

# Tu Lan Cave Encounter Tour

**TL2 • Adventure level: Easy**

**• Age 16-70 years old**

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On joining the 3 days 2 nights Tu Lan tour, visitors may experience firsthand the ecosystem of a tropical forest and admire the beauty of the [Tu Lan Cave system](#), Quang Binh. You will swim in the underground river of a cave carved out millions of years ago, trek along forest trails, spend the night camping in the wild by the side of a waterfall, enjoy a local dinner, and spend the night at a Rural Homestay, the very first weather-adaptive homestay in Vietnam. During this tour, visitors will also have the opportunity to experience an ATV Quad Bike tour to explore the Home of Kong. These experiences will help you temporarily forget the hectic city life and immerse yourself in nature.

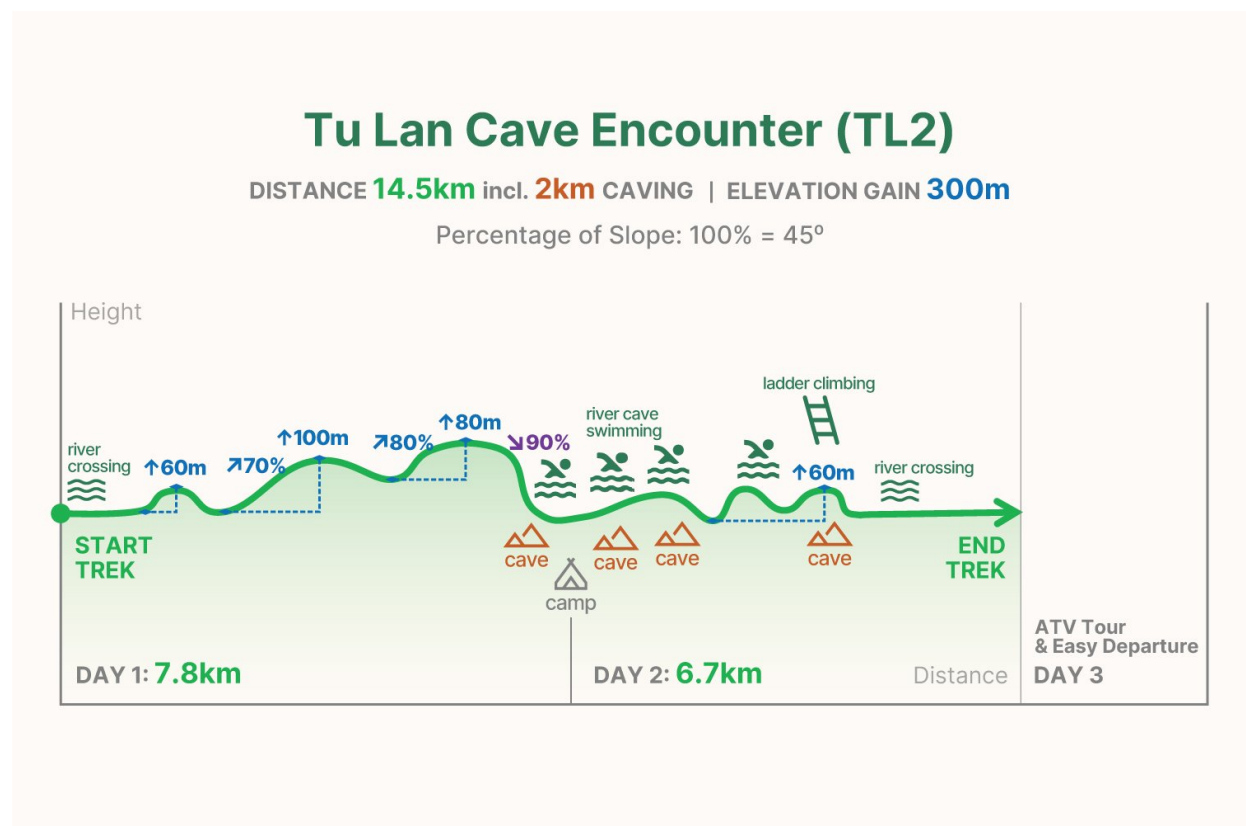
On this tour, visitors will have unique experiences such as:

- ✓ **Swimming in an underground river inside the cave:** The valleys are connected by a system of underground caves. Visitors can experience the magical feeling of swimming in the total darkness of the cave. This is one of the most unique experiences of Tu Lan tours. If you don't want to swim, you can sit on the raft.
  - ✓ **Exploring many remarkable caves:** The caves you will explore are: Hang Ken, Hang Tu Lan, Hang Kim, Hang Hung Ton. All four have dry and river passages, hence to explore the caves you will need to swim and hike.
  - ✓ **Camping in the most beautiful area of Tu Lan:** Guests will have a night camping at Tu Lan Valley deep in the forest. The campsite is located in the most idyllic location, with waterfalls and natural swimming pools surrounded by the vast primeval forests and limestone mountains.
  - ✓ **Culinary experience in the tour:** During the three-day, two-night trip, visitors can enjoy delicious dishes prepared by local chefs.
  - ✓ **Local experience:** At the end of the adventure, guests will have the opportunity to have dinner at the home of one of the locals. Hearing how tourism has improved a villager's life from working as a farmer and logger to providing services for tourists, visitors can learn about their daily activities whilst dining with their family. The lovely and tranquil Tan Hoa village can also be explored by bicycle.
  - ✓ **Unique stay after the tour:** You will spend one night at Rural Homestay in Tan Hoa. Rural Homestay is a weather-adaptive lodging model sponsored by Oxalis. It is based on the construction of 10 flood-resistant floating houses for households in Tan Hoa. These homestays offer peaceful views of the lives of Tan Hoa villagers.
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**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](#).



## Itinerary

The Tu Lan Cave Encounter tour schedule may be adjusted according to the weather conditions. The trek can be quite muddy and slippery when it rains.

[Download the itinerary](#)

### Day 1: Phong Nha - Tan Hoa - Ken Cave - Tu Lan campsite

Between 07:30 to 08:00, 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](#), which is 70km from Phong Nha. At the office, the guide will give you a short briefing about the trekking itinerary and safety regulations; pack your bag, sign the [Release Form](#) and receive essential safety equipment (The transportation cost to Tan Hoa is included in the price of Tu Lan 3 days 2 night trip).

The group will hike around 2.5km through corn and peanut fields to reach the Rao Nan River bank. From there, you will need to cross the river and climb over a small hill (around 50 m) which is rocky in places. Continuing down the other side the group will reach the flat Hung Ton Valley. After crossing the valley, the group will rest and enjoy lunch at the entrance of Hung Ton Cave. After lunch the trek is a bit more challenging with some steep hills leading to the Tu Lan Valley campsite by the waterfall.

Afternoon activities include swimming and exploring Ken Cave, which is located close to the campsite. Then return to the campsite and enjoy a wonderful dinner prepared for you by the chefs. As you immerse yourself in the peaceful natural scenery of mountains and forests as well as the sound of the waterfall, you will feel calm and have a peaceful night's sleep.

## Notice

You need to arrive at Phong Nha before 06:00 AM on the day of the tour and avoid being late for departure to ensure the tour starts at the correct time.

If you want to get to Phong Nha by train on the morning of the tour departure, it is recommended to book the SE3 train departing from Hanoi/Ninh Binh to Dong Hoi station; or the SE8 train departing from Da Nang/Hue to Dong Hoi station (It is recommended to book an additional shuttle bus from Dong Hoi to Phong Nha). Then, the tour minibus will take you from Phong Nha to Tu Lan. The Tu Lan Cave System is about 112 km from Dong Hoi, please contact Oxalis for specific travel advice if required.

Oxalis has free 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. Please scroll down to the Price and Availability section to view the schedule/register for Tu Lan Encounter tour.

## Day 2: Tu Lan cave - Kim Cave - Hung Ton Cave - Tan Hoa

The next day, you will trek, explore and swim through Hang Tu Lan and Hang Kim to reach To Mo Valley, two spectacular caves. You will have lunch at To Mo campsite before

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swimming into Hung Ton Cave, at the side of the waterfall. Inside the cave, the group will have to climb up a 10m high ladder with safety harnesses. A short hike leads to the cave entrance. In front of the cave entrance is the beautiful scene of the Hung Ton Valley, a great spot for beautiful photos. From there the group will return to Oxalis Tan Hoa office along the Hung Ton Valley, crossing the Rao Nan River and the peanut corn fields one last time. Back at Tan Hoa office, the group will check in to Rural Homestay in Tan Hoa to shower and relax.

Around 6:00 pm, the group will walk to the local's house for dinner and interact with the villagers. You will not only have the opportunity to try some delicious local food but also learn more about the living condition of the people here. After dinner, the group will come back to Rural Homestay for a restful night.

### **Day 3: Explore Tan Hoa village and ATV tour - Phong Nha/Dong Hoi**

Early in the morning, waking up from your Rural Homestay, there will be a peaceful review of the lives of the villagers, guests can explore Tan Hoa village and enjoy the sunrise over the Tan Hoa paddy fields or corn fields by biking around the village. You can also enjoy breakfast at the Tu Lan Lodge Restaurant.

Adventure enthusiasts can also join the ATV - Squat bike off-road tour to explore Lim forest and Kong's home, for two hours. This is a sporty driving tourism activity that takes you up hills, across streams, and through the beautiful Lim forest and Kong's tunnel.

Homestay 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 Tu Lan Cave Encounter tour. You can consider visiting other sightseeing and exploring destinations in Phong Nha, such as Phong Nha Cave, Paradise Cave, Blue Diamond Camp, Mooc Spring, or Chay River-Dark Cave.

#### **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](https://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

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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 play sports or do some exercise can complete this tour.

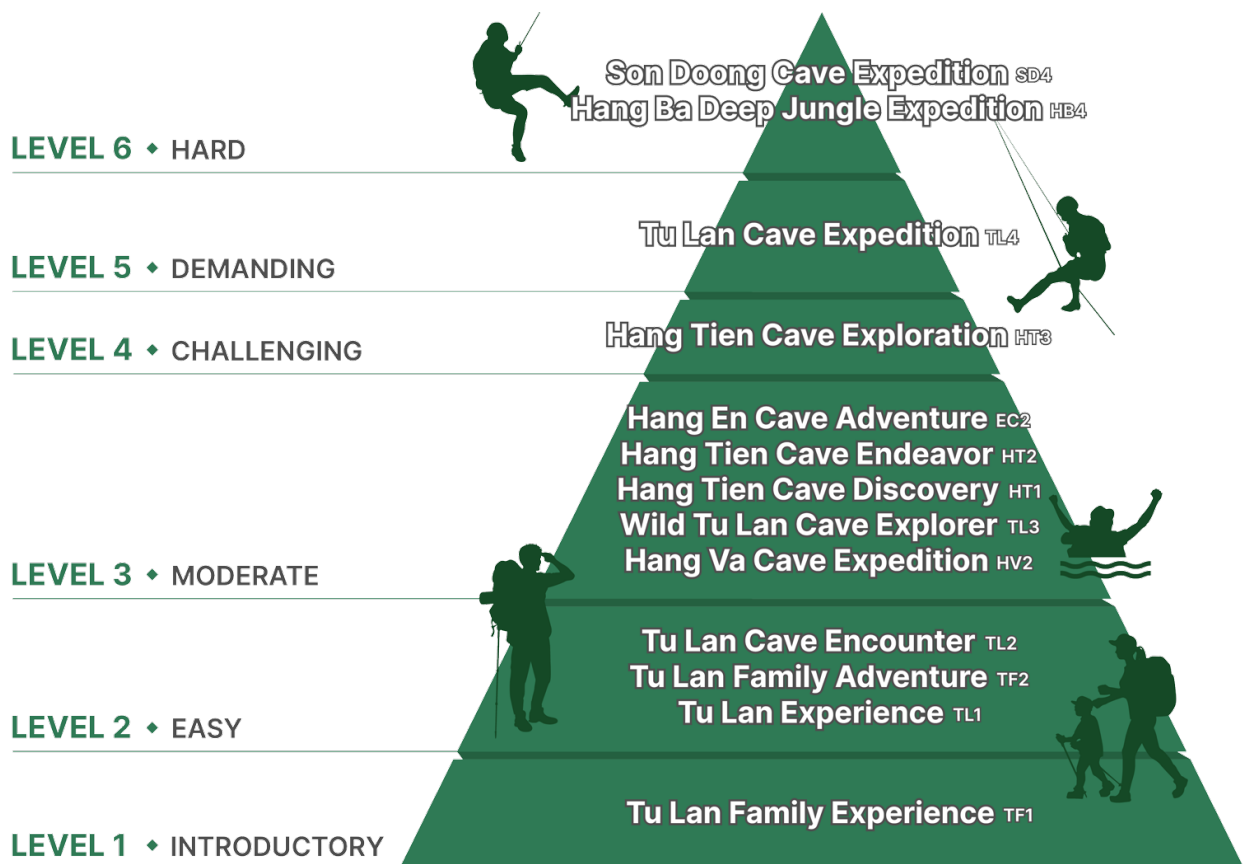
### Adventure Level 2 • Easy

The Tu Lan Cave Encounter Tour is rated as Easy (Level 2) 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.

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

**Expect:** Easy trails, some rocky sections, short ladder climb and optional swim

- ★ Easy to moderate trekking
- ★ 14,5km of trekking including up to 2km of caving
- ★ 300m elevation gain
- ★ 1km swimming in the caves
- ★ Descend 15m ladder in cave



## Tu Lan Cave Encounter (TL2)

DISTANCE **14.5km** incl. **2km** CAVING | ELEVATION GAIN **300m**

Percentage of Slope: 100% = 45°



## Items to bring on tour

All adventure tours in Vietnam will cross a variety of terrains and customers 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. 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.

### Oxalis provides

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

### You need to prepare

#### ESSENTIAL CLOTHING

Trekking clothes:  
- 2 quick-dry, bright, long-sleeved shirts  
- 1-2 pairs of long trekking pants ( quick-dry)  
- 1 waterproof jacket (winter

### Optional items

Arm cover if wearing short-sleeved T-shirts  
Camera & Tripod  
Ear plugs

(35L) to carry  
helmet, dry box.  
Basic jungle boots  
(size 36-46)  
Water bottle (1L)  
Water filter  
Compost toilet,  
toilet paper, hand  
cleaner  
Shared dry box and  
semi-dry bag (15L)  
First aid and  
medical rescue  
equipment  
Hand fan (in  
summer)

months November to March)  
Campsite clothing sets:  
- Warm clothes for winter from  
November to March  
- Shorts and T-shirts for summer  
from April to September  
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 campsite  
Swimwear using at the Campsites

#### 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
- + Antifungal foot powder
- + Passport

Bandana or  
headband  
Rehydration  
tablets  
Blister  
prevention  
tape  
Personal dry  
bag/box for  
electronic  
devices



## Photos





