



HANOI

THE CAPITAL

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GINKGO VOYAGE

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HOTELS

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Sofitel Plaza | 6 Melia Hotel |
| 2 InterContinental West Lake | 7 JW Marriott Hotel |
| 3 Sheraton Hanoi | 8 Sofitel Metropole |
| 4 Nikko Hotel | 9 Hilton Hanoi Opera Hotel |
| 5 Movenpick Hotel | |

EMBASSY

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1 Canadian | 10 Iran | 20 Switzerland |
| 2 Poland | 11 China | 21 Turkey |
| 3 Denmark | 12 Singapore | 22 British |
| 4 Danish | 13 Israel | 23 Finland |
| 5 Ukraine | 14 Thailand | 24 France |
| 6 Romania | 15 German | 25 European Union |
| 7 Czech Republic | 16 Malaysia | 26 Italy |
| 8 Morocco | 17 Belgium | 27 Norwegian |
| 9 Arabia | 18 Singapore | 28 Chile |
| | 19 Cuba | 29 Ireland |
| | | 30 US |

RECOMMENDED ATTRACTIONS

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A Temple of Literature & National University
Van Mieu St., Dong Da Dist. | H Quan Thanh Temple
Quan Thanh and Thanh Nien St. |
| B Opera House
1 Trang Tien St. | I The Huc Bridge
Dinh Tien Hoan St. |
| C One Pillar Pagoda
Chua Mot Cot St, Ba Dinh Dist. | J Ngoc Son Temple
Dinh Tien Hoang and Hang Khay St. |
| D Ho Chi Minh Museum
19 Ngoc Ha St. | K St. Joseph's Cathedral
40 Nha Chung St. |
| E Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum
Hung Vuong and Le Hong Phong St. | L Dong Xuan Market
Corner of Pho Hang Khoai St. and
Pho Dong Xuan St. |
| F Thang Long Water Puppet Theater
57B Dinh Tien Hoang St. | M Museum of Fine Arts
66 Nguyen Thai Hoc St. |
| G West Lake and Tran Quoc Pagoda
Ba Dinh Dist. | N Railways Station
120 Le Duan St., Hai Ba Trung Dist. |





HA NOI

FREE MAP

+ the 18 things to know when you're a tourist in Vietnam

by Ginkgo

1

You will leave your comfort zone



Getting off the beaten track is one of the best things you can do in Vietnam, and it's not that hard to do. Wandering away from the tourist area, or venturing to a local market will show you that Le Loi and Hoan Kiem Lake, while beautiful, only paint a partial picture of the country.

2

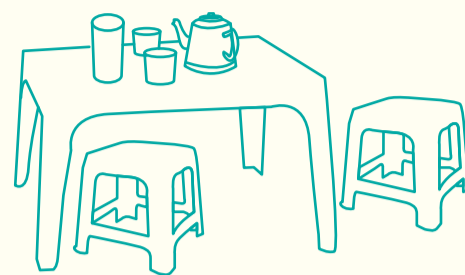
You will learn to love fish sauce



Leave mayonnaise and ketchup behind. In Vietnam fish sauce is king. This salty liquid, made from fermented fish, is bit smelly but after a few days, your taste buds won't be able to live with out it. Be sure to add lime and chili for some kick!

3

You will drink ice tea instead of water



Water is great on its own, but the Vietnamese have a love affair with ice tea, especially in the south. As a result, the only water you'll be drinking will come from a bottle. From street cafes to restaurants, iced tea is the drink of choice for locals. So when you're at a restaurant, ask for *tra da* (pronounced "cha da") instead of water.



4

 You will hear **Pho** said the right way

It's all about the tones in Vietnam. Even the most subtle change in a word could radically change the meaning. Start by practicing the common foods like pho. Take "fuh" like you're going to say that naughty four-letter word which rhymes with "duck". Then make it a question.



From toothless old men to kids hawking packs of gum, smiles will be a constant on your trip, especially if you can rattle off a few words in Vietnamese. Not only are they everywhere, but they are also genuine.



You will learn where to look to

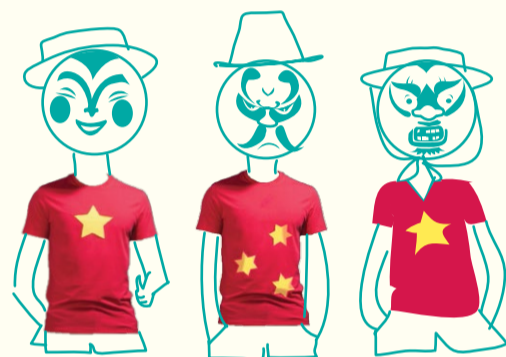


buy cool stuff made in Vietnam



6

There are plenty of amazing products available in Vietnam, the key is knowing where to look. Tourist markets may have seemingly endless options, but you'll quickly find that many stalls sell the same, cheaply made products.



7

 You will learn to distinguish between the **good**, the **bad**, and the **fake**

Vietnam is a country where copyright exists only in theory: from appropriating international brand names to churning out \$1 DVDs, fake products are everywhere you look. And you get what you pay for. Luckily, there are a number of local brands that may not have the cheapest products in town, but use high-quality, long-lasting materials. A few years from now, you'll be patting yourself on the back that you decided to spend a little bit extra.



8

 You will learn why **Ginkgo** stands out from the rest

Ginkgo is proudly 100% made in Vietnam. We pride ourselves on products that will last for a long time at a reasonable price. We also work with local artists and designers to give our customers products that are uniquely Vietnamese.



9

 You will learn that fruit isn't the only thing that is better **organic**

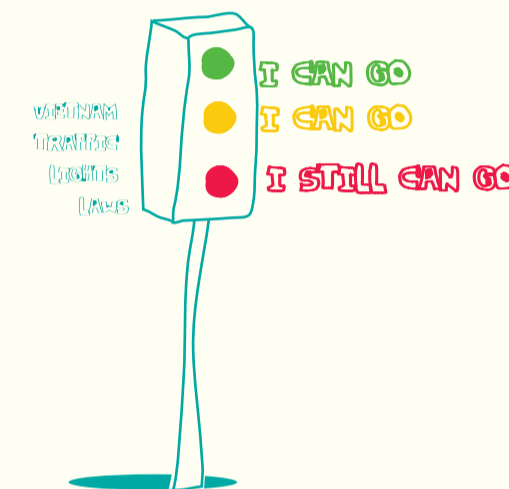
Now Ginkgo has organic products on its shelves! While buying organic is good for the environment, it is also a difference you can feel. Organic cotton t-shirts are incredibly soft and will last a long time. Go ahead, touch them and you'll find out what makes them so special.



10

You will bring home the best local products, and the best memory ever!

Ginkgo T-shirts and Ginkgo Concept Store have a wide range of well - designed products as well as local artisans' wares that make extraordinary souvenirs. And to assure your time in Vietnam is not a series of getting lost in tiny interlacing alleys, put it in the hand of Ginkgo Voyage who understands true sense of service and desires to turn your travel experience in Vietnam into beautiful memory.



11

 You will get an adrenalin rush **crossing the street**

It might look like there is no rhyme or reason to the way people drive on the busy streets of Vietnam. But, there are many unspoken rules that will help you safely cross the street. **walk at a consistent pace** **respect cars and buses** **make eye contact with drivers of oncoming traffic** **look both ways, even on one-way streets** **be brave and go for it!**

12

You will become a **millionaire**

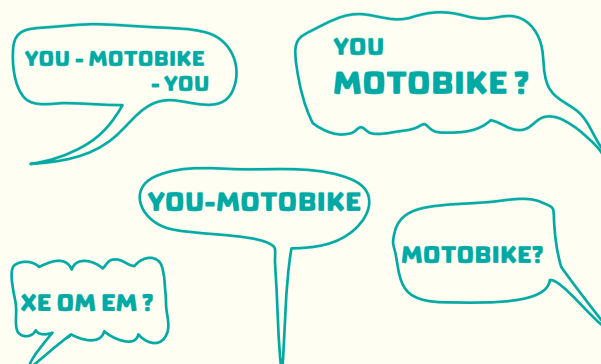


Vietnamese money has a lot of zeroes. A great way to keep your money organized is to put your bills in descending order in your purse or wallet, as you can easily confuse the 20,000 note (1 USD) and the 500,000 note (25 USD) due to their similar colors. Quick price references for your trip include: **water - 10,000 VND or less** **ice coffee on the street - 12,000 VND or less** **a typical lunch - 60,000 VND or less**

13

You will be called "you-motobike-you" daily

Xe om, or motobike taxis will approach you when they see you walking on the street. Don't be alarmed, they're your friends. If you need to take a ride with one, keep in mind that crossing the city from one side to the other should be under 100,000 VND (5 USD). So if you're traveling within downtown Saigon, you should bargain and keep it under 30,000 VND. For shorter distances, it can be cheaper to take Mai Linh or Vina Sun taxis, the most trustworthy taxi brands.



14

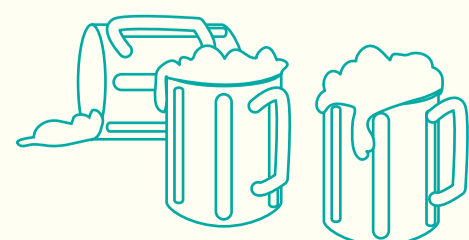
 You will **eat... and eat... and eat**

The most amazing food in Vietnam is eaten on plastic chairs on the street. Unlike its western counterpart, Vietnamese fast food is healthy, fresh, and is available from carts everywhere. Try banh cuon, bun bo hue, banh mi, sweet ginger tofu, fresh fruit, smoothies, or take a chance and try something that looks delicious!

15

 You will drink **beer with ice**

Vietnamese beer is cheap (around 0.50 USD) and light and often comes with a huge block of ice. However, it can be something to avoid in certain situations. When in doubt, rub a lime around the rim of your beer bottle and drink from it instead.



16

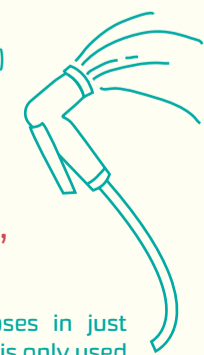
 You will laugh like this: **KA KA KA KA**

If you have the chance to make some local friends (ahem), you might notice some unusual ways they send text messages. Here are a few common things you might run into: "kakaka" or "hiiiiiii" = laughing "uhm" = agreement "q1" = district 1 (quan = district) "Gg" or "gg" = good night

17

 You will love the **"bum gun"**

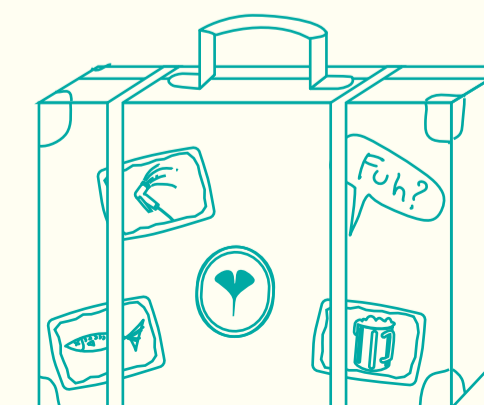
Vietnam amazingly has hoses in just about all toilets; toilet paper is only used to dry off your nether regions. Nha ve sinh, or toilets, in your home country won't be the same again, unless you have Japanese washlettes or French bidets.



18

You will not want to leave

When your trip is coming to a close, the sad reality will quickly set in. You're leaving behind "bum guns", fish sauce on everything, beautiful smiles, and products that you can't find in your home country. But cheer up, Vietnam will always be just a plane ride away and here waiting for you.



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