Indochina Travel Services
Vietnam - Laos - Cambodia - Myanmar

February 2021
NEWSLETTER

ITS Vietnam News – TET is coming

The Biggest celebration of the year is almost upon us! TET

It is important to note the **National Holidays for Traditional Vietnamese New Year (Tet) in 2021 will be from 10th February to 17th February 2021** , in which the 11th February becomes New Years Eve, and the 12th February becomes New Years Day, the 1st day of New Year. It is the Year of Buffalo. The first day of the year is a very important day for those visiting their family friends, as this day sets the scene for prosperity for the following year.

The ITS office will be closed during Tet Holidays. We have a Hotline number set up for emergencies - (24/7) 84 (0)936631705 and you can reach us by email, as on of our team will always be on standby to answer at team@itsvietnam.com

What is it about TET?

For Vietnamese, Tet is the most important festival of the year. You will find locals everywhere making offerings and praying in temples. Families go to visit the graves of ancestors, and generally there is a major clean up in preparation. Homes are cleaned and decorated with Hoa Mai (yellow apricot blossom), Hoa Dao (peach blossom), Kumquat tree and many other colorful flowers. You will see the flower vendors lining the streets selling their flowers of all kinds. It is a particularly colourful time of year in the cities and there is a spirit of excitement and giving in the air.

On the eve of Tet, many Vietnamese will cook special food like Banh Chung or Banh Tet (a sticky rice cake). Children are encouraged to wear new clothes and dress up as they will receive "lucky money" in red envelopes. In general terms, Tet is all about family and friends. It is common for Vietnamese to travel many miles to meet up with old friends and family during this time. Less traditional people will use the time to take holidays and enjoy special occasions with friends as well as family as that is the spirit of this time.

Traveller Information for TET - Important facts to know about Vietnam during Tet Holiday

1. Transportation: It's a busy time as everyone is in a rush to get home to family to enjoy in all the celebrations. From about 1 week prior and 1 week after, you can expect flights, buses and trains to be booked out. So be sure to book as early as possible. In addition, make sure you arrive early to board your transportation as queues will be long. It is also important you are healthy as you may incur Covid Temperature checks and will not be able to travel if you are deemed unwell or any risk to other travellers.

2. Accommodation: Most hotels remain open, so there is no need to worry about accommodation. However, some hotels may raise the price if you stay during Tet holiday and there will be minimal services available during the actual public holidays as the hotels are maintained on a very low base of staff.

3. Sightseeing: Some tourist sites remain open during Tet, but many museums, mausoleums, and indoor exhibition place and art houses will be closed for the first 3 days of Tet. The floating markets in the Mekong Delta will be closed. It would be wise before making any plans to visit to check online and with locals or your hotel to avoid disappointment.

4. Restaurants: Many restaurants will be closed during Tet and those open may not be offering the most freshest of foods. Therefore, Tet may not be the best time for culinary tour fans.

5. Shops: Many shops will be closed for the first few days of Tet Festival. The good news is - many products will be sold at a very reasonable price because most sellers want to start a smooth sales year.

6. Banks: banks will be closed for the holiday.

Is TET a good time for first time visitors?

Due to Covid 19 border closures, it is not expected that many foreigners will be visiting Vietnam during this time. For those that are, the main cities will still be operating hotels and some local eateries will be open, however we would suggest visiting after TET when there are many festivals on.

WHERE to go…. AFTER TET?

Ha Giang

Spring is a beautiful time to do a Photo tour of Vietnam. In Ha Giang, about 3 hours from Hanoi in the northern mountain area of Vietnam, the hills and mountains are covered with the light pink colour of forest peach blossoms and the natural white colour of apricot and plum blossoms. Flowers bloom brilliantly on the majestic mountains, creating a breathtaking scenery. You will be able to take great photos if you come here during this flower season in Ha Giang. http://itsvietnam.com/indochina-tours/hanoi-sapa-ha-giang

Hoi An

Hoi An is also a good choice to visit after Tet. The most important feature of Hoi An is undoubtedly Hoi An Ancient Town which is a most important and well-preserved legacy from a glorious era in Hoi An’s history.

Never underestimate the value of having a good DMC?

While we have lived through an era of the DYI traveller, since the Covid Pandemic it has become clear to many the value of having a travel agent and a DMC to support a traveller as they go about having their holiday in a foreign country.

If the crisis of Covid 19 has taught us anything, it is the benefit of having someone looking out for you, and who you can access easily in the case something goes wrong.

While over the past 25+ years we have earned the respectability of consistently offering quality experiences and tours throughout Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar, since the advent of the Pandemic we are reminded of what our greatest strengths are. And what we bring to you, to support your travellers in respect to having the confidence to travel in this region and to having a quality experience.

Key measures of our success are:

- Instant confirmation of hotel bookings through our b2B online tool
- Flexible booking options and cancellation policies
- In country knowledge and local reliability
- Proven ability in crisis management and managing Covid related issues
- Diverse options of travel styles from basic to 5 star
- Location and tour knowledge to define what will best match a travellers expectations, and the ability to change on the spot, if they don't
- Friendly helpful service – we aren't bots, or machines, we are real people available to answer your every request.

Travel offers during and after TET

ITS Vietnam is gearing up to explore the bountiful landscapes, rivers and mountainous regions of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

Due to Covid-19, it's a good time to spend your Holidays in a Luxury Resort with very reasonable prices. Why not check out these resorts which we recommend to stay for your holidays and to enjoy all the history and culture of Hoi An.

The Nam Hai Resort https://www.fourseasons.com/hoian/
ALMANITY Hoian https://almanityhoian.com/en/
Naman Retreat https://namanretreat.com/en/retreat/
Fusion Maia Danang https://maiadanang.fusionresorts.com/

Check our promotion hotels list for your Holidays http://itsvietnam.com/hotel-promotion/

Contact us for more product and prices in our Booking Engine for Travel Agents:
http://online.itsvietnam.com/

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