

# BUS INSTRUCTIONS MANUAL: SAIGON TO CAI BE

## STEP 1: GO TO THE BUS TERMINAL

Please ask your taxi driver to take you to: **'BEN XE MIEN TAY BUS STATION'**.

The taxi from District 1 to this bus station costs approximately: Dong 250,000.

The taxi ride from District 1 to **'BEN XE MIEN TAY BUS STATION'** takes approximately 20 to 50 minutes, depending on traffic conditions.

Note: Please note that there are two major bus stations in Saigon, but the one you must go to is the above named!

## STEP 2: BUY YOUR BUS TICKET AT THE BUS TERMINAL

Go to the **FUTA** (the bus company's initials) bus ticketing booth at the above bus station to purchase your ticket. The full name of **FUTA is PHUONG TRANG**, so **FUTA and PHUONG TRANG** is one and the same!

Purchase your bus ticket to the following destination bus station: **'TRAM DUNG CHAN SATRA CAI BE'**, also known for short simply as: **'SA TRA CAI BE'**

The cost per bus ticket is: Dong 120,000

There are no extra charges for your seat assignment nor for your suitcases

Please reserve your seat at the same time when buying your bus ticket (aisle or window, front or back, as by your preference).

Futa buses are the best buses available in Vietnam.

A Futa Bus departs every 30 minutes from Saigon and Cai Be, however please note that you must take the bus for which you purchased your ticket with the assigned seat and cannot take at will an earlier or later **FUTA** bus for the same route!

Important Note: Please do not accept a Futa ticket for a sleeping bus (very uncomfortable, but same price). In Vietnamese, this refusal to take a sleeping bus is politely stated as follows (Please show this printed text the clerk at the ticketing booth):

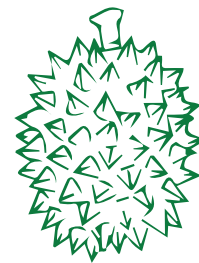
**"Toi muon ghe ngoi ,toi khong muon ghe giuong nam ,cam on"**

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## THE DURIAN LODGE AT MEKONG

SO NHA 100 TO 4 AP AN HOA XA, DONG HOA HIEP, 'CAI BE' (FLOATING MARKET), MEKONG DELTA, VIETNAM

PHONE: +84-93-549-1849 / E-MAIL: loan@grassl.li



### STEP 3: ENTER THE BUS PARKING LOT

Once you have purchased your ticket, please proceed to the security entrance gate for departing passengers, show your ticket to the security staff if asked, and then walk towards the very left hand side of the bus terminal parking lot towards the **FUTA** waiting area (semi-air conditioned building with large front windows)

### STEP 4: IDENTIFY YOUR BUS

There are a great many **FUTA** buses. Please ask any **FUTA** bus employee (same as "Phuong Trang" employee) - as identified on their shirts - for the correct bus to '**SA TRA CAI BE**' by showing him/her your bus ticket.

Important note: Buses are not always marked, or marked incorrectly because they occasionally forget to change the signs, so the only way to know for sure is by asking !!!!

### STEP 5: HAND OVER YOUR SUITCASE(S)

Give your suitcases to the Futa boy standing next to your bus - after you have duly identified your bus - and he will put your suitcase inside the trunk (no worries about stealing, it's safe). However, please watch that they actually put your suitcase inside the trunk and do not forget the same on the sidewalk, as does occasionally happen.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** You have to show the boy first your seat ticket and he will afterwards give you upon inspection of the same a suitcase ticket, which is in addition to your seat ticket and not in substitution thereof, so you need to hold on to both your seat and your suitcase ticket (one suitcase ticket for all your suitcases, not one per suitcase!) .

### STEP 6: GO INSIDE THE BUS AND LOOK FOR YOUR ASSIGNED SEAT AND TAKE A SEAT

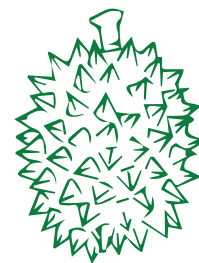
**NOTE:** We recommend that you bring a sweater with you inside the bus as buses in Vietnam are, as general norm with only a few exceptions, usually excessively air-conditioned.

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## STEP 7: IDENTIFY YOUR DESTINATION TO THE BUS ASSISTANT INSIDE THE BUS

The on-board bus assistant to the bus driver will ask you in Vietnamese where you want to go to and he will write this information down on a piece of paper. Usually, he will ask you this question once you are seated shortly before the bus is about to take off.

Please reply: **'SA TRA CAI BE'**.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** As he may not understand your Vietnamese accent, please show him this paper and underline the above Vietnamese name to avoid misunderstandings.

## STEP 8: GET OUT OF THE BUS AT SA TRA CAI BE STATION

And look for the unmarked motorbike taxi stand on your left side of the main exit of the bus terminal building below a tree. In the absence of any taxi signage, please look for a "large tree" with "many" (as in 5 to 10) motorbikes stationed below.

Please tell the taxi driver that you would like to go to: **Khách Sạn 'The Durian Lodge'** with address: **So Nha 100 to 4 Ap An Hoa Xa, Dong Hoa Hiep** (the taxi driver will not be able to understand your pronunciation, so please show him/her this paper!)

The cost per motorbike taxi is Dong 100,000 (Please bring the exact change). The duration of the ride is 15 to max. 20 min. If you have a large suitcase, please hire an additional motorbike taxi for your large suitcase (another 100,000 Dong).

Occasionally, some abusive motorbike taxi driver may ask you, let's say, for 300,000 Dongs per motorbike instead of 100,000 Dong, but please do not accept this. In such case, please kindly call me (Ms. Loan) at Phone: **+84-93-549-1849** (from an international phone with roaming) - same as Phone **093-549-1849** (from a Vietnamese cell phone) and pass me on the phone to the taxi driver (rather than you getting into an argument with the taxi driver); and I will quickly fix the problem for you on the phone!

(Note: Please do not send me an SMS message from an international cell phone to my phone as these messages arrive in Vietnam occasionally hours after having been sent!)

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