

# Wild Tu Lan Cave Explorer Tour

- *Tour code: TL3*
  - *Adventure level: Moderate*
  - *Age 16-70 years old*
  - *Tour type: Join-in*
  - *Group size: 10 customers*
  - *Operation: mid-Nov to mid-Sep*
  - *Price: USD 396/pax*
- 

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.

## The highlights include:

- Unearth subterranean wonders:** Venture deep into the heart of the earth to explore the Tu Lan Cave System, often likened to magnificent underground palaces. Marvel at the pristine, spectacular stalactite formations and high geological value. Experience a truly unique thrill by [swimming](#) and exploring the underground rivers through colossal cave arches in eternal darkness, an adventure that few places in the world can offer.
- Immersive wild camping & Tu Lan Lodge comfort:** Spend 2 nights deep within the primal forest, wild camping at Tu Lan's most breathtaking sites. Each campsite is nestled beside a natural waterfall and pool, providing a peaceful ambiance and stunning views. Conclude your journey with a relaxing night at the Tu Lan Lodge, where you can enjoy modern comforts and the sweeping vistas of the lush Tan Hoa green fields.
- Authentic Vietnamese culinary journey in the wild:** Savor one of the best [culinary experiences in Vietnam](#) with our thoughtfully designed menus, catering to meat-eaters, vegetarians, and vegans alike. Enjoy meals prepared with clean, freshly-sourced ingredients

by our skilled local chefs. This is more than just food; it's a taste of authentic, healthy Vietnamese hospitality in a spectacular setting.

✔️ **Shared economy & sustainable farming:** Your participation directly supports a shared economic model by utilizing [local food](#), labor, and services. Go beyond tourism by cycling to explore the Tan Hoa villagers' ingenious flood-resilient farming models, offering a genuine insight into the community's sustainable way of life and adaptation to nature.

✔️ **Low-impact & sustainable tourism:** We guarantee an eco-conscious adventure through strict control of group sizes and a leave-no-trace philosophy ([meticulous trash collection](#), minimal impact). Our commitment ensures the pristine beauty of Tu Lan is conserved for future generations, balancing exhilarating tourism with the crucial preservation of its wilderness.

✔️ **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 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**

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 Ra 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: Visit local farms by bike - Transfer to Phong Nha/Dong Hoi - Tour ends**

Morning in Tan Hoa is peaceful and rustic, with wide green valleys and limestone mountains fading in and out of the early mist. You can enjoy the sunrise from your room at Tu Lan Lodge, or cycle and walk around the village to feel the fresh, quiet atmosphere of Tan Hoa. After that, you can enjoy breakfast at the Tu Lan Lodge restaurant, served from 6:30 AM.

At 08:30 AM, our guide will lead you on a bicycle tour through the heart of Tan Hoa. You will cycle

along quiet paths lined with cornfields and peanut gardens, observing the daily rhythm of rural life. Stops include visits to local farms to learn about the sustainable VAC farming model. Along the way you'll taste local specialties like boiled corn, roasted peanuts, and ginger honey tea.

The tour finishes around 11:00 AM, giving you time to return to your room and pack your belongings. Check-out time is 12:00 noon, and the shuttle from Tan Hoa to Phong Nha or Dong Hoi departs at 12:30 PM.

Please inform your travel consultant of your flight/train/bus schedule at least one day in advance so transportation can be arranged smoothly. If you plan to leave Quang Tri on the same day, make sure your departure is after 4:00 PM.

If you wish to stay additional nights or join other activities in the [Phong Nha-Ke Bang](#) area, contact your Oxalis Adventure consultant or ask the reception for assistance.

#### **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**

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) with a life vest provided by Oxalis
- ★ 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.



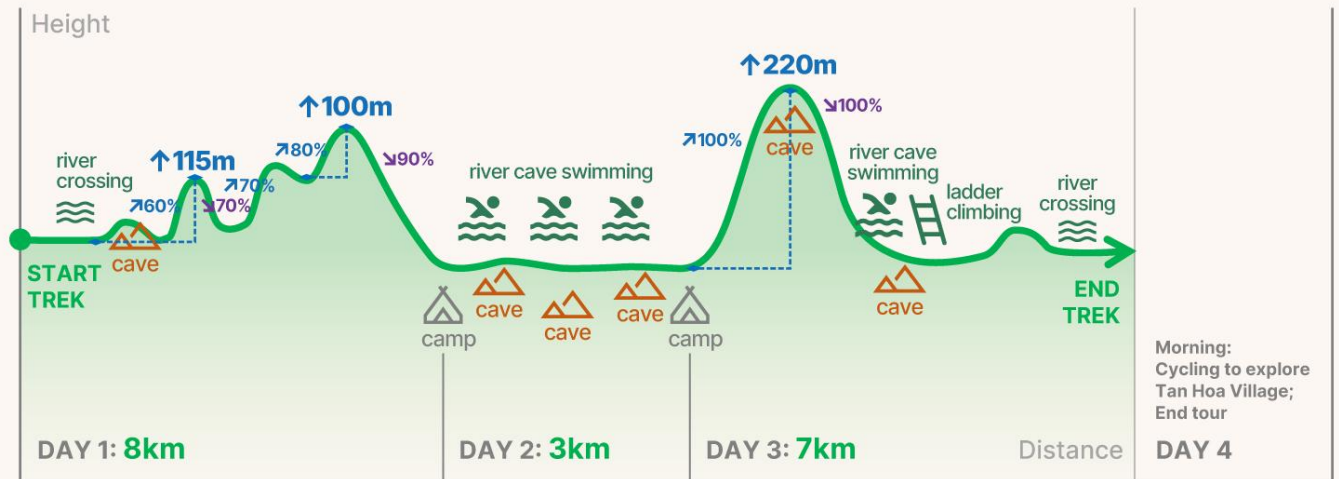
## Terrains

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.

# 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 and well-fitting pair of shoes for steep rocky terrain.

## Provided by Oxalis

Camping equipment: tent, mattresses, pillow, sleeping bags

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 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/approach closed shoes. Heavyweight trekking boots are not necessary

2-3 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 medium towels
- ★ Underwear
- ★ Personal hygiene items (toothbrush, toothpaste, nature-friendly shampoo & soap, ...)
- ★ Power banks
- ★ Personal medication
- ★

Antifungal foot powder

★ Passport

## Optional

Arm cover if wearing short-sleeved T-shirts

Camera & Tripod

Ear plugs

Bandana or headband

Rehydration tablets

Blister prevention tape

## Photos



