

EMBASSY UPDATES

NEWSLETTER FOR U.S. CITIZENS IN VIETNAM

U.S. EMBASSY HANOI • U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL HO CHI MINH CITY

JANUARY 2021

Important Announcements

ACS Outreach Events:

American Citizen Services (ACS) in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City do not have outreach activities planned at this time. Stay tuned for information on upcoming events.

Holidays & Upcoming Events

January 18: Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

February 10-16: Lunar New Year / President's Day

The U.S. Embassy and U.S. Consulate General are closed during U.S. and Vietnamese public holidays

Routine U.S. Citizen Services

Please use our online scheduling system (<http://bit.ly/acs-slot>) to request passport and notarial appointments for the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi and Consulate General HCMC.

Failure to obtain an appointment or arrive on time may result in being denied entry.

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 inside 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.



American Citizen Services

Contact us if you have any questions at:

Embassy Hanoi 24/7: (024) 3850-5000 • U.S. Consulate General Ho Chi Minh City 24/7: (028) 3520-4200

ACS Inquiry Form: <https://vn.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/acs-inquiry-form/>



DON'T TAKE A VACATION FROM SAFETY!

#DriveSafeVietnam

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.](#)

U.S. Embassy Hanoi



U.S. Consulate Ho Chi Minh City



#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.

Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern	Numerical Value	Meaning
Good	0 to 50	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk
Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.
Unhealthy	151 to 200	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.
Hazardous	301 to 500	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.

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/>.

STEP Enrollment



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

To see the current update on passport operations in response to Covid-19 visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/passport-covid-19.html>