

TRAVEL CONCEPT

CON COOC — THE HIDDEN VALLEY — KE BANG

Camp *Paradis*

Where the forest remains the destination.

THE HIDDEN VALLEY

AND CAMP PARADIS

CENTRAL VIETNAM

SECRET INDOCHINA

EXPLORATION · ENCOUNTERS · HORIZONS



The Hidden Valley: from the Bac Son Plateau Gateway to Camp Paradis and Ban Karai.

Bac Son and the *"Con Cooc" project*: a different vision of Ke Bang–Phong Nha National Park

The Ke Bang–Phong Nha massif is one of the great karst landscapes of the Annamite Range, straddling central Vietnam and Laos.

Yet this massif is more than a geological and natural sanctuary: it is also a very old human territory, home to several Indigenous Austroasiatic peoples whose presence long predates modern borders.

Farther south, far from the caves that made Phong Nha famous, the massif closes in around the Bac Son plateau ("the cat's ear"), a maze of ridges, sinkholes, ravines, and forested canyons that forms an impregnable sanctuary.

At the foot of this particularly inhospitable limestone mass, in the Ke Thiuon Valley, lies Con Cooc, a Ma Coong village that now opens a first door onto this far lesser-known part of Ke Bang–Phong Nha.



A tent on the banks of the Ke Shar.

THE PROJECT

After several scouting trips, a first immersive experience took shape in Con Cooc, before a second project carried the same approach further into the plateau's southern foothills.

And so Camp Paradis was born, set on the banks of the Ke Shar beneath old trees, ficus, lianas, and dipterocarps.

More than a simple campsite, this discreet canvas refuge offers a way to approach one of the last transitional spaces between the inhabited world and the deep forest, without disturbing the balance that binds them.

01 THE TERRITORY

A clearing *at the edge of the world*

South of the Ke Bang massif, the Con Cooc Valley stretches between the foothills of Bac Son, the forests of Ke Bang, and the Lao border. Here the Ke Shar flows beneath a forest of ficus, dipterocarps, and pale-trunked sralao trees. On its south bank, just four tents make up Camp Paradis: a light presence, set within the forest without seeking to dominate it.

The camp is neither a forest lodge nor a simple bivouac. It is an intimate, little-known forest base, designed for small groups who want to slow down, walk, listen to the river, and gather by the warmth of the fire at night. Here, comfort comes down to the essentials: a good night under canvas, space between the tents, and the rare feeling of living for a few days in step with the place.



The Ke Shar and Camp Paradis.

The forest remains the destination.
The camp is its guest.

4 TENTS · 8 TRAVELERS MAXIMUM

02 THE APPROACH

Entering *the Hidden Valley*

Depending on the itinerary, you arrive by a short forest walk from Con Cooc or as part of a three- to four-hour hike across the slopes of Mount Co Don. The trail crosses old slash-and-burn clearings, bamboo groves, and ever-taller forest before reaching the sandstone bed of the Ke Shar.

On arrival, the journey changes pace. You set down your pack, return to the river, then the clearing. The late afternoon is free: walk a little more, sit outside your tent, or simply let the forest take over.



The tent sites blend into the clearing.

CON COOC

In Con Cooc, you arrive on foot along a reddish dirt track before entering a village of some sixty families who still live largely from sticky rice, cassava, and the resources of the forest.

Meeting the villagers, sharing a family lunch, or watching a craftsman work bamboo offers a first glimpse of the Ma Coong world, through the eyes of those who live it every day.

"You don't come here just to sleep in the forest. You come to learn to listen to it."

03 NIGHT UNDER THE SRALAOS

The camp becomes *a gathering place*

In the evening, the camp gathers around the fire. A grilled dinner is served beneath the trees. Depending on what the village can arrange, Ma Coong songs and a taste of traditional jar wine may extend the evening. Nights are spent under canvas, in a camp limited to four tents and eight travelers.

4 TENTS
8 travelers maximum

DURATION
1 to 2 nights

BEST SEASON
January to August

ACCESS
On foot, adaptable difficulty

DRIVE TIME (APPROX.)
Dong Hoi station/airport: 3 hrs
Phong Nha town: 2 hrs



Comfort stays simple, discreet, and open to the forest.



Ma Coong encounters, subject to local arrangements.

Two complementary ways into the same territory: one through the village and the memory of its people, the other through first steps into this borderland where karst, forest, and mountain cultures still merge.

04 THE EXPERIENCE

CON COOC
Welcome and encounters

KE SHAR
Forest walk

CAMP PARADIS
Settling in and free time

THE CAMPFIRE
Dinner and a night under the trees



The Ke Shar upstream from the camp





The southern Bac Son plateau