















VIETNAM SEASONS

Honestly speaking, there is no best time to visit Vietnam. The country has a very varied climate which is best explained by dividing the country into three distinct regions; the north; central Vietnam and the south. The north (Hanoi, Halong Bay, Sapa) experiences a northeast monsoon between the months of November and March which brings great swathes of mist to popular areas like the rice terraces in Sapa and the karst limestone outcrops of Halong Bay. Despite this being labelled the monsoon season, ironically Hanoi is at its driest in December and January (however temperatures can drop to below 20c!) and at its wettest in July and August. So be prepared for some cold weather – however it is possible that you will also encounter some beautiful cloudless sunny days as well.

Central Vietnam's coastal areas (Hoi An, Da Nang, Hue) benefit from the protection of the Truong Son mountain range – they escape a lot of the rains from the southwest monsoon between April and September meaning some very nice long sunny perfect holiday days. This benefit is unfortunately reversed when the northeast monsoon arrives between September and December coupled with the typhoons from the Western Pacific meaning flooding has been known in certain areas.

Southern Vietnam (Saigon, Mekong Delta) benefits from a long dry season between December and May when the skies are clear, the land and scenery are incredibly lush and the waters on the Mekong Delta are very calm. The monsoons arrive towards the end of May and stay until about November. The showers during monsoon season are generally short and sweet and certainly shouldn't deter you from travelling. If you're in Saigon during these quite spectacular showers, you'll be wowed by how quickly the water dissipates due to very impressive drainage and then it's blue skies again.

VIETNAM CLIMATE | HANOI

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
TEMP MIN °C	13	14	17	20	23	26	26	26	24	22	18	15
TEMP MAX °C	20	21	23	28	32	33	33	32	31	29	26	22
RAINFALL (MM)	18	28	38	81	196	239	323	343	254	99	43	20

VIETNAM CLIMATE | SAIGON

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
TEMP MIN °C	21	22	23	24	24	24	24	24	23	23	23	22
TEMP MAX °C	32	33	34	35	33	32	31	31	31	31	31	31
RAINFALL (MM)	15	3	13	4	221	330	315	269	335	269	114	56

VIETNAM CLIMATE | HOI AN

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	oct	NOV	DEC
TEMP MIN °C	19	20	21	23	24	25	25	25	24	23	22	20
TEMP MAX °C	24	26	27	30	33	34	34	34	31	28	27	25
RAINFALL (MM)	102	31	12	18	47	42	99	117	447	530	221	209

VIETNAM CLIMATE | SAPA

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
TEMP MIN °C	7	8	11	13	16	18	18	18	16	13	11	8
TEMP MAX °C	13	14	18	21	24	24	24	24	23	20	17	15
RAINFALL (MM)	41	71	119	178	371	355	480	480	320	190	119	40

Weather in Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia

Just as temperatures and humidity reach unbearable highs around late April, Thailand's wet season begins in May.

The monsoon season in Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia runs roughly between June and October, however, the rain can begin a month earlier or linger a month longer than expected. September is typically the wettest month in Thailand. Cooler places in the north, such as Chiang Mai and Pai, typically receive less rainfall than southern destinations.

Rain begins a little earlier -- around April -- on the Andaman side of Thailand (e.g., Phuket and Koh Phi Phi) than it does in the east (e.g., Koh Tao and Koh Samui).

While showers can and often do pop up during the so-called 'dry' seasons, the driest months for visiting the <u>south of Vietnam (Saigon)</u> are typically between December and April. Temperatures in April can be scorching before monsoon rains begin to cool things off in the summer months. The best months to visit are during January and February when temperatures are milder.

• Learn more about <u>traveling during monsoon season</u>.

The spring and autumn months are most pleasant for visiting the north of Vietnam (Hanoi). Winter nights can get relatively chilly, with temperatures dipping into the 50s Fahrenheit. You'll certainly need a jacket when visiting Halong Bay in the winter, particularly if you're already accustomed to warmer temperatures in the south or in other countries around Southeast Asia.