



Saigon

In this, the largest of Vietnam's cities, you will see the hustle and bustle of Vietnamese life everywhere, and there is something invigorating about it all. Contrasting images of the exotic and mundane abound. There are the street markets, where bargains are struck and deals are done; the pavement cafes, where stereo speakers fill the surrounding streets with a melodious thumping beat; and the sleek new cafes and pubs, where tourists chat over beer, pretzels, coffee and croissants. A young office worker maneuvers her Honda Dream through rush-hour traffic, long hair flowing, high heel working the brake pedal. The sweating Chinese businessman chats on his cellular phone, cursing his necktie in the tropical heat. The city churns, ferments, bubbles and fumes. Yet within this teeming 300-year-old metropolis are timeless traditions and the beauty of an ancient culture.

The city center is still unofficially called 'Saigon'. But officially, Saigon refers only to District 1, which is one small piece of the municipal pie. Southerners certainly prefer the name Saigon, but northerners tend to toe the official line. Explosive growth is making its mark in new high-rise buildings, joint-venture [hotels in Saigon](#) and colorful shops. The downside is the sharp increase in traffic, pollution and other urban ills. Still, Saigon's neoclassical and international-style buildings, and pavement kiosks selling French rolls and croissants, give certain neighborhoods an attractive, vaguely French atmosphere. The Americans left their mark on the city too, at least in the form of some heavily fortified apartment blocks and government buildings.

Vung Tau

Vung Tau known under the French as Cap St. Jacques, is a beach resort on the South China Sea, 128 km south-east of Ho Chi Minh City. Vung Tau's beaches are easily reached from Ho Chi Minh City and have thus been a favorite of that city's residents since French colonist first began coming here around 1980.

Seaside area near Vung Tau are dotted with the villas of the pre-1975 elite, now converted to guesthouses and restaurants for the post-1975 elite. In addition to sunning on the seashore and sipping sodas in nearby cafes, visitors can cycle around, or climb up, Vung Tau Peninsula's two mountains. There are also a number of interesting religious sites around town, including several pagodas and a huge standing figure of Jesus blessing the South China Sea.

Phu Quoc

Mountainous and forested Phu Quoc Island is in the Gulf of Thailand, 45km west of Tien, and 15km south of the coast of Cambodia. This tear – shape island, which is 48km long and has an area of 1320 sq. km, is ringed with some of the most beautiful beaches in Vietnam. There are fantastic views of marine life through transparent blue-green waters

Phu Quoc is famous worldwide for its two traditional products: fish sauce and pepper. The numbers are quite surprising: hundreds of fish sauce workshops (annual output: 10 million liters) and countless pepper gardens (total area: 5 km²). Visitors to the pepper gardens will be captivated by the "itsy-bitsy teeny-weeny peppercorns" of patient growers while at fish-sauce workshops, they will be amazed at the sight of dozens of bulky barrels being lined up and waiting to be packed with fresh fish. You will be tempted to try a few pungent green peppercorns and half a

spoonful of the tasty salty fish sauce.

Citizens of south-east Asian countries don't need certification or [Vietnam visa](#) when entering Duong Dong town for up to 15 days. If they want to go to other places from here (except restricted areas), they can get immigration certifications given by the immigration and emigration management Offices of Duong Dong town. Foreign-tourist ships can arrive or leave Duong Dong harbor due to projects signed with Vietnamese tourist companies. Foreign tourist ships which visit Duong Dong area & other areas (except restricted areas) have to obey the laws mentioned above. Foreign cargo ships are allowed to arrive or leave Duong Dong town to deliver or receive cargoes as stated in contracts signed by business or manufacturing organizations. The crewmen on these ships can use their passports or sailor's registers to enter Duong Dong area. If they deliver or pick up goods in other harbors of Kien Giang province, they have to obey Vietnam's current laws.

Con Dao Island

The Con Dao Archipelago is a group of 14 islands and islets 180km (97 nautical miles) south of Vung Tau in the South China Sea. The largest island in the group, with a total land area of 20 sq. km, is the partly forested Con Son island, which is ringed with bays, bathing beaches and coral reefs. Con Son island is also known by its Europeanized Malay name, Poulo Condore, which means 'Island of the Squashes'. Local products include teak and pine wood, cashews, pearls, sea turtles, lobsters and coral.

Source: www.dulichso.com