

# Wild Tu Lan Cave Explorer Tour

*TL3 • Adventure level: Moderate*

*• Age 16-70 years old*

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The journey of 4 days and 3 nights to discover wild Tu Lan is a journey that brings customers to experience the full Tu Lan cave system. With a gentle journey and not too difficult for participants, joining this tour, customers also have the opportunity to experience a dinner at local people's houses and stay overnight at Tu Lan Lodge at the end of the journey.

This Wild Tu Lan Cave Explorer Tour is a shorter version of the [Tu Lan Expedition Tour](#). The trekking is easier and the distance is shorter. This tour is suitable for guests who have less time but still want to experience Tu Lan nature as much as possible.

A level 3 - moderately difficult trekking tour, this adventure tour is suitable for most people, who may work in offices, but participate in some sports and physical activities. Over 4 days and 3 nights, this Tu Lan cave tour will visit the primeval forest and unique limestone caves. Guests are offered 1 night at Tu Lan Lodge after the tour.

Together with the [Son Doong Expedition Tour](#), the Wild Tu Lan Cave Explorer (TL3) has become the most popular of Oxalis tours. Joining this wild cave tour visitors will be able to enjoy these unique activities:

- ✔ **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.
  - ✔ **Explore many beautiful caves:** this is a trekking tour in Vietnam where guests will visit: Rat Cave, Ken Cave, Tu Lan Cave, Kim Cave, Hung Ton Cave, and particularly Song Oxalis Cave. Song Oxalis Cave is a dry cave located near the top of the mountain and is packed with numerous amazing calcite formations.
  - ✔ **Camping at the gorgeous Tu Lan campsites:** Visitors will have 2 nights camping at different locations in the jungle. The camps are in the most beautiful spots, with waterfalls, and natural swimming pools surrounded by forest covered limestone mountains.
  - ✔ **Enjoy some great food:** During the trek, guests can enjoy delicious meals prepared by local chefs.
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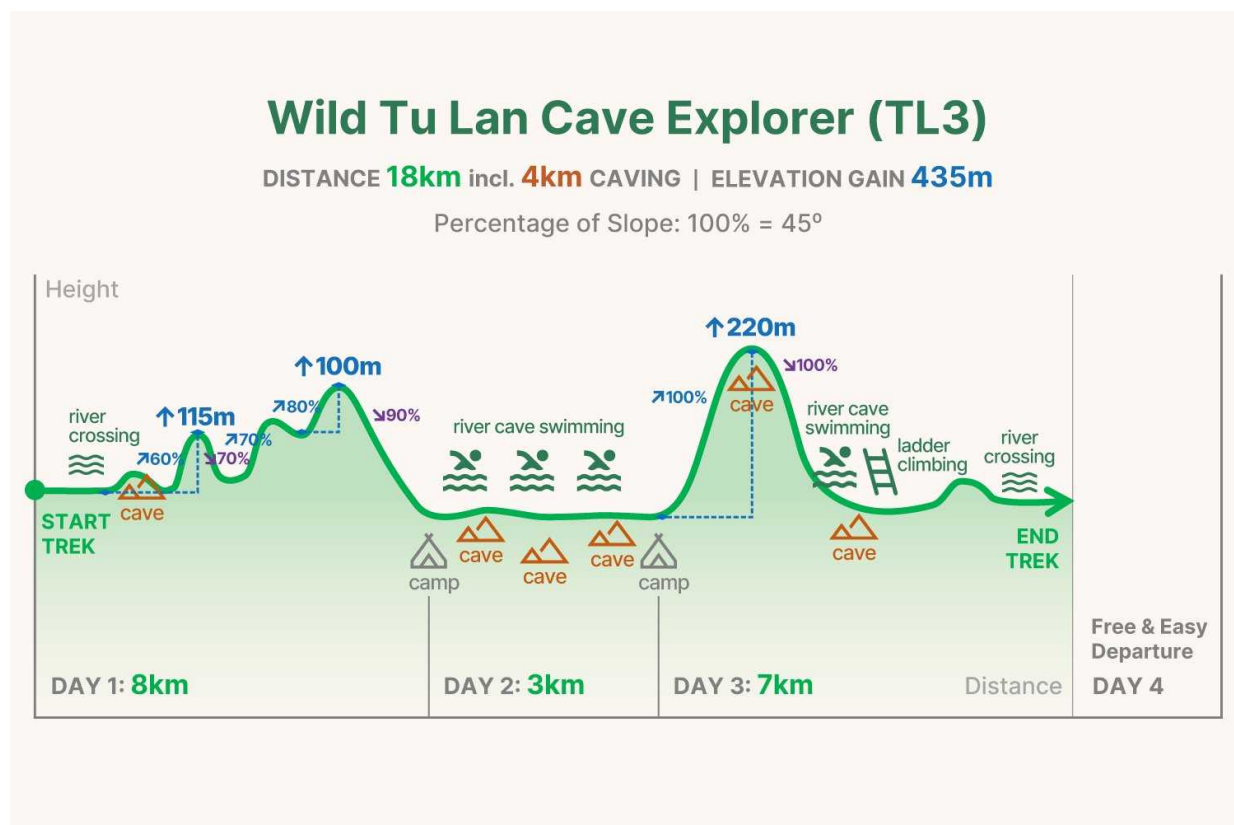
✔ **Local experience:** At the end of the adventure, guests will have dinner at one of the local homes in Tan Hoa. Guests will have the opportunity to learn about the life and beautiful culture of the Nguon people (considered a minority group) in the mountainous areas. Guests will understand more about how tourism activities have helped change their lives. Cycling to explore the beautiful **Tan Hoa Village** is a peaceful experience.

✔ **Unique accommodation after the trip:** On this trip, visitors will spend the night at Tu Lan Lodge right in Tan Hoa. This accommodation was built by Oxalis to adapt to the area's annual flooding situation. The rooms are built on the side of the hill or with the floating house design, so that when the flood comes, the house will float up.

**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 itinerary of the Wild Tu Lan Cave Explorer may be adjusted according to the weather conditions. The path will be muddy and slippery on rainy days.

[Download the itinerary](#)

## Day 1: Phong Nha – Tan Hoa – Rat Cave – Tu Lan Campsite

From 07:30 - 08:00 The bus will pick you up at your hotel in Phong Nha and continue to the Tan Hoa office. At the office, visitors will listen to the safety briefing, including the itinerary, sign the [release form](#), pack for the trek and receive safety equipment.

After the briefing, the trip will start with a 2.5km flat walk through fields of peanuts and corn. From afar, the entrance of Rat Cave will come into view. After crossing the Rao Nan River, the group will have a short break and lunch under the high ceiling inside Rat Cave. After lunch, the group will continue further into the cave to marvel at the magnificent stalactites. Clamber up through the exit of Rat Cave to continue the journey.

It will take the group 30 minutes to cross the La Ken Valley and reach the toughest challenge of the day – Lom Com Mountain, quite steep and rocky. After crossing the mountains, trek down to where the Tu Lan Valley appears, with the roar of the waterfall as it cascades from the cave entrance. Here the group will camp for the first night and swim in the blue pool next to the campsite. Settle into your tent and enjoy a delicious dinner prepared by the local chef.

## Day 2: Ken Cave -Tu Lan Cave – Kim Cave – To Mo Valley

The second day continues full of cave adventures and explores three beautiful caves of the [Tu Lan Cave System](#); Ken Cave, Tu Lan Cave and Kim Cave. After breakfast, the group will first explore and swim into Ken Cave, which is one of the most beautiful caves in the Tu Lan Cave System.

The group will return to camp for lunch. After lunch the cave adventure carries on, to explore and swim in Tu Lan Cave - a beautiful river cave giving its name to the whole cave system. The group will climb up from the river into the dry passage and emerge into the valley. Crossing the valley, the group will reach the entrance of Kim Cave, where you will continue your journey by swimming in the dark and crossing beautiful waterfalls to reach To Mo Valley. This stunning valley is the second campsite of this Quang Binh adventure tour. Another delicious dinner will be served.

## Day 3: Song Oxalis Cave - Hung Ton Cave

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Starting the third day, a steep hill is waiting to be conquered and it will lead you to the entrance of Song Oxalis Cave – a cave with the most unique and rare cave coral calcite formations. After contemplating the beauty of Song Oxalis Cave, trek downhill back to the campsite, and enjoy lunch, before crossing To Mo Valley and entering Hung Ton Cave beside the waterfall.

The group will swim through the cave to reach the dry passage and climb a 15m ladder with a safety harness to reach the final cave exit. Trek across Hung Ton Valley and cross the 'baby' hill to the Rao Nan River. From here, the group will return to the Tan Hoa office by trekking through the farm fields.

At the Oxalis Tan Hoa office, the group will check in to Tu Lan Lodge to shower and relax.

Around 6:00 pm, the group will walk to the local's house for dinner and interact with some villagers. After dinner, the group will come back to [Tu Lan Lodge](#) to rest.

## Day 4: Leaving Tan Hoa

In the early morning, guests can enjoy watching the sunrise over the beautiful Tan Hoa green fields, or [cycle to explore the Tan Hoa Village](#). Then enjoy breakfast prepared by the chef from the tour at Tu Lan Lodge.

OPTIONAL: For those still very passionate about adventure, you can register for the [ATV - Moto off-road tour to explore Lim forest and Kong's home](#), right at Tu Lan Lodge, for two hours. These are sports tourism activities where clients can ride the ATV upon slopes, fording streams, crossing green fields, and especially passing through the man made cave, the home of King Kong.

Tu Lan Lodge 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 tour. If you leave Quang Binh that day, make sure your flight/train/bus is scheduled after 4:00 pm. If you want to stay a few more nights at the hotel or are interested in other sightseeing activities in the Phong Nha - Ke Bang area, please contact your Oxalis Adventure Consultant in advance so she or he can help to arrange that. Or talk to the front desk for last-minute arrangements.

### **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](http://chaylapfarmstay.com) →

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## 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.

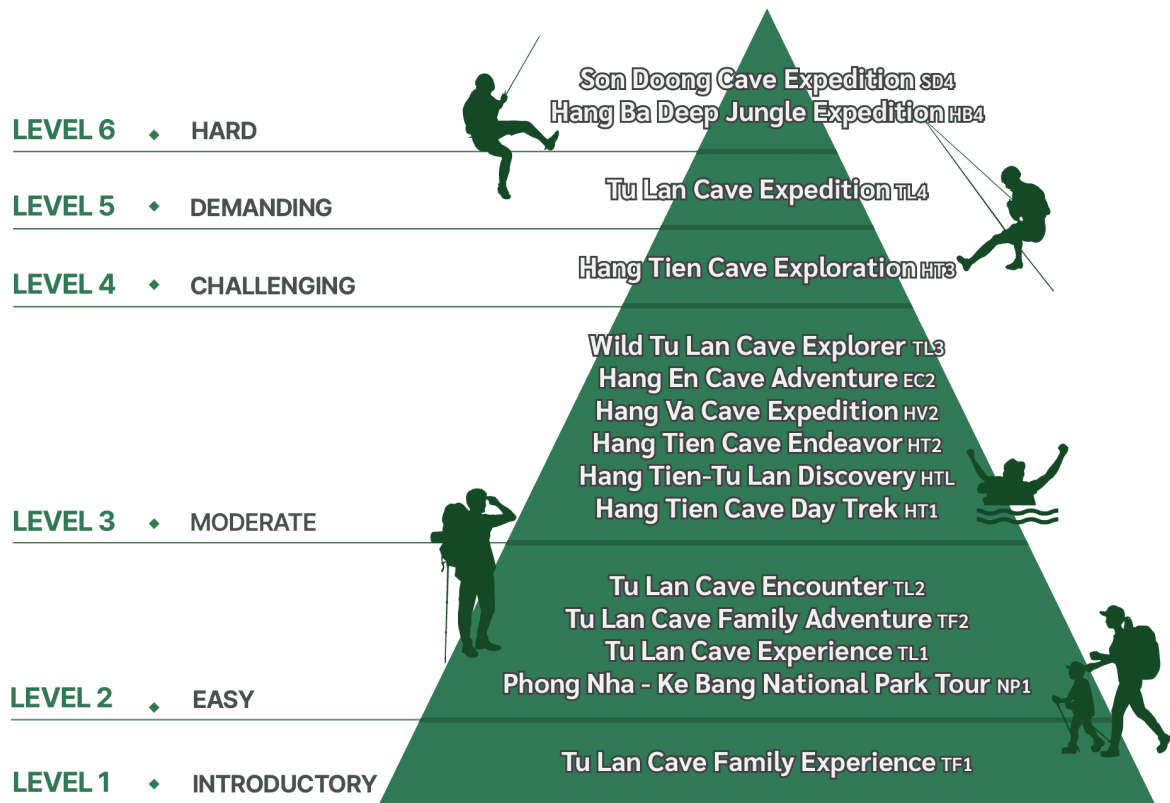
### **Adventure level 3 · Moderate**

The Wild Tu Lan Cave Explorer 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:** Rocky terrain, steep hills, long trek or multiple swims

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

- ★ Moderate trekking
  - ★ 18km of trekking including 4km of caving
  - ★ 435m elevation gain
  - ★ 1km swimming (50-200m)
  - ★ There will be some rocky terrain, long and steep hills, underground swims and river crossings and a 15m ladder climb with a safety rope, operated by the safety team.
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## Wild Tu Lan Cave Explorer (TL3)

DISTANCE **18km** incl. **4km** CAVING | ELEVATION GAIN **435m**

Percentage of Slope: 100% = 45°



Items to bring on Wild Tu Lan Cave Explorer tour

Cave 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.

## Provided by Oxalis

Camping equipment: tent, mattresses, pillow, sleeping bags  
Caving and safety gears: helmet, headlight, gloves, ...  
PVC backpack (35L) to carry helmet, drumbox, water and things you need during the trek  
Basic trekking boots (size 36-46 EU)  
Water bottle (1L)  
Water filter  
Compost toilet, toilet paper, hand cleaner  
Semi-dry bag (15L) for campsite clothing sets and personal items  
First aid and medical rescue equipment  
Satellite phone  
Mini-size portable fan inside the tent (in summer)  
Secure storage at office

## You need to prepare

### ESSENTIAL CLOTHING

Trekking clothes:  
- 2-3 quick-dry, bright, long-sleeved shirts  
- 2-3 pairs of long trekking pants (quick-dry)  
- 1 waterproof jacket (winter 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.  
2-3 pairs of calf-length, thick socks  
1 pair of sandals/slides for campsite  
Swimwear using at the Campsites

### PERSONAL ITEMS

+ Mosquito repellent

## Optional

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



- + Sunglasses, sun hat, sunscreen
- + Hand fan for summer (April to September)
- + 1 medium towels
- + Underwear
- + Personal hygiene items (toothbrush, toothpaste, nature-friendly shampoo & soap, ...)
- + Power banks
- + Personal medication
- + Antifungal foot powder
- + Passport

## Photos

