


HERITAGE Guide

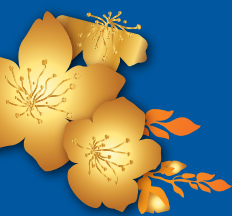


HO CHI MINH *City*



Vietnam Airlines





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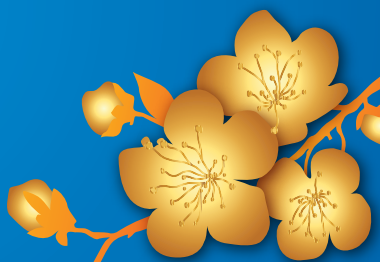
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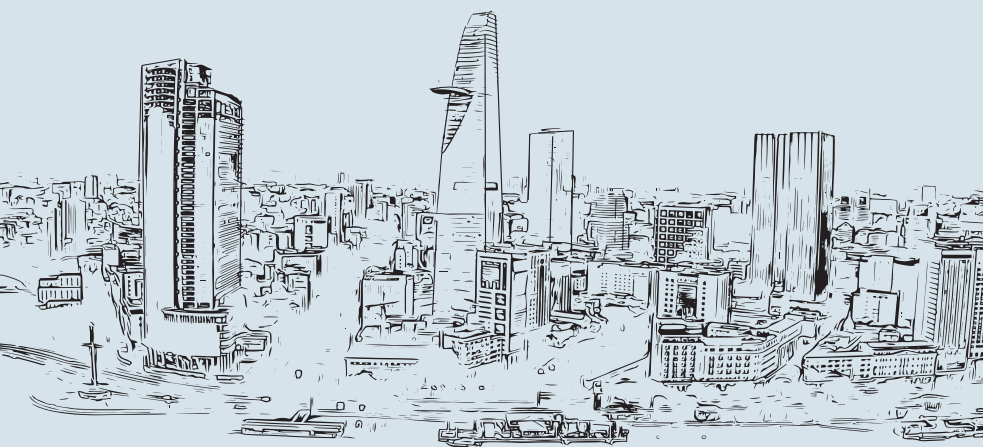


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HERITAGE Guide

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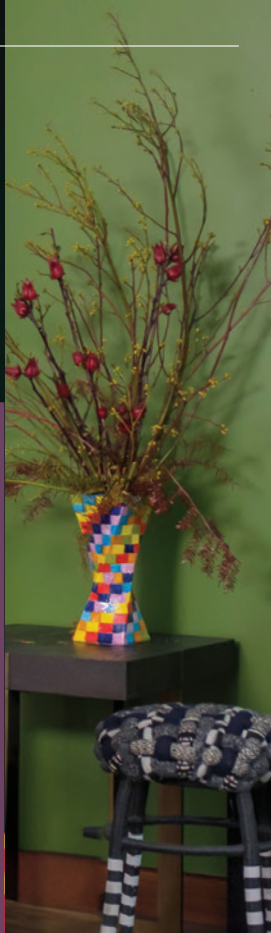
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“Từng món đồ được La Casa Bella giới thiệu không chỉ là sản phẩm trang trí nội thất độc đáo và tinh xảo. Mà hơn thế, mỗi món đồ chính là một tác phẩm nghệ thuật được tạo nên bởi những đôi bàn tay truyền tải tinh thần nghệ sĩ phóng khoáng, mang vẻ đẹp hoà quyện bởi màu sắc, hình dáng, đường nét và thời gian ẩn sâu bên trong, giúp kiến tạo nên những không gian sống phản chiếu tâm hồn của người nghệ sĩ và của chính gia chủ.”

≠Homedecoration


La casa
bella
we don't build.
we create



SCAN ME!





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History that shaped THE CITY

1st – 7th century

Kingdom of Funan



Pre-16th century

The residence of some minority groups in the Southeast today such as Ma, S'tieng, K'ho...

1679

Some fleeing Chinese Ming Dynasty officials were allowed by Nguyen Lords to enter Dong Nai and My Tho for reclamation and cultivation.



1698

Lord Nguyen Phuc Chu appointed Nguyen Huu Canh, Commander-in-chief, to organize and establish the administration on this land.



1790

Lord Nguyen Anh (later known as King Gia Long) built Quy Citadel (Citadel of Tortoise). Gia Dinh then became the capital of the Southern region.



1859 – 1874

The French invaded Gia Dinh and conquered the Six Provinces of Lower Cochinchina.



1862

The first urban planning proposal for Saigon, which was modeled on a European city.

1954

Geneva Accords temporarily divided the country along the 17th parallel.

1975

National reunification.



1945

After the August Revolution, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam was born.

1976

Sai Gon-Gia Dinh City was renamed Ho Chi Minh City. Currently, it is the largest economic center in Vietnam.

The bustling PORT CITY

The gateway, deep-water port, and large rivers are favorable conditions for this city to become the hub of domestic and international trade.

The rivers of Dong Nai, Saigon, and their confluence - Nha Be River - along with a network of artificial canals and natural channels, form a thriving waterway system for the city.

THE SAIGON RIVER'S SCENIC WATERFRONT PATH


~ 3km 




Along the west bank of the Saigon River, there are multiple structures preserving the nostalgic memories of this urban city.


Nha Rong Wharf & Ho Chi Minh Museum (HCM City Branch)

On June 5th, 1911, the young patriot Nguyen Tat Thanh (later known as President Ho Chi Minh) departed from this harbor, embarking on his revolutionary journey.

 1 Nguyen Tat Thanh, Wd.12, Dist.4

 7:30am - 11:30am & 1:30pm - 5pm daily

 Free

 Tour guide in English: Book in advance

Mong Bridge (1894)

Spanning the Ben Nghe Canal, the emerald green bridge features a curving steel arch reminiscent of the bridges of Paris.



The State Bank of Vietnam HCM City Branch (1930)

The bank showcases a fusion of European, Cham, and Khmer architectural influences, featuring patterns like lotus flowers, the divine Garuda bird, and the mythical Naga serpent.

Thu Ngu Flagpole (1865)

Situated at the junction of the Saigon River and Ben Nghe Canal, this flagpole stands as a historic landmark, witnessing the city's development.


Bach Dang Wharf & Me Linh Square


These are popular hangout spots for many city residents. 4pm - 6pm is the best time to admire the spectacular sunset on the Saigon River.


EXPLORING THE SAIGON RIVER

The waterbus is an exciting and inexpensive option for tourists to sightsee iconic constructions along the river. On the way, it is a good idea to stop by Binh Quoi Tourist Village and enjoy seafood at Phong Cua Restaurant.

Saigon Waterbus


 saigonwaterbus.com

 1900 636 830


 VND15,000/pax/one-way

DRIFTING ALONG THE CANAL

"A Glimpse of Saigon" is a 5km cruise on the Nhieu Loc - Thi Nghe Canal, traveling under 9 bridges tied to historical events and figures, including Cong Ly Bridge, Kieu Bridge, Thi Nghe Bridge...

 60 mins

 VND250,000/pax

 thuyennhieuloc.com

(Vietnamese/English tour guide available for groups of 6 or more)



The metropolitan IMPRINT

"Paulatim Crescam".
Little by little, I will grow.
The city's coat of arms, designed in 1870,
predicted the bright prospects of the town.

Located at the gateway of the Dong Nai River basin and adjacent to the Mekong Delta, Saigon is the first city in Vietnam planned as a Western urban-commercial port. From 1862, the French developed the city and introduced a new concept of modern grand metropolis with spacious avenues, center squares converged by many routes, soaring church towers, jubilant theaters, parks, and statues, etc.

Saigon's central area was built, following the principles of ancient Rome's urban planning: a grid street plan created main traffic axes in two directions, Northeast - Southwest and Northwest - Southeast, with Saigon River as the basis for the city's layout. Main roads started from the river and the ports, while smaller streets were arranged in parallel or as connecting lines. Dist.1 was the administrative center, and Dist.3 housed French mansions with a garden city concept. Cho Lon (Dist.5 and 6) - the Hoa people's trading center, was then a commercial hub that developed in parallel with Saigon. It was not until 1931 that Saigon and Cho Lon were merged into one big area.



📖 After the 1954 Geneva Accords, Saigon streets that previously had Western names were renamed in Vietnamese under the supervision of scholar Ngo Van Phat.



ICONIC BUILDINGS

The central area of the city has garnered impression with some colorful buildings bearing the mark of unique French urbanism such as: Dinh Xa Tay (headquarters of the People's Council & People's Committee of HCM City) adorned in majestic yellow, the Notre-Dame Cathedral with stunning red façade, HCM City Opera House painted in pastel pink, etc.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL & PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE OF HO CHI MINH CITY (1909)

Once called Hôtel de Ville or Dinh Xa Tay under the French colonial period and renamed Saigon City Hall until 1975, it possesses a prominent tall clock tower, marking the perfect endpoint for a scenic view from the Saigon River. Its architecture is diverse in style: the symmetrical and thoughtful Renaissance style; ornate Baroque and Rococo bas-relief decoration; distinctive Art Nouveau floral pattern designs on the iron door bars, etc.

📍 86 Le Thanh Ton, Ben Nghe Wd., Dist.1

🕒 2 weekend days at the end of every month

🆓 Free

🌐 visithcmc.vn





THE NOTRE-DAME CATHEDRAL (1880)

This architectural masterpiece features a Romanesque style (thick walls, semi-circular arches) with distinctive touches of Gothic architecture (large rose windows). The magnificent grandeur is accentuated by 60.5-metre-high twin bell towers, a red-brick façade, and a stunning white granite Virgin Mary statue standing 4.6m tall in front of the cathedral.

- 📍 1 Cong xa Paris Sq., Ben Nghe Wd., Dist.1
- 🕒 Mass time:
Mon. - Sat.: 5:30am & 5:30pm
Sun.: 5:30am, 8am, 9:30am (mass in English),
4pm, 5:30pm, 7pm.

The mass schedule may change due to the cathedral's ongoing restoration work.

📖 Due to its historical and religious significance, this is the first of the four basilicas in Vietnam conferred by the Pope (in 1959).

THE CENTRAL POST OFFICE (1891)

Voted by Architectural Digest magazine as one of the 11 post offices with the most beautiful architecture in the world, this building is a harmonious blend of various European architectural styles. The magnificent arches and the old maps in the grand hall are frequently featured in romantic vintage photos.

- 📍 2 Cong xa Paris Sq., Ben Nghe Wd., Dist.1
- 🎫 Free entrance
- 🕒 Mon. - Sat.: 7:30am - 6pm
Sun.: 8am - 5pm



📖 The Notre-Dame Cathedral and The Central Post Office make a great duo sitting at the heart of the city, surrounded by the green tapestry of nature.

From the People's Council & People's Committee of HCM City to the HCM City Museum, the People's Court of HCM City to the General Sciences Library of HCM City, those buildings show the transition of architectural style from European to Tropical. Furthermore, the city's oldest hotel (since 1880) - the Continental - is also a must-see. This hotel has hosted many well known figures, such as the legendary intelligence agent Pham Xuan An and novelist Graham Greene - author of "The Quiet American".



BEN THANH MARKET (1914)

This touristic central market was first designed as a commercial hub, which matched the grandeur of Saigon and connected itself to the old railway station (now the Ben Thanh central station of Ben Thanh - Suoi Tien metro line), with four main entrances facing four streets and twelve side entrances facing four directions. In front of the market is a roundabout of eight directions. The three-sided clock tower atop the Southern gate has become the city symbol.

- 📍 Ben Thanh Wd., Dist.1
- 🕒 4am - 9pm

OTHER FASCINATING DESTINATIONS IN DISTRICT 1

- ◆ Saigon Zoo and Botanical Gardens (1865)
- ◆ Hung Kings' Temple (1926)
- ◆ HCM City Museum of History (1929)
- ◆ Museum of HCM City (1890)
- ◆ HCM City Opera House (1900)
- ◆ HCM City Museum of Fine Arts (1934)

RELIGION

and beliefs

The city can be likened to a blessed land that nourishes the spiritual lives of its people from all walks of life. It weaves a tapestry of diverse beliefs, including ancestor worship, nature deities, and human deities, as well as Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Caodaiism, Hoa Hao, etc.

WHERE LEGACY LIVES ON

Vietnamese migrants in the South built villages and communal houses wherever they settled as a way of marking their territory and leaving a cultural imprint. Communal houses serve as a place to preserve the hometown's traditions and worship the respected forebears who contributed to founding and uniting the migrant community.

Thong Tay Hoi (Wd.11, Go Vap Dist.) and An Khanh Communal Houses (Thu Thiem Wd., Thu Duc City) are among the first Vietnamese communal houses in the South.

📅 August 15th of the lunar calendar: Ky Yen Festival (peace-praying ceremony) at Thong Tay Hoi Communal House



STROLLING THROUGH SANGHARAMAS...

Thanks to a strong belief in Buddhism, the Vietnamese, Chinese, and Khmer immigrants were able to settle in this challenging area hundreds of years ago.



Giac Lam Pagoda (1744)

The modest Mahayana-style pagoda boasts an impressive collection of 113 ancient statues and 7,000 decorative plates, setting a record in Vietnam. Hanging in the pagoda is an antithetical couplet by the eminent scholar Trinh Hoai Duc (1765-1825).

- 📍 565 Lac Long Quan, Tan Binh Dist.
- 🕒 5am - 8pm



Buu Long Pagoda (1942)

The pagoda had a fresh appearance after a major renovation (2007-2013). Its design represents traditional Theravada architecture inspired by Indian architecture. It also houses the tallest stupa in Vietnam - the Gotama Cetiya Stupa (70 meters in height) - home to the relics of the Buddha and Noble Sangha.

- 📍 81 Nguyen Xien, Long Binh Wd., Dist.9
- 🕒 7am - 5pm (11am - 2pm: Visitors are only allowed outside the pagoda)
- 📖 The pagoda was listed among the world's 20 most beautiful Buddhist temples by National Geographic magazine in 2019.

Other renowned temples

- Khmer Chantarangsay Pagoda (1946, Dist.3)
- Vinh Nghiem Pagoda (1964, Dist.3)
- Vietnam Quoc Tu Pagoda (1964, Dist.10)
- Khanh An Monastery (1905, Dist.12)



...TO GOSPEL LAND

Catholic churches with distinctive architecture have left indelible imprints on the memories of millions of locals.

Tan Dinh Church (1876)

This Gothic church features a central tower standing at 52.6m, adorned with Roman-style crescent arches, and highlighted with vibrant pink “attire”.

📍 289 Hai Ba Trung, Vo Thi Sau Wd., Dist.3

🕒 Mass time:

Mon. – Sat.: 5am, 6:15am, 5:30pm, 7pm

Sun.: 5am, 6:15am, 7:30am, 9am, 4pm,

5:30pm, 7pm



Hanh Thong Tay Church (1924)

The church displays the distinctive Byzantine architectural style from the Eastern Roman Empire, with a main central dome over lesser semi-domes, glass windows catching light from the domes, and exquisite mosaics.

📍 53/7 Quang Trung, Wd.11, Go Vap Dist.

🕒 Mass time:

Mon. – Sat.: 4:45am & 5:30pm

Sun.: 5am, 7:30am, 9:30am, 4pm, 5:30pm, 7pm



Cho Quan Church (1896, Dist.5)

The oldest church in HCM City.

Cha Tam Church (1902, Dist.5)

A harmonious blend of Chinese and French architecture.



Huyen Si Church (1905, Dist.1)

Gothic architecture.

Archdiocese of Saigon (1911, Dist.3)

A chapel aged over 200 years (1799).

THROUGH SACRED MOSQUES

Muslims in HCM City, mostly Cham Muslims, live in close-knit small communities near mosques (Masjids) and small prayer halls (Suraus).

The Jamia Al-Musulman Mosque

Built in 1935 with contributions from the Indian community in Vietnam, it reflects the typical architecture of South Asian Islam.

📍 66 Dong Du, Dist.1

TO MAGNIFICENT HINDUISM

Upon arriving in the city in the 1870s, Indian immigrants specializing in textile and jewelry trade, banking, etc., often decided to reside and do business in areas near ports and central markets. Three Hindu temples near Ben Thanh Market reflect such a tendency.

Mariamman Temple (Ba An Pagoda)

Visited by many Vietnamese and Chinese residents for worship and religious offerings.

📍 45 Truong Dinh, Dist.1

Sri Thendayuthapani Temple (Ong Pagoda)

📍 66 Ton That Thiep, Dist.1

Subramaniam Swamy Temple (also called Ong Pagoda)

📍 98 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia, Dist.1



THE HOA PEOPLE

in Cho Lon

More than 500,000 Chinese-Vietnamese people (the Hoa) in HCM City live mostly in Districts 5, 6, 10, and 11, with around 40% live in District 5. Together, they have established the Cho Lon neighborhood and contributed to the city's vibrant cultural scene.



COMMUNITY CULTURE

The Hoa people fall into two groups based on their origins: the Minh Huong people, who arrived in the late 17th century and have culturally and linguistically blended with the Vietnamese, and the late arrivals - the Hoa people of the Seven States (That Phu).

In HCM City, they often cluster in small communities based on their dialects. For example, Hao Si Phuong Alley (206/17 Tran Hung Dao, Wd.11, Dist.5) is a “living museum” of Chinese traditional lifestyle and unique architecture.

TEMPLES, SHRINES, AND ASSEMBLY HALLS

Temples and pagodas are sacred places for religious practice and play a central role in the Hoa's community. The assembly hall in these temples is a place for gathering, networking, and even business.



Ngoc Hoang Pagoda (Phuoc Hai Tu) (est. 1892)

This pagoda is dedicated to the Jade Emperor, the supreme deity in Chinese beliefs. People often visit the pagoda to pray for love and child-bearing.

📍 73 Mai Thi Luu Str., Dist.1

🕒 7am - 5:30pm

5am - 7pm on the 1st and the 15th of the lunar calendar



Madame Thien Hau Temple - Tue Thanh Assembly Hall

As one of the most popular temples in HCM City, Madame Thien Hau Temple is a gathering venue for Cantonese-speaking groups. The temple worships the Holy Mother Thien Hau, the patron goddess of fishermen and exiles who traveled by river and sea. Its front is adorned with numerous ceramic statues made from the renowned Cay Mai pottery.

📍 710 Nguyen Trai Str., Dist.5

🕒 6am - 11:30am & 1pm - 4:30pm

📅 23rd day of the third lunar month: Via Ba incense offering ceremony.

📅 Tet holiday: The “eye-opening” ceremony for the kylin-lion-dragon dance groups.

Other pagodas, shrines, and assembly halls

Ong Bon Shrine

Nhi Phu Assembly Hall

📍 264 Hai Thuong Lan Ong, Wd.14, Dist.5

Quan Am Shrine

On Lang Assembly Hall

📍 12 Lao Tu, Wd.11, Dist.5

Quan De Shrine

Nghia An Assembly Hall

📍 678 Nguyen Trai, Wd.11, Dist.5

Minh Huong Gia Thanh

Communal House worships gods and ancestors of the Minh Huong people.

📍 380 Tran Hung Dao, Wd.11, Dist.5

👉 The kylin-lion-dragon dance is one of the Hoa people's unique activities. For more information, tourists can visit Thang Nghia To Quan (1549/1 Ba Thang Hai Str., Wd.16, Dist.11), the traditional home of Thang Nghia Duong kylin dance group and the Shaolin Choy Li Fut martial arts sect.

BUSINESS BUILT ON TRUST

The Hoa people often gather and sell similar goods on the same street or area. Influenced by Confucianism's Five Constant Virtues (benevolence, righteousness, propriety, wisdom, and trustworthiness), they value "trustworthiness" and usually trade with familiar customers, supporting each other to form a stable and strong trade network.

Binh Tay Market (1930)

The market's architecture features Chinese aspects - such as the Bagua layout and embossed dragon reliefs - but was built using French techniques, as evidenced by the four-sided clock tower. This wholesale market becomes a stop for tourists to sightsee and try various Chinese cuisines.

📍 57A Thap Muoi, Wd.2, Dist.6

🕒 6am - 7pm



Thiec Market

As one of major jewelry markets in town, Thiec Market has retained the Chinese people's unique way of life and handicrafts in Saigon - Cho Lon.

📍 129 Pho Co Dieu, Wd.6, Dist.11

🕒 6am - 7pm



Herbal Medicine Market:

Hai Thuong Lan Ong Street and nearby, such as Trieu Quang Phuc and Luong Nhu Hoc (Dist.5), form a bustling herbal medicine market. In July 2010, Hai Thuong Lan Ong was recognized as the city's oldest neighborhood. Luong Nhu Hoc Street, also known as the lantern street, is decked out with dazzling decorations for the Tet and Mid-Autumn Festivals.



🚶 Passage to Cho Lon

☎ 0907 686 080

✉ echoingdrum@gmail.com

📍 DiDeHoc

Tales of Cho Lon

This tour clarifies the cultural differences among Chinese communities, reflecting on architecture, religion, and cuisine.

Departs on 3pm, every Sunday

Group trip (min: 3 people):
VND900,000/person

Private trip (two people):
VND2,000,000/person

Indelible MEMORIES

Years of war on this land have left deep imprints on its people's minds. Make a trip to come back to historical places that were unforgettable parts of the city.



INDEPENDENCE PALACE (1966)

It is the pre-1975 home and office of the President of the Republic of Vietnam, built on the former Norodom Palace (1873) - the residence of the French Governor of Cochinchina. The Palace was designed with a modern, tropical style, infused with many traditional Eastern philosophies by architect Ngo Viet Thu: the layout forms “吉” (Ji), the Chinese character for “auspiciousness”; the front forms the character “興” (Xing) for “prosperity”; and the stone lattice work resembles bamboo sections. The exhibition space currently preserves almost all the objects from half a century ago.

- 📍 135 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia, Dist.1
- 🕒 8am - 4:30pm
- 💰 Independence Palace: VND40,000/person
Exhibition “From Norodom Palace to Independence Palace”: VND25,000/person



WAR REMNANTS MUSEUM (1995)

Documents and artifacts reflecting the horrors of war, as well as the bravery of many Vietnamese generations.

- 💰 VND40,000/person
- 📍 28 Vo Van Tan, Vo Thi Sau Wd., Dist.3
- 🕒 7:30am - 5:30pm

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SPECIAL FORCES

Step back in time and learn about the exciting and thrilling revolutionary activities of the Saigon-Gia Dinh Special Forces in the heart of these streets.

Do Phu Coffee Shop - Dai Han Broken Rice

The former secret base housed the Secret Mailbox and the Bunker of the Saigon Special Forces. You must try fried dough sticks (quay) dunked in coffee, old-school style there!

- 📍 113A Dang Dung, Tan Dinh Wd., Dist.1
287/72 Nguyen Dinh Chieu, Wd.5, Dist.3
- 🕒 7:30am - 9pm

Saigon - Gia Dinh Special Forces Museum

This private museum was once the secret base of the Special Forces under the guise of cycle rickshaws and furniture manufacturing facility.

- 📍 145 Tran Quang Khai, Tan Dinh Wd., Dist.1
- 🕒 7:30am - 6pm
- 💰 VND50,000/person





Try the specialties of the outskirts!

- Boiled cassava with salt – a wartime dish
- Durian sugarcane juice
- Cu Chi veal
- Minh Quy pork knuckle rice noodle soup (bun gio heo)

📍 27/6, Route 22, Tan Thoi Nhi Commune, Hoc Mon Dist.

🕒 6am – 10am

THE CU CHI TUNNELS

The Cu Chi Tunnels (70km northwest of HCM City center) resemble an underground “military city,” covering a 250km² area with secret bases, storages, offices, kitchens, infirmaries, etc. The tunnels were dug during the anti-French resistance war in 1946 using simple tools. By 1965, the tunnel network had three levels spanning the length of 200km; the top and bottom floors were around 3m and 12m deep, respectively.

The Cu Chi Tunnels are conserved at Ben Duoc Tunnels (Phu My Hung Commune, Cu Chi Dist.) and Ben Dinh Tunnels (Nhuan Duc Commune, Cu Chi Dist.). This historic destination is also an ideal picnic site with various outdoor activities, such as sport shooting, ziplining, cycling, kayaking, etc.

🕒 7am – 5pm daily

☎ (028) 379 488 30

🌐 diadaocuchi.com.vn

🚌 From Ben Thanh: Bus No. 13 & 79

From Cho Lon bus station: Bus No. 94 & 79

🕒 2,5 hours

👉 Greenlines DP
(depart from Bach Dang Wharf, Dist.1)

THE LEGEND OF CAN GIO

Heading southeast toward the sea gate, Can Gio serves as the green lung of HCM City, with more than 700km² of forest and mangrove land. This Biosphere Reserve, designated by UNESCO, is an exciting weekend getaway and houses the legendary Sac Forest resistance base.

Transportation

~ 38km

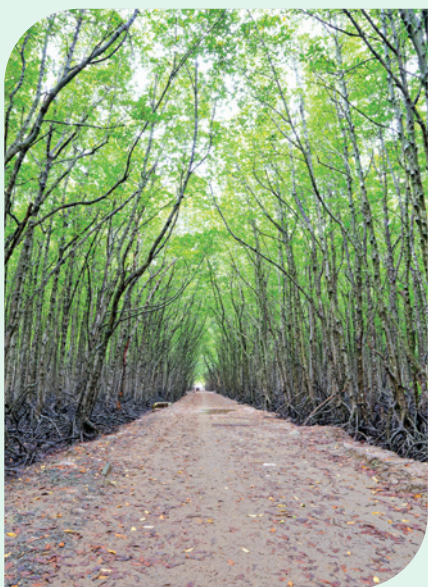
🚲 Binh Khanh Ferry → Sac Forest Rd. → Can Gio Beach

🚌 Bus No.20 → Binh Khanh Ferry → Bus No.90 → Can Gio Beach



Vam Sat Forest

Fully experience the allure of nature through activities such as camping, cycling, sailing, mangrove planting, crocodile fishing, etc.



The archeological site of Giong Ca Vo

The jar tombs and many burial items are the traces of an early port town at Can Gio, and the trade and migration flows on the East Sea more than 2,000 years ago.

Hang Duong Seafood Market

You can buy ready-made dishes or ask vendors to cook your pick on the spot.

Thanh An island commune

Thanh An attracts visitors with its serene fishing village and endless mangrove forest. Thieng Lieng Hamlet, about 7km from the center of Thanh An Commune, offers a local experience: eating, living, and working together with the salt workers here.

Boat timetable:

Can Thanh Town ↔ Thanh An Island

🕒 6:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 12pm, 2pm, 5pm

👉 VND15,000/pax

🕒 45 minutes

A city FULL OF LIFE

Ho Chi Minh City, the dynamic, vibrant, and youthful land of dreams, has transformed itself into the country's leading economic, cultural, and educational center, as well as an international exchange hub.



NGUYEN HUE WALKING STREET (2015)

Nguyen Hue Walking Street is a must-visit venue where all visitors gather to enjoy the city's entertainment activities and culinary delights. The walking street is 670m long and 64m wide, seamlessly connecting HCM City People's Committee with the Bach Dang Wharf and being a grand stage for festivals, cultural events, and street art performances.



📷 Best photo spots

- Saigon Garden Mall
- The Cafe Apartment at 42 Nguyen Hue Str.
- Nguyen Hue - Le Thanh Ton Corner

🌸 Nguyen Hue Flower Street is a springtime rendezvous for the city's residents on Lunar New Year.

NGUYEN VAN BINH BOOK STREET (DIST.1)

The little street is located near tourist attractions such as The Notre-Dame Cathedral, The Central Post Office, Independence Palace, but it is isolated enough to provide a quiet atmosphere for book lovers.



LANDMARK 81 (2018)

Landmark 81 (461.2m tall) is currently the tallest building in Vietnam and among the tallest buildings in the world. Its design takes inspiration from traditional bamboo bundles, symbolizing the spirit of solidarity and the determination to conquer the top. This skyscraper is a multi-purpose complex that caters to high-end accommodation and entertainment needs.

Landmark 81 Skyview Observatory (382.65m)

- 🎫 VND420,000/person (Mon. - Fri.)
VND500,000/person (Sat. - Sun.)
- 📍 720A Dien Bien Phu, Wd.22, Binh Thanh Dist.

SHOPPING MALLS

Shopping, food, and leisure enthusiasts can easily find world-class "paradises" within the city.

Takashimaya Department Store (Dist.1)

🕒 9:30am - 9:30pm

Union Square (Dist.1)

🕒 9am - 10pm

Diamond Plaza (Dist.1)

🕒 9:30am - 10pm

Crescent Mall (Dist.7)

🕒 10am - 10pm

LOVE

*in the heart
of the city*

CLASSICAL PERFORMING ARTS

Hat boi

A form of Vietnamese classic opera, *hat boi* made its first appearance in the Tran royal court at the end of the 13th century and started to take root in popular culture in the 15th-16th century. In the 17th century, *hat boi* recovered its prime and thrived in Dang Trong (South of the Gianh River) as promoted by Lord Nguyen Phuc Nguyen.

When introduced to the South, *hat boi* took on a brighter, more open, and less restricted tone while maintaining its academic and symbolic nature in its background, makeup, costumes, choreography, and songs. It became an indispensable part of the spiritual life of Southern people. At the end of the 19th century, *hat boi* developed to perfection its stage performance thanks to playwright Dao Tan.



Stage makeup is a distinguishing characteristic of *hat boi*. It can take performers 90 to 120 minutes to paint their faces, do their hair, etc., to perfect a character. The colors of facial makeup can indicate the characters' personalities:

Red: loyal, brave, righteous, and dignified

Bone white: sycophants and schemers

Blue: intelligent, wise, and courageous but often die young

Light yellow: gentle and kind

Light black: rustic, poorly-educated, but kind-hearted

A combination of black and white, with a beard: ferocious and physically strong



Ho Chi Minh City Hat boi Performance
Art Theatre

📍 125A Chau Van Liem, Wd.14, Dist.5

ACADEMIC AND CONTEMPORARY PERFORMANCE ART

Ho Chi Minh City Opera House (1900)

This 500-seat French Neoclassical style theater with its ornately decorated façade is often lightened up with orchestral, ballet, opera, and fashion performances.

📍 7 Lam Son Square, Dist.1



A O Show

Combining bamboo circus, contemporary dance, acrobatics... on the background of live music, to tell a Vietnamese story from the village to the city.

HCM City Opera House

📍 7 Lam Son Square, Dist.1

☎ 0845 181 188

🌐 luneproduction.com



THE PROMISED LAND

of transformed cuisine

The unique acculturation in HCM City cuisine results from the interferences between local and foreign cultures throughout history.

Over time, the best food in every corner of Vietnam has flocked here, flaunting its charm alongside foreign delicacies brought in by immigrants and foreigners. Local people in HCM City welcome all the dishes with their great hospitality, then add their magic touch to the food, creating a promised land of transformed cuisine where ALL YOU CAN EAT has never been so close to the truth.



COM TAM (BROKEN RICE)

Broken rice, ribs, egg meatloaf, pickles... a complete meal in one dish.

Phuc Loc Tho _____ From VND29,000
restaurant chain
6am - 10pm

Com tam 114 _____ From VND45,000
114 Vo Thi Sau, Tan Dinh Wd., Dist.1
6:15am - 12pm

OC (SNAILS)

More than a snack between meals, snails are laid out in feasts, offering a wide variety of dishes prepared in many ways.

Oc Dao _____ From VND100,000
212B Nguyen Trai, Dist.1 | 11am - 10pm

Oc Xuyen _____ From VND55,000
Ban Co market
174/43 Nguyen Thien Thuat, Wd.3, Dist.3
10am - 10pm



GOI CUON (SUMMER ROLLS)

Many creative variations of summer rolls can be made from three main ingredients: rice paper, fillings (shrimp, pork), and fresh vegetables.

Goi cuon Ba Dzu _____ From VND10,000
26/26 Do Quang Dau, Pham Ngu Lao Wd., Dist.1
9am - 6:30pm (closed on Sat. & Sun.)

Goi cuon Minh _____ From VND11,000
84/32 Bui Vien, Pham Ngu Lao Wd., Dist.1
10am - 6pm

PHO

Northern pho made its way to the South in the 1940s, and adaptations to the local palate have created new standards in cooking and enjoyment.

Pho Tau Bay _____ From VND60,000
435 Ly Thai To, Wd.9, Dist.10 | 3am - 12pm

Pho Hoa Pasteur _____ From VND90,000
260C Pasteur, Wd.8, Dist.3 | 5am - 10:30pm

Pho Thin _____ From VND50,000
110 Le Thi Hong Gam,
Nguyen Thai Binh Wd., Dist.1 | 6am - 10pm

Pho Thin is considered to be similar to pho of the Northern style



BANH XEO (VIETNAMESE CRÊPE)

Banh xeo is a crispy pancake made of rice flour, water, and turmeric powder, stuffed with pork, shrimp, bean sprouts... There are two types of *banh xeo*: a smaller one from the Central Vietnam and a bigger *banh xeo* well-loved by Southerners.

Banh xeo Ba Hai _____ From VND50,000
119 Le Van Linh, Wd.13, Dist.4 | 10am - 7:30pm

Banh xeo _____ From VND7,000
Anh Nam Tra Khuc

323 Vo Thanh Trang, Wd.11, Tan Binh Dist.
3pm - 9:30pm

Ba Hoa Market (Tan Binh Dist.) is a culinary
paradise for Central Vietnamese food.



BUN BO HUE (HUE-STYLE BEEF NOODLE SOUP)

Bun bo Hue came to the Southern region in the 1950s and soon became one of the city's favorite delicacies together with *com tam*, *hu tiu*, and *pha*.

Bun bo Co Ha _____ From VND30,000
616 Cach Mang Thang 8, Wd.11, Dist.3
7am - 11am

Bun bo Vy Da Xua _____ From VND80,000
R2-48 Hung Phuoc 1, Tan Phong Wd., Dist.7
6am - 9pm



Banh mi chay _____ From VND20,000
Vinh Vien (Vegan sandwich)
203 Vinh Vien, Wd.4, Dist.10 | 6:30am - 7:30pm

BANH MI (VIETNAMESE BAGUETTE)

The half-meter-long French baguette has been shrunk by the Vietnamese people to a manageable size, with a crispy crust and soft crumb, so that it could be sliced in half, stuffed with fillings, and drizzled with sauce.

Banh mi Huynh Hoa _____ From VND38,000
26 Le Thi Rieng, Pham Ngu Lao Wd., Dist.1
6am - 10pm

Banh mi Hoa Ma _____ From VND60,000
53 Cao Thang, Wd.3, Dist.3 | 6am - 11am

BUN MAM (KHMER FERMENTED FISH PASTE VERMICELLI SOUP)

Bun mam was originally made with prahok (fermented snakehead fish paste), but now the paste is made of *linh* fish (moustached danio) or *sac* fish (snakeskin gourami) instead. *Bun mam* is served with rice vermicelli, seafood, vegetables, and pork.

Bun mam Chi Muoi Ba _____ From VND75,000
53 Nguyen Huu Can, Tan Dinh Wd., Dist.1
7am - 10pm

Bun mam 144 _____ From VND65,000
144 Khanh Hoi, Wd.6, Dist.4 | 8am - 9pm



📍 Alley 374 Le Hong Phong (Wd.1, Dist.10) has been dubbed the "Cambodian Market" with many special delicacies.



CA RI (INDIAN CURRY)

The Indian community in Vietnam took their famous curry sauce and localized it to create enticing adaptations with beef, pork, and goat.

Ca ri Ba Be _____ From VND60,000
2 Tan Da, Wd.10, Dist.5 | 11am - 7pm

Musa ca ri An Do _____ From VND40,000
001B Su Van Hanh Building, Wd.9, Dist.5
9am - 11pm

Want more food?
View list here



INSPIRATION FROM *the Hoa community*

When arriving in HCM City, the Hoa also brought special flavoring and condiments from their hometown (oyster sauce, soy sauce, etc.) Their specific culinary skills focus on dishes made from flour (noodles, steamed/fried dumplings), and dry/moist-heat cooking techniques for braising, roasting, and stewing.

DIMSUM

Dimsum is a traditional Chinese food with a thin outer covering of dough and sweet or savory fillings. It could be prepared in a variety of ways like frying, steaming, and so on. The name Dimsum is literally translated as “touching the heart”. Once the dish was served for breakfast, it can now be enjoyed any time.



San Fu Lou _____ From VND168,000
76A Le Lai, Ben Thanh Wd., Dist.1 | 7am - 3am
Sui cao street Ha Ton Quyen
Ha Ton Quyen Str., Wd.4, Dist.11 | 9am - 12am
*Famous for noodle soups and sui cao
(a Dimsum dish)*

Crystal Jade _____ From VND69,000
Kitchen
65 Le Loi, Ben Nghe Wd., Dist.1 | 10am - 9pm
Dim Tu Tac _____ From VND150,000
29B Tran Hung Dao, Wd.6, Dist.5
8am - 2pm & 5pm - 10pm

TIEM NUOC

An old Cantonese-style restaurant that serves Dimsum for breakfast
Hu tieu Lam Hue Vien _____ From VND60,000
83 Nguyen Thi, Wd.13, Dist.5 | 6am - 1pm
Hue Hung Tra Gia _____ From VND40,000
26 Nguyen Binh Khiem, Da Kao Wd., Dist.1
5:30am - 11:30am
Diem tam Trung Mai _____ From VND50,000
8/5 Phu Dinh, Wd.7, Dist.5 | 6am - 10am
Diem tam _____ From VND45,000
259 Hong Bang
259 Hong Bang, Wd.11, Dist.5 | 6am - 10:45am



HOA-STYLE NOODLES

After more than 100 years in Southern Vietnam, Hoa-style noodles continue to win diners over.
Thieu Ky Mi Gia _____ From VND55,000
66/5 Le Dai Hanh, Wd.7, Dist.11 | 6am - 12am
Hai Ky Mi Gia _____ From VND130,000
351 Nguyen Trai, Wd.7, Dist.5 | 11am - 10pm
Mi vit tiem Luong Ky _____ From VND24,000
(Duck noodles soup)
1 Huynh Man Dat, Wd.19, Binh Thanh Dist.
3pm - 10pm
Mi vit tiem Thuong Hai _____ From VND85,000
(Duck noodles soup)
110 No Trang Long, Wd.14, Binh Thanh Dist.
3pm - 8pm



HU TIU

Brought to Vietnam by the Hoa people of Chaozhou descent, *hu tiu* (*hu tieu*) becomes part of Vietnamese cuisine and has three distinct variations here: My Tho, Sa Dec, and Nam Vang. *Hu tiu*'s noodle strands are made from rice flour and served in a clear and savory broth made from pork bones with marrow, dried shrimp and dried squid, etc., topped with ground pork, lean pork, pork liver, shrimp, quail eggs...

Hu tiu Chu Ty _____ From VND50,000
78 De Tham, Cau Ong Lanh Wd., Dist.1
6am - 11:30am

Hu tiu Ba Do _____ From VND45,000
132E Nguyen Tri Phuong, Wd.9, Dist.5
6pm - 1am

Ca Can _____ From VND30,000
110 & 345 Hung Vuong, Wd.9, Dist.5
6am - 12:30pm



Hu tiu 101 _____ From VND45,000
101 Thai Phien, Wd.2, Dist.11 | 6am - 11am

Hu tiu _____ From VND45,000
Nhuan Ky - Lo Sieu
50 Lo Sieu, Wd.16, Dist.11 | 1pm - 7pm

Hu tiu Mi A Ty _____ From VND27,000
252 Hau Giang, Wd.9, Dist.6 | 6am - 9pm

DINING LIKE THE HOA



Ai Hue 1 _____ From VND200,000
338-350 & 412-418 Tran Hung Dao B, Wd.11, Dist.5
10:30am - 1:30pm & 5pm - 9:30pm

Com chao _____ From VND60,000
Trieu Chau Tin Du
243 Tan Thanh, Wd.12, Dist.5 | 5:30am - 9pm

Com Chuyen Ky _____ From VND100,000
65 - 67 Ton That Dam, Ben Nghe Wd., Dist.1
11am - 2pm & 5pm - 9pm

Com Lao Huong Than _____ From VND70,000
402 Tran Phu, Wd.7, Dist.5 | 3:15pm - 8:30pm

Com ga 142 _____ From VND55,000
142 Ba Dinh, Wd.10, Dist.8 | 10am - 11pm



PHA LAU

A stew made with offal (pork, beef, or goat), its broth gives off the distinct aroma of five-spice, Chinese cinnamon, star anise, and fennel. It can be served with *banh mi*, rice, or rice vermicelli.

Pha lau Tam Ky _____ From VND40,000
823 Nguyen Trai, Wd.14, Dist.5 | 10am - 9pm

Pha lau Di Phuong _____ From VND30,000
232/8 Ba Hat, Wd.9, Dist.10 | 9am - 8pm

HOA-STYLE SWEET SOUP

A delicious dessert good for health thanks to natural ingredients often known as "medicinal herbs."

Che chu map Ta Uyen _____ From VND22,000
82 Ta Uyen, Wd.15, Dist.5 | 4pm - 10pm

Che Ha Ky _____ From VND25,000
138 Chau Van Liem, Wd.11, Dist.5 | 10am - 10:30pm

Che Tuong Phong _____ From VND19,000
83 An Diem, Wd.10, Dist.5 | 5:30pm - 9:30pm



Find your own way OF EATING

VEGETARIAN DISHES

A plant-based diet can promote people's true compassion and is a part of a new lifestyle trend: green living - healthy eating habits.

Chay Garden _____ From VND75,000
52 Vo Van Tan, Vo Thi Sau Wd., Dist.3
10am - 10pm

Bongensai _____ From VND65,000
Vegetarian & Tea
199 Nguyen Trai, Nguyen Cu Trinh Wd., Dist.1
9am - 10pm

Hum, Garden _____ From VND120,000
& Restaurant
32 Road No.10, Thao Dien Wd., Dist.2
10am - 10pm



HALAL FOOD

Finding eateries serving Halal food for Muslims in HCM City is not that much of a challenge.

Com tam Halal _____ From VND52,000
(Halal broken rice)

45 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia,
Nguyen Thai Binh Wd., Dist.1 | 3:30pm - 1am

Halal Amin _____ From VND140,000
Muslim Noodles

31 Nguyen An Ninh, Ben Thanh Wd., Dist.1
7am - 10pm

Halal Al Sham Saigon _____ From VND250,000
314 Vo Van Kiet, Co Giang Wd., Dist.1
10pm - 11am



 Nguyen An Ninh Street, located opposite the West Gate of Ben Thanh Market (Dist.1), is a well-known location called Saigon Halal Street among Muslims.

SOUTHEAST ASIAN CUISINE

Traditional Southeast Asian recipes incorporate the organizing principles of Chinese cuisine and the complex flavors derived from Indian herbs and spices.

Lion City Vietnam _____ From VND100,000
42 Le Anh Xuan, Ben Thanh Wd., Dist.1
10am - 10pm

Con voi Vang _____ From VND135,000
34 Hai Ba Trung, Ben Nghe Wd., Dist.1
11am - 2pm & 5pm - 10pm (Mon. - Fri.)
11am - 10pm (Sat. - Sun.)

Uncle's Long _____ From VND45,000
Hu tieu Malaysia
4 Pham Ngu Lao, Dist.1 | 10am - 10pm



NORTHEAST ASIAN CUISINE

Northeast Asian cuisine is among the most popular worldwide due to its rich flavors and nutrition.

Sushi Rei
10E1-10E Nguyen Thi Minh Khai, Da Kao Wd., Dist.1
Omakase course only (From VND3,000,000)
5:30pm - 7:50pm & 8:00pm - 10:30pm
(Closed on Monday)

Ichihana Sushi _____ From VND130,000
Vietnam
69A Cao Thang, Wd.3, Dist.3 | 11am - 10:30pm

Mi lanh Yoo Chun _____ From VND90,000
3 My Hoang, Tan Phong Wd., Dist.7
11am - 9:30pm



AKUNA



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LET'S COFFEE!

The French's quintessential sidewalk cafe culture (café terrace) can be found in every corner of the city, from small alleys to bigger streets, and even on stone steps in some parks. It has become a friendly and simple setting for a chilling chit-chat over coffee.

FILTER COFFEE

A leisure to enjoy the moment

In people's minds, Vietnamese coffee is widely known for two features: a filter used in the making process and added condensed milk.

Thuc Coffee _____ From VND35,000
37 & 44B Ly Tu Trong, Dist.1
42 Cong Quynh, Dist.1
All day

Ca phe phin _____ From VND15,000
499 Ba Hat
499 Ba Hat, Wd.8, Dist.10
6am - 8am & 1pm - 2pm



RACQUET COFFEE

Racquet coffee uses a cloth racquet like a sock to get the rich extraction. Originating from the Hoa people's café around the 1960s, coffee was developed to a new form known as Vietnamese White Coffee (Bac Xiu) - with more milk, less coffee.

Cheo Leo café _____ From VND18,000
109/36 Nguyen Thien Thuat, Wd.2, Dist.3
6am - 6pm
(Established since 1936)

Ca phe vot _____ From VND20,000
Phan Dinh Phung
330 Phan Dinh Phung, Wd.1, Phu Nhuan Dist.
9am - 10pm

Ca phe vot Ba Lu _____ From VND25,000
193 Phung Hung, Wd.14, Dist.5 | 2am - 6pm




The "nearly 70-year-old" shop still maintains the roasting coffee technique since Mr. Ba Lu, the shop owner, was still alive.

"BET" COFFEE

"Bet" coffee is a way of drinking coffee where one sits on the ground and enjoys the beverage. You hardly find this practice elsewhere except HCM City. There is no need for tables and chairs; just an inexpensive coffee in a plastic cup and some friends are enough for you to have a priceless experience.

The most famous "bet" coffee location in HCM City is:

Cafe bet Han Thuyen _____ From VND30,000
30/4 Park, Ben Nghe Wd., Dist.1

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GENERAL INFORMATION

WEATHER AND SEASONS

You can expect clear blue skies, lovely sunshine, hot year-round temperatures (with an average temperature of 27°C, sometimes reaching 40°C), and scattered showers.



FESTIVE SEASONS






- December 4th – 10th, 2023 • The 3rd HCM City Tourism Week
- December 8th – 10th, 2023 • Techcombank HCM City International Marathon
- December 22nd – 24th, 2023 • HCM City International Music Festival (HOZO)
- January 18th – 21st, 2024 • Tet Festival (Le Van Tam park)
- February 9th, 2024 • Lighting show with 3D projection mapping at the HCM City People’s Committee building.
- February 10th, 2024 • Lunar New Year fireworks for 2024 (0:00am to 0:15am)
- February 7th – 14th, 2024 • Flower Street and Book Street for Lunar New Year 2024 (Dist.1)
- February 24th, 2024 • Lantern Festival (Tet Nguyen Tieu) in Cho Lon
- March 1st – 31st, 2024 • The 10th Ao Dai Festival
- April 4th – 7th, 2024 • HCM City Tourism Festival
- April 6th – 13th, 2024 • The 1st Ho Chi Minh City International Film Festival 2024 (HIFF)
- April 18th, 2024 • Hung Kings’ Festival (March 10th lunar calendar)
- May 2024 • Southern Cuisine Festival (Dam Sen Cultural Park, Dist.11)
- June 2024 • Southern Fruit Festival (Suoi Tien Park, Thu Duc City)
- September 5th – 7th, 2024 • HCM City River Festival
- September 16th – 18th, 2024 • ITE HCM City 2024 – International Travel Expo HCM City
- (August 14th – 16th lunar calendar) • Whale Worshipping Festival (Nghinh Ong Festival) in Can Gio
- December 9th – 15th, 2024 • HCM City Tourism Week
- December 13th – 15th, 2024 • Techcombank HCM City International Marathon
- December 2024 • HCM City International Music Festival (HOZO)

TRANSPORTATION

Double-decker Bus

-  VND150,000/pax/60 minutes (Nonstop)
VND500,000/pax/24 hours (Hop on and off at stops is allowed. Bus arrival frequency: every 30 minutes)
Multi-language audioguide (English, French, German, Chinese, etc.)
-  **Pick-up location**
Vietnam Sightseeing
 9am – 4pm: HCM City Opera House
 0848 558 865
 www.vn-sightseeing.com
- Hop-on Hop-off Vietnam**
 9am – 3:30pm: The Central Post Office
4:30pm – 10:30pm:
No. 92 – 96 Nguyen Hue Str., Dist.1
 0913 674 412

-  Mai Linh, Saigontourist, Vinasun, Vinataxi
-  Be, Gojek, Grab, Xanh SM
-  www.buyttphcm.com.vn

TNGo bicycle

-  From VND5,000/30 minutes

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NOTES FOR VISITORS

During the visits to temples, pagodas, and places of worship, please follow the dress code; use the left and right doors instead of the middle one; refrain from burning incense without permission; avoid crossing in front of those who are practicing rituals or having your back against the altar when taking photos.

Please refer to the regulations on photography and videography of each site.

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