



**VIETNAM
MADE EASY**
The Compact Guide
for Travel Agents



An Introduction



Old Quarter in Hanoi

Xin Chào from Vietnam, a captivating country rich in diversity. Whether you're drawn to the vibrant energy of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, the timeless charm of small towns and villages, or the breathtaking mountain landscapes and picturesque river deltas, Vietnam truly has something for everyone. With miles of stunning coastline, paradise-like islands, and dense forests, the natural beauty of this country is second to none. Travelling here is made easy with excellent international connections and a well-developed domestic infrastructure.

Vietnam is also known for its safety and political stability, making it a hassle-free destination. Since the 1980s, the country has seen rapid development, particularly in its bustling cities, where the youthful spirit of the population — 70% of whom are under 44 years old — shapes the vibrant street life and everyday experiences. Visitors can look forward to indulging in Vietnam's exceptional cuisine, enjoying comfortable accommodations, and experiencing the warm hospitality of the Vietnamese people. Another bonus: Vietnam offers unbeatable value for money across all tourist services, making it an even more attractive destination.

Important Basics for Travelling in Vietnam



Choose the Best Travel Time

Vietnam's ideal travel time varies significantly by region. For beach holidays in the south, particularly in Mui Ne and Phu Quoc, the period from October to April is perfect. The rice fields in Vietnam are typically cultivated from March to October. In some high-altitude regions, known for their stunning rice terraces like Mu Cang Chai and Hoang Su Phi, there is only one harvest per year, from June to September. During peak season, from November to March, these fields remain uncultivated. Travelling to Vietnam in the low season offers benefits like lower hotel prices, fewer tourists at popular sites, and lush, green landscapes.



A Country on a Rapid Growth Path

Vietnam is evolving at an astonishing pace, with changes unimaginable to many in the West. Thirty years ago, bicycles were the primary mode of transportation, and cars were rare. Just two decades ago, Hanoi had only one ATM and a few internet cafés. Today, Vietnam's cities are as modern as, if not more than, many European cities. However, life in the countryside and mountainous regions remains quieter and more traditional, highlighting a stark contrast between urban and rural areas.



Exploring Vietnam's Rich Culture

Vietnam's rich history and heritage unfold as one explores its unique relics, monuments, ancient cities, and informative museums. Everyday life also offers a window into the culture. Our tours focus on immersing guests in the vibrant culture of Vietnam, providing both historical insights and authentic experiences.



Navigating Entry with an E-Visa

Various issues can arise when applying for an e-visa to enter Vietnam. Incorrect or incomplete information can lead to rejection, and technical problems are common during the application and payment process. Note that the e-visa is only valid at specific border crossings and allows a single entry for a maximum stay of 90 days. Ensure you secure this for your guests well ahead of time and carefully monitor the application process.



Plan Your Transfers Carefully

Not all destinations in Vietnam are accessible by domestic flights. With transfers by bus, car, or train often being time-consuming, it's wise to plan carefully and integrate unique local experiences seamlessly into your clients' transfers.



Tipping Etiquette

In Vietnam, tipping is customary mainly within the tourism industry. While locals typically don't tip in cafés or restaurants, tipping has become expected in tourism as a gesture of gratitude and appreciation for good service.



A Guide Can Enhance Your Experience

Many Vietnamese, including those in the tourism industry, speak little or no English. Booking a guide even for simple transfers can greatly ease your clients' journey and help avoid misunderstandings.



Beat the Crowds

Popular destinations can get crowded, especially during public holidays and vacation seasons. It's advisable to consider these dates when planning for your guests' trip.



It's a Match! Who Should Visit Vietnam?



Kayaking in Hoi An



Natural Pools in Ngoc Son Ngo Luong



Mekong Delta, Vietnam-Cambodia Border

It's for Everyone!

Vietnam truly has something for everyone. Whether you're an older traveller, a family, a seasoned adventurer, a beach lover, a culture enthusiast, an outdoor sports aficionado, or a foodie, Vietnam is an ideal destination. It's also a wonderfully safe choice for children, teenagers, and solo female travellers. The diverse landscapes and attractions make it a compelling destination for first-time and repeat visitors alike. Plus, private transportation is easy to arrange and surprisingly affordable.

4-Star Accommodation Segment

The said segment is experiencing significant growth, thanks to Vietnam's excellent value for money. However, the true luxury market is still in its early stages. While there are some exclusive resorts and luxury cruises in Halong Bay, the selection of premium vehicles, high-end restaurants, and exclusive services remains limited. In Vietnam, luxury is defined by extraordinary experiences and authentic encounters rather than lavish fittings and formal dining.

Cross-Country Itineraries

Cross-border trips, particularly those that include Angkor Wat in Cambodia, remain popular. Direct flights make these connections easy, and for those with more time, a boat journey from the Mekong Delta to Phnom Penh offers a unique experience. While the connection to Laos is less developed, combining Vietnam with a trip to China holds great potential.



The Real Vietnam: Expert Tips from Our Team

Discovering Vietnam's Hidden Depths

Our General Manager, Guilhem Cavaillé, reminisces about his early adventures as a young traveller in Vietnam, "While the Halong Archipelago, encompassing **Halong Bay, Lan Ha Bay, and Bai Tu Long Bay**, is undoubtedly Vietnam's most famous natural wonder, few realise that Vietnam is also home to the **world's largest caves**. These awe-inspiring caves are located in and around **Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park** and can be explored through expeditions ranging from one to seven days."



Hang En Cave in Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park

The Ultimate Blend of Adventure and Culture



Bike Tour on Cat Ba Island

Lien Do, our Concierge & Travel Assistance Lead, draws on her vast experience to highlight Vietnam's vibrant cycling culture. "In recent years, the roads to Vietnam's most remote villages have been paved, creating an extensive **network of cycle paths**. Cyclists can venture into these secluded areas, enjoying breathtaking landscapes and the warm hospitality of the locals on routes with little traffic."

Unforgettable Nights in Unique Overnight Experiences

Cuong Nguyen, our Country Manager, shares his top recommendations for unforgettable overnight stays, "Spending a night on a **boat in Halong Bay or the Mekong Delta** is a must for any trip to Vietnam. Another memorable experience is taking the **night train from Hanoi to Hue**. In rural areas, you'll still find traditional wooden stilt houses, many of which welcome tourists for an authentic taste of local life."



Traditional Lodge in Suoi Mu

A Love Affair with Vietnamese Cuisine



Food Spread "Mam"

Hang Nguyen, our Contracting Lead and resident foodie, offers her expert advice on diving into the rich flavours of Vietnamese cuisine, "Vietnam is renowned for its diverse, fresh, and aromatic dishes. While 'pho' has gained international fame, there are many other must-try dishes. Street food is integral to urban dining, and no visit is complete without savouring a '**bun cha**' in Hanoi, '**bun bo**' in Hue, '**my quang**' in Hoi An, or '**hu tieu**' in Saigon — but the culinary experience in Vietnam goes beyond street food. Bites and beverages are at the heart of Vietnamese society. Whether they're colleagues and friends gathering at 6 p.m. in a 'bia hoi' in Hanoi or a beer garden in Saigon, enjoying a simple plate of rice at a local canteen, or neighbours gossiping over iced tea at a 'tra da', these moments are the social highlights of the day. In the countryside, families come together to enjoy 'mam', a shared feast at home."

He concludes, "We create opportunities for your clients to immerse in these culinary moments, connecting deeply with the local culture and making their travel experience truly unforgettable."

In Best Hands: DTH Travel — Your Reliable Partner in Vietnam

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DTH Travel, formerly known as Diethelm Travel, is a destination management company specialising in bespoke travel experiences across Asia, with a commitment to authentic and responsible tourism. Our boutique approach enables us to leverage on unique local insights in creating our products, and consistently deliver personalised client servicing.

We provide our clients with one of the highest insurance coverage rates in the industry. And our progressive approach ensures that we use the latest technologies to help streamline processes, facilitating faster turnaround times for our clients.

We have offices in 14 countries, including Vietnam, China, Hong Kong, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Bhutan, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Japan. With over 65 years in the industry, DTH Travel is proud to have been repeatedly recognised as Asia's Leading Destination Management Company by the World Travel Awards for multiple years.

Our Team in Vietnam



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Interested in more expert advice and learning about our services in Vietnam?
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Get in touch with us! We have more for you to discover.

