

Son Doong Cave Expedition: 10-Night Extreme Adventure (Limited Permits)

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination
Vietnam



Duration
10 Nights 11 Days



Starting from
Rs. 2,50,000 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↪ Hanoi · 3N

↪ Phong Nha · 3N

↪ Son Doong Expedition · 4N

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/vietnam/vietnam-10-nights-11-days-package-848>

Overview

Experience the ultimate Vietnam Adventure tour package focused on the world's largest cave. This exclusive Vietnam tour package is designed for experienced trekkers and adventure-seekers who want a rare, immersive expedition into Son Doong Cave and the wild heart of Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park. Permits are strictly limited – this is an ultra-premium, small-group Vietnam Adventure package for those seeking a once-in-a-lifetime challenge.

Highlights:

- Son Doong Cave full expedition (multi-day in-cave exploration)
- Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park UNESCO limestone karst landscape
- Scenic flight to Dong Hoi and transfers through rural Vietnam
- Multi-night in-cave camping and jungle trekking
- Cultural time in Hanoi with optional city activities

This itinerary is physically demanding and requires prior trekking experience, good fitness, and compliance with guide instructions. Permits are limited and bookings should be made well in advance.

Keywords: Vietnam tour package, Vietnam Adventure tour package, Vietnam Adventure package, 10 and 11 Vietnam Adventure tour package.

✓ What's Included

- ✓ All expedition permits for Son Doong Cave (limited and included in package)
- ✓ Domestic flights: Hanoi to Dong Hoi (economy class)
- ✓ All ground transfers and transfers to/from cave access points
- ✓ Professional expedition guides, local porters, and support staff
- ✓ Camping equipment inside the cave (tents, sleeping mats) and basecamp gear
- ✓ Meals as specified during the expedition and selected meals in Hanoi/Phong Nha (mostly full board during expedition)
- ✓ Entry fees for included cave visits (e.g., Paradise Cave / Phong Nha Cave when listed)
- ✓ Emergency first-aid kits and ranger support
- ✓ Pre-expedition briefing and final debrief, certificate of completion (where applicable)

✗ Not Included

- ✗ International flights to/from Vietnam
- ✗ Personal travel insurance (mandatory with cave-specific coverage and evacuation clause)
- ✗ Personal equipment (trekking boots, technical climbing harness if not included in package gear list), rental options may be available
- ✗ Tips/gratuities for guides and local crew
- ✗ Meals in Hanoi not specified as included and personal expenses
- ✗ Visa fees for Vietnam and any required vaccinations
- ✗ Optional activities such as Halong Bay cruise (unless pre-booked)
- ✗ Any costs arising from medical evacuation or delays beyond operator control



Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival and Orientation in Hanoi

Arrive at Hanoi Noi Bai International Airport. Transfer to your hotel in the Old Quarter. Evening welcome briefing with the expedition leader to review gear, fitness requirements, and final paperwork for the Son Doong permits. Time to relax, collect last-minute supplies, and explore Hoan Kiem Lake or the Old Quarter on foot.

Tip: Arrive with comfortable urban clothing and a daypack for the briefing. Ensure your passport and permit documents are ready.

Day

2

Fly to Dong Hoi and Transfer to Phong Nha

Early morning domestic flight to Dong Hoi. Meet the local support team and transfer by road to Phong Nha (approx. 1–1.5 hours). Afternoon gear check, orientation with local guides, and a short walk to nearby caves or the Botanic Garden. Final expedition briefing and group dinner.

Important: Final gear checks and packing for the multi-day expedition. Water-proofing and headlamps must be tested.

Day

3

Trek to Expedition Basecamp

Begin the overland and jungle approach to the Son Doong entrance. The route includes river crossings, thick jungle trails, and river raft sections. Arrive at the expedition basecamp in the late afternoon. Camp overnight and receive instructions on cave safety, rope use, and group protocols.

Note: The approach is strenuous; expect long hours of trekking with full-day packs.

Day

4

Enter Son Doong and First Cave Exploration

Enter Son Doong Cave through the designated entrance. Begin exploration of the first major sections: enormous caverns, karst formations, and the first in-cave campsite. Guides will lead through sections that require rope-assisted descents and careful movement across cave riverbeds.

Safety note: Follow guide instructions closely; some passages are narrow and require helmets and harnesses.

Day

5

Deep Cave Transit and River Sections

Delve deeper into Son Doong's massive caverns and cross subterranean river sections. Explore significant cave features including skylights, fossil formations, and unique ecological zones. Set up camp in an inner cave valley and prepare for extended exploration the next day.

Tip: Keep electronics dry, and conserve battery power. Overnight temps in caves can be cool; pack thermal layers.

Day

6

Iconic Chambers and Majestic Skylights

Full day exploring Son Doong's most dramatic areas: the expansive main cavern, the famous skylights that allow jungle growth inside the cave, and photographic viewpoints. This is the highlight day for photography, geology, and experiencing the scale of the cave.

Highlight: Expect epic photo opportunities of sunlight pouring through giant skylights onto cave jungles.

Day

7

Final Cave Sections and Exit to Jungle

Complete the cave traversal, navigating the final river stretches and passages. Exit Son Doong and return to the jungle trail toward the basecamp. Celebrate the completion of the expedition with the support team and transfer back to Phong Nha village for rest in a comfortable lodge.

Recovery tip: Enjoy a hot shower, restorative meal, and light stretching to assist muscle recovery.

Day

8

Relaxation and Phong Nha Cave Visits

A recovery day in Phong Nha: gentle exploration of nearby caves such as Paradise Cave or Phong Nha Cave (boat access), cultural visits to local villages, and optional biking along rural lanes. Evening free to sample local Quang Binh cuisine.

Optional: spa or massage in Phong Nha to soothe sore muscles.

Day

9

Return to Hanoi and City Free Time

Transfer to Dong Hoi Airport for a domestic flight back to Hanoi. Afternoon and evening free in Hanoi for independent exploration: visit the Temple of Literature, French Quarter architecture, or enjoy a water puppet show.

Tip: Use this time to exchange contact details with your group and back up photos from the expedition.

Day

10

Flexible Day in Hanoi or Optional Halong Bay Extension

A flexible day to tailor your trip: relax in Hanoi, book an optional day-trip to Halong Bay (cruise) or explore museums and street-food tours. The expedition team will be available for final debrief and assistance with onward travel plans.

Note: Optional Halong Bay day trip requires advance booking – ask your coordinator.

Day

11

Departure from Hanoi

After breakfast, transfer to Noi Bai International Airport for your international flight home. Final paperwork, certificate of completion for the Son Doong expedition (where provided), and farewells.

Important: Check flight times and arrange airport transfer in advance. Leave extra time for traffic in Hanoi.

? Frequently Asked Questions

? What is the best time to visit Vietnam?

Vietnam's best time depends on your region preferences. November to April is generally ideal, offering cooler, drier weather. Northern Vietnam (Hanoi, Ha Long Bay) is pleasant from November to March but can be chilly in December–January. Central Vietnam (Hoi An, Da Nang) enjoys perfect beach weather from February to August, while September–November brings heavy rains and potential typhoons. Southern Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh City, Mekong Delta) is great November–April with sunny, dry conditions. Avoid September–October in Central Vietnam due to monsoons. For mountain areas like Sa Pa, October–November and March–April offer clear views and comfortable temperatures. Summer (May–August) is hot and humid nationwide but still manageable with proper preparation.

? How can I reach Vietnam from India?

Flying is the most convenient option with multiple daily flights from major Indian cities. Direct flights operate from Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Bengaluru to Hanoi (HAN), Ho Chi Minh City (SGN), and Da Nang (DAD). Flight time is typically 4.5–6 hours for direct routes. One-stop connections via Bangkok, Singapore, or Kuala Lumpur offer more scheduling flexibility. Major airlines include VietJet, Vietnam Airlines, IndiGo, and regional carriers. Book early for better fares, especially during peak season (November–February). Phu Quoc and Nha Trang airports serve beach destinations directly. Compare prices across different entry points as sometimes flying into Da Nang or Phu Quoc can be cheaper than Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh City.

❓ **Do Indian citizens need a visa for Vietnam?**

Yes, Indian citizens require a visa for Vietnam. The easiest option is applying for an e-visa online through the official government portal. E-visas are typically processed within 3-5 working days and allow single or multiple entries for up to 30 days. Ensure your passport has at least 6 months validity and blank pages. Print your e-visa approval letter and carry it during travel. Visa on arrival is available at major airports but requires pre-approval letters from travel agents. Tourist visas can be extended once inside Vietnam if needed. Always verify current visa requirements before travel as policies can change. Apply early to avoid last-minute complications, especially during peak travel seasons.

❓ **What are the best local transportation options in Vietnam?**

Vietnam offers diverse transportation options. For intercity travel, domestic flights connect major cities affordably and quickly. The scenic Reunification Railway runs along the coast from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City - book soft sleeper berths for overnight journeys. Luxury buses and minivans provide comfortable intercity connections. Within cities, use Grab (ride-hailing app) for reliable, app-based pricing. Traditional taxis are widely available but negotiate fares beforehand. Scooter rentals are popular but only for experienced riders - traffic can be chaotic. Cyclos (three-wheeled rickshaws) offer charming short rides in old quarters. For coastal areas and islands, boats and ferries are essential. Train journeys offer beautiful countryside views and are perfect for meeting locals.

❓ **Where should I stay in Vietnam's major cities?**

In Hanoi, stay in the Old Quarter for atmosphere and walkability to attractions, or the French Quarter for upscale hotels near Hoan Kiem Lake. Hoi An's Ancient Town offers charming boutique hotels within walking distance of lantern-lit streets, while An Bang Beach area provides resort-style accommodations. Da Nang's beachfront hotels along My Khe Beach offer ocean views and easy access to attractions. In Ho Chi Minh City, District 1 is ideal for first-time visitors with proximity to major sights and restaurants. For beaches, Phu Quoc's Long Beach has the best resort selection. Book accommodations well in advance during peak season (November-April). Consider homestays in rural areas like Mekong Delta or Sa Pa for authentic cultural experiences.

🔍 What are the must-visit attractions in Vietnam?

Ha Long Bay is Vietnam's crown jewel – take an overnight cruise among limestone karsts with kayaking and cave visits. Hanoi's Old Quarter offers street food tours and water puppet shows. Hoi An Ancient Town enchants with lantern-lit streets, tailor shops, and nearby An Bang Beach. The Imperial City in Hue showcases royal Vietnamese history along the Perfume River. Ho Chi Minh City features the War Remnants Museum and Cu Chi Tunnels for historical insights. Ninh Binh, dubbed 'Ha Long Bay on land,' offers boat rides through karst landscapes. Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park houses spectacular caves including Paradise Cave. Sa Pa provides mountain trekking among rice terraces and ethnic villages. The Mekong Delta offers floating markets and rural cycling experiences.

🔍 What Vietnamese dishes should I definitely try?

Pho (pronounced 'fuh') is Vietnam's signature noodle soup – try both Hanoi and Saigon styles. Bun cha, grilled pork with herbs and noodles, is a Hanoi specialty famously enjoyed by Obama. Banh mi, crusty baguettes with various fillings, make perfect quick meals with excellent vegetarian options. Fresh spring rolls (goi cuon) offer healthy, herb-packed bites with peanut dipping sauce. Bun bo Hue delivers spicy beef noodle soup from the former imperial capital. Hoi An's cao lau noodles are unique to that town. Don't miss banh xeo (crispy crepes) and com tam (broken rice dishes). For drinks, try egg coffee in Hanoi and coconut coffee in Saigon. Vietnamese coffee culture is exceptional – the slow-drip phin filter creates incredibly strong, flavorful coffee perfect with sweetened condensed milk.

★ Traveller Reviews



Aditi Sharma

★★★★★ 5/5

Beautiful Vietnam Trip

I recently booked a 10-day Vietnam tour package and it was amazing! The landscapes are breathtaking and the service was top-notch. Highly recommend!



Rahul Mehta

★★★★☆ 4/5

Amazing Culture of Vietnam

The cultural experiences in Vietnam were delightful. From the bustling markets to serene countryside, we saw it all!



Sita Joshi

★★★★★ 5/5

Memorable Halong Bay Cruise

The Halong Bay cruise included in our package was simply stunning. The views were surreal and the food was delicious!



Vikram Singh

★★★★☆ 4/5

Vietnam Trip Balancing Adventure and Relaxation

This tour package offered a perfect mix of adventure and relaxation. The trekking in Sapa was exhilarating!



Preeti Nair

★★★★★ 5/5

City Tours were Informative

Our guided city tours were very informative and engaging. We learned so much about Vietnam's history and heritage. Kudos to the tour guides!

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