Cat Tien Family Adventure

Just over a three-hour drive from Ho Chi Minh City, this 2-day, 1-night adventure in Cat Tien National Park is the perfect weekend escape for families looking to spend meaningful time together in nature.

Tour details

DURATION
2 days, 1 night

EXCLUSIVE
Maximum 10 guests

DIFFICULTY LEVEL
Easy

AGE
6 - 70 years old

PRICE
~USD 208 • VND 5,500,000/pax

MEALS
Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks

DRINK
Drinking water and soft drinks

PICKUP AND TRANSFER
Thiso Mall, 10 Mai Chi Tho Street, An Khanh Ward, Ho Chi Minh City (Hoang The Thien Street entrance)

OVERNIGHT
Tent (with fully equiped)

TOUR LOCATION
Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam

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Cat Tien Family Adventure Overview

Just over a three-hour drive from Ho Chi Minh City, this 2-day, 1-night adventure in Cat Tien National Park is the perfect weekend escape for families looking to spend meaningful time together in nature.

The journey includes a gentle forest hike, a visit to the picturesque Ta Lai Rice Fields, and a relaxing Sundowner experience at sunset. Parents and children will also explore the Cat Tien Nature Museum and Cat Tien Wildlife Rescue Centre, before visiting a traditional weaving house and sharing a meal with a local Ma family to learn about the culture and daily life of the indigenous community living in the Park's buffer zone.

One of the highlights of the trip is an overnight camping experience in the heart of the national park. The campsite is fully prepared with comfortable raised beds, soft mattresses, and insect-protected tents, providing a safe and restful night's sleep for the whole family. Guests also have access to covered communal areas and modern restroom facilities. Set beside the Dong Nai river, the campsite offers a peaceful place to unwind, listen to birdsong, and enjoy the cool, fresh air of the rainforest.

As night falls, families will have the opportunity to observe wildlife such as Sambar deer, muntjacs, civets, and other nocturnal animals around the campsite using thermal cameras. For children, the journey is filled with hands-on opportunities to explore the outdoors, observe plants and birds, and learn how to recognise animal tracks and other signs of wildlife. Throughout the experience, our knowledgeable tour guides will share fascinating insights into the rainforest ecosystem, wildlife, and conservation in an engaging and family-friendly way.

For parents, this journey is a chance to step away from the demands of everyday life and spend quality time with their children. Whether trekking through the forest, watching the sunset over the Ta Lai Rice Fields or sharing dinner under the stars, these simple moments will create lasting memories and strengthen family bonds.

Designed with a relaxed pace and a balance of adventure, comfort and cultural experiences, this itinerary is ideal for families with children aged 6 and above. More than just a holiday, it is an opportunity to foster a child’s love for nature, inspire curiosity, and strengthen family bonds through shared adventures.

Detailed Itinerary

DAY 1

Ho Chi Minh City - Cat Tien National Park - Nui Tuong Ranger Station - Ta Lai Rice Fields

Morning: Journey to Cat Tien National Park

Your adventure begins in the morning as the Katien Safari team welcomes your family at the designated meeting point at Thiso Mall (10 Mai Chi Tho Street, An Khanh Ward, Ho Chi Minh City, on Hoang The Thien Street). From here, you'll enjoy a comfortable drive of just over three hours to Cat Tien National Park.

Upon arrival, check in to your riverside campsite nestled within Cat Tien National Park before enjoying a wholesome lunch featuring fresh, seasonal ingredients and local flavours. Afterwards, you'll have time to relax before the afternoon adventure.

Before setting off, your guide will introduce the itinerary, provide a safety briefing, and distribute any equipment needed for the trek.

Afternoon: Family Trek to the Ta Lai Rice Fields

At around 2:00 PM, your family will begin a leisurely 4-kilometre trek from Nui Tuong Ranger Station. Following mostly flat trails, the route is suitable for both adults and children, allowing everyone to enjoy the rainforest at a relaxed pace.

The trail follows the Dong Nai River through the restored forests of Ta Lai. Once heavily degraded, this area has been undergoing forest restoration since 1996 to help protect Cat Tien National Park's buffer zone. Today, it has become an important habitat for many species of wildlife.

Along the way, children can discover native trees, listen to the sounds of forest birds, observe insects, and learn about Cat Tien's remarkable biodiversity through engaging stories shared by their guide.

The trek also includes a stop at one of the Park's firebreaks - carefully maintained clearings that help prevent wildfires from spreading and protect the surrounding forest ecosystem.

As the trail opens up, the beautiful Ta Lai Rice Fields come into view. Covering more than 200 hectares, these paddies are cultivated by local farming families living in the Park's buffer zone.

Hundreds of towering dipterocarp trees rise among the rice fields, creating a distinctive landscape found nowhere else.

Sundowner at Ta Lai Rice Fields

As the late afternoon light softens over the Ta Lai Rice Fields, your family will pause for a signature Sundowner experience. Refreshing drinks and chilled towels, prepared by local Ma women, offer a welcome reward after the trek, creating the perfect moment to relax and soak in the tranquil beauty of the rice fields at sunset.

As the sky glows with the colours of sunset, you'll enjoy refreshments while learning about the traditions, culture and daily life of the Ma and S'tieng communities, whose connection to Cat Tien spans generations.

After the Sundowner experience, a vehicle will take the group back to the campsite for dinner and a well-earned rest.

Evening: Nocturnal Wildlife Discovery

Once night falls, the adventure continues with a guided wildlife observation session using thermal cameras. Unlike conventional cameras, these cameras detect heat rather than visible light, allowing wildlife to be observed without disturbance. A small glowing shape on the screen might reveal a Sambar deer grazing quietly nearby or a civet moving through the forest under the cover of darkness.

For children especially, this is an exciting opportunity to discover how conservationists and patrol rangers monitor wildlife in their natural habitat, turning an evening in the rainforest into an unforgettable learning experience.

DAY 2

Discovering Nature and Local Culture

Wake up to the peaceful surroundings of Cat Tien National Park and enjoy a slow morning immersed in nature. Families can take a leisurely stroll around the campsite, breathe in the fresh

rainforest air, and listen to the chorus of birdsong. With a little luck, you may even spot wild visitors such as Green Peafowl, Sambar deer, or a variety of native bird species near the accommodation.

After breakfast, the journey continues with a visit to the Cat Tien Nature Museum, where families will discover the Park's history, remarkable biodiversity and unique ecosystems. Through engaging exhibits, specimens, and interactive stories, children and adults alike will gain a deeper appreciation of Cat Tien's rich natural heritage.

Next, you'll visit the Wildlife Rescue & Conservation Centre, where injured and rescued wild animals are rehabilitated before being released back into their natural habitat whenever possible. Guided by your tour leader, you'll learn about Cat Tien's conservation efforts and the vital role it plays in protecting Vietnam's biodiversity. Families will also have the opportunity to see several iconic and endangered species, including the yellow-cheeked gibbons, Asiatic black bears, and the great hornbills.

Leaving the Rescue Center, your next stop is the traditional Ma ethnic weaving house in Ta Lai. Here, your family can watch local artisans craft intricate brocade by hand and chat with them to learn about their rich cultural heritage.

At midday, you'll visit a local Ma family's home to enjoy a traditional home-cooked lunch. Sharing a meal and conversation with your hosts offers an authentic glimpse into the culture, customs, and daily life of one of the indigenous communities living in Cat Tien.

After lunch, the group departs for Ho Chi Minh City. Arrival at the original meeting point is expected at approximately 6:00 PM, marking the end of a memorable two-day family adventure filled with nature, culture, and unforgettable discoveries.

Weather and Climate

Cat Tien National Park has two distinct seasons throughout the year: the dry season and the rainy season, each offering a different perspective of the forest ecosystem.

From December to May, the dry season brings warmer temperatures ranging from 25 to 35°C. The weather is generally pleasant, with plenty of sunshine, though it can be hotter around midday.

From June to November, the rainy season transforms the forest into a lush and vibrant landscape. This period is characterized by higher humidity and frequent rain showers, contributing to the richness and activity of the park's biodiversity.

Each season reveals a unique side of Cat Tien, allowing visitors to experience the changing rhythms of the tropical forest. For the most accurate preparation, visitors are encouraged to check the latest weather updates through trusted sources before joining the adventure.

Physical fitness requirements

This itinerary is designed for families with children aged 6 and above who are in good health and accompanied by at least one parent or guardian throughout the journey. The activities are paced at a comfortable level, combining easy trekking, nature exploration, and hands-on experiences, making them enjoyable and accessible for the whole family.

Throughout the trip, Katien Safari's experienced guides and porters accompany and support your family every step of the way, ensuring a safe, comfortable, and enjoyable experience so you can focus on exploring, learning, and spending quality time together.

For safety reasons, guides reserve the right to adjust the itinerary, shorten activities, or arrange an early return if a guest encounters significant difficulties during the tour. In such cases, refunds or rescheduling will not be applicable.

Safety and Risk management on tour

Safety is always a top priority on all Katien Safari tours, for both guests and our staff. All activities are led by experienced guides who are familiar with the terrain, wildlife behavior, and operating conditions

within Cat Tien National Park. Our team is regularly trained in first aid, field safety, and responsible wildlife practices to ensure a safe and well-managed experience.

As the tour takes place in remote forest environments, conditions can be unpredictable and access to medical facilities may be limited. For this reason, careful planning and risk management are essential at every stage of the journey. Guests are required to follow all instructions from guides and porters at all times to ensure both personal safety and the protection of the natural environment.

Communication on tour

Katien Safari's tours operate deep within the national park. While mobile phone signal is generally available, it can be inconsistent under the dense forest canopy. To ensure seamless coordination and guest safety, our team maintains constant contact via walkie-talkies throughout the journey.

The tour remains within accessible areas, allowing for efficient evacuation to the nearest access point in the event of an emergency. All communication and guided instructions are provided in both English and Vietnamese.

Items to bring

Katien Safari tours take place across a variety of forest terrains and changing weather conditions, so proper preparation is essential. Guests are required to wear appropriate clothing for safety and comfort while trekking through the jungle, moving on uneven ground, and spending extended time outdoors.

Long trousers and long-sleeved shirts are recommended to protect against insects, vegetation, and environmental exposure. A good pair of trekking shoes is essential, providing stability and comfort on forest trails. Guests are encouraged to use well-fitted footwear that they are familiar with, and to test their shoes before the trip.

To help you prepare for your family adventure in Cat Tien National Park, please bring the following essential items:

You need to prepare

Essential clothing

- [ ] 1 medium size backpack to carry stuff that you need while trekking
- [ ] 1 quick-dry, bright, long-sleeved shirt
- [ ] 1 pair of quick-dry and long trekking pants
- [ ] 1 lightweight waterproof jacket
- [ ] 1 set of clothes for staying at the campsite
- [ ] 1 set of clothes to change after tour
- [ ] 1 pair of good gripping trekking shoes
- [ ] 1 pair of calf-length, thick socks

Personal items

- [ ] Camera, cellphone, power banks
- [ ] Personal medication
- [ ] Mosquito repellent
- [ ] Sun cream, sun hat, sun-glasses
- [ ] Passport

Katien Safari provides

- [ ] Gloves for safety
- [ ] Water bottle
- [ ] Water filter
- [ ] First-aid kit and medical rescue equipment
- [ ] Thermal camera
- [ ] Hand fan
- [ ] Secure storage at office

Tour price includes

The tour price is 208 USD per person, which includes VAT, park entrance fees, and contributions to conservation and forest protection activities within Cat Tien National Park. The following services are included in the tour:

- **Service team:** Each group (maximum 10 guests) is accompanied by 1 experienced guide and local porter. The team ensures a safe, well-organized, and immersive experience throughout the journey.
- **Food & Drinks:** All meals are provided during the tour, including breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks. Drinking water and soft drinks are included. Vegetarian options can be arranged upon request.
- **Accommodation:** 1 night at the campsite located within the forest, offering a simple yet comfortable stay immersed in nature.
- **Transportation:** Round-trip transportation between Saigon and Cat Tien National Park is included, ensuring a seamless travel experience.
- **Activities & Entrance Fees:** All guided activities, including jungle trekking and visits to Center for Rescue and Conservation of Species, as well as park entrance fees.
- **Basic equipment:** Essential equipment for trekking such as gloves, and other necessary items will be provided.
- **Travel insurance:** Basic travel insurance is included for all guests during the tour. Guests are encouraged to arrange additional personal travel insurance for extended coverage.

Terms of tour cancellation

To confirm a reservation, guests are required to pay 100% of the tour price within 24 hours after their booking has been approved by Katien Safari.

Written cancellation requests must be received and acknowledged by Katien Safari.

- Cancellations made more than 7 days before the scheduled tour departure are eligible for a full refund.
- Cancellations made less than 7 days before the scheduled tour departure are not eligible for a refund.

Please refer to our Refund & Cancellation Policy for complete terms and conditions.

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I get to Cat Tien National Park?

Cat Tien National Park is located about 150 km from Ho Chi Minh City and 175 km from Da Lat. From Ho Chi Minh City, the most common option is taking a sleeper bus, such as Phuong Trang on the Ho Chi Minh City – Da Lat route. You can get off at Tan Phu Bus Station or Phu Lam Office, then continue by taxi or motorbike taxi to the park gate. Several local bus companies, including Xe Be, Kim Hoan, and Manh Hong, operate direct routes from Ho Chi Minh City to the entrance of the park, with travel time around 4–5 hours. From Da Lat or Bao Loc, visitors can take Phuong Trang or Thanh Buoi to Tan Phu. Private car services are also widely available for travelers who prefer a flexible schedule.

What is the weather like in Cat Tien National Park?

Cat Tien National Park has a tropical climate with warm temperatures all year round. The dry season runs from December to April and is the most comfortable time for trekking and wildlife activities. From May to November, the rainy season brings frequent showers and higher humidity, which can make trails slippery but also turn the forest lush and vibrant.

Is it allowed to take photos of wild animals?

Yes, photography is allowed in Cat Tien National Park, and many visitors come specifically for wildlife and nature photography. However, photos should be taken responsibly. Visitors should keep a safe distance, avoid using flash, and never disturb animals just to get a better shot.

Can I get close to the animals in Cat Tien National Park?

No, visitors should not get close to wild animals. The animals in Cat Tien are not domesticated and can become stressed or defensive if approached. The best way to see wildlife is by observing quietly from a distance, ideally with the help of a local guide who understands animal behavior.

Can I feed the wildlife or leave food behind?

Feeding wildlife or leaving food in the forest is not allowed. Human food can be harmful to animals and may change their natural behavior. Visitors are expected to take all trash with them and leave the park exactly as they found it.

Is there Wi-Fi inside Cat Tien National Park?

Wi-Fi is available in accommodation areas, tourist center, and park offices. The signal is usually limited and not suitable for heavy use. Inside the forest, there is little to no internet connection. Mobile signal may also be weak. Cat Tien is best enjoyed as a place to disconnect and focus on nature.

What should I wear during the tour?

You should wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and lightweight breathable fabric. Neutral colors work best in the forest. Trekking shoes or closed sneakers are recommended. High socks pulled over the bottom of your pants help reduce the risk of leeches, especially in the rainy season. A hat and a rain jacket are also useful.

Is there a risk of getting lost in the jungle?

Yes, if you explore on your own or leave marked trails. Visitors should follow designated routes, respect park regulations, and join guided tours for deeper jungle exploration to avoid getting lost.

Are English-speaking guides available?

Yes, English-speaking guides are available in Cat Tien National Park. They are commonly offered for wildlife watching, night safaris, and trekking activities, and they help international visitors gain a better understanding of the park's ecosystem and wildlife.

Can I use a drone inside the park?

Drone use in Cat Tien National Park is generally restricted due to wildlife protection and safety concerns. Always check with park management and obtain permissions before bringing or flying a drone, as regulations may require special approval.