Relocating to Hanoi

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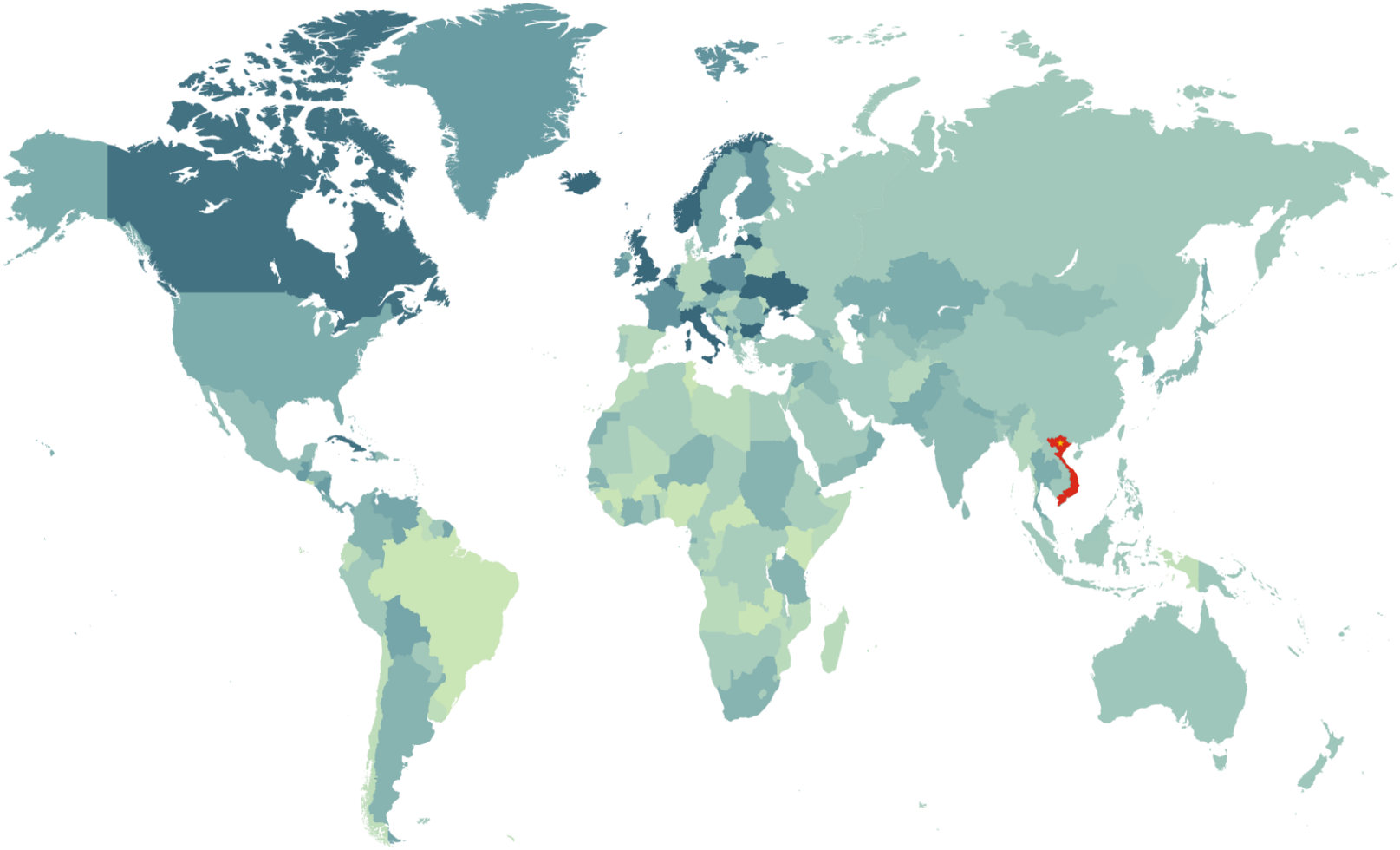

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VIETNAM AT A GLANCE

Official Name: Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Capital: Hanoi

Population: 97 Million

Area: 331,210 sq km/ 128,565 sq miles

Currency: Vietnam Dong (VND), 23,245 VND = 1 USD

GDP: 223.86 Billion USD (2017)

Government: Vietnam is a single party state. In 1992, the central role of the Communist Party was reasserted in all organs of government, politics and society.

Country Code: +84

Time Zone: UTC/GMT +7

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VIETNAM AT A GLANCE

Weather: Due to the length of the country, the weather in the North and the South can be quite different. Hanoi and the North experiences a somewhat more typical “4 Seasons” although snow is rare. Hanoi temperatures throughout the year varies between 12 and 36°C (53 and 99F). The humidity rate in Hanoi can reach over 95%.

Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) typically experiences two main seasons, the dry season and the wet season and temperatures varies between 23-and 31°C (75 and 90 F).

Location: Vietnam is centrally located in Southeast Asia and within just a short 1 or 2+ hour flight from Bangkok, Singapore, Cambodia and Hong Kong. Other flight times (approximate) from Hanoi:

- **To Tokyo, Japan**: 6 hours
- **To Paris, France**: 11 hours
- **To Sydney, Australia**: 9+ hours
- **To San Francisco**: 16 hours
- **To New York, USA**: 18 hours

Major Cities	Population
Ho Chi Minh	8,993 Million
Ha Noi	8,054 Million
Hai Phong	1,998 Million
Da Nang	1,231 Million

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VIETNAM AT A GLANCE

- **Language**: Vietnamese is the official language. The Romanized Vietnamese alphabet was developed by Catholic missionaries in the 17th century. English is the dominant second language with some French still spoken. Some English is spoken in the tourist and central business districts of the main cities but in general, English is not spoken in government offices or outside the city. It is not necessary to become fluent in Vietnamese but we recommend at least some study of basic words and phrases.

English	Vietnamese	Pronunciation
Hello	Xin chào	sin chow
Goodbye	Tạm biệt	Tam bjet
Thank You	Cảm ơn	kamh uhn
I'm sorry	Xin lỗi	sin loi
Yes	Có	koh
No	Không	khom

Note the use of diacritical marks in Vietnamese writing. The marks provide a guide to the tones of the language, the pronunciation and help define meaning.

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FOCUS ON HANOI

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Hanoi is divided into several districts. The main districts for expat business, housing and schooling are:

• **Hoan Kiem**: Central Business District, Old quarter tourist area, hotels and major offices are here. (45 minutes from airport)

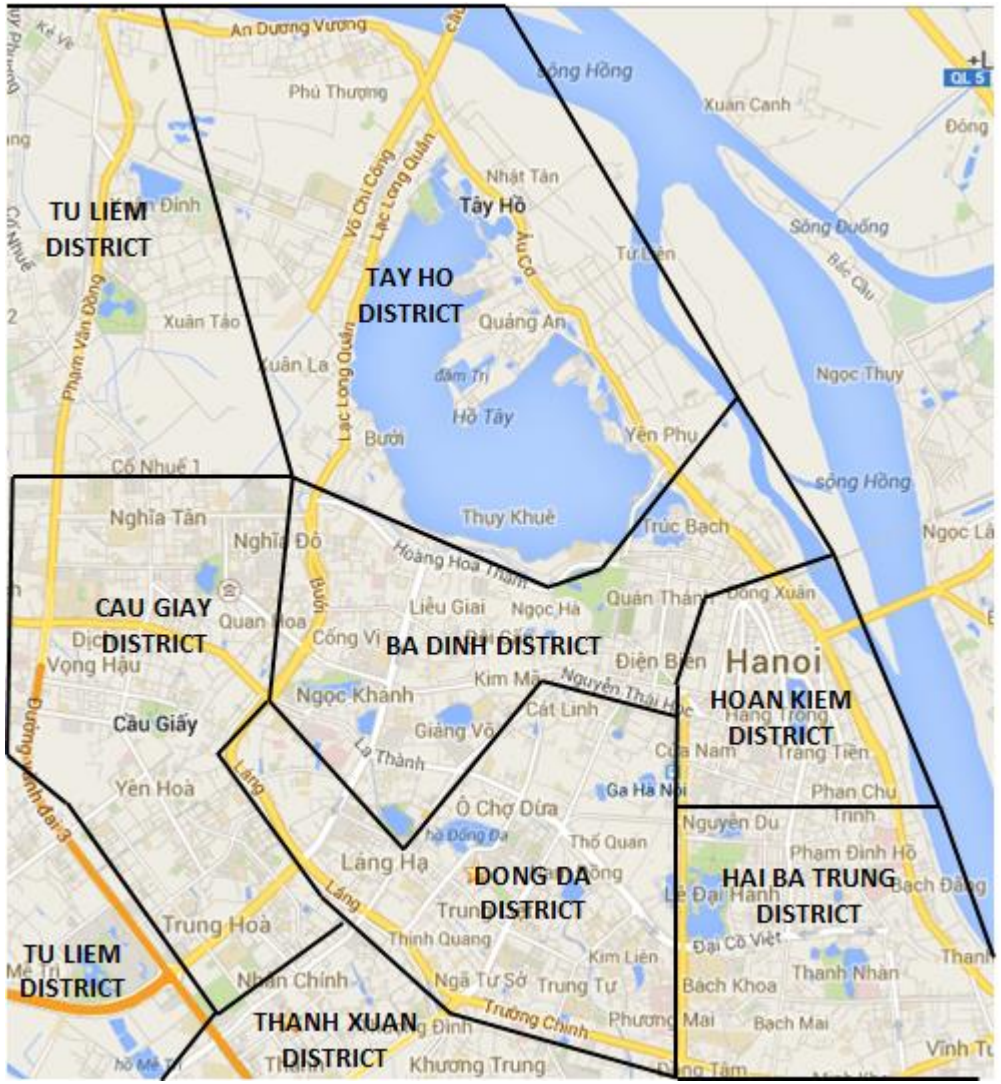
• **Hai Ba Trung:** The city's most populous urban district; it retains a certain old-world elegance, largely through its architectural makeup. Tall townhouses are the norm here. Colonial mansions and contemporary Vietnamese brick structures mingle seamlessly.

• **Ba Dinh District:** political center of Vietnam. Most of the government offices and embassies are located here. It was formally called the "French Quarter"

• **Tay Ho:** Traditional Expat Area with major International Schools (15 to 25 minutes from CBD).

• **Cau Giay:** The new Urban District and commercial center of Hanoi with many new urban development. The tallest tower of Vietnam, Keangnam Hanoi Landmark tower and Lotte Center are located in Cau Giay.

✤ CITY MAP



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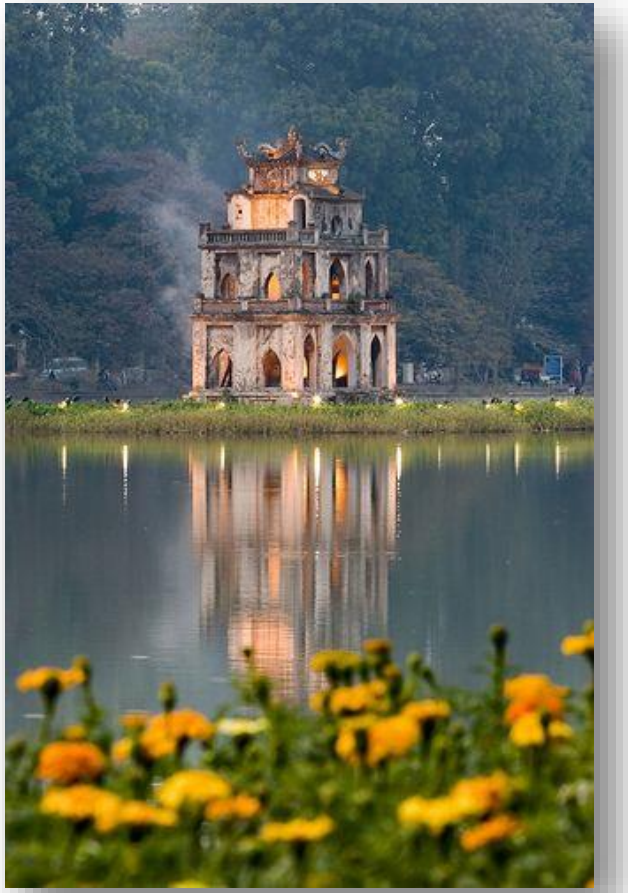
✣ OVERVIEW

Hanoi, the Capital and second largest city of Vietnam provides a vibrant mix of local culture and traditions, dynamic business, and a variety of modern conveniences and brands. Although still very much a developing country with challenges like traffic, pollution and lack of infrastructure, it is changing rapidly and can be a great place to live and work for expats from a variety of backgrounds.

There are no official numbers on the amount of expats living and working in Hanoi but there is a supportive network of expats from all over the world that live here. International schools provide numerous activities, some nightlife spots although limited compared to Ho Chi Minh city, and social and sports groups offer expats and their spouses many options for socializing and networking.

In general, Vietnam is relatively safe for foreigners in comparison to many other major cities in Asia and the West. Although known as safer than HCMC where petty theft like bag snatching or pick pocketing can occur while walking on the street Hanoi is still like any other major city and normal precautions should be taken to ensure your safety.



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Medical: Excellent medical care is available in Hanoi although it is somewhat limited. There are two major international Clinics and 2 International Hospitals that offer quality, international doctors, modern facilities, 24 hour emergency services and evacuation services are offered. These clinics/hospitals can cover a large variety of tests, check ups and basic care, but for major procedures, most expats will fly the 1,5 to 3 hours flight to either Bangkok or Singapore where the major regional International hospitals are located. The main medical international clinics and hospitals in Hanoi are:

- **Raffles Medical Clinic Hanoi:** https://www.rafflesmedicalgroup.com
- **Family Medical Clinic:** www.vietnammedicalpractice.com
- **French Hospital of Hanoi:** www.hfh.com.vn
- **Vinmec International Hospital:** www.vinmec.com

FOCUS ON HANOI

Transportation: The majority of expats will use a private car and driver or take taxis or Grab (equivalent to Uber) which are very common, safe and inexpensive. It is not recommended that expatriates drive motorbikes or their own cars due to the very chaotic traffic (8-9am & 5-7pm). It is highly dangerous to drive motorbikes. If you're unsure *at all* about how to get around this city, download the Grab app which has excellent English language interface.

Public transportation is not recommended for expats and lacks real infrastructure.

Shopping and Dining: There are a variety of malls, supermarkets and restaurants that offer International brands, products and cuisine throughout the city. It can however be a challenge at times to find the exact items or particular high quality products. Furniture, clothing can all be made at good quality and relatively inexpensive prices here.

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Expat Community and Working Spouses: There are many groups for socializing and networking with other expats. Spouses who would like to work while in Vietnam are not covered by their husband or wife's work permit. They must either freelance or obtain a work permit separately from a company. Some groups and organizations of interest include:

- Women's groups in both HCMC and Hanoi including Hanoi International Woman Club
- A variety of adult sports groups including cycling, golf, rugby and more
- Business Associations: EUROCHAM, AMCHAM, AUSTCHAM, BBGV, Vietnam Business Forum, etc.
- Theatre troupe, dance lessons and more

Leisure and Culture: Although perhaps not as culturally rich for expats as places like Singapore or Hong Kong, or Ho Chi Minh , Hanoi offers many things to do on weekends for single people or for whole families.

- Numerous places and events of historical and cultural interest
- Traditional and Modern art galleries
- Outdoor activities: golf, swimming, tennis,
- Indoor activities: Cinema with Movies in English, kids centers, aquarium, Ice rink.
- Concerts and networking events
- Many different bars and cafes including sports bars

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✤ HOUSING

- ✓ Residential leasing market is over 90% made up of Non-national residents (expatriates). High Rental prices in comparison to the average cost of living.
- ✓ No agency fee for tenants. Agency commission is paid by Landlord (1 month Rental)
- ✓ Quite high occupancy and high rate in quality serviced apartments.
- ✓ Main types of expatriate housing:
  - House/villa (large space) with garden and/or pool.
  - Serviced / partially serviced apartment (in 4 to 5 and 10 to 20-storey buildings).
  - Apartment in private condominium
- ✓ Internet Information scam: Many websites in Vietnam post non-integrity information, especially on real estate, residential leasing information & rental price. This is obviously a method for drawing reader's attention and getting potential client for other available properties. So it is advised to be cautious on offers found on the Internet.
- ✓ Might be difficult to deal directly with Landlord.
- ✓ The quality of housing may not always meet expatriates' expectations in term of quality of construction and furniture style. This quality issue is due to the level of expectations of local byers, the lack of qualified manpower and low quality construction materials. While moving to Vietnam, expatriates should know that they can't expect the same level of quality properties as they may have in western countries or even neighboring countries such as Thailand, the Philippines or Indonesia.

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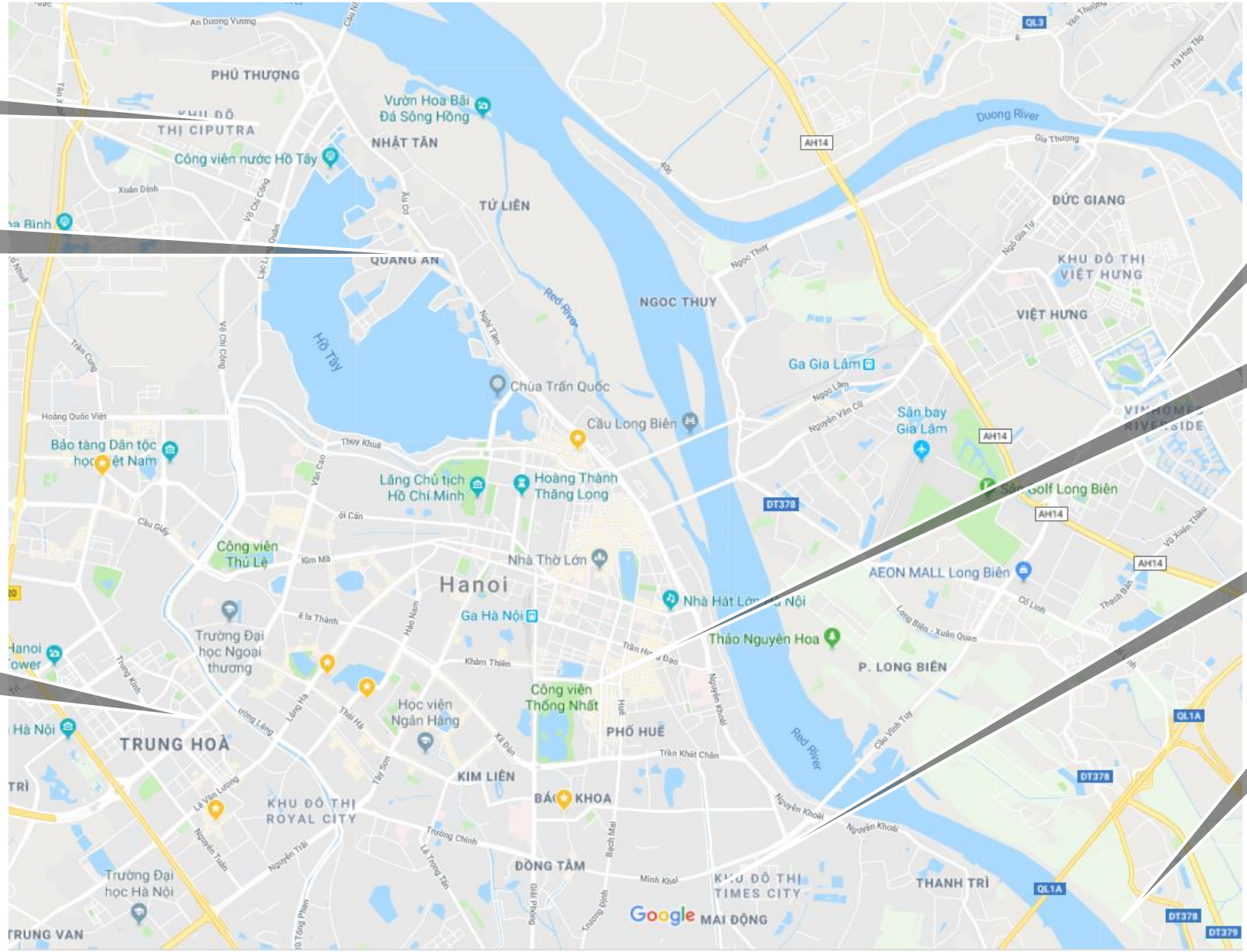
✤ HOUSING

Ciputra Westlake

"Tay Ho" expat living area

My Dinh Area / Trung Hoa Nhan Chinh



VinHomes Riverside

Central Business Districts

Times City

Eco Park

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✤ HOUSING

Westlake “Tay Ho” Popular Expat Living Area

Elegant Suites Serviced apartment

Typical houses

Shopping Center

Somerset WestPoint Serviced apartment

Xuan Dieu (Main Street)

Partly Serviced Apartments

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Westlake “Tay Ho” Popular Expat Living Area

Tay Ho (West Lake) is the most popular living area in Hanoi for foreigners, especially Westerners.

Located at 15 minutes from the heart of Hanoi city, Tay Ho offers all facilities for expatriates such as international clinics, kindergarten, grocery stores, shops, restaurants, bars, sports facilities and many options for short and long term accomodation:

- 5 stars hotels (Sheraton, Intercontinental, Sofitel Plaza)
- Houses and villas for rent (in decreasing number)
- Small scale serviced apartments buildings (in increasing number)
- Large scal serviced apartments buildings such as Fraser Suites, Somerset, Elegant Suites and executive residences in small gated compound such as Diamond Westlake Suites.

Although “Tay Ho” is known as THE foreigners area, it is actually soaked in local flavours. Those who like to be immersed in their host country will not be disappointed. You may hear the crowing of the cock in the morning and street sellers promoting their diversed products and services.

“Tay Ho” may not always be a quiet place to live and although there are many large houses, there is often little space between them, construction works around, and streets are very narrow.

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✤ HOUSING

Ciputra International city

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Ciputra International city

Ciputra International city is a residential compound with a population of around 7000 people (50/50 local and foreign residents) which has become a popular expat living area in Hanoi, especially for families. Ciputra compound is located in the north of the West lake, at 10-15 minutes by car from the «Tay Ho» living and dining area. 20 minutes from Hanoi International airport and 25 minutes from the heart of Hanoi city, Ciputra offers many facilities for expatriates such as convenient stores, wine cellar restaurants & bar, playgrounds, sports facilities (gym, swimming pools), a golf driving range, a club house, UNIS school and the Singapore international school, long term accomodation options: Detached and semi detached villas and appartments of all sizes for rent, from 3 bedrooms. All accomodation options in Ciputra are privetely owned properties.

Ciputra is a suitable choice for families with children; It is clean, quiet, safe, spacious and therefore convenient for walking, cycling and it offers all facilities that ones may expect. One other advantages of living in Ciputra is the 24 hours security inside the compound.

However it is modern and thus does not necessarily give you the impression of living in Hanoi so those who want to have local experience may not like this area.

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✤ HOUSING

Central Business District

Medium Scale Serviced apartment

Pacific Place Private and Serviced apartments

Vinhomes Metropolis Private and Serviced apartments

LOTTE Center Serviced apartment

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✤ HOUSING

City Center

The city center is often opted by those who like to be close to their office or simply want to be in the heart of the city.

Foreigners living in the city center usually stay in apartments or serviced apartments as there is a very limited number of houses with international standards. Most French colonial style villas are rented out to embassies, diplomats or government offices and therefore not available to expatriates famillies.

Althought living in the heart of the city is convenient, many will also find it to be very tiring because of traffic noise.

Many foreigners living in the city center, especially westerners and famillies, often shop or meet other expats in Tay Ho area.

There are new accomodation options closed to CBD such as Lotte and Vinhomes Metropolis offering modern and quality apartments with facilities.

Pacific Place Private and Serviced apartments

LOTTE Center Luxury Serviced apartment

Vinhomes Metropolis Private and Serviced apartments

Small Scale partly serviced apartments

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✤ HOUSING

My Dinh Area

My Dinh is a new urban area located in Cau Giay District and that is expected to become another city center of Hanoi in the future.

Few years from now, My Dinh will be an attractive destination of Hanoi thanks to its strategic location and modern infrastructure.

The Manor and Keangnam-Calidas Landmark 72 are currently the most popular residential place for foreigners in My Dinh and mainly hosts Korean and Japanese expatriates.

Keangnam, the new skyscraper (72 storey) is tallest building in Vietnam. This tower is part of a complex of privately owned apartments for rent, Calidas Landmark serviced apartments, office space, shops, cinema… JW Marriott Hotel also recently opened in My Dinh, adjacent to the National convention center.

My Dinh also hosts the Japanese School and the Korean School

Keangnam Hanoi landmark tower

Hanoi Stadium

The Manor Residence

The Garden, Shopping Mall

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✤ HOUSING

Other Suburban Residential Developments

EcoPark - Urban township development – Apartment and Villas

VinHomes Riverside - Urban area Project - river-side villas

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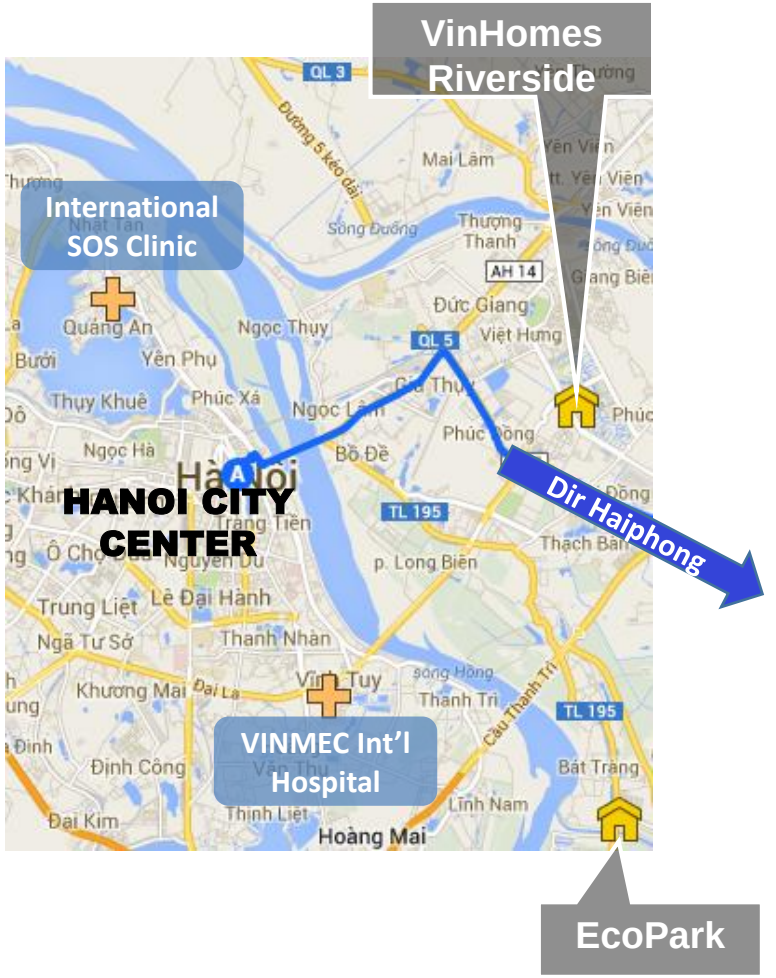
Other Suburban Residential Developments

New urban townships and large residential development projects have recently come up in Hanoi. EcoPark and Vinhomes Riverside, both located on the east side of the Red River, are the main residential areas that may be of interests by expatriates families. However, infrastructures around these areas may make these luxurious residential areas currently look in the middle of nowhere.

Ecopark is large scale project of 500 ha project (as per master plan) that started in 2009. It is surrounded by the Red River and Duong River. Once fully completed, Ecopark will house around 20,000 residential units: villas, semi-detached houses, and apartment units occupying approximately 35% of the total site area. The communities are gated, with 24/7 security and the project will step by step offers full facilities including International school and hospital, commercial and office centers, cinema, golf course…etc. few hundreds of foreign tenants currently live in Ecopark and British University of Vietnam opened its campus there in 2018.

Vinhomes Riverside is another recent high-end residential project which is modelled on Venice City. This large scale project offers river-side villas (privately owned and serviced villas), offices, a shopping mall, recreation area, The British International school and kindergarten. Not many foreigners currently live in Vinhomes Riverside in comparison to Ciputra but its population is growing and may be a good compromised for those who work on the east side of Hanoi, Bac Ninh and Hai Duong industrial zone, Haiphong. The city center is also at only about 20' drive.



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✤ USEFUL EXPAT WEBSITES

There are some good online resources for expats in Hanoi and some dynamic forum groups. You can start with a few below:

- **Facebook Groups:** There are few groups and for most you will need to send a request to join. You can search on Facebook the following to get you started:
  - Hanoi Massive Community (place for both foreigners and Vietnamese to talk about everyday life, exchange culture and discuss on life).
  - Hanoi Expats (community where expats can share, learn and support each other).
  - Ciputra Hanoi - Residents (Group for Ciputra residents to stay updated and connected through the use of English).

- **Hanoi International Woman club (HIWC):** HIWC is a non-profit, non-religious and non-political group run entirely by volunteers. It was founded in 1986 as a group of diplomatic women and became HIWC in 1991. ***http://www.hanoi-iwc.com***

- **Asian Women and Friends in Hanoi** (AWFH) **:** Founded in 2010, AWFH offers authentic cultural experiences to our diverse membership community through a range of shared events and activities.
- The New Hanoian: Started in 2006 it remains the premier source for English-language information about living in Hanoi. **https://www.thenewhanoian.com/**
- English Language Vietnam News Site:
  - Vietnamnet: ***http://english.vietnamnet.vn***
  - Tuoi Tre News: ***http://http://english.vietnamnet.vn***
  - Vietnam Express: ***https://e.vnexpress.net***

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Summary & Contact Info

Welcome to Vietnam

Moving to a new country can be a challenge. Our team at Resident Vietnam is here to help make sure that your transition to Hanoi is smooth and your time on your assignment is successful for you, your family and your company. Throughout your relocation, your Resident Vietnam Coordinator will be sending you more information specific to your relocation needs and working with you at each step.

www.residentvietnam.com

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