

VIETNAM Quick Facts!

If you are not already busy burying your head in Vietnamese literature or surfing the web researching Vietnamese life, below are some helpful topics and links you might want to check out before taking off on your adventure!

Study TESOL in Vietnam

Teach International is inviting you to join our TESOL Study Overseas Programme in Hanoi. This course will be a fun learning experience, surrounded by like-minded adventurers, where you will complete your TESOL training in a non-English speaking country and teach real classes to real students. Teach International's highly skilled trainers will be there to assist you every step of the way.

What's included

- TESOL in-class course (all Certificate levels)
- Additional lesson-planning days for Certificate III and IV students
- Practice teaching observation and lessons in real language schools
- To opportunity to meet previous graduates currently working in Hanoi; share stories; get on the ground knowledge from local teachers; and also gain some new contacts.
- Orientation and graduation dinners
- Advice on a range of local accommodation to suit all budgets
- 20% off travel insurance

Itinerary

Week one:

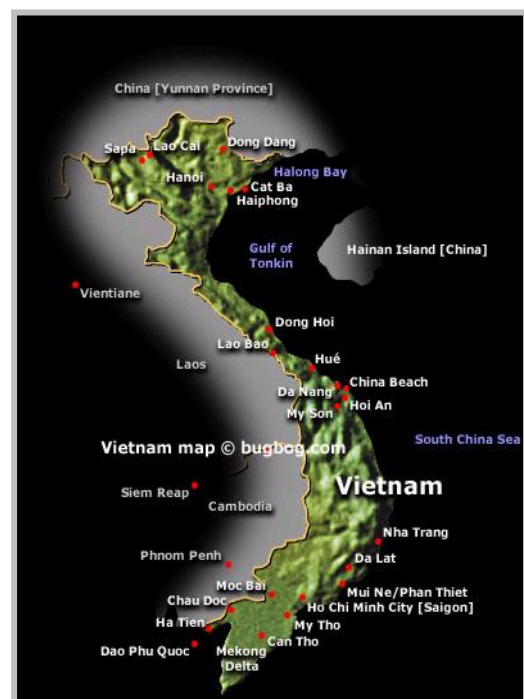
- Welcome Dinner
- Course Orientation
- 5 day in-class TESOL course
- Classroom Observations

Week two:

- School introductions / free time
- Lesson planning workshops
- Practice Teaching

Week three:

- Practice Teaching
- Graduation Dinner



The Culture

Known for its beauty and friendly people, Vietnam has shrugged off its post-war image and become a haven for tourists as it has opened up more and more to the outside world. Visitors are able to experience beautiful beaches, misty mountains and hospitable people. Vietnam gives the visitor a chance to live a more traditional life than in some other South-East Asian countries and provides thousands of job opportunities for the ESL teacher.

Vietnam is famous for its food, primarily the noodle and soup dishes sold by street vendors and restaurants. Traditional art, theatre, architecture and dance are all a major part of daily life and easily experienced by locals and foreigners alike. Vietnam has had influences from the Chinese to the French and despite foreign influence still maintains a much defined culture.

Introduction to Vietnam

<http://www.geographia.com/vietnam>

Vietnamese Traditions

<http://www.vietnam-culture.com/>



ESL Teaching

English teaching in Vietnam is an excellent option.

The students are great, the money is great, the standard of living is excellent and the cost of living is low. Teachers in Vietnam are well-respected and many students have an overall dream to one day teach themselves!

There are opportunities to teach all levels and ages. Peak hour for classes is in the evenings from 5pm-9pm, usually after normal school hours. The pay for English teachers varies from school-to-school and depends somewhat on qualifications and experience. Most teachers earn between US\$15 - US\$25 per hour. You may be paid in Vietnamese Dong or a combination of US dollars and Vietnamese Dong as both are used within the country.

As a foreign language teacher in Hanoi you'll find no shortage of Vietnamese friends and Australian and other expats that live and work side by side in this thriving city. With plenty to see and do, your days will be filled with new experiences in a vibrant and beautiful city.

The Weather

Expect a tropical, wet climate. In Hanoi there are the four regular seasons, but you can also divide the weather into the rainy season which runs from May to September (hotter with heavier rain), and the dry season from October to April (colder with little rainfall).

Vietnam weather:

<http://www.vietnamstay.com/information/weather.htm>

Getting Around

Although it is not possible for foreigners to drive a car in Vietnam, there are many other options for the traveller to get around and see the country. Transport is usually by xe om (motorbike), plane, train, bus, or bike. Flights to Ho Chi Minh City, Nha Trang or other beautiful destinations within the long narrow country are around US \$100 return.

Trains are great value and overnight sleepers are a good way to cover long distances if you want to take a trip. Sapa in the northern highlands and Hoi An on the coast are great places to visit by train! There are also many local trips which are easily organised through agents on the ground, to enable you to see more of Vietnam while you are visiting.

Vietnam Airlines:

<http://www.vietnamairlines.com>

Train Travel guide:

<http://www.seat61.com/Vietnam.htm>



A couple of phrases to get you started

Anyone one who has travelled to a foreign country knows how delighted locals are when you use the language. You can find Vietnamese phrase books in bookstores and you'll find language lessons very easily once you are in town.

Below are a few sentences with English and phonetic sounds you'll find useful! Vietnamese language works on tones so you'll have to listen closely to hear the subtle differences at first, but you'll get them. If you learned French in high school it could come in handy as many Vietnamese also speak French.

Hello (Seen chow)

My name is _____. (Doy Den la _____.)

Goodbye (Dam Biet)

I can't speak Vietnamese. (Doy kom tieng vee-et.)

Please (Lam urn)

Thank you (Cam urn)

And remember, you'll find bargaining a lot easier if you learn the Vietnamese numbers 1 to 10!



Getting there

From Australia, there are no airlines which fly direct to Hanoi. Many airlines fly to surrounding cities in Asia and from there, on to Hanoi. This is not a complete list of all airlines available, so if you wish to use a different airline please do so. These airlines don't fly out of every Australian or New Zealand city so you will need to check individual websites for departure and price details.

Tiger Airways (via Singapore)
<http://www.tigerairways.com/>

Air Asia (via Kuala Lumpur)
<http://www.airasia.com/>

Vietnam Air (via Ho Chi Minh City)
<http://www.vietnamairlines.com>

Singapore Airlines (via Singapore)
<http://www.singaporeair.com/>

Jetstar (to Ho Chi Minh City only)
www.jetstar.com

City Cost Guide

The cost of living in Vietnam is low and everyday items can be much cheaper than at home. Below are an estimate of the cost of certain items you may wish to purchase while in Hanoi to give you a general idea:

(Approximate exchange rate: 1AUD = 19,300 VND)

Three-star Accommodation:	VND 480000	AUD 25	NZ 33	USD 20.84
Three course meal:	VND 200000	AUD 10	NZ 14	USD 10
Bottled water:	VND 10000	AUD 0.52	NZ 0.70	USD 0.52
Beer:	VND 6,600	AUD 0.65	NZ 0.72	USD 0.39
Souvenir t-shirt	VND 40000	AUD 2	NZ 2.80	USD 2
Street snack - pho bo	VND 10000	AUD 0.52	NZ 0.70	USD 0.52

Relevant Websites

The New Hanoian

<http://newhanoian.xemzi.com>

Ex-pat website with tips on events, restaurants, jobs and housing.

Vietnam Tourism

<http://www.vietnamtourism.com/>

Smart Traveller

<http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/>

Australian government site with general travel advice

Currency Converter

<http://www.xe.com/ucc/>

Savour Asia

<http://savourasia.com/>

Fastastic food guide to Hanoi

So, what are you waiting for?

All these experiences are available to you when you visit Hanoi as part of Teach International's Study Overseas Programme. Teach International's TESOL courses are ideal for those adventurers looking to go overseas immediately and share a different travel experience with like-minded individuals. The opportunity to connect with Hanoians and teach them something they will treasure forever - the ability to read, write and speak English - is something very special.

With places in the Programme limited, register for the course now and get ready for a unique travel experience available to you in one of the most vibrant cities in South East Asia.

Register for the Study Overseas Programme in Hanoi today by calling:

(AU) 1300 558 890

(NZ) 0800 832 243

SKYPE CHAT add contact [teach.int.sandra](https://www.skype.com/add?contact=teach.int.sandra)

Study and holiday in bustling Hanoi with Teach International!

