



## HO CHI MINH CITY VIETNAM

### 2011 Course Dates and Fees:

- November 29 - December 24, 2010
- January 10 - February 4, 2011
- February 7 - March 4, 2011
- March 7 - April 1, 2011
- April 4 - 29, 2011
- May 2 - 27, 2011
- June 6 - July 1, 2011
- July 4 - 29, 2011
- August 1 - 26, 2011
- August 29 - September 23, 2011
- October 3 - 28, 2011
- October 31 - November 25, 2011
- November 28 - December 23, 2011

**TEFL Program Course Fee:** US\$ 1750

**TEFL Plus Program Course Fee:** US\$ 2250

Vietnam offers an opportunity to see a country of traditional charm and rare beauty rapidly opening up to the outside world. This thriving nation possesses one of the world's fastest-growing economies, yet it is home to some of Asia's most beautiful scenery. Divine beaches dot the coast, while inland the soaring mountains are often cloaked by dense, misty forests. Mirroring the country as a whole, the Vietnamese people are hard working and industrious, and at the same time strikingly friendly and optimistic.

Ho Chi Minh City is the heart and soul of Vietnam. It's a bustling, dynamic and industrious centre, the largest city in the country, the economic capital, and the cultural trendsetter. Yet within the teeming metropolis are the timeless traditions and beauty of an ancient culture.

This is a city that churns, ferments, bubbles and fumes. The streets, where much of the city's life takes place, are a jumble of markets, shops, pavement cafes, stands-on-wheels and vendors selling wares spread out on sidewalks. It's impossible not to be infected by its exhilarating vibe: its vibrant, wildly energetic combination of native heritage, French cultural influence, and Western capitalism. Still referred to as "Saigon" today, HCM City is the hub of financial activity and is the largest and most developed city in Vietnam. There you will witness a mix of the old and new where modern skyscrapers are juxtaposed with fading colonial buildings, Chinese-style pagodas, and historical landmarks such as the Notre Dame Cathedral, Old Post Office and the Reunification Hall.

## TEFL Training Center:



Our TEFL / TESOL program has been approved by Pannasastra University for issuance of advanced placement and graduate credit towards its M.Ed. TEFL / TESOL program. Pannasastra is a member of the Accreditation Committee of Cambodia for Higher Education, which certifies credit and degree granting institutions in Cambodia and is itself a member of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation in Washington D.C., the accreditation body for the regional accreditation of US colleges and Universities. Through this linkage of accreditation authorities, credits and programs from Pannasastra are transferable and accepted at Accredited Institutions of Higher Education world wide.

The training center in Vietnam is located in Ho Chi Minh City on the southern coast. Facilities include office space, classrooms, computers with high-speed Internet access, and plug-ins for laptops. The four-story building also houses a kitchen with fridge so that TEFL trainees can bring lunch or snacks, although there are a number of good and inexpensive restaurants near the center.

A unique feature of this TEFL program is the opportunity to spend the first eight days of training in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in a joint session with trainees from Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam. A tour of Phnom Penh is included, and you will also have the option to participate in an excursion to the Angkor Wat temple in northern Cambodia, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. After the joint training session, trainees will return to Ho Chi Minh for the remainder of their program. Transportation is included for trainees traveling between Vietnam and Cambodia.

## Teaching English in Vietnam:



The thriving nation of Vietnam is composed of more than 80 million people and possesses one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. As globalization and financial growth expand opportunities and education within the country, English language instruction is becoming a valuable and demanded asset. Certified TEFL teachers in Vietnam receive a very good salary, and thanks to an extremely low cost of living, you can live very comfortably and perhaps even save money. As an added bonus, you may find some English schools that provide housing for their EFL teachers.

Teaching jobs are readily available in Vietnam's largest metropolis Ho Chi Minh City, the eastern sea port city of Da Nang, and the cultural capital, Hanoi. In addition, TEFL positions can often be found in smaller cities and towns throughout the country. English students in Vietnam range from adults and university students to children in public schools.

## The Importance of English in Vietnam:

The Vietnamese, in their eagerness to learn English, often approach foreigners to practice it. They listen to lessons on radio and television, and to tapes in their cars. In the evenings, farmers keep their families' suppers warm while their children attend English classes. Colleges are busy turning out English speakers as fast as they can. The Teachers Training College of Ho Chi Minh City offers night classes to 30,000 students. Now that more international travelers are arriving and the Government is encouraging foreign trade, the language is more prized than ever.

## Food & Clothing:

Vietnamese cuisine differs strikingly between the north, south, and central regions, but two key features stand out. First, rice plays an essential role in the nation's diet as it does throughout Southeast Asia. But this is also a noodle-crazy population, regularly downing them for breakfast, lunch, and dinner in homes, restaurants and at roadside stands. Noodles are eaten wet and dry, in soup or beside soup, and are made in different shapes and thicknesses. Second, no meal is complete without fresh vegetables and herbs. A key portion of every



meal, north, south and central, is a platter containing cucumbers, bean threads, slices of hot pepper, and sprigs of basil, coriander, mint and a number of Southeast Asian herbs. A typical meal ranges \$2-4 US dollars. Vietnamese food is always fresh: ingredients are purchased from the market the same morning. The abundant fresh fish, lobster, crabs, and cuttlefish will leave seafood fans dreading the return home.



Expect to try "pho", a type of rice noodle soup eaten for breakfast; "cha gio" ("nem"), deep-fried spring rolls; and "goi ngo sen", a delicious salad made with lotus stems, shrimp, and peanuts. Ho Chi Minh City also has a wide array of Western cuisine. Although they tend to be a bit more expensive, it's not difficult to find French, Italian, German and American restaurants. There are also a bevy of Thai, Indian and Chinese dining establishments.

Chopsticks are standard, especially with noodles or rice. Western utensils are nearly always available, however, and are commonly provided with international fare. Participants are responsible for their own meals.

Light, comfortable, easy to launder clothing in natural fabrics such as cotton suits Vietnam well. Good walking shoes and sandals that can be easily slipped off are recommended, as shoes are removed when entering temples and homes. No need to over pack, as high-quality clothes are strikingly cheap, while inexpensive laundry service is generally available wherever you go. Vietnamese people are quite conscientious of their dress. The nationwide stress on maintaining a neat and clean appearance creates a marked disparity with some Western visitors. For instance, Vietnamese would never dream of wearing dirty clothes while traveling, and visible tattoos and piercing are frowned upon. Dress codes while teaching range from Western "Business Casual" to "Sport Casual" (track pants and short-sleeved shirts) to "Traditional," which could include a locally handmade, ornately decorated silk shirt that is somehow more comfortable in the heat than anything else you own. When working, Teachers are expected to adhere to the local working culture and ideas of professionalism. "Casually smart" attire means that women should cover their shoulders (sleeveless shirts are acceptable, but very thin straps or tank tops are not). No low-cut necklines or very short skirts. Bare midriffs must not be visible, even when lifting arms up. Open-toed shoes are acceptable. Men should wear long pants (not jeans), short- or long-sleeved shirt with a collar (possibly with a tie), and loafers or dress shoes. Sandals and tennis shoes are not acceptable when teaching. Long hair should be neatly tied into a ponytail.

## Climate:

Ho Chi Minh City is in the tropics, and very close to the sea, so its climate is steadily warm to hot all year round. Temperatures are slightly cooler between December and April, which is also the dry season. Rains begin in May and become heavy from June to August, but the showers are sudden and short, with the sun usually reappearing fairly quickly. There is a danger of typhoons from July to November.

## Accommodation:

During training, TEFL Institute participants stay in private rooms in small boutique hotels very close to the Training Center. Rooms typically have air-conditioning, a private bath, and are clean and nicely furnished.

Once your job assignment is secured, hiring school will assist you in locating a local apartment near the hiring school. Typical apartments are small, but most are comfortable and stylish, with air conditioning and Western appliances. Houses usually have 3-4 bedrooms that you can share with roommates. Often, a one month security deposit and the first month's rent is required at the time of rental.

## Communication, Telephones, Internet:

Cell Phones may be purchased for a nominal fee in and around Ho Chi Minh City on a "pay as you go" plan. Many internet cafes are to be found around the school.

## Excursions and Cultural Highlights:

The program encourages trainees to participate in as many of the travel options as possible. All excursions take place during the four week course and include:

- 1) Vung Tau Beach: Relax on the white sand beach at Vung Tau. There is great seafood on the beach, as well as a variety of aquatics sports available.
- 2) Ho Chi Minh City: The second weekend is spent exploring the sites in the city, including historic buildings and ending up at the zoo.
- 3) Mekong Delta: We start off by riding boats around the rivers and canals that make up this water crossed part of Vietnam. We spend a great night in a 3 star hotel before continuing our boat trip into the delta, visiting the floating market
- 4) Nha Trang: Come to one of the best beaches in Vietnam. Great seafood, jungle waterfalls and lots of adventure are in store, or just chill out on the beach with a book.
- 5) Angkor Wat, Cambodia: Angkor Wat is famous not only for providing great movie settings but for being one of the most significant spiritual locations in the world. Temples that date back over a thousand years provide a great setting for exploration.

## Special Offers:

### Free Trip to Angkor Wat!

The center believes that all trainees should have the opportunity to visit the temples of Angkor Wat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The centre will organize a free trip for all trainees at no additional cost, between the first and second week of the training course. The trip includes transportation, hotel, admission fees, guides, etc. The only thing you will have to pay for is your food.