



Ho Chi Minh City

08 / POP 7.9 MILLION

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Nha Hang Ngon (p341)
- ➔ Hum Lounge & Restaurant (p341)
- ➔ The Racha Room (p341)
- ➔ Cuc Gach Quan (p344)
- ➔ Propaganda (p341)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Lily's Hostel (p338)
- ➔ Town House 23 (p339)
- ➔ Ma Maison Boutique Hotel (p340)
- ➔ Park Hyatt Saigon (p335)
- ➔ Villa Song (p340)

Why Go?

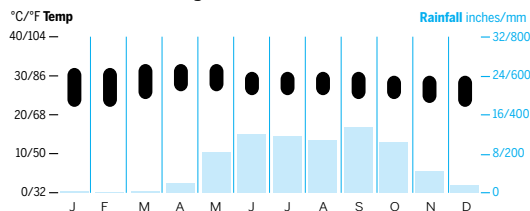
Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) is Vietnam at its most dizzying: a high-octane city of commerce and culture that has driven the country forward with its pulsating energy. A chaotic whirl, the city breathes life and vitality into all who settle here, and visitors cannot help but be hauled along for the ride.

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 is a city of energy and discovery.

Wander through timeless alleys to incense-infused temples before negotiating chic designer malls beneath sleek 21st-century skyscrapers. The ghosts of the past live on in buildings that one generation ago witnessed a city in turmoil, but now the real beauty of the former Saigon's urban collage is the seamless blending of these two worlds into one exciting mass.

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 Low rain and humidity persist, plus the annual *cyclo* challenge.

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



Ho Chi Minh City Highlights

- ① Soaking up the city's electric energy from a high-altitude perch in one of its **rooftop bars** (p348).
- ② Witnessing the turbulence of conflict in the **War Remnants Museum** (p321).
- ③ Feasting on an eye-opening selection of **local and international cuisine** (p340) at the city's standout restaurants and street stalls.
- ④ Smothering yourself in clouds of incense within the mystical world of the **Jade Emperor Pagoda** (p318).