

# Hang Tien-Tu Lan Discovery

- *Tour code: HTL*
  - *Adventure level: Easy*
  - *Age 16-70 years old*
  - *Group size: 10 customers*
  - *Tour type: Join-in*
  - *Operation: Year-round*
  - *Price: USD 217/pax*
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Embark on the Hang Tien-Tu Lan Discovery adventure, a seamless blend of the Tu Lan Cave Experience and Hang Tien Discovery tours. This expedition invites you to immerse yourself in the enchanting realms of the Tu Lan cave system and Hang Tien cave. Marvel at their grandeur and mystical allure while savouring the cozy embrace of Tu Lan Lodge – River Bungalow for a night. Relish a meal in the warmth of a local's abode, delving into their customs and lifestyle. Tailored for the thrill-seeker who covets adventure without forgoing comfort, this tour is a perfect symphony of excitement and relaxation.

Spanning two days and one night, the Hang Tien-Tu Lan exploration offers an unparalleled journey for nature enthusiasts eager to uncover the secrets of Quang Binh's caverns. Enjoy exhilarating activities like mountain trekking, forest navigation, and swimming in pristine pools. Venture into Hang Tien, the crown jewel of the Tu Lan system, and stand in awe of its towering stalactites, spiralling domes, and terraced floors that mimic an extraordinary paddy field. This itinerary also presents a unique opportunity to dine with locals and unwind at the River Bungalow in Tan Hoa, setting the stage for exploring Tu Lan's untamed beauty—once a backdrop for the cinematic marvel, Kong: Skull Island. Echoing director Jordan Vogt-Roberts' sentiment, "The world will see how beautiful Tu Lan is, they will come, experience and love Tu Lan as I did," this tour beckons you to discover a world beyond imagination.

Participants of the Oxalis' Hang Tien-Tu Lan Discovery tour can look forward to the following experiences:

- Venture into the heart of the region's largest dry cave, where the cave's circular dome presents extraordinary and captivating architecture.
- Embark on a jungle trek where 80% of the path meanders through a lush tropical forest teeming with diverse flora—a genuinely singular experience for those who cherish the rainforest.
- Behold the striking formations within Hang Tien, showcasing layered rimstone pools, towering columns, and stalagmites that rise several meters high.
- Near the Hang Tien-Tu Lan tour's lunch spot, witness the Rao Nan Stream's waters, after journeying underground for kilometres, emerge to form a stunning natural spectacle: an

infinity pool. Participants are invited to dive into its chilly, crystalline waters.

- ☑️ Discover the enigmatic Hung Ton Cave and Rat Cave, repositories of ancient marine fossils. The natural artistry of stalagmites, stalactites, and cave pearls conjures images of resplendent castles.
- ☑️ Experience the thrill of swimming in the underground river within the cave, illuminated only by your exploration lights, enveloping you in an ambience of mystery and awe during the Hang Tien-Tu Lan 2 Days 1 Night discovery tour.
- ☑️ Stay at the distinctive River Bungalow in Tu Lan Lodge, an innovative lodging concept harmonising with the region's seasonal floods.
- ☑️ Immerse yourself in the local culture by dining at a resident's home on the first evening, where you can learn about how [adventure tourism has transformed Tan Hoa village](#). Seize the chance to cycle and take in the serene beauty of Tan Hoa village.
- ☑️ 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 Hang Tien-Tu Lan Tour schedule is subject to change due to weather conditions. When it rains, the path can be pretty muddy and slippery.

[Download the itinerary](#)

### **Day 1: Safety briefing - Rat Cave - Hung Ton Cave - To Mo Valley - Tan Hoa Office (Tu Lan Lodge)**

Between 07:00 and 07:30 in the morning, our guide and driver will pick you up at your hotel in the [Phong Nha](#) area and transfer you to the Oxalis Tan Hoa office (70 km from Phong Nha). At the office, you will attend a safety briefing, sign the [release form](#), and receive all necessary safety equipment.

After preparation, the group will begin walking through green cornfields and grasslands toward the Rao Nan River. After crossing the river, you will hike up a short slope for about 5 minutes to reach

the entrance of Rat Cave. Here, you will be equipped with helmets, headlamps, and safety gear to start exploring this cave. Rat Cave is nearly 300 meters long and features impressive formations despite its modest size. Inside, you will see sparkling stalactites and a high dome with a unique heart-shaped formation, created over millions of years.

After exploring the cave, the group will return to the entrance for a light snack. You will then continue to conquer "Baby Hill," with an elevation of around 60 meters. From here, the trek continues across Hung Ton Valley to reach the dry passage of Hung Ton Cave. This area reveals fascinating geological history, with marine fossils embedded in the rock walls, dating back millions of years and offering insight into the formation of the Tu Lan cave system. Guides will assist you in wearing safety harnesses to descend a 15-meter ladder inside the cave.

The group will then move to the river passage, where you will put on life jackets and check personal belongings. You will swim through the underground river, exploring the cave using specialized lighting. At the end of the cave, the scenery opens up to the peaceful and picturesque To Mo Valley. Here, the group will enjoy lunch and have free time to swim and relax in the emerald stream.

After resting, the group will trek across the valley and green fields back to the Oxalis Tan Hoa office. You will then transfer to Tu Lan Lodge and check in at the River Bungalow to shower and relax.

Around 18:00, the guide will take the group to a local house for dinner. This is a great chance to enjoy traditional home-cooked dishes and learn about local daily life. After dinner, the group will return to the River Bungalow for overnight stay.

## **Day 2: Tan Hoa - Hang Tien - Departure**

In the early morning, you will enjoy breakfast prepared by the chefs at Tu Lan Lodge. After check-out, a short briefing, and luggage arrangements, the group will depart for Tuyen Hoa to begin the Hang Tien exploration.

The journey starts with a climb over a hill, leading deep into the forest. You will trek through untouched jungle and cross rocky terrain before descending into a valley. Following a trail toward the west, large rock formations will appear along the way. After passing this challenging section, you will reach the cave entrance, where a stunning landscape unfolds. A light snack will be provided before entering the cave.

Inside Hang Tien, part of the [Tu Lan cave system](#), a vast space opens up with layered calcite formations resembling terraced fields, covered in natural greenery. Looking up, you will see a massive dome and unique striped patterns along the cave walls. As you go deeper, more impressive and mysterious formations will appear. To reach the rear entrance of the cave, visitors will be equipped with safety harnesses and climb a ladder approximately 10 meters high. Here, the group can take a short break before returning to the main cave entrance to enjoy a prepared lunch.

After lunch, the group will continue over large rock formations to reach a natural pool in the forest. Here, you can swim freely and take photos.

To conclude the journey, the group will walk along the scenic Rao Nan River back to the main road, where the vehicle will be waiting to transfer you to the Oxalis Tan Hoa office. You can shower and refresh here before the bus takes you back to Phong Nha at around 19:30 and 20:00.

### **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](http://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**

Oxalis Adventure has developed an adventure scale to assist guests in selecting the most suitable caving tour based on their fitness and experience. This scale, unique to Oxalis, ranges from Level 1 (Introductory) to Level 6 (hard, requiring regular exercise and trekking experience). Although a two-day, one-night adventure, the Hang Tien-Tu Lan Discovery tour features challenging terrain and necessitates a reasonable level of fitness for an enjoyable experience.

### **Adventure Level 2 · Easy**

Rated Easy (Level 2) on the Oxalis Adventure scale, the Hang Tien-Tu Lan Discovery Tour is designed for average active individuals, not those with intense fitness levels like runners or athletes.

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

**Expect:** Rocky terrain, steep hills, long trek

- ★ Cover 18km of mountain forest trails with uneven terrain
- ★ 2.3km cave exploration
- ★ 270m elevation gain
- ★ Swim in a natural lake at the lunch area
- ★ 10m and 15m ladder climb with a safety rope and harnesses, operated by the safety team
- ★

150m cave swim with a life vest provided by Oxalis

★ Several sections require rock climbing and steep slopes



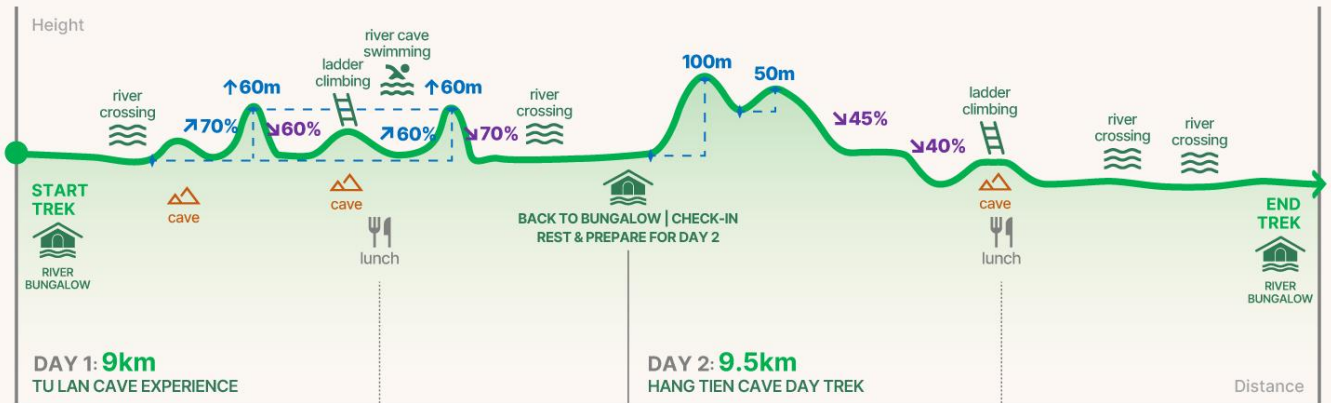
## Terrains

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-Tu Lan Discovery (HTL)

DISTANCE **18.5km** incl. **2.3km** CAVING | ELEVATION GAIN **270m**

Percentage of Slope: 100% = 45°



## Items to bring on Hang Tien-Tu Lan Discovery tour

Given the diverse terrain and prolonged trekking involved, proper preparation is crucial for the Hang Tien-Tu Lan 2-day, 1-night discovery tour.

**Clothing:** Participants will be asked to wear long trousers and long-sleeved shirts that offer protection and flexibility for jungle trekking, river crossings, and cave exploration. This attire helps safeguard against sharp rocks, insects, and poisonous plants.

**Footwear:** Choose well-fitting trekking shoes with good grip for navigating rocky and steep trails. Be sure to test your shoes beforehand.

Remember to bring personal items necessary for a day of trekking in the jungle. These may include insect repellent, sunscreen, a hat, a water bottle, snacks, and any necessary medications.

**Oxalis provides**

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 purifier

Compost toilet, toilet paper, hand cleaner

First-aid kit and medical rescue equipment

Satellite phone

Secure storage at office

## You need to prepare

### Essential clothing

2 quick-dry, bright, long-sleeved shirt

2 pair of quick-dry and long trekking pants

Swimwear for swimming outside the cave

1 set of clothes for staying at Tu Làn Lodge

1 set of clothes to change after tour

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

2 pairs of calf-length, thick socks

1 waterproof jacket (winter months November to March)

### Personal items

- ★ Mosquito repellent
- ★ Sunglasses, sun hat, sunscreen
- ★ Hand fan for summer (April to September)
- ★ Medium towel
- ★ Power banks
- ★ Personal medication
- ★ Passport

## Optional items

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

## Photos



