## **Hang Tien Endeavor Tour**

HT2 • Adventure level: Moderate • Age 16-70 years old

Hang Tien Endeavor Tour is a challenging adventure tour, where guests will explore two dry caves considered to be one of the largest caves in the Tu Lan System, Hang Tien 1 & 2. They are well-known for giant stalactites and big cave passages, the tour also includes one-night camping by a tranquil river. During this tour, visitors will also have the opportunity to enjoy a traditional dinner at a local home, spend the night at a Rural Homestay, the very first weather-adaptive homestay in Vietnam, and experience an ATV Quad Bike tour to explore the Home of Kong.

<u>Hang Tien</u> is the largest dry cave in the <u>Tu Lan System</u>, and is located in Cao Quang Commune, Tuyen Hoa District, Quang Binh Province, Vietnam. This is about 70 km from Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park. Hang Tien is famous for its natural beauty with special cave formations such as gour pools.

The unique features of the trip are:

- **Explore**: Fun Cave, Tien 1 and Tien 2 Caves the final caves of the Tu Lan Cave System. Discover the impressive and unique cave ceiling dome, the large gour pools a special kind of cave formation resembling rice terraces, and many stalactites.
- Experience the "flying fox" inside Hang Tien 1: a safety system used to cross the stream in case of high water (normally walkable to cross). This is an impressive experience for most visitors of the Hang Tien Endeavor Tour.
- Hang Tien Campsite: one of the dreamiest campsites next to the river with stunning views. Enjoy the "natural infinity swimming pool" where the underground river from Tu Lan wells up right next to the campsite. This is a lake beneath a small limestone cliff, formed naturally with an "infinity view" as described by many guests. Do not ignore this opportunity in this tour Hang Tien Endeavor.
- Swimming in an underground river inside the cave: This is one of the most unique experiences of the tour. Visitors can experience the magical feeling of swimming in the total darkness of the cave.
- Swim in the natural infinity pool: The underground river originates in Tu Lan and reappears at the Hang Tien camping area. A swimming area with a naturally blue lake where guests are surrounded by mountain views. The naturally occurring circular lake is known to many people as a natural "infinity" pool. All tour participants should make sure to visit this swimming pool.

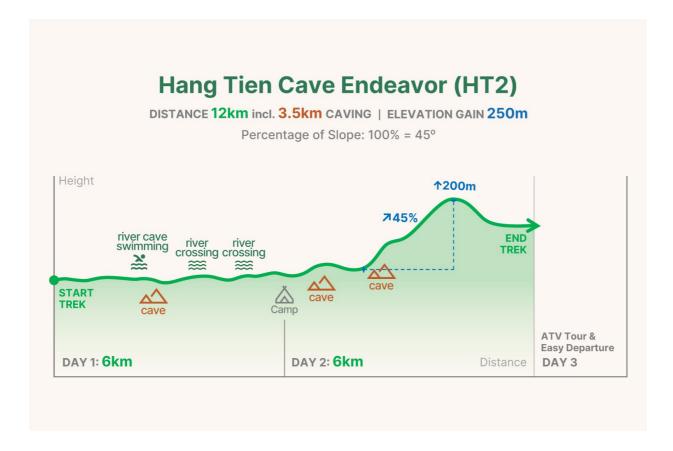
\*Note: On heavy rainy days, the water will not be as clear and blue as on normal days.

- Local cultural experience: At the end of the adventure, guests will have the opportunity to have dinner at the home of one of the locals. Hearing how tourism has improved a villager's life from working as a farmer and logger to providing services for tourists, visitors can learn about their daily activities whilst dining with their family. The lovely and tranquil Tan Hoa village can also be explored by bicycle.
- Unique stay after the tour: You will spend one night at a Rural Homestay in Tan Hoa. Rural Homestay is a weather-adaptive lodging model sponsored by Oxalis. It is based on the construction of 10 flood-resistant floating houses for households in Tan Hoa. These homestays offer peaceful views of the lives of Tan Hoa villagers.

**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.



## **Itinerary**

The itinerary of exploration tours can be changed due to weather conditions. The jungle trail during the exploration trip can be quite muddy and slippery when it rains.

Download the itinerary

### Day 1: Phong Nha - Tan Hoa Commune - Fun Cave - Tien Cave Campsite

From 07:30 to 08:00 AM on the departure day of Hang Tien Endeavor Tour, the tour guide and driver will pick you up at hotels around Phong Nha town to drive to Tan Hoa Commune for the safety briefing and packing. After signing the <u>Release form</u>, you will receive the necessary safety equipment and set off for the caving tour.

After warming up with an ascent of a small hill, you will overcome some rocky terrain, and trek downhill to a small valley, there will be a short steep peak to conquer before reaching Fun Cave – an interesting dry cave also known as a "warm-up" cave in this caving and jungle trekking tour. You will also stop at the other end of the cave for a picnic lunch prepared by our porters.

The Hang Tien trekking route begins with a trek along a trail to reach the Hang Fun area, where the group will pause for lunch by a beautiful lake. Following lunch, guests will explore Hang Fun Cave, an extraordinary wet cave with unique formations. Afterward, you will continue your trekking journey to reach the Hang Tien campsite, nestled next to a stunning emerald green lake, where it is time for you to have a break, enjoy the scenery and get ready for a swim at a "natural infinity swimming pool". Enjoy a cool bath surrounded by beautiful scenery before returning to the idyllic camp for a hot cup of coffee or tea before sunset. A delicious dinner will be served soon by the amazing porter or chefs. You may linger after dining or return to the tents for a comfortable night.

## Day 2: Hang Tien 1 & 2 - Tan Hoa

After breakfast at the camp, guests continue to walk through the jungle and over a very rocky path to reach Hang Tien 1. You will be amazed by the vast entrance with a high roof, and tall calcite formations covered with plants and mosses. Marvel at the circular ceiling dome inside. At the end of Hang Tien Cave, you will be equipped with safety harnesses to climb up a 10m high ladder, leading to the cave exit.

After about 30 minutes of trekking through the tropical jungle, with several rocky sections, the group will reach the entrance to Hang Tien 2. Pass through a small entrance and spiral down to a huge passage, containing a floor of fine terraces, cave pearls, and many

formations. After finishing Hang Tien 2, the group will enjoy lunch before heading back to Hang Tien 1. Here, guests will tackle the final challenge, a steep ascent to the pickup point. Back at the Tan Hoa office, the group will check in to Rural Homestay in Tan Hoa to shower and relax.

Around 6:00 p.m, the group will walk to the local's house for dinner and interact with the villagers. You will not only have the opportunity to try some delicious local food but also learn more about the living conditions of the people here. After dinner, the group will come back to Rural Homestay for a restful night.

### Day 3: Explore Tan Hoa village and ATV tour - Phong Nha

Early in the morning, waking up from your Rural Homestay, there will be a peaceful review of the lives of the villagers, guests can explore Tan Hoa village and enjoy the sunrise over the Tan Hoa paddy fields or corn fields by biking around the village. You can also enjoy breakfast at the Tu Lan Lodge.

Adventure enthusiasts can also do the ATV Quad bike off-road tour to explore Lim forest and Kong's home, for two hours starting at 9:00 am. This is a sporty driving tourism activity that takes you up hills, across streams, and through the beautiful Lim forest and Kong's tunnel.

Homestay check-out time is 12:00 p.m. There will be a shuttle service from Tan Hoa to Phong Nha or Dong Hoi City at 12:30 p.m after the Hang Tien Endeavour tour. You can consider visiting other sightseeing and exploring destinations in Phong Nha, such as Phong Nha Cave, Paradise Cave, Blue Diamond Camp, Mooc Spring, or Chay River-Dark Cave.

#### **Notice**

On heavy rainy days, the water may turn brown with a strong current.

Enjoy the local cuisine during the trekking tour: food cooked by local chefs is one of the highlights of any Oxalis Adventure tour.

#### Suggested accommodations before and after the tour:

Chay Lap Farmstay is an ideal place to stay before and after joinging 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 operating exploration adventure tours, Oxalis has created an adventure scale to help tourists visualize and choose the right caving trip for their fitness and health. This scale is not to be applied to other companies with different conditions and terrains. The easiest level anyone can join and the most difficult level 6 requires regular exercise and some trekking experience.

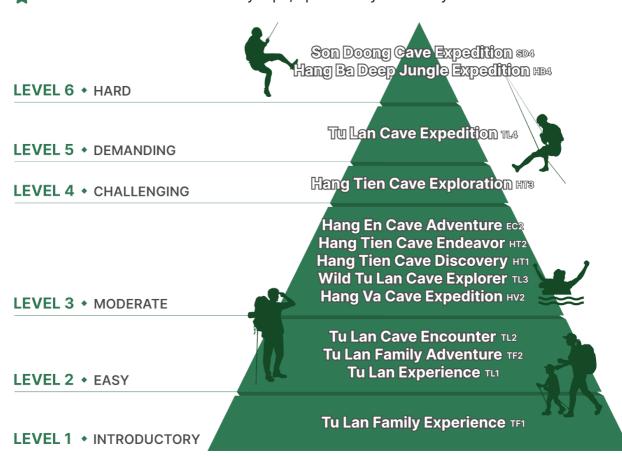
#### Adventure level: 3 - Moderate

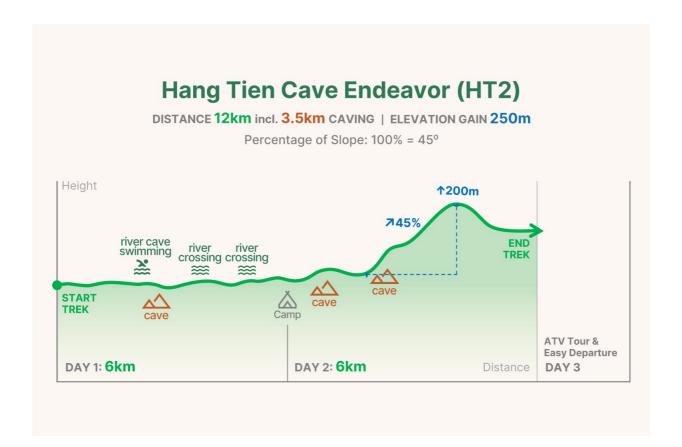
The Hang Tien Endeavor Tour is rated as Moderate (Level 3) on the Oxalis adventure level system. The difficulty of the tour is based on the physical fitness and health of average active people, not runners, athletes, or intensely active individuals.

Number of guests per tour: Maximum of 10; Age 16-70 years old.

Activities: Rocky terrain, steep hills, long trek and short ladder climb

- 12km of trekking, 3.5km of caving
- ★ 250m elevation gain
- ★ River crossings
- ★ Swimming in the natural stream
- ★ A 10m ladder climb with a safety rope, operated by the safety team.





## Items to bring on tour

The Hang Tien Endeavor Tour is a three-day two-night trip in the jungle with different terrains and weather conditions, so guests need to be well prepared. They will be asked to have appropriate clothing for safety reasons, good for moving in the jungle, river crossing, or exploring the cave and avoiding dangers and risks from sharp rocks, snakes, insects, or poison ivy. Long trousers and long-sleeved shirts must be worn for trekking. Trekking shoes play a very important role in Oxalis Adventure tours in Vietnam. Visitors must choose a good and well-fitting pair of shoes for rocky steep mountains and should NOT buy waterproof footwear for river crossings as they will retain water. Please test your shoes before the trek. Besides, guests also need to prepare personal items for 1 night's camping in the jungle. The Oxalis Phong Nha tour consultant will give you helpful advice before joining the Hang Tien Endeavor Tour.

Oxalis provides	You need to prepare	Optional items
Camping equipment: tent,	ESSENTIAL CLOTHING	Arm cover if
mattresses, pillow,	1-2 quick-dry, bright, long-sleeved	wearing

sleeping bags Caving and safety gears: helmet, headlight, gloves, ... Basic jungle boots (size 36-46 EU) Water bottle (1L) Water purifier Compost toilet, toilet paper, hand cleaner PVC backpack (35L) to carry helmet, dry box Semi-dry bag (15L) for campsite clothing set First-aid kit and medical rescue equipment Satellite phone Hand fan (in summer) Secure storage at office

shirts

1-2 pairs of long trekking pants (quick-dry)

1 pair of good gripping trekking shoes (drainable);

\*Waterproof/Gore Tex shoes are not recommended.

1 waterproof jacket (winter months November to March)

1-2 pairs of calf-length, thick socks Campsite clothing set:

- Warm clothes for winter from November to March;
- Shorts and T-shirts for summer from April to September
   pair of sandals/slides for campsite
   Swimwear

#### **PERSONAL ITEMS**

- + Mosquito repellent
- + Sunglasses, sun hat, sunscreen
- + Hand fan for summer (April to September)
- +1 medium towel
- + Underwear
- + Personal hygiene items (toothbrush, toothpaste, naturefriendly shampoo & soap, ...)
- + Power banks
- + Personal medication
- + Passport

short-sleeved
T-shirts
Camera &
Tripod
Ear plugs
Bandana or
headband
Rehydration
tablets

# **Photos**

