Avoid Scams this Holiday Season

- Only use taxis with meters, and never get into a taxi without checking that it is driven by a licensed operator.
- Never accept a “free” service, such as food or a ride, as you may receive an inflated price after the meal or tour.
- Avoid holiday charity scams by researching charities and protecting your personal and financial information.

Holiday Safety Tips

The holiday season is a special time of year, but also a time when people become vulnerable to thefts, traffic accidents, and other types of holiday crimes and scams. Please take the following precautions when celebrating this holiday season:

When Driving:
- Avoid driving alone or at night.
- If you go out at night, park in a well-lit area.
- When approaching or leaving your motorcycle or vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not approach your motorcycle or car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.

At the Automated Teller Machine (ATM):
- If you must use an ATM, choose one that is located in a well-lit location and withdraw only the amount of cash you need.
- Protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you.
- Don’t discard your receipt at the ATM.

When Shopping:
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Be extra careful if you carry a wallet or purse as they are prime targets of pickpockets in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, and bus stops.

Attending a Party:
- Have something to eat before drinking alcohol.
- Know your safe limit.
- Never drink and drive.
Travel Safely this Holiday Season!

With increased travel over the holiday season, there is also an increased risk of motor vehicle accidents and security incidents related to petty crime. Protect yourself and others by practicing good road safety and always keeping careful track of your belongings. Road accidents are a leading cause of death and injury to U.S. citizens living and traveling in Vietnam. Vietnamese law requires everyone riding a motorbike to wear a helmet. Follow Vietnamese traffic laws and use common-sense safety measures to mitigate threats from pickpockets. Whether you live in Vietnam permanently or are only here temporarily, don’t take a vacation from safety.

Useful Information for LPRs During COVID-19

If you are a U.S. lawful permanent resident (LPR) stranded outside of the United States due to COVID-19, you may find the information below useful. U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) retains jurisdiction over the status of LPRs and any request for official guidance should be directed to them. Click here for more info.

#stormseason

Monitor local weather reports to be aware of incoming storms.

Visit the website of the U.S. Embassy in Vietnam for the latest weather and travel alerts.
The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. STEP provides important updates from the Embassy regarding conditions in your destination country and can help the Embassy contact you in an emergency.

https://step.state.gov

U.S. Citizens with Emergencies, please call:

- Embassy Hanoi 24/7: (024) 3850-5000 within Vietnam or +8424-3850-5000 internationally.
- U.S. Consulate Ho Chi Minh City 24/7: (028) 3520-4200 within Vietnam; or +8428-3520-4200 internationally.

For information about general, non-emergency services provided by U.S. Citizen Services, including urgent appointment requests, please contact us via our ACS inquiry form.

Vietnam Travel Advisory: Level 2

On October 5, the Department of State downgraded its travel advisory for U.S. Citizens interested in traveling to Vietnam. It recommends all U.S. Citizens exercise increased caution when considering Travel to Vietnam due to Covid-19. Please visit the U.S. Embassy and Consulate’s website to see information on entry restrictions, quarantine policies, and urgent health information for Vietnam.

Update on U.S. Passport Operations


Air Quality in Vietnam

The U.S. Embassy and U.S. Consulate General have air quality monitors to measure PM 2.5 particulates as an indication of the air quality. You can check the current reading for Hanoi here and HCMC here. The air monitors convert PM 2.5 readings into an air quality index (AQI). For more information on AQI and how it is calculated please visit: https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/.

### Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Numerical Value</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 50</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 to 100</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101 to 150</td>
<td>Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>151 to 200</td>
<td>Unhealthy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201 to 300</td>
<td>Very Unhealthy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>301 to 500</td>
<td>Hazardous</td>
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</table>

Regional Air Quality

December 28, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vietnam</th>
<th>Air Quality Index</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hanoi</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCMC</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

U.S. Embassy Hà Nội Consular Section
Rose Garden Building, 2nd Floor
170 Nguyễn Khang Street, Hà Nội, Vietnam

U.S. Consulate General T.P. Hồ Chí Minh
4 Lê Duẩn
T.P. Hồ Chí Minh, Vietnam