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Ho Chi Minh City Centre Shopping by [Lek Boonlert](#)

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No holiday is complete without good shopping and Ho Chi Minh City agrees! With so many excellent modern and traditional retail outlets, the visitor is quite spoiled for choice. Whether you like to browse through local handicrafts and antique designs or you are just looking for something unusual to take to the folks back home, you will find what you are looking for in this bustling shopperâ€™s paradise.

The majority of shopping is done in the centre of the city, but be sure you try your hand at bargaining. The initial price quoted will be high, because they expect you to bargain them down. Even if you have never bargained before, do try. Itâ€™s a fun experience. A good rule of thumb is if you see an item that interests you, try not to look too interested but note whether it has a price tag. If so then you are probably in a fixed price shop, which many of the tourist shops are. However if there is no price tag then it is fair game for haggling and if you are skilled enough you might whittle the shopkeeper down by two thirds of his initial price.

Foreign visitors may purchase duty free items from tax free shops on Nguyen Hue/Le Loi corner. Normal shopping times for both duty free and regular shops are from 8.00am to 8.00pm.

The larger of the Ho Chi Minh City Centre hotels usually have shops within the foyer offering beautiful handcrafted and bespoke items of batik, embroidery and jewellery.

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