GLOBAL REMITTANCE
LEADING FINTECH

Sacombank-SBR support customers to receive money from over the world. We commit:

- Secure - Safe - Accurate.
- Multi currency - Multi method.
- Receive money even in holidays.
- Zero fee for receiver.
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“Từng món đồ được La Casa Bella giới thiệu không chỉ là sản phẩm trang trí nổi bật 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 phòng khoáng, mang vẻ đẹp hào quyền bởi màu sắc, hình dạng, đường nét và thời gian dành bên trong, giãp kiện tạo nên những không gian sống phản chiếu tâm hồn của người nghệ sĩ và của chính gia chủ.”

#Homedecoration
The bustling port city
Nha Rong Wharf - Ho Chi Minh Museum, Cau Mong Bridge, Thu Ngu Flagpole, Bach Dang Wharf - Me Linh Square

Metropolitan imprint of the city
Headquarters of the People’s Council & People’s Committee of HCM City, Notre-Dame Cathedral, Central Post Office, Ben Thanh market

Religion and beliefs
Thong Tay Hoi Communal House, Giac Lam Pagoda, Buu Long Pagoda
Tan Dinh Church, Hanh Thong Tay Church
Islam mosques & Hindu temples
Pagodas, shrines and assembly halls of the Hoa people

Indelible Memories
Independence Palace, War Remnants Museum, Cu Chi tunnels, Can Gio Biosphere Reserve

A city full of life
Nguyen Hue walking street, Nguyen Van Binh book street, Landmark 81 Observatory

Love in the heart of the city
Vietnamese classical opera & contemporary performance art

Transformed cuisine
Banh mi (stuffed bread), banh xeo (Vietnamese crépe), bun bo Hue (Hue-style beef noodle soup), bun mam (Fermented fish paste vermicelli soup), com tam (broken rice), Indian curry, goi cuon (summer rolls), pho, snails

Inspiration from the Hoa community
Dimsum, hu tieu, Hoa-style noodles, dining like the Hoa, pha lau, sweet soup

Southeast Asian & Northeast Asian cuisines
Vegetarian dishes & Halal food

Coffee

General information
Festive seasons, means of transport, hotlines
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...

1698
Lord Nguyen Phuc Chu appointed Nguyen Huu Canh, Commander-in-chief, to organize and establish the administration on this land.

1679
Some fleeing Chinese Ming Dynasty officials were allowed by Nguyen Lords to enter Dong Nai and My Tho for reclamation and cultivation.

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.

1945
After the August Revolution, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam was born.

1975
National reunification.

1976
Saigon-Gia Dinh City was renamed Ho Chi Minh City. Currently, it is the largest economic center in Vietnam.
The bustling
PORT CITY

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, Wd12, 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 gateway, deep-water port, and large rivers are favorable conditions for this city to become the hub of domestic and international trade.
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
Free
visitthcmc.vn

2 weekend days at the end of every month
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.

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.

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".

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.

◆ 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)

THE NOTRE-DAME CATHEDRAL (1880)

THE CENTRAL POST OFFICE (1891)

BEN THANH MARKET (1914)

OTHER FASCINATING DESTINATIONS IN DISTRICT 1
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)

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, Caodaism, Hoa Hao, etc.
...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.

- 537/5 Quang Trung, Wd.11, Go Vap Dist.
- Mass time: Mon. - Sat.: 4:15am & 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.

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.

Ong Bon Shrine

Nhí 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

Nhgia 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 (15/4/1 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.

Other pagodas, shrines, and assembly halls

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

73 Mai Thi Luu Str., Dist.1

7am - 5:30pm

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

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

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.

Madame Thien Hau Temple - Tue Thanh Assembly Hall

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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.

Binh Tay Market (1930)
This tour clarifies the cultural differences among Chinese communities, reflecting on architecture, religion, and cuisine.

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.

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.

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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
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
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.

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
Bus No.20 → Binh Khanh Ferry → Can Gio Beach
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. Thien 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

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
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.

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.

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
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

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
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.

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

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
2128 Nguyen Trai, Dist.1 | 11am - 10pm
Oc Xuyen _______ From VND55,000
Ban Co market
174/43 Nguyen Thi 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 Ng Lao Wd., Dist.1
9am - 6:30pm (closed on Sat. & Sun.)
Goi cuon Minh _______ From VND11,000
8/32 Bui Vien, Pham Ng 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
260 Pasteur, Wd.8, Dist.3 | 5am - 10:30pm
Pho Thin _______ From VND50,000
110 Le Thi Hong Gm, Nguyen Thi Binh Wd., Dist.1 | 6am - 10pm
Pho Thin is considered to be similar to pho of the Northern style
**BANH XEO (VIETNAMESE CRÊPE)**

*Ban h 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 VND70000  
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 tien, 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 Phuc 1, Tan Phong Wd., Dist.7  
6am - 9pm*

*Banh mi Huynh Hoa________From VND38,000  
26 Le Thi Rieng, Pham Ng¢u Lao Wd., Dist.1  
6am - 10pm*  
*Banh mi H¢o Ma________From VND60,000  
53 Cao Thang, Wd.3, Dist.3 | 6am - 11am*

**BANH MI (VIETNAMESE BAGUETTE)**

*The half-meter-long French baguette has been shrunken 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 Hung Vien (Vegan sandwich)  
203 Vinh Vien, Wd.4, Dist.10 | 6:30am - 7:30pm*  
*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 Hoa, Wd.6, Dist.4 | 8am - 9pm*

**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  
0918 Su Van Hanh Building, Wd.9, Dist.5  
9am - 11pm*

Want more food?  
View list here
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.

**TIEM NUOC**

An old Cantonese-style restaurant that serves Dimsum for breakfast.

- **San Fu Lou**
  - From VND168,000
  - 76A Le Lai, Ben Thanh Wd., Dist.1 | 7am - 3am
- **Hai Ky Mi Gia**
  - From VND130,000
  - 351 Nguyen Trai, Wd.7, Dist.5 | 11am - 10pm

**DIMSUM**

**HOA-STYLE NOODLES**

After more than 100 years in Southern Vietnam, Hoa-style noodles continue to win diners over.

- **Thieu Ky Mi Gia**
  - From VND65,000
  - 66/5 Le Dai Hanh, Wd.7, Dist.11 | 6am - 12am
- **Mi vit tiem Luong Ky**
  - From VND24,000
  - 1 Huynh Man Dat, Wd.19, Binh Thanh Dist. | 3pm - 8pm

**TIEM NUOC**

- **Mi vit tiem Thuong Hai**
  - From VND85,000
  - 110 No Trang Long, Wd.14, Binh Thanh Dist. | 3pm - 8pm
Com Chuyen Ky
65 - 67 Ton That Dam, Ben Nghe Wd., Dist.1
11am - 2pm & 5pm - 9pm
From VND100,000

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nhuan Ky - Lo Sieu
50 Lo Sieu, Wd.16, Dist.11 | 1pm - 7pm
From VND27,000

Hu tiu Mi A Ty
252 Hau Giang, Wd.9, Dist.6 | 6am - 9pm
From VND200,000

Hu tiu 142
142 Ba Dinh, Wd.10, Dist.8 | 10am - 11pm
From VND55,000

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

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

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.

A delicious dessert good for health thanks to natural ingredients often known as “medicinal herbs.”
Traditional Southeast Asian recipes incorporate the organizing principles of Chinese cuisine and the complex flavors derived from Indian herbs and spices.

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

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

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

SOUTHEAST ASIAN CUISINE

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

Halal food

Find your own way of eating

NORTHEAST ASIAN CUISINE

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

SUSHI

Sushi Rei

Lion City Vietnam

Uncle’s Long

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

Bongensai

Hun, Garden

Lion City Vietnam

Uncle’s Long

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Chay Garden

Bongensai

Hun, Garden

Lion City Vietnam
Fine Dining Redefined

Expect the unexpected, where MICHELIN Chef Sam Aisbett cooks without boundaries with an intentional nod to the people & produce of Vietnam.
In people's minds, Vietnamese coffee is widely known for two features: a filter used in the making process and added condensed milk.

** 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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The French’s quintessential sidewalk café 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.
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 (H2020)
- 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
- February 11th - 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
  - 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)
- HCM City River Festival
- September 5th - 7th, 2024: ITE HCM City 2024 – International Travel Expo
- September 16th - 18th, 2024: Whale Worshipping Festival (Nghinh Ong Festival) in Can Gio
- September 22nd - 24th, 2024: HCM City Tourism Week
- December 9th - 15th, 2024: HCM City Tourism Festival
- December 13th - 15th, 2024: The 1st Ho Chi Minh City International Film Festival 2024 (HIFF)
- December 2024: The 10th Ao Dai Festival

TRANSPORTATION
Double-decker Bus
- VND500,000/pax (Nonstop) VND550,000/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 - 6pm: HCM City Opera House
  - 0840 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

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.

HOTLINE
Ambulance: 115
Fire: 114
Police: 113
Visitor Information and Support Center hotline: 1022 ext.8 (Vietnamese & English)

All information in Ho Chi Minh City-themed Heritage Guide, surveyed in October 2023, is for reference only and is subject to change. The editors of this publication are not liable for any discrepancy compared to the information provided nor for any consequences resulting from using the information contained within this guidebook.
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