

# DISCOVER THE PHILIPPINES

THE DUMAGUETE DREAM



THE BEST OF PUERTO GALERA



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TOURISM PROMOTIONS BOARD PHILIPPINES



IT'S MORE FUN IN THE  
PHILIPPINES



# WELCOME TO THE PHILIPPINES

Situated in the western Pacific Ocean and in the heart of the Indo-Pacific's Coral Triangle, this archipelago consists of over 7,000 islands and islets lying just 800 kilometers off the coast of Vietnam.

Defined by its thriving rice fields, bustling cities, colorful jeepneys, smoldering rocky volcanoes, interesting tropical wildlife, year-round sun and charming and warm hospitality, the Philippines is one unique destination with an astonishing diversity spread across its varied landscapes that you should never miss! It should come as no surprise that the Philippines is the ultimate destination in all of Southeast Asia. No matter what you're in the mood for, the Philippines has a little bit of everything for everyone. Don't be surprised if you wind up staring at an endless bucket list and wondering if it would be more prudent to simply move to the Philippines in order to experience all the wondrous offerings!

Read on as we capture the perfect introduction to the island experience - from the stunning natural landscapes and their centuries-old traditions to their exuberant fiestas and the welcoming warmth right in the beautiful islands of the Philippines.

# TRAVEL GUIDE ...

## WHEN TO GO

November to March



## WHAT TO BRING

Don't stress out about your clothing choices. Keeping in mind that the Philippines is a tropical archipelago with almost-constant temperatures all year round, light summer clothing should suffice. Choose items that are comfortable and breathable.

Having a light rain jacket handy is also a good idea - you never know when a storm will pop up, and you'll need long sleeves to enter a church.

Make sure to bring your camera to capture the unmatched scenery. It is truly incredible and the adventure activities are an absolute thrill! In addition to that, remember to bring sunscreen, a snorkeling mask, and a dry bag to store all your belongings. If you are going to the beach or doing sea activities, you will find the latter extremely useful.



**Dumaguete**

**Puerto Galera**

## GETTING AROUND

The most convenient way of getting around most towns is either by tricycle or a jeepney - the ubiquitous, vibrant-hued buses that are the most popular means of public transportation in the Philippines. Depending on where you are going, budget flights are also an option for wallet-friendly travel between cities. Travelers can also consider hiring private cars or motorcycles to get around.



# LET'S HEAD TO DUMAGUETE AND PUERTO GALERA!

Enjoy the tropical Filipino sun on these two popular tourist destinations! There are many beaches in Puerto Galera and Dumaguete to relax at, including Talipanan Beach, White Beach, Dauin Beach, and Silliman Beach. Visitors are greeted with an abundance of dive destinations as well as natural wonders such as the towering waterfalls.



Apo Island is a great destination off the shores of Dumaguete for an island getaway. The history of Dumaguete is also represented in a towering bell tower in the city center. Experience the distinct cultures of the two locations and get the chance to celebrate alongside the locals. Whatever you choose, you're guaranteed to enjoy Puerto Galera and Dumaguete and love its diversity.

# MAP OF DUMAGUETE (WATER AND LAND ACTIVITIES)

- 📍 Dauin Beach
- 📍 Silliman Beach
- 📍 Apo Island
- 📍 Cangmating Beach
- 📍 Antulang Beach
- 📍 Valencia
- 📍 Dumaguete Belfry
- 📍 Twin Lakes
- 📍 Donsol



# BEACHES IN DUMAGUETE

## Dauin Beach

Apo Island is one of the best dive destinations in the Philippines. This tiny marine sanctuary is enveloped by white sand and covers about 72 hectares. The area is teeming with marine life including fish, untouched corals, crustaceans, nudibranchs, and if you're lucky, you can even spot green turtles. The 10 different dive sites around the island have something different to offer.

### How to Get There

Dauin beach is located south of the city center, about a 20-minute drive down.



## Silliman Beach

Silliman beach is a part of the first American-founded University in the Philippines. The soft sand and the tropical sun are great for sunbathing.

### How to Get There

A short 7-minute drive away from the city center, Silliman beach is easily accessible by jeepneys or rented scooters.



## Cangmating Beach

Many youths flock to this beach for its popular skim-boarding water sport. The shallow tides provide a perfect opportunity to skimboard near the shores. If you aren't the adventurous type, relax by the shoreline and enjoy your beach day.

### How to Get There

From downtown Dumaguete, the ride to the beach is about 20 minutes.



## Antulang Beach

Discover the beautiful white coral reef along Antulang beach that stretches for kilometers. If you don't want to take a dip in the blue waters, you can choose to relax and tan along the beach as well.

### How to Get There

Located 40km south of Dumaguete City, Antulang beach can be accessed via renting a private-hire vehicle or a jeepney.

# DIVE IN DUMAGUETE

## Apo Island

Apo Island is one of the best dive destinations in the Philippines. This tiny marine sanctuary is enveloped by white sand and covers about 72 hectares. The area is teeming with marine life including fish, untouched corals, crustaceans, nudibranchs, and if you're lucky, you can even spot green turtles. The 10 different dive sites around the island have something different to offer.



## How to Get There

From Dumaguete, head toward Malatapay, before riding a 45-minute ferry to Apo Island.



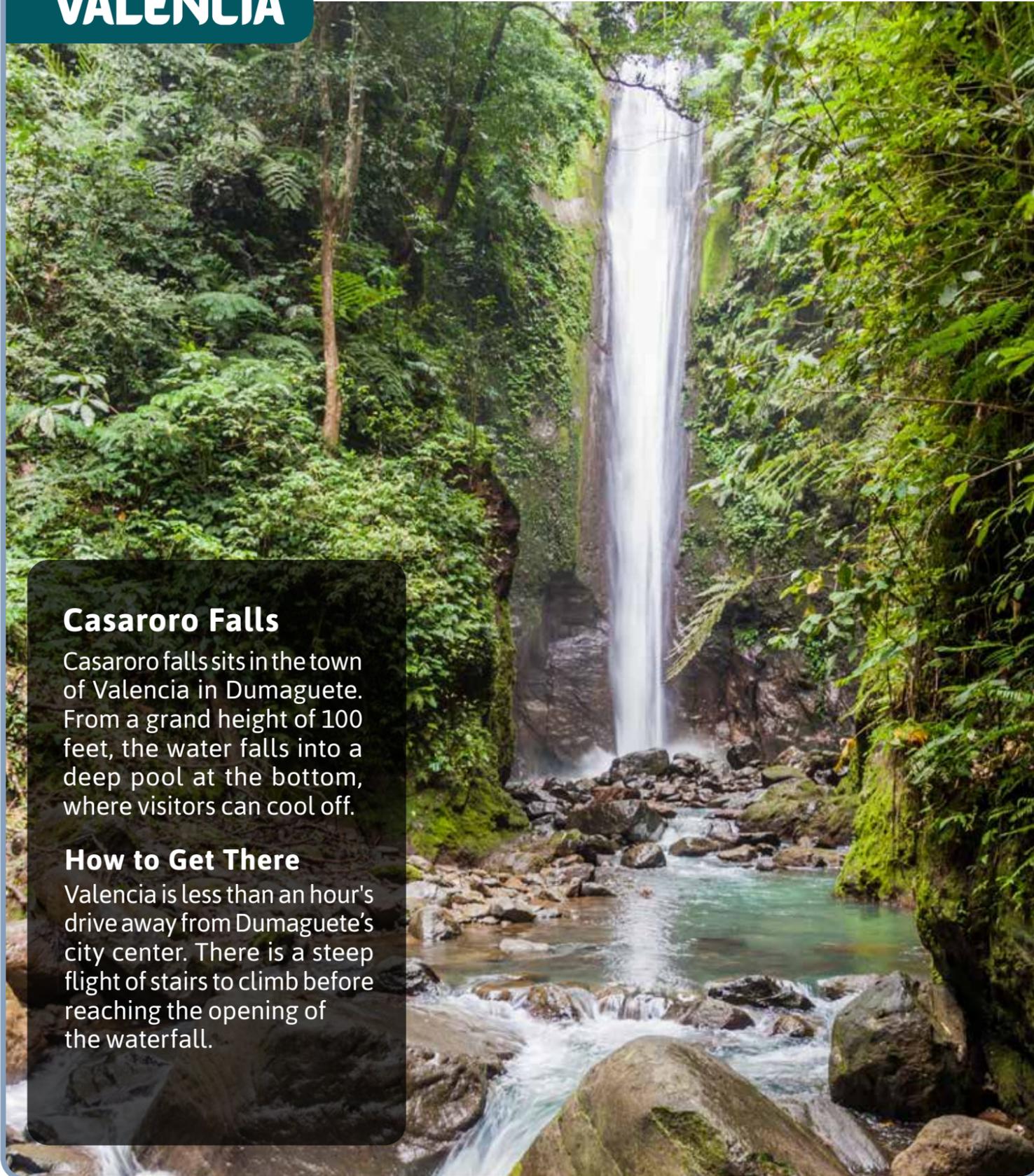
# APO ISLAND DIVE MAP



# NATURE (LAND ACTIVITIES)

What to See and Do?

## VALENCIA

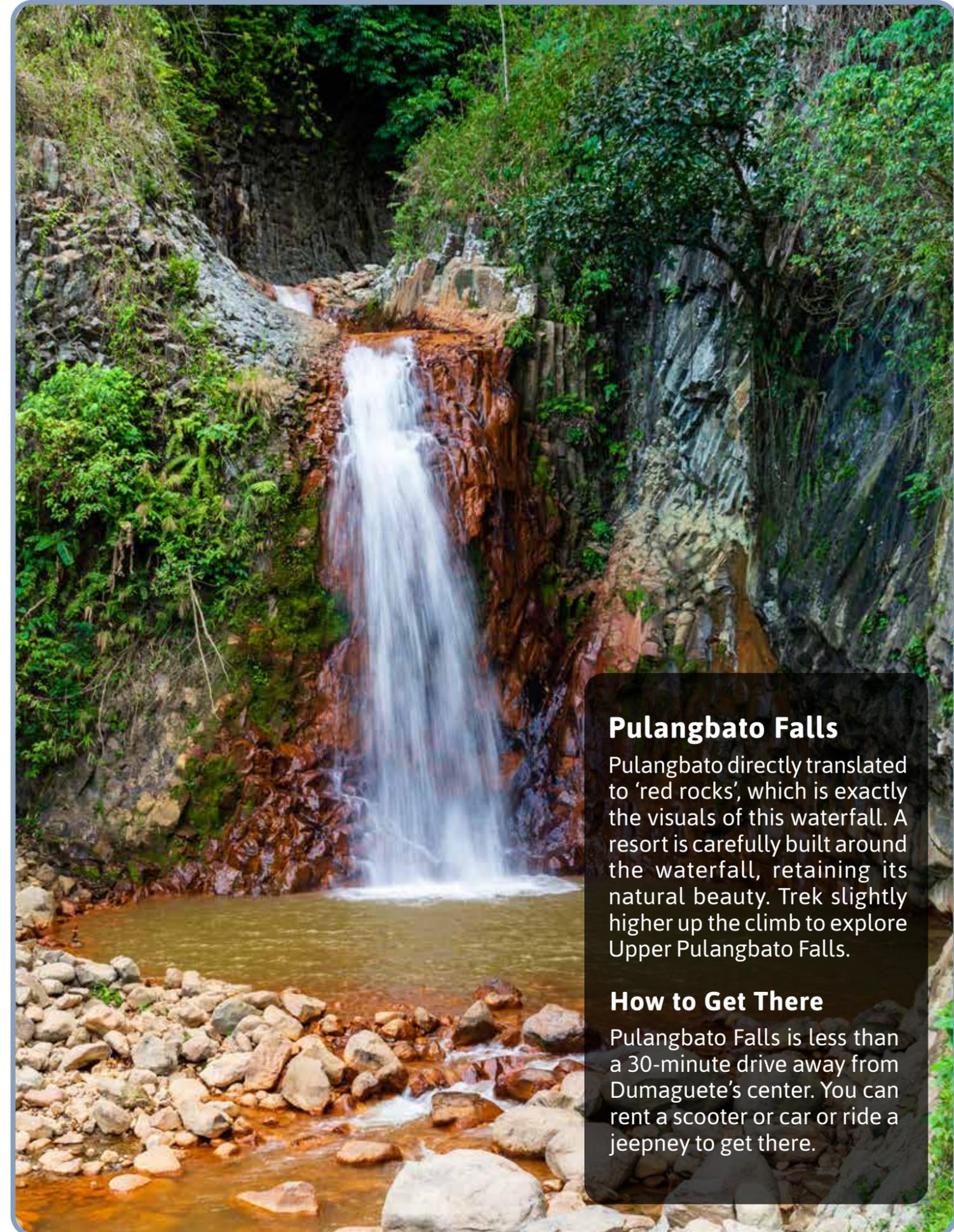


### Casaroro Falls

Casaroro falls sits in the town of Valencia in Dumaguete. From a grand height of 100 feet, the water falls into a deep pool at the bottom, where visitors can cool off.

### How to Get There

Valencia is less than an hour's drive away from Dumaguete's city center. There is a steep flight of stairs to climb before reaching the opening of the waterfall.



### Pulangbato Falls

Pulangbato directly translated to 'red rocks', which is exactly the visuals of this waterfall. A resort is carefully built around the waterfall, retaining its natural beauty. Trek slightly higher up the climb to explore Upper Pulangbato Falls.

### How to Get There

Pulangbato Falls is less than a 30-minute drive away from Dumaguete's center. You can rent a scooter or car or ride a jeepney to get there.

# LANDMARKS

## Dumaguete Belfry

Constructed in 1811, the bell tower of St. Catherine of Alexandria Cathedral is a prominent landmark of Dumaguete. It served as a watchtower for pirate attacks and alerted the villagers on oncoming aggressors. A garden surrounds the tower and a grotto of the Virgin Mary lies at the bottom.

### How to Get There

Visitors will easily find the belfry in the heart of Dumaguete's city, standing high from the rest of the city. You can travel to the tower on your own or book a guided tour to learn more about its history.



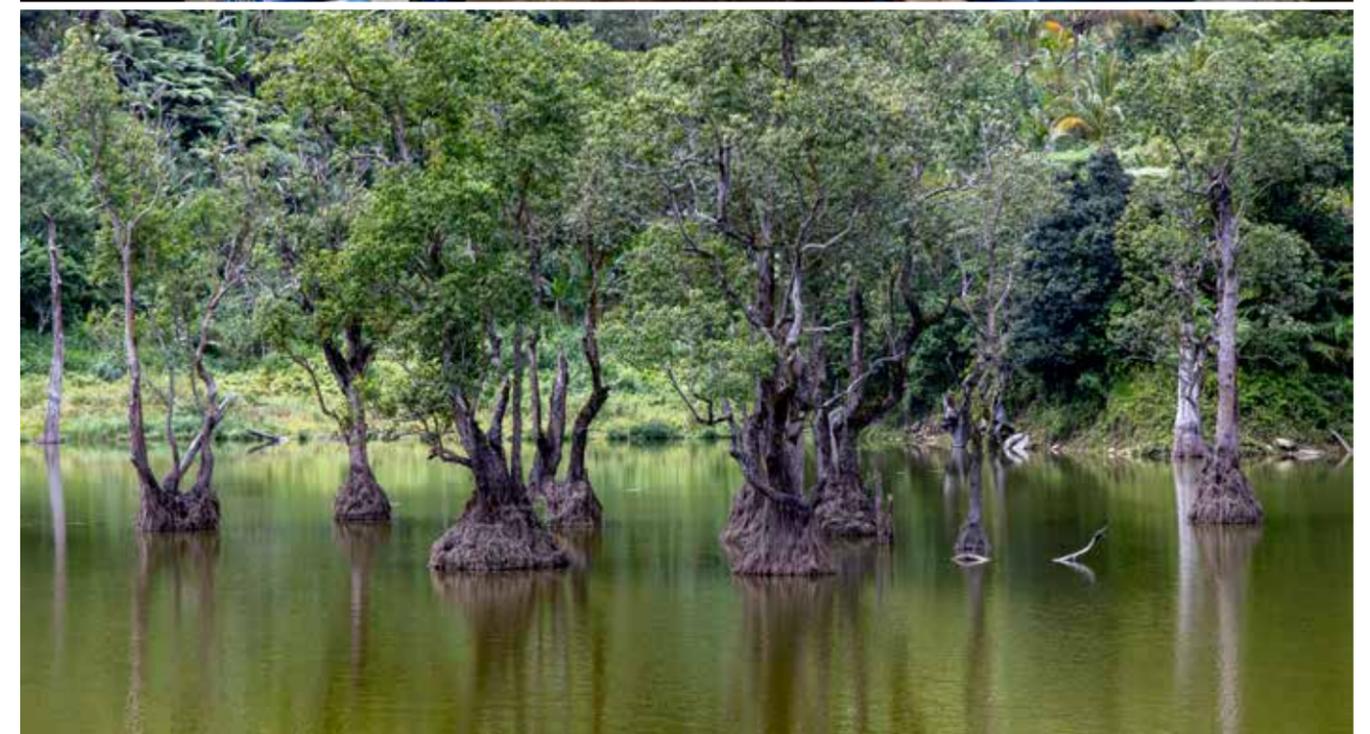
# GO LOCAL - OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

## Twin Lakes

Visiting the Twin Lakes of Sibulan looks like something out of a fairytale! Surrounded by mountains and lush greens, Twin Lakes make up two lakes called Lake Balinsasayao and Lake Danao. The lake offers breathtaking views and activities such as boat riding, kayaking, trekking, and camping.

### How to Get There

From Dumaguete City, visitors can head out to San Jose via public transportation for around 30–45 minutes.



# FESTIVALS



September

## Cagsawa Festival

Over the centuries, the people of Dumaguete City have always been known for their welcoming hospitality to foreigners. They live with them in peace and harmony. The celebrations begin with the *Paghimamat*, which portray the arrival of different cultures. The streets are filled with people dancing and to the drums and schools participating in the various competitions.

October

## Buglasan Festival

A 10-day event held in the middle of October, the Buglasan Festival is a province-wide celebration. The celebrations move around, with different booths selling local products and a different street dancing activity in every town.

# FOOD



The Filipino taste is indescribable. Dumaguete City offers some of the best local delicacies you have to try.

## Palabok

Palabok is a noodle dish served with shrimp, pork, chicharron, tinapa flakes, tofu, scallions, eggs, and a garlic-shrimp sauce.



## Fried Lumpia

Fried Lumpia is a combination of ground chicken or pork, chopped carrots and onions rolled in spring roll wrappers. The wrappers are then fried for a crispy finish and ready to eat!

## Bibingka

Bibingka is another local delight! They are rice cakes made from milled glutinous rice, coconut milk, margarine, and sugar. The mixture is poured into clay pots lined with banana leaves and baked inside an oven.



# WHERE TO STAY IN DUMAGUETE



## BUDGET

When you go on a vacation, you might want to spend less on hotels and more on experiences; and we've completely understood that. There are many budget hotels in the Dumaguete region that provide decent accommodation as well as in-hotel services that save you the hassle of contracting a third-party vendor for tours. The hotel provides amenities and the hotel staff is welcoming to your needs. You will definitely not compromise on service by paying a lower price.

## MIDDLE

Middle-range hotels are the perfect combination of value-for-money and comfort. With more spacious rooms

and more hotel facilities than budget hotels, mid-range hotels, you can have an enjoyable stay in Dumaguete. These hotels can be found in the city center as well as in local neighborhoods; that way you can experience the Dumaguete culture too!

## LUXURY

The luxury hotels in Dumaguete treat you so well, you'd come back for more. Relax at the blissful spa sessions and tickle your tastebuds at exotic restaurants with flavors from all across the world. Luxury hotels elevate your stay on the sunny Dumaguete island, perfect for families and couples.

# WHAT KIND OF TRAVELLER ARE YOU?

Recommended Itineraries for

## THE CURIUSER (THE SPONGE - FIRST-TIME TRAVELLER)

### DAY 1 (NORTH DUMAGUETE)

- Dauin Beach
- Getting around:  
Rent a private vehicle or travel via public transportation



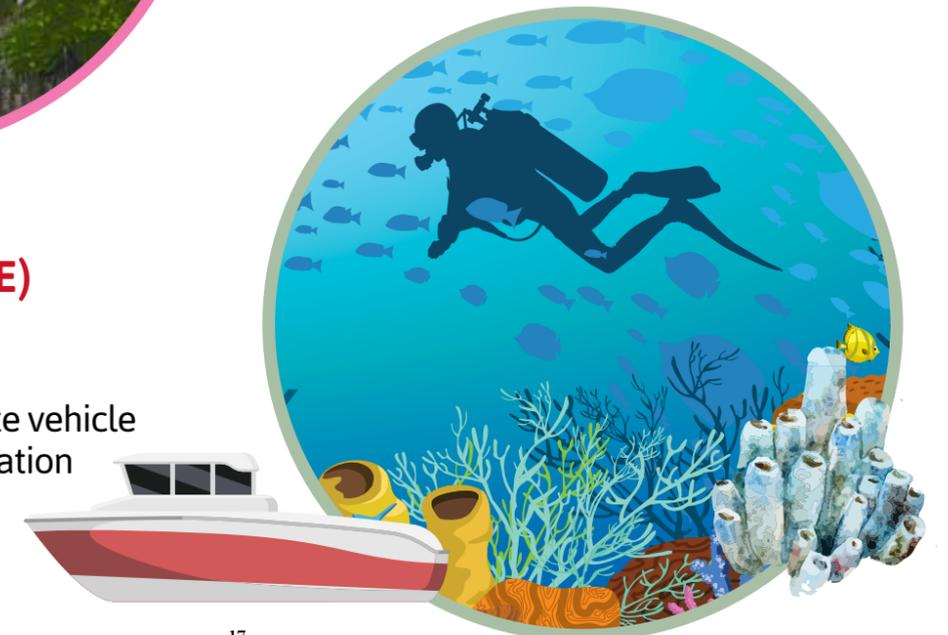
### DAY 2 (CENTRAL DUMAGUETE)

- Silliman Beach
  - Cangmating Beach
  - Dumaguete Belfry
- Getting around: Rent a private vehicle or travel via public transportation



### DAY 3 (SOUTH DUMAGUETE)

- Antulang Beach
  - Apo Island
- Getting around: Rent a private vehicle or travel via public transportation



## THE ESCAPIST (WELLNESS, VOLUNTOURISM, ECO NATURE TOURISM)

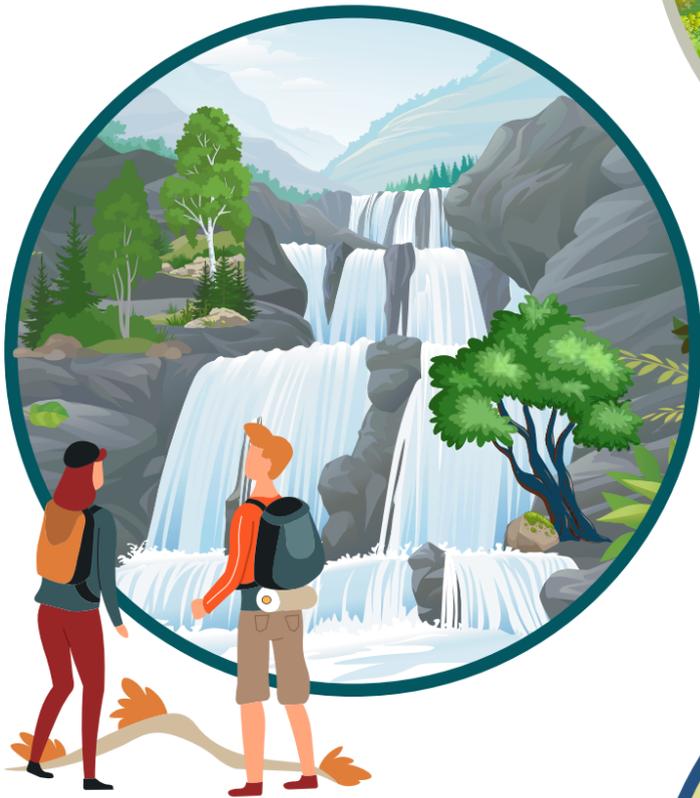
### DAY 1 (NORTH DUMAGUETE)

- Twin Lakes
- Getting around: Rent a private vehicle or travel via public transportation



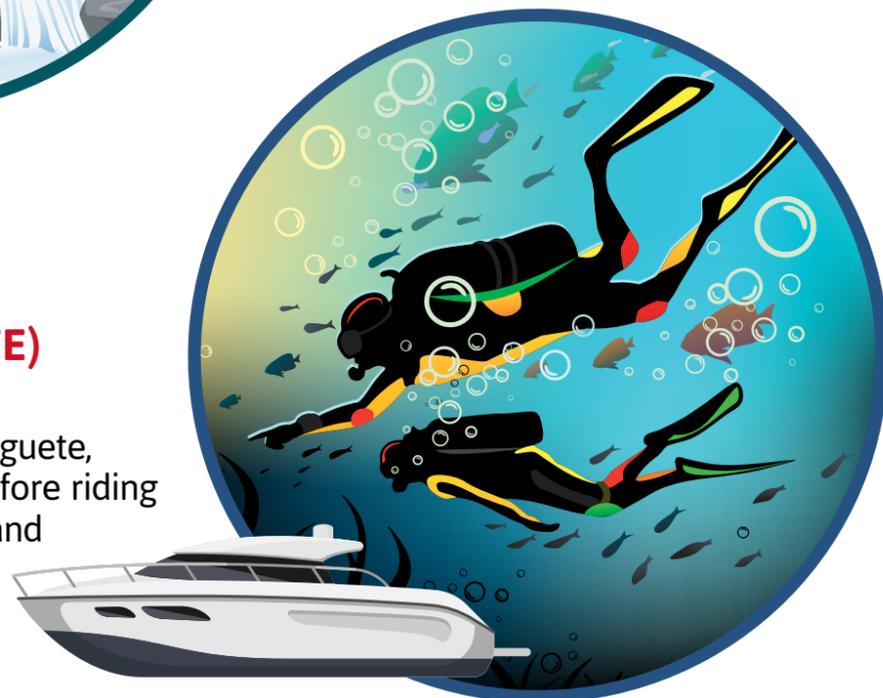
### DAY 2 (CENTRAL DUMAGUETE)

- Casaroro Falls
  - Pulangbato Falls,
- Getting around: Rent a private vehicle or travel via public transportation



### DAY 3 (SOUTH DUMAGUETE)

- Apo Island
- Getting around: From Dumaguete, head toward Malatapay, before riding a 45-minute ferry to Apo Island



## THE THRILL-SEEKER (ADVENTURER YOLO)

### DAY 1 (NORTH DUMAGUETE)

- Twin Lakes
- Getting around: Rent a private vehicle or travel via public transportation



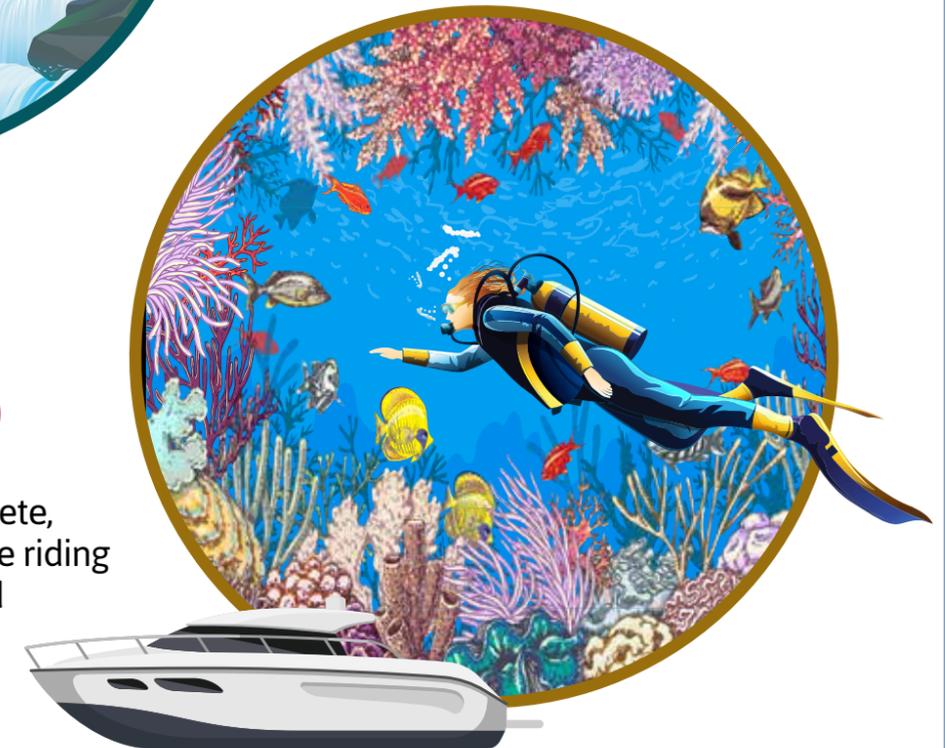
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- Casaroro Falls
  - Pulangbato Falls
- Getting around: Rent a private vehicle or travel via public transportation



### DAY 3 (SOUTH DUMAGUETE)

- Apo Island
- Getting around: From Dumaguete, head toward Malatapay, before riding a 45-minute ferry to Apo Island



# MAP OF PUERTO GALER (WATER AND LAND ACTIVITIES)

-  Dulangan Bulabod Beach
-  Tamaraw Falls
-  Tukuran Falls
-  Talipanan Beach
-  Aninuan Falls
-  Talipanan Falls
-  White Beach
-  Aninuan Beach
-  Dalaruan Beach



# BEACHES OF PUERTO GALERA

## Talipanan Beach

Talipanan Beach is the perfect romantic getaway beach destination. Take a refreshing dip in the ocean and discover the abundance of marine life that awaits you. You can find natural rocks of all shapes and sizes along the coast.

### How to Get There

From Puerto Galera Terminal, book a ferry service direct to Talipanan beach. As of 2019, the ferry ride is about P275 per person per way.



## White Beach

Want to spot the best sunset in all of Puerto Galera? Look no further than White Beach! From concerts to festivals to simply soaking in the tropical sun in the summer months, White beach attracts tourists from all over the world. There are more than 50 resorts that occupy this area so you'll never run out of accommodation options.

### How to Get There

There are many Puerto Galera-bound ferries at Batangas pier so be sure to pick one that goes directly to White Beach. As of 2015, the one-way fee is P280, with an additional Environmental Fee of P50.



## Dalaruan Beach

The white, pure sand and the clear waters of Dalaruan Beach makes it one of the most enjoyable beaches of Puerto Galera. The beauty of the beach extends beyond its shores and into the depths of the ocean. The coral reef that hides beneath the surface is home to many marine species including triggerfish and tuna.



## Dulangan Bulabod Beach

The 1.04km beach is bigger than it sounds. It offers a lot of space for sunbathing and beach activities. We recommend visiting the beach during Feb-Mar and Jul-Aug, due to the warm summer months and lower chances of a touristy crowd.

### How to Get There

From Puerto Galera Pier, it's a short ride of less than 30 minutes to Bulabod Beach.



## Aninuan Beach

With a magnificent backdrop of Mount Malasimbo, Aninuan Beach is a seamless blend of both nature and water experiences. Enjoy some quiet time away from the city and dip yourself in the crystal clear waters. We recommend snorkeling here as the reef is teeming with marine life; keep an eye out for sea turtles!

### How to Get There

From Manila, ride a bus bound for Batangas Pier, which will take around 2–3 hours. From there, board a ferry towards Puerto Galera, with the ride lasting 60–75 minutes. From Balatero Port, ride a tricycle or Jeepney for a short 12-minute ride to Aninuan Beach.



# DIVE IN PUERTO GALERA

## Manila Channel

The sandy bottom is home to an abundance of fire urchins and hard coral scattered throughout. The dive spot also features two walls that are covered with sponges and a variety of corals including the famous 'potato coral', purple gorgonian sea fans and green tree corals. Divers can also observe cuttlefish, lionfish, scorpionfish, nudibranchs, mantis shrimp and often giant frogfish.

### How to Get There

Arrange for a dive trip with your dive center.



## Boatyard

This fantastic muck diving site is popular among divers. Spot the abundance of tropical fishes like the frogfish, seahorse, velvet ghost pipefish, cuttlefish, nudibranch and many other macro critters that roam the seafloor.

### How to Get There

Arrange for a dive trip with your dive center.



### **The Canyons**

This interesting dive attracts those looking for a thrilling dive – especially during the strong currents. Catch schools of trevally, tuna, and sometimes barracudas hang in the strong currents.

### **How to Get There**

Arrange for a dive trip with your dive center.



### **The Alma Jane Wreck**

Located off Sabang beach, this wreck is a 30-meter long cargo ship that was once used to ferry goods over the Philippines. Swimming through the interiors of this wreck, divers can spot schools of trevally, snapper, sweetlips and batfish, as well as jawfish, shrimp gobies, anemones, mantis shrimps and a tiny ornate ghost pipefish.

### **How to Get There**

Arrange for a dive trip with your dive center.

### **Coral Cove**

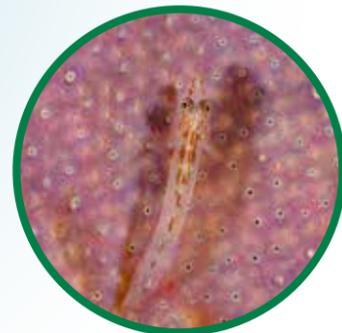
Encounter some of the most peculiar and interesting marine species at this dive site. The Pygmy Seahorses and Ornate Ghost Pipefish are two to name but if you're lucky, you may even spot passing thresher sharks.

### **How to Get There**

Arrange for a dive trip with your dive center.



# PUERTO GALERA DIVE MAP



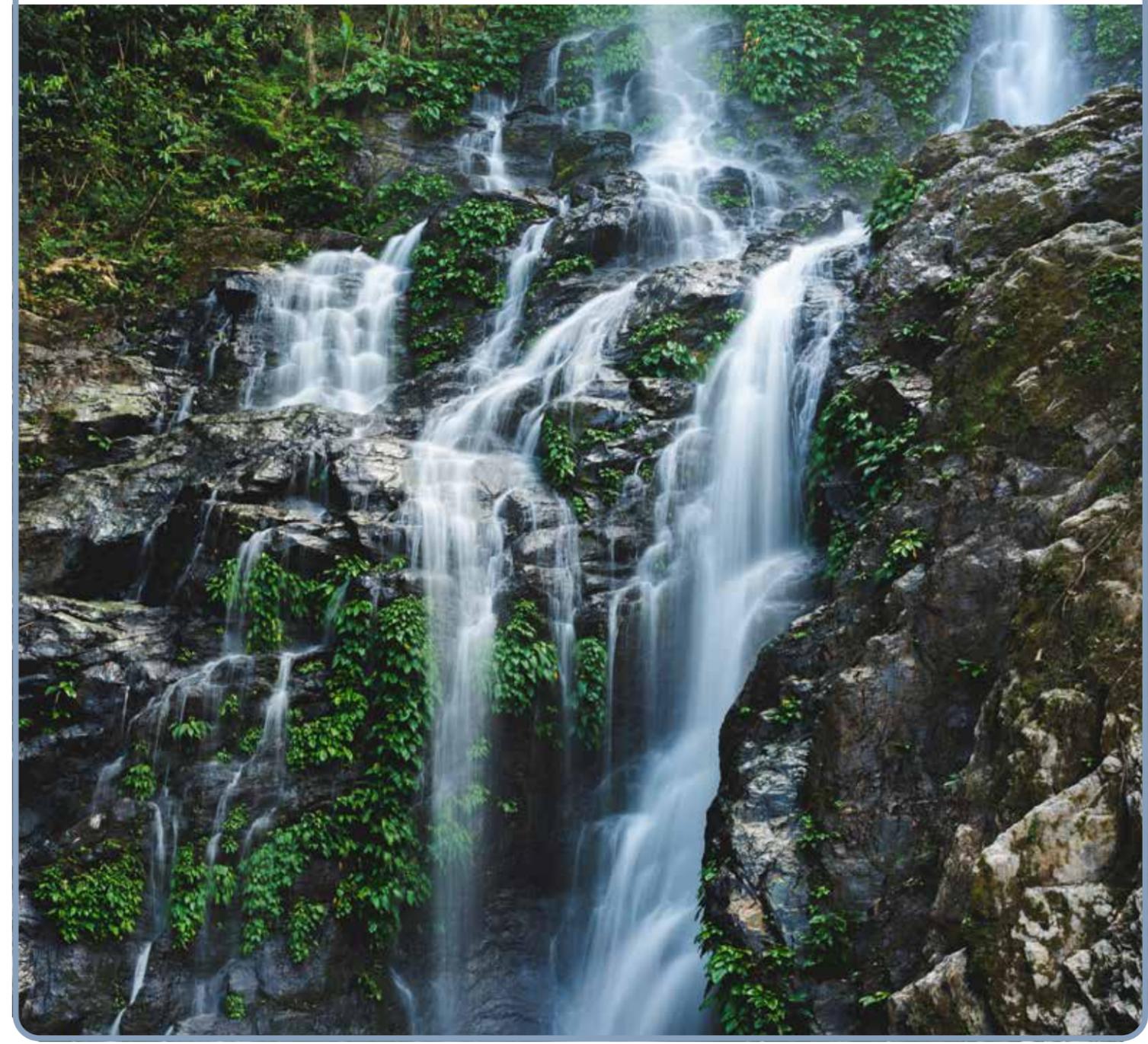
# NATURE

## Tamaraw Falls

Explore the natural beauty of the island at the glorious Tamaraw Falls. This waterfall is about 423 feet and is covered with lush greens facing the mountains. You can take a dip in one of the cleanest bodies of water in the province before enjoying a hearty snack by the pool.

## How to Get There

From the ferry piers of Puerto Galera or Calapan, there are jeepneys and vans to drop you off at the falls. The drive from Calapan to Tamaraw falls is about 45 minutes.



## Tukuran Falls

Tukuran Falls is a lesser-known tourist destination but it is just as enjoyable as the rest! What sets it apart from the rest is the unique carabao cart ride – five people in a cart pulled by the massive carabaos across the streams and rivers that they are familiar with.

### How to Get There

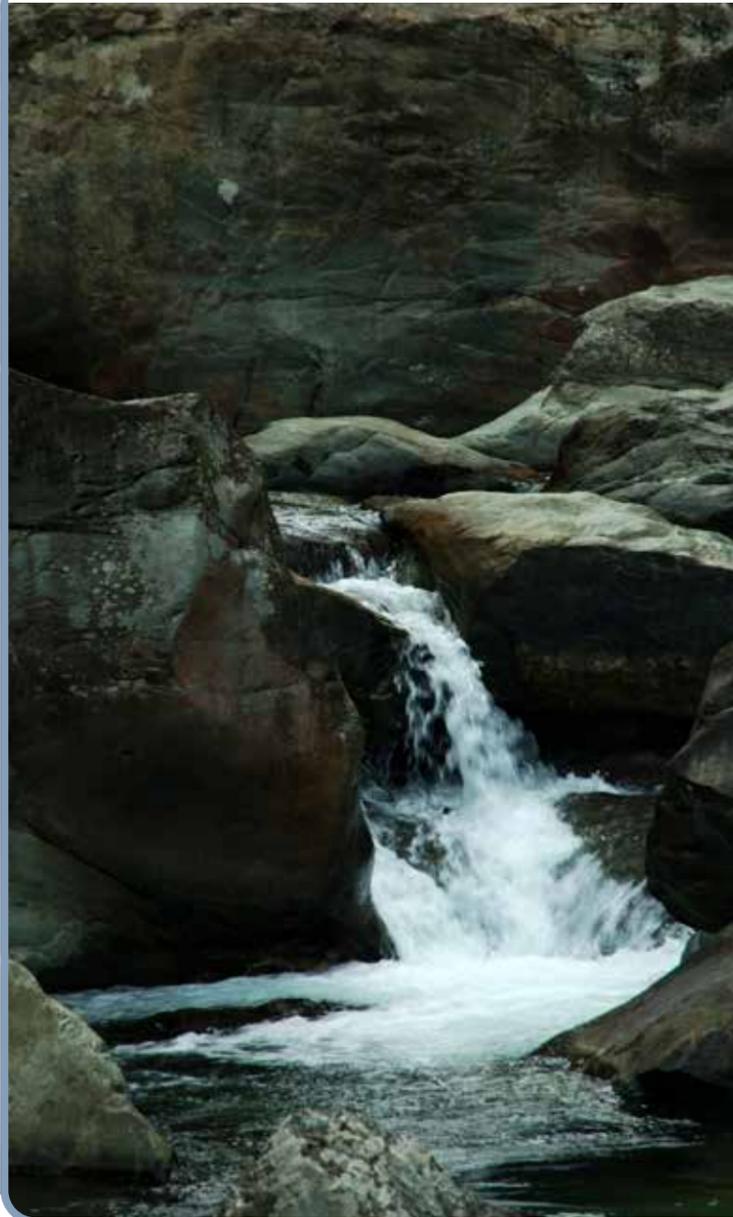
From the pier, take a local jeepney and alight at Calsapa Road. From there, get onto a tricycle and head towards Tukuran Falls. Alternatively, visitors can rent a motorbike from Calsapa Road.

## Aninuan Falls

A hidden gem of the island, Aninuan falls is a delightful trek along the river and leads up to the foot of Mount Malasimbo. For a small entrance fee of P100, enjoy the natural, green and untouched sceneries of Puerto Galera. Watch out for slippery boulders and steep rocky terrains.

### How to Get There

Along the National Highway in Aninuan village, visitors can spot signages directing them to the Aninuan falls. From the parking area, a 15-minute hike leads you to the entrance of the falls.



# GIVE BACK VOLUNTOURISM

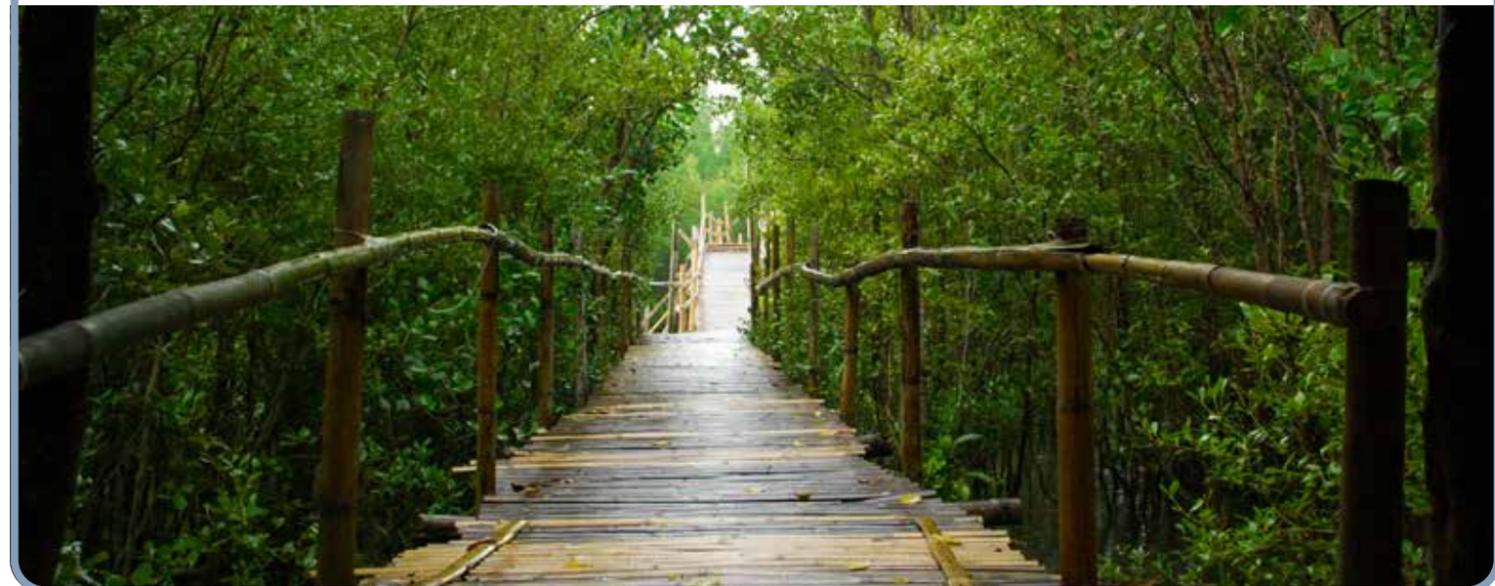
## Mangrove Conservation and Ecotourism Park

Puerto Galera's mangrove conservation area launched in 2015 and has since been a marine protected area (MPA) or primarily mangrove forests and reefs. The long and serene boardwalk is a perfect getaway for tourists where one can catch some peace away from the city's rush.



### How to Get There

The park is located a short 11-minute drive from the pier. Visitors can take a jeepney or tricycle here.



## GO LOCAL-OFF THE BEATEN TRACK



### Talipanan Falls

If you're looking for a slightly more rugged path, Talipanan Falls, located near Talipanan Beach, is the place for you! Visit early in the morning for a chance to catch wild monkeys bathing in the pool.

### How to Get There

Visitors will have to trek through the uphill forest for around 30 minutes to reach the two-tiered falls.

## FESTIVALS

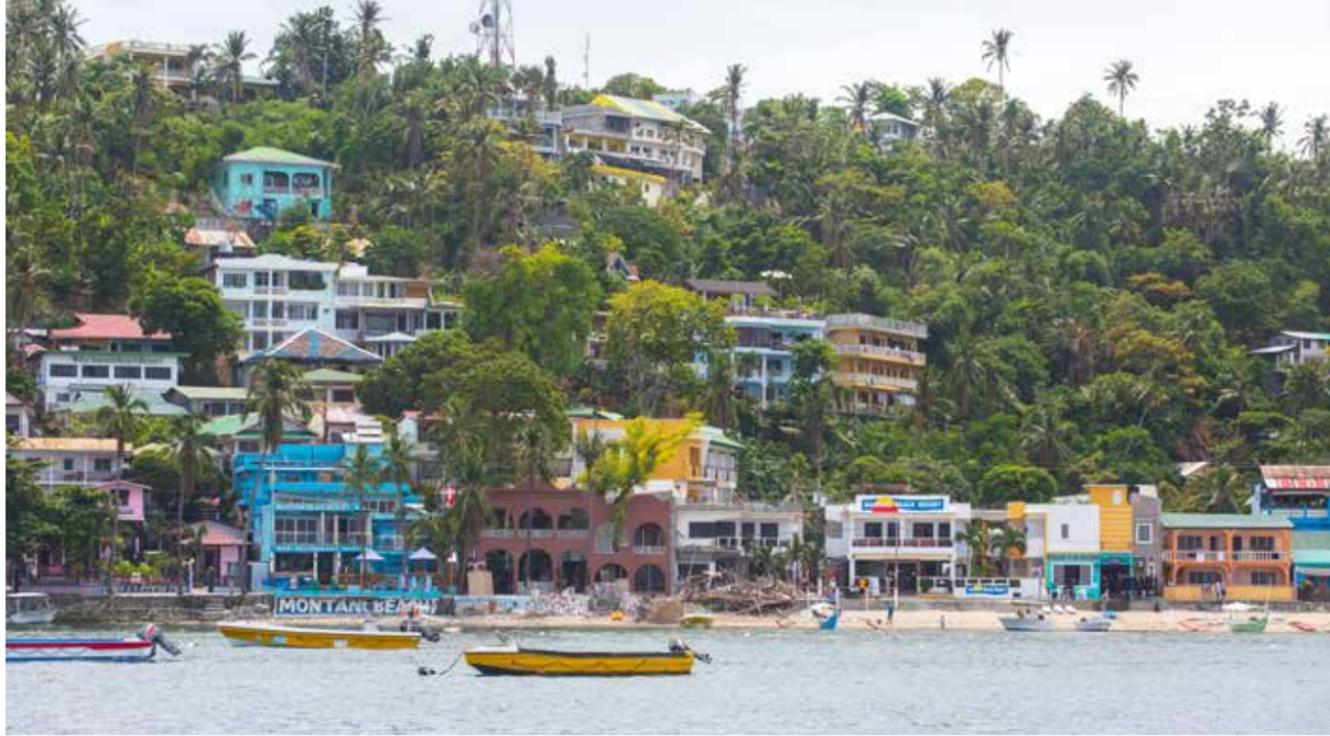
March

### Banana Festival

Probably the only place to celebrate the yellow fruit, the city of Puerto Galera hosts the annual Banana Festival for a whole two days in March. There are several cooking competitions surrounding bananas.



# WHERE TO STAY IN PUERTO GALERA



## BUDGET

When you go on a vacation, you might want to spend less on hotels and more on experiences; and we've completely understood that. There are many budget hotels in the Puerto Galera region that provide decent accommodation as well as in-hotel services that save you the hassle of contracting a third-party vendor for tours. The hotel provides amenities and the hotel staff is welcoming to your needs. You will definitely not compromise on service by paying a lower price.

## MIDDLE

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Recommended Itineraries for

## THE CURIUSER (THE SPONGE - FIRST-TIME TRAVELLER)

### DAY 1 (WEST PUERTO GALERA)

- Talipanan Beach
- White Beach
- Aninuan Beach
- Talipanan Falls

Getting around:

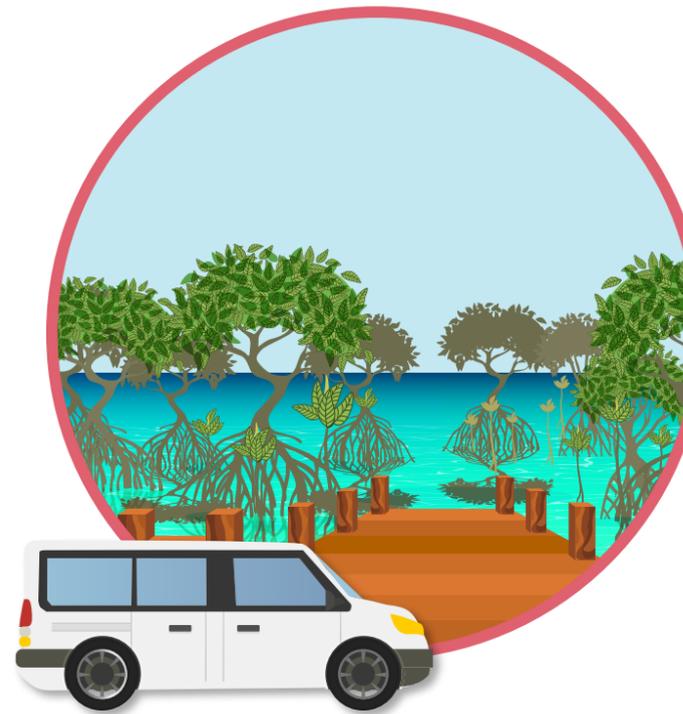
Rent a private vehicle or travel via public transportation



### DAY 2 (CENTRAL PUERTO GALERA)

- Dalaruan Beach
- Aninuan Falls
- Mangrove Conservation and Ecotourism Park

Getting around: Rent a private vehicle or travel via public transportation



### DAY 3 (EAST PUERTO GALERA)

- Dulangan Bulabod Beach
- Tamaraw Falls
- Tukuran Falls

Getting around: Rent a private vehicle or travel via public transportation



## THE ESCAPIST (WELLNESS, VOLUNTOURISM, ECO NATURE TOURISM)

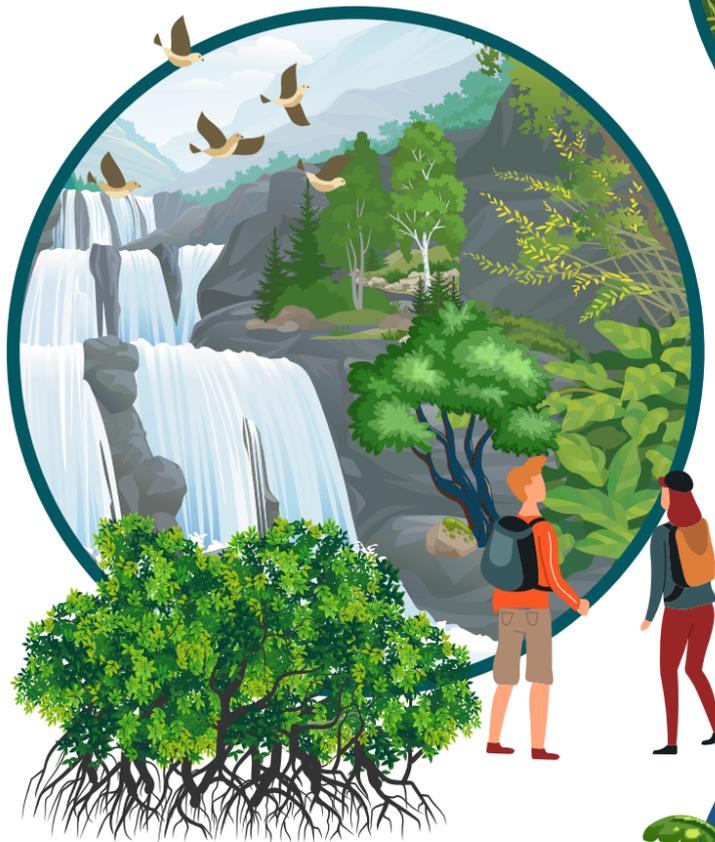
### DAY 1 (WEST PUERTO GALERA)

- Talipanan Falls
- Getting around: Rent a private vehicle or travel via public transportation



### DAY 2 (CENTRAL PUERTO GALERA)

- Aninuan Falls
  - Mangrove Conservation and Ecotourism Park
- Getting around: Rent a private vehicle or travel via public transportation



### DAY 3 (EAST PUERTO GALERA)

- Tamaraw Falls
  - Tukuran Falls
- Getting around: Rent a private vehicle or travel via public transportation



## THE THRILL-SEEKER (ADVENTURER YOLO)

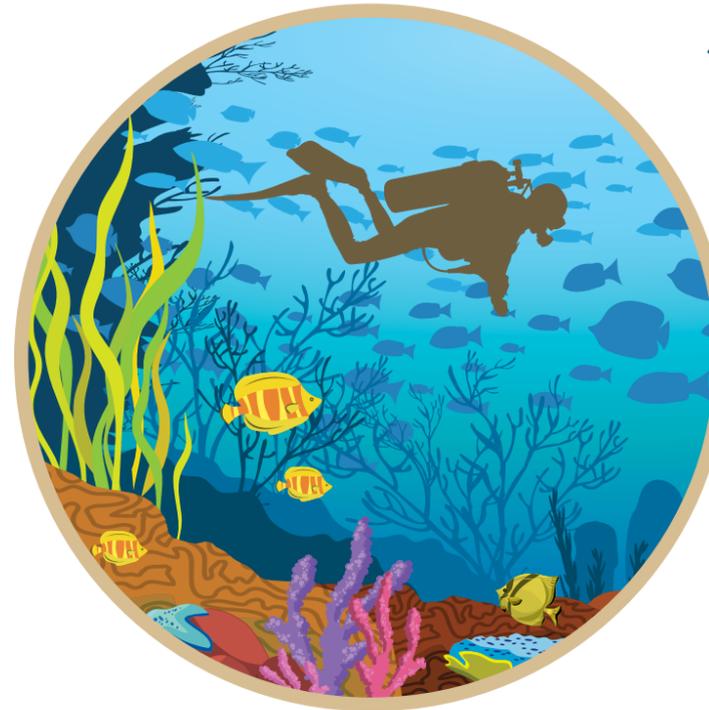
### DAY 1 (WEST PUERTO GALER)

- Talipanan Falls
- Getting around: Rent a private vehicle or travel via public transportation



### DAY 2 (CENTRAL PUERTO GALERA)

- Manila Channel
  - Boatyard
  - Coral Cove
- Getting around: Rent a private vehicle or travel via public transportation



### DAY 3 (EAST PUERTO GALER)

- The Canyons
  - The Alma Jane Wreck
- Getting around: Rent a private vehicle or travel via public transportation

