



INTEGRATION GUIDE

MBDA-Vietnam Trade Delegation

*U.S. Department of Commerce Certified
International Trade Mission for Hawaii MBDA to
Vietnam*

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

March 18, 2024 - March 22, 2024

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MBDA Trade Delegation- Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam



It is with great honor that we extend our invitation to you for our Hawaii MBDA inaugural trade delegation to Vietnam, a remarkable opportunity for businesses seeking to explore and expand their presence in this dynamic market. This is a U.S. Commerce Department-International Trade Administration Certified Trade Mission (CTM) for Hawaii MBDA to Vietnam.

Ho Chi Minh City, the economic heart of Vietnam, will serve as the backdrop for this exciting venture, scheduled for the dates of March 19th to March 22nd. Ho Chi Minh City is a vibrant metropolis located in the southern region of Vietnam. It is renowned for its rich history, cultural diversity, and thriving business ecosystem. As the largest city in Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City boasts a population of over 9 million people and is a hub of commerce, innovation, and entrepreneurial activity.

The city's strategic location, close to key international trade routes and its status as a major economic center, makes it an ideal destination for trade and investment. With a booming economy, modern infrastructure, and a skilled workforce, Ho Chi Minh City offers numerous opportunities for collaboration and growth. We invite you to join us in exploring the myriad of prospects that Ho Chi Minh City and the Vietnamese market have to offer. This trade delegation represents a unique chance to engage with local businesses, government officials, and industry leaders, fostering partnerships and creating connections that can propel your business forward.

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We look forward to your participation in this historic trade delegation and the potential for fruitful collaborations that will undoubtedly contribute to the growth and success of your business in Vietnam.



This Integration Guide has been carefully crafted to offer delegates and participants a comprehensive overview of the upcoming trade delegation to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. It aims to provide valuable insights and information pertaining to administrative, logistical, cultural, and other essential matters related to this significant event. Our primary goal is to ensure that all attendees have a seamless and enriching experience while fully immersing themselves in the vibrant culture and business opportunities in Vietnam.

Within the pages of this guide, you will find a wealth of resources, tips, and guidance that will empower you to navigate the trip with ease and confidence. From essential travel information to cultural insights, we've covered a wide spectrum of topics to ensure that you make the most of your visit to this bustling Vietnamese metropolis.

Our hope is that this guide will serve as a valuable companion throughout your journey, providing you with the knowledge and tools necessary to engage effectively with local businesses, government officials, and fellow participants. By fostering a deeper understanding of the Vietnamese culture and facilitating seamless logistical arrangements, we aim to enhance your overall experience and contribute to the success of your endeavors during this trade delegation to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.



Agenda

We are excited to welcome you to an unforgettable journey of innovation, discussions, and networking spanning from March 18, 2024 to March 23, 2024.

March 18 &19 - Pre-Arrival & Arrival

Our pre-arrival arrangements are set to make your transition to Ho Chi Minh City as seamless as possible. Starting on March, our dedicated team will be on standby at Tan Son Nhat International Airport to greet you upon your arrival throughout the day. We'll ensure that your journey from the airport to your hotel is comfortable and hassle free.

Day 1 - March 18th Arrival Day	
Coordinated pick-up and transfer	Visa on Arrival-Fast Track Service Airport Transfer to Sheraton Hotel
Day 2 - March 19th	
8:00am-12pm	Breakfast & Opening Event
12pm-1pm	Break
1:30pm-4pm	Networking Event at American Center for approximately 20 individuals.
4:00pm-5:30pm	Break
6pm-7:30pm	Dinner Nguyen Hue

March 20-21 - Day 3 & Day 4

On Days 2 and 3 of our trade delegation to Ho Chi Minh City, you'll embark on an immersive journey into the heart of the city's industrial landscape. Starting early each morning, we'll take you on a series of engaging factory visits where you'll gain firsthand insights into Vietnam's thriving industries. Accompanied by knowledgeable guides and industry experts, you'll witness cutting-edge production processes, explore technological advancements, and learn about local quality standards. These visits provide the perfect platform for meaningful discussions, allowing you to ask questions, exchange ideas, and explore potential collaborations with local businesses. In the evenings, our networking events and dinners will offer you the chance to build connections with fellow participants, industry leaders, and potential partners, further enhancing your experience and expanding your business horizons.

Day 2 & 3 - March 20th-March 21st	
7:00am-8:30am	Breakfast at Sheraton
9:30am-12pm	Factory Visits
12pm-1:30pm	Lunch
2pm-5pm	Industry & Factory Tour Cont.
5:00pm-6:00pm	Dinner
6:00pm+	Free Time

Day 4 & 5 March 22nd- Signing/Closing Event-Departure

On Days 4 and 5 of our trade delegation to Ho Chi Minh City, you'll experience the culmination of your journey and the transition to your departure. Day 4 begins with important signing ceremonies and partnership agreements, formalizing the business connections you've established during your visit. Following these official proceedings, the afternoon grants you the freedom to explore the vibrant city at your leisure. Whether you choose to savor local cuisine, explore cultural landmarks, or indulge in some shopping, it's your opportunity to immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of Ho Chi Minh City.

In the evening, we will convene for a grand Closing Gala, celebrating the successes and connections made throughout the trade delegation. It's a time to reflect on your journey, enjoy cultural performances, and bid farewell to newfound friends and partners.

Day 5 marks your departure from Ho Chi Minh City, but we ensure it is as smooth as your arrival. Our team will provide transportation to Tan Son Nhat International Airport to accommodate your flight schedule. As you bid farewell to this dynamic city, we hope you take with you cherished memories, valuable business insights, and a sense of the potential opportunities that Vietnam has to offer.

Day 4 - March 22nd	
8am-12pm	Networking/Signing Ceremony Lunch
1pm-6pm	Free time
6pm-8:30pm	Closing Gala Dinner
Day 5 - March 23rd Departure Day	
8am-5pm	Airport Transfer and departure



Participant Registration

Participation in our trade delegation to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, follows a carefully curated selection process to ensure a diverse and qualified group of attendees. The majority of our delegates are selected through the MBDA Business Office's extensive network of clients and partners, with individuals chosen based on their alignment with the criteria for joining this delegation.

Upon selection, the chosen delegates will receive an official invitation email, containing the application. It is imperative that the nominated individuals promptly complete their registration.

As we anticipate a high level of interest and limited availability for this trade delegation, we strongly recommend quick confirmation of participation. Additionally, adherence to the registration deadlines is crucial to secure your spot.

Once your registration is confirmed, you will receive an email confirmation that will also serve as crucial documentation for visa processing and other logistical arrangements. We look forward to welcoming you to this enriching trade delegation experience in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Visa

Visa Application Requirements:

- Application Form: Complete the Visa Application Form.
- Passport: Must be valid for 6 months beyond entry date.
- Visa Fee: Submit proof of visa application fee payment.
- Photo: Provide a recent passport-sized photo.
- Supporting Documents: Include invitation letters or schedules confirming the purpose of visit.

Visa On Arrival (VoA):

- Pre-approval: Obtain a pre-approval letter for VoA at least 8 business days before arriving in Vietnam through a travel agency or Vietnamese sponsor.
- Arrival Procedure: Present the pre-approval letter, passport, entry/exit form, and two photos at VoA counters in Vietnam's international airports.
- Stamping Fee: Pay the fee upon arrival.

Visa

Expedited Entry:

- **Availability:** For trade delegations, expedited entry may include dedicated counters or assistance from local sponsors.
- **Arrangement:** Coordinate with Vietnamese authorities or the Chamber of Commerce in advance for smoother immigration clearance.

Key Points:

Verify Information: Check the latest visa policies with the Vietnamese embassy before travel. **Visa Exemption:** Some countries have visa exemption agreements with Vietnam. **Health Regulations:** Ensure compliance with any required health measures. For up-to-date information, visit the Vietnam Immigration Department's website or contact the nearest Vietnamese embassy.

This streamlined guide offers a quick overview of the essential steps and requirements for obtaining a visa and ensuring smooth entry into Vietnam for trade mission participants.

Health Requirements

Before traveling to Vietnam, check the latest health requirements:

Vaccinations: Mandatory for certain countries, especially for Yellow Fever. Recommended vaccinations include Hepatitis A and B, Typhoid, and Tetanus.

COVID-19: Regulations may include vaccination proof, negative tests, and health declarations, subject to change.

Health Declaration: Often required upon arrival.

For current information, consult the Vietnam Ministry of Health, the nearest Vietnamese embassy, or official travel advisories. Always verify requirements close to your travel date to ensure compliance.

Getting to know Ho Chi Minh City

Basic Information

- Population: 9,320,866
- GDP per capita: \$7,000
(nearly twice of the national average of most cities in Vietnam)



Ho Chi Minh City is the largest city in Vietnam and a pivotal economic, cultural, and educational hub. With an estimated population of over 9.32 million people sprawling across an area of 2,095 square kilometers, the city is a vibrant metropolis characterized by its dynamic urban landscape and significant rural outskirts.



Strategically situated in the southeastern part of Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City serves as a crucial gateway connecting the Mekong Delta to the rest of the world through its extensive network of rivers, canals, and the Tan Cang Cat Lai – is one of the busiest ports in Asia. The city's geographical advantage has bolstered its status as a vital commercial and transport hub, fostering growth in various sectors including manufacturing, technology, and services.



The heart of Vietnam's economic boom, Ho Chi Minh City has seen rapid development in its infrastructure and business sectors since the country's economic reforms (Doi Moi) initiated in 1986. It hosts numerous international corporations, local conglomerates, and a thriving startup ecosystem. The city is also a major tourist destination, known for its historical sites, including remnants of the French colonial era, the War Remnants Museum, and the Cu Chi Tunnels, offering insights into Vietnam's tumultuous past.

Culturally, Ho Chi Minh City is a melting pot of traditions and modernity. District 1, the city's bustling central district, contrasts sharply with the more traditional and serene District 5's Chinatown, known as Cholon. Here, visitors can explore vibrant markets, ancient pagodas, and temples alongside skyscrapers and modern shopping malls.

The city's culinary scene is renowned worldwide, offering a plethora of dining experiences from street food stalls serving local delicacies like pho and banh mi to upscale restaurants offering international cuisine. The vibrant nightlife of Ho Chi Minh City, with its bars, nightclubs, and live music venues, reflects its youthful and energetic population.



Significant urban development projects, such as the Thu Thiem New Urban Area and the metro system, are underway to transform Ho Chi Minh City's infrastructure and urban landscape further. These developments aim to enhance the quality of life for residents and improve the city's sustainability and connectivity.

Environmental conservation efforts are also notable, with initiatives to protect the city's green spaces and waterways, amidst the challenges of rapid urbanization. The Can Gio Mangrove Forest, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve located just outside the city, exemplifies these efforts, offering a unique ecological site where visitors can explore rich biodiversity.

Ho Chi Minh City continues to stand as a symbol of Vietnam's resilience and ambition, driving the country's economic growth while preserving its cultural heritage and embracing modernity. Its dynamic atmosphere, rich history, and promising future make it an essential part of Vietnam's identity on the global stage.



Airport



Ho Chi Minh City is primarily served by Tan Son Nhat International Airport, the largest in Vietnam, located about 6 kilometers north of the city center. It offers both international (Terminal 2) and domestic (Terminal 1) flights, connecting the city globally. The airport provides easy access to the city via taxis, ride-hailing services, and public buses, with a metro link planned to enhance connectivity. Despite its capacity, the upcoming Long Thanh International Airport will eventually take over most international traffic to alleviate congestion. Tan Son Nhat remains vital for the city's connectivity and development.

Weather in March

Ho Chi Minh City experiences a tropical climate with March marking the transition towards the hot and dry season. The average temperature in March is about 30 (86F) degrees Celsius, with peak temperatures often reaching up to 34(93F) degrees Celsius, while the nighttime lows average around 24 (75F) degrees Celsius.

The humidity levels remain high, averaging around 70%. Rainfall begins to decrease this month, with an average precipitation of about 40 mm (1.6 inches). As the weather transitions, occasional late-afternoon showers can occur, gradually giving way to drier conditions as the month progresses.

To stay comfortable in Ho Chi Minh City's March weather, it's advisable to wear light, breathable clothing and stay hydrated. Also, consider carrying an umbrella or raincoat for unexpected showers.



Dress Code

Considering Ho Chi Minh City's tropical climate, we recommend that delegates opt for light, breathable clothing suitable for the warm and humid conditions typical of the area. Vietnamese dress code is generally casual, reflecting the city's laid-back atmosphere. For business meetings and formal events within the MBDA trade delegation, smart casual attire is appropriate, with no necessity for a tie unless specified for particular occasions. Comfortable footwear is also advised due to the likelihood of walking in warm conditions.

Accommodation

For the MBDA trade delegation trip to Ho Chi Minh City, it's important to note that as part of the arrangements, the organization will cover the accommodation costs for all delegates at the Sheraton Saigon Hotel & Towers from the 18th to the 23rd. This coverage is aimed at ensuring that all delegates have a comfortable and worry-free stay during the official dates of the delegation.

Here are the key points regarding your accommodation:

Dates Covered: The organization will pay for the accommodation at the Sheraton Saigon Hotel & Towers for the nights of the 18th through the 23rd.

Booking Process: There is no need for delegates to individually book their rooms for these dates, as this has been pre-arranged by the event organizers.

Extended Stay: Should any delegate wish to arrive earlier or extend their stay beyond these dates, they are responsible for arranging and covering the costs of additional nights directly with the hotel.

Additional Information: For those planning an extended stay or with specific accommodation preferences, it's advisable to communicate your needs with the Sheraton Saigon Hotel & Towers as soon as possible to ensure availability and secure the best rates.

We encourage all delegates to review their travel plans accordingly and reach out to the event coordination team if there are any questions or additional assistance needed with your stay at the Sheraton Saigon Hotel & Towers. We're here to help make your participation in the trade delegation both productive and enjoyable.

Hotel Information

The Sheraton Saigon Hotel & Towers, located in the heart of Ho Chi Minh City's vibrant business and entertainment district, is a premier accommodation choice offering luxury, comfort, and convenience. This 5-star hotel features spacious and elegantly designed rooms and suites with modern amenities, providing guests with a comfortable and upscale stay. Amenities include multiple dining options serving a variety of international cuisines, a state-of-the-art fitness center, a serene spa, and an outdoor pool offering panoramic views of the city. The hotel is well-equipped for business travelers, with comprehensive meeting and event facilities. Its prime location allows easy access to popular attractions, shopping centers, and cultural sites, making it an ideal choice for both business and leisure travelers seeking a sophisticated and memorable experience in Ho Chi Minh City.



Phone calls

Cell phone coverage in Ho Chi Minh City is comprehensive, with robust networks ensuring connectivity across the city, including business districts, residential areas, and most tourist destinations. However, it's worth noting that in certain locations, particularly on the outskirts or in less urbanized areas, signal strength may vary, potentially affecting call quality and data services.

Visitors have the option to use their mobile phones via international roaming, though it's often more economical to purchase a local prepaid SIM card. 4G LTE networks may also be available depending on the local coverage and your U.S. carrier. These SIM cards are affordable, widely available at airports, convenience stores, and mobile phone shops, and can be activated quickly with just your passport for identification. Vietnam's country code is +84.

Wi-Fi access is reliably available in Ho Chi Minh City, particularly in hotels, cafes, restaurants, and public spaces, ensuring that delegates will have internet access throughout their stay. This makes staying connected, conducting business, or keeping in touch with international contacts convenient during your visit.

Electricity

The electrical power supply in Ho Chi Minh City operates at 220 volts with Type A and Type C electrical sockets. Type A sockets are two-prong plugs, commonly used in North America, while Type C sockets are two-prong plugs used in Europe, with the pins being round.

For devices that require a nominal current of up to 16 amperes, Type C plugs are standard, accommodating the majority of personal electronics such as mobile devices, laptops, and cameras.

Delegates are advised to bring suitable adapters for their electronic devices to ensure compatibility with the Vietnamese electrical system. It's also recommended to check the voltage requirements for your devices, as some may need a converter to adjust from 220 volts to the device's required voltage.



Currency and Available Banks

The currency used in Vietnam is the Vietnamese Dong (VND). While electronic payments with debit and credit cards are increasingly accepted, especially in urban areas like Ho Chi Minh City, it is advisable to carry some cash for smaller transactions. ATMs are readily available throughout the city, providing convenient access to cash withdrawals.

Visa and Mastercard are the most widely accepted credit cards in Ho Chi Minh City. American Express (AMEX) may be accepted at high-end hotels, restaurants, and shopping centers, but its acceptance is less common compared to Visa and Mastercard. For ease of transactions and to avoid any potential inconvenience, it is recommended to have a Visa or Mastercard on hand during your stay in Vietnam.

Security

Ho Chi Minh City is generally considered safe for visitors compared to other major cities in the region, but it's still important to exercise common sense and take necessary precautions to ensure your safety, especially in a bustling metropolis.

Here are some tips to keep in mind during your visit:

Avoid carrying large sums of cash.

Be discreet with jewelry and other valuables to avoid attracting attention.

Always keep an eye on your personal belongings, such as laptops, smartphones, bags, and backpacks.

Emergency Numbers in Vietnam

Should you encounter any emergencies, the following numbers can be dialed:

Fire Department: 114

Police: 113

Ambulance/Medical Emergencies: 115

Civil Defense: Dial the local number specific to the area within Vietnam for non-medical emergencies.

It's a good idea to have these numbers saved or written down somewhere accessible during your stay in Ho Chi Minh City. Staying aware of your surroundings and following these precautions will help you enjoy a safe and pleasant visit.

Personal Information

All personal information provided by participants for the MBDA trade delegation to Vietnam via our registration forms will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and used solely for the purposes related to the delegation, in adherence to the principles of data protection and privacy laws applicable in Vietnam. By submitting your data and accepting this consent form, you agree to allow the organizers to process your personal data for necessary activities such as accreditation, accommodation arrangements, communication, and logistical support for the event.

The organizers of the MBDA trade delegation are committed to ensuring the protection of delegates' personal information, limiting access to those directly involved in the organization and execution of the delegation. All data handling will be conducted in compliance with Vietnam's data protection regulations, ensuring that your information is safeguarded throughout the event.

Your consent to these terms signifies your agreement that your data can be processed as described, facilitating a smooth and efficient participation in the Hawaii MBDA Vietnam Trade Delegation.

Application:

<https://hawaiimbda.com/mbda-delegation/>

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