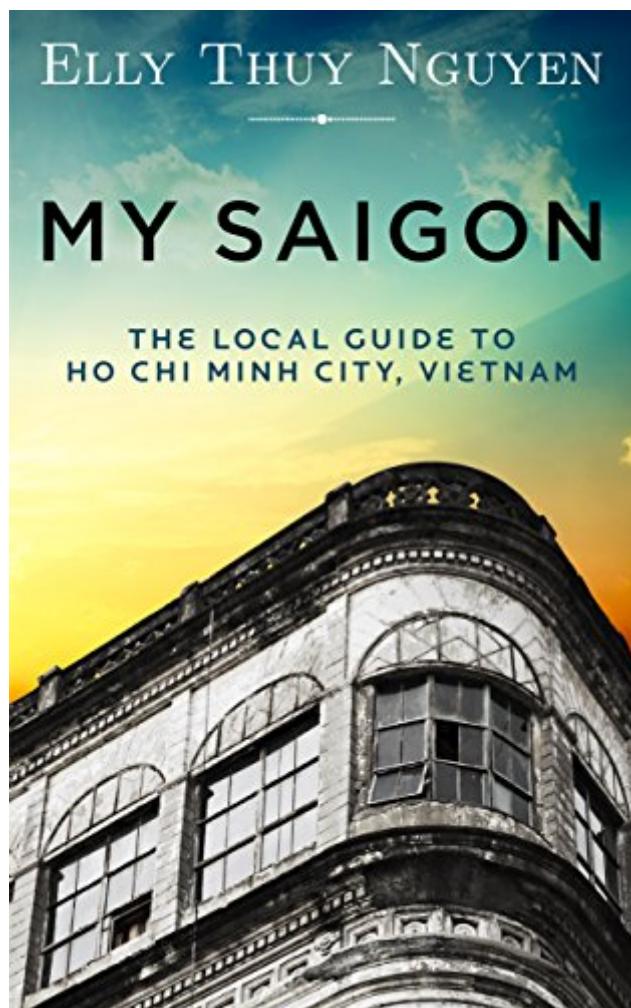


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# My Saigon: The Local Guide To Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam



## Synopsis

Experience real Saigon: My Saigon 2017 Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) offers bustling streets, amazing walks, too-hip-for-you cafes, rocking music clubs, luxurious salons, explosively delicious restaurants, and indoor cat zoos. Saigon is Vietnam. It's young, practical, crowded, and a little bit brash. Unfortunately, most visitors to Saigon are limited to the same boring attractions: unimpressive buildings, overpriced markets, and War propaganda. Saigon has so much more to offer, but it's largely undocumented in English-language travel guides. My Saigon documents what knowledgeable Saigonese people know: the most amazing experiences, the cultural backstories, the practical go-to tips, the best coffee, the best food (far beyond pho), the best hangouts, the coolest stuff, and hipsters, hipsters everywhere. Big-picture layout of the city. Basic history your tour guides aren't allowed to tell you. Don't stay in the backpacker cesspool, but don't overpay for a hotel. Get up and running with cheap mobile data in minutes, without visiting any phone stores. Pho isn't really a big thing in Saigon: it's a northern Vietnamese food. I'm sorry. But I'll show you the best pho in Saigon anyway. Delicious, authentic, moderately priced restaurants where my friends and I eat -- and that you won't find on Tripadvisor. Coffee. Did someone say coffee? I sure like coffee. Coffee. Yes. More coffee. Please. I'll tell you where. Hang out where Vietnamese people hang out, eat street snacks, listen to live music, whatever. Make cool friends, date guys or girls, whether you're a guy or a girl. Silly Saigonese slang, maybe to use with your new Vietnamese girlfriend or boyfriend. The lowdown on how Saigon's mafia runs the streets and who the various street characters are. Would you wear a Dixie hat at a NAACP meeting? Then don't wear a hammer-and-sickle t-shirt in Saigon. Don't give money to beggars and street kids, because they're all owned by the mafia. Saigon taxis are convenient and trouble-free, if you know the simple trick to avoid scams -- but Uber and Grab are even better! My Saigon includes tutorials on basic Vietnamese language, history (that Vietnamese tour guides are forbidden from mentioning), Saigon street characters, urban navigation and transportation, internet and phones, money and prices, avoiding scams, making friends, and meeting love interests. Saigon is a wealth of sights, sounds, smells, and experiences. My Saigon is a guide, a love confessional, an instruction manual, and an ode to the city.

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

The guide is short and informative. It is a very realistic and useful guide to exploring Saigon. If you plan on visiting Saigon, and want a local's insight on things, a few bucks to Elly is better than fifty, (or even a hundred!) to a gangster.

We landed Saigon and looked for an airport cab: 270,000 dong for the first driver that approached us. 128,000 dong for the Elly-recommended Vinasun cab. Right out of the gate we were money ahead! It's a pleasantly readable book that made Elly's Saigon thoroughly enjoyable. Other books focus on what to see and do, Elly focuses on the nuts and bolts of getting from point A to point B and how to enjoy the process.

Loved the book, it was fun to read and had some great information. We took the book with us to Saigon and used it to locate several restaurants.

Very useful and informative, especially local tips on transportation and where to eat. Highly recommended for anyone traveling to Saigon.

Fun book and easy to read.

A personal and personable view of some local favorites, but mostly a list of common pitfalls to avoid while in Saigon. What is missing is the author's view of what is beautiful or especially interesting to her there. The potential visitor is not enticed. The author outlines a number of differences between northern and southern Vietnamese culture, and suggests the superiority of the southern. I am glad for her ideas and helpfulness, but need more information to encourage and plan my stay. This is a beautiful country of charming, dynamic people and great food. The author has helped me to enjoy these.

If you are a young guy and first time traveller you might find some valuable information in this volume. 3 chapters about how to pick up, or rather not to pick up local girls. Some information is ok, but if you are a more experienced traveller you may find the style of writing annoyingly patronizing. Her other volume "Saigon Secrets" contains actually more valuable information. But as an extra volume with only 18 pages it is a real rip-off. Unless you are blue-eyed 20 something look elsewhere.

I was quite disappointed with this guide. Although the author is intimately associated with HCMC, the tips one expects to find in a travel guide simply are not here. The couple of pieces of useful information in this small publication can easily be found in any magazine article on HCMC (Saigon). The writing has a real feel of earnestness and I do believe she tried very hard within her abilities. Just feel that travel guides may not be her forte. She queries at the end about the possibility of more guides to come...my answer to her would be definitely not until she learns what travelers look for in city guides. I would have sent it back but was leaving for Vietnam two days after receiving this.

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