

Hang Tien Exploration Tour

- *Tour code: HT3*
 - *Adventure level: Challenging*
 - *Age 16-70 years old*
 - *Tour type: Join-in*
 - *Operation: Mid-Nov to Mid-Sep*
 - *Price: USD 413/pax*
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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 the second most challenging and majestic tour in the Tu Lan Cave System, after the [Tu Lan Expedition Adventure Tour](#) (TL4). 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 the "galaxy" and calcite terraces of Tu Lan caves:** Dive into an otherworldly cave exploration across multiple unique caves, including Secret Cave, Hung Ton Cave, Hang Tien 1 Cave, and Hang Tien 2 Cave. Tien Cave 1 & 2 are the spectacular finale of the Tu Lan system. Marvel at their rare internal dome structures, the ceilings feature stunning vortex formations reminiscent of a swirling galaxy. Inside, discover vast geological formations of calcite terraces (travertine formations) and many other geological wonders.
- ☑️ **Pristine camping under a blanket of stars:** Experience 2 nights of immersive wild camping at breathtaking spots like Hung Dung and Tien Cave campsites. Nestled deep within the silent mountains, far from city lights, this is your chance to connect with nature, find profound peace, and gaze up at an unforgettable star-filled night sky.
- ☑️ **Swim in a natural "infinity pool" amidst a majestic landscape:** Take a refreshing dip in the crystal-clear, perfectly round natural lake next to the Hang Tien Cave campsite, affectionately dubbed the "[Nature's infinity pool](#)." Plunge into the cool water, which beautifully mirrors the surrounding jungle and majestic mountains, and enjoy a feeling of absolute

freedom.

✔️ **Unique post-trek stay at Tu Lan Lodge:** Conclude your challenging trek with a comfortable and unique overnight stay at the [Tu Lan Lodge](#) in Tan Hoa. These lodges are specially designed by Oxalis to adapt harmoniously to the area's annual flood environment, offering a distinct and responsible lodging experience.

✔️ **Authentic cultural immersion in Tan Hoa Village:** Spend your final evening experiencing the warm, genuine local culture of Tan Hoa. Share a cozy dinner featuring authentic, rustic local cuisine in a villager's home, and hear the inspiring stories of the [community's sustainable transformation](#). Take a leisurely bike ride to explore the peaceful countryside, soak in the fresh air, and enjoy a rare glimpse into a harmonious rural life.

✔️ **A journey that transforms lives:** Beyond the natural splendor, your presence contributes to a powerful story of community resilience and growth. Sustainable tourism has played a key role in [transforming Tan Hoa](#), driving the poverty rate down from 85.7% in 2010 to just 2% in 2024. This expedition supports vital initiatives, including the construction of floating houses and septic toilets to improve local living standards. Furthermore, Oxalis is committed to future generations, sponsoring free open [swimming and safety training](#) to over 300 children in Tan Hoa and along the Rao Nan River every year.

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

Between 7:00 AM – 7:30 AM, a driver will pick you up at your hotel in the Phong Nha area and transfer you to the Oxalis Tan Hoa office. Here, you will receive a comprehensive safety briefing, review the itinerary, sign the [Release Form](#), and pack your gear for the trek.

The journey starts with a walk across open grass fields to the Rao Nan River. After crossing the river, you will ascend a short slope to reach Secret Cave, one of the most stunning features of the Tu Lan Cave System.

Following a winding trail out of Secret Cave, the group will descend into the next valley to reach Hung Ton Cave, where a delicious lunch will be served. Afterward, the adventure intensifies: you will descend a 15m ladder (with safety harnesses) and swim through the cave to emerge in the To

Mo Valley. Enjoy a brief swim here before trekking to the campsite.

Day 2: Hung Nhai – Hang Tien Campsite

This is the most physically demanding day of the tour, featuring a 14km trek, a 150m elevation gain, and multiple river crossings.

The group will begin by ascending a hill and trekking through dense forest. You will swim through a small cave to emerge in the Hung Nhai Valley – a beautiful, flat expanse hidden in the jungle. Here, lunch will be served next to a surreal waterfall.

After lunch, the journey continues with a climb up a long hill, followed by a trek upstream along the river valley with several stream crossings. You will arrive at the campsite, situated on the banks of a natural jade-green lake. Before sunset, take the opportunity to swim, capture photos, or simply relax. It is the perfect setting to unwind after two strenuous days of exploration.

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

The day begins with a rocky scramble to the entrance of Hang Tien 1, offering stunning vistas of Quang Tri's natural landscape.

The cave features a spectacular entrance with a soaring roof and towering calcite formations, tinted green by vegetation. Inside, you will marvel at the unique striped rock walls, calcite terraces, and a massive ceiling dome. To exit, you will be equipped with a safety harness to climb a 10m vertical ladder, emerging into the lush jungle above.

A 30-minute forest trek leads to Hang Tien 2. Here, a small entrance spirals down into a vast underground passage filled with incredible stalactites. After navigating the cave and enjoying a picnic lunch, the group will return toward Hang Tien 1 to tackle the final challenge: a steep ascent to the pickup point.

A driver will transfer you to the Tan Hoa Office to check in at Tu Lan Lodge. Relax in your room, where large picture windows offer peaceful views of limestone mountains and green fields dotted with grazing buffalo. At 6:00 PM, the group will walk to a nearby local home for dinner, offering a unique chance to share stories, learn about local life, and enjoy authentic cuisine before retiring to the lodge.

Day 4: Visit local farms by bike - Tour ends

The morning in Tan Hoa offers a peaceful start, with limestone karsts drifting in and out of the early mist. You may choose to watch the sunrise from your room, take a quiet walk through the village, or simply enjoy breakfast at the Tu Lan Lodge restaurant (served from 6:30 AM).

At 08:30 AM, our guide will lead you on a bicycle tour through the heart of Tan Hoa. You will cycle along quiet paths lined with cornfields and peanut gardens, observing the daily rhythm of rural life. Stops include visits to local farms to learn about the sustainable VAC farming model. Along the way you'll taste local specialties like boiled corn, roasted peanuts, and ginger honey tea.

The tour concludes at 11:00 AM, allowing time to pack and shower. Check-out is at 12:00 PM, with the shuttle to Phong Nha or Dong Hoi departing promptly at 12:30 PM.

Travel Note: Please ensure your onward flight or train departs after 4:00 PM. If you wish to extend your stay or explore more of Phong Nha, please contact your Oxalis consultant or the front desk.

Suggested itinerary before and after the tour:

To ensure the best preparation before your journey or to unwind after the expedition, Oxalis suggests staying at Chay Lap Farmstay, featuring premium rooms, a swimming pool, spa, kayaking, cycling, and more. A special discounted rate for Oxalis customers is 1,000,000 VND/room for 2 people. Check availability here: chaylapfarmstay.com

During your time in Phong Nha, the [Phong Nha Caves Exploration Museum](#) (open daily from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM, free admission) is a must-visit destination. Here, you can experience the Son Doon 5D VR technology for 500,000 VND per ticket. All proceeds from this activity are contributed to the Oxalis Foundation to support local community projects, making your journey even more meaningful.

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) with a life vest provided by Oxalis
- ★ 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



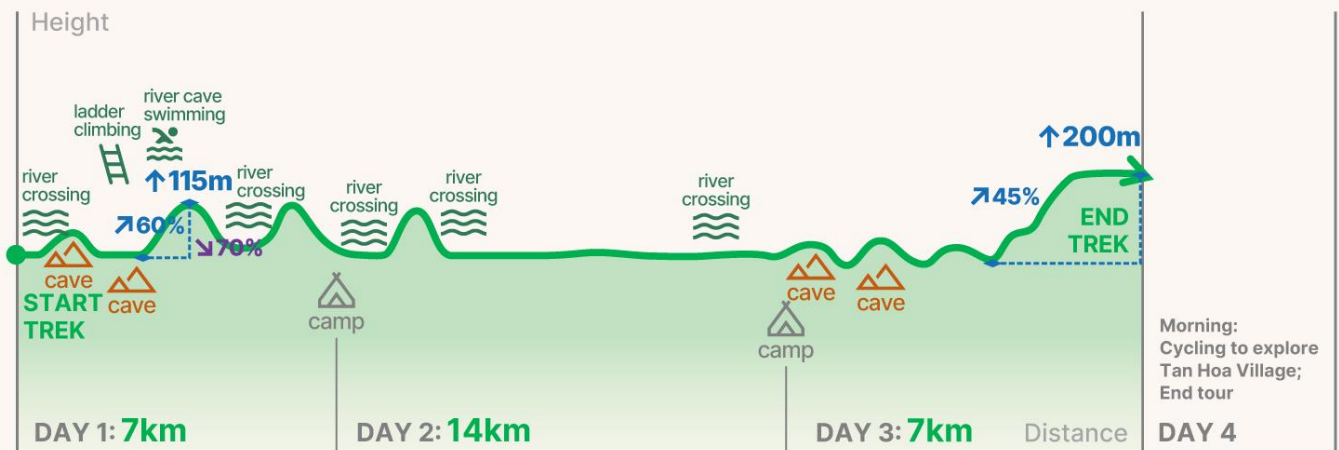
Terrains

The 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.

Hang Tien Cave Exploration (HT3)

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

Percentage of Slope: 100% = 45°



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, ...

1 PVC backpack (25L) to carry helmet, dry box, water and things you need during the trek.
Basic jungle boots (EU size 36–44); if using Oxalis shoes, bring thick, long socks and 2 insoles to ensure comfort.

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

You need to prepare

Essential clothing

2-3 quick-dry, bright, long-sleeved shirts

2-3 pairs of long trekking pants (quick-dry)

1 pair of good gripping trekking/approach closed shoes. Heavyweight trekking boots are not necessary

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)

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

Optional

- Arm cover if wearing short-sleeved T-shirts
- Camera & Tripod
- Ear plugs
- Bandana or headband
- Rehydration tablets
- Blister prevention tape

Photos

