

Alamance Chamber Frequently Asked Travel Questions

Registration Information

1. *When is full payment due? November 15, 2023*
2. *May three people share a hotel room? Yes. Please indicate this on your registration form.*
3. *If I need to cancel, will I get a refund? Any change or cancellation after the ticketing day of November 15, 2023 will result in a \$500 fee deducted from your payment. In addition, you forfeit the \$400 deposit fee. This fee is imposed by the International carrier.*
4. *May I upgrade to a business class flight? Yes. An upgrade to business class on the round-trip flight is \$6,000.*
5. *Can I receive airline points? Check with the airline when you arrive. Typically, the answer is no because Citilinc purchases the tickets as a group.*
6. *What gate will I depart from at Charlotte Douglas International? TBA at later date*

Visas

1. *What is the Visa process?* This process will be facilitated by Citslinc International at a cost of \$90.
2. *If I go through the Chamber/Citslinc, when are my visa items due?* January 2024
3. *I am inviting a guest outside of the U.S. Will I be able to get this visa from the Chamber/Citslinc?* No. Unfortunately, your guest will have to apply for a visa in his/her country of origin.
4. *Can I get my passport through Citslinc?* No. You must obtain your own passport.

Trip Details

1. *What does the trip to Vietnam include?* Your package includes round trip airfare from Charlotte Douglas International airport, hotel accommodations, deluxe tour bus, a knowledgeable English-speaking tour guide in each city, three full meals every day, fees for attractions and any applicable taxes.
2. *If I have already been to Vietnam, can I make my own schedule?* Please let the tour guide know if you choose not to attend any of the excursions and that you will not be present on the bus. It will be your responsibility to meet back up with the group.
3. *When will I receive my final itinerary?* The itinerary will be finalized in November and will be emailed to all registrants shortly after.
4. *What type of currency or legal tender should I take with me?* It is recommended to exchange currency at the hotels. Each hotel will have a secure ATM to use your debit card.
5. *I like to shop, how much money should I bring?* Credit cards will be accepted, and debit can be used at ATM in hotels. If you are going with the intentions of shopping previous travelers recommend taking \$500 per person. Small bills are recommended.
 - a. For currency conversion, download the app “Currency Converter” for convenience.
6. *Is it safe to make purchases?* Yes, it is safe to use your credit cards in stores but cash is recommended for street vendors.

7. *What will the weather be like?* The weather will be warm in March.
8. *What type of clothing should I pack for my trip?* This trip is designed for tourism sightseeing, and you will want to wear comfortable clothes. Dress in layers as you will not be returning to the hotel during the day. You will be required to walk a fair amount, so bring comfortable shoes.
9. *How much luggage can I bring?* Airlines may charge you for your first piece of checked luggage. First hand / carryon luggage is free (limited by 12 or 18 lb). Free personal item (such as packpack). Additional details will be shared once flights are booked.
10. *Will my cell phone work in Vietnam?* You will have to check with your service provider about your specific phone model and service plan.
11. *Will there be internet access?* Each hotel will have a business center with internet service. There may be a nominal fee at some hotels.
12. *What voltage is used in Vietnam?* Vietnam uses 220V. You will need a voltage adapter and converter. You can purchase these ahead of time at electronics stores or luggage stores or you may rent from the hotel.
13. *What are the public facilities like?* Most public facilities in Vietnam are porcelain or plastic holes in the ground with a flat place on each side to plant your feet.
14. *What types of meals are served?* If you have specific dietary restrictions or allergies, please notify your tour guide for each meal. Since Vietnam is still a developing country, knowing this in advance will be helpful.
15. *How is the tap water in Vietnam?* Bottled water is best to drink and is readily available. Coffee and tea are OK to drink.
16. *Are any vaccinations required?* No. We do suggest you speak with your doctor to see if he or she has any recommendations. If you are susceptible to illness, you should bring your own over-the-counter remedies (Tums, DayQuil, Sudafed, etc). They are hard to come by in Vietnam!
17. *Am I required to tip?* A one-time \$50 tip **CASH** payment will be collected on the third day of the trip. This will be the **ONLY** time you need to pay a tip during the entire trip.

18. *Optional tours.* Previous travelers highly recommend the optional tours not included in the trip. If you choose not to participate in the optional tours, you will be with the bus until the tour concludes.

19. *Contact information.* Pick up a business card from the hotel that you are staying at with the name and address written in Vietnamese. Get the tour guide's cell phone number in case you are separated from the group.

20. *Passport copies.* Take good clear colored pictures of your passport and Vietnamese visa in case yours gets lost. Keep one in your luggage and one with your person.

Suggested items to consider taking with you:

___ Compression socks for flying and they are also great for all of the walking you will be doing in Vietnam.

___ Snacks for the week

___ Noise reduction/cancelling headphones for the plane

___ Neck pillow for the plane

___ Electronic devices, books, magazines, etc.

___ Plenty of pocket size tissues for those times when they are not available in the restrooms.

___ Hand sanitizer and hand wipes

___ Airborne (suggest to take before and during the trip)

___ Pain relievers and other over the counter medicines (if needed)

___ Prescription medicine (if needed)

___ 220V Adapters, Cell Phone Chargers, Camera Chargers, extra camera batteries (if needed)

___ Drink flavor packets for all of the bottled water you will drink

___ Conversion chart from Vietnam Dong to US Dollars

___ It might be a good idea to have some \$1 bills if you wish to purchase items from the street vendors. They do not give change.

___ Spending money- \$500pp

___ Passport photos and Vietnam visa photos

This is going to be an excellent trip and you will come home tired!