



## Tips for foreign travelers when visiting Vietnam

The most concerning issue for foreign travelers when visiting Vietnam is to find a convenient and reasonable-priced accommodation. That's why we would like to introduce here the accommodation system in Vietnam which comprises a wide range of hotels and hostels ranking from five-star ones to budget ones. The most common choice of accommodation for foreigners visiting Vietnam would be Vietnam hotels. The hotel system is available in almost all tourist destinations such as Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Halong Bay, Cat Ba, Sapa, Hoi An, Dalat, Nha Trang, Phan Thiet, Phu Quoc, Con Dao, etc. In big cities such as Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Danang, you can find all types of hotels from five-star luxury to budget ones. Hotels in these cities are located in almost every street which is near tourist attractions.

In other destinations famous for their beaches such as Phu Quoc and Phan Thiet, there are mainly luxury resorts and [hotels in Phu Quoc](#) which offer you the most private and comfortable accommodation. The price may be a little bit high, but the service is really great. On contrary, there are some tourist destinations in the northwest of Vietnam where the hotel system is not very well-developed. When making a trip to these areas, for example, to visit ethnic minority villages, you should consider the possibility of staying in local people's houses without modern facilities and services. However, it is a great experience, especially for those who want to explore and learn about the traditions and culture of Vietnam.

For those wandering souls who would love to explore the peaceful countryside in Vietnam, you may need to consider staying in some motels (which read "Nhà Nghỉ" in Vietnamese) along the way. The prices are cheap, there are only standard facilities and English-speaking staff should not be expected here. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that you learn some common Vietnamese phrase or find yourself a Vietnamese companion. Language barrier had better not be regarded lightly in these areas. Hostels are not very popular in Vietnam.

You can only find some in a few big cities and tourists attractions such as Ho Chi Minh City or Danang or Hue city. It is best if you get the recommendations from some fellow backpackers for there is not much available information on the internet. Three and four star hotels are most commonly used among foreign tourists in Vietnam. For four star hotels, you can either contact the hotel directly via the hotels' websites or book hotel via a hotel booking website which lists all the available hotels and their prices.

The prices from these websites might be a little lower than the listed prices at the hotels. When it comes to three star hotels and lower, you might have some difficulties contacting the hotel directly because some of them do not have a website. Then, your best choice would be making reservations through a hotel booking websites like [dulichso.com](#). Aside from the price factor, you can also compare the facilities and locations of hotels to pick out the one that best meets your needs. If you choose a website that focused in hotels in Vietnam only (also Vietnam-based), it may come with other travel services essential for foreign tourists (such as [Vietnam visa](#), airport transfer and tours) as well as useful travel guides and tips.

With the advantage of being local, they might give you a better insight on what you need and provide you with better support once you are in Vietnam. Above is a brief overview of accommodation in Vietnam and the choices available for foreign tourists.

### **Helpful tips**

#### Donations and gift giving

Although there is poverty in certain areas of Vietnam, please read the following points about donations and gift giving.

- Do not give money to people begging, especially children. This reinforces the belief that begging is an acceptable way to make a living. If children make money from begging, their parents are less likely to send them to school. Children working on the streets are also vulnerable to abuse.
- However in many places, it is considered acceptable to give to money to disabled people or the elderly.
- Giving money and goods to beggars can accentuate an unequal relationship between locals and visitors, with tourists being seen as purely money givers.
- Do not give sweets to children in villages that we visit.
- Do not feel that you necessarily have to give material things. Sometimes, giving your friendship, time and interest to locals can be the best gift of all.

#### Tipping

Tipping is a personal matter and travellers are encouraged to tip any amount they feel is appropriate. For your convenience, we have included a suggested tipping guide below:

- Bellboy: \$1-\$2 per room
- Chambermaid: \$1 per day
- Guides: \$5-\$10 per day, per person (depending on group size and performance)
- Drivers: \$2-\$5 per day, per person (depending on group size and performance)
- Restaurants: in smart establishments, you may find that the tip is already included in the bill. In local restaurants, tips are not expected but you may wish to leave loose change on the table.