

CURRENCY

MONEY

- ✚ The official currency is the Vietnamese Dong (VND).
- ✚ Vietnamese Dong is mostly in POLYMER NOTES (in which includes notes of: VND 500,000; 200,000; 100,000; 50,000; 20,000; 10,000; 5,000; 2,000; 1,000; 500)
- ✚ In general terms the USD is the most widely and easily exchanged currency in large hotels, restaurants and shops in big cities, as it is in the majority of Asia, with the Euro as a distant second.
- ✚ British pounds, Canadian dollars or Australian dollars are not widely accepted, and where they are the exchange rate is unfavourable.
- ✚ There is no longer a significant currency black-market in Vietnam, and most hotels offer roughly the same US dollar exchange rate as banks or exchange-desks, making this often the easiest option. It is advisable to carry U.S. Dollar bills in small denominations. At the moment the exchange rate is approximately **US\$ 1 = 22,000 VND**.



METHOD OF PAYMENT



Cash

Vietnam is still predominantly a cash society – in the majority of shops and restaurants, with the exception of international chains and some tourist-orientated places in the big cities, direct payment of cash is most popular.



Credit cards

Major credit cards (Visa, Master Charge and to some extent American Express) are increasingly being used, especially in big cities and tourist places, but only in restaurants, hotels or big shopping malls with a transactional fee (3%-5%).



Traveller's cheques

Traveller's cheques will be accepted at major international banks in big cities, but generally not in hotels, and the process may both be more time-consuming and incur higher charges than exchanging cash. These should be USD denominated to ensure the best chance of acceptance, but we would generally not recommend them.



ATMs

ATMs are now widespread in all but the most remote destinations in Vietnam, and although rates and withdrawal charges will generally be higher than for exchanging cash, this is a reliable and largely secure method of obtaining VND cash.