

AN INTRODUCTION TO VIETNAM

Entry Regulations

Vietnam airlines flies to most major cities in Vietnam and bookings can be made by your sponsoring organization or your travel agent.

All visitors must possess a valid passport stamped with an entry visa issued by a Vietnamese Embassy. Applications should be filled out and submitted to the Vietnamese Embassy in Ottawa or to any Vietnamese Embassy throughout the world. Canadians who do not have the time to have their visa processed in Ottawa (the process generally takes about 10 days) are recommended to use the Vietnamese Embassies in entry cities such as Hong Kong, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, or Bangkok.

On arrival, two copies of a customs declaration must be completed, in addition to an entry/exit paper. You will be given one copy to keep. However, it is important to make sure that you do not lose these papers, for you will need to present them when leaving the country, otherwise you can be fined.

Visas

If you are on business in Vietnam, you need a business visa. However, if you are arriving for the first time, and just checking out business opportunities, a tourist visa should do. Visas cannot normally be issued on arrival, so make sure you arrange this in advance.

Tourist visas are valid for one month, available through a travel agent, and business visas are available for a period of up to six months, extendable and with multiple entry facility. Ask your Vietnamese sponsor to make an application to the Ministry of the Interior. Give them your full name, date and place of birth, profession, passport number (plus date of issue & expiry), nationality (original and present) and time and point of entry into Vietnam.

This procedure can be lengthy, so you should make your request 3 to 4 weeks before departing on your trip. The Ministry will telex the Vietnamese mission in your country with approval number. When your visa is ready, go to the Vietnamese mission with passport photos, fill out an application form and pay the requested fee, which can vary from country to country, and get the visa stamped in your passport.

Accommodations

Hanoi

Metropole rooms	15 Ngo Quyen, Central \$159 to \$359
tel	266919
fax	266920

Thang Loi Hotel rooms	Yen Phu, West Lake \$63 to \$145
tel	268211, 268215
fax	52800