

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a person wearing a traditional Vietnamese conical hat and a light-colored shirt, crouching in a field of numerous large, fan-shaped red flowers. The person is holding one of the flowers. The flowers are arranged in neat rows, creating a strong sense of pattern and depth.

2024 BUDGET GUIDE

Vietnam

www.travelbud.com



BUDGETING IN VIETNAM

Vietnam is generally a cheap place to travel to. You should be able to manage on a relatively low budget if necessary.

Although Vietnam may appear inexpensive due to favourable currency exchange rates, costs do add up and it can be easy to overspend. It is easy to overspend on lots of little things and big nights out before you adjust to local costs, and it is important to watch this if you are on a tight budget. You shouldn't expect your first payday until the end of your first month of teaching. Therefore, this is a guide to provide you with an approximate budget for your initial few months in Vietnam. *Of course, the amount of money you will need depends on your spending habits.*

You are signed up for one of the two programs below:

> **VIETNAM IN-CLASS TEFL/TESOL & PLACEMENT PROGRAM**

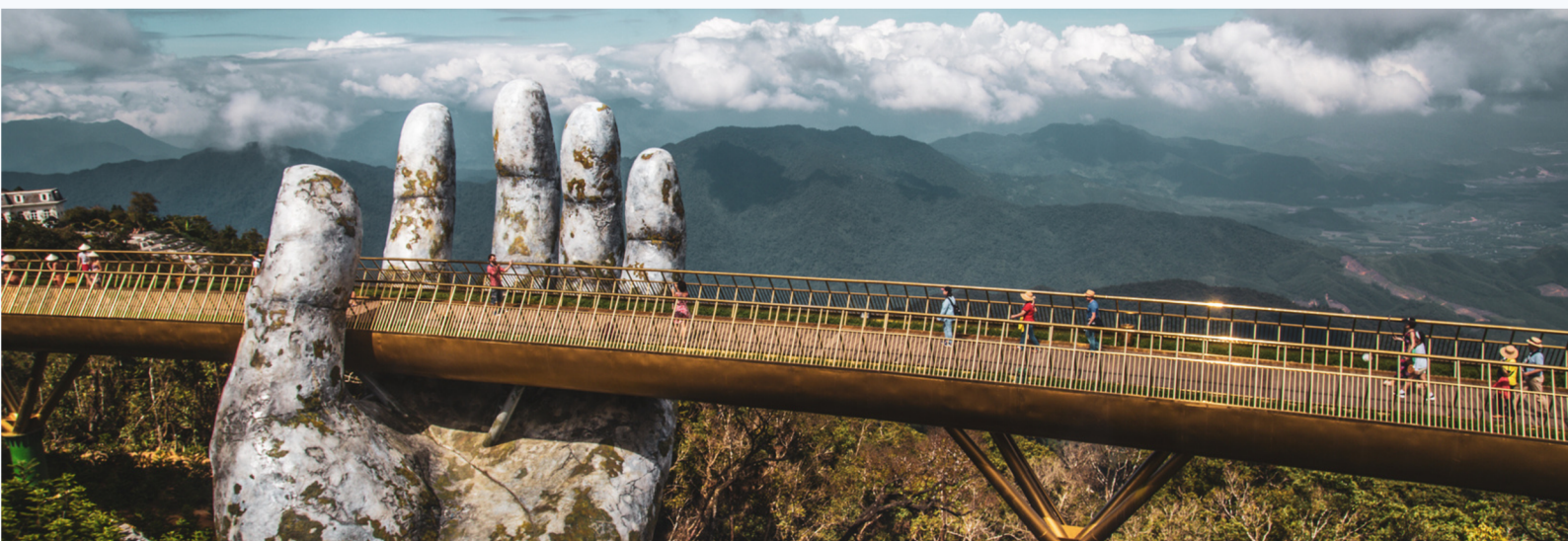
We strongly suggest you bring no less than \$2,000 USD with you when you arrive in Vietnam. Please note, that this amount does not include any costs associated before arrival in Vietnam.

- *Please refer to pages 3 - 5 & 8 - 9 for approximate budgets for the in-class TEFL/TESOL & Placement Program.*

> **VIETNAM PLACEMENT & SUPPORT PROGRAM**

We strongly suggest you bring no less than \$1,500 USD with you when you arrive in Vietnam. Please note, that this amount does not include any costs associated before arrival in Vietnam.

- *Please refer to pages 3 & 6 - 9 for approximate budgets for the Placement & Support Program.*





PRE-DEPARTURE COSTS

Flights	Flight prices vary depending on where you travel from and when you book. Prices can occasionally exceed this range. TravelBud is partnered with Student Universe so you are more than welcome to click here to complete our form and receive a free quotation for your consideration.	\$700 - \$1,500
Documentation	Background Check	\$10 - \$50 (country dependent)
	Legalized Background Check	\$50 - \$250 (country dependent)
	Legalized Degree	\$50 - \$250 (country dependent)
	Legalized TESOL/TEFL/CELTA Certificate	\$50 - \$250 (country dependent)
	Other Legalized Documents (Affidavit/COVID-19 Vaccine Record/IELTS)	\$50 - \$250 per document
	English Proficiency Test (IELTS)	\$76 - \$400 (country dependent)
	Documentation Total	\$286 - \$1,450





PRE-DEPARTURE COSTS

Insurance	Travel insurance prices can vary depending on things like provider, age, country of origin and duration of your stay. This range is for TravelBud's recommended policies based on stays of 6 months or 1 year. Travel insurance is a mandatory requirement for all TravelBud programs. TravelBud is partnered with World Nomads and Safety Wing so you are more than welcome to click here or click here to obtain more information and a free quote for your consideration.	\$250 - \$800
Visa Cost & Work Permit	Upon arrival at the airport in Vietnam, you will apply for your visa. This amount will be reimbursed by your school when you arrive at school. Keep hold of your receipt to be reimbursed.	\$300 - \$800
TOTAL		\$1,276 - \$3,890



BUDGET GUIDE



In-class TEFL/TESOL course, Placement & Support - 1 month in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

ACCOMMODATION, DEPOSIT, & EARLY ARRIVAL (FOOD, ATTRACTIONS, & TRANSPORTATION)

EARLY ARRIVAL: \$188 - 234
DEPOSIT: \$100

If you plan to arrive in Ho Chi Minh City a day or two early, you should budget in the cost of transportation, attractions, and food. You can save money by using public transportation whenever possible and only take metered taxis. Public transportation consists of the buses and taxis. These public transportation methods are easy ways to navigate Ho Chi Minh for much cheaper than a taxi (13,000 Vietnamese Dong (VND) per mile).

You will be asked to put down a deposit of \$100 USD; this will be returned to you at the end of your stay, minus any damages done to the room. Shared Accommodation is included in your course fee from the Sunday before start date. If you arrive before the Sunday before your course starts, you will need to pay between \$24 USD per night you stay at the hotel. We have monthly contracts with the accommodation, so if you arrive outside of the contract period, you may need to pay for the early arrival.

ENGLISH SCHOOL CAMP SUPPLIES

\$11 - \$22

As you will learn in the course, having colorful, creative, engaging materials for teaching enhances the experience for your students. During the teacher camp, you will need to make flashcards, props, and possibly some worksheets. Most teachers spend about 200,000 – 350,000 VND on their camp supplies for flashcards, worksheets, activities, and games. You will be able to use these materials once you start teaching at your placement as well. We do provide access to stationary (sticky tack, stapler, tape, scissors, and whiteboard markers) throughout the course to help you plan your homework and class presentations.

STARTUP ITEMS (TOILETRIES, TOWEL, & PHONE)

\$10 - \$70

In Vietnam, you can find all toiletries like shampoo, soap, toothpaste, etc. at many convenience stores. Most accommodations in Vietnam do not provide towels; therefore, we recommend people buy a towel once they get to Vietnam. You can certainly bring one from home, but it may take up space in your luggage. Another important thing to note is that Vietnam is a BYOTP culture (Bring Your Own Toilet Paper). Toilet paper is not often provided at public restrooms, restaurants, and even accommodations. The Vietnamese way is to use a spray gun, which almost all toilets and squatting toilets have. However, toilet paper is available in local convenient stores. We will provide you with a SIM card for your phone. If you wish to purchase a cheap burner phone here, they are available at the mall and cost about 300,000 – 2,000,000 VND (13 – 89 USD).

DAILY EXPENSES (FOOD, LAUNDRY, TRANSPORTATION AROUND HCMC & TO THE TEFL/TESOL COURSE)

\$340 - \$520

One of the best ways to budget your cash while living in Vietnam is eating the local Vietnamese street food. A local meal in Vietnam is about 15,000 – 50,000 VND (.64 – 2.15 USD) per dish. There are many restaurants that sell western style food but it is substantially more expensive. Western meals like hamburgers, pizza, etc. range from 60,000 – 250,000 VND (3 - 11 USD) and up for a single meal. There are coin laundry machines (60,000 VND [2.68 USD] per load) and full-service laundry shops (25,000 vnd per kg of laundry) in Vietnam. Public transportation on routes in Vietnam cost 6,000 – 20,000 VND (.26 - 1 USD) per trip. If you are looking to go somewhere specific, or are in a hurry, you can rent a taxi or take the bus.

OPTIONAL EXPENSES (NIGHTLIFE, WEEKEND TRIPS, SHOPPING)

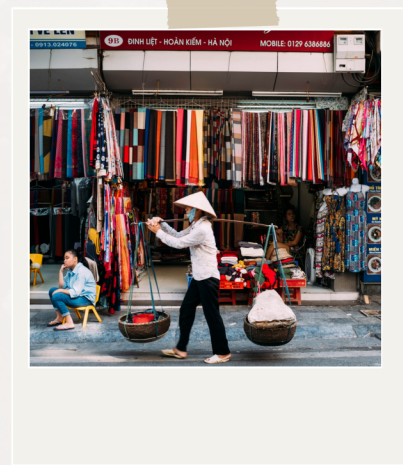
\$80 - \$420

If you drink alcohol you will soon realize it becomes one of your biggest expenses. Be mindful of this when heading out as it is one of the many causes of participants running out of cash. Bars, especially in tourist areas, can vastly over charge on beer. For example, local beer will be 10,000 - 25,000 vnd at a local restaurant, but bars in the tourist area sometimes charge 50,000-100,000 vnd a beer. Cocktails are only marginally cheaper than western prices. (typically 100,000-120,000 vnd). If you are interested in going on weekend day trips with fellow participants to the local waterfall, temples, and beaches, there are some national park entrance fees and transportation costs. We will tell you more about these options during your first week and we can help arrange the trips. You can spend however much you like on these extra optional things, but please be mindful of your budget.

TOTAL: \$729 - \$1,366

PLEASE BE AWARE - VERY IMPORTANT

On average those participating in the In-class TEFL/TESOL course, Placement and Support program will be placed within the first 6 weeks in HCMC, however, on occasion, the placement process can take longer. Therefore, it is important to be prepared and budget for a couple of weeks post-course in HCMC before heading to your placement.



BUDGET GUIDE



Placement & Support - Orientation week in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

ACCOMMODATION, DEPOSIT, & EARLY ARRIVAL (FOOD, ATTRACTIONS, & TRANSPORTATION)

**EARLY ARRIVAL: \$188 - 234
DEPOSIT: \$100**

If you plan to arrive in Ho Chi Minh City a day or two early, you should budget in the cost of transportation, attractions, and food. You can save money by using public transportation whenever possible and only take metered taxis. Public transportation consists of the buses and taxis. These public transportation methods are easy ways to navigate Ho Chi Minh for much cheaper than a taxi (13,000 Vietnamese Dong (VND) per mile).

You will be asked to put down a deposit of \$100 USD; this will be returned to you at the end of your stay, minus any damages done to the room. Shared Accommodation is included in your course fee from the Sunday before start date. If you arrive before the Sunday before your course starts, you will need to pay between \$24 USD per night you stay at the hotel. We have monthly contracts with the accommodation, so if you arrive outside of the contract period, you may need to pay for the early arrival.

STARTUP ITEMS (TOILETRIES, TOWEL, & PHONE)

\$10 - \$70

In Vietnam, you can find all toiletries like shampoo, soap, toothpaste, etc. at many convenience stores. Most accommodations in Vietnam do not provide towels; therefore, we recommend people buy a towel once they get to Vietnam. You can certainly bring one from home, but it may take up space in your luggage. Another important thing to note is that Vietnam is a BYOTP culture (Bring Your Own Toilet Paper). Toilet paper is not often provided at public restrooms, restaurants, and even accommodations. The Vietnamese way is to use a spray gun, which almost all toilets and squatting toilets have. However, toilet paper is available in local convenient stores. We will provide you with a SIM card for your phone. If you wish to purchase a cheap burner phone here, they are available at the mall and cost about 300,000 – 2,000,000 VND (13 – 89 USD).

DAILY EXPENSES (FOOD, LAUNDRY, TRANSPORTATION AROUND HCMC & TO THE TEFL/TESOL COURSE)

\$86 - \$130

One of the best ways to budget your cash while living in Vietnam is eating the local Vietnamese street food. A local meal in Vietnam is about 15,000 – 50,000 VND (.64 – 2.15 USD) per dish. There are many restaurants that sell western style food but it is substantially more expensive. Western meals like hamburgers, pizza, etc. range from 60,000 – 250,000 VND (3 - 11 USD) and up for a single meal. There are coin laundry machines (60,000 VND [2.68 USD] per load) and full-service laundry shops (25,000 vnd per kg of laundry) in Vietnam. Public transportation on routes in Vietnam cost 6,000 – 20,000 VND (.26 - 1 USD) per trip. If you are looking to go somewhere specific, or are in a hurry, you can rent a taxi or take the bus.

OPTIONAL EXPENSES (NIGHTLIFE, WEEKEND TRIPS, SHOPPING)

\$80 - \$100

If you drink alcohol you will soon realize it becomes one of your biggest expenses. Be mindful of this when heading out as it is one of the many causes of participants running out of cash. Bars, especially in tourist areas, can vastly over charge on beer. For example, local beer will be 10,000 - 25,000 vnd at a local restaurant, but bars in the tourist area sometimes charge 50,000-100,000 vnd a beer. Cocktails are only marginally cheaper than western prices. (typically 100,000-120,000 vnd). If you are interested in going on weekend day trips with fellow participants to the local waterfall, temples, and beaches, there are some national park entrance fees and transportation costs. We will tell you more about these options during your first week and we can help arrange the trips. You can spend however much you like on these extra optional things, but please be mindful of your budget.

TOTAL: \$464 - \$634

PLEASE TAKE NOTE - VERY IMPORTANT

On average those participating in the Placement and Support program will be placed before they arrive in HCMC for orientation week, however, on occasion, the placement process can take an extra week longer. Therefore, it is important to be prepared and budget for a couple of weeks in HCMC before heading to your placement.



1 MONTH TEACHING - POST ORIENTATION WEEK & TESOL COURSE

Transportation to Placement & Visa Run	<p>At the end of the course, the placement team will advise you on the best way to get to your placement. They will assist you in purchasing the correct van, bus, train, or plane ticket. The bus system in Vietnam is the most common (and cheapest) form of transport. Most people will take a bus to their placement. If you do need to book a plane ticket, the cost is around 1,600,000 – 2,500,000 VND (70 - 110 USD). Some schools will have participants do their visa run right away, while others will wait until after you have taught for a month or two. Most of the time you will need to pay for your own flights for the visa run, but the school will cover or reimburse the cost of the visa.</p>	\$9 - \$800
Accommodation	<p>When you get to your placement, you will need to pay rent and one month's deposit. Depending on your location, the rent will cost anywhere from 5,000,000 – 8,000,000 VND (220 – 352 USD) per month. Typically, the deposit is equal to one month's rent.</p>	\$430 - \$840 *including 1 month deposit
Daily Expenses (Food, laundry, transportation)	<p>As detailed above.</p>	\$344 - \$517
TOTAL		\$783- \$2,157





SUMMARY OF COSTS

Pre-Departure	Flights, insurance, documentation (Notarization and Legalization), and visa stamp.	\$1,276 - \$3,890
In-class TEFL/TESOL course, Placement & Support	1 month in HCMC while completing the in-class TEFL/TESOL course.	\$729 - \$1,366
Placement & Support	Budget for orientation week and approximately 2 weeks while placement is being secured, before heading to your school.	\$464 - \$634
First month at Placement	Budget for your first month at placement.	\$783 - \$2,157
TOTAL	Pre-Departure	\$1,276 - \$3,890
	In-Class TEFL/TESOL, Placement & Support Program (<i>First month of course + first month at placement</i>)	\$1,512 - \$3,523
	Placement & Support Program (<i>Orientation week + first month at placement</i>)	\$1,247 - \$2,791

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND

The amounts shown above are estimated for someone who has frugal spending habits. We highly recommend that you bring no less than \$2500 for your program start. This will provide an additional \$500 USD cushion.

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