Footprint®
Local. Unique. Personal.

Recycle Event: Hoang Su Phi Mountain Bike Challenge 2017

The 5th annual Recycle event was held between May 18 - 21, 2017 in Hoang Su Phi - Ha Giang Province, Vietnam. In overall, the event is considered an important fundamental step in establishing various community-based tourism activities in the area. The challenge attracted 22 enthusiast cyclists from Vietnam, France, Australia, Spain and The Netherlands.



Apart from providing economic opportunities, the event's goal is to "improve livelihood through community-based tourism", which in turn is expected to improve environmental conditions and help preserve the traditional cultures of the selected ethnic minority communities living in Ha Giang.

The event was set up as a community-based tourism initiative. Participants slept in homestays and enjoyed dinners with local families. The cultural highlight was a ceremony of the Red Dao ethnic, which involved praying to ancestors and ceremonial dancing to ensure a fruitful year of rice in the upcoming harvest.

Aiming to raise awareness among staff, partners and friends on responsible tourism, apart from cycling, participants had the opportunity to interact with locals and involve in voluntary work in Suoi Thau Hamlet, which directly benefits the local ethnic minority here. Accordingly, the event raised 54.000.000 Vietnam Dong ($ 2,400 USD approximately) that partly contributed to constructing a 200 meters of concrete road in unity and support of local authority, local community and participants of the event. The tour fee was also donated to a local community fund in the village where attendees stayed overnight. Keep in mind the "going green" spirit, plastic water bottles were replaced by refillable bottles by all participants throughout the 4-day event.



For Footprint, as well as our partners and friends, the event also served as an inspection trip, where our abilities were challenged to the next level. Besides, it was an opportunity for us to extend our knowledge and tightening the relationship with local communities in Hoang Su Phi. Understanding local people and their needs are crucial for us to stay connected and on track with the road toward sustainable tourism.

Despite being isolated in rough off-road and overshadowed by more popular attractions such as Quan Ba or Dong Van, Hoang Su Phi - with its strikingly beautiful rice terraces, mountains, authentic culture and extensive trail networks – is an attractive destination, with a lot of potentials for the development of adventures and community-based tourism.







Tour programme:

- **Day 1**: travel from Hanoi to Ban Luoc commune by bus, 4 km ride downhill in afternoon to Suoi Thau village, community work development (building a concrete road in the village), dinner at homestay.
- **Day 2**: 4 km ride uphill from Suoi Thau Village to Ban Luoc commune, bus transfer to Ban Luoc Pass with some great views of the valleys either side, 19 km ride from Ban Luoc Pass to Tan Phong village, dinner at homestay and performance from local dancers.
- **Day 3**: 8 km ride downhill from Tan Phong to Nam Son village, 7 km climb from Nam Son to Nam Ai Pass and 3 km downhill to lunch spot, individual time trial from lunch spot to Nam Hong village (7 km), dinner at homestay.
- **Day 4:** 8 km ride from Nam Hong to Phin Ho tea village and 14 km ride to Thong Nguyen village, lunch at Thong Nguyen, bus back to Hanoi, arrival in Hanoi at 6 pm.