

MEMBERSHIP and COSTS OF A CHAT TRIP

MEMBERSHIP

CHAT Annual Membership Renewal – due 1st January

The cost of **annual membership** (1st January – 31st December) is **\$20**.

Your CHAT membership

- Supports the great work we do in Vietnam.
- Allows you to attend and vote at our Annual General Meeting and any other Special General Meeting(s) throughout the year.
- On request, supplies you with a copy of the minutes of our management committee meetings.
- Invites you to any CHAT events e.g. our festive season picnic.
- Welcomes your involvement in any special interests which you think will assist CHAT, e.g. fundraising, to be part of our management committee or sub-committees.

A CHAT Annual Membership Renewal Form can be downloaded from our website or requested from the CHAT Secretary – secretary@chatinc.org.au

We encourage all past members, volunteers and our friends to join or renew annual membership.

This fee is not refundable.

CHAT Annual Membership and Trip Application

A CHAT Annual Membership and Trip Application Form can be filled in on our website or requested as hard copy from the CHAT Secretary. Please read and agree to our Waiver.

The fee to **join a CHAT trip** is **\$280** – this covers ground costs while working with CHAT in Vietnam, which include

- bus hire,
- 3 CHAT polo shirts,
- daytime meals and drinks while working,
- donations to poorly funded places where we work,
- equipment and supplies.

To join a CHAT trip, you must be a **current member** so the total cost of membership and a trip is **\$300**.

An additional **\$50** is requested if you are unable to carry equipment and supplies for CHAT into Vietnam. This balances out against those who need to pay extra luggage allowance and/or juggle their own personal luggage weight with CHAT supplies' extra weight.

Should you cancel your trip, you have 12 months rejoin another trip if you choose not to have your costs refunded.

Payment

Membership and trip fees are paid to CHAT by direct bank deposit into the CHAT bank account – **CHAT Inc**

BSB Number: 086-455.

Account Number: 85-683-5363.

Customer Reference: insert your name.

If depositing payment from overseas -

ADD: NAB Swift Address Code: NATAAU3303M

Please let the Secretary know once you have deposited the payment AND if you wish to have a receipt: secretary@chatinc.org.au
CHAT has no credit card facility.

COSTS OF CHAT TRIP

All volunteers are self-funded (cover all their own work and travel costs) and receive no payment from CHAT.

Annual Membership and Trip Fees: = \$300

then add these costs: - quick links

[Passport](#)

[Visa](#)

[Air Travel](#)

[Possible additional air travel costs](#)

[Extra Luggage Costs – Carrying CHAT supplies](#)

[Travel Insurance](#)

[Immunisation](#)

[Accommodation](#)

[Meals](#)

[Items you need to take into Vietnam for CHAT](#)

[Money/Currency to spend](#)

- **Passport:**

\$308 – adult - for (10 years) ‘non-urgent’ new passport.

- **Visa (Tourist Visa required):**

\$100 to \$120 for 1 month (via travel agent), \$45 online.

- Cheaper if you do it yourself
 - via your Vietnamese Consulate or Embassy or
 - as an e-visa for single entry at https://evisa.xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn/en_US/web/guest/trang-chu-ttdt
- Australian and New Zealand citizens MUST have a Visa.
- Citizens from other countries please check your Vietnamese Embassy website, or if in Australia <http://www.vietnam-consulate.org.au/>

- **Air Travel:**

Cost for air travel from Australian capital cities to Ho Chi Minh City (CHAT’s Vietnam HQ) & return will vary considerably (\$550+ - \$1400+), depending on:-

- Which airline is used,
- Whether you go through a travel agent or do it yourself online,
- If a ‘special deal’ is on offer,
- Time of year (whether peak season or not),
- Day of the week
- Whether you depart from Perth (base) or other capital cities,
- Whether you use a credit card to pay, add 2%.

CHAT is not liable for airline cancellation fees, nor fees for moving flight times. These may be able to be claimed on travel insurance.

- **Possible Additional Air Travel Costs:**

If CHAT's work location is a long distance out of Ho Chi Minh City, then air travel is another option to bus travel. If estimated bus travel time is 12 hours or more to our location, then air travel is a MUST and you pay the extra cost involved.

- **Extra Luggage Costs**

You are expected to carry dental supplies into Vietnam for CHAT.

Please allocate 10 kg of your luggage allowance for carrying CHAT supplies. If departing from cities other than Perth, check with your Trip Leader about this allocation.

If you travel with a budget airline, it's cheaper to book/pay for this weight initially rather than to purchase more weight when boarding/afterwards.

If you are not from WA and will not be carrying CHAT supplies, we suggest you donate \$50 in lieu.

There is no need to allocate any luggage allowance for CHAT purposes on leaving Vietnam.

- **Travel Insurance:**

Approximately *\$100 for duration of 8 day CHAT trip.

*This is a guide/estimate only.

Costs will vary from one insurance provider to another and cost more depending on number of days travel, your age and level of cover.

We recommend you read your insurance policy terms carefully to ensure your level of cover is adequate for your CHAT trip requirements. Insurance through credit card payments may not be comprehensive enough.

Allow for cover which covers infection with Covid-19 virus.

- **Immunisation:**

COST: Varies. Consult with your doctor or specialised travel clinic about your immunisations for travel to Vietnam.

Those working with patients will need Hepatitis B vaccination/booster.

- **Accommodation:**

Allow \$60 to \$80 per day.

Costs can be reduced by sharing your room if you can arrange with another volunteer on the trip.

- **Meals:**

Allow \$30 to \$40 per day.

- **Purchase of items you need to take to Vietnam:**

Costs will vary for items such as - gloves, masks, antibacterial hand gel, headlamp/loupes light & other clinical items (clinicians), anti-gastro medication, mosquito repellent, etc.

- **Money/Currency to spend:**

We recommend you purchase 1,000,000 Vietnamese Dong (VND) (approx. A\$55-60) on or before arrival to get you started in Vietnam. Other than that, take Australian or US Dollars and exchange in Vietnam. Or you can use your card in ATMs in major cities.

Treasurer's Note & CHAT Trip Outreach Costs - see next page

TREASURER'S NOTE

CHAT is a registered charity with tax deductible status.
Charitable Collections Licence No: 20881.
ABN: 72 908 832 984.

TAX NOTE: The Australian Taxation Office basically says that while there are no specific rules for volunteers, there is no tax deduction allowed for expenses incurred if it is not part of producing an income. It seems therefore, that costs as a result of working with CHAT would not be tax deductible.

However, Individual Tax Returns are self-assessed and anyone can claim within the realms of what they believe is justifiable.

Many volunteers claim tax deductions for costs incurred during a CHAT trip under 'continuing education/professional development'.

EACH VOLUNTEER SHOULD CONSULT THEIR TAX AGENT/ACCOUNTANT.

CHAT TRIP OUTREACH COSTS

These costs come through trip fees & donations:-

- Dental materials: approximately \$1500 per trip, unless people donate them
- Dental equipment: Some equipment has been donated from dentists, often due to being replaced in their surgery, so may be old. We need to replace old equipment with new modern equipment. Sometimes dental companies offer us 'special prices'.
- Other equipment: Generator (often required for our power supply), compressor, medical supplies for our team doctor and supplies for our handyman e.g. tools, powerboards, extension cords.
- Insurance for Vietnamese helper while working with CHAT: approx. \$50 x 2 trips a year.
- Donation payments to Vietnamese helpers: can be up to \$400 per visit. They give up their time and are on a low wage.
- Donations from CHAT to orphanages and other poor institutions we visit: \$100 per orphanage/institution; up to \$500 each trip.
- An oral hygiene bag to all patients who attend our clinics: These contain a toothbrush, toothpaste, dental health instruction sheet and general health pamphlet. Estimated at \$2 per bag x 1200 patients. (A small soft toy is also given to each child after receiving dental treatment at our clinics. Church groups, clubs and others in Australia knit these for us).
- Sundries: e.g. bus hire, meal/drinks while working, CHAT polo shirts, miscellaneous items.

Last updated –17 May 2023

For further updates or queries, contact Secretary@chatinc.org.au