

4 DAYS 3 NIGHTS SAIGON Shopping Paradise program



DAY 1: HO CHI MINH CITY – ARRIVAL

Local Guide greets you at Tan Son Nhat airport, Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), still fondly referred to as Saigon by the locals; "The Pearl of the Orient" and retains a charm reminiscent of its French-European heritage in the midst of rapid commercialization. Check in hotel.

In the evening, you are free to explore the *night market*, only 2-minute walking from your hotel.

DAY 2: FULL DAY SHOPPING TOUR

(Breakfast/Lunch included)

Breakfast at hotel.

Guide meets and transfers you to visit a *Lacquer ware workshop* where the process of mother of pearl lacquer ware and eggshell designs will be explained and displayed.



Transfer to visit and shop at *Saigon Square*, one of the most bustling shopping center in the city. This is an ideal place to shop for clothing. Frequented by expatriates and locals, cheap copies of designer sportswear rub shoulders with fashion brands. The quality is fake, but the price is right.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

After lunch, transfers you to *An Dong wholesales market*, located in District 5, operating since 1954, the old An Dong Market sells to both the wholesale and retail markets. From the

exterior, it appears to be a typical traditional market that you can find throughout Saigon. But from the moment you set foot in the market, you will be surprised by the phenomenal range of clothes, bags, shoes, accessories, and food. This is an ideal place to order "Ao Dai" and get back in 24 hours with reasonable price.

Continue to discover the *An Dong Plaza*, next to An Dong Market, spaced only about a hundred meters apart. It is also a good place to buy household furniture items on the cheap. You can find these mostly on the second floor, where there are shops displaying very stylish household materials and dried seafood, bedding. Return to hotel. Free at leisure.



DAY 3: FULL DAY CITY & SHOPPING TOUR

(Breakfast/Lunch included)

Guide picks you up at hotel for a short city tour. First visit to the Catholic Church called *Notre Dame De Paris*. This cathedral has a neo-Romanesque form and two 40m-high square towers, tipped with iron spires that dominate the city's skyline.

Continue visiting *the classic Post Office* recalls European railway stations, particularly in the vaulted and glazed interior. Its "modern" skylight also recalls European buildings of the later nineteenth century.

Then photo stop at the *former Presidential Palace*, was originally built in 1865 as a French Governor General of Indochina.

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Proceed to visit *Thien Hau Temple*, very close to *Chinatown* you will find this 18th-century temple dedicated to the Goddess of the Sea and Protector of Sailors. Of special note is a scale model boat commemorating the first Chinese arriving from Canton, and a whimsical ceramic frieze lining the roofs above the inner courtyard. It was built by the Cantonese Congregation in 1760 in order to express their gratitude to this Goddess for HER protection during their immigration trip to Vietnam by sea. Huge circles of incense, some of which are one meter in diameter and can burn for a whole month, are hung in the main sanctuary.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant

After lunch, proceed to enjoy shopping time, built in 1928, and is considered the biggest market in *Chinatown*, dealing in a wide variety of products and goods from the *Mekong Delta* and from South and North province... On the ground floor, there are booths selling fruits, foods and candies... On the first floor, clothes, cosmetics and other items can be found... Enjoying time in this market offers you a chance to mix with local Vietnamese. Return to hotel.



DAY 4: HCMC – DEPARTURE

(Breakfast included)



Breakfast at hotel. **Free at leisure.** Check out time is 12:00. You can leave your bags at hotel reception for free to explore the *Ben Thanh market* standing in the very center of the city. The market and surrounding streets makes up one the city ' liveliest areas. Everything commonly eaten, worn or used by the average resident of Saigon is available here: vegetable, fruits, meat, spices, biscuits...The main entrance of the market, with its belfry and clock, has become a symbol of Saigon.

Free till *our driver* meets and sends you to the airport for your departure flight.

CATEGORY	TOUR PRICE /PERSON					
	1 p	2 p	3-4p	5-6p	7-9p	SGL Sup
First Class	572	337	294	260	239	145
Superior	656	380	336	302	281	187

Rates are not applicable: 26 Jan – 06 Feb./ 28 Apr. – 03 May/ 28 Aug. – 03 Sep. & 24 Dec. 2017

Tour price includes:

- ❖ 03 nights based on twin sharing at specified hotels with breakfast
- ❖ Private transportation serving throughout the above program
- ❖ Professional English speaking guide serving as programmed
- ❖ 02 lunches at local restaurants as indicated in the program

Tour price excludes:

- ✓ Int'l air tickets & airport tax/ Meals and drinks not mentioned in the program
- ✓ Visa service, travel insurance, personal expenses
- ✓ Bank fee for payment & **tips to guide + driver/ ESG for return airport transfers**

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