAN INFLUENZA

More commonly known as Avian Flu, it is important when living in Vietnam to have a general understanding of this illness and precautions that can be taken.

Although migratory birds have always carried the 'avian flu', just as humans have their flu season, experts are more concerned now because of the mutation of the virus which has changed in such a way that it is possible to mix with the human virus. Should this occur, a 'super flu' is created which will be foreign to the human body, therefore creating a much higher risk of a fatal outcome. As of now, the H5N1 strain of the birds has not mutated with the human virus. However, humans have contracted the H5N1 virus. Symptoms include a sudden high fever and heavy coughing. It is recommended to visit the doctor immediately where a blood test is required to determine the diagnosis. Should the diagnosis be positive, the patient will likely be hospitalized and put on a special respirator.

People at highest risk of contracting the current H5N1 stain are those coming into direct contact with migratory birds and poultry/ poultry farms. The virus is also spread on the ground from the feces and nasal excretions of the birds. Since 2006 Vietnam has made it illegal to house chickens privately, legal only on certified chicken farms. These chickens are checked and vaccinated regularly by a newly formed government control group. Because it is difficult to monitor every household in the city and throughout the country, it is advised to only purchase chicken and eggs from certified organizations.

Every day precautions that can be used at home include regular hand washing. When handling raw chicken, make sure **all** surfaces the raw chicken comes into contact with is washed properly with soap and water. Soap and water or extreme heat will kill the virus. If not, the virus can survive on inanimate objects for up to 72 hours, including in the refrigerator. Eggs should be washed in soap and water before being put into the refrigerator. Eggs and meat should be cooked thoroughly. It is highly recommended to pass this information on to house staff who are most likely handling your food on a daily basis. Some clinics also offer information courses in Vietnamese for this purpose.

Many companies have been advised from medical consultants to have Tami Flu available for their employees, since it was not readily available in Vietnam in 2006. Tami flu is a medication that can be taken if one thinks or knows he/she has been infected. It should be taken with great caution however since many side effects are not yet known and it cannot be taken at multiple times during the year.

Staying informed and passing the information on to those around you is the best method of insuring this type of flu remains contained. Please ask your healthcare provider for any further information.

### 4. HEALTH SERVICES

Saigon offers a number of well-equipped clinics and hospitals for foreigners and locals as well. Some hospitals are now involved in joint ventures with Australia, USA, France and Japan. These hospitals and medical centers are providing international standard and professional services and as well as providing emergency treatment.

## INTERNATIONAL CLINICS

### **International SOS Clinic, 24-hour Clinic & Ambulance**

65 Nguyen Du St., Dist. 1

TEL: 3.823-6520

FAX: 3.829-8551

Email: [infovn@internationalsos.com](mailto:infovn@internationalsos.com)

Website: [www.internationalsos.com](http://www.internationalsos.com)

*24 Hr. Service: 3. 829- 8520*

- Emergency Evacuation
- Worldwide Membership/Coverage
- Counseling & Psychotherapy
- Emergency Medicine
- Pediatrics (in house from 9am-12pm)
- ENT
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedics
- Radiology & Imaging
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Pneumology
- Endocrinology
- Cardiology
- Orthodontics

### **Family Medical Practice Clinic, 24 Hour Clinic & Ambulance**

*Diamond Plaza, 34 Le Duan, D. 1 (Nguyen Van Chiem Street entrance)*

TEL: 3.822-7848 / 3.822 4711

FAX:3. 822-7859

Emergency Doctor 091 323 4911

*24 Hr. Service 3.822-7848 /*

- Acupuncture & Traditional Medicine
- Clinical Psychology & Psychoanalysis
- Dermatology
- Emergency Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Orthopedics
- Pediatrics
- Physiotherapy
- Radiology & Imaging
- Speech Therapy
- Tropical Medicine
- Urology
- Ophthalmology

### **French Vietnam Hospital, 24 Hr. Hospital & Ambulance**

6 Nguyen Luong Bang St., Tan Phu Ward, Dist. 7

TEL: 5.411-3333

Email: [fvh@fvhospital.com](mailto:fvh@fvhospital.com)

Website: [www.fvhospital.com](http://www.fvhospital.com)

*Accident/Emergency: 5.411-3500*

- *Accident and Emergency*
- Diagnostic Center
- Pediatric Center
- Maternity and Gynecology
- Anesthesiology
- Medical Specialties- ENT, etc...
- Cancer Center
- Pain Clinic & ICU
- Physiotheral

**Cho Ray Hospital**

201B Nguyen Chi Thanh,  
P.12, District 5  
TEL: 3.855-8074

Local hospital, but there is a foreign department. Offers good emergency assistance. Biggest most reputable, local hospital in Vietnam.

**International Medical Center CMI**

1 Han Thuyen, Dist. 1  
TEL: 3.827-2366  
FAX: 3.827-2365

*French Vietnamese Doctors 24 hrs  
Emergency 24 hours: 3.865-4025*

**Victoria Healthcare Vietnam**

79 Bien Bien Phu Street, Da Kao Ward, D1

Tel. 3.910 4545

U.S. Doctors as well as several Dr. staff certified internationally.

Website: [www.victoriavn.com](http://www.victoriavn.com)

- General Practitioners
- Pediatrics
- Variety of Skin treatments including Botox and Restylane

**Tu Du (Gynaecology Hospital)**

284 Cong Quynh, P.PNL, D1  
TEL: 3.835-91653

Good women's hospital, however we recommend Vietnamese speaking person to accompany. Only hospital offering IVF.

\*\*See also **Traditional Medicine Hospital** under Acupuncture

DENTAL CLINICS

**Koseikai Dental Office SAIGON - Japanese**

3/F, Miss Ao Dai Building

21 Nguyen Trung Ngan, D1  
Tel: 3.910 6255

**Starlight Dental Clinic - French**

3 Han Thuyen St, Dist.1  
Tel: 3.822-6222

**Maple Healthcare Dental Clinic - Canadian**

72 Vo Thi Sau St,  
Tel: 3.820 1999  
www.maplehealthcare.net

**Grand Dentistry**

183 Le Thanh Ton St., Dist. 1  
TEL: 3.821-9446

**CHIROPRACTOR**

The first of its kind in Vietnam, the American Chiropractic Clinic is run and operated by US accredited Dr. Wade Brackenbury. Acupuncture is also among their services.

**American Chiropractic Clinic Vietnam**

8 Truong Dinh St, Ward 6, D 3  
MOBILE: 0917 180 762 and  
TEL: 3.930-6667

**OSTEOPATHY**

Centre Medical International  
1 Han Thuyen Str, D1, HCMC

**David Truong Tan**

T: 827 2366 /67

**5. HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS**

***January/February* “TET” LUNAR NEW YEAR – “Tet” Nguyen Dan**

**(Official 4 day Holiday)**

For many Vietnamese, *Tet* is one of the most joyous events of the year. People look towards the future, but they also remember the past. Red envelopes stuffed with cash are doled out to bowing children. The Lunar New Year calendar is based on a combination of lunar and solar movements. The lunar cycle is about 29.5 days. In order to "catch up" with the solar calendar the Chinese insert an extra month once every few years (seven years out of a 19-year cycle). This is the same as adding an extra day on leap year. This is why, according to the solar calendar, the Lunar New Year falls on a different date each year. New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are celebrated as a family affair, a time of reunion and thanksgiving. No matter where they are or whatever the circumstances, family members find their ways to come back to meet their loved ones, gather for a dinner of traditional foods like **bánh chưng** (a square cake made of sticky rice stuffed with beans and pork), **măng** (a soup of boiled bamboo shoots and fried pork) and **xôi gấc** (orange sticky rice). The celebration is traditionally highlighted with a religious ceremony given in honor of Heaven and Earth, the gods of the household and the family ancestors.

The official holiday is mainly in three days: The First day is for visiting the family on the husband's side, the second day is for the family of the wife and close friends. Last but not least, the third day is extended to the broader community outside the family by visits to teachers, bosses or a helpful physician. The Vietnamese continue to visit their teachers and physicians although long out of school and long cured of their illness. For three days, one takes extra care not to show anger and not to be rude to people. It is believed the first day and the first week of the New Year will determine the fortunes or misfortunes for the rest of the year. The first visitor to the house on the first morning of Tet is very important. Particular care is taken to arrange in advance to have the visitor be rich, happy, and prestigious.

Trees: While in the north people prefer the Vietnamese Peach blossom, symbols of life and good fortune which people bring into their homes to celebrate the coming of spring during Tet, Yellow Blossom (**Hoa Mai**) is more commonly used for this ceremony in the South because of the warm weather. Hoa Mai is a small, yellow flowering plant that is used for decoration during Tet with the meanings of prosperity and well-being for the family. The value of these flowers is determined by the number of petals - the more petals, the more expensive the flower.

Activities: You can visit the Flower Market or the Flower exhibition in the center of HCMC. Please note that during the Tet holiday, the street can be very crowded or even blocked (no car/motorbike allowed). You can only walk there. Some shops are closed for 1-2 days.

Main restaurants will be opened as usual.

Giving a bonus as ½ month or 1 month salary to your personnel is customary. It is also recommended to leave a few days leeway to allow the employee to decide which day to come back to work. This day is very significant and can affect the luck and prosperity of the whole year. Often times fortune tellers are consulted. If an employee does not have the option of when to return to work, you may end up with "unlucky" and "unhappy" personnel.

**14 February VALENTINE'S DAY: LE TINH NHAN (offices open)**

Very important celebration day for young couples. They usually give gifts, cards, flower or chocolate as a way to show their love for each other.

**8<sup>th</sup> Day of the 4<sup>th</sup> Moon LE PHAT DAN- Buddha's Birthday (offices opened)**

The birthday of the Gautama Buddha traditionally celebrated in East Asia on the eighth day of the fourth month in the Chinese lunar calendar. The date varies from year to year in the Western (Gregorian) calendar.

The birth of the Buddha (Buddha Purnima in India) is often celebrated by Buddhists for an entire month.

**8 March INT'L WOMEN'S DAY - QUOC TE PHU NU (offices opened)**

Most families go out celebrate with their mothers and loving ones to lunch and dinner together. They usually give flowers and cards to the women.

**22 March 5<sup>th</sup> Day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Lunar month: HOLIDAY OF THE DEAD – TET THANH MINH (offices opened)**

Thanh Minh is celebrated on the first day of the third lunar month; it is a day of ancestor worship. On Thanh Minh day, the whole family visits the cemetery to groom the graves of deceased loved ones, burn incense and talk with the dead.

This ceremony usually takes place in the morning. The afternoon is reserved for worships at home where food is sent to late family members celebrating TET.

**Lunar 10<sup>th</sup> of March EMPEROR - FOUNDER HUNG VUONG'S DAY: GIO TO VUA HUNG (offices opened)**

It becomes a national day since 2000. The Vietnamese nation was founded by Emperor Hung Vuong nearly 50 centuries ago. The dynasty, with 18 kings, lasted for some 3000 years and led Vietnam to development and progress in peace.

To honor the Founding Fathers, the Hung Vuong National Altar was built in 250 BC in Phu Tho (North Vietnam), and since been one of the most popular sites in the country.

On the lunar tenth of March, thousands of Vietnamese have traditionally come to the Hung Vuong National Altar to commemorate their ancestors.

**30 April LIBERATION DAY OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND SAIGON: NGAY GIAI PHONG MIEN NAM**

It is a public holiday in Vietnam that marks the anniversary of North Vietnamese troops capturing Saigon (later renamed Ho Chi Minh City) on April 30, 1975.

This signaled the end of the Vietnam War and the start of the transition period towards the reunification of the nation on July 2, 1976.

**1 May INTERNATIONAL LABOR DAY - QUOC TE LAO DONG**

Celebrated throughout the country, parades, feasts and fireworks go hand in hand.

**19 May UNCLE HO'S BIRTHDAY- SINH NHAT BAC HO**

Ho Chi Minh was born on May 19, 1890. The date is celebrated in Vietnam as a historical culture day, but not a formal national holiday

**1 June CHILDREN'S DAY: QUOC TE THIEU NHI (offices opened)**

Cities and provinces all over the country organize a host of activities for children to celebrate this day. There are also activities to help and support disabled children, orphans, underprivileged children and poor children who prove excellent students.

**15<sup>th</sup> Day of 8<sup>th</sup> MOON FESTIVAL: MID AUTUMN FESTIVAL -TRUNG THU (offices opened)**

The Mid-Autumn Festival, better known as Moon Festival, falls on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month of the Chinese calendar (usually around mid- or late-September in the Gregorian calendar), a date that parallels the Autumn Equinox of the solar calendar.

At this time, the moon is at its fullest and brightest, marking an ideal time to celebrate the abundance of the summer's harvest. The traditional food of this festival is the moon cake, of which there are many different varieties.

Traditionally, on this day, family members and friends will gather to admire the bright mid-autumn harvest moon, and eat moon cakes and together. Children carry candles and lanterns in the shape of creatures such as dragons, fish, or boats, in an evening parade. People exchange moon cakes. It's a highlight for children.

**2 September NATIONAL DAY – NGAY QUOC KHANH**

Commemorates the founding of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam by Ho Chi Minh in 1945. Originally it was an independence day commemorating the proclamation of independence on this day following the Japanese surrender in 1945.

It is now a celebration of Ho Chi Minh's declaration of freedom for Vietnam, and Ho Chi Minh Memorial Day. It is celebrated with parades, dances, fireworks and music.

**20 November TEACHER'S DAY: NGAY NHA GIAO (offices opened)**

This holiday allows students to express their respect to their teacher, and expresses in what high regard the Vietnamese hold their teachers. Students begin preparing a week in advance, and many classes usually prepare literature and art to welcome teacher's day. Other students prepare foods and flowers for the parties held at their school.

Students usually visit to their teacher at their homes and offer flowers/small gifts to them, or they organize a trip with their teacher and classmates. Even when students reach marriage, they visit to their old teachers.



**%<sup>th</sup> Day of the 5<sup>th</sup>**

**LUNAR MONTH: SUMMER SOLSTICE DAY- TET DOAN NGO (offices opened)**

This is the middle year festival for the prevention of disease and to ward off evil spirits (the day of changing weather from spring to summer, this is the time easy to get pathogen). On the day of “killing insects”, every one gets up early and eats fermented and sticky fruits. The worshipping is held at noon, hour of Ngo.

Another popular food for Tet Doan Ngo is banh u tro, a kind of cake made of glutinous rice flour dipped in lye and wrapped in bamboo leaves. The cakes can be bought usually in lots of one dozen and best eaten with sugar

**25 December**

**CHRISTMAS DAY: LE GIANG SINH (offices opened)**

Held throughout the country wherever Christianity is practiced.

**6. CONSULATES**

Consulates of many countries can be found in Saigon. It is advisable to register yourself and your family upon arrival Ho Chi Minh City with the appropriate consulate. Some consulates organize regular get-togethers and functions, which is an excellent opportunity to meet people and make friends in Saigon.

<b>Countries</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Australia .....	3.829 - 6035
Belgium.. .....	3.512 - 7968
Cambodia .....	3.829 - 2751
Canada.. .....	3.827 - 9899
China .....	3.829 - 2457
Cuba .....	3.829 - 7350
Czech Republic .....	3.821 - 9373
Denmark .....	3.829 - 9373
France ... ..	3.829 - 7231
Germany .....	3.829 - 2455
India.....	3.823 - 7050
Indonesia.....	3.822 - 3799
Italy .....	3.824 - 1998
Japan.....	3.822 - 5314
Laos.....	3.829 - 7667
Malaysia .....	3.829 - 9023
Netherlands .....	3.823 - 5932
New Zealand .....	3.822 - 6907
Norway .. ..	3.822 - 1696
Panama . .....	3.825 - 0334
Philippines .....	3.829 - 4738
Poland ... ..	3.914 - 2883
Russia.....	3.930 - 3936
Singapore .....	3.822 - 5173
South Korea .....	3.822 - 5757
Spain .....	3.825 - 0173
Sweden.. ..	3.823 - 6800
Switzerland .....	3.820 - 5402
Thailand. ....	3.932 - 7637
Ukraine .. ..	3.829 - 8997
United Kingdom .....	3.829 - 8433
United States of America.....	3.822 - 9433

## **7. GENERAL SAFETY TIPS**

Saigon is considered a safe city for expatriates. The crime rate is low and most cases are of the non-violent nature, such as pickpockets and purse snatching. It is possible to walk the streets at night with little fear of trouble. If you chose to take a Taxi, make sure to use well reputed firms and check that the meter is in good order.

Personal safety in Saigon means YOU being careful when you are out and about. In contrast to other western countries, personal safety is the concern of the individual.

### **Around the House**

Burglary is the highest security risk that expatriates face, including pet theft. To local Vietnamese, all foreigners appear extremely wealthy. You should not flaunt money or valuables in public, simply because this will likely draw undue attention. With a pet in the yard, keep the gates locked at all times.

It is advisable to purchase a safe, many of which are available, to keep money, jewelry and other valuables away from housekeepers and maintenance personnel coming in and out of the house. It is further strongly suggested to hire a guard when living outside of a compound, or next to an empty lot. Consider hiring from a security company or only with recommendation when hiring privately.

### **Should your residence be burglarized, we suggest the following procedures:**

1. Call your Consulate to report theft and gain assistance in dealing with the authorities. They may have additional useful information to help you.
2. Report the incident to the local police and request a police report.
3. Should the police be slow in preparing a report, write one yourself to have translated and then brought to the station for their signature and stamp. A token of your appreciation will be helpful.

Should you encounter the thieves, do not defend yourself physically. In Vietnam you are responsible for the bodily harm of the other, even if that person is breaking the law.

### **Traffic/ Pedestrians**

The traffic in Vietnam consists mainly of motorbikes. The scene can be compared to ants on an ant hill, everyone zooming around in every which direction. Although, legally, drivers need to adhere to the traffic lights, many do not. Therefore when driving, or more importantly walking across the street, always look to all sides, never trust the light.

Pedestrians should cross the road slowly and continuously. Never run or jump backwards, as this will confuse a motorbike driver who may then hit you. If you happen to encounter any traffic accident, you should move away and do not get involved.

### **Driving**

Few expatriates choose to drive cars in Saigon. It is NOT recommended. Foreigners in the driver's seat can encounter huge problems with the authorities and locals alike if an accident occurs. Hence, ALL car rentals come with drivers. This makes getting around very convenient and you arrive at your destination relaxed.

If you feel want to venture out behind the wheel, and have confidence in your defensive driving skill, it is possible to obtain a driving license. To get a driver's license you need to have a current foreign license.

It is recommended that you try to get an 'International License' in your own country before you move. The Vietnamese authorities keep your license on deposit. In many countries it is possible to obtain an international driver's license from the local Automobile Association.

Some foreigners ride their own motorbikes. We are strongly recommended to wear a helmet while driving. Since late 2007 the new traffic law applies which to use of helmet once you are riding motorbike. The motorbike accident is the number 1 killer of all the traffic accidents in Vietnam.

If you yourself are driving and are involved in an accident, keep the following in mind:

1. Try to keep all involved parties present for a police report.
2. Depending on the situation, you may try to settle the situation on your own. Police can complicate things in an 'easy' situation.
3. Call the police- Keeping a ready number in your wallet with a Vietnamese phrase stating you've had an accident. Also keep ready numbers of the emergency line of your preferred clinic.
4. Note witnesses who can help describe to the police what happened, especially if the parties involved have already fled.
5. Call your Consulate for additional assistance.
6. If a local is injured, do not attempt to assist. If something goes wrong, you are liable.
7. Wait for the police report in case you declare to your insurance. However, it is worth considering paying for the damages yourself since they are quiet inexpensive in Vietnam and it prevents your insurance premium going up.

### **Additional Information**

Please do not give money to **beggars** or street children. Most times it is a band working together and no one knows what the money is used for. If you are having difficulties, you can kindly say "Khong" (No).

**Tiping** is not necessary in Vietnam. However, small VND is appreciated in food and beverage venue and other services at your discretion.

If you buy **DVD's or CD's**, ask the vendor if it is good quality or not – most places will be honest if you ask the questions. If you don't ask they are quite happy to sell you the bad quality one. DVD's cost approximately 15.000 VND (around \$1 USD).

### **8. HOUSING and PERSONNEL**

UTS - Saigon Van International Relocations provides complete real estate services.

Upon completion of our Client Profile concerning type, budget, area and personal preferences, UTS SAIGON VAN will research the market, screen properties and arrange site visits.

Housing in Saigon can be quite expensive, yet the rents go up every year. Properties rented to expatriates are in most cases quoted in USD and can reach up to \$ 7,500.—per month and even more for city center accommodations. However, less prestigious and much smaller properties can be found for approx \$1000 per month. Many houses include a pool, thereby leaving the yard quite small. Most residential areas in the city center are in Districts 1 and 3. Outside of the city the most popular residential areas are Dist. 2, An Phu, being an older established neighborhood, and Dist. 7, which is newly developing. For the time being, houses in Dist. 2 tend to be more expensive than those in Dist. 7. Dist. 2 does have many problems with flooding, therefore be aware of location in Dist. 2.

Furthermore, the electricity tends to fail about 3-4 days per month; therefore it is advisable to take houses that are hooked up to a generator.

### **LEASE**

When negotiating a lease, the following tips will be very helpful.

1. Add a deadline for repairs once the report has been made. For example, a deadline of 14 days from the date of the report received. If the repairs remain untouched, the charges for an outside company to do the job will be billed to the landlord or deducted from the rent.

2. Add a break clause, if not included already, in case the employment contract is terminated.
3. Have an alarm installed if the house is free standing and/ or with empty lots next to it, or if there is no guard present.
4. Consider asking Fumigation to be included in the rent.
5. Paperwork required for the lease are: copy of passport, copy of stay visa, copy of airport customs form, and registration.

## SECURITY

Burglary is the highest security risk that expatriates face, including pet theft. To local Vietnamese, all foreigners appear extremely wealthy. You should not flaunt money or valuables in public, simply because this will likely draw undue attention. With a pet in the yard, keep the gates locked at all times.

Almost all houses and compounds are surrounded by high walls to enhance security. When living in a house outside of a compound, it is advisable to hire a guard. Because an unreliable guard can be bribed by thieves to let them in, take caution to hire a guard either from a security company or only with references when hiring a private individual. To further protect other valuables at home from maintenance personnel or housekeepers, safes are highly recommended to store money, jewelry and other valuables. You will find many styles and sizes to choose from.

## PERSONNEL

In **looking for house personnel** such as a housekeeper, driver and guard, it is best to ask other expatriates already living in Saigon if they know someone to recommend. Personnel hired by recommendation are one of the best methods to ensure a good relationship. Other places to contact when looking for personnel can be professional companies, security companies, car companies and relocation companies.

Large supermarkets such as 'An Phu' Supermarket have a designated area outside to hang classifieds and general information. These are an excellent source of further information. Please ask around about salary and task trends before finalizing the negotiation.

Furthermore, please keep in mind that during TET, the most important holiday in Vietnam, personnel get at least 3-4 days off. Because superstition plays a big role in the day returned to work, discuss with your staff when they will return. Often times, an employer who is too strict about the return date will find him / herself with unhappy and unmotivated staff thereafter.

The atmosphere has to be right on the first day back to work in the New Year to ensure prosperity and health for the rest of the year. Also take note that employees receive ½ to one full salary as a bonus during TET.

## SERVICED APARTMENTS

**Serviced Apartment Buildings** are also readily available in and outside of the city center. For your easy reference, we have listed the most popular below. UTS Saigon Van is also happy to help assist finding just the right serviced apartment to meet your specific requirements.

### Major Serviced Apartments in Ho Chi Minh City as follows:

City View	12 Mac Dinh Chi St, D.1	3.822-1111
Camly	656 Cach Mang Thang Tam, D3	3.993-1587
Diamond Plaza	34 Le Duan St, D.1	3.825-7750
Garden View Court	101 Nguyen Du St, D.1	3.822-0022
Green Hills 100	1A Ring Rd, D12	3.715-5959
HBT Court	180A Hai Ba Trung, D.1	3.824-8730
Indochine Park Tower	1 Le Quy Don St, D.3	3.930-0200
Indochina	4bis Nguyen Dinh Chieu, D.1	2.220-0221
LTT Court	10 Ly Tu Trong St, D.1	3.822-5345
Nguyen Du Park Villas	111 Nguyen Du St. D.1	3.822-0788

Norfolk Mansion	17 Ly Tu Trong St, D 1	3.822-6111
Pacific Garden	594 Ba Thang Hai St, D10	3.863-7900
Parkland Resort	628A An Binh, An Phu, D2	3.898-9000
Phu My Hung Co.,Ltd	801 Nguyen Van Linh Parkway, Dis,.7	5.411-8888
Riverside	53 Vo Truong Toan, Thao Dien Ward, D2	3.744-4111
Sunrise Apartment	A25-27 Nguyen Van Huong, Thao Dien, D2	3.512-4605
Saigon Domaine	1057 Xo Viet Nghe Tinh, Binh Thanh	3.556-6163
Saigon Sky Garden	20 Le Thanh Ton St, D.1	3.822-0002
Sedona Suites	65 Le Loi St, D.1	3.822-9666
Saigon View	117 Nguyen Cuu Van, Binh Thanh,	3.840-4966
Saigon Queen Villa	112 Nguyen Van Huong, Thao Dien, D2	3.878-3092
Sky Garden	20 Le Thanh Ton St, D1	3.822-0002
Somerset Chancellor Court	21-23 Nguyen Thi Minh Khai St, D.1	3.822-9197
Somerset Ho Chi Minh City	8A Nguyen Binh Khiem St, D.1	3.822-8899
Spring Court	1Bis Phung Khac Khoan, Dakao Ward, D1	3.823-3388
The Landmark	5B Ton Duc Thang St, D.1	3.822-2098
The Water Front	Nguyen Luong Bang Blvd, Tan Phu Ward, D7	5.412-0100
Thuan Kieu Plaza	190 Hong Bang St, D5	3.955-0913
Valentina Court	124 Dien Ben Phu, D1	3.820-6829
Veronica Apartments	V1-V4 Street, D.2, Binh Thanh Dist,	3.898-2990
Veronica Apartment	216/26 Nguyen Van Houg St, D.2	3.519-0654
Victoria Court	29-29A Huynh Van Banh, Phu Nhuan	3.821-7899
PNT House	58/8 Phan Ngoc Thach St, D.3	0908303330

## 9. TRANSPORTATION

For public transport, Saigon offers buses, taxi services, taxi mopeds and cyclos.

### BUS

When making arrangements to travel by public bus it is advisable to have a Vietnamese speaking person accompanying in order to maximize clear communication and needs of services.

Vietnam has an extensive network of buses. Intercity buses depart from and arrive at a variety of stations around HCMC.

*Cholon* bus station is the most convenient place to get buses. Buses to points north of HCMC leave from Mien Dong bus station and to *Tay Ninh, Cu Chi*.

Points northeast of HCMC depart from the *Tay Ninh* bus station.

*Ben Thanh – Bay Hien – Cu Xa Nhieu Loc* Apartment station runs in Saigon centre area.

**HOTLINE: 08 3.821 4444**

**OFFICE TEL: 08 3.821 6496**

Fares start from VND 3000/time

### One month Tickets:

**For Passengers:**

One Route: VND 60,000 (stamp)  
 Two Routes: VND 90,000 (stamp)  
 Three Routes: VND 105,000 (stamp)

**For Students:**

VND 40,000 (stamp)  
 VND 60,000 (stamp)  
 VND 70,000 (stamp)

30 stamps/a ticket book VND 45,000

Free of charge for children under 11 years of age and 1.3m tall.

**Bus regulation:**

- ⇒ Check right route, get right bus and exit right bus stop.
- ⇒ Request and keep your bus tickets until you reach your destination.
- ⇒ Be polite for giving up your seat to women, children, and elderly people.
- ⇒ Do not carry intermitted goods or inflammable.
- ⇒ No smoking, and keep the bus tidy.

**TRAIN**

Saigon Train Station

1 Nguyen Thong, District 3 Tel:3.931 2795

Saigon-Nha Trang “5 Star Express”

297 Pham Ngu Lao, District 1 Tel: 3.920 6868

*Tickets purchase*

Saigon Railway Tourist Services

275C D Pham Ngu Lao Tel: 3.836 7640

**TAXI**

The basic fee for taxis in Saigon starts VND15,000.00 for 2kms. If you are not competent in your Vietnamese language, it is wise to take the address of your destination with you (use the business card), as most of the drivers do not speak fluent English. Nevertheless, taxis are by far the most efficient way to travel in Saigon. UTS SAIGON VAN recommends clarifying knowledge of destination before you take off. Taxi bookings can be made through the following numbers:

<i>Vinasun Taxi (Standar &amp; Deluxe)</i>	<i>TEL: 08 .3.8272727</i>
<i>Mai Linh Deluxe</i>	<i>TEL: 08.3.8262626</i>
<i>Mai Linh Taxi</i>	<i>TEL: 08.3.8262626</i>
<i>Saigon Taxi</i>	<i>TEL: 08.3.8232323</i>
<i>Vina Taxi</i>	<i>TEL: 08.3.8111111</i>

The flexible payments terms of Mailinh Taxi are sure to satisfy customers. Mailinh also offers Vouchers (pre-paid service). Customers can use vouchers as gifts for their relatives and regular customers. Customers with large travel budget can use MCC card (post-paid taxi). Many companies have special policies with Vouchers and MCC cards.

Similar Services might be available from following Taxi companies are:

• Airport Taxi:	TEL: 3.844 – 6666	2km VND 14,000
• Ben Thanh Taxi:	TEL: 3.975 – 6417	2km VND 14,000
• Festival Taxi:	TEL: 3.845 – 4545	2km VND 15,000
• Mai Linh Taxi	TEL: 3.826 – 2626	2km VND 15,000
• Saigon Taxi:	TEL: 3.823 – 2323	2km VND 13,000
• Saigon Tourist Taxi:	TEL: 3.846 – 4646	2km VND 15,000
• Vinasun taxi:	TEL: 3.827 – 2727	2km VND 15,000
• Vina Taxi	TEL: 3.811 – 1111	2km VND 12,000

## CAR & MOTORBIKE

Travel agencies, hotels and cafes are all in the car rental business. Most vehicles are relatively recent Japanese or Korean made.

Renting a motorbike is the fastest and easiest way to get around the city. A 100cc motorbike can be rented for USD5 to USD8 per day and your passport may be kept as collateral. Helmets are also available to rent around USD1 per day.

### **Car Rentals**

Ben Thanh Tourist Co	86 Ly Tu Trong, D1	3.829 - 0279
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### **Motorbike Rentals**

Saigon Scooter Centre	25/7 Cuu Long, W2, Tan Binh Dist,	3.844 - 7816
Motorbike Rental	165 Pham Ngu Lao, D1	3.837 - 4916

### **HydroFoil – Petro Service**

Greenlines – Perto Express	Ben Bach Dang, D1	3.821-5609
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## DRIVING

(\*\*\*Also see under Safety Tips)

Few expatriates choose to drive cars in Saigon. The Vietnamese drive on the right hand side. Most of the expatriates choose to employ a driver. This makes getting around very convenient and you arrive at your destination relaxed.

There is no national seat-belt law. If you feel want to drive you need to have a current foreign license. It is recommended that you try to get an 'International License' in your own country before you move. If you need to get a Vietnamese Driving License, the following is required:

1. International Driving License or Foreign Driving License
2. Registration Certificate of your company
3. Your Saigon Residence Permit
4. Health Examination

## 10. SCHOOLS

UTS SAIGONVAN provides extensive service to helping your children to enroll schools in HCMC. A number of International Schools are available to meet the education needs of foreign children. These schools provide both primary and secondary education. Most of the teachers are from overseas.

### **International School Ho Chi Minh City (ISHCMC)**

#### **Junior Campus**

236 Bis Nam Ky Khoi Nghia Street

District 3

Ho Chi Minh City

Vietnam

TEL: 3.932-0111 FAX: 3.932-7337

[nkkn@ishcmc.com](mailto:nkkn@ishcmc.com)

#### **An Phu Campus**

649A Vo Truong Toan Street

An Phu Ward, District 2

Ho Chi Minh City

Vietnam

TEL: 3.898-9100 Fax: 3.898-9382

[ishcmc@ishcmc.com](mailto:ishcmc@ishcmc.com)

ISHCMC, the first international school in Ho Chi Minh City, was founded in 1993 and currently their enrollment is 650 students, aged 2 to 18 years, from 38 national backgrounds.

The school consists of two campuses. The NKKN Junior Campus (Preschool 2yrs to Grade 1) is located on self-contained premises in the city centre. The school building comprises well-appointed classrooms, art room,

music room, information technology centre, library, auditorium and canteen. A shaded hard court area provides space for physical education and play.

Elementary (Grades 2 to 5), Middle (Grades 6 to 8) and High (Grade 9 to 12) Schools are located on a purpose built campus in An Phu, a residential suburb 10 kms from the city centre. ISHCMC today maintains a position as the largest international establishment in Vietnam with full accreditation from the European Council of International Schools (E.C.I.S) and is authorized to teach the International Baccalaureate (I.B.) Program and the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (I.G.C.S.E).

#### NEW STUDENT ENROLMENT – FEES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2006-2007

<i>Programme of Instruction</i>	<i>One Time Application/ Registration Fee</i>	<i>COE / ADF</i>	<i>Annual Tuition Fee (All Students)</i>	<i>Stationery &amp; Text Books</i>	<i>External Examinations &amp; Field Trips</i>		
Early Explorers 2/3	Nil	Nil	\$3,500 ½ day	All stationery and text books are provided at no additional charge	External Exam Fees (such as the IGCSE and IB) are charged separately on a cost recovery basis. The fees payable are determined by the international examination body that administers the examination, and not by the School.		
Early Explorers 4			\$6,850				
Kindergarten							
Grade 1	\$500	ADF only	\$9,950			All text books are provided at no additional charge	All field trips are charged separately on a cost recovery basis.
Grade 2		Option of ADF or COE	\$10,350				
Grades 3 – 5			\$11,390				
Grades 6 – 8			\$11,850				
Grade 9 - 10							
Grade 11-12		ADF only	\$13,850				

#### **Saigon South International School (SSIS)**

##### ***Campus***

Saigon South Parkway

Tan Phong Ward, District 7, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

TEL: 5.413-0901 FAX: 5.413-0902

Saigon South International School, (SSIS) is the only international, not for profit school in HCMC. Students come from 27 countries and 5 continents. (SSIS) offers a natural airy environment in a safe, master planned community and the school is located in the new city center, Saigon South, better known as Nam Saigon, which is the greenest and newest part of the city and yet is only 15 minutes away from the current city center.

##### ***Curriculum***

Saigon South International School, (SSIS) offers the only American curriculum in HCMC for students in grades pre-school through the high school level. At the high school level Saigon South International School, (SSIS) offers AP classes in several disciplines. SSIS offers U.S. Standards based Pre-K to Grade 12 curriculum

##### ***Facilities***

Large open air campus with all new state of the art buildings including technologically equipped classrooms, double size gymnasium, dance studio, weight room, indoor swimming pool, art rooms, media center, computer labs, cafeteria, music center and a library. Classrooms are large and classes are kept to the small size of 20 students per class. Outside there are grassy areas including covered areas of play as well as sports fields.

##### ***School Year and School Day***

Mid-August to Mid-June, with school breaks in October, December, February, June and July. The school day is from 8:00 to 3:00 at all age and grade levels.



Fees: Effective 2006/2007 School Year

Tuition and Fees	Annual Payment Due Aug 1	Installment #1 Due Aug 1	Installment #2 Due Oct 6	Installment #3 Due Jan 5	Installment #4 Due Mar 16	Total Installment Payments
	100%	35% + surcharge	25% + surcharge	25% + surcharge	15% + surcharge	100% + 5% surcharge
<b>Tuition</b>						
Pre-Kindergarten	6,450.00	2,370.00	1,693.00	1,693.00	1,016.00	6,772.00
Kindergarten	6,950.00	2,554.00	1,824.00	1,824.00	1,095.00	7,297.00
Grade 1 - 5	8,450.00	3,105.00	2,218.00	2,218.00	1,331.00	8,872.00
Grade 6 - 8	8,850.00	3,252.00	2,323.00	2,323.00	1,394.00	9,292.00
Grade 9, 10	9,450.00	3,472.00	2,480.00	2,480.00	1,490.00	9,922.00
Grade 11, 12	9,950.00	3,656.00	2,611.00	2,611.00	1,569.00	10,447.00
<b>Additional Fees</b>						
Cap.-Grade 1-12	2,000.00	735.00	525.00	525.00	315.00	2,100.00
ESL – Grade 1-5	1,000.00	367.00	262.00	262.00	159.00	1,050.00
ESL – Grade 6+	2,000.00	735.00	525.00	525.00	315.00	2,100.00

### The British International School – BIS

#### *The 2<sup>nd</sup> Campus*

246 Nguyen Van Huong  
Dist. 2, Ho Chi Minh City  
TEL: 3.744-2332

#### *The 5<sup>th</sup> Campus*

43-45 Tu Xuong Street  
Dist. 3, Ho Chi Minh City  
TEL: 3.932-0766/3.932-0765

#### *An Phu Campus*

225 Nguyen Van Huong Street, Thao Dien Ward, Dist. 2, HCMC  
TEL: 3.744-4770 FAX: 3.744 4182 Email: [anphu@bisvietnam.com](mailto:anphu@bisvietnam.com)

The British International School, Ho Chi Minh City is an independent co-educational day school that provides a British style curriculum to an international student body.

Currently, the school has three campuses in Ho Chi Minh City and a fourth is under construction.

The Fundino Pre-school campus and a small primary campus operate from downtown locations whilst the larger An Phu campus is located in a quiet suburban area close to the Saigon River. This beautiful campus (opened in August 2002) caters for students from Preschool through to Secondary and was designed in the style of traditional French colonial-type architecture and provides state-of-the-art educational facilities.

The British International School, Ho Chi Minh City operates within the framework of the National Curriculum for England and Wales and is a registered centre for Cambridge International Examinations (CIE). Students are prepared for IGCSE and A-level examinations. The school delivers a 'Foundation Programme', offering an alternative pathway to undergraduate courses at universities in Australia, New Zealand, USA and the UK via the 'Global Assessment Certificate'.

#### *Fundino*

Whilst Fundino offers a structured curriculum through the UK's "Foundation Stage Programme" teaching strategies.

Fundino Preschool units have their own mini swimming pools, sand pits and dedicated playgrounds with appropriate climbing and agility apparatus.

#### *Primary School*

The curriculum is based on the National Curriculum for England & Wales, but appropriately modified to provide an international dimension through the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) in recognition of the 50 or so nationalities represented at the school.

Literacy, Numeracy and Science are regarded as core subjects and receive the largest time allocation, but the curriculum covers a wide range of subjects ensuring a broad, balanced and rigorously challenging curriculum.

Music, Physical Education and Information & Communications Technology. Assessment for Learning is continuous throughout the year, with more formal end of year assessments given to students from Years 2 - 6.

### **Secondary School**

Secondary education at BIS consists of three distinct, consecutive phases. It delivers a curriculum that is both stimulating and challenging, providing a broad and balanced education. We provide two recognized pathways to tertiary education - the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB) and the Global Assessment Certificate Foundation Programme (GAC). (More information please refer to visit SSIS website)

Key Stage 3 Three year levels Years 7, 8 & 9 (Grades 6-8)

Key Stage 4 Two year levels Years 10 & 11 (Grades 9-10)

Key Stage 5 Two year levels Years 12 & 13 (Grades 11-12)

### **PRE-SCHOOL SCHEDULE OF FEES (US\$) FOR 2006 – 2007 ACADEMIC YEAR**

CLASS	SESSIONS	REGISTRATION FEE	TUITION FEES	
			ANNUAL	PER TERM
Pre Nursery Admission during term of 2 <sup>nd</sup> birthday 01/09/03 – 31/08/04	5 full days	550	4650	1700
	5 mornings	550	3320	1220
	3 full days	550	3450	1270
	3 mornings	550	2260	830
	Mornings + Lunch & Care	550	3900	1430
Nursery Pupils born between 01/09/02 – 31/08/03	5 full days	550	4650	1700
	5 mornings	550	3320	1220
	Mornings + Lunch & Care	550	3900	1430
MORNINGS	8:00AM – 11:30AM			
MORNINGS + LUNCH	8:00AM – 12:00AM		VND 25,000VND	
MORNINGS + LUNCH & CARE	8:00AM – 2:30PM			
FULL DAY (includes lunch)	8:00AM – 4:00PM			

CLASS	SESSIONS	REGISTRATION FEE	TERM FEES
Playgroup 12 month +	3 afternoons	200	450
	5 afternoons	200	650
AFTERNOONS	1:30PM – 4:00PM		

### **PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL SCHEDULE OF FEES (US\$) FOR 2006 – 2007 ACADEMIC YEAR**

PUPIL BORN BETWEEN	YEAR LEVEL	REGISTRATION FEE	TUITION FEES		EAL FEE (PER TERM)
			ANNUAL	INSTALMENT (3X)	
01/09/01 - 31/08/02	RECEPTION	1300	6500	2400	N/A
01/09/00 - 31/08/01	YEAR 1	1300	9200	3400	650
01/09/99 - 31/08/00	YEAR 2	1300	9200	3400	650
01/09/98 - 31/08/99	YEAR 3	1300	9800	3600	650
01/09/97 - 31/08/98	YEAR 4	1300	9800	3600	650
01/09/96 - 31/08/97	YEAR 5	1300	9800	3600	650
01/09/95 - 31/08/96	YEAR 6	1300	9800	3600	650
01/09/94 - 31/08/95	YEAR 7	1800	11600	4300	650
01/09/93 - 31/08/94	YEAR 8	1800	11600	4300	650
01/09/92 - 31/08/93	YEAR 9	1800	11600	4300	650
01/09/91 - 31/08/92	YEAR 10	1800	12000	4400	N/A
01/09/90 - 31/08/91	YEAR 11	1800	12000	4400	N/A
01/09/89 - 31/08/90	YEAR 12	1800	12600	4600	N/A
01/09/88 - 31/08/89	YEAR 13	1800	12600	4600	N/A

### **Australian International School Saigon - AIS**

AIS Saigon offers the Australian NSW Board of Studies curriculum for Years KG-10 and the International Baccalaureate Diploma course for Years 11 and 12.

An integral part of the School is an English Language Centre that provides intensive English instruction for non-native English speaking students in Year 6 promotes a whole-school approach to literacy and conducts English courses for school aged children and the community after School hours and during School holidays. Enrollment is academically selective.

#### **School Fees:**

Cost Item	US\$
Enrolment Application Fee (note 1)	\$350
Enrolment Acceptance Fee (note 2)	\$1,500 refundable And \$1,500 non-refundable
Tuition Fees: Year 6-10 Years 11 & 12 (note 3)	\$9,400 per year \$11,400 per year
Year 6 English Language Immersion Program Surcharge (note 4)	\$2,350 per year

### **American Pacific University**

#### **Int'l School**

286 Lanh Binh Thang St, ward 11,

District 11, Ho Chi Minh City

Tel: 3.962-4897 / 3.962-4898

### **ABC International School**

National UK, curriculum, 280 students, 2-14 yrs.

26 Truong Dinh Street, District 3, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Tel: (+84) 3.8 930 3533 Fax: (+84) 3.8 930 1289

abcintschool@hcm.vnn.vn  
<http://www.theabcschool.com>

***Ecole Francaise Collette***

124 Cach Mang Thang Street, District 3, HCMC  
TEL: 3.932-7992 FAX: 3.932-6228

***Korean International School***

Saigon South, Tan Phu Boulevard  
Ward Tan Phong, Dist., 7 HCMC  
TEL: 5.417-9021

***City College Campus***

239bis Nam Ky Khoi Nghia  
TEL: 3.932-0111

***Saigon Star International School***

172 Nguyen Van Thu Street, Dakao Ward, District 1  
TEL: 3.822 0337  
FAX: 3.822 3251  
[www.saigonstarschool.edu.vn](http://www.saigonstarschool.edu.vn)

***Singapore International Primary School***

44 Truong Dinh Street, D.3  
TEL: 3.932 5971  
[www.kinderworld.net.vn](http://www.kinderworld.net.vn)

***Taipei School***

S3, Phu My Hung, Tan Phu, District 7 , Ho Chi Minh City  
TEL: 5.417-9007

***International School Saigon (ISHCMC)***

649A Vo Truong Toan, An Phu Ward, Dist., 2  
TEL: 3.898-9100

***Fosco Playmates International***

40 Ba Huyen Thanh Quan Street, District 3, Ho Chi Minh City  
TEL: 930-2019  
FAX: 3.930-3935

**PRE-SCHOOLS**

***ABC Kindergarten***

26 Truong Dinh Street, District 3, Ho Chi Minh City  
TEL: 3.930-3533

**KinderWorld at Somerset Chancellor Court**

21-23 Nguyen Thi Minh Khai Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City

TEL: 3.827-2464

**KinderWorld at HIECC**

446 Hoang Van Thu Street, Tan Binh District, Ho Chi Minh City

TEL: 3.845-0335

**Little Angels International Preschool**

17A Dang Van Ngu St., W.10 Phu Nhuan District

TEL: 3.991-8548

**"SmartKids" International PreSchool**

1172 Thao Dien An Phu, District 2

TEL: 3.744-6076

**CHILD CARE**

Founded 1996, 75 students, aged 2 – 6. Australian standard play based curriculum, including a British literacy program, 20 staff.

104A Tran Quoc Toan Street, District 3, Ho Chi Minh City, TEL: 3.932-5579

**11. RELIGION**

Freedom of religion is guaranteed under the Vietnamese Constitution. Places of worship of all beliefs can be found in Saigon. For examples mosques can be found in 66 Dong Du Street, District 1 while the Catholic Churches and Protestant Churches can be found on Cong Xa Paris, District 1 and 155 Tran Hung Dao Street, District 1. English, French, Germany, Korean, Japanese & Chinese services are available.

*Catholic Churches*

Notre Dame Basilica	1 Cong Xa Paris, District 1	3.829 - 4822
Maria Church	38 Ky Dong Street, District 3	3.931 - 1779
Tan Dinh Church	289 Hai Ba Trung Street, District 1	3.829 - 0093
Fatima Church	355/3 13 <sup>th</sup> Highway, Hiep Binh Chanh Ward, Thu Duc	3.726 - 8561
Cha Tam Church	25 Hoc Lac Street, District 5	3.856 - 0274
Ba Chuong Church	190 Le Van Sy Street, Phu Nhuan Dist,	3.844 - 0552
Vuon Xoai Church	413 Le Van Sy Street, District 3	3.931 - 8297
Dong Thanh Phalo Church	4 Ton Duc Thang Street, District 1	3.822 - 3387
Dai Chung Vien Thanh Giuse	6 Ton Duc Thang Street, District 1	3.910 - 4399

***Protestant Churches***

Hoi Thanh Tin Lanh	155 Tran Hung Dao Street, District 1	3.836 - 5178
Hoi Thanh Tin Lanh	109 Phan Dang Luu Street, Phu Nhuan	3.990 - 1629

### **Islamic Community**

Hoi Giao An Do India	66 Dong Du Street, District 1	3.825 - 0120
Hoi Giao Cho Lon	641 Nguyen Trai, District 5	3.950 - 8661
Islamic Community	52 Nguyen Van Troi, Phu Nhuan	3.844 - 4092

### **Other**

Muslim India	66 Dong Du Street, District 1	3.825 - 0120
India Pagoda	45 Truong Dinh Street, District 1	3.823 - 2735
Bible Study Group	16D, Indochine, 1 Le Quy Don St, D3	3.930 - 0200
Korean Reading Group	Ask from Korean Consulate	
Christian Fellowship Bible Study (An Phu) Contact: Esther		0909669857

### **Pagodas**

Vinh Nghiem Pagoda	339 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia Street, Dist 3	3.848 - 3153
Viet Nam Quoc Tu	16, 3 Thang 2 Street, District 10	3.865 - 2700
Xa Loi Pagoda	89 Ba Huyen Thanh Quan Street	3.930 - 7298
Ky Vien Pagoda	610 Nguyen Dinh Chieu Street, Dist 3	3.832 - 5522

## **12. AIRLINES**

### **National Airlines**

### **Telephone**

Air France & KLM Dutch Airlines .....	3.829 - 0981
All Nippon Airways .....	3.821 - 9612
Asiana Airlines.....	3.822 - 2663
British Airways.....	3.930 - 2933
Cathay Pacific .....	3.822 - 3203
China Airlines .....	3.911 - 1591
China Southern Airlines.....	3.823 - 5588
Emirates ....	3.930 - 2939
Eva Air.....	3.822 - 4488
Garuda Indonesia.....	3.930 - 3033
Japan Airlines .....	3.821 - 9098
JetStar Australia.....	3.910 - 5375
Korean Air .	3.824 - 2878
Lao Aviation .....	3.829 - 0200
Lauda Air ..	3.829 - 7117
Lufthansa German Airlines .....	3.829 - 8529
Malaysia Airlines .....	3.829 - 2529
Pacific Airlines .....	3.955 - 0550
Philippine Airlines .....	3.827 - 2105
Qantas Airways .....	3.910 - 5374
Royal Cambodian Airlines.....	3.829 - 9363
Royal Brunei Airlines .....	3.823 - 5848

Siem Reap Airways Int'l .....	3.823 - 9288
Singapore Airlines .....	3.823 - 1588
Swissair ....	3.910 - 1509
Thai Airways International .....	3.829 - 2809
Tiger Airways .....	5.404 - 1290
United Airlines .....	3.823 - 4755
Vietnam Airlines .....	3.832 - 0320

### 13. HOTELS

#### **Hotels Above \$100.00**

#### **Telephone**

Amara Hotel Saigon .....	3.843 - 9999
Caravelle Hotel.....	3.823 - 4999
Duxton-Saigon Prince Hotel.....	3.822 - 2999
Equatorial Hotel.....	3.839 - 7777
Grand Hotel .....	3.823 - 0163
Legend Hotel .....	3.823 - 3333
Majestic Hotel.....	3.822 - 9750
New World Hotel .....	3.822 - 8888
Norfolk Hotel.....	3.829 - 5368
Novotel Garden Plaza .....	3.842 - 1111
Omni Saigon Hotel .....	3.844 - 9222
Palace Hotel .....	3.829 - 2860
Park Hyatt Hotel .....	3.844 - 1234
Renaissance Riverside Hotel Saigon.....	3.822 - 0033
Rex Hotel... ..	3.829 - 2185
Ritz Hotel... ..	3.920 - 0174
Saigon Inn Cty Ld Hotel .....	3.829 - 5134
Sheraton Saigon Hotel & Towers.....	3.827 - 2828
Sofitel Plaza Saigon .....	3.824 - 1555
Swiss-Bel Hotel Int'l.....	3.822 - 7687
Windsor Plaza Hotel .....	3.833 - 6688

#### **Budget Hotels**

An An City Hotel .....	3.837 - 8087
Asian Hotel .....	3.829 - 6979
Bach Dang Hotel .....	3.823 - 0587
Bong Sen Hotel Annex.....	3.829 - 1516
Chancery Saigon Hotel .....	3.930 - 4088
Empress Hotel .....	3.832 - 2888
First Hotel (De Nhat) .....	3.844 - 1199
Hanh Hoa Hotel.....	3.836 - 0245
Hotel Continental.....	3.829 - 9201
Huong Sen Hotel .....	3.829 - 1415
Kimdo Hotel.....	3.822 - 5914
Kim Long Hotel .....	3.822 - 8558
Metropole Hotel.....	3.920 - 1939
Oscar Saigon Hotel .....	3.829 - 2959
Pastel Inn Saigon .....	3.822 - 8222
Rang Dong Hotel.....	3.839 - 8264
Saigon Star Hotel .....	3.930 - 6290
Star Hotel... ..	3.823 - 3999
Spring Hotel.....	3.829 - 7362
Thang Long Hotel .....	3.822 - 2595
Vien Dong Hotel .....	3.836 - 0722

## 14. SHOPPING

The main shopping areas in Saigon are Dong Khoi & Le Loi Street. In recent years, foreign investment has led to the growth of imports to Saigon. There have been an increased number of goods available from all over the world in some department stores and shopping centers.

### **Art Galleries**

Art Gallery	145 Bui Vien, D1	5.404 - 2198
Art Gallery Pho Hoa	111 Dien Bien Phu, D1	3.822 - 8919
Art Gallery Vinh Loi	41 Ba Huyen Thanh Quan, D3	3.930 - 5006
Apricot Gallery	50-52 Mac Thi Buoï St, D1	3.822 - 7962
Hong Xuan	91 Dong Khoi, D1	3.822 - 5631
Blue Space Gallery	1A Le Thi Hong Gam, D1	3.821 - 3695
Ha Kim Gallery	321 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia, D3	3.848 - 1212
Hung Long Art Gallery	86 Mac Thi Buoï, D1	3.829 - 7887
Deli - Gallery	83 Dong Khoi st, D1	3.822 - 2312
Duc Minh	31C Le Quy Don, D3	3.933 - 0497
El Gallery	23 Ly Tu Trong, D1	3.827 - 3706
Spring Gallery	97A Pho Duc Chinh, D1	3.821 - 6419
Nhat Le Art Gallery	97A Pho Duc Chinh, D1	3.821 - 6447
Truong Han Minh Gallery	444 Minh Phung, D11	3.963 - 3832
Tu Do Art Gallery	53 Ho Tung Mau, D1	3.821 - 0966
Lacquer and Oil	183 Dong Khoi St, D1	3.827 - 2313

### **Bakeries and Bread**

Brodard Delicatessen/Bkry	11 Nguyen Thiep, D1	3.822 - 3965
Givral Café Restaurant	169 Dong Khoi St, D1	3.829 - 2747
Harvest Bakery	(made to order)	
Nhu Lan Bakery	50-66-68 Ham Nghi, D 1	3.829 - 2970
Omni Hotel Gourmet Shop	251 Nguyen Van Troi, Phu Nhuan	3.844 - 9222
Paris Deli – Saigon Centre	65 Le Loi St, D1	3.821 - 6127
Pat ' a Chou	65 Hai Ba Trung, D1	3.824 - 5873
Rye's Bakery-Equatorial Hotel	242 Tran Binh Trong, D5	3.839 - 7777
Saigon Bakery	281C Hai Ba Trung, D1	3.820 - 2083

### **Beds & Bedding/Linen**

Kymdan (bed shop)	74B Hai Ba Trung	3.829 - 9101
Dunlopillo (bed shop)	77 Thao Dien St., D2	3.519 - 0311
Dolce Casa (cushions)	137 Dong Khoi, D1	3.824 - 2735
Man Ta (curtains)	S8-1 Sky Garden Tan Phong Ward, D7	5.412 - 4710
Gaya Linen (Bedding)	39 Ton That Thiep St,	3.914 - 3769
Catherine De Loul Linen	15C1-C2 Thi Sach St, D1	3.823 - 9394
Viet Quilts	68 Ngo Duc Ke, D 1	3.829 - 8794

### **Bicycles**

Several Shops selling bikes on	97B Vo Thi Sau	3.820 - 5938
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### **Books**

Fahasa SAIGON	60-62 Le Loi St, D1	3.822 - 5446
Fahasa Xuan Thu	185 Dong Khoi St, D1	3.822 - 4670



**Butchers and Meat**

Int'l Fine Foods Nhat Nam	54/31 Pho Quang, Tan Binh	3.847 - 9217
Nhu Lan	48 Ham Nghi St, D1	3.822 - 4471
Nghe Thuat Am Thuc Swiss Alps	1443 Nguyen Van Linh, D7	5.412 - 1386
Golden Pig	32 Dong Du St, D1	3.829 - 3856
Metro Cash & Carry	An Phu	

**Gourmet**

Annam Gourmet Shop	16-18 Hai Ba Trung, D1	3.822 - 9332
Annam Gourmet Shop	41A Thao Dien, An Phu,	3.744 - 2630

**Markets**

Cho An Dong	34-36 An Duong Vuong. D5	3.835 - 0188
Cho Ba Chieu	40 Dien Hong, Binh Thanh	3.841 - 2483
Cho Ben Thanh	Quach Thi Trang Square, D1	3.829 - 9274
Cho Binh Tay	24 Nguyen Huu Than, D6	3.857 - 1512

**Furniture & Interior Decorations**

*Most Stores listed have showrooms as well as offer custom made furniture*

AA Deco	33 Phung Khac Khoan, D1	3.824 - 7443
Authentique	6 Dong Khoi St, D1	3.823 - 8811
Bamboo Café	96 Nam Khoi Nghia, D1	3.827 - 9984
Bamboo Décor	65 Phung Khac Khoan, D1	3.823 - 9728
Classical Furniture	668G Thao Dien St, D2	3.744 - 4334
Hoang My	2B Ngo Van Nam, D1	3.910 - 1996
Furniture Outlet	3B Ton Duc Thang St, D1	3.827 - 2728
Grand Bois Furniture Shop	65 Le Loi St, Saigon Centre, D1	3.821 - 0923
Home Sweet Home	48 Le Thanh Ton St, D1	3.822 - 8978
Living & Giving	11 Ngo Duc Ke, D1	3.822 - 3104
Nguyen Freres	2 Dong Khoi St, D1	3.823 - 9459
Red Door Deco	20A Thi Sach D1	3.825 - 8672
Thien An Furniture	2 Nguyen Bien Khiem, D1	3.910 - 5650
Minh Kha	41 Ho Tung Mau, D1	3.821 - 1655

**Art Framing**

Saigon	14 Nguyen Hue, D1	3.824 - 4803
Tu Do Galleries	53 Ho Tung Mau, D1	3.821 - 0966
Green Space	1A Le Thi Hong Gam, D1	3.821 - 3695
Ben Thanh Art & Frame	191 Le Thanh Ton, D1	3.824 - 2200
Saigon SSK Art & Frame	74E Hai Ba Trung, D1	3.823 - 2753
Ham Nghi Galleries	77 Ham Nghi, D1	3.821 - 4949

**Mobile Phones**

Nokia	3B Ly Tu Trong, D1	3.829 - 2666
Sony Ericsson	161 Hai Ba Trung, D3	3.823 - 4169
Van Quang	128A Hai Ba Trung, D1	3.822 - 9484

**Motorbike Rental**

Motorbikes	165 Pham Ngu Lao, D1	3.837 - 4916
Nghia	33 Ngo Duc Ke	3.829 - 8784
Kim Café	268 De Tham, D1	3.836 - 8122
Tran Thi Canh Hotel	265 De Tham, D1	3.836 - 7512
Motorbikes	178 Nguyen Thai Binh, D1	3.821 - 8795

**Optical**

Eye Hut	80 Hai Ba Trung, D1	3.823 - 3901
Eye Hut	15-17 Truong Dinh St, D1	3.827 - 3043
Eye Hut- Tax Centre	135 Nguyen Hue St, D1	3.914 - 3075

**Photo Developing**

Hien Dai	2B Le Loi Street, D1	3.822 - 1796
The Quan Digital Centre	4D Le Loi St, D1	3.822 - 2035
Manh Son	258 Hai Ba Trung, D1	3.822 - 3732

**Wine and Spirits**

Tan Khoa	17/11 Le Thanh Ton St, D1	3.829 - 3306
The Warehouse	178 Pasteur, D1	3.825 - 8826
Linh Gia	2 Ngo Duc Ke, D1	3.824 - 6130
Vino Shop & Tasting Lounge	34 Pho Duc Chinh, D1	3.914 - 4031
Wine Market	136 Ham Nghi, D1	3.821 - 7464

**Crafts & Souvenirs**

Gaya Shop	37-39 Ton That Thiep, D1	3.914 - 3769
Minh Boutique	15 Nguyen Thiep, D1	3.829 - 6688
Nga Art & Craft	61 Le Thanh Ton, D1	3.825 - 6289
Saigonese	29 Dong Du, D1	3.824 - 7024
Vietnam Quilts	68 Ngo Duc Ke, D1	3.829 - 8794

**Crystal**

Nga	103 Le Thanh Ton, D1	3.823 - 3288
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**Pottery**

Saigonese	29 Dong Du, D1	3.824 - 7024
MM	30 Mac Thi Bui, D1	3.829 - 4408
Bat Trang	156B Pasteur, D1	3.825 - 0835
'Pottery Street'	Binh Duong Province	

*(Ask most drivers or taxi companies to take you to 'Pottery Street' in Binh Duong Province, near Dai Binh Duong Street a 30 min. drive from HCMC you will find one pottery shop next to the other.)*

**Jewelers**

Alphana	159 Dong Khoi St, D1	3.829 - 7398
Alphana	19-23 Lam Son Sq, Caravella Hotel	3.824 - 7142
PNJ	170E Phan Dang Luu, Phu Nhuan	3.995 - 1706
Therese	9 Nguyen Thiep St, D1	3.824 - 6011

**Costume Jewelry**

Cox's Bazaar	District 2	3.898 - 2246
<i>Sally Cox - Custom made jewelry with fine jewels and costume jewels. Call for appointment.</i>		
Cleo Pearls	District 2	0913587690
<i>Birgit Maier- Made to Order and small showroom available.</i>		
Saigon Charms	District 2	0903005060
<i>Els Kerckhaert- Made to Order and small show area available</i>		

**15. SUPERMARKETS**

Annam Fine Food	16-18 Hai Ba Trung, D1	3.822 9332
Annam Foods An Phu	41a Thao Dien, Road B02, D2	3.744 2630
An Phu Supermarket	720K Ward Thao Dien, d2	3.519 0506

Au Tresor	39 Nguyen Hue, D1	3.821 5300
Big C supermarket	Ho Hoc Lam, An Lac, Binh Chanh	3.877 0670
Bonvia Chocolatier	4-6 Le Loi, D1	3.822 7492
Citimart Plaza Trade centre	230 Nguyen Trai St, D1	3.837 2323
Citimart Minh Khai	21-23 Nguyen Thi Minh Khai, D1	3.824 4818
Citimart Sky Garden	20 Le Thanh Ton, D1	3.822 8868
Citimart Thuan Kieu Plaza	190 Hong Bang, D5	3.955 0913
Citimart	393B Tran Hung Dao, D1	
Co.op Mart	189C Cong Quynh D1	3.832 5239
Co.op Mart	168 Nguyen Dinh Chieu, D3	3.930 1384
Co.op Mart	727 Tran Hung Dao, D5	3.923 9493
Co.op Mart	188 Hau Giang, D6	3.960 1508
Co.op Mart	Dam Sen 03 Hao Binh, D11	3.963 2118
Co.op Mart	127 Dinh Tien Hoang, Binh Thanh	3.510 0091
Lucky Plaza	38 Nguyen Hue St, D1	3.829 0878
Maxi Mark	3-3C Ba Thang Hai St, P11, D10	3.834 2102
Maxi Mark	15-17 Cong Hoa St, P4, Tan Binh	3.811 7570
Selecct	Saigon Centre, 65 Le Loi, D1	3.821 1707
Maniimark Superbowl	A43, Truong Son St, Tan Binh	3.848 6472
Metro	50-52 Binh Phu, Ward 2, D6	3.876 8964
Metro	An Phu, Ward An Phu, D2	3.717 2989
Norfolk Mansion Shop	17-21 Ly Tu Trong, D1	3.822 6111
Phuc Long Coffee Shop	63 Mac Thi Bui, D1	3.825 6288
Phuong Ha	58 Ham Nghi, D1	3.824 1423
TAX Center Shop	135 Nguyen Hue Street, D1	3.821 3849
Riverside Supermarket	670 Vo Truong Toan, An Phu,	3.744 4111
Veggy's	15 Thai Van Lung, D1	3.823 8526

### ***Department Stores***

Hung Vuong Plaza	15 An Duong Vuong, D5	3.835 7431
Diamond Plaza	34 Le Duan St, D1	3.825 775
Parkson Saigon Tourist Plaza	35-45 Le Thanh Ton St. D1	3.827 7636
Saigon Tax Centre	Corner Le Loi/Nguyen Hue St , D1	3.914 4971
Saigon Centre Tower	65 Le Loi St, D1	3.829 4888
Zen Plaza	54-56 Nguyen Trai St, D1	3.925 0340
Saigon Superbowl	43A Truong Son, 4 W, Thanh Binh,	3.848 8888

## **15. CUISINE**

HCMC is a city that has many new restaurants and cafes opening all the time. Both Vietnamese and Western food are widely available and English menus are common. Because of the selection is vast and in constant flux, please find below a few of our Team's favorites. 71/2 Mac Thi Bui, D1 Tel: 3.823 7506

## **ASIAN RESTAURANTS**

**Lac Thai** Up Market, excellent Thai food, personalized deco and great service.

### ***Golden Elephant***

Small, quaint, Thai décor with friendly service, authentic food at reasonable rates.

34 Hai Ba Trung

Tel: 3.822 8554

### ***Temple Club***

Elegant Colonial/Asian style, serving Vietnamese fare at reasonable rates. The comfy living style lounge is a great place to start the evening. Reservations recommended.

29-31 Ton That Thiep, D1

Tel: 3.829 9244

### ***3T***

Located above Temple Club, an outdoor BBQ in Vietnamese style. Each table has own grill. Fun, relaxed and somewhat loud atmosphere. Reservations recommended on weekends.

29-31 Ton That Theip, D1

Tel: 3.821 1631

### ***Ngon***

Garden style set up with open kitchens in each corner. Lively, simple rates. excellent food. Very reasonable.

138 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia, D1

Tel: 3.825 7179

### ***Riverside***

Relaxed, outdoor, riverside setting.

Excellent Vietnamese fare at reasonable

53 Vo Truong Toan, Thao Dien, D2

Tel: 3.744 4505 (ext 707)

### ***Lemongrass***

4 Nguyen Thiep, D1

Tel: 3.822 0496

### ***TIB***

High end, designed in Hue style.

187 Ter Hai Ba Trung, D1

Tel: 3.829 7242

### ***Spice***

Terrace on different levels, in/outdoor seating. Authentic Thai cuisine. Good rates.

27C Le Quy Don, D3

Tel: 3.930 7873

### ***Mandarine***

High end Vietnamese restaurant. Classywooden 2 story restaurant. Live VN music. Good for dinners to impress.

11A Ngo Van Nam, D1

Tel: 3.822 9783

### ***Pho 2000 and Pho 24***

Diverse locations around town. Casual, great soups, inexpensive. "The soup that built a nation"  
122A Pasteur, D1 67 Hai Ba Trung, Dist. 1  
Tel 3.821 6665 Tel: 3.8223485

## **DIVERSE WESTERN FOOD RESTAURANTS**

### ***Texas Bar.B.Q***

Family friendly, 'western town', outdoor atmosphere. Unlike many menus with a wide selection, their ribs through to the burritos are a delight. Don't miss. Thanks giving Dinner. Catering.

206 Pasteur St, D3  
Tel:3.823 1459

### ***Au Parc Cafe***

2 story, French Café style, popular for breakfast and lunches. Good coffee. Home delivery/ Catering.  
23 Han Thuyen, D1

Tel: 3.823 0686

### ***Juice Bar***

Great Sandwiches, Salads and juices. Seagrass shots. Theme nights.

49 Mac Thi Buoï, D1  
Tel: 823 0686

### ***Al Fresco's***

Fun, family friendly. Kids can draw on tables. Good Tex Mex fare. Catering

27 Dong Du, D1  
Tel: 3.822 7317

## **FRENCH RESTAURANT**

### ***Lolyvie***

17 Le Duan Dt, D1  
Tel: 3.824 1555

### ***L'En tete***

1/F, 139 Nguyen Thai Binh, D1  
Tel: 3.821 4049

## **INDIAN RESTAURANTS**

### ***Alibaba***

Excellent north indian cuisine.Home delivery.

60 Le Than Ton, D1  
Tel: 3.823 3594

## **ITALIAN RESTAURANTS**

***Pomodoro*** : Enjoyable food and atmosphere, qualité and vegetarian courses available. Mid range.

79 Hai Ba Trung, D1 Tel: 3.823 8957

### ***Opera – Park Hyatt Saigon***

Modern, chic atmosphere. Open Kitchen. Upper end

101 Hai Ba Trung, D1 Tel: 3.520 2357

## **MEDITERRANEAN**

### ***Warda***

Med. Ambiance and excellent food. Dinner recommended.

***Mekong Merchant***

Café 'inner court' med. style, outside. Rustic, cozy atmosphere. Mid range.  
23 Thao Dien, D2 Tel: 3.744 4713

**SPANISH/CUBAN**

***La Habana***

Fun theme nights, salsa dancing.  
6 Cao Ba Quat, D1 Tel: 3.829 5180

**VEGETARIAN**

***Com Chay Nang Tam***

Comfy and small, specializes in artificial meat dishes. Low-mid range.  
384/40 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia, D3

***Hoa Dang***

Nutritious and fresh. Reasonable price.  
38-40 Huynh Khuong Ninh, D1 Tel: 3.820 9702

**CATERING**

***The Caterers – A 5 Star Service***

Outside catering, Corporate Events, Social Events. Not only caterers but also assists in the whole decoration of your event.

6/32 Yen The Street, Tan Binh Dist. Tel: 0903 75 1586  
[thecaterers@yahoo.com.vn](mailto:thecaterers@yahoo.com.vn)

**FAST FOOD/ DELIVERY**

***Chez Guido***

66 Nguyen Cuu Van, Binh Than Tel: 3.840 4448

**16. SAIGON NIGHTLIFE**

***Music & Nightlife***

Allez Boo	187 Pham Ngu Lao, D1	3.837-2505
Apocalypse Now	2C Thi Sach, District 1	3.825-6124
Bellevue Bar – Majestic Hotel	1 Dong Khoi St, D1	3.829-5517
Club 27	27 Ngo Duc Ke, D1	3.823-1963
Lodge Bui Bar	39/2 Pham Ngoc Thach, D1	3.824-1963
Dragon	46-50 Dong Khoi St., Dist. 1	3.823-8309
Catwalk	76 Le Lai, New World Hotel, Dist. 1	3.824-3760
Elysee Bar- Sofitel Hotel	17 Le Duan, D1	3.824-1555
Go 2	187 De Tham St, D1	3.836-9575
International Tourist Club	76 Le Lai, D1	3.824-3760
La Casa Latina	11 Thai Van Lung, D1	3.822-3240
La Habana	6 Cao Ba Quat, D1	3.829-5180
Party Zone- Amara Saigon,	323 Le Van Sy	3.843-9999
Mettalic Bar-Café	41 Ba Huyen Thanh Quan, D3	3.930-3154

Manna Bar-Cafe	26 Ho Huan Nghiep, District 1	3.823-3978
Mulligans Bar – Omni Hotel	251 Nguyen Van Troi, D1	3.844-9333
One More Pub Restaurant	SA 9-1 My Khanh 3, Phu My Hung.	3.412-1002
Paradise Coffee	141 Nguyen Hue, D1	3.829-2185
Saigon Saigon Bar-Caravelle	19 Lam Son Square. D1	3.82- 4999
Samsara	131 Dong Khoi St, D1	3.823-2630
Saxn’art Club	28 Le Loi St, D1	3.822-8472
Thien Hong Café	25A Tu Xuong, D3	3.932-7246
Underground-Lucky Plaza	69 Dong Khoi St, D1	3.829-9079
Vasco’s Bar	14-16 Cao Ba Quat, D1	3.824-3148
Wild Horse	8A1/D1 Thai Van Lung, D1	3.825-1901

### **Casino Clubs**

Bingo Club – Rex Hotel	141 Nguyen Hue St, D1	3.824-6643
Club Royale	8-15 Ton Duc Thang, D1	3.822-1888
International Tourist Club	76 Le Lai, D1	3.824-3760
Mozo Bar	80 Dong Du St, D1	
Vegas Club – Caravelle Hotel	19 Son Square, D1	3.824-7140
Wine Bar/Nightspot - Sheraton	Level 23, 88 Dong Khoi St., Dist.1	3.827-2828

## **17. BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS**

### **American Chamber of Commerce**

New World Hotel, 76 Le Lai Street, D1 Tel: 3.824 3562 [www.amchamvietnam.com](http://www.amchamvietnam.com)

### **Australian Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam**

New World Hotel, 3/F, Suite 306 76 Le Lai Street, D1 Tel: 3.824-3745 [www.auschamvn.org](http://www.auschamvn.org)

### **British Business Group Vietnam –BBGV**

G/F 25 Le Duan Boulevard, District 1 Tel: 3.829 8430 [www.bbgv.org](http://www.bbgv.org)

### **Belgium/Luxembourg Chambers of Commerce-BeLuxCham**

Fosco Building, 6 Phung Khac Khoan Street, D1 Tel: 3.822 0183 [www.beluxcham.com](http://www.beluxcham.com)

### **Canadian Chamber of Commerce -CanCham**

New World Hotel 3/F Room 305 76 Le Lai Street, D1 Tel: 3.824 3754 [www.canchamvietnam.org](http://www.canchamvietnam.org)

### **Dutch Business Association –DBAV**

Netherlands CG 29 le Duan, D1 Tel: 3.823 5923 [www.dbav.org](http://www.dbav.org)

### **European Chamber of Commerce - EuroCham**

49 Mac Dinh Chi St., Da Kao, District 1 Tel: 3.845 5528 [www.eurochamvn.org](http://www.eurochamvn.org)

### **French Chamber of Commerce**

49 Mac Dinh Chi St., Da Kao, District 1 Tel: 3.997 3928 [www.ccifv.org](http://www.ccifv.org)

### **German Business Association - GBAV**

49 Mac Dinh Chi St., Da Kao, District 1 [www.gba-vietnam.org](http://www.gba-vietnam.org)

### **Hong Kong Business Association**

New World Hotel, 76 Le Lai, D1 Tel: 3.824 3757

**Indian Business Chamber of Commerce**  
2-4-6 Dong Khoi St, D1 Seaprodex Building, Room 103 Tel: 3.823-8132

**Italian Business Group (IBG)**  
203 Dong Khoi, D1 Tel: 3.824 1998

**Japanese Business Group (JBAH)**  
115 Nguyen Hue Street, D 1 Sunwah Tower Suite 1406 Tel: 3.821-9370

**Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry**  
3/F, 47 Nguyen Cu Trinh Street, D1 Tel: 3.837 9155

**Malaysian Business Chamber**  
D6, D2 Street, Binh Thanh District Tel: 3.213 - 1167

**New Zealand Business Group**  
CG of NZ,  
41 Nguyen Thi Minh Khai,  
Tel: 3.822 6907

**Nordic chamber of Commerce**  
12a/F, Bitexco Building  
19-25 Nguyen Hue,  
Tel: 3.821 5435

**Singapore Business Group**  
Somerset Chancellor Court Unit 1B2 ,21-23 Nguyen Thi Minh Khai Street, D1 Tel: 3.823-3046

**Swiss Business Association**  
124 Dien Bien Phu, D1 Tel: 3.820 5402

**Thai Business Association TBA**  
16/9 Ky Dong St, D3 Tel: 3.931 8263

**The Council of Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce**  
340 Chanh Hung St, D5 Tel: 5.431 3940

**Spanish Economic & Commercial**  
25 Phung KKhac Khoan, D1 Tel: 3.825 0173

**Overseas Vietnamese Business Association**  
147 Nguyen Dinh Chieu, D1 Tel: 3.930 1503

## **18. SPORTS & HEALTH CLUBS**

Caravelle Club	19 Lam Son Square, District 1	3.824 3999
Clark Hatch Fitness Centre	Sofitel Hotel, 17 Le Duan St, D1	3.824 1555
Club Legend	190 Hung Vuong Boulevard, District 5	3.955 0988
Equinox Fitness Centre	Equatorial Ht, 242 Tran Binh Trong, D5	3.839 7777
Landmark Club	5B, Ton Duc Thang St., District 1	3.822 2098
Legend Hotel	2A-4A Ton Duc Thang St., District 1	3.823 3333
Rex Heath Club	141 Nguyen Hue St, D1	3.829 2185
Nutrifort (private trainers)	2B1 Chu Manh Trinh, D1	3.825 8560



Ocean Place	88 Dong Khoi St., District 1	3.827 2828
Somerset Fitness Centre	21-23 Nguyen Thi Minh Khai, D1	3.822 9197
Paloma Club	28 Pham Ngoc Thach	3.823 1745
Saigon Gym Omni Hotel	251 Nguyen Van Troi, Phu Nhuan Dist	3.844 9222
Saigon Raiders	Expatriate Football Club, Contact: Brian Anderson	0904446302
	Jesper Strom	0902339600
Saigon South	Saigon South Parkway, District 7	3.873-1377
Sedona Town Club	65 Le Loi St, D1	3.825 0195
Saigon Village Sports Club	17 To Hien Thanh, District 10	3.865-7249
The Sports Club	New World Hotel, 76 Le Lai St.	3.822-8888
Parkland Centre	628 A An Binh, An Phu Commune, D2	3.898 9000
Xuan Spa & Fitness Centre	Park Hyatt Ht, 2 Lam Son Square, D1	3.824 1234

**SPORT CONTACTS:**

SAIGON YACHT CLUB info@saigonyc.com 3.822 9684

*All water enthusiasts and encouraged to join. No need to bring sailing skills with you.*

ADULT HOCKEY (Casual)

Saturday Mornings at ISHCMC, D2

Contact: Liesbeth 0933127998

**19. GOLF CLUBS & Tennis & sports**

***Bochang Dong Nai Golf Resort***

Ward Tan Hoa, Dong Nai Province  
TEL: (061) 398-1398

**Green Indoor Golf**

179 Hoang Van Thu, D3  
TEL: 3.847 7889

**Norfolk Mansion**

Indoor Golf Simulator  
17-21 Ly Tu Trong, D1  
TEL: 3.822 6111

**Saigon South Golf Driving Range**

Saigon South Avenue  
District 7, HCMC  
*(New 36 hole course in the making)*  
TEL: 3.733 0124

**Song Be Golf Resort**

77 Binh Duong Boulevard

Thuan An District, Binh Duong Province  
TEL: (65) 755 660

**Vietnam Golf and Country Club**

Ap Gian Dan, Long Thanh My,  
Thu Duc District, D9  
TEL: 3.733 0129

**TENNIS**

Tennis is available at almost any 5 star Hotel and Sports Club. Several local Tennis clubs abound the city. Ask UTS Saigon Van to recommend a local club near you!

***Lan Anh International Tennis Court***

291 Cach Mang Thang 8,  
District 10  
Tel: 3.862 7144

***Sedona Town Club***

65 Le Loi Street  
District 1  
3.825 0195

***Riverside Tennis Court***

53 Vo Truong Toan,  
Thao Dien Ward,  
An Phu District 2  
Tel: 3.744 4111

***BP Compound Sports Club***

Lotus Rd,  
36 Thao Dien St,  
An Phu, District 2,

***Cong Vien Van Hoa Park Tennis Court***

115D Nguyen Du,  
District 1

***Parkland Town and Country Club***

628A An Binh, An Phu ,D2  
TEL: 3.898 9000

***The Landmark Health Club***

5B Ton Duc Thang, D1  
TEL: 3.822 2098

***OTHER SPORT CLUBS***

**Australian Rules Football**

Contact: Dale Robinson  
TEL: 0903 918 302

**K1 Boxing Centre**

159/52/21B Tran Van Dang,  
District 3  
TEL: 0918 337 111

## CRICKET

Cricket is very popular in HCMC and still gaining many enthusiasts. There are different representatives for each country- India, Australia, Sri Lanka, England, and RMIT team. Games are played at RMIT University sports grounds almost every Sunday. Come and watch the fun or join a team. Ask UTS Saigon Van to refer you to the right contact!

### **Saigon Rugby Club**

Contact: Chris Paget  
TEL: 0903 735 799

### **Saigon Saints Football Club**

Contact: Max Phelps  
TEL: 0903 004 098  
[phelps@unilever.com](mailto:phelps@unilever.com)

## **Squash**

Available, among others, at The Landmark, Sheraton, and Parkland.

### **Ultimate Frisbee Sports**

RMIT University,  
702 Nguyen Van Linh, D7  
Contact: Andrew Scyner  
TEL: 0903 297 07

### **Saigon Pony Club**

Offers horseback riding lessons to all ages as well as a membership to the club which organizes different festivities through out the year.

738 Tran Nao St., D2  
Tel. 3.741 534

## 20. PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT

### **Bowling**

Diamond Bowling	34 Le Duan Street, District 1	3.825-7778
Saigon Superbowl	A43 Truong Son Street, Tan Binh Dist.	3.848-8888
Parkson	35bis-45 Le Thanh Ton, D1	3.829 5388

### **Amusement Parks**

Dam Sen Park	3 Hoa Binh Street, District 11	3.884-1195
Saigon Wonderland	Nguyen Van Linh, Ward Tam Phong, D7	3.410-1888
Suoi Tien Park	Ha Noi Highway, Tan Phu Ward, Dist 9	3.896-0260

### **Zoo**

Saigon Zoo & Botanical Garden	2 Nguyen Binh Khiem, District 1	3.829-3728
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### **Theatres**

Hoa Binh Theaters	240-242 Ba Thang Hai, D10	3.865-5760
Opera House-/NH Lon TP	7 Lam Son Squarem PBN, District 1	3.829-9976
Conservatory/Nhac Vien TP	112 Nguyen Du, Binh Thanh Ward, D1	3.829-8646

**Cinemas**

Diamond Plaza	13 <sup>th</sup> floor, 34 Le Duan Street, District 1	3.822-7895
Fafilm VN	6 Thai Van Lung Street, PBN, District 1	3.829-2899
Thang Long	19 Cao Thang Street, Ward 2, Dist 3	3.839-3993
Galaxy Cinema	116 Nguyen Du, D1	3.823-5235
Bobby Brewers Café	45 Bui Vien, P. Pham Ngu Lao, D1	3.920 4202

**Parks**

Binh Quoi 1 & 2	1147 Xo Viet Nghe Tinh, Binh Thanh	3.556-6021
Dam Sen Park	3 Hoa Binh Street, District 11	3.884-1195
Van Thanh Park	48/10 Dien Bien Phu St, Binh Thanh.	3.512-3026
Le Van Tam Park	Hai Ba Trung St., Dist. 1	3.829-0945
Suoi Tien Park	Ap Tan Nhon, Tan Phu Ward, Dist 9	3.733-5093

**Horse Racing**

Phu Tho Sport Club	2 Le Dai Hanh, District 11	3.962-8205
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**Scuba Diving**

Indochine Divers	2/14 Cao Thang, D3	3.832-8650
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**21. SIGHTSEEING**

Saigon offers many attractions to the sightseer. Full & half day city tours can be arranged from most hotels and provide a fun, educational and exciting glimpse of the city! The sightseer can also find the attractions of the city by themselves with the help of a tourist map and directions. Guidebooks describing places of interest can be obtained from hotels, gift shops and foreigners bookstores.

**Places To Visit**

Art Museum	97A Pho Duc Chinh, D1	3.821 6452
Bao Tang Thanh Pho Chi Minh	65 Ly Tu Trong, D1	3.829 8250
Cu Chi Tunnels	2-3 hours drive from HCMC	
Campaign Ho Chi Minh Museum	2 Le Duan, Dist. 1	3.822-9387
Historical Museum	2 Nguyen Binh Kheim St., Dist.1	3.829-8146
Ho Chi Minh Museum	1 Nguyen Tat Thanh, D4	3.825 5740
Ho Chi Minh City Museum	114 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia St., Dist.1	3.829-9743
Luc Luong Vu Trang	247 Hoang Van Thu St., Tan Binh D1.	3.842-1354
Mien Dong Nam Bo Museum		
Ton Duc Thang Museum	5 Ton Duc Thang St., Dist.1	3.829-7542
Reunification Palace	106 Nguyen Du St., Dist.1	3.822-3652
Southern Woman Museum	202 Vo Thi Sau St., Dist. 3	3.932-5519
War Museum	28 Vo Van Tan St., Dist.3	3.930-2112
Golden Dragon Water Puppet	55bis Nguyen Thi Minh Khai	3.827-2653

**Bonsai River Cruise**

Floating Center-Saigon Trade Center

101 Nguyen Van Thu, D1  
3/F Room 301 Khanh Lam Bldg.,  
Tel: 3.9105 095  
madlen@bonsaicruise.com.vn

## **22. Travel Agents**

### **Atlas – Action Max**

30 Thai Van Lung, District 1 TEL: 3.822 4122 [atlasviet@hcm.fpt.vn](mailto:atlasviet@hcm.fpt.vn)

### ***Ben Thanh Tour & Travel Co***

4-6 Ho Huan Nghiep, D1 Tel: 822 2506 73-75 Dong Khoi, D1 Tel: 3.827 3073

### ***Buffalo Tours***

Suite 302, Jardine House 58 Dong Khoi, D1 Tel: 3.827 9169 [buffalo@hcmc.netnam.com](mailto:buffalo@hcmc.netnam.com)

### ***Cholon Tourist***

134 Nguyen Tri Phoung, D5 Tel: 3.835 9090 [info@cholontourist.com.vn](mailto:info@cholontourist.com.vn)

### ***Eastern Asia Travel & Service Co.***

570 Le Hong Phong, D10 Tel: 3.912 3518 Fax: 830 7587

### ***Exotissimo***

Fl. 4, Saigon Finance Center, 9 Dinh Tien Hoang, d. 1, tel 38251726 [www.exotosssimo.com](http://www.exotosssimo.com)

### ***Kim Café***

Provides Low budget, good tours. 270 De Tham St, D1 Tel: 3.920 5552

### ***Indochine Ventures***

40 Truong Quyen, D3 Tel: 3.820 2563 [www.indochina-ventures.com](http://www.indochina-ventures.com)

### ***Luxury Travel***

Suite 104 Le Loi, D1 Customer Care: 384 8581 [www.luxurytravelvietnam.com](http://www.luxurytravelvietnam.com)

### ***Saigontourist***

49 Le Thanh Ton, D1 Tel: 3.829 8914

### ***Viethands Tours***

16F, Saigon Tower 29 Le Duan, District 1

### ***Vietravel***

190 Pasteur, D3 Tel: 3.822 8898 [www.vietravel-vn.com](http://www.vietravel-vn.com)

### ***Viet Ventures***

356/12 Bach Dang, Binh Thanh District Tel: 3.510 7313  
[www.vietventures-cruise.com](http://www.vietventures-cruise.com)

### ***Sinh Café***

Provides low budget, good tours. 246-248 De Tham, Tel: 3.836 7338

## 23. BASIC DICTIONARY

### **English**

I  
You (to an older man)  
(to an older woman)  
To a man your age  
to a woman your age  
he  
she  
we  
they

### **Vietnamese**

toi  
ong  
ba  
anh  
chi  
anh ay  
chi ay/co ay  
chung toi  
ho

### **Pronunciations**

doy  
om  
ba  
ang  
chee  
ang ay  
chee ay/ko ay  
choom doy  
haw

### **Numbers**

One  
Two  
Three  
Four  
Five  
Six  
Seven  
Eight  
Nine  
Ten  
Twenty  
Twenty one  
Ninety nine  
One hundred  
One hundred and one  
Two hundred and thirty  
Four thousand  
Fifty thousand  
Six hundred thousand  
Eight million  
Nine billion

Mot  
Hai  
Ba  
Bon  
Nam  
Sau  
Bay  
Tam  
Chin  
Moui  
Hai Moui  
Hai moui mot  
Chin moui chin  
Mot tram  
Mot tram le mot  
Hai tram ba moui  
Bon nghin  
Nam moui nghin  
Say tram nghin  
Tam trieu  
Chin ty

mot  
hi  
ba  
bawn  
num  
saow  
bay  
taam  
cheen  
mooy  
hi mooy  
hi mooy mot  
cheen mooy cheen  
mot chum  
mot chium le mot  
hu chum bar mooy  
bawn nyeen  
num mooy nyeen  
saow chum nyeen  
taam chiew  
cheen tee

### **General Conversation**

Hello

Xin chao

sin jow

Goodbye	Tam biet	dum Bee-et
Yes	Vang/Da	vang/ya
No	Khong	kom
Please	Xin	sin
Thank you	Cam on	kam ern
You 're welcome	Khong co chi	kom ko chee
Excuse me/Sorry	Xin loi	sin lo-ee
How are you?	Co Khoe Khong	kaw kwair kom
Fine, Thank you	Koe, cam on	kair, kam ern
My Name is ...	Ten toi la	den doi la ...
What is your name	Ten la gi?	den la zee
Where are you from	Ban tu dau den	ban tur dow den
I am from	Toi thich	doi tit
I don't like	Toi Khong thich	doy kom tit
I want	Toi muon ..	doy moon
I don't want	Toi khong moun	doy kom moon

***Direction***

Where is?	O dau	er dow
Go straight	Di Thang	dee tan
Turn left	Re trai	rare try
Turn right	Re phai	rare phy
Stop	Dung Lai	dung lai
Do you understand	Ban co hieu khong	bang co heoo khom

**Enjoy the hustling and bustling Saigon!**

