



# **SAIGON SURVIVAL GUIDE**

---

Welcome to Fulbright  
School of Public Policy  
and Management





# WELCOME

Ho Chi Minh City, or formerly known as Saigon, “Pearl of the Far East” is a vibrant city of South Vietnam. The city strikes a delicate balance between traditions and modernity representing Asian most distinctive cultural features. This guide is meant to providing you with basic suggestions to help navigate around during your short trips to the city.

## HO CHI MINH CITY AT FIRST GLANCE

The city is divided into different administrative districts, most of which are numbered (1-12) and some are named (e.g. Tan Binh, Binh Thanh, Phu Nhuan, etc.). The city’s CBD is located in D1 (District One), bordered by District 3, Binh Thanh and Phu Nhuan. Besides, the rise of new urban areas in D2 and D7 promise unlimited ideas for entertainment, food and shopping. Popular get-togethers for expatriate communities include Bui Vien Walking Street in D1, An Phu and Thao Dien in D2.



# FULBRIGHT SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management (FSPPM), Fulbright University Vietnam (FUV) is an educational institution in Vietnam receiving core funding from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State. The School is also the first public policy institution in Southeast Asia to be accredited by NASPAA - Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration. Currently, our School is located at Crescent Campus in District 7.

FUV website: <https://fulbright.edu.vn/>

FSPPM website: <https://fsppm.fulbright.edu.vn/en/>

Crescent Campus Address: **105 Ton Dat Tien, Tan Phu Ward,  
District 7, HCMC**

Tel: (+84) 28 7303 2255



## HOSPITALS

- **CarePlus International Clinic**

Level 2, Crescent Plaza, 105 Ton Dat Tien, D7

1800 6116

- **Victoria Healthcare**

Broadway Office Building, 152  
Nguyen Luong Bang, Tan Phu, D7

028 3910 4545

- **American Eye Center**

Level 5, Crescent Plaza, 105 Ton Dat Tien

Clinic: (028) 5413 6758

Optic: (028) 5413 8810



**NEAR  
CRESCENT  
CAMPUS**

## BANKS

- **HSBC Phu My Hung**

102 Nguyen Luong Bang, Tan Phu, D7

028 3544 9020

- **ACB Bank**

27-29 Nguyen Khac Vien, Tan Phu, D7

028 5413 6500

- **VPBank PMH**

85 Hoang Van Thai, Tan Phu, D7

028 5412 2094



## CLIMATE

Year-round temperatures remain stable around 30-35 Celsius degree, thus sunscreen and sunglasses are advisable to avoid unwanted heatstroke's.



## MONEY

The currency used in Vietnam is Dong. Exchange rates are listed on bank website (<https://www.acb.com.vn/wps/portal/en/exchange>), the rough calculation would be 1 USD = 23,000 VND (the exact rate is 1 USD = 23,095 VND effective on 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020 listed by VCB). The best places to exchange money are at **banks** and gold/jewelry shops around Ben Thanh Market are said to offer quality exchange services with attractive rates.



## EMERGENCY

**Police**

(08) 113

**International SOS**

+84 28 3829 8520



# HOW TO GET AROUND

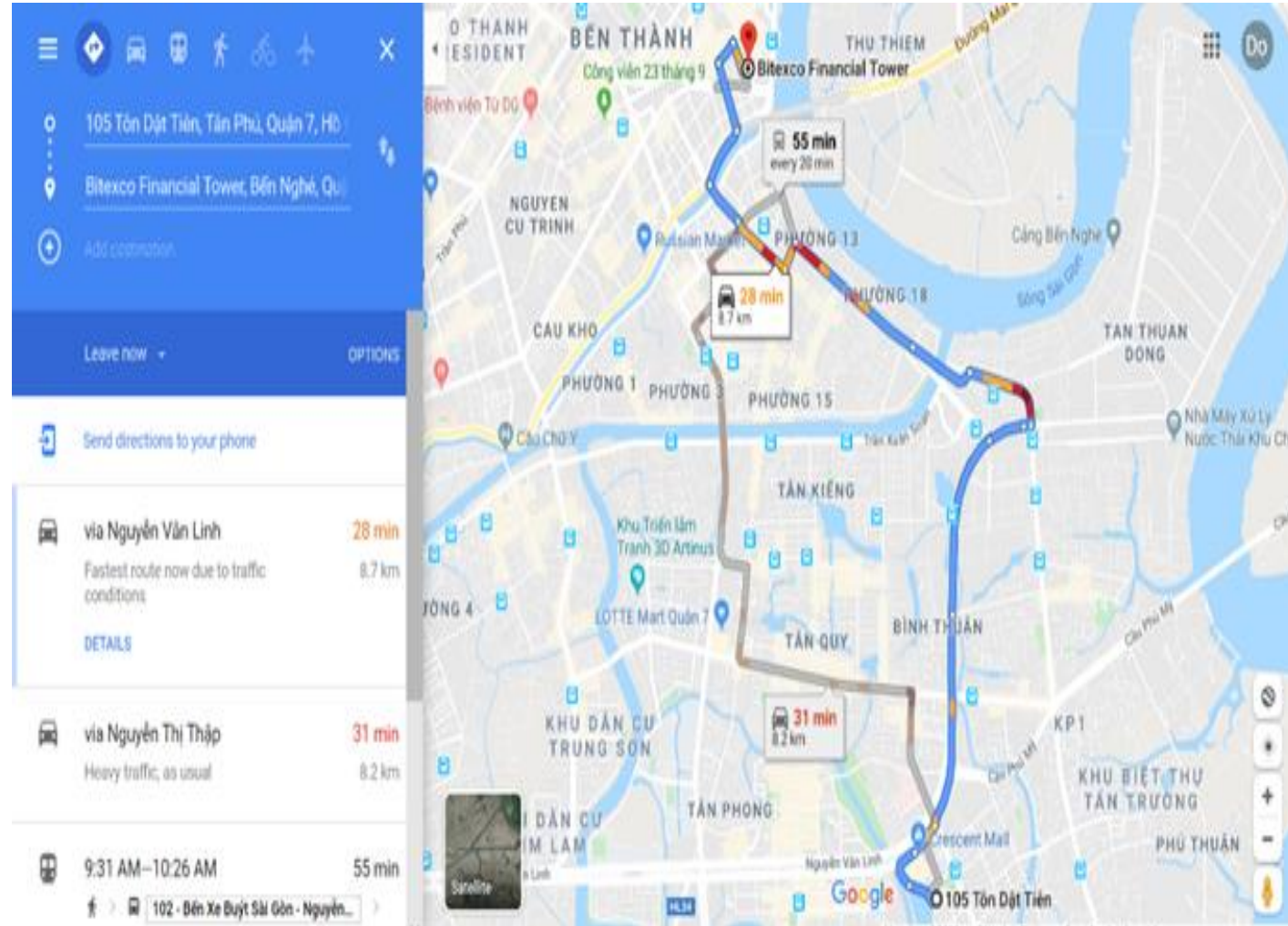


Private vehicles, i.e. scooters are most popular mode of transportation given its mobility. However, if the traffic craze scares you, ridesharing apps are just right for you. These two apps receive rave reviews even from locals: **Grab** and **GoViet**. They are all downloadable on iOS and Android smartphones.

If you want to take a cab, these are trusted taxi brands that you can call and book a ride:

- **Taxi Mai Linh** 1900 6582 (24/7 support)
- **Taxi VinaSun** (028) 38 27 27 27

And you want to get from CBD (D1) back to FUV Campus but have a hard time explaining to your driver where to go, a picture worth a thousand words, showing this map to your driver prevents communication frustration.



# WHAT TO EAT

Saigon boasts a variety of street food stalls and diversified international restaurants promising to satisfy your appetite. However, if you are on the run and time is not on your side, we suggest you check out these restaurants offering a wide range of Vietnam signature dishes.

**Nhà hàng Ngon**

**Bếp nhà Lục tỉnh**

**Cục Gạch Quán**

**Bụi Quán**

160 Pasteur, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1

37 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia, District 1

10 Dang Tat, Tan Dinh Ward, District 1

17A Ngo Van Nam, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1



In case you need quick and convenient meals near Crescent campus, here are some suggestions for you:

**Crescent Mall Food Court Level 5**

**Hoang Yen Vietnam Cuisine**

**Tokyo Deli**

**San Fu Lou Cantonese Kitchen**

**San May Café (vegetarian)**

101 Ton Dat Tien, District 7

103 Ton Dat Tien, District 7

Crescent Residence 1, Ton Dat Tien, District 7

Crescent Mall, 101 Ton Dat Tien, District 7

Level 5, Crescent Mall, 101 Ton Dat Tien, D7







## Reunification Palace

This complex was once the political emblem of U.S. backed Vietnam Republic where high-rank leaders and their families reside. The palace became historical testimony witnessing the downfall of the Republic regime when tanks of communist forces crushed its gate signaling a critical transition in Vietnam history.

📍 135 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia, District 1



## Jade Emperor Pagoda

Nested in a hustle and bustle neighborhood, the pagoda bears a cultural and spiritual significance in the lives of local people. Built by 19th century Cantonese immigrants, the shrine is the intricate blend between Buddhism and Taoism. Apart from instagrammable photos, the divine palace is said to endow prayers with love, health and fortune.

📍 73 Mai Thi Luu, District 3



## War Remnants Museum

Opened to public in 1975, the museum showcases photos, artifacts and weapons of the long, brutal wars wrecking Vietnam. The museum provides a candid narrative from victims' perspectives of the violent disputes between 1945 and 1975 in Vietnam. Definitely worth a visit if you want to understand a significant historical period of the country.

📍 28 Vo Van Tan, District 3





## Notre Dame Cathedral

Built by the French colonists in the 19th century, the basilica remains its unshakable position in local Catholic community. The red-brick façade, bell towers and a miniature garden with Virgin Mary statute in front is a tranquil corner for tourists to take a stroll and enjoy fresh morning breeze in Saigon.

 1 Cong Xa Paris, Ben Nghe, District 1



## Central Post Office

Located next door to Notre Dame Cathedral, the grand post office is among the rare remnants of French colony. Stepping behind sizeable doors send you back to 1950s with looping arches and antiquated telephone boxes. The two wings ancillary to the main office sell souvenirs and postcards which you can buy to send love to your dearest ones.

 2 Cong Xa Paris, Ben Nghe, District 1



## Skydeck Observatory Landmark 81

Inspired by the rising bamboo tree, super-tall skyscraper Landmark 81 represents a new Vietnam of rising prosperity and modernity. The observatory deck situated on 79<sup>th</sup> to 81<sup>st</sup> floors is built with surrounding glass window to allow a panoramic view of the metropolitan. The skyscraper also houses a multitude of fine dining restaurants and lodging options for visitors to enjoy luxurious living amenities.

 208 Nguyen Huu Canh, Vinhomes Tan Cang, Binh Thanh



# WHAT TO DO

## Be the MasterChef in a Cooking Class

Learning to cook your favorite Saigonese dish is a good idea to recreate and introduce your favorite food memories to family and friends. *Cookly* offers diversified and tailored cooking classes to address different budgets, needs and diets.

Website: <https://www.cookly.me/cooking-class/ho-chi-minh-city/>

## À Ô Show

This extraordinary show combines circus, music, story-telling and bamboo to depict a peaceful Vietnam country side against the urban background with noise and irony. *Lune Production*, the creator of this spectacular show, also produces three other much-acclaimed performances, including *Lang Toi – My Village*, *Teh Dar*, *Palao*. Taking place in 121 year-old Saigon Opera House – another national relic, the show is a two in one option that must not be missed in your visit to the city.

Website: <https://www.luneproduction.com/>

## Apartment block coffee tour

The number of coffee shops found in Saigon will surely amaze you. The location experience is as much important as the taste of the refreshments. Recently, old and unoccupied apartment blocks are renovated to accommodate a plethora of coffee shops, boutique, and fashion shops. The search for these privy cafes provide as much fun and excitement as their caffeinated drinks.

- ✓ 42 Nguyen Hue Street Café Apartments
- ✓ 26 Ly Tu Trong Apartment Block
- ✓ 14 Ton That Dam





# DO

- Dress discretely in public, esp. to religious places
- Carry credit cards and US dollars in small denominations
- Book taxi with meter or use our trusted taxi brands recommended above
- Lock your cards, passports, tickets in hotel safe
- Ask for permission before taking photos
- Watch out for pickpockets in crowded places or CBDs



## DO & DON'T IN VIETNAM

# DON'T

- Talk on your smartphone on D1 streets, pick pocketers are fast and cruel
- Wear a lot of jewelry's or show a lot of valuables in public
- Carry your bag on one shoulder; use crossbody bags to secure your belongings
- Go too fast when crossing the streets. Going with locals is the best choice

