

Leah and Jess's Post Stay in Ho Chi Minh City

After our recent 3 night post-stay in Ho Chi Minh, we've compiled a list of the top things to do, ensuring you get the most out of this vibrant city. From poignant history lessons to delicious street food and rooftop cocktails, here's your guide to the ultimate Saigon experience.

Leah's Favorite Spot: Laundry Day, Saigon-Style

You might not think "laundry day" and "favourite activity" belong in the same sentence, but Leah begs to differ. Ho Chi Minh City's laundromats are fast, affordable, and kind of like a mini-vacation for your clothes. Perfect for washing away the dust after days of exploring, so you're all fresh for the next leg of your adventure.

Pro Tip: Many places will pick up and drop off your laundry, so you can relax while someone else takes care of the chores. Win-win!

Jess's Favorite Activity: Spotting Dogs on Mopeds

One of the city's most heartwarming quirks? Dogs on mopeds. Yes, it's a thing. Jess's absolute favourite part of exploring the streets of Ho Chi Minh is spotting these furry passengers riding shotgun with their humans, happily enjoying the breeze and the sights.

Pro Tip: Nguyen Hue Walking Street and Ben Thanh Market are prime places to spot these canine commuters. Keep your camera ready for some adorable moped moments!

Top 10

1. War Remnants Museum

Begin your exploration with an impactful visit to the War Remnants Museum. This museum

offers a stark, human-centred perspective on the Vietnam War through photos, artefacts, and even tanks and aircraft. It's a reflective experience that resonates long after you leave.

Pro Tip: Don't rush through. Give yourself time to process, and maybe unwind with a coffee at the café next door.

2. Cu Chi Tunnels

The Cu Chi Tunnels are an incredible underground network used by soldiers during the war. The tour lets you explore these tight passageways (if you're up for it!) and gives a glimpse into the clever tactics used in such confined spaces.

Pro Tip: The tunnels are narrow, so wear comfy clothes and bring a friend for support!

3. Café Apartments

The Café Apartments in Ho Chi Minh City are a former residential building transformed into a multi-story haven of trendy cafes, boutiques, and creative spaces. Each floor offers unique, cosy spots overlooking bustling Nguyen Hue Walking Street, making it a must-visit for coffee lovers and photographers alike.

Pro Tip: Head to the top floors for the best views of the bustling street below, and be sure to try the Vietnamese egg coffee.

4. Central Post Office

Designed by the same architect who created the Eiffel Tower, this colonial gem is a step back in time, complete with vintage phone booths and a grand vaulted ceiling. It's a place where you can snap a few photos and perhaps send a postcard home

Pro Tip: Afterward, pop across the street to the Notre Dame Cathedral for a touch more of that French colonial charm.

5. Ben Thanh Market

Ben Thanh Market is a lively hub of colours, aromas, and buzzing energy, where you can find everything from local handicrafts to street food favourites like *bánh mì* and *phở*. It's also a great spot to practice your haggling skills!

Pro Tip: Go hungry. Some of the best dishes are served here, and prices are often negotiable.

6. Nguyen Hue Walking Street

Nguyen Hue Walking Street is at its liveliest in the evenings, this is when locals gather to socialise, roller-skate, and enjoy the street performances. With skyscrapers on either side, it's a captivating mix of modernity and local energy, and, yes, you might even spot a dog or two riding mopeds!

Pro Tip: For the best atmosphere, visit in the evening when the street is alive with lights and activity.

7. Sip and Savor at a Rooftop Bar

As the sun sets, Ho Chi Minh's rooftop bars come to life. Places like Chill Skybar or the Saigon Saigon Rooftop Bar at the Caravelle Hotel offer stunning city views, and the atmosphere is perfect for unwinding with a cocktail.

Pro Tip: Dress codes apply, so leave flip-flops behind. Sunset is ideal for catching beautiful views in a relaxed setting.

8. Take a Food Tour

A food tour is the perfect way to experience the local flavours of Ho Chi Minh. From *bánh mì* to crispy *bánh xèo*, you'll discover an array of dishes as vibrant as they are delicious. Vietnamese iced coffee quickly became our new obsession, too!

Pro Tip: Be adventurous with your choices, and add extra chilli if you're feeling brave. Vietnamese cuisine is all about bold, fresh flavours.

9. Cruise the Mekong Delta

Take a day trip to the Mekong Delta to experience Vietnam's rural beauty, where you can float along serene rivers, visit fruit orchards, and perhaps catch a glimpse of the floating markets. A peaceful escape from the city, it's an unforgettable experience.

Pro Tip: Many full-day tours include lunch and stops at craft villages, so block off the day to fully immerse yourself.

10. Indulge in a Head Spa or Nail Treatment

Vietnam is known for its beauty treatments, so indulge in a luxurious head spa or nail treatment. With scalp massages, hair treatments, and nail care at wallet-friendly prices, it's the ultimate relaxation experience.

Pro Tip: Ask for the “head spa” package at a reputable spa if you’re looking to unwind, recharge, and leave feeling pampered.