

Hang Tien Exploration Tour

HT3 • Adventure level: Challenging

• Age 16-70 years old

Journey 4 days 3 nights conquering the unique river caves of Tu Lan Cave System and discovering Hang Tien Cave which is the largest cave in the Tu Lan Cave system. Experiencing dinner at a local home and staying overnight at beautiful Tu Lan Lodge.

The Hang Tien Cave Exploration tour (HT3) is a Vietnam Adventure Tour run by Oxalis Adventure. This adventure tour is second only to the [Tu Lan Expedition Adventure Tour](#) (TL4) in terms of the difficulty and grandeur of the trip. According to the adventure scale used by Oxalis Adventure tours, this adventure tour has a challenging difficulty level of Level 4.

Hang Tien, the largest dry cave in the [Tu Lan Cave System](#), is located about 70 kilometers west of Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park in the province of Quang Binh. It is renowned for its pure beauty and formations resembling terraced rice fields.

Although this trek crosses hills and valleys and is a shortened version of the Tu Lan Expedition tour, participants will still find the route to be fairly difficult. Some experiences of Tu Lan and Hang Tien are combined in this Quang Binh adventure tour. Highlights of the trip include:

- ✔ **Explore a variety of interesting caves:** On these caving trips, guests can see Secret Cave, Ton Cave, Hang Tien first and second caves. The [Hang Tien Cave System](#), comprising the last caves of the Tu Lan System located where the stream emerges into the large river, is the tour's highlight. The ceiling of the cave has a highly unusual and unique dome structure inside. Some formations in the cave are like large terraced fields, among other unusual features.
 - ✔ **Enjoy a great trekking adventure as you pass through hidden valleys and shady forests.**
 - ✔ **Experience a "flying fox" to cross an underground stream:** Oxalis constructed a "flying fox" safety system inside Hang Tien 1, which is a mechanism for crossing streams when the underground river is high (guests walk across the stream under normal circumstances). Most people find the experience of ziplining inside the cave across the stream to be quite amazing.
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- ✔ **Camping the nights in scenic locations:** Guests will spend two nights camping at the Dung Valley and Hang Tien campsites during their visit trek. These campgrounds have been ranked by travelers as the most picturesque they have ever visited.
- ✔ **Swim in the infinity pool surrounded by nature:** 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 culture experience:** At the end of the adventure, guests will have the opportunity to have dinner at the home of one of the locals. Guests will have the opportunity to learn about the life and beautiful culture of the Nguon people (considered a minority group) in the mountainous areas. Guests will understand more about how tourism activities have helped change their lives. Cycling to explore the beautiful Tan Hoa village is a peaceful experience.
- ✔ **Unique stay after the trek:** You will spend one night at Tu Lan Lodge in Tan Hoa. These are the rooms Oxalis Adventures has constructed, designed to accommodate the region's yearly flooding. Constructed on a hillside on a high platform, these rooms offer stunning views of the Tan Hoa landscape.

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 Tien Cave Exploration (HT3)

DISTANCE **28km** incl. **3.5km** CAVING | ELEVATION GAIN **540m**

Percentage of Slope: 100% = 45°



Itinerary

The schedule of Hang Tien Expedition is subject to change due to weather conditions. The path can be quite muddy and slippery when it rains.

[Download the itinerary](#)

Day 1: Hung Ton – Hung Dung Campsite

From 07:00 - 07:30 am on the day of departure, the car will come to pick you up at your hotel in Phong Nha area, and take all participants to Oxalis Tan Hoa office. You will receive safety instructions here, learn about the Hang Tien Exploration tour schedule, sign the [Release Form](#), and pack your belongings for the trek.

To get to the Rao Nan River, the group will set off on foot through grass fields.

After crossing the river, your group will need to ascend a short slope to reach Secret Cave, one of the Tu Lan Cave System's most stunning caves. You can exit the cave by continuing down the winding trail. From here, you can descend into the next valley and reach Hung Ton Cave, where you will also have a delicious lunch. The group will descend a 15m high ladder while wearing safety harnesses before swimming through the cave to reach To Mo valley.

Before continuing to reach Hung Dung valley campsite, you will have a short window of time to enjoy swimming.

*Due to high water levels at Hung Dung Campsite after the rainy season, you will camp at La Ken Campsite from November to January for safety reasons.

Day 2: Hung Nhai - Hang Tien Campsite

The second day of the tour is the most difficult, with a total of 8 km of trekking and roughly 150m of ascent, as well as river crossings.

The group will ascend a hill, trek through the forest, and swim through a small cave to reach Hung Nhai Valley - a beautiful valley with relatively flat terrain. Have lunch in the valley by the surreal waterfall. The group will continue trekking through the Hung Nhai Valley, climbing a long hill. Follow the river valley upstream, with some stream crossings to reach your campsite by the natural jade green lake. Before the sun sets, you can enjoy bathing, swimming, and taking pictures. Enjoy this rare natural beauty to unwind and refresh after the previous two strenuous days of adventure and exploration.

Day 3: Hang Tien 1 & 2 - Tu Lan Lodge (Tan Hoa)

The day begins by scrambling over the rocks toward Hang Tien 1's entrance with stunning vistas of Quang Binh's natural scenery.

This spectacular entrance with its soaring roof and towering calcite formations turned green by plant life, is just the start. Notice the layers and stripes in the rock walls, a characteristic of the Tien Caves. Inside you will see calcite terraces and the circular ceiling dome. Further you will be given a safety harness and instructed to climb a 10 m ladder to reach the cave exit, opening out to a lush forest.

The group will arrive at Hang Tien 2 entrance after trekking through the forest for around 30 minutes. This little entrance will spiral you down into a vast passage filled with stunning stalactites. Navigate the narrow path to complete the Hang Tien 2 exploration. 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. The car will be waiting to collect the trekking team for the short journey to the Tan Hoa Office, where you will settle into a room at Tu Lan Lodge, take a shower, and relax.

Enjoy the beautiful views of Tan Hoa Village with limestone mountains and green fields full of cows and buffalo through the picture windows of your room. The team will dine with a local

family around 6:00 p.m. A chance to engage in conversation with local people about their daily lives, and enjoy some delicious local food. After dinner, return to Tu Lan Lodge to relax.

Day 4: Leaving Tan Hoa

In the early morning, guests can enjoy watching the sunrise over the beautiful Tan Hoa green fields, or cycle to explore the Tan Hoa village. Then enjoy breakfast prepared by the chef from your tour at Tu Lan Lodge.

OPTIONAL: For those still very passionate about adventure, you can register for the [ATV - Moto off-road tour to explore Lim forest and Kong's home](#), right at Tu Lan Lodge, for two hours. These are sports tourism activities where clients can ride the ATV upon slopes, fording streams, crossing green fields, and especially passing through the man made cave, the home of King Kong.

Tu Lan Lodge check-out time is 12:00 pm. There will be a shuttle service from Tan Hoa to Phong Nha or Dong Hoi City at 12:30 pm after the Hang Tien Exploration tour. If you leave Quang Binh that day, make sure your flight/train/bus is scheduled after 4:00 pm. If you want to stay a few more nights at the hotel or are interested in other sightseeing activities in the Phong Nha - Ke Bang area, please contact your Oxalis Adventure Consultant in advance so she or he can help to arrange that. Or talk to the front desk for last-minute arrangements.

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 Tours Vietnam has created a Level of Adventure scale to assist guests taking Oxalis tours in visualizing the complexity of each tour and choosing which is best suited for your health and fitness and interests. Other units or alternative terrain cannot be accommodated by this adventure-level table. Additionally, long-distance runners and anyone who engages in strenuous sports may not find this adventure-level chart to their liking.

From level 1, which is the easiest for everyone to participate in, to level 6, which is the

hardest, Oxalis tours Vietnam offers 6 adventure levels. The Hang Tien Exploration Tour is simple to join for those who regularly engage in physical activity or trek through the forest or climb mountains.

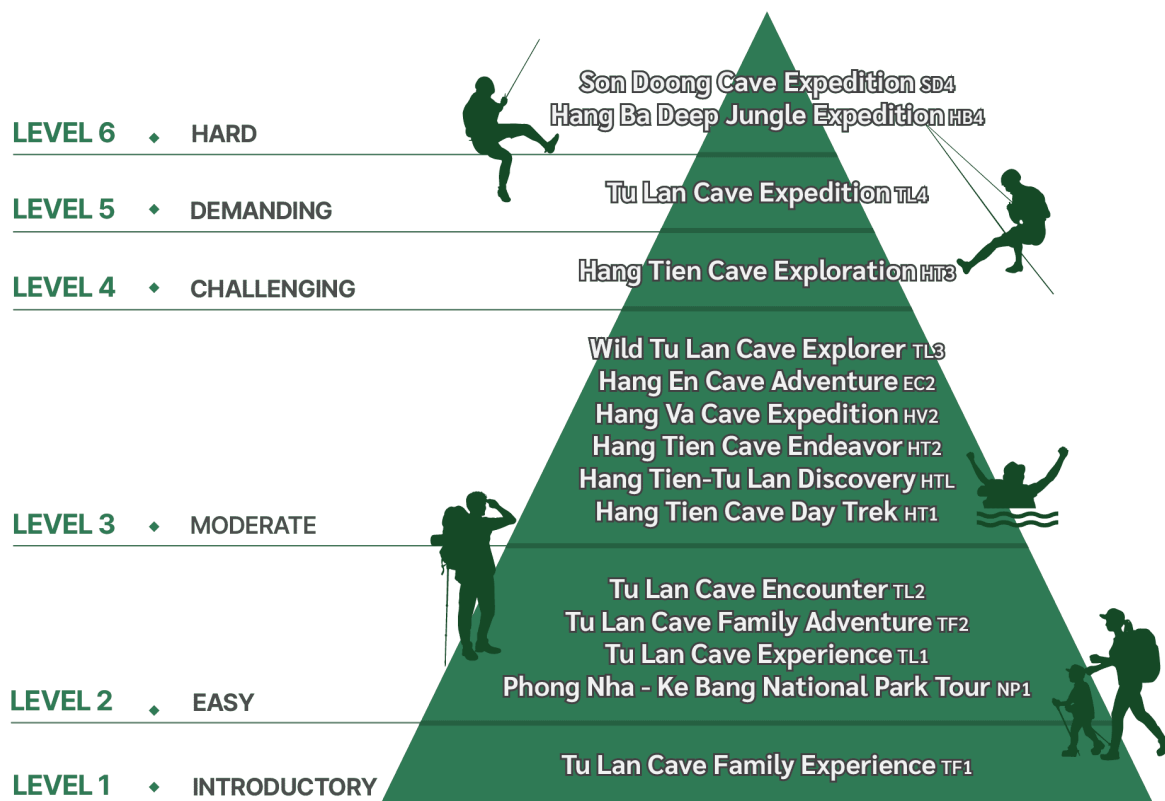
Adventure level 4 · Challenging

The Hang Tien Exploration Tour is rated as Challenging (Level 4) 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: Rocky terrain, long trek and short ladder climb

The number of guests per tour: Maximum 10 customers; Age 16-70 years old.

- ★ Moderate trekking - very rocky terrain
- ★ 28km of trekking in the jungle with rocky terrain
- ★ 3,5km caving
- ★ 840m elevation gain
- ★ River crossings/li>
- ★ Swimming in caves (100m)
- ★ There will be some rocky terrain, steep hills and two ladder climbs of 15m and 10m with a safety rope, operated by the safety team



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Items to bring on Hang Tien Exploration Tour

It is necessary to have complete preparation for the trip because the Hang Tien Exploration Tour is a long hiking tour with a variety of terrain. Visitors will be required to prepare appropriate clothes to protect themselves making sure to navigate through the jungle, cross streams, or investigate tunnels while avoiding any snakes, insects, or stinging plants that may be present. Trekking shoes are also a very important aspect of Hang Tien Exploration Tour, you should choose the right type of shoes which are suitable for the environment of steep hills, rocks, and even wading streams. Visitors must prepare personal items to use during the three days and two nights they will spend in the forest and in the cave. Before beginning the exploration trip, your tour guide will give you detailed instructions.

Oxalis provides

Camping equipment: tent, mattresses, pillow, sleeping bags
Caving and safety gears: helmet, headlight, gloves,

You need to prepare

ESSENTIAL CLOTHING

2-3 quick-dry, bright, long-sleeved shirts
2-3 pairs of long trekking pants

Optional

Arm cover if wearing short-sleeved T-shirts

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PVC backpack (35L) to carry helmet, dry box, water and things you need during the trek

Basic jungle boots (size 36-46 EU)

Water bottle (1L)

Water filter

Compost toilet, toilet paper, hand cleaner

Semi-dry bag (15L) for campsite clothing sets

First-aid kit and medical rescue equipment

Satellite phone

Dry box for electronic devices

Portable fan (in summer)

Secure storage at office

(quick-dry)

1 pair of good gripping trekking shoes (drainable);

*Waterproof/Gore Tex shoes are not recommended.

2-3 pairs of calf-length, thick socks

Campsite clothing sets:

- Warm clothes for winter from January to March

- Shorts and T-shirts for summer from April to September

1 pair of sandals/slides for campsite

Swimwear

1-2 waterproof jackets (winter months November to March)

Camera &

Tripod

Ear plugs

Bandana or headband

Rehydration tablets

Blister

prevention tape

PERSONAL ITEMS

+ Mosquito repellent

+ Sunglasses, sun hat, sunscreen

+ Hand fan for summer (April to September)

+ 1-2 medium towels

+ Underwear

+ Personal hygiene items (toothbrush, toothpaste, nature-friendly shampoo & soap, ...)

+ Power banks

+ Personal medication

+ Passport

Photos

