


# Vietnam – The S-shaped charming land

Welcome to Vietnam, a charming and poetic land in the shape of letter S

- Located in the center of Southeast Asia. It is bordered by China in the North, Laos and Cambodia to the west, the East Sea and the Pacific Ocean to Southeast.
- Land area: 331.212 km<sup>2</sup>
- Population (2024): 99.760.777
- Capital: Hà Nội
- Flag: 
- National language: tiếng Việt
- Climate: tropical monsoon, different among South, Central and North regions.
- Vietnam has many famous landscapes recognized by UNESCO such as the magical cave system in Phong Nha - Ke Bang, Ha Long Bay - one of the seven wonders of the world, ancient and poetic Hue and Hoi An, the Central Highlands with majestic and vivid waterfalls, the Southwest with peaceful rivers, vast rice fields and the endless 3260km coastline. Vietnam's beauty touches people's hearts. The cultural diversity is always Vietnamese pride, attracting the attention and love of international friends and tourists.



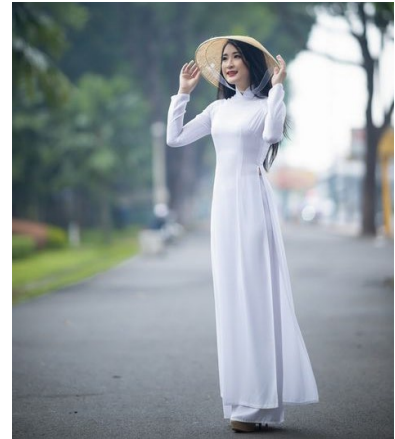
## Back to the roots

- Vietnam is a country with more than four thousand years of civilization, a country that has forever memorized the arduous efforts for country building of 18 Hung Kings and countless ancestors who sacrificed their lives in the history of defending country. The most memorable periods are thousand years of Chinese domination, hundred years of French colonization and the civil war for more than two decades. April 30, 1975 marked the unification and freedom in the entire territory, the establishment of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The country entered a new phase: reconstruction, integration and development.
- A long time ago, Vietnamese tribes chose to live in fertile plains, along rivers, where there is abundant source of water to grow rice and develop agricultural economy. The Rice Civilization was gradually formed and laid the foundation for the development of Vietnamese society. The agricultural model reflects people's creativity and ingenuity, their respect and harmony with the nature. Although

passing through various stages, the Rice Civilization continues to be closely associated with Vietnamese people's daily life and social life. Currently, Vietnam is still one of world's largest rice exporters and has a significant position in global agriculture.

### **Vietnam – a multicultural and multireligious nation**

- Vietnam is a multi-ethnic country with 54 ethnic groups, each with its own attributes expressed through culinary culture, housing, customs, festivals, art and costumes. Over 6,000 folk festivals preserve many layers of culture, moral ideology and philosophy of Vietnamese people. Traditional costumes of ethnic groups are diverse, closely link to labor process, but throughout the country, Ao Dai is uniformly chosen as the official costume in national ceremonies and international diplomacy. Vietnamese art has a long and rich history, imbued with national identity, influenced by Chinese and French art, expressed through typical architecture, a treasure of valuable folk songs and proverbs, unique and diverse art forms.
- Vietnam has a number of long-standing beliefs, most notably is ancestor worship and animism, which create a connection with the deceased, a close bond within family, and harmony with the nature.
- There are 16 major religions officially recognized in Vietnam, with followers accounting for about 27% of the population; of which Catholic accounts for 7%. The seeds of Gospel were sown in Vietnam by missionaries in 1533. Despite more than 250 years of persecution (1615-1886), the Catholic Church in Vietnam still had a bountiful harvest. Vietnamese Catholics are devout, enthusiastically attending daily Mass and other religious activities.



### **Vietnamese people**

- Vietnamese people are famous for being hard-working, simple, enduring hardships, studious, open-minded and easy to integrate.
- Vietnamese family traditions are rich in humanity such as respecting the elderly, loving children, and promoting marital loyalty.

- Vietnamese society is characterized with hierarchy and rites, clearly shown in addressing titles in daily communication, in family relationships, in beliefs and religions.
- The community spirit, the mutual love of Vietnamese people are quite high. Vietnamese people are attached to their villages - a typical social model, with diverse and tight structure, which regulate and orientate the activities of individuals.
- In cultural, sports and tourism meetings nowadays, most of international friends remember Vietnamese people with a constant smile, friendliness, sociability and love of life.

### **Future horizons**

In the context of international integration, industries and services have started to develop in Vietnam in the late 1990s and early 2000s, gradually lifting the country out of poverty and increasing the scale of the economy. Vietnam strengthened its friendship and cooperation with other countries in the region and the world, aiming to promote socio-economic development, industrialization and modernization of the country.

- There have been significant advances in education such as: universal education and literacy campaigns for all people, free general education, improving the quality of all professions; expanding higher education; promoting cooperation with more than 100 countries, applying international training programs and studying abroad, creating conditions for sustainable development.
- Scientific and technological development, innovation and digital transformation in national government: those are leading breakthroughs, driving forces for rapid development of modern work forces.
- Young generations of Vietnam are well aware of and appreciate advances in education, job opportunities, openness and modernization of society. Their lives are highly digitalized, dynamic and constantly evolving. Amidst the hustle and bustle, many young people still look for joy in prayers and follow Christ in consecrated life. Despite many limitations and difficulties, young Vietnamese people still embrace full of dreams and passion for a more beautiful world.

Welcome to Vietnam to immerse yourself in the magical beauty of nature, to share the values and soul of Vietnamese people, to enjoy the national cultural heritage, to light up hope for the development of such a dynamic center that is reaching out to integrate into the global, and especially to resound with gratitude for God's compassion and human love.