



Vietnam & Cambodia

Packing List

START HERE: Entry into both countries requires a valid passport and a visa. The necessary forms and instructions are in the Know Before You Go! Your passport must be valid for 6 months after your entry and have at least 2 blank pages for entry stamps and a Visa.

Special Note: Make photocopies of your essential travel documents, such as airline tickets, passport (including the front cover, signature, and index pages), and travel insurance policy (showing the policy and contact numbers). Keep these copies separate from the originals, as they can be invaluable if the original documents are lost.

PACK LIGHT!!! Limit the size and weight of your luggage. The dress code for the entire trip is "holiday casual." Laundry service is available at each destination (may incur an extra charge). Plan to limit your laundry requests to a few items per day and allow a 24-hour turnaround.

PRO TIP: Leave your valuables like watches, jewelry, and rings at home. Suggestion: Purchase an inexpensive watch to wear during your holiday and gift it to a student or guide when you leave.

Dress For Success – It starts with the weather!

This is an excellent time to visit Southeast Asia, but the weather varies significantly between Northern Vietnam (Hanoi), Central Vietnam (Hue), and the South/Cambodia. March is a "transition month," so you will experience everything from cool spring drizzle to scorching tropical heat.

Weather Snapshot: March

- Hanoi (North): *Cool & Misty*.
 - Temps: 63°F – 77°F (17°C – 25°C).
 - Vibe: Pleasant but humid. Expect gray skies and light "drizzle" (rain that is more like a mist). You will likely need a light jacket in the evenings.
- Hue (Central): *Pleasant & Warm*.
 - Temps: 70°F – 81°F (21°C – 27°C).
 - Vibe: This is the "Goldilocks" zone. It is generally dry and sunny, perfect for exploring the Imperial City, though high humidity can make it feel warmer.
- Saigon (South): *Hot & Dry*.
 - Temps: 76°F – 95°F+ (24°C – 35°C+).
 - Vibe: Very hot and humid. You will sweat the moment you step outside.
- Siem Reap (Cambodia): *Scorching*.
 - Temps: 77°F – 95°F+ (25°C – 35°C+).
 - Vibe: March is the dry season, moving into the hot season. The sun is intense at Angkor Wat; midday touring can be exhausting.

Strategic Packing List

Because some of you are visiting both the cool North and the sweltering South, layering is your strategy. Do not pack heavy winter coats; think "breathable heat gear" plus "one warm shell."

Clothing: The "Temple & Heat" Mix

- Breathable Fabrics: Linen, cotton, or moisture-wicking synthetics are mandatory for Saigon and Siem Reap. Avoid heavy polyester or thick denim.
- Temple Modesty (Strictly Enforced): To enter Angkor Wat (Cambodia) and some sites in Hue/Hanoi, you must cover your knees and shoulders.
 - *Women*: 1–2 long skirts, sarong for over shorts, or loose linen trousers; 1 lightweight scarf (to drape over shoulders if wearing a tank top).
 - *Men*: Lightweight chino shorts that hit the knee or linen pants.
- The "Hanoi Layer": 1 light rain jacket (water-resistant windbreaker) or a light fleece/cardigan. You will wear this in Hanoi and on overly air-conditioned flights.
- Tops: 5–7 T-shirts/tank tops (you will likely change shirts frequently in the South due to sweat).
- Bottoms: 2 pairs of shorts, 2 pairs of lightweight pants (joggers/linen).

Footwear

We recommend rugged walking shoes or trail runners, sports sandals, and beach shoes.

- You will be doing high-volume walking on uneven pavement. Do not bring brand-new white shoes; the red dust in Siem Reap will stain them.
- Slip-on Sandals: Essential for visiting temples where you must frequently remove shoes. Tevas or Chacos are great; flip-flops are acceptable for short walks, but bad for temple stairs.

Toiletries & Health (The "Jungle" Kit)

- Sunscreen: US brands are cheaper and better. Local Asian sunscreens often contain "whitening" agents you may not want. (Think Mercury!)
- Insect Repellent: Dengue fever is a risk. Bring a repellent with DEET or Picaridin.
- Stomach Meds: The food is amazing, but your biome might disagree. Pack *Imodium (Loperamide)* and *Pepto-Bismol* tablets.
- Electrolytes: Powdered packets are life-savers in Siem Reap heat.
- Hand Sanitizer & Tissues: Many public restrooms do not have soap or toilet paper. Carry a small "travel toilet kit" in your day pack.

Electronics & Misc

- Power Adapter: Vietnam uses Types A (US two-prong), C, and F. Cambodia uses A, C, and G. A Universal Travel Adapter is the safest bet.
- Rain Poncho: Cheap plastic ones are sold everywhere, but a quality reusable lightweight poncho is better for Hanoi's mist.
- eSIM: Make sure your phone is unlocked. Airalo or Holafly eSIMs are very cheap and reliable in both countries.

Important "Don't Pack" List

- Heavy Jeans: They will never dry after washing, and they are too hot for Saigon.
- Fancy Jewelry: Leave expensive watches and diamonds at home to avoid being a target for petty theft (snatch-and-grab is rare but does happen in Saigon).

Dress in layers to add or remove as required.

Luggage Restrictions: Internal flights in Vietnam and international flights to and from Cambodia have strict luggage limits. Each person is allowed 20kg (44lbs.), including hand luggage.

Check List with More Good Ideas!

- Long pants: Convertible pants are always best. Lightweight synthetic pants are recommended.
- Shirts: Light/quick-dry shirts in long and short sleeves.
- Shorts and T-shirts for layering: long- and short-sleeve options.
- Socks.
- Rain/windproof jacket. Light sweatshirt or fleece for cool evenings. Great for evenings in Hanoi and the mountains.
- Clear plastic emergency-type ponchos help keep backpacks and you dry. (Available everywhere).
- Hat(s) with a wide brim for sun protection.
- A Headlamp is useful. It's hands-free.
- Personal toiletries.
- **Prescriptions**
- First Aid items: cold/flu medication, Imodium, cough drops, headache medication, Tums, Pepto, motion sickness pills, anti-itch for bug bites, first aid cream, band-aids, etc.
- Insect repellent
- Sunglasses, sunscreen, and lip protection
- **Binoculars** – HIGHLY RECOMMEND!
- Extra memory cards, a recharger, and batteries.
- Camera and accessories.
- **Day pack** - A light backpack or day pack is indispensable. Each day, bring what you need and stay hands-free.
- Extra eyeglasses/contact lenses.
- Premoistened hand wipes. They have a million uses.
- **YOUR PHONE!** – Check with your carrier for details on your data and voice plan.
- Recommended: collapsible hiking sticks. Pack in your checked luggage, not carry-on.
- Optional: Bathing suit; some of our accommodations have pools.
- NOTE: Toilet paper and hand towels are not provided at some public toilets. Be prepared!
- Extra Ziplock Bags, rubber bands, super glue & duct tape. They have a million uses.
- **Optional:** Walking poles. (Checked Luggage Only).

Travel Insurance: If you have opted out of purchasing cancellation insurance for your upcoming trip, we strongly encourage you to purchase emergency medical insurance at a nominal price. To assist you in the event of medical emergencies or other travel disruptions, including flight delays, cancellations, and lost luggage. We recommend that you consider [travel insurance](#) companies, such as one of our preferred partners.

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