



Most Asked Questions About Vietnam

Being a tour guide for years, I had a chance to meet and talk to thousand of travelers. And of course, a part of my work is answering people questions. It was part of the fun and educate myself as well. I am trying to gather some of the most curious questions about Vietnam I have heard of.

1. How much Vietnamese people earn per year in average ?
In 2011, GDP in Vietnam was 119 billions USD, so in average Vietnamese people earn about 1,300 USD per year. This is one of the lowest number among the Asian countries.
2. Is it easy to [apply Vietnam visa](#)?
Yes, foreign tourists can apply visa on arrival and evisa through any travel company online.
3. Do Vietnamese people 'hate' Chinese?
I have quite a few of friends look down to Chinese or no sympathy to Chinese. I don't think they have any particular reasons on it but the wars between 2 countries made those feelings. Chinese often considered as wicked people by Vietnamese. I think this is a common thinking to countries that had a 'history' to each others.
4. Vietnamese having sex before marriage?
They do, especially last 10 years when the storm of internet flow through Vietnam, young people feel more open and taking about sex is less sensitive than before. Older generation sometimes still find difficult to catch up with it and somewhere like countryside sex before marriage is still forbidden.
5. What Vietnamese people feel about American?
Surprisingly, I never heard much about this on Vietnamese conversation, even on forum or other social network. It is surely people talk about Chinese than ever. I have asked this question to people including Vietnam war veteran and people feel normal about American.
6. When did Ho Chi Minh die?
Ho Chi Minh passed away in Hanoi course of illness on 2nd September 1969, before Vietnam War ended in 1975.

Halong boat accident, who will take responsibility?

It's not much later after I wrote an article of Junk or [Junk in Halong Bay](#) including the safety concerning when you choose a Junk in this popular spot, the disaster happened. 12 people died mixed international. The reasons found were human errors; someone forgot to switch of the engine valves and took off the night shift. Things found too late and boat was sunken with 12 people lives.

Two people arrested, Captain and Chef Engineers. Of course. But people may raise a question of who else will take responsibility apart from 2 those guys. It is quite clearly that the safety training system is questioning. I think lot of the boat operators in Halong Bay pay less or little about safety conditions and requirement. Annual maintenance for boat are operated seriously but I am sure there are also some corruptions on those especially on tourism peak season when operator need more rooms to sell to tourist. This accident is also a big ring to Vietnamese people pay more personal working attitude to safety requirements that often being forgotten or

ignored.

This is a big lesson for Vietnamese government and local authority in development and integration. It is time for Vietnam changes or upgrades their way of conditions that will be more suitable or closer to international standards in order to keep maintaining Vietnam development in general and tourism in this specific cases. Human errors can be found anywhere of this world. The recent Halong Bay accident will make tourist think twice before they go, however, this will not stop people to visit the must – see world heritage of Halong because there are still many good and serious operators out there to choose. What you must do is making some homework before hand. And I am so excited to see how local authority react and do to gain back the consumer's trust! Let's see.