

Hang Ba Deep Jungle Expedition

HB4 • Adventure level: Hard

• Age 18-70 years old.

This expedition takes you to discover six incredible caves, including Dai Cao Cave, Maze Cave, Hang Ba Cave, Vinh Dai Cave, Light Cave, and Circle Cave. It is the best chance to catch a good view of the Milky Way and the Moon with your own eyes, enjoy the dark skies filled with stars and unpolluted by lights.

Conservation has always been a top priority for Oxalis Adventures. After some research into wildlife tours, Hang Ba Deep Jungle Expedition was born. This is a tour to the core zone of Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park, for those who are passionate about nature, conservation, wildlife and exploring caves in Vietnam. The area is home to many rare and protected animals, and plants. This unique limestone massif, covered by an ancient tropical forest thousands of years old, is home to many caves for those who are interested in cave exploration.

The Hang Ba Deep Jungle Expedition Tour is a completely new product, based on Oxalis' 10 years experience in adventure tourism and conservation together with comments and advice from UNESCO and IUCN representatives in Vietnam, and members of the Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park Management Board. Below are some special features of this tropical forest tour.

- ✓ Differing from all other existing Oxalis Adventure tours, the Hang Ba Deep Jungle Expedition leads you through an ancient primary tropical forest where almost 95% of the route is under the tree canopy.
 - ✓ Only on this nature discovery tour, will guests be able to participate in early morning activities to immerse themselves in nature. Listen to the early morning chorus of birdsong as a signal of a new day, combined with the calls of monkeys echoing around the jungle.
 - ✓ Experience 3 campsites just inside and next to spectacular cave entrances, with amazing views, and cool in summer and warm in winter. Campsites are all away from the areas of wildlife activity, so that humans will not disturb the animals.
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- ✓ For the first time, Oxalis Adventures will take customers to see the habitats of many wild, rare and protected animals in Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park. You will have the opportunity to observe the footprints and other traces of wild animals such as Mountain Goat, Deer, Wild Boar, Gibbons, Langurs, and Wildcats. Moreover, Oxalis has installed many camera traps throughout the tour. Activated by movement, these cameras will record the day and night time activities of wildlife. Images and videos will be downloaded onto a tablet for guests to view. Observing animals in this way means we will not disturb the normal activities of the animals, or drive them away from their natural habitat.
- ✓ This is a trek where customers will become real cave explorers. This cave exploration tour will enable you to discover six amazing caves such as Dai Cao Cave, Maze Cave, Ba Cave, Vinh Dai Cave, Light Cave and Circle Bay Cave. This Vietnam cave tour is the first tour to visit these caves since their original exploration in 1992 and 1994.
- ✓ Camping in the deep jungle where there are no lights, provides an opportunity for guests to observe the stars, moon, and perhaps the milky way unimpeded by artificial light. This is also a rare chance for those living in big, bright cities to enjoy a truly natural dark night. Hang Ba expedition Tour porters, guides, and chefs have undergone training on how to limit unnecessary noise and disturbance whilst working. By running forest expeditions in this area, Oxalis also helps to reduce the hunting or illegally logging actions of local people.
- ✓ This jungle expedition tour of 4 days and 3 nights leads you deep into the core zone of Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park with its challenging steep hills, sharp rocky terrain and natural caves, which is why you need to be well-prepared physically and with the correct clothing and equipment.
- ✓ With a maximum of 6 customers per group, this special expedition will bring customers the best experience and at the same time make an important contribution to the conservation of biodiversity within the world heritage site of Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park.

Note: Tour takes place in remote areas with complex terrains. Customers must be physically fit.

Please carefully read the tour itinerary and honestly fill out the booking information yourself, especially your experience and health condition.

To book a tour for a group, please send the tour information to them and instruct each member to complete the booking form on their own. Our booking system lets each person fill in their own information, avoiding errors or missing details when someone else does it for you. Read more about [Oxalis Adventure Level](#).

Hang Ba Deep Jungle Expedition (HB4)

DISTANCE **23km** incl. **3km** ROCKY HILL | ELEVATION GAIN **1678m**

Percentage of Slope: 100% = 45°



Itinerary

Hang Ba tour itinerary may be changed due to weather conditions. The path can be quite muddy and slippery when it rains.

The Hang Ba Jungle Expedition requires physical fitness and endurance. Participants must have previous trekking experience. On average, customers will have to complete 8-10 km of jungle trekking with difficult terrain, cave exploration and swimming in caves every day. Some of the climbing sections will be supported by safety assistants and using safety equipment provided by Oxalis. When swimming in the cave, all guests and staff are required to wear life jackets. The activities on the tour are quite diverse, from early morning to late evening, and this is a proper expedition for trekking enthusiasts.

[Download the itinerary](#)

Day 1: Phong Nha - KM 23 Road 20 - Deep Jungle Trek - Dai Cao Cave - Dai Cao Campsite

From 07:30 to 08:00 a.m on the departure day, the bus will pick you up at your hotel in the Phong Nha area and bring you to the Oxalis office. Here, you will listen to the safety briefing, sign the release form, pack your bag, and receive the necessary safety equipment.

After departing from the Oxalis office, the bus will take the group to the Wildlife Rescue Center at the Botanical Garden, where Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park rescues and cares for animal species before releasing them back into the natural environment. Then, the bus will bring you to the drop-off point at KM23, on Victory Road 20, deep inside the

National Park, to begin the expedition.

The journey to explore the jungle of Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park starts with a steep uphill section, straight from the road. After 3 km of generally uphill trekking, the route then goes downhill for most of the way. The entire path is covered by dense primeval forest with rare and ancient trees hundreds of years old, and you may see some animal tracks. The path consists mostly of hilly terrain, with steep rocky sections that have slopes exceeding 100% (more than 45 degrees). The group will stop for lunch along the way.

After lunch, the group will continue trekking to reach the exit of Dai Cao Cave in the mid-afternoon. Here the guide will show you the animal footprints on the floor inside the cave.

Donning life jackets the group will swim into Dai Cao Cave to reach the tall main passage of the cave. Here, you can see white fish and shrimp that are adapted to live in the total darkness of the cave. After that, the group will walk out of the cave for the first night at Dai Cao Campsite.

Having dinner at 18:00, relaxing, enjoying the quiet night or simply talking together and watching the night stars, the sound of the jungle will lull you to sleep.

Day 2: Hang Ba – Circle Lake – Light Cave Campsite

Waking up at 5:00 a.m. everyone will sit together next to the stream at the campsite, and enjoy some tea and coffee. Observe the animal prints along the river bank, listen to the birds singing, and the calls of monkeys and other animals echoing throughout the mountains and jungle in the early morning (you can choose to stay at the campsite and not participate in this activity).

At 8:00 am, after having breakfast, guests will pack up their bags (the porter team will set off with the camp bags soon after) and prepare to explore Maze Cave - a beautiful cave with cave formations and amazing fossils. Trek and swim for around 30 minutes to reach the first entrance. In this cave, on a sunny day, you may see some sunbeams shining deep into the cave passage. The tour guide will identify the footprints of the wild animals.

Leaving Maze Cave guests will return to the campsite for lunch. After lunch, trek through the forest for about 2 km, admiring the many ancient and beautiful trees. Clamber over the rocks to reach the impressive entrance of Hang Ba - a cave with 3 cave exits and a beautiful green underground river. You won't be able to stop taking pictures when you see these spectacular views. When you exit Hang Ba, the beautiful scenery of Circle Lake surrounded by limestone mountains and cliffs is revealed. Crossing this lake you will arrive at the second

day's campsite.

The camp is located in the middle of Light Cave, a short but beautiful cave with 2 magnificent cave arches.

Dinner will be served at 18:00, the group then take a break, enjoy the night in the cave or just quietly watch the starry sky and the milky way. It will guarantee to be an experience you won't easily forget.

Day 3: Morning Nature Concert - Circle Lake Cave – Vinh Dai Cave and Campsite

On day three of the journey, you will wake up at 5:00 am before dawn and paddle to Circle Lake to have some tea/coffee and listen to a special jungle concert. The sounds create a unique symphony. Don't forget to check for animal footprints left on the sand during the night. To make the most of this nature and wildlife tour, be prepared to get up early and stay up late.

After enjoying breakfast at 8:00 am, customers can spend some time relaxing at Light Cave camp. The early morning sun illuminating both cave entrances will make you reach for your camera or phone.

After leaving Light Cave camp, the group will climb the steep hill above Circle Lake to explore Circle Lake Cave. The Circle Cave entrance is about 90 m wide and it is home to many animals. Camera traps are set up here and often capture some wildlife activity. Explore further into Circle Cave packed with endless cave formations and maybe see the sunbeams shining into this cave. Return to the campsite, take a rest and have lunch.

In the afternoon, carefully clamber over the rocky exit passage, before walking or swimming along the river to reach Vinh Dai Cave. Settle in at the campsite just inside Vinh Dai Cave and have a rest for tea and coffee before going to collect the memory card from the camera traps and reviewing the data from the previous days. Explore the main passage in Vinh Dai Cave, which also promises customers even more inspiring photo opportunities.

Return to the campsite and enjoy a delicious dinner at 18:00. After finishing dinner, move just outside the cave to relax and listen to the sounds of the jungle, look up to the stars above and make the most of your last night of the journey.

Day 4: Vinh Dai Campsite - KM23 - Phong Nha

The morning meal will be ready for guests to welcome the new day. Enjoy the fresh and

tranquil mountain air before packing up to conquer the towering peaks.

You should prepare 2L of drinking water, as there is no water along the trail. The day starts with a long and steep hike from the campsite. For the first hour or so the trek involves sharp rocky terrain and lots of climbing and scrambling. In some difficult sections, you will need to use safety harnesses and ropes fully supported and assisted by the guide and safety assistant team.

From the top of the rocky section, the route continues uphill in some way, but the terrain is much easier. The group will stop for a light lunch along the way, before the final downhill section. Depending on the speed of the group, guests will reach KM23, Victory Road 20 between 15:00 - 16:00. An Oxalis bus with cold beverages will be waiting to welcome you back. You will be awarded a medal recognizing the completion of Oxalis' most challenging expedition before boarding the return bus to Phong Nha.

The bus will take the group back to Phong Nha at about 18:00.

Suggested accommodations before and after the tour:

Chay Lap Farmstay is an ideal place to stay before and after joining Oxalis cave tours. High quality rooms, swimming pool, spa, kayaking, cycling, yachting... Specially discount rate for Oxalis customers are 1 million VND/room for 2 people. Check availability here

chaylapfarmstay.com →

Adventure level on tour

After many years of adventure tourism activities, Oxalis Adventure has created a Level of Adventure scale to help guests to visualise and choose the adventure tour most suitable for their fitness and health. This scale is not to be applied to other companies or tours with different conditions and terrains. The easiest level (level 1) anyone can join, and the most difficult level - 6 requires regular exercise and some trekking experience.

Those who regularly practise sports or regularly participate in mountain climbing and trekking tours in the forest can complete this tour easily.

Adventure Level 6 · Hard

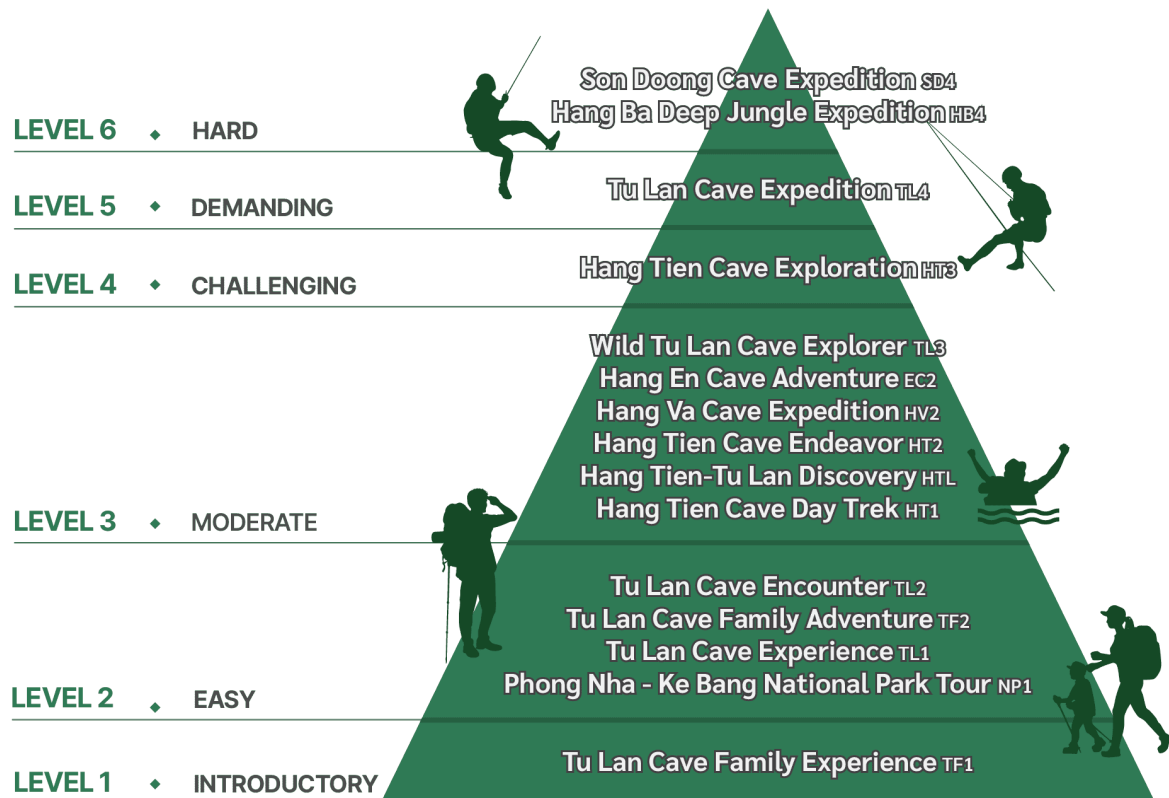
The Hang Ba Deep Jungle Expedition Tour is rated as the most challenging (Level 6) on the Oxalis adventure level system. The difficulty of the tour is based on the physical fitness and health of average active people, not runners, athletes, or intensely active individuals.

Activities: Extensive rocky terrain, and some technical sections, steep ascents and

descents.

The number of guests per tour: Maximum 6 customers; Age 18-70 years old.

- ★ 23km deep jungle trekking
- ★ 6 caves
- ★ Swimming, SUP paddling (optional) in caves
- ★ 3km of rocky hill scrambling
- ★ Total elevation gain: 1.678m
- ★ 3 nights cave camping
- ★ Dark sky observations
- ★ Nature concerts: Bird and animal songs



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Items to bring on Hang Ba Deep Jungle Expedition Tour

Hang Ba Deep Jungle Expedition Tour is a lengthy trekking tour in Quang Binh with many different terrains, so you must prepare for the trip properly. Customers will be asked to prepare suitable clothing for safety and comfort. Clothing should be good for trekking in the jungle, river crossings, or exploring the cave as well as avoiding dangers and risks from sharp rocks, snakes, insects, or poison ivy. Trekking shoes are very important for Hang Ba tour, therefore, visitors need to choose a good, well-fitting pair of shoes for steep rocky terrain and they should not be waterproof, as during river crossings they will hold water inside. Besides, they also need to prepare personal items for 4 days and 3 nights camping in the jungle and in the cave.

Oxalis provides

Camping equipment: tent, mattresses, pillow, sleeping bags
Caving and safety gears: helmet, headlight, gloves, ...
Basic jungle boots (size 36-46 EU)
Semi-dry bag (15L)

You need to prepare

ESSENTIAL CLOTHING

Trekking clothes:
- 3-4 quick-dry, long-sleeved shirts (dark color)
- 2-3 pairs of, long trekking pants (quick-dry)
- 1 waterproof jacket (winter months February to March)
Campsite clothing sets:

Optional items

Arm cover if wearing short-sleeved T-shirts
Camera & Tripod
Ear plugs
Bandana or headband

for campsite
clothing sets
Water bottle (1L)
Water purifier
Compost toilet,
toilet paper, hand
cleaner
Floating backpack
to carry stuff that
you need while
trekking
Dry box for electric
devices
First-aid kit and
medical rescue
equipment
Satellite phone
Secure storage at
office

- Warm clothes for winter from
January to March
- Shorts and T-shirts for summer
from April to August
1 pair of good gripping trekking
shoes (drainable);
*Waterproof/Gore Tex shoes are
not recommended.
4 pairs of calf-length, thick socks
1 pair of sandals/slides for campsite
Swimwear using at campsites

Rehydration
tablets
Blister
prevention
tape

PERSONAL ITEMS

- + Mosquito repellent
- + Sunglasses, sun hat, sunscreen
- + Hand fan for summer (April to
August)
- + 1-2 medium towels
- + Underwear
- + Personal hygiene items
(toothbrush, toothpaste, nature-
friendly shampoo & soap, ...)
- + Power banks
- + Personal medication
- + Antifungal foot powder
- + Passport

The Oxalis Adventure Consultant in charge of your tour will advise you carefully on the items you need to bring on the tour.

Photos



