

# Viet Nam

## Information for applicants

### Viet Nam

Viet Nam is a country of diverse landscapes and rich in natural beauty. It is located in mainland South-East Asia and has a population of 97.0 million in an area of approximately 331,690 km<sup>2</sup>. The capital is Hanoi and the official language is Vietnamese.

### Climate and points of interest

Viet Nam has three distinct climate zones. Northern Viet Nam has a subtropical climate with four seasons. But the similarities with the continental European climate end there. When the temperature drops to 10 °C in the north Vietnamese winter, it may seem colder than -10 °C in our latitudes. As the locals say, the damp cold in Viet Nam 'goes to the bone'. In contrast, southern Viet Nam is tropical (30-35 °C) all year round with a change between rainy and dry seasons. The rainy season is between May and October, although the rain is not unduly disruptive, as it tends to be just a few tropical showers in the afternoon. Even during the rainy season, the weather is mostly sunny. Central Viet Nam has a tropical, wet-dry climate with temperatures around 20 °C in winter and 30-40 °C in summer.

The main cities are the capital, Hanoi, in the north and the economic metropolis of Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC, formerly known as Saigon) in the south of the country.

### Health

Medical care in Viet Nam cannot be compared with that in Europe. It is often beset with technical, equipment-

related and/or hygiene problems. However, in Hanoi and HCMC, there are several international clinics and hospitals with better standards and highly qualified western doctors and health professionals, who are often the first port of call for sick expats, visitors or tourists.

### Accommodation and lifestyle

Viet Nam's reform policy led to a construction boom. Accommodation is therefore generally not a problem. To find a place to live, it is best to rely on the advice of 'experienced' expats on discussion forums or on the numerous real estate agents, who offer many housing options.

### Shopping and daily supplies

In contrast to the pre-reform period, the supply situation in Viet Nam is now very good. There is a good range of shops and services, which also offer the usual international products. However, care should be taken when buying food in the markets, especially fresh fruit and vegetables, as these often contain high levels of pesticides. In the larger cities, international supermarkets and even smaller shops now offer organic vegetables. But make sure that these actually meet the standards for organic vegetables. In Viet Nam, too, 'the way to globalisation is through the stomach'. So now you can find kebabs and other 'western' foods here, but adapted to suit Vietnamese taste buds.

### Accompanying partners and children

Living with children in Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh City gives you better schooling options. These cities have

international schools and kindergartens. For example, the United Nations International School (UNIS) in Hanoi and the German International School in HCMC are both recommended.

Accompanying partners are generally not granted a long-term work permit. Any person wanting to work for a longer period for an employer registered in Viet Nam must apply for both a business visa through their local employer and a work permit.

## Useful links

[https://www.auswaertiges-  
amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/vietn  
am-node](https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/vietnam-node)

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