Tu Lan Cave Expedition Tour

This level 5 expedition is one of our most challenging treks. Throughout the four days you will explore numerous caves, both river caves and dry caves;

Tour details

DURATION
5 days 4 nights

DIFFICULTY LEVEL
Challenging

AGE
16-70 years old

GROUP SIZE
10 customers (Join-in)

OPERATION
mid-Nov to mid-Sept

PRICE
USD 679 • VND 18,000,000/pax

Source: https://oxalisadventure.com/tour/tu-lan-expedition/

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

Overview

A 5 day 4 night tour journey exploring the Tu Lan Cave System with spectacular caves and underground rivers where the movie Kong: Skull Island was filmed. With 3 nights jungle camping and 1 night at Tu Lan Lodge.

This hiking adventure run by Oxalis Adventure Tours, this expedition is ranked as Difficulty level: Challenging, and is on par with the Son Doong Expedition and Hang Ba Deep Jungle Expedition, the highest level in the Oxalis Adventure' caving tour scale relating to physical fitness and ability.

The Tu Lan Cave system was discovered by a local named Dinh Hong Nham in 2009. During his fishing trips, he discovered three caves - Tu Lan, To Mo large and To Mo small in the area. The cave system was then explored and surveyed by Mr. Howard Limbert with the British - Vietnamese Cave Expedition team, and now includes more than 25 large and small caves. The Tu Lan Caves were featured in National Geographic Magazine in 2011 together with Hang Son Doong. A photo of Hang Ken taken by photographer Carsten Peter won the National Geographic photo award in the same year.

Tu Lan Expedition is one of the longest Oxalis Adventures tours, enabling you to explore all eight of the most beautiful dry and river caves of the Tu Lan Cave System. This tour includes a series of fascinating experiences such as trekking through the forest, wading in streams, swimming in the caves, climbing steep hills, walking through beautiful valleys, exploring the largest dry cave in the system - Hang Tien, and camping for 3 nights by the riverside and amidst the majestic natural scenery.

Tu Lan Expedition highlights include:

- **Explore 8 majestic caves in Tu Lan Cave System**: Venture deep into the magnificent Tu Lan system, famous for its unique stalactites and serving as a key filming location for the blockbuster movie, Kong: Skull Island. This epic journey includes exploring 8 iconic caves, such as Tu Lan Cave, Secret Cave, Hung Ton Cave, Ken Cave, Kim Cave, Ho Tien cave, Hang Tien 1, and Hang Tien 2 Cave.
- **Becoming a real caver**: You'll be trained in essential caving and jungle skills by expert guides. Master multi-terrain trekking, navigate dark underground rivers (swimming), and learn safe rope techniques (climbing ladders/cave walls) on a real expedition.
- **Thrilling underground river swims**: Embrace the exhilarating challenge of swimming through the cool, dark subterranean rivers that connect the caves. All swims are conducted with professional guidance and safety gear for an exciting yet secure experience.
- **Jungle trekking and stream crossings**: Test your endurance by hiking across vast, emerald-green grasslands, crossing numerous streams, and traversing the untamed, pristine jungle terrain in the core area of Tu Lan Cave System.
- **Immersive wilderness camping**: Unwind and enjoy a tranquil night camping amidst stunning natural beauty, typically set up beside a flowing stream or within a peaceful valley. Savor delicious meals prepared by a professional chef, offering a true taste of the wilderness.
- **Professional and safe services**: Benefit from a large, dedicated support team including expert guides, safety assistants, and local porters. All adventurous activities adhere to the highest international safety standards, ensuring peace of mind throughout your journey.

- **Discover local culture and community life**: Experience unique local culture by dining in a local family's home in Tan Hoa village. Learn about their sustainable farming model on a refreshing morning bicycle tour on the final day of your journey.
- **Pioneering a sustainable and shared economy model**: By choosing the Tu Lan Expedition tour, you directly support Oxalis's shared economy model. Your trip promotes local development through the employment of local labor, procurement of local food, and utilization of homestay dining services, ensuring the community benefits alongside the company.
- **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

Please note that the Tu Lan Expeditio itinerary is weather-dependent and trails can be slippery. As one of Vietnam's toughest treks, this expedition requires significant endurance to navigate steep hills and earn the views. Cave swimming is a key feature (life jackets mandatory), though rafts are available for non-swimmers. This is a true adventure designed for those passionate about hiking.

DAY 1

Tan Hoa – Secret Cave – Hang Ken Cave - Tu Lan Campsite

Your expedition begins between 7:30 AM – 8:00 AM with a pickup in Phong Nha (please finish breakfast beforehand). You will travel 70km to the Oxalis Tan Hoa office for a comprehensive safety briefing, gear distribution, and itinerary run-through.

The trek starts across the flat farmlands of Tan Hoa, crossing the river to reach the foot of the mountains. A short climb leads to the entrance of Secret Cave, a compact but geologically stunning cave discovered recently by local porters. Here, you will navigate carefully past rare cave pearls and unique formations. The group will have lunch after exploring Hang Bi Mat (Secret Cave).

In the afternoon, the route winds through forests and hills into the Tu Lan Valley. The highlight is a swim through Hang Ken, renowned as one of the system's most beautiful river caves. The day concludes at the campsite, where you can settle into your tent, swim in the natural river, and enjoy a multi-course dinner prepared by local chefs. The evening is yours to relax with the team or stargaze in the pitch-dark valley sky.

DAY 2

Tu Lan – Hang Kim – Hung Ton – La Ken Campsite

The second day takes you on an exciting journey through 3 iconic caves of the Tu Lan Cave System: Tu Lan Cave, Kim Cave, and Hung Ton Cave. After breakfast, the group crosses the river to reach Tu Lan Cave, the namesake of the entire system. Here, you will swim along the cool underground river through vast chambers before climbing up to the dry passage to admire ancient stalactites formed over millions of years. Giant formations hanging nearly 30 metres above the cave floor, together with massive rock columns, make Tu Lan Cave look like a magnificent natural fortress. A standout feature of Tu Lan is its unique rimstone pools, stacked neatly like terraced rice fields carved by nature.

Leaving Tu Lan Cave, the journey continues through lush forest, crossing crystal-clear streams and passing small waterfalls along the way. Next, the journey leads to Kim Cave for a 500m swimming experience inside intermittently. Inside, soft sand stretches between rough sections of sharp rocks, requiring care and agility in every step. Visitors explore about 300m of the dry cave and admire natural light streaming through the sinkhole above the entrance.

The cave exit leads into the breathtaking To Mo Valley, a secluded paradise with waterfalls and a turquoise lake. Here, you can swim and relax while the team prepares a picnic lunch.

In the afternoon, the adventure continues at Hung Ton Cave. Entering beside a waterfall, you will swim about 100m before climbing a 15m ladder to exit the cave. The journey continues with the ascent of the “Lom Com” hill, crossing the vast La Ken Valley to reach the campsite at the far end, nestled beneath the trees beside a cool, clear stream. After a rewarding day of exploration, relax by the crystal-clear lake before settling into your tent and enjoying a freshly prepared dinner cooked by the local porter team.

DAY 3

La Ken Campsite – Hung Dung – Hung Nhai – Ho Tien Cave – Hang Tien Campsite

Today’s trek focuses on crossing dense forests, wading through streams, and climbing over hills. The route covers approximately 8 km with an elevation gain of 350 m, taking you from La Ken Valley, over May slope, and through dense jungle to the expansive Hung Nhai Valley. Along the way, you’ll stop to rest and have lunch beside Hang Doi Waterfall before continuing through steep climbs, dense forests, and refreshing stream crossings.

In the afternoon, the group will explore Hang Ho Tien Cave, a cave more than 2 million years old, featuring a fascinating variety of stalactite formations. At the end of the day, the destination is the Hang Tien Campsite, widely regarded as the most stunning campsite on the entire tour. Located on the banks of the Rao Nan River, the campsite features crystal-clear waters, often described by explorers as a “natural infinity pool.” Here, you can swim or enjoy stand-up paddleboarding (SUP) on the calm waters.

DAY 4

Hang Tien 1 – Hang Tien 2 – Tu Lan Lodge

The final day begins with Hang Tien 1, the largest dry cave in the Tu Lan system. Here, you will witness spectacular swirling rock patterns carved by centuries of water flow. The exploration concludes with a climb up a 10m ladder (secured by safety rope) to exit the cave through its rear entrance.

A trek through ancient primary jungle leads to Hang Tien 2. You’ll feel this cave before you see it; a powerful breeze rushes from the small entrance, acting as a natural air conditioner. Inside, the cave features distinctive limestone formations along its walls and ceiling, as well as rimstone pools that resemble terraced rice fields deep underground.

After exploring, the group will hike out via a rocky mountain path (200m elevation gain), stopping for a lunch at the campsite. Upon reaching the road, cold drinks await, followed by a medal ceremony to celebrate conquering this expedition. You will then transfer back to the Oxalis Tan

Hoa office to shower and check in at Tu Lan Lodge. The adventure concludes with a bicycle ride to a local house for a traditional dinner at 17:30.

DAY 5

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

Your final morning in Tan Hoa begins with the peaceful sight of limestone mountains rising through the early mist. Wake up early to watch the sunrise from Tu Lan Lodge, or take a quiet walk through the village before enjoying breakfast (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.

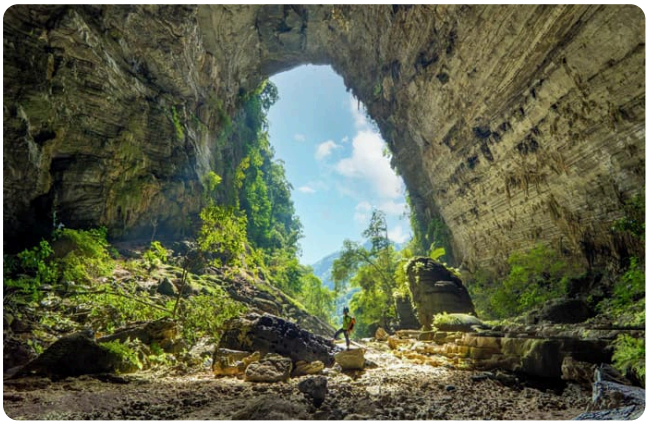
The tour concludes at 10:30 AM, allowing time to pack. Check-out is at 12:00 PM, followed by a 12:30 PM shuttle transfer to Phong Nha or Dong Hoi.

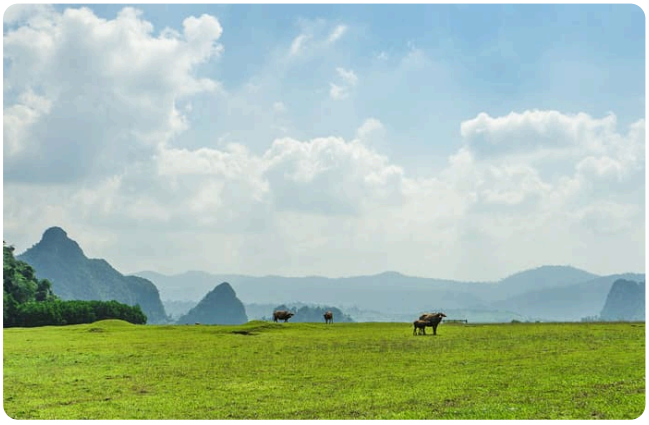
Travel Note: Please ensure your onward flight or train departs after 4:00 PM. If you wish to extend your stay or explore more of Phong Nha, please contact your Oxalis consultant or the front desk.

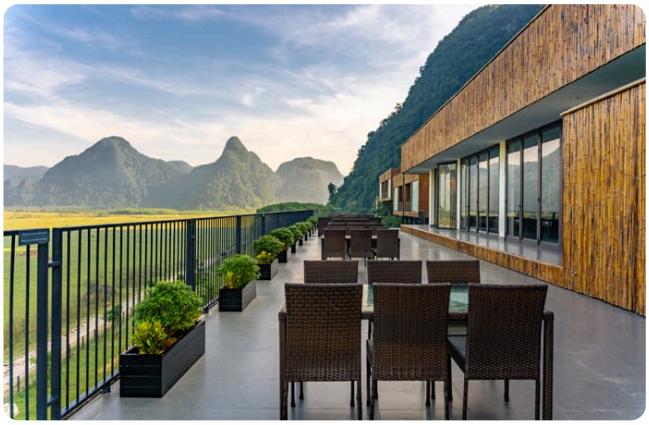
Suggested itinerary before and after the tour:
To ensure the best preparation before your journey or to relax after the expedition, Oxalis suggests staying at Chay Lap Farmstay if you wish to combine exploring Phong Nha with experiencing a peaceful countryside atmosphere, or Blue Diamond Retreat if you 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: Challenging

These are the most challenging expeditions within Oxalis's adventure portfolio.

Requirements: Within the past 12 months, participants must have completed at least one overnight camping trek in a forest or mountain setting (covering a minimum of 8 km per day over rocky and steep terrain, with a total elevation gain of at least 1,000 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: Regular trekkers and mountaineering with excellent physical fitness.

Tours with the same Difficulty Level: Son Doong Cave Expedition 6D5N; Hang Ba Deep Jungle Expedition 3D2N; Tu Lan Cave Expedition 5D4N.

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.

- Terrain with many steep hills
- Trekking 31 km of mountainous terrain
- Elevation gain of 927 m
- 5 km of cave exploration
- River and stream crossings
- Swimming in underground rivers (Total 1 km intermittently) with a life vest provided by Oxalis
- Two 15 m ladder climbs with a safety rope and harnesses, operated by the safety team.

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 Oxalis Adventure to ensure the safety of both visitors and Oxalis' staff on any trip, including multi day adventures. We only use high-quality equipment meeting international standards, mainly imported from France, the UK, and Switzerland. The tour guides must undergo professional training and be tested for skills regularly. Only qualified guides may lead an Oxalis tour. 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.

Items to bring on Tu Lan Cave Expedition tour

Tour TL4 is a multiple-day trek and considered to be the one of the toughest Vietnam jungle tours, with many different terrains and you need to have thorough preparation for the trip. 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.

You need to prepare

Essential clothing

- [ ] Trekking clothes:
  - 3-4 quick-dry, bright, long-sleeved shirts
  - Arm cover if wearing short-sleeved T-shirts
  - 2-3 pairs of long pants(quick-dry)
  - 1 waterproof jacket (winter months December 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.
- [ ] 4 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

Oxalis provides

- [ ] Camping equipment: tent, mattresses, pillow, sleeping bags
- [ ] Caving and safety gears: helmet, headlight, gloves, dry box for electric device, mini size camera ...
- [ ] 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

Optional items

- [ ] Camera & Tripod
- [ ] Ear plugs
- [ ] Bandana or headband
- [ ] Rehydration tablets
- [ ] Blister prevention tape
- [ ] Personal dry bag/box for electronic devices

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

Our campsites are situated in the most spectacular locations within the Tu Lan area, each offering a distinct atmosphere and unique features. For your safety during inclement weather, all campsites are equipped with professional lightning protection systems.

Tu Lan Valley (First Campsite): This site features a sandy stretch along a shallow stream and a large natural pool. A highlight is the 5-meter waterfall cascading from the mouth of Hang Ken Cave. Guests wake up to the sound of birds singing in the forest and the sight of morning clouds clinging to the towering cliffs.

La Ken Valley (Second Campsite): Shaded by massive trees, this site sits beside the Rao Nan stream as it flows from La Ken valley. Below the camp lies a crystal-clear river perfect for swimming or SUP paddling. (Note: Water clarity may vary during heavy rains.)

Hang Tien (Third Campsite): Often considered the most beautiful site, Hang Tien is located on the banks of the Rao Nan River, where the underground river system emerges before flowing toward the sea. Adjacent to the site is a clear green lake, often called a "natural infinity pool." It is the perfect spot for stargazing at night and watching the sunrise through your tent door in the morning.

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.

Average temperatures range from 15–18°C in winter and 30–38°C in summer. To ensure a comfortable sleep, we provide warm sleeping bags during the winter and portable fans for your tent during the summer months. You can find out more details about "unique campsites on Tu Lan expedition tour" here.

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

As the Tu Lan Expedition tour only allows 600 customers to join each year, the tour is booked very quickly. To confirm your booking, you will be required to pay the tour deposit after completing the booking process.

For this tour guests need a lot of time to exercise, prepare physically, and prepare the necessary items for the trip. Cancellation of the tour or change of departure date will greatly affect the logistics and operating costs of the tour. In order for Oxalis to make any changes or find a replacement if necessary, the tour cancellation terms are as follows: For Tu Lan Expedition tour, the tour cancellation can only be done 30 days before the tour departure date. Oxalis will charge 50% of the tour price if guests cancel 15 days before, and any cancellation less than 15 days before the tour will be charged at 100% of the tour price. See more details in “Terms of tour cancellation”.

Useful Information

Weather and Climate

Tu Lan - Tan Hoa has 4 seasons in a year (spring, summer, autumn and winter) like many northern provinces of Vietnam. Due to the weather conditions, and because Oxalis Adventure wants to protect and conserve the Tu Lan Cave System the Tu Lan Expedition will only be available from mid November to mid September every year. Weather conditions in the Tu Lan – Tan Hoa area are different in each season.

From November to March, there are many cold days, especially on rainy days but there are also many warm sunny days. April and May are the warmer months, but the weather is not too hot. This is also the time when wildflowers bloom in abundance.

From June to August, the weather is hot, but visitors spend most of their time inside the cave, where temperatures range from 22°C to 25°C, making the heat more comfortable. In the summer months, visitors can comfortably swim in the streams and underground lakes inside Vietnam caves, so exploring Tu Lan is the ideal suggestion for you if you don't know where to go for 5 days and 4 nights.

Each season will have its own unique features for visitors to explore. Please read more about weather in Tan Hoa at "The weather & climate in Tan Hoa, Minh Hoa area". In addition, visitors can check the weather in Tu Lan- Tan Hoa before joining the Vietnam caving tour.

The weather & climate in Tan Hoa, Minh Hoa area

Communication on tour

This Expedition tour is operated in a remote forest with physical challenges, far away from external support such as medical assistance, hospitals etc.

The Tu Lan Cave Expedition follows jungle trails, many 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.

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

Emergency Response Procedure

Oxalis Adventure has an established "Emergency Response Protocol" 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 Adventure 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.

Dangers, risks and how to avoid them on tour

Any adventure activities will always contain risks and these must be carefully managed. Oxalis tours take place in remote locations without easy access to medical care. Hence a lot of work goes into managing and reducing risks to the lowest level possible.

You can learn more about "Adventure Safety Tips" here.

What to expect

Tu Lan Cave Expedition tour is an adventure tour which involves trekking through the jungle, wading streams, climbing slopes and camping in the deep forest. This is a real adventure tour and quite strenuous for those who do not exercise regularly.

Tu Lan Expedition tours is a tour that takes customers into the remote primeval forest areas. There is no phone signal and no amenities like in an outside hotel. However, Oxalis provides the most comfortable overnight facilities for visitors for an adventure tour.

This tour is going into nature. Therefore, it depends on the weather every day, the rivers may be green but the water may be brown on heavy rainy days.

The Tu Lan Expedition Tour will be a great tour for tourists who have a passion for exploring nature and appreciate the masterpieces that nature has bestowed on us.

How do you get into Son Doong cave?

To join the Tu Lan Cave tour, visitors need to arrive in Phong Nha before 7:00 AM. Phong Nha is about 45 km from Dong Hoi, Quang Tri. Visitors can take a bus directly to Phong Nha for a more convenient journey. If you arrive in Dong Hoi by plane or train, you will need to arrange a private transfer or take a taxi to Phong Nha.

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

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Tu Lan Cave Expedition tour price includes

The price of Tu Lan Cave Expedition tour is 18,000,000 VNĐ (USD 679) per person, this price includes VAT, entrance fee, sightseeing fee, forest environmental service fee, management fee. Tu Lan Cave trekking tour includes the following services:

- Pick up in Phong Nha and drop off at Dong Hoi airport/train, bus station.
- Logistics team: Each 10-guest tour will have 1 tour guide, 2 safety assistants, 1 chef, 5 porters, 2 porters (camp-guard). 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.
- Accommodation: Oxalis offers 3 nights camping in the jungle and the last night at Tu Lan Lodge.
- 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, we are deeply committed to minimizing our environmental impact and advancing sustainable tourism. As part of our roadmap toward Net Zero, we have conducted annual greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories since 2023.

  We are proud to report that our efforts are yielding results: our 2024 carbon footprint was reduced by 19% compared to 2023. According to the latest data, the average footprint for a participant on the Tu Lan Cave Expedition Tour is now 232.2 kgCO_2e. This figure is comprehensive, accounting for all emission sources, including transportation, accommodation, and tour-related activities.

FAQs

I really like this Tu Lan tour, but will I have to swim throughout the entire journey? Can I wear a life jacket?

During the first 2 days of the Tu Lan expedition, you will swim approximately 1 km through four different caves. The swimming sections are divided into several shorter stretches, with the shortest being around 70 m and the longest around 150 m. For safety reasons, everyone is required to wear a life jacket during the swimming sections. Therefore, you need to be comfortable moving through the water while wearing a life jacket. If you cannot swim but feel confident swimming with a life jacket, our guide and safety assistants can support and guide you throughout the swimming sections.

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 mid November to mid September. 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.