

## Useful Tips

Vietnam's culture demands that you observe certain strictures, although the Vietnamese are generally very forgiving of unintentional faux pas. Petty urban crime and military sensitivity aside, the Vietnamese are very welcoming to their visitors. Vietnamese hospitality will make you feel right at home, more so when you keep the following tips in mind.

### DOS

Give your smile and greetings to local people, especially to those older than you.

Drink plenty of bottled water, roughly 2 liters a day is recommended to avoid dehydration. No tap water, even in 5 star hotels.

Store your cash, credit cards, airline tickets and other valuables in a safe place. Most 4-star hotels have in-room safes, otherwise ask the reception to keep your valuable things in their deposit facility.

Take a hotel business card and a city map from the reception desk before venturing out from your hotel. This will be a big help in case you get lost.

BYOTP: Bring Your Own Toilet Paper! Expect that there is no toilet paper at the public toilets.

If invited into a home, always remove your shoes at the front door when entering, or follow what the owner do. Ask for permission when taking a photograph of someone. If they indicate that they do not want you to, then abide by their wishes.

Check on your first day whether you need to reconfirm your next flight, if so do it then. Some airlines do not require this anymore but it is still worthwhile calling them so that they at least have your/ or your tour guide's contact details, in case the flight is delayed or whatever.

Dress conservatively wherever possible. The Vietnamese are generally modest about clothing, and look askance at visitors wearing far too little in public. Dress lightly if you must, but not overly so - avoid tops with plunging necklines, spaghetti-strap tops, and short shorts where possible. This goes double for visiting temples and pagodas - keep your arms and legs covered, and hide as much bare skin as you can. It's extremely rude to go to such places while insufficiently dressed.

### DON'TS

Don't show off; keep a low profile. Flaunting wealth is impolite; don't look like an Ugly Tourist with far too much gold and far too little sense. Don't carry more money than you need when walking in public. Don't wear too much jewelry. Not only is this good manners, you also reduce the risk of becoming the next victim of a drive-by bag snatcher.

Don't cause Vietnamese to "lose face". The concept of "saving face" is extremely important in East Asian social relationships. Avoid behavior that causes embarrassment to another party, and hold back behavior that can be misconstrued as overly aggressive. Don't force money on other parties. Don't wheedle or insist. Most importantly, don't lose your temper in public; try to be cool and collected whenever possible.

Don't be too camera-happy. Ask people's permission before you take their picture - not all of them want their picture taken.

This goes double for pictures in rural ethnic villages. This goes triple for military installations and equipment!

Never give your empty water bottles, sweets and candies to the local people when trekking through ethnic minority villages. You cannot guarantee that the empty bottles will be disposed of in a correct manner and in another way that may create a begging culture in those underprivileged places. If you would like to give any kind of charity/ contribution to the local, ask your travel agent or your onsite guide to introduce you to the local in-charge person, who can be a teacher or a village leader.

Never sleep or sit with the soles of your feet pointing towards the family altar in someone's house.

Never venture out from your hotel with more cash than you really need for that day.

No pointing, especially in the respectful places.

You can also contact us by email if you have any other questions that may relate to your travel and booking a trip. Direct Customers: [info@skypacifictravel.com](mailto:info@skypacifictravel.com). Website: [www.skypacifictravel.com](http://www.skypacifictravel.com)