

COMING FROM SAIGON TO CAI BE

Option 1: Approx. Euro 56 per couple / Any time

The most convenient and comfortable way is by chauffeur-driven private car (Toyota Fortuner Model 2014). The cost of going by private car is Dong 1,400,000 (roughly 56 Euros), or Dong 700,000 (roughly 28 Euros) per person when travelling as a couple. The 'door-to-door' transit time by car is approximately two hours.

Option 2: Approx. Euro 28 per couple / Every 30 minutes

The more adventurous option is to travel by public bus, namely FUTA bus. Please note that there are many other bus company options available for this transit route but Futa is the only bus company with large-sized buses with a reasonable Western-style distance between one seating row and the next and therefore more suitable to larger-sized Caucasians. By contrast, most other bus companies operate on this route with rather crowded, claustrophobic and space-restricted minibuses. Also, please avoid any Futa sleeping buses, which are also extremely uncomfortable. Please also remember to bring a sweater when traveling by bus in Vietnam as the air-conditioning is always excessive.

There is a FUTA bus leaving every thirty minutes from Saigon to Cai Be, so if you miss one, no worries, there is always the next. The 'bus-station-to-bus-station' transit time is approximately 2 hours plus an estimated additional hour of cumulative taxi transit time at both ends.

When going by bus, the cumulative total of the taxi expense to the bus station and the actual bus ticket expense amounts to a total of roughly Dong 490,000 (roughly 20 Euros) per individual traveller, that is, Dong 365,000 (roughly Euro 14) per person when travelling as a couple.

Here is the exact cost breakdown:

Car taxi from Saigon's District 1 to Saigon's bus terminal:	Dong 250,000 per person/couple
+ Bus Ticket from Saigon to Cai Be:	Dong 120,000 per person
+ Motorbike taxi from Cai Be's bus terminal to Cai Be's boat station:	Dong 100,000 per person
+ Motorbike taxi from Cai Be's boat terminal to the lodge:	Dong 20,000 per person
= Total per individual traveler:	Dong 490,000 per person
= Total per person when traveling as a couple:	Dong 365,000 per person

If you were in an adventurous frame of mind today and decided to start your Mekong River Adventure with a bus adventure, please go to the following online link at <http://www.thedurianlodge.com/busmanual> for further step-by-step instructions on how to take the bus from Saigon to Cai Be. Travelling by public bus in Vietnam is absolutely safe and does not involve any risks other than getting lost, in particular when departing from Saigon's rather large city bus terminal, hence our explicit instructions at the above link!

For visualization purposes, please see below the photos of all two transport options:

Private car: <http://thedurianlodge.com/car/>

FUTA bus: <http://thedurianlodge.com/futabusgallery>

Important Note: Please note that there are no car taxis available upon arrival at Cai Be's bus terminal, but only motorbike taxis. Car taxis do not exist in Cai Be. If you are unwilling to take a ride on a motorbike taxi, please do not go bus!