Cat Tien Wild Trekking

Cat Tien Wild Trekking three-day, two-night expedition is designed for the traveler seeking an intimate, profound, and ethical connection with one of Vietnam's most vital biodiversity havens.

Tour details

DURATION
3 days 2 nights

EXCLUSIVE
Maximum 8 guests/group

DIFFICULTY LEVEL
Moderate

AGE
12-70 years old

PRICE
~USD 400 • VND 10,600,000/pax

MEALS
Breakfast, lunch, dinner & snacks

DRINK
Water, soft drink

PICKUP AND TRANSFER
Thiso Mall - 10 Mai Chi Tho Street, An Khanh Ward, HCMC (Hoang The Thien Street front)

ACCOMMODATION
National Park Guest House

TOUR LOCATION
Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam

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

Cat Tien Wild Trekking Overview

This three-day, two-night trekking tour offers a rare opportunity to explore Cat Tien National Park in depth, one of Vietnam's most important and least understood biodiversity landscapes. Designed for small groups, the journey moves across forest, grassland, and wetland ecosystems, revealing how each environment shifts, connects, and comes alive in its own way.

From Saigon, the transition into the park unfolds gradually. The city fades, the air changes, and the forest begins to take over. National Park Guest House sits quietly between dense jungle and open grassland, setting the tone for what lies ahead. The first day opens with a guided trek through strikingly different habitats, from towering, shaded forest to lighter bamboo groves, before emerging at the vast Ta Lai Rice Fields. As the light softens across the landscape, the scale of the park becomes clear, wide, open, and unexpectedly still.

The second day goes further, both in distance and in depth. The route to Bau Sau (Crocodile Lake) cuts through the core of the forest, where the experience sharpens and every detail begins to matter. Tracks pressed into the soil, sudden movement in the undergrowth, and the constant presence of birdlife turn the forest into a living system rather than a backdrop. Along the way, the trail passes by large bomb craters, remnants of the American War, now quietly reclaimed by the forest. Encounters can be fleeting but unforgettable: a monitor lizard darting past just behind you, the distinctive flash of a Germain's peacock pheasant, or fresh signs of larger animals such as gaur, wild boar, and deer moving through the same terrain.

At Bau Sau, the landscape shifts dramatically into wetland, one of the park's most ecologically significant zones and a recognized Ramsar site. Here, visitors can take time to rest, relax, and leisurely explore the surrounding wetland ecosystem. It is a wonderful opportunity to observe water birds and Siamese crocodiles in their natural habitat.

As the day moves into evening, the forest changes character once again. The return journey takes place after dark, when the absence of light heightens every sound and movement. With the support of thermal imaging, the forest reveals another layer of life: nocturnal species emerging quietly, often unnoticed by the human eye. It is a rare chance to witness behavior that exists almost entirely out of sight.

The final day shifts the focus toward conservation. Visits to rescue and rehabilitation centers bring you closer to the stories behind the wildlife, from endangered primates to animals recovering from illegal trade. The journey ends with a clearer understanding of the fragile balance that sustains Cat Tien National Park, and the ongoing work required to protect it.

Detailed Itinerary

DAY 1

Ho Chi Minh City - Ta Lai Jungle Trek - Sundowner

Your journey begins at 7:30 AM, with a private pickup from Thiso Mall - 10 Mai Chi Tho Street, An Khanh Ward, HCMC (Hoang The Thien Street front) for a scenic three-hour drive to Cat Tien National Park. Upon arrival, settle into the National Park Guest House before enjoying a fresh, local lunch.

The afternoon is dedicated to true exploration. At 2:00 PM, after a comprehensive safety briefing and outfitting, you'll head into the brush with an expert ranger and our tour guide. This 6-kilometer trek showcases the jungle's dramatic evolution from the shadows of ancient, towering giants to the whisper of bamboo groves. Your efforts are rewarded at the Ta Lai Rice Fields, where you'll toast the day with a cold drink and a spectacular sunset.

A safari vehicle will whisk you back to the National Park Guest House by 5:30 PM, leaving you plenty of time to freshen up before a multi-course dinner at 7:00 PM.

DAY 2

Epic trek to Bau Sau (Crocodile Lake)

Day two is the most active part of the journey, centered around an extended trek to Bau Sau, also known as Crocodile Lake. You will follow a forest trail of approximately 10 kilometers through varied jungle terrain, including dense jungle sections, large old-growth trees, and historical remnants - bomb craters from the American War.

As you move deeper into the forest, you are stepping directly into the natural habitat of wildlife. Along the way, there are opportunities to encounter species unique to Cat Tien, such as monitor lizards or Germain's peacock pheasant, while also observing tracks and signs left by larger animals including gaur, wild boar, and deer. The forest is constantly alive with sound, from the calls of common birds to the distant songs of rarer species, offering a rich and immersive sensory experience.

Upon reaching Bau Sau in the afternoon, the group will take time to rest and recharge after the journey. Right from the ranger station, you can enjoy a panoramic view of this unique Ramsar site. This offers a wonderful opportunity to closely observe rare water birds and freshwater crocodiles in their natural habitat, while listening to inspiring stories about the dedicated conservation and reintroduction efforts for these rare crocodiles.

An early dinner prepared by rangers is enjoyed as the sun sets over the lake. The return is a unique experience: a five-kilometer guided night trek beginning at 6:30 PM, specifically designed to spot rare species active only after dark, before our vehicle pickup at 8:30 PM transfers everyone back to the Guest House.

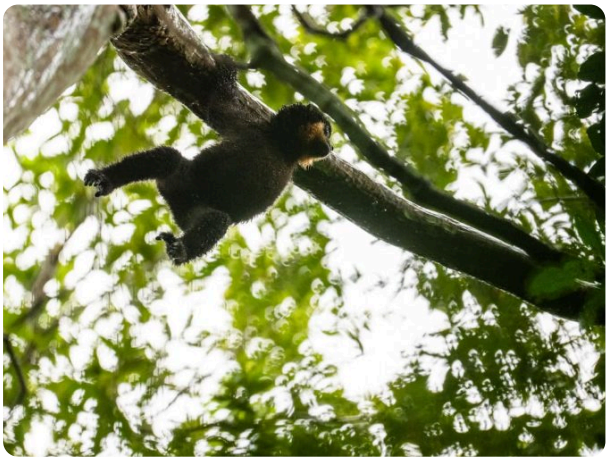
DAY 3

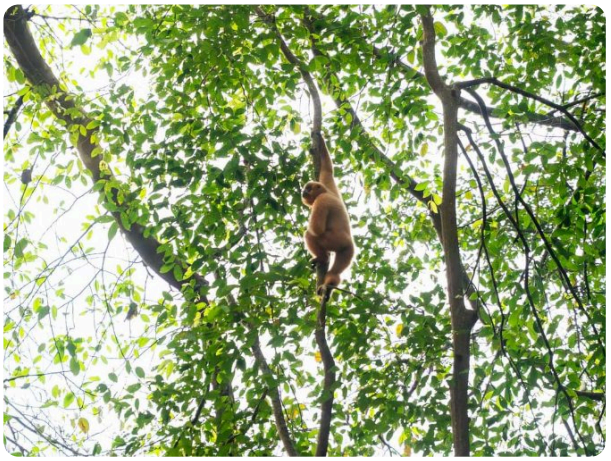
Animal Rescue Center - Chau Ma Village - Saigon

Following breakfast, immerse yourself in a morning of meaningful conservation. You'll visit the park's rescue and rehabilitation centers for an intimate look at the Yellow-cheeked Gibbons and other protected species, followed by an off-road safari across the sweeping open grasslands, where larger wildlife may be observed.

The vehicle will take the group back to the Guest House for check-out. The next stop on our journey is the traditional brocade weaving house of the ethnic community in Ta Lai village. Here, you will discover the beauty of local culture through intricately handcrafted brocade patterns and learn about the unique lifestyle and customs of the Ma people.

As lunchtime arrives, you will enjoy a cozy, rustic meal right at a local's home. Afterward, the vehicle will depart to bring the group back to Ho Chi Minh City. We are scheduled to return to the original meeting point at around 6:00 PM, wrapping up an unforgettable trekking experience.





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 tour is suitable for guests aged 12 to 70 who are in good health and have prior trekking experience. A reasonable level of fitness is required to comfortably complete the itinerary, especially for activities such as walking on uneven forest terrain and extended outdoor movement. Children are expected to be physically active and maintain a healthy level of fitness.

While some guests may find the itinerary relatively comfortable, others may experience certain challenges depending on their fitness level. Our guides and porters are always available to provide support when needed.

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 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.

Our team will provide additional guidance to help you prepare appropriately before joining the tour.

You need to prepare

Essential clothing

- [ ] 1 medium size backpack to carry stuff that you need while trekking
- [ ] 2 quick-dry, bright, long-sleeved shirt
- [ ] 2 pair of quick-dry and long trekking pants
- [ ] 1 lightweight waterproof jacket
- [ ] 2 set of clothes for staying at National Park Guest House
- [ ] 1-2 set of clothes to change after tour
- [ ] 1 pair of good gripping trekking shoes
- [ ] 2 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
- [ ] Headlight
- [ ] 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 400 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 8 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:** 2 nights at National Park Guest House, 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.
- **Equipment:** Essential equipment for trekking such as gloves, headlight, 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.