Hang Va Expedition Tour

Hang Va Cave is one of the most challenging yet rewarding trekking tours offered in Vietnam, and the world-famous caving region of Phong Nha. Learn more about this exciting tour with Oxalis Adventure Tours.

Tour details

DURATION
2 days 1 night

DIFFICULTY LEVEL
Moderate

AGE
16-70 years old

GROUP SIZE
10 customers (Join-in)

OPERATION
December to August

PRICE
~USD 355 • VND 9,400,000/pax

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What's inside

01 Overview

02 Itinerary

03 Gallery

04 Difficulty Level and Physical Fitness Requirements

05 Safety on the tour

06 Preparation for the Hang Va Expedition

07 Food and drinks in the tour

08 Camping, Showers and Hygiene During the Expedition

09 Tour booking process

10 Terms of tour cancellation

11 Useful Information

12 FAQs

> Please read this pack carefully before your departure and bring it with you.

Overview

The 2-day, 1-night Hang Va Expedition takes travelers deep into Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park to discover one of the world's most unique geological wonders: Hang Va's extraordinary tower-shaped stalagmite pools. The journey also explores Nuoc Nut Cave, the final link in the underground river system of Son Doong before it emerges into the open stream. Beyond its spectacular landscapes, the expedition connects travelers with Vietnam's wartime history at the Commander Cave Museum, once the headquarters of Station 14 along the legendary Victory Road 20.

Located within Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park, home to more than 450 surveyed limestone caves, this area is known for geological landmarks such as Son Doong Cave (the world's largest cave), Hang En Cave (the world's third-largest cave), and Hang Va, discovered in 2012 and famous for its remarkable tower-shaped stalagmites rising from crystal-clear pools. Beyond their geological significance, these caves also played important strategic roles during wartime in Vietnam, serving as storage areas, shelters, and military headquarters.

This 2-day, 1-night adventure brings together some of the region's most impressive natural and historical highlights:

- **Commander Cave Museum**: A historic site that once served as the headquarters of Station 14 during the construction and operation of the legendary Victory Road 20.
- **Nuoc Nut Cave**: The final link in an underground river system flowing from Hang En and Son Doong through Hang Va before emerging into an open stream and eventually joining the Son River.
- **Hang Va**: A remarkable cave located directly beneath Son Doong and only about 50 meters from the Great Wall of Vietnam. Its crystal-clear pools conceal rare tower-shaped stalagmites, creating one of the cave system's most extraordinary geological formations.
- **Camping in the primary forest**: Spend a private night camping near the entrance of Hang Va, surrounded by rugged limestone mountains. With no city noise or crowds, you can enjoy the fresh mountain air and, weather permitting, a spectacular night sky.
- **Limited departures**: To protect safety, sustainability, and the privacy of the experience, the Hang Va Expedition operates only from January to August, with a maximum of 10 guests per group.

Thanks to their exceptional geological and adventure value, Hang Va and Nuoc Nut Caves were introduced in the "Otherworldly landscapes: 7 of Vietnam's best cave experiences" by CNN Travel and named by Forbes as one of Asia's coolest new adventures.

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.

DAY 1

Phong Nha - Commander Cave Museum - Nuoc Nut Cave - Hang Va Campsite

Your expedition begins between 7:30 – 8:00 AM with a pickup in Phong Nha and a transfer to the Oxalis headquarters. Here, you will join a safety briefing, sign the Release Form, and receive the essential equipment for the expedition.

The group will then travel by vehicle to Commander Cave Museum, a natural cave that was once transformed by Station 14 of Group 559 into a fortified seven-level strategic logistics base. During the resistance war against the United States in Vietnam, it served as a staging area for weapons, military equipment, and supplies, supporting the southern battlefield along Victory Road 20. As you enter the cave, you will discover the remaining traces of a brutal wartime period and gain a glimpse into the lives of the soldiers who stayed and worked here day after day.

After leaving Commander Cave Museum, the Oxalis bus will take the group to Km 25 to begin the jungle trekking section of the journey. From the drop-off point, a 30-minute jungle trek leads you along a forest path to the entrance of Nuoc Nut Cave. Here, you will enjoy a picnic lunch before gearing up with helmets, headlights, and gloves. Entering Nuoc Nut requires navigating a low opening, but once inside, the cave opens up into a mysterious underground world. You will marvel at massive sandbanks, unique rock formations, and perhaps spot the rare albino insects adapted to life in total darkness.

The adventure intensifies as you leave the large passages of Nuoc Nut to navigate the narrow connection leading toward Hang Va. After maneuvering through this thrilling technical section, you will be rewarded with a refreshing swim in the cool waters of the Hang Va stream passage. Finally, you will don a safety harness to climb out of the cave entrance, emerging right at your campsite located deep in the jungle. A well-earned dinner awaits you in this spectacular natural setting.

DAY 2

Hang Va - Phong Nha

The exploration continues upstream into the heart of Hang Va. This section is physical and exciting, requiring you to maneuver through narrow rocky crevices before opening up into a beautiful stream passage. Here, you'll witness a unique phenomenon: water spouts cascading from the cave ceiling like natural showers.

The highlight of the expedition awaits in the upper level. Using safety harnesses, you will climb into the Tower Cone Passage. Walking on a specially designed path to protect the fragile

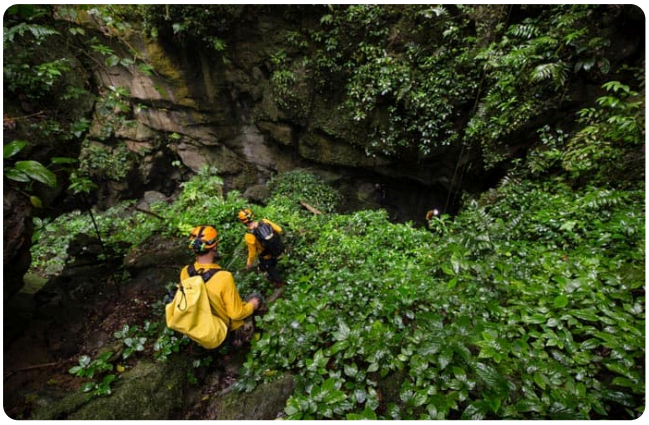
formations, you will stand in awe of the rare tower cones – thousands of stalagmites rising from the water like a submerged city. Amidst this surreal landscape, your guides will share the fascinating history of the cave's discovery by Mr. Ho Khanh and the British-Vietnamese Cave Expedition Team, including the geological link between Hang Va and the massive Son Doong Cave.

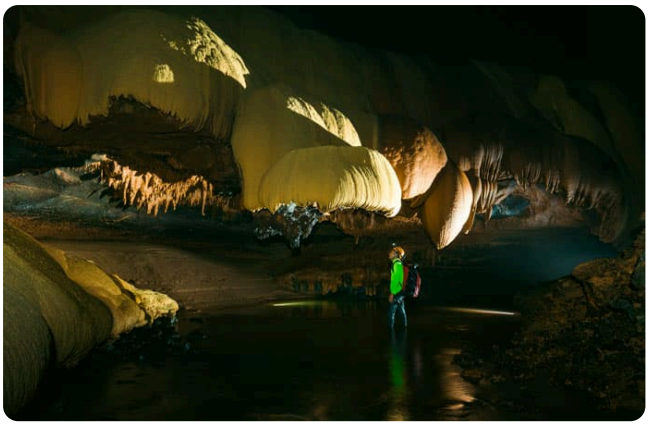
After returning to the lower passage and exiting the cave, enjoy a final lunch at the jungle campsite. Pack up and prepare for the trek out, which involves navigating a rocky pass and descending into the Hang Va Valley. A driver will meet you at the road for the return transfer, arriving in Phong Nha around 5:00 PM.

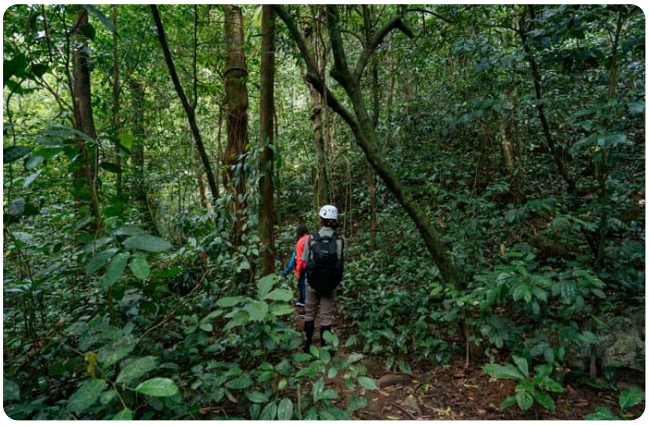
Suggested itinerary before and after the tour:
To ensure the best preparation before your journey or to relax after the expedition, Oxalis suggests staying at Chay Lap Farmstay if you wish to combine exploring Phong Nha with experiencing a peaceful countryside atmosphere, or Blue Diamond Retreat if you prefer to immerse yourself in nature and enjoy relaxing moments amidst the mountains and forests. Special discounted rates exclusively for Oxalis guests are 1,100,000 VND/room/night at Chay Lap Farmstay and 1,600,000 VND/room/night at Blue Diamond Retreat.

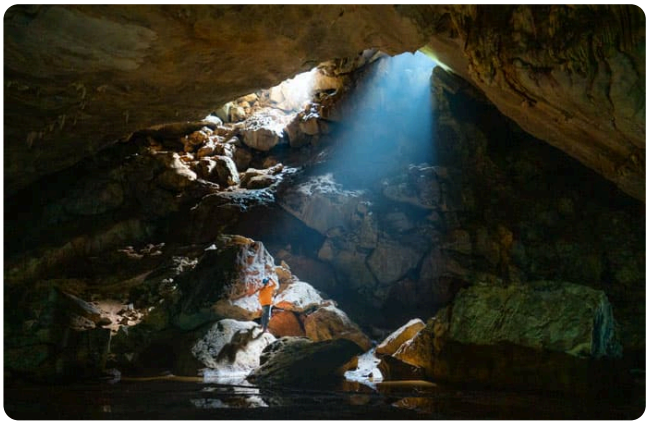
During your time in Phong Nha, the Phong Nha Caves Exploration Museum (open daily from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM, free admission) is a must-visit destination. Here, you can experience the Son Doong 5D VR technology for 500,000 VND per ticket. All proceeds from this activity are contributed to the Oxalis Foundation to support local community projects, making your journey even more meaningful.

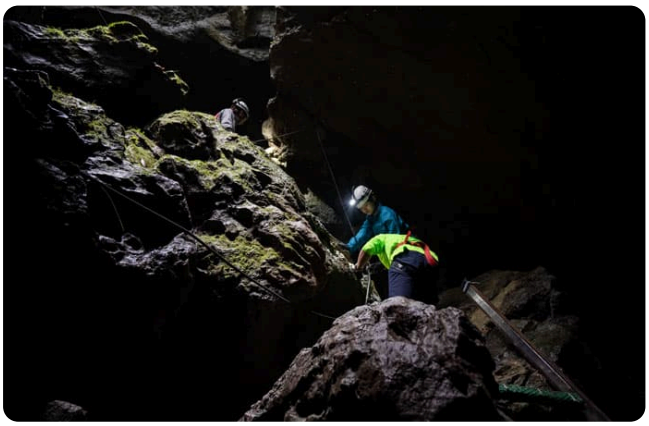
Gallery

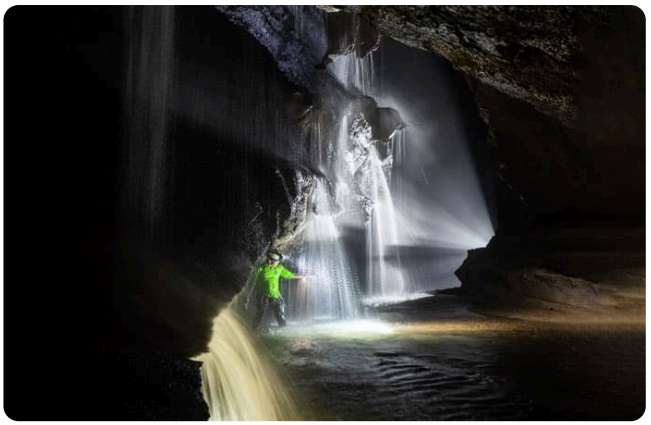












Difficulty Level and Physical Fitness Requirements

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Requirements: Within the past 12 months, participants must have completed at least one overnight camping trek in a forest/mountain setting or 1–2 day treks (each covering a minimum of 6 km per day over rocky and steep terrain, with a total elevation gain of at least 500 m across the entire journey). Participants must possess a baseline physical fitness level, demonstrated by completing both of the following activities (performed independently, not necessarily consecutively): an outdoor 5 km run within 45 minutes and climbing 5 flights of stairs continuously, without experiencing symptoms of dizziness, lightheadedness, headaches, nausea, abnormal shortness of breath, or chest pain/tightness. Participants must not suffer from any medical conditions included in the restricted list for trekking and caving activities as recommended by Oxalis.

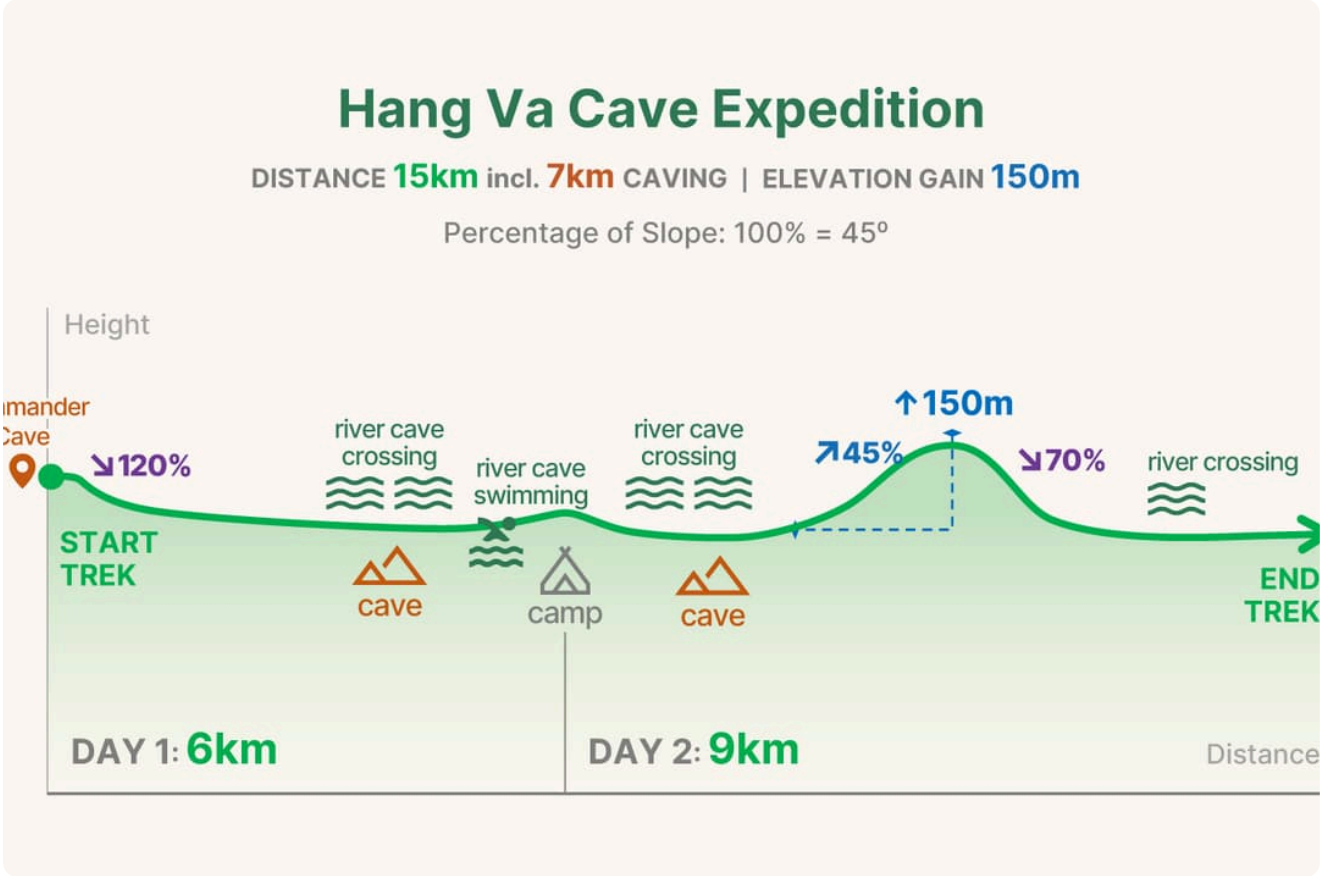
Suitable for: Guests with trekking experience and good physical fitness.

Tours with the same Difficulty Level: Hang Va Expedition Tour 2D1N , Hang En Cave Adventure 2D1N, Tu Lan Cave Encounter 2D1N, Hang Tien Endeavor Tour 2D1N, Wild Tu Lan Cave Explorer Tour 4D3N.

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.

- 15 km of mountain trekking with rough terrain
- 7 km cave exploration
- 100 m underground swimming
- Elevation gain: 150 m
- Trekking through underground stream passages
- Using rope and technical equipment
- Intermittent cave crawling through narrow sections (totaling 20 m)



For more information on the necessary physical activities for a successful trip, please refer to: https://oxalisadventure.com/getting-ready-oxalis-tour/.

Safety on the tour

This is always the top priority of all Oxalis Adventure tours to ensure the safety of both visitors and Oxalis' staff on any trip. We only use high-quality equipment meeting international standards, mainly imported from France, the UK, and Switzerland. The guide team must undergo professional training and be tested for skills regularly. Only qualified Oxalis guides are allowed to lead Oxalis tours. Visitors can learn about the "safety management" and "safety equipment" that Oxalis uses here.

By signing the Release Form, visitors agree to follow all tour safety regulations and the instructions of the cave experts and guides throughout the expedition. To ensure the safety of the entire group, the safety experts and guides have the authority to require any guest to end the expedition if they fail to comply with the safety regulations explained during the briefing.

** Please note that tour communication is conducted in English and Vietnamese.*

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.

You need to prepare

Essential clothing

- [ ] Trekking clothes:
  - 1-2 quick-dry, bright, long-sleeved shirts
  - 1-2 pairs of long trekking pants (quick-dry)
  - 1 waterproof jacket (winter months December to March)
- [ ] Campsite clothing sets:
  - Warm clothes for winter from December to March
  - Shorts and T-shirts for summer from April to August
- [ ] 1 pair of good gripping trekking/approach closed shoes.
- [ ] 2 pairs of calf-length, thick socks
- [ ] 1 pair of sandals/slides for campsite

Personal items

- [ ] 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
- [ ] Antifungal foot powder
- [ ] Passport

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 trekking shoes are available to borrow from Oxalis (sizes 36-44). If you use Oxalis shoes, please bring thick socks and two pairs of insoles to help prevent blisters. A VND 50,000 cleaning fee applies.
- [ ] 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

Optional items

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

Food and drinks in the tour

Although the expedition takes place deep in the primary forest and inside the cave, you will be provided with three meals a day: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Oxalis has a dedicated team of cooks who prepare

fresh ingredients brought directly to the expedition route, ensuring you receive the nutrition you need throughout the long days of trekking.

For your health and safety, all drinking water served during the expedition is treated through a specialized water filtration system and thoroughly boiled at the campsites to meet strict safe drinking-water standards. Hot drinks such as tea and coffee are also available.

The menu offers a variety of options, including standard, vegetarian, and special-diet meals. If you have specific dietary requirements or food allergies, please note them on your booking form so the Oxalis team can make the necessary preparations in advance.

Camping, Showers and Hygiene During the Expedition

Located in a small valley next to the entrance of Hang Va Cave, this campsite is surrounded by primeval forest, where you can feel and touch nature, especially on moonlit nights, or waking in the early morning to the dawn chorus. The campsite is fenced with protective nets to prevent snakes from entering the camp at night. It is also located in a high valley which is not affected by floods. You must not go outside the campsite without your guide

Hang Va Campsite is in the middle of the forest 50m away from the cave entrance. Therefore there are no bathing facilities in the camp. Swimming and refreshing yourself can be done in the river passage inside Hang Va before you exit. However, no soap or shampoo is allowed.

Tents: At each campsite, you will stay in tents specially designed by Oxalis. Double tents measured 1.5m x 2m, while single tents measured 1m x 2m, and is set on a sturdy raised platform 30 cm above the ground, helping minimise moisture and insects. The tent walls are made of breathable mesh, with a fan provided inside to keep the space cool while allowing you to stay connected with the surrounding natural environment. Each tent is also equipped with a mattress, pillow, and sleeping bag, all thoroughly cleaned before every expedition to ensure a comfortable night's sleep.

Toilets and water facilities : Each campsite is equipped with modern toilets and convenient shower facilities. All water used for washing and other daily needs is carefully treated through a filtration system to ensure safe use throughout the expedition.

Waste management and environmental protection: To help preserve the cave ecosystem, 100% of solid waste generated during the expedition is carried out of the cave. For wastewater and toilet waste, Oxalis uses portable septic tanks combined with an advanced filtration system to ensure that discharged water meets Vietnam's strict environmental standards.

Tour booking process

This is a tour that requires careful logistical preparation from both guests and Oxalis. Reading the tour information thoroughly will help you make an informed decision before booking. If you have any questions or are unsure about anything, please chat with an Oxalis adventure consultant using the chat icon in the bottom-right corner of the screen, or contact us via hotline at +84 919 900 357 for assistance. The booking process is as follows:

Step 1: Learn about the tour

Visit oxalisadventure.com to learn more about the itinerary, highlights, adventure level, tour price, and most importantly, the health and fitness requirements.

Step 2: Choose your departure date

Click "Book Now" on the tour page to view the available departure dates. Available dates will be shown on the calendar. Select your preferred date and enter the number of participants.

Step 3: Provide your information

Complete your contact details accurately, especially your email address and phone number. You must provide truthful information about:

- Your health condition and any medications you are currently taking;
- Allergies or special dietary requirements, such as vegetarian meals or food allergies;
- Trekking experience;
- Exercise frequency and level of physical activity.

Important: Oxalis reserves the right to cancel your booking without a refund if any information provided is found to be false or incomplete, particularly information related to your health and physical fitness.

Step 4: Complete your booking request

Select any additional services you may require, such as transfers or accommodation at Chay Lap Farmstay and Oxalis Home.

Read and agree to the booking terms and conditions, then click "Submit Booking Request." The system will send a booking code to your email address.

Step 5: Consultation and information confirmation

Within 48 working hours, an Oxalis travel consultant will contact you by email or phone to:

- Provide detailed information about the expedition;
- Confirm your booking details;
- Assist with arranging any additional services you have requested.

Step 6: Payment

Once your information has been confirmed, Oxalis will send you an invoice and payment instructions. You must complete the payment within 24 hours of receiving the payment instructions. After this period, your booking request may be automatically cancelled.

Step 7: Booking confirmation

Once Oxalis receives your payment, you will receive an official booking confirmation by email.

From this point, you can begin preparing your clothing, equipment, and fitness for the expedition.

Terms of tour cancellation

The Hang Va Expedition tour has only 1500 guests each year, so available slots are booked quickly. To confirm your booking, you will be required to pay the tour deposit after completing the booking process. Guests can receive a full refund if the cancellation is 7 days before departure.

Cancellations after 7 days are non-refundable. Please see the cancellation terms here.

Useful Information

Weather and Climate in Hang Va Cave

Hang Va - Phong Nha has 4 seasons in a year (spring, summer, autumn, and winter), the same as many northern provinces of Vietnam. Due to the rainy season and to ensure the safety of visitors, Hang Va Expedition is only operated from December to August. From December to March, the weather will sometimes be cold interspersed with sunny days. April and May are warmer months, and June to August, are the warmest summer months. However, most of the trek is under the forest canopy or inside the cave with a temperature of 22 to 25 degrees Celsius. Summer is a good time to enjoy swimming inside Hang Va.

Communication on tour

The Hang Va 2-Day Tour is an adventure tour with moderate difficulty, the tour area is located deep in a forest, far from external support such as medical assistance, hospitals etc. The trekking tour follows jungle trails, with hills up and down, and no paths are suitable for vehicles. There is no phone signal, no wifi, and no charging facilities.

Each Oxalis cave tour is equipped with 1 satellite phone for the guide to contact the office in case of emergency. Guests can only use the internet and phone at the hotel before and after the Oxalis tours. While trekking in the mountains and exploring the caves, the safety team will communicate with each other by walkie-talkie if necessary.

Emergency Response Procedure

Oxalis Adventure has an established "Emergency Response Procedure" that includes on-site first aid and rescue if an accident occurs during trekking or cave exploration. We organize many training courses for first aid, rescue, and evacuation, and have rescue teams for each tour operation area. The specialized equipment is imported from abroad and complies with European standards. Due to the remote location, rescue teams and medical assistants will take from 30 minutes to 2 hours to reach the location. Therefore, the safety of visitors is the top priority of Oxalis in any activities related to caving in Vietnam. For Experts and Sales consultants to give suitable advice, guests are required to fill in their fitness and health information in the Booking form honestly. They are also required to update the information to the Oxalis consultant 45 days before the tour departure.

** Please note that tour communication is conducted in English and Vietnamese.*

How to get to Phong Nha

Phong Nha is located 45 km from Dong Hoi, Quang Tri Province (the former capital of Quang Binh Province). You just need to get to Dong Hoi, and Oxalis staff will pick you up from any location there. There are many ways to get to Dong Hoi, including by plane, train, or sleeper bus.

By air

Dong Hoi Airport is about 45 km from Phong Nha and currently offers direct flights from Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and Cam Ranh. From the airport, Oxalis offers a private transfer from Dong Hoi to Phong Nha at VND 650,000 per one-way trip for a 7-seater vehicle.

- Hanoi - Dong Hoi: Vietnam Airlines and Sun PhuQuoc Airways currently operate daily direct flights between Hanoi and Dong Hoi. The flight takes approximately 1 hour 5 minutes.
- Ho Chi Minh City - Dong Hoi: Vietnam Airlines and Vietjet Air operate direct flights from Tan Son Nhat International Airport to Dong Hoi, with a flight time of approximately 1 hour 40 minutes.
- Nha Trang - Dong Hoi: Sun PhuQuoc Airways operates direct flights between Cam Ranh International Airport and Dong Hoi, with 3 round trips per week.

By train

Dong Hoi Railway Station is located on the North-South railway line, approximately 45 km from Phong Nha. Trains to Dong Hoi are available from Hanoi, Ninh Binh, Hue, Da Nang, Nha Trang, Ho Chi Minh City, and many other cities and provinces. From the station, an Oxalis vehicle will pick you up and transfer you to Phong Nha. There is also a Hue-Phong Nha tourist train, offering a direct connection between the two destinations as part of a journey through Central Vietnam. This is a convenient option for guests who wish to combine a visit to Hue with their Son Doong Expedition.

By bus

Sleeper buses are a convenient option if you prefer to travel directly to Phong Nha without transferring to Dong Hoi. Direct bus services are currently available from Hanoi, Hue, Da Nang, Hoi An, and several other destinations.

International airports: There are 3 main international airports for international flights: Tan Son Nhat International Airport (SGN), Noi Bai International Airport (HAN) and Da Nang International Airport (DAD). From Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) or Ha Noi, travellers can book domestic flights to Dong Hoi Airport (VDH). From Da Nang, travelers can catch a train or bus to Dong Hoi/Phong Nha.

You can check out the means of transportation to Phong Nha here. “How to get to Phong Nha?". All participants of Oxalis Adventure tours will be picked up at their designated hotel around Phong Nha town on the morning of the departure day.

Vietnam visa: Vietnam currently grants visa exemptions to citizens of 29 countries and has expanded its E-visa program to apply to nationals of all countries and territories.

Upon arrival and during their stay, travelers are required to present a valid passport together with a valid visa or other legal residence documents in Vietnam so that accommodation providers and tour operators can complete temporary residence registration as required by Vietnamese regulations.

For the latest details on travel policies, please verify the information here: Vietnam Travel Policy Updates

Tour price includes

The tour price is 9,400,000VND (US$355) per person. This cost includes VAT, sightseeing, environmental and national park fees. The cost also includes the following services:

- Logistics team: Each 10-guest tour will have 1 tour guide, 3 safety assistants, 1 chef, 4 porters carrying luggage, food, and camping equipment, and 1 park ranger. The number of team members may vary depending on the group's physical condition.
- Food: Oxalis provides food, drinking water, tea, and coffee during the journey (not including extra requirements). Dishes are based on fixed menus, vegetarian and vegan menus will be provided if ordered. Please inform us of any food allergies.
- Safety equipment: Oxalis will provide safety equipment such as helmets, harnesses, headlights, gloves etc.
- Travel insurance: Oxalis provides travel insurance for all guests participating in the tours with a maximum compensation of VND 10,000,000. Visitors are asked to buy comprehensive travel insurance for themselves before joining the tour.

Carbon Footprint Index

At Oxalis Adventure, our commitment to Net Zero tourism is driving tangible results. Our 2024 greenhouse gas inventory reveals that the average carbon footprint for participants of the Hang Va Expedition Tour has dropped to 129.6 kgCO2e per person – a significant 34% reduction compared to 2023 figures. This comprehensive calculation accounts for all emission sources, including transportation, accommodation, and tour activities, underscoring our successful efforts to minimize environmental impact while maintaining high-quality adventure experiences.

FAQs

What if I am a solo traveler, can I join a group?

Solo travelers are most welcome and make up a large percentage of most groups.

Why do I have to sign your Release Form?

We require customers to sign our Release Form to confirm they accept this is an adventure tour and they have to follow our guide's instructions and safety rules. Customers also accept they have some responsibilities for their own safety.

Which months of the year do you run this tour, and which are the best months to go?

You can book the tour which departs from February to August. That is also the best time to join in the discovery and enjoy it at its best.

What can I do If I want to talk to/contact a consultant?

You can easily contact a consultant via chat box (on the right corner) on Oxalis website or email to: contact@oxalisadventure.com; Hotline: +84-919900357.