Hang Va Expedition Tour

HV2 • Adventure level: Moderate

• Age 16-70 years old

The 2-day, 1-night Hang Va Expedition reveals the wonders of Nuoc Nut Cave and Hang Va Cave, known as the world's two most unique wet caves. Hang Va was featured in Planet Earth III - BBC's famous documentary series, showcasing its exceptionally rare towering cones emerging from emerald-green waters. This tour is ideal for adventurous travelers seeking mountain trekking, rope traversing, and overnight stays in a jungle campsite. The experience is particularly rewarding for photographers.

The 2-day Hang Va Expedition Tour will offer a unique experience with 1 night of camping in the forest. The Hang Va Expedition will take you to explore 2 caves: Hang Nuoc Nut and Hang Va.

Located in the core zone of <u>Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park</u>, close to the exit of <u>Son Doong Cave</u>, Hang Va (Va Cave) was discovered by Mr <u>Ho Khanh</u> in 1992 and surveyed by the British - Vietnam Cave Expedition team led by Howard Limbert in 2012.

Hang Va is considered a special cave in the world of cave formations, with a river passage below and a large high-level passage above with dozens of tower cone formations. There are cones of different sizes and shapes, with the tallest tower cones being around 2 meters high. Geologists yet cannot confirm how these cones have formed. They are located in giant gour pools behind huge gour dams.

Hang Va and Nuoc Nut Caves were introduced in the "Otherworldly landscapes: 7 of Vietnam's best cave experiences" by <u>CNN Travel</u>. Hang Va was also featured as the coolest new adventure in Asia by <u>Forbes</u>.

On November 26, 2023, Hang Son Doong, Hang En and Hang Va were featured on Episode 6 - EXTREMES of the famous documentary series <u>Planet Earth III</u> made by BBC.

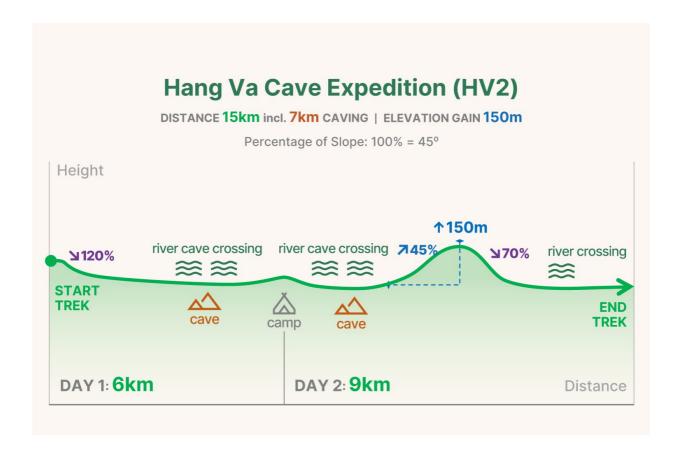
- Expedition tour to explore the cave with the most unique cave formations in the world.
- Explore Nuoc Nut Cave with fresh pools, large passages with sandbanks and many cave formations.

- Explore the unique cone towers in Hang Va with the tallest ones being more than 2 meters.
- Explore around 700 meters of Hang Va underground river passage with hip-deep water with little waterfalls from the cave ceiling.
- Experience using safety equipment to cross some technical sections in Hang Va.
- Trekking through a primaeval and dense jungle deep in the core zone of the national park.
- Experience the jungle campsite with fresh air and the beauty of Mother Nature.
- Having the opportunity to listen to the sound of wild animals such as monkeys, flying foxes, and woodpecker from the campsite.

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 <u>Oxalis Adventure Level</u>.



Itinerary

The Oxalis Hang Va tour schedules can be changed due to weather conditions. The jungle trail can be quite muddy and slippery when raining. Hang Va Cave Expedition itinerary, booking process, fees and other information are detailed below.

Download the itinerary

Day 1: Phong Nha - Nuoc Nut Cave - Hang Va Campsite

From 8:00 to 8:30 A.M on the morning of the departure, the car will come to pick you up at your hotel in Phong Nha and bring you to the Oxalis office for the safety briefing. After signing the <u>Release Form</u> and finishing packing for the trek, you will set off for the hike to Hang Va, a famous cave in Vietnam.

From the drop-off point, you will collect your helmet and walk through the jungle for about 30 minutes to reach a stream, following this to arrive at the entrance of Nuoc Nut Cave. Lunch will be served here before exploring Nuoc Nut using the helmet, headlight, and gloves provided. After stooping through the small cave entrance, a mysterious underground world will appear in front of your eyes with beautiful cave formations, sandbanks and the chance to see and learn about albino insects that are living in the caves of Vietnam. Explore the

narrow connection between Nuoc Nut and Hang Va, after the large cave passage of Nuoc Nut, and the squirming connection you will enjoy swimming in the cool water of the Hang Va stream passage before donning a safety harness to climb out of the cave to the campsite located in the deep jungle. A delicious dinner will be served soon.

Day 2: Hang Va - Phong Nha

You will continue to explore the upstream section of Hang Va. From the entrance, there are many narrow sections where you have to work your way through the rocks. Then follows a beautiful stream passage with many small water spouts from the roof. You will again be equipped with safety harnesses to climb into the Tower Cone Passage. Follow the specially designed footpath to protect this unique area. Hang Va will amaze you with this mysterious zone of stalactites, stalagmites, and tower cones. Explore the story of Mr. Ho Khanh's journey to discover Hang Va and the efforts of the British-Vietnamese Cave Expedition Team in exploring Hang Va, transforming it into a captivating tourist destination in Quang Binh, Vietnam; Uncovering the stories of the connection between Hang Va and Hang Son Doong will surely add excitement to your expedition.

Returning from the high-level passage you will exit the cave, and return to the campsite for lunch. After a well-prepared lunch, you will rest and pack your belongings and then trek out over a rocky pass and down to the Hang Va Valley that leads back to the road and the pick-up point.

The bus will take the group back to Phong Nha at about 5:00 PM.

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 adventure tourism activities, Oxalis Adventure has created a Level of Adventure scale to help guests participating in Oxalis tours to visualize 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

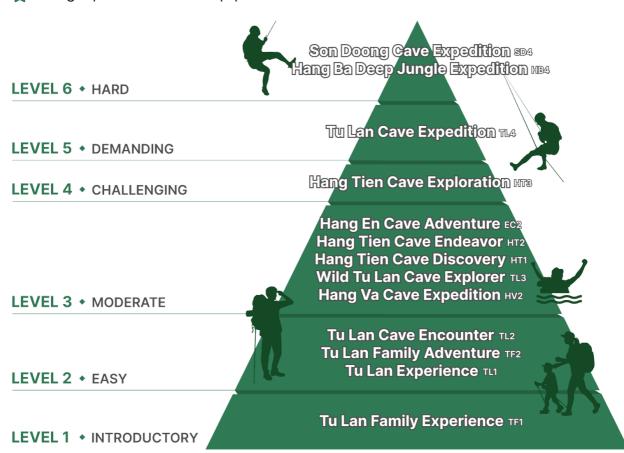
experience. Those who often play sports or do exercise can complete this tour.

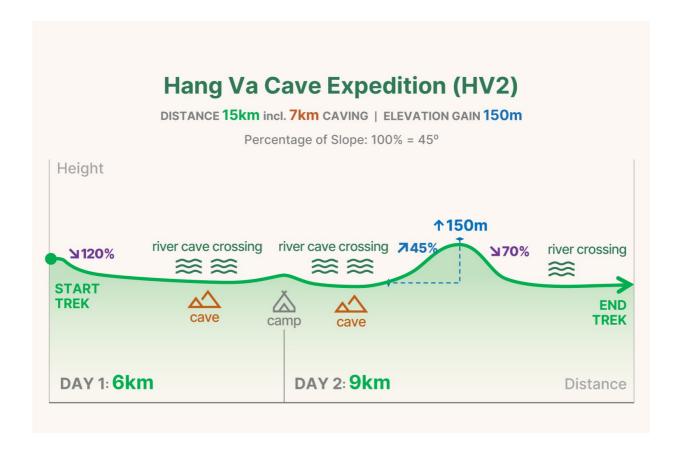
Adventure level: 3 · Moderate

The Hang Va Expedition 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.

Activities: Crossing and climbing rocky terrain, hiking through the jungle, caving, swimming in the cave, and using rope and technical equipment with the support of safety assistants. **The number of guests per tour**: Maximum of 10 guests; Age 16-70 years old.

- ★ 15km of mountain trekking with rough terrain
- ★ 7km cave exploration
- ★ 100m underground swimming
- ★ Elevation gain: 150m
- ★ Trekking through underground stream passages
- ★ Using rope and technical equipment





Preparation for the Hang Va Expedition

The Hang Va Expedition tour includes 1-night camping in the forest, so the items you need to prepare are quite simple. However, for a caving and camping tour in Vietnam, visitors 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. Long trousers and long-sleeved tops should be worn. Trekking shoes play a very important role in adventure tours like the Hang Va Expedition. 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 1 night's camping in the jungle. The Oxalis tour consultant will give you helpful advice before joining the Hang Va tour in Quang Binh, Vietnam.

Provided by Oxalis

Camping equipment: tent, mattresses,

You need to prepare

ESSENTIAL CLOTHING

Trekking clothes:

Optional

Arm cover if wearing short-sleeved T-

pillow, sleeping bags Caving and safety gears: helmet, headlight, gloves, ... Basic jungle boots (size 36-46 EU) 1 PVC backpack (35L) to carry stuff that you need while trekking Dry box for electronic devices Water bottle (1L) Water purifier Compost toilet, toilet paper, hand cleaner Semi-dry bag (15L) for campsite clothing sets and personal items First-aid kit and medical rescue equipment Satellite phone

- 1-2 quick-dry, bright, longsleeved shirts
- 1-2 pairs of long trekking pants (quick-dry)
- 1 waterproof jacket (winter months January to March)
 Campsite clothing sets:
- 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. 2 pairs of calf-length, thick socks 1 pair of sandals/slides for

PERSONAL ITEMS

campsite

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

shirts
Camera &
Tripod
Ear plugs
Bandana or
headband
Rehydration
tablets
Blister
prevention
tape

- + Antifungal foot powder
- + Passport

Photos

