



LIVING AND WORKING IN VIETNAM HO CHI MINH CITY

INTRODUCTION

Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), also known as Saigon, is located in the southeast region and is the financial capital of Vietnam.

It is one of the largest metropolitan areas of the country, populated by more than seven million people. You will find a delightful variety of cuisine, exquisite art galleries, and architecture which reflect the city's great ethnic and cultural diversity. As the economic centre of Vietnam, HCMC is increasingly becoming an attractive place for foreign direct investment (FDI), and a potential business hub for Southeast Asia.

QUICK FACTS



Over 20% of Vietnam's GDP and 25% of the country's industrial production come from Ho Chi Minh City



The cost of living in Vietnam is lower than that of neighbouring countries, despite inflation increases affecting the local Vietnamese population



Vietnam is the next manufacturing destination after China



The official country language is Vietnamese, but English has become a preferred second language used in tourist areas or the city centre



The city has a tropical wet and dry climate. Rainy season is from May - October and the dry season is from December - April. The average temperature is from 24°C - 34°C

Find out more about living and working in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam at:

[Expat Arrivals - Ho Chi Minh City](#)

[Vietnam Tourism](#)

[Expat Community](#)

[Expat Info Desk - Vietnam](#)

WORK

Foreign direct investments (FDI), particularly in the engineering and manufacturing sectors, have led to higher demand for skilled labour and managerial staff.

Due to talent shortages in Vietnam, companies often turn to hiring foreign specialists or Vietnamese professionals living overseas in order to support business growth. Vietnamese professionals with international experience are in high demand, particularly at the senior level to guide and influence local employees.

GROWING INDUSTRIES IN VIETNAM

- 1 Industrial sectors: food and wood processing, construction, manufacturing
- 2 Electronics
- 3 Textiles and clothing
- 4 Medical devices
- 5 Water generation
- 6 Power

KEY TALENT IN DEMAND

- 1 Sales and marketing professionals
- 2 IT and technology specialists
- 3 Senior professionals with experience working with leather goods, clothing or print

More information:

[Key industries in Vietnam for foreign investors](#)

Find out more about current employment trends at:

[Survey on foreign employment trend in Vietnam](#)

TAXATION

The tax rates and tax thresholds for employment income vary depending on whether the individual is a resident of Vietnam or a non-resident.

Tax residents of Vietnam are taxed from 5 percent to 35 percent progressively. The top marginal rate is 35 percent on income earned over VND 80 million for tax residents of Vietnam (including both Vietnamese nationals and expatriates). For non-tax residents of Vietnam, a tax at a flat rate of 20 percent is imposed on their Vietnam-sourced income.

5% - 35%

Tax residents of Vietnam

20%

Non-Tax residents of Vietnam

For more information, visit:

[KPMG - Vietnam](#)

HOUSING

A person wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, dark pants, and a white helmet is riding a dark-colored scooter from left to right. The background features a row of ornate, grey metal gates with intricate scrollwork. In front of the gates are several large, red, terracotta-style planters, each containing a small, manicured tree with green foliage. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Popular areas for expatriates include District 2, District 7 (the New Economic Zone) and Phu My Hung.

Renting a two-bedroom French colonial house in Ho Chi Minh City will cost between VND 10,000,000 (US \$445) and VND 16,000,000 (US \$710) per month. A two-bedroom condominium or apartment in suburban areas which comes equipped with a range of facilities including gyms, laundries and swimming pools would cost approximately VND 14,000,000 (US \$625) per month on average.

POPULAR LIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS/ AREAS:

District 1 or the Central Business District (CBD)

Popular choice by many expatriates, house prices can be higher than other districts; main buildings and shopping malls are along this district.

- Pham Ngu Lao Street
- Bui Vien Street
- Nguyen Thi Minh Khai Street (near Ho Chi Minh City TV station office)

District 2

There are some high-class housing at Thao Dien Ward and medium-range at An Phu Ward. However, in general it is cheaper as compared to other inner city districts.

District 3

Not too far from District 1 but it offers a quieter, more peaceful lifestyle

- Nguyen Dinh Chieu Street
- Cach Mang Thang Tam Street
- Vo Van Tan Street

HOUSING



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POPULAR LIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS/ AREAS:

District 4

Just 5 minute away from the CBD, medium-range apartment and condominium housing are popular at:

- Ben Van Don Street
- Vo Van Kiet Street

District 7

Offers a peaceful, western lifestyle for families away from the noise and chaos of the city. Premium apartments are available at the heart of Phu My Hung area.

Binh Thanh District

For those who love to explore the local life, this district offers a wonderful local living experience at a lower cost in comparison to other districts.

- Dien Bien Phu Street
- Pham Viet Chanh Street
- Nguyen Huu Canh Street

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AVERAGE RENTAL PRICE

House Types	Price Range (Approx. in VND)	Price Range (Approx. in USD)
Furnished one-bedroom apartment / Studio	VND 9,000,000 – 10,000,000	USD 400 - 450
Furnished two-bedroom house	VND 10,000,000 - 16,000,000	USD 445 - 710
Unfurnished two-bedroom house	VND 10,000,000 - 12,000,000	USD 320 - 450
Furnished two-bedroom apartment	VND 11,000,000-18,000,000	USD 480 - 800
Unfurnished two-bedroom apartment	VND 8,000,000 - 13,000,000	USD 360 - 580
Furnished three-bedroom apartment	VND 19,000,000 - 45,000,000	USD 850 - 2000

More information available at:

[Cost of living in Vietnam](#)

[Vietnam Online - HCMC accommodation guide](#)

[Phu My Hung estate](#)

[Expat Housing](#)

LIVING

According to Mercer Consulting, the Economist Intelligence Unit and ECA International, Ho Chi Minh City is ranked 132 on the list of the world's most expensive cities for expatriates to live.

With newly-developed suburban areas and plans for an improved transportation infrastructure to be implemented, HCMC is an affordable option with many opportunities for expat workers.

EDUCATION

Most public schools cater to local Vietnamese students. However, there is also a wide variety of international schooling options such as: European International School, British International School, Australian International School.

DINING

Dining options in HCMC are plentiful, offering an eclectic mix of local food, including 'pho', the famous beef soup noodles, as well as fusion dishes blending flavours from different areas of Vietnam. Enjoy a cocktail with friends at one of the many rooftop bars in CBD while deciding on which local dishes to sample. Street food vendors are open as early as 6am and close late at night. Additionally, there are many restaurants across the city serving authentic international cuisines, from western dishes to foods from elsewhere in Asia, so the options are endless.

More information: [International schools in HCMC](#)

LIVING

HEALTHCARE

Ho Chi Minh City has a good range of healthcare services. Public and private hospitals and clinics are well-equipped to assist expatriates with any medical needs or requirements, but private hospitals and clinics are renowned for their higher standards of healthcare.

Local health insurance plans are available for expatriates with work permits and it is recommended that employees moving to Vietnam check with their employers about their health insurance coverage before arrival. The majority of multinational companies will provide both local and private health insurance packages for expat staff, alternatively you can arrange your own private health insurance with Blue Cross, April International or Bao Viet Insurance. When visiting a clinic or hospital, check that you are covered by your insurance provider in advance of your visit.

Useful Links:

[April International](#) | [Bao Viet Insurance](#) | [Blue Cross](#)

Pharmacies in Vietnam are well stocked and easy to find on any major shopping street or mall. Medicine can be purchased over the counter without a prescription. However, expiry dates or counterfeit product checking is recommended.

TRANSPORT

For foreign visitors, getting around Ho Chi Minh City by taxi is more convenient if you don't know the language or are unfamiliar with the city. Taxis are equipped with a meter and the fare ranges from VND 13,000 - 14,000 per km travel (USD \$0.65-\$0.70). Otherwise, getting around is easy with the use of a motorbike.

Uber and Grab services are also very popular in Vietnam with fares starting from VND 7,000 per km travel (USD \$0.35)

Useful Link:

[Rent or own a motobike guide](#)

TRAVEL



Ho Chi Minh City is located on the west bank of the Saigon River, near the fertile Mekong River delta and the East Vietnam Sea.

HCMC is one of Vietnam's busiest international travel links with Saigon port and railway links to northern cities seeing huge numbers of traffic on a daily basis. Tan Son Nhat Airport, located at the north of the city, handles international and domestic flights.

The table lists the time required to travel by air from Ho Chi Minh City to some of the major cities in the world.

HO CHI MINH CITY TO:

Hanoi	.....	1 hr 54 mins
Da Nang	.....	1 hr 15 mins
Nha Trang	.....	1 hr 00 mins
Kuala Lumpur	.....	1 hr 45 mins
Jakarta	.....	2 hr 50 mins
Singapore	.....	1 h 52 mins
Bangkok	.....	1 hr 25 mins
Hong Kong	.....	2 hrs 22 mins
Beijing	.....	4 hrs 41 mins
Sydney	.....	9 hrs
Tokyo	.....	5 hrs 53 mins
London	.....	13 hrs 11 mins
San Francisco	.....	16 hrs 10 mins
New York	.....	18 hrs 16 mins

More information: [Flying Distance](#)

ABOUT US

ROBERT WALTERS VIETNAM

Established in 2011, Robert Walters Vietnam is one of the leading global specialist professional recruitment consultancies in the region. Our localised expertise gives us unique insights into specific industries and job markets, while our Group's truly global footprint enables us to meet the demands of candidates and clients whose needs extend beyond Vietnam. The Robert Walters brand is synonymous with innovation, vision and leadership in the global recruitment market.

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Supply Chain, Logistics & Procurement ■ Healthcare

To find out more about how we can assist you in your move to Vietnam, visit www.robertwalters.com.vn or contact us at hochiminh@robertwalters.com.vn or speak to us at **(84) (8) 3520 7900**.



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