

# Tu Lan Experience Tour

- *Tour code: TL1*
  - *Adventure level: Easy*
  - *Age 16-70 years old*
  - *Group size: 12 customers*
  - *Tour type: Join-in*
  - *Operation: mid-Nov to mid-Sep*
  - *Price: USD 75/pax*
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Tu Lan Experience is a one day trekking tour. During this cave experience tour you will discover the unspoiled beauty of the [Tu Lan Cave System](#) - once the film set for the Hollywood blockbuster - Kong: Skull Island (2017). Director Jordan Vogt-Roberts once declared: "The world will see how beautiful Tu Lan is, they will come, experience and love Tu Lan as I did".

## The highlights include:

- ☑️ **Trek through legendary valleys:** Embark on an unforgettable journey through two vast, stunning valleys—Tan Hoa and Hung Ton. Traverse sweeping emerald fields encircled by dramatic limestone karsts, crowned with untouched, primeval jungle. This is the authentic heart of Vietnam's wild nature.
- ☑️ **Discover a hidden underground kingdom:** Plunge into a subterranean world as you explore two magnificent caves, Rat Cave and Hung Ton Cave. Marvel at unique, millennia-old formations—towering columns, delicate stalactites, immense stalagmites, and shimmering cave pearls. These chambers feel less like caves and more like natural, magnificent cathedrals.
- ☑️ **The ultimate cave challenge:** Prepare for the most unique part of the adventure—[cave swimming](#) through the cool, pitch-black underground river. Fully equipped with headlamps, you'll immerse yourself in a world untouched by natural light, fueled only by a sense of mystery and pure exploration. It's an experience that will ignite your inner adventurer.
- ☑️ **Refreshing finale:** Emerge from the darkness to the glorious sunlight and celebrate your journey with a refreshing dip. Take a leisurely swim in the cool, crystal-blue lake formed right at the exit of Hung Ton Cave, letting the gentle current carry you as you soak up the breathtaking, unspoiled beauty of the valley.
- ☑️ **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 Tu Lan Experience tour schedule may be adjusted according to the weather conditions. The trek can be quite muddy and slippery when it rains

[Download the itinerary](#)

### **Morning: Tan Hoa - Explore Rat Cave - Hung Ton Cave (dry branch)**

You should be in Phong Nha before 07:00 AM on the tour day to ensure on-time departure. Oxalis provides dorm rooms with 6 comfortable beds available at Oxalis Home (Oxalis Office) for those who arrive in Phong Nha early in the morning of the tour and want to rest a bit before the tour (please inform us in advance if you want to use the free dorm room service).

Between 07:00 and 07:30 on the morning of departure, the guide and driver will pick you up at your hotel in [Phong Nha town](#), and take the group to the Oxalis office in [Tan Hoa Village](#), 70 km from Phong Nha. At the office, the guide will give you a short briefing about the trekking itinerary and safety regulations. You will sign the [RELEASE FORM](#), and receive the necessary safety equipment.

After the briefing, the group will start walking through the flat corn and peanut fields toward the Rao Nan River. You will cross the river and go up a small slope to get to the entrance of Rat Cave. Here, you will be provided with helmets, headlamps, and safety equipment to explore Rat Cave for about 300m long. This cave has many beautiful stalactites and a soaring dome with a unique heart-shaped structure.

After exploring Rat Cave, the group returns to the cave entrance for a light snack to recharge. Following this, you will begin the journey to conquer "Baby Hill," which stands at an elevation of about 60m. Once over the hill, the group will continue trekking across Hung Ton Valley to reach the dry passage of Hung Ton Cave.

## **Afternoon: River Passage of Hung Ton Cave - To Mo Valley - Tan Hoa**

Guides will assist guests in putting on safety harnesses to descend a 15-meter ladder inside Hung Ton Cave. Here, the group will continue exploring the cave passage and witness firsthand the fossils of marine species dating back millions of years.

The group will then move to the river passage, equip life jackets, and double-check personal belongings. You will experience swimming through the underground river to reach the cave's exit. Opening up before your eyes is the incredibly picturesque To Mo Valley. Here, the group will enjoy lunch and have free time to swim and relax in the emerald-green stream before starting the trek back.

The 1-day Tu Lan expedition concludes with a journey across lush green valleys and fields. Upon returning to the Oxalis Tan Hoa office, guests can shower, relax, and enjoy some refreshing cold drinks. The car will then transfer the group back to Phong Nha between 18:30-19:30, officially ending a unique and impressive trekking adventure.

### **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 Doong 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 operating trekking adventures, Oxalis has created an adventure scale to help tourists visualize and choose the right cave experience 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

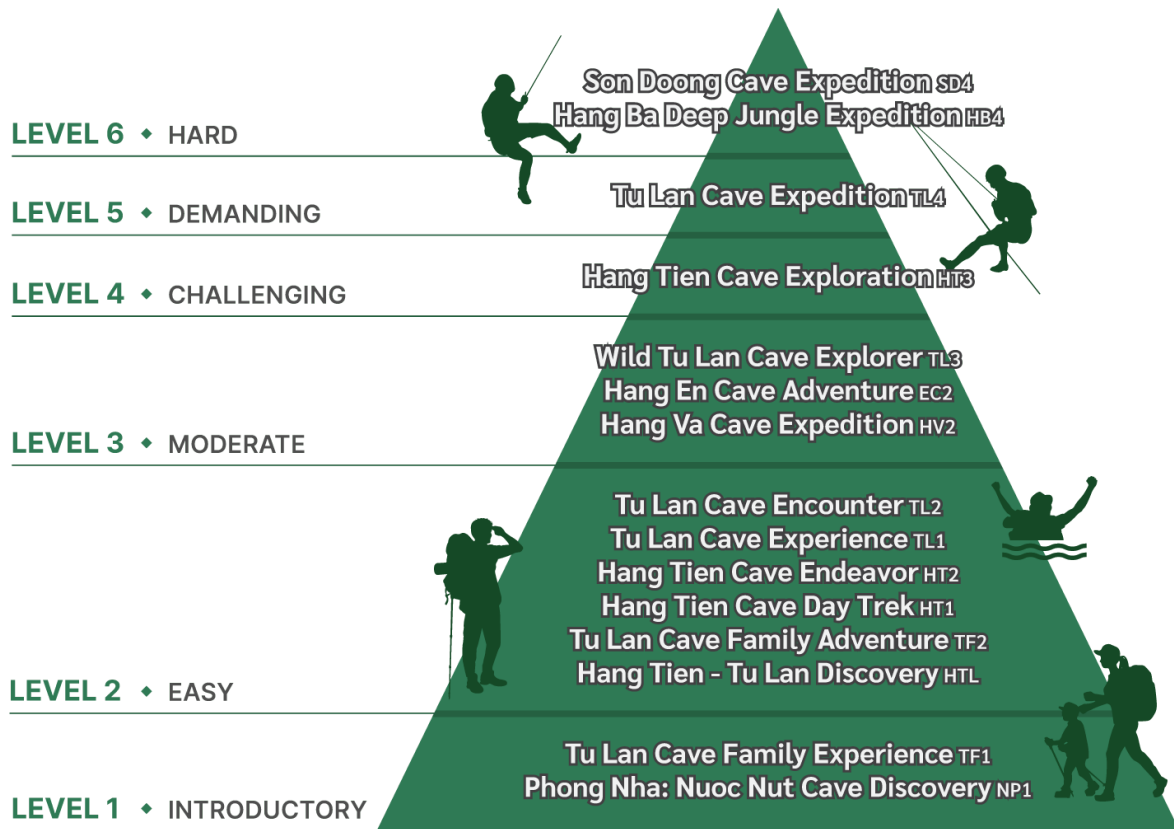
exercise and some trekking experience. The Tu Lan Experience Tour is easy (level 2) and suitable for reasonably active people who enjoy the outdoors.

**Adventure Level 2 · Easy**

**Number of guests per tour:** Maximum 12 guests; Age 16-70 years old.

**Expect:** Easy trails, some rocky sections & optional swim

- ★ Easy to moderate trekking
- ★ 9km trek through valleys forest and river crossing
- ★ 800m cave exploration; elevation gain 120m
- ★ 15m ladder climbing with a safety rope and harnesses, operated by the safety team.
- ★ 150m swimming in underground river with a life vest provided by Oxalis
- ★ Swimming and wading at the waterfall



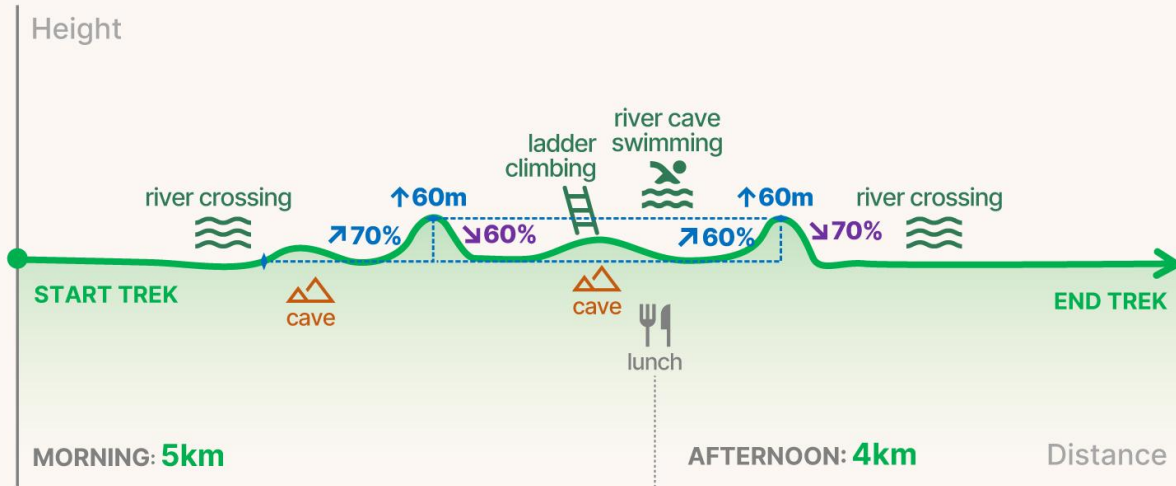
**Terrains**

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.

# Tu Lan Cave Experience (TL1)

DISTANCE **9km** incl. **800m** CAVING | ELEVATION GAIN **120m**

Percentage of Slope: 100% = 45°



## Items to bring on tour

It is necessary to be well prepared for the trip because the Tu Lan Experience, although for one day, is still a hiking tour with a variety of terrain. Guests will be asked to wear appropriate clothing for safety reasons, good for moving in the jungle, river crossing, or exploring the cave as well as avoiding dangers and risks from sharp rocks, snakes, insects, or poison ivy. Long trousers and long sleeved shirts should be worn for trekking. Trekking shoes play a very important role in Oxalis Adventure tours in Vietnam, such as this. Visitors must choose a good and well fitting pair of shoes for rocky steep mountains. Please test your shoes before the trek. Besides, guests also need to prepare personal items for one day's trekking in the jungle and caves.

## Items to bring on Tu Lan Experience tour

### Oxalis provides

Caving and safety gears: helmet, headlight, gloves, ...

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

1 PVC backpack (25L) to carry helmet, dry box, water and things you need during the trek.

Shared dry box for electronic devices

First-aid kit and medical rescue equipment

Satellite phone

## You need to prepare

### Essential clothing

Trekking clothes:

- 1 quick-dry, bright, long-sleeved shirt
- 1 pairs of - long trekking pants (quick-dry)
- 1 waterproof jacket (winter months November to March)

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

1 pair of calf-length, thick socks

Clothes to change after the trek

Footwear to change after the tour (If you use your own trekking shoes)

### Personal items

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

## Optional items

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

## Photos



