Vietnam Expat

The Vietnam *Move Workbook*

Plan your move to Vietnam in order: your entry route, your money, your first weeks, then your home. Print it, fill it in, and take it with you.

By Kenny Llamas, founder, with the Vietnam Expat team. We are based in Ho Chi Minh City.

1 Do the steps in order

If you skip one, you will likely redo it. Tick each phase when it is done.

1 **Entry and money.** Pick the route that gets you in, and the bank that will work with it. A bank checks your visa type and your registered address first.

2 **Landing and registration.** Book where you sleep first. Your stay must be declared within hours of arrival: a hotel does it at check-in, and a private host files it.

3 **Testing a city.** Stay short-term. See each district at rush hour and in heavy rain before you sign anything.

4 **Committing.** Only now: the lease, the longer visa route, income and tax. Ask a lawyer before you sign.

Sources: gov.uk Vietnam travel advice; Vietnam News; LuatVietnam, Law 109/2025/QH15. Checked September 2026. Full links on vietnamexpat.com/moving/.

2 Your entry route

Your passport must be valid for 6 months after you arrive (gov.uk). Fill this in before you book a flight.

Passport

Passport country _____

Expiry date _____ 6 months after arrival date: _____

Entry route

Route (visa exemption, e-visa, sponsored visa, other) _____

Length of stay allowed _____

Official page I checked, and the date _____

Questions to confirm with the Immigration Department or a licensed Vietnamese lawyer

_____

_____

_____

3 Your monthly budget

For reference: one person outside the center in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City or Da Nang spends roughly 739 to 801 US dollars a month (Numbeo, crowd-reported, September 2026). Your own numbers matter more.

Item	My estimate (VND)	My estimate (USD)	Where I checked
Rent			
Utilities and internet			
Groceries and eating out			
Transport			
Health insurance			
School fees			
Visa and paperwork			
Travel home			
Total a month			

Also plan one-off costs: rent deposit, first stretch in a hotel, and school registration.

4 Test a district

Visit each street at two times no photo shows: rush hour and heavy rain.
One column per district.

What to check	District 1	District 2	District 3
Name and street			
Rush hour: commute time			
Heavy rain: flooding or not			
Noise at night			
Groceries and cafes nearby			
Hospital or clinic nearby			
School (if you have kids)			
Rent range I saw			
My score out of 10			

5 Before you sign or pay

Check these before a lease, a large transfer or a school fee. Each is hard to undo.

- [ ] My entry route and length of stay are confirmed from an official source.
- [ ] My stay has been declared (hotel check-in, or my host filed it).
- [ ] I know which documents my bank asks for, including my registered address.
- [ ] I saw the home at rush hour and in heavy rain.
- [ ] I read the full lease, the deposit terms and how to get the deposit back.
- [ ] I checked the real fee schedule for school, insurance and any service I am paying for.
- [ ] I asked a licensed Vietnamese lawyer about tax and any rule that depends on my situation.

Notes

This workbook is for planning only. It is not legal, tax or financial advice. Rules change: always check the official source before you act. More guides, with every figure sourced and dated, at vietnamexpat.com.