

# SAIGON

#### SAIGON

(Pearl of the Orient)

The Capital of the Free Republic of Viet-Nam, with its sister city of Cholon, is a metropolis of two million inhabitants covering an area of 51 square miles laid on the west bank of the Saigon River. It dates back to 200 years, when it was originally a fishermen's village of thatched huts, some of which are still found on the right bank. Visitors will be amazed by its physionomy, a happy combination of old Oriental civilization and blooming modernism.

Saigon's attractiveness is enhanced by its boulevards shaded by tall exotic trees and its public parks. Its busy river front is picturesque, and ocean-liners travel 40 miles up river to reach the docks.

You will find here the warm hospitality of the Vietnamese people, the charm of Vietnamese girls in their gorgeous traditional tunic, the « ao dai », a graceful flowing costume of silk pantaloons under a long tunic split on both sides, and the excitement of life bustling along with innumerable bicycles, pousses or pedicabs, and cars and busses of every size and description.

Duong Tu-Do, or Liberty Street, is Saigon's main street on which are found fashionable shops as well as several important Government buildings.



School girls with national costumes.

Attractive Salons de Thé, such as La Pagode and Café Imperial, are situated along the street and invite the sightseer to stop for tea, coffee, liquor, French pastries or ice cream.

#### CHOLON

(Twin City of Saigon)

For an even more lively picture and a taste of the blending of civilizations you must visit the Chinese Quarter of Saigon, Cholon, often called the Twin City of Saigon.

Things are really lively at night out at Cholon. When all shops have closed for the day, the hour sounds for Cholon's night clubs to take over. Reached in about 15 minutes by taxi, this crowded, busy center offers a wide choice for wining, dining, and nocturnal relaxation. You should really make the rounds to savor the different flavor and atmosphere of each restaurant. To name just a few, these are the Arc-en-Ciel, Dai-Kim-Do, Palais de Jade...

#### CLIMATE

Although situated in the Deep South of Viet-Nam, Saigon is in the maritime zone and rarely becomes exceedingly hot, but usually cool in the evening. April the warmest month, averages temperatures in the 90's. In the Saigon area, winter is practically non-existent: December has an average of about 74 degrees. If you come during the months of June through September, however, bring your umbrella, for that is the rainy season with sudden showers alternating with sunshine.

#### TRANSPORTATION

#### Air transportation:

Planes. — Tan-Son-Nhut international airport is located at about 3 miles from the Saigon City center. Being the cross-road between the West and the East, Tan-Son-Nhut airport is being used daily by international airlines among which is Air Vietnam, the national carrier.

Air Vietnam serves the key cities of the Far East. From Saigon its Caravelle jet services reach Hongkong to the North, Bangkok to the West and Kuala Lumpur and Singapore to the South. To share the traffic of these sectors with Air Vietnam are Cathay Pacific Airways, Air France, Pan American Airways and Thai International.

Beyond these points, the long haul carriers such as Air France, P.A.A., U.T.A. carry the traffic as far as Europe, U.S.A. and Australia.

Furthermore, Air Vietnam together with Royal Air Cambodge and Royal Airlao link the capitals of the three neighbouring countries from Saigon to Vientiane and Phnom Penh and vice versa.

#### Land transportation :



Photo donated by Shell Viet-Nam
Comfortable busses and rickshaws make Saigon
as busy as ever.

- 1 Railroad. Trains run from Saigon to Dong-Ha via Bien-Hoa, Muong-Man, Thap-Cham, Nhatrang, Tuy-Hoa, Quang-Ngai, Da-Nang, Hue. Dalat is reached by cog-rail train from Thap-Cham.
- 2 Interurban bus services are available between most major tourist centers. The quality of service is rather good.
- 3 Taxis, painted a regulation blue-and-yellow, are always available in Saigon. Maximum carrying is 3 persons at a time. All are metered; a minimum fare for short ride is 6 piasters (8c). Fares are increased 50% between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Fare from town to airport is always double that shown on meter to insure the driver a return fare. Tourists should carry small change as drivers can seldom change 100 or 500 piasters bills.

- 4 Pousse or pedicabs. These comfortable three-wheeled, pedal-propelled arm-chairs are ideal for a smooth ride along the city's shady boulevards. The minimum pousse fare is five piasters. The prudent traveler always carries piasters of small denominations, for seldom does the operator admit having sufficient change. Visitors had better bargain over the fare to be paid for each run.
- 5 Car hire with driver. Visitors may make arrangements for a car through Travel Agents and Airline Offices. A wide range of modern American cars is available at Le-Loi Station. Charge for the first hour is VN \$ 250, and VN \$ 200 for each additional hour.

#### SHOPPING GUIDE

The main shopping areas in Saigon are on Tu-Do, Le-Loi, Nguyen-Hue, Le-thanh-Ton, and other streets near the center of the city.

Viet-Nam handicraft articles, especially souvenirs such as tortoise shell, ivory goods, pottery, windscreens, conical hats, are available at the Handicraft Development Center, 86, Tu-Do street.



A shopping area in Saigon.

Rich choice of lacquer, ceramic and bronze wares can be purchased at Thanh-Le Exhibition Hall, 159 Tu-Do, or other shops. Eden and Tax Arcades are also very interesting to visit; local as well as foreign products of every kind are displayed therein.

Saigon Central Market (Cho Ben Thanh), a popular shopping place, is fascinating with its stands of dazzling silk and brocade, straw, rattan and bamboo articles, brass wares of all types, delicious fruits, and many interesting indescribable items.

Bargaining is still the usual practice with certain shops, particularly stalls lined along the sidewalks. Some shops are closed at the lunch break.

#### ACCOMMODATION

One month's notice is enough to get best accommodations for clients. The finest hotels in Saigon are around the shopping center. Service is excellent, and telephones are available in certain rooms. They are partly or completely air-conditioned and most are equipped with private baths and showers.

SAIGON AREA	APPROXIMATE RATES PER DAY IN US\$				
and the same of th	Tele.	Single	Double	Suite	
CARAVELLE HOTEL 23, Lam Son Sq	25.712	12,32	17,81	28,77	
Majestic Hotel 1. Tu-Do, Street	23.711	10,26	14,11	19,88	
CONTINENTAL PALACE 132, Tu-Do Street	22.520	9,72	13,38	17,81	
ALFANA HOTEL 154, Tu-Do, Street	21.366	9,59	13,00	gonema	
ASTOR HOTEL 66-70, Tu-Do Street	21.415	8,22	12,30	5	
EMBASSY HOTEL 72. Nguyen Trung Truc	25.140	8,60	11,51	noizion especia	
Mai-LOAN HOTEL 16, Truong Cong Dinh	22.354	6,16	8,22	prognoi	
CATINAT HOTEL 69, Tu-Do Street	21.930	6,16	6,85	arick a	
CHOLON AREA	op ni 3	off, ma	e mid	S Like	
VICTORIA HOTEL 937, Tran Hung Dao	36.598	7,98	9,17	w. sad	
Dong Khanh Hotel 2, Dong Khanh Blvd	36.156	4,79	6,85	oz ojni	
King-wa 41. Ngo Quyen Street	36.846	5,48	6,30	Sudenia Barra	

#### WHERE TO DINE IN SAIGON

Food is one of the pleasures of life that any visitor in Saigon can enjoy, for Vietnam's capital can provide anything the gourmet or the plain hungry man desires.

The Caravelle Hotel offers delicious French food in the « Champs Elysées Restaurant ».

Good French food can also be found at Guillaume Tell, Peacock, Diamond, Caruso, La Cigale, Brodard, Amiral.

Van-Canh, Arc-en-Ciel, Dong-Khanh, Cheong-Nam and the My-Canh Floating Restaurant offer a limitless variety of Chinese exotic specialities.

A touch of the Vietnamese delicacies is provided by the Tour d'Argent next to the Club Nautique, by hosts of others along the way from Saigon to Thu-Duc at the Binh-Trieu-Quan and at the Con-Ga-Quay respectively 3 and 7 miles East of Saigon. In addition, Vietnamese specialities can also be found at Ngoc-Huong. Bo Bay Mon Anh-Hong, Duyen-Mai, Pho 79.

Japanese specialities such as Sukivaki and Sushi can be found at the Fuji Restaurant in Cholon, while excellent Spanish dishes are served at the Paprika. In short, there is no end to the variety of food offered to anyone who desires to eat well in Saigon.

#### WHAT TO EAT

Visitors to Viet-Nam should try some authentic food during their stay and a few well known Vietnamese dishes are described below for the adventurous gournet. (Vietnamese meals are not basically spicy, chilli is served separately when needed).

Cha gio, similar to a Chinese egg-roll but with a mixture of shrimp, crab, pork, noodles wrapped in rice paper and deep fried. This superb dish is a-never-to-beforgotten treat.

Chao tom, Shrimp paste rolled around sugar cane stick and broiled. It goes well with whisky.

Bo bay mon (Beef in seven dishes) is a favorite with Americans in Viet-Nam. Each dish contains beef; but while some dishes have vegetables, and other have chunks of beef, or slices, still others ground beef shaped into small balls or patties. Each dish has a special sauce.

Com tay cam. Rice cooked with a mixture of mushrooms, chicken, and pork in an earthen pot and served with ginger sauce.

#### THANH-LE EXHIBITION HALL

Viet-Nam is renowned for its lacquer work, examples of which can be seen at many shops on Tu-Do street, especially at Thanh-Le.

Lacquer work requires painstaking application of layer upon layer of lacquer and then paint or inlay to achieve the effect that is so highly prized. One can also find articles finished in finely-crushed egg-shell.

#### BIRD MARKET

Another characteristic and charming scene of Saigon is the sidewalk market on Ham-Nghi Boulevard, commonly known as the « Bird Market ». Many kinds of animals are on sale: canaries, pigeons, monkeys, parrots, squirrels, rabbits, partridges, fish, dogs etc.

#### FLOWER MARKET

At the Flower Market along Nguyen-Hue Boulevard, the visitor can find the irresistible displays of gladioli, roses, mimosas, orchids, lotuses, lilies, etc. Little bargaining is needed to obtain a reasonable price.

In Saigon, flowers are fairly inexpensive and the variety is limited because most of them are brought in from Dalat, 6 hours away by car.



Flower Market along Nguyen-Hue Blvd. during the Vietnamese New Year.

#### CURRENCY AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

There are no restrictions on the amount of foreign currency that travelers may bring in. All travelers are advised to declare their money in detail (bank notes and travelers cheques), as well as precious jewels when filling in the Customs Declaration Form. Travelers who change their money at the National Exchange Office representation at the harbor, airport, and at the Hotels, must have an official receipt of exchange delivered. The unspent local currencies may be reconverted into the original currency at the airport or harbor at the time of departure upon presentation of the abovementioned receipt.

The monetary unit here is the « Piaster » called the « Dong » written with Dollar sign and worth approximately 73 piasters per US Dollar or 206 piasters per Pound sterling.

#### APPROXIMATE RATES OF EXCHANGE

F

oreign currency	Vietnamese piaster
U.S. Dollar	73.50
Pound Sterling	
Australian Pound	
Indian Rupee	13.00
Hongkong Dollar	15.00
Malayan Dollar	23.00
Mark of the German Federal Repu	blic . 17.00
New French Franc	15.00
100 Yen	
Baht 10	35.00

#### HANDICRAFT CENTER

The Viet-Nam Handicraft Development Center, located on Tu-Do street, offers many varieties of beautiful Vietnamese craft work at popular prices.

Your first few moments in Viet-Nam will bring exclamations of admiration at the host of precious works of art, at least one of which you will want to bring home with you. Their value is commensurate with the well-founded reputation of their craftmen.

Many of these art objects and crafts are available to you during your visit. They include finely carved statuettes of ivory or rare woods, oil paintings, small articles made of tortoise shells, painted silks of iridescent colors, and lacquered tableaux and screens, for which Vietnamese artisans are justly famous. Also, for smaller souvenirs or gifts, you will find straw hats, mats, and wooden shoes made to order while you wait.

#### BOTANICAL GARDEN

Besides the particularly Asiatic flavor of the city, its cosmopolitanism and bustling commotion, Saigon offers a wealth of beauty and interesting sights. Foremost are the Botanical Gardens which contain one of the richest collections of orchids and equatorial plants known.

Admission: VN\$2, free on Thursday only.

#### NATIONAL MUSEUM



National Museum.

In the National Museum are stores of treasures depicting the evolution of Vietnamese and neighboring cultures such as Khmer, Chinese, and Japanese. It is here that many relics of the ancient Cham civilization repose.

Admission: Free. Open on weekdays (except Monday and Friday) from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Cameras not allowed.

#### MARSHAL LE-VAN-DUYET'S TEMPLE

The tomb of Marshal Le-Van-Duyet, a military hero who served Emperor Gia-Long; the unifier of Viet-Nam in the XIX century, is situated in the heart of Gia-Dinh province, two miles from Saigon. Destroyed by Emperor Minh-Mang in 1831, the tomb was rebuilt by his successor Emperor Thieu-Tri. Now, every year on the occasion of the Vietnamese New Year, the place is thronged with pilgrims coming from all parts of the country.

A visit to this site will give you a look into the Vietnamese traditional worship, the cult of ancestors. You can find relics of the National Hero in the main hall. The façade of the Temple ornamented, with bits of broken glass and porcelain fragments, is quite photogenic.



The cult of ancestors.

### USEFUL ADDRESSES

#### **AIRLINES**

AIRLINES MONEY MEETING
ALITALIA c/o Transma, 18, Ben Bach Dang Tel.: 20.249
AIR FRANCE (U.T.A., LUFTHANSA) 130, Tu-Do
AIR SERVICE (PAN AM, C.P.A.) 23, Ngo Duc Ke
116, Nguyen Hue Tel.: 21.624-27
General Sales Agent for:
(AIR INDIA; B.O.A.C.; JAPAN AIRLINES; K.L.M.; MALAYSIAN AIRWAYS; NORTHWEST ORIENT AIRLINES; QANTAS; ROYAL AIR CAMBODGE).
CIVIL AIR TRANSPORTATION (T.W.A.) 16, Tu Do
PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS INC. 23, Ngo Duc Ke
ROYAL AIR LAO 10, Ngo Duc Ke Tel.: 24.178
s.a.s.; swissair; thai international 100, Tu Do
UNITED AIRLINES c/o Getz Bros, Co, 26-28, Ham Nghi Tel.: 23.928
POREIGN FMERSHES AND CONSULATES
BANKS
BANKS  BANKS  BANKOK BANK, LTD. 44, Nguyen Cong Tru Tel.: 25.764  BANK OF CHINA 11, Ben Chuong Duong Tel.: 21.632/33  BANK OF COMMUNICATIONS 87, Ham Nghi Tel.: 21.549
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VIET-NAM NGAN HANG 117, Nguyen Hue	Tel.: 21.326/28
VIET-NAM THUONG TIN BANK 17, Ben Chuong Duong	Tel.: 23.521
CIVIC ORGANIZATION	S - SOME AS AND
CERCLE SPORTIF SAIGONAIS 55, Hong Thap Tu	Tel.: 20.385
24, Ngo Duc Ke	Tel.: 25.838
PRESS CLUB 15, Le Loi	Tel.: 24.894
ROTARY CLUB 134, Tu Do	Tel.: 22.444
RED CROSS 201, Hong Thap Tu	Tel.: 22.298
VIET-NAM JAYCEE 387, Vo Tanh	Tel.: 25.016
EXHIBITS	
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HANDICRAET CENTER 96, Tu-Do	Tel.: 25.264
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FOREIGN EMBASSIES AND CO IN VIET-NAM  AMERICAN EMBASSY 39, Ham Nghi  AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY Caravelle Building  BRITISH EMBASSY 25, Thong Nhut  BELGIAN LEGATION	Tel.: 25.251 Tel.: 21.442 Tel.: 25.341
FOREIGN EMBASSIES AND CO IN VIET-NAM  AMERICAN EMBASSY 39, Ham Nghi  AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY Caravelle Building  BRITISH EMBASSY 25, Thong Nhut	Tel.: 25.251 Tel.: 21.442 Tel.: 25.341 Tel.: 23.345
FOREIGN EMBASSIES AND CO IN VIET-NAM  AMERICAN EMBASSY 39, Ham Nghi  AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY Caravelle Building  BRITISH EMBASSY 25, Thong Nhut  BELGIAN LEGATION 26, Gia-Long  CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION	Tel.: 25.251 Tel.: 21.442 Tel.: 25.341 Tel.: 23.345 Tel.: 22.673
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FOREIGN EMBASSIES AND CO IN VIET-NAM  AMERICAN EMBASSY 39, Ham Nghi  AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY Caravelle Building  BRITISH EMBASSY 25, Thong Nhut  BELGIAN LEGATION 26, Gia-Long  CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION 185, Le Van Duyet  CHINESE EMBASSY 47, Pasteur  DANISH LEGATION 15, Nguyen Cong Tru  FRENCH EMBASSY 1, Ben Chuong Duong	Tel.: 25.251 Tel.: 21.442 Tel.: 25.341 Tel.: 23.345 Tel.: 22.673 Tel.: 21.732 Tel.: 23.441
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INDIAN CONSULATE GENERAL 213, Tu Do	Tel.: 21.340
JAPANESE EMBASSY 13-17, Nguyen Hue	Tel.: 23.545
KOREAN EMBASSY 109, Nguyen Du	Tel.: 23.146
LAOTIAN EMBASSY 93, Pasteur	
MALAYSIA EMBASSY 141 bis, Cong Ly	
NETHERLANDS LEGATION 147, Phan Dinh Phung	
NORWEGIAN CONSULATE 7, Han Thuyen	
PHILIPPINE EMBASSY	
42, Doan Thi Diem	
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26, Gia Long	Tel.: 22.396
77, Truong Minh Giang	Tel.: 20.172
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# C) Vung-Tau Area:

Le Loi	Vung-Tau
HOTEL CYRNOS Quang Trung	Vung-Tau
PACIFIC HOTEL  Le Loi/Phan Thanh Gian	Vung-Tau

D) Nhatrang Area:	
GRAND HOTEL 42, Duy 'Tan	
HOTEL NAUTIQUE 18, Duy Tan	NORWHOU
LA FREGATE 2, Le Loi	Nhatrang
PACIFIC HOTEL 4, Tran Hung Dao	Nhatrang
E) Dalat Area	

#### E) Dalat Area:

AU BON ACCUEIL	
2, Hung Vuong	Dalat
DALAT HOTEL	
7. Yersin	Dalat
DALAT PALACE	

DALAT PALACE 2, Yersin	 Dalat
MIMOSA	

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#### F) Hue Area:

HOTEL HUE Le Loi	Hue
THUAN HOA HOTEL 5, Duy Tan	Hue

## MINISTRIES AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES

63, Gia-Long	Tel.: 40.100
ECONOMY 59, Gia-Long	Tel.: 22.030
FOR THANK TON	Tel.: 20.929
FINANCE 142, Hong Thap Tu	Tel.: 21.141
FOREIGN AFFAIRS  9, Alexandre de Rhodes	Tel.: 22.962

JUSTICE 47, Thong Nhat Tel.: 20.42	
	20
170. Phan Dinh Phung Tel.: 21.69	
INTERIOR 164, Tu Do Tel. 20.58	13
459, Tran Hung Dao Tel.: 21.41	.0
PUBLIC HEALTH 59, Hong Thap Tu Tel.: 23.43	81
PUBLIC WORKS 55, Pasteur Tel.: 20.45	51
IMMIGRATION SERVICE (EXTENSION OF STAY) 115, Vo Di Nguy	19
NATIONAL EXCHANGE OFFICE  17 Ben Chuong Duong Tel: 22.19	16
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PREFECTURE OF SAIGON 86, Le Thanh Ton Tel.: 21.05	
SECURITY SERVICE 252. Vo Tanh Tel.: 24.82	
VIET-NAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 69. Tu Do	)1
NIGHT CLUBS	
ARC-EN-CIEL	
52-56, Tan Da Ch	
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MY-PHUNG 5, Me Linh Square	Saigon
OLYMPIA 92, Trinh Minh The	Saigon
PARAMOUNT 181, Ham-Nghi	Saigon
TOUR D'IVOIRE 12, Tran Hung Dao	
TU-DO 80, Tu Do	Saigon
VAN-CANH 184, Calmette	Saigon

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MA CABANE	Saigon
108, Truong Cong Dinh	
40 B, Gia Long	
959, Tran Hung-Dao	
155, Gia Long	Saigon
466, Dong Khanh	Cholon
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PEACOCK 60-62, Nguyen van Thinh	Saigon
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TOUR D'ARGENT Ben Chuong Duong	Saigon
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COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES 46-48, Tu Do Tel.:	
LLOYD TRIESTINO (C/O UFEO) 18, Ben Bach Dang Tel.:	23.221
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