



Ho Chi Minh City

08 / POP: 7.4 MILLION

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Best Places to Eat

- » Cuc Gach Quan (p329)
- » Nha Hang Ngon (p325)
- » Lion City (p329)
- » Pho Hoa (p329)
- » Temple Club (p325)

Best Places to Stay

- » Giang & Son (p322)
- » Hong Han (p323)
- » Ma Maison (p324)
- » Park Hyatt (p321)
- » Ngoc Son (p324)

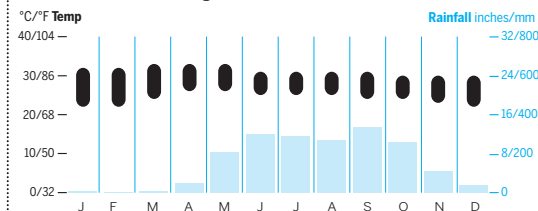
Why Go?

Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) is Vietnam at its most dizzying: a high-octane city of commerce and culture that has driven the whole country forward with its limitless energy. It is a living organism that breathes life and vitality into all who settle here, and visitors cannot help but be hauled along for the ride.

From the finest of hotels to the cheapest of guesthouses, the classiest of restaurants to the tastiest of street stalls, the choicest of boutiques to the scrum of the markets, HCMC has it all. Wander through timeless alleys to ancient pagodas before fast-forwarding into the future in designer malls beneath sleek skyscrapers. The ghosts of the past live on in buildings that one generation ago witnessed a city in turmoil, but the real beauty of the former Saigon's urban collage is that these two worlds blend so seamlessly into one thrilling, seething mass. Put simply, there's nowhere else quite like it.

When to Go

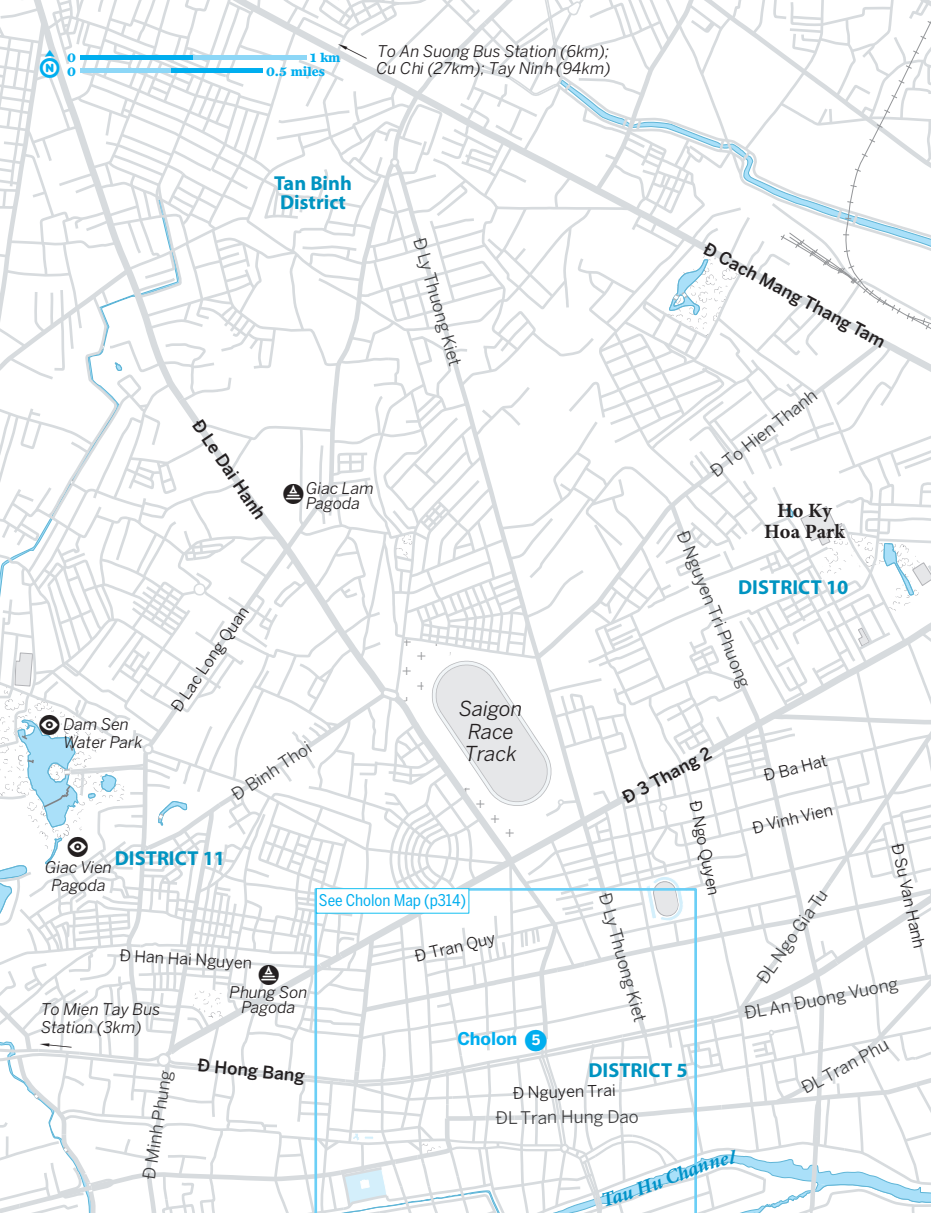
Ho Chi Minh City



Feb Hardly any rain, the least humidity and a city filled with blooms for the Tet celebrations.

Mar Also has low rain and humidity, plus the annual *cyclo* race.

Dec December is a whisper cooler than normal for HCMC and comparatively dry.



Ho Chi Minh City Highlights

- 1 Soak up the city's manic energy from a perch atop one of its **rooftop bars** (p333)
- 2 Retreat into the turbulent recent past at the **War Remnants Museum** (p305)
- 3 Feast on a diverse selection of **local and international cuisine** at the city's many wonderful restaurants and street stalls (p325)
- 4 Pass through the clouds of incense and enter the mystical world of the **Jade Emperor Pagoda** (p304)