

DISCOVER THE PHILIPPINES

**IT'S ALWAYS
SUNNY IN SIARGAO**

**ANILAO'S AQUATIC
ADVENTURES**

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TPBPHL
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 a charming and warm hospitality, the Philippines is one unique destination with an astonishing diversity spread across their 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.



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IT'S MORE FUN IN THE PHILIPPINES

TRAVEL GUIDE ...

WHEN TO GO

July to November



WHAT TO BRING

Don't stress out about your clothing choices. Considering that it's a tropical island 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 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 because the scenery is incredible and the adventure activities are great! In addition to that, remember to bring sunscreen, a snorkeling mask, and a dry bag for keeping your things. If you are going to the beach or doing sea activities, you will find the latter extremely useful.

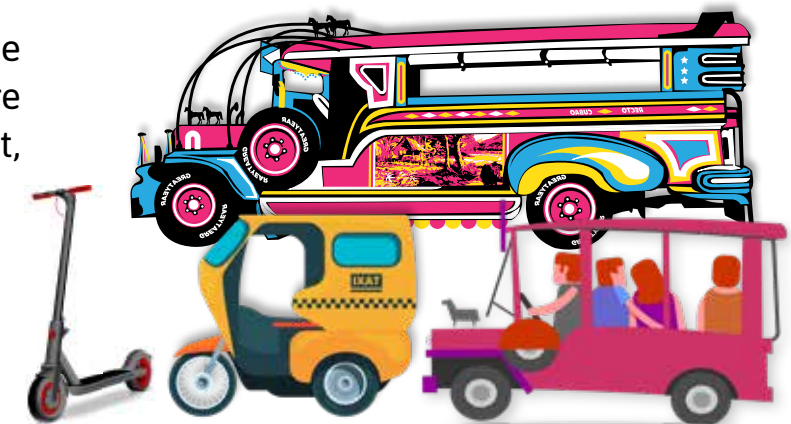


Anilao

Siargao

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 SIARGAO AND ANILAO!

Spend your next vacation at the surfing capital, Siargao, and one of the best muck-diving destinations, Anilao! There are over 11 beaches, including the famous Cloud 9 beach and Secret beach, around the tear-drop-shaped island of Siargao so there's always something for you to do. The island is also home to marvelous natural caves like the Tayangban Cave Pool.



Anilao's vibrant culture will never cease to amaze you but the true wonders of the region lie under the surface. With clear-water dive sites, pristine beaches, and the towering Mount Gulugod Baboy that overlooks the province, it will definitely satisfy your adventurous cravings. Whatever you choose to do in these exciting islands, you're guaranteed to enjoy Siargao and Anilao and love their diversity.

MAP OF SIARGAO (WATER AND LAND ACTIVITIES)

- Cloud 9 Beach
- Doot Beach
- Bolitas and Crystal Caves
- Tayangban Cave Pool
- Secret Beach
- Pacifico Beach
- Sugba Lagoon
- Taktak Falls
- Alegria Beach
- Sohoton Cove National Park



BEACHES OF SIARGAO

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.

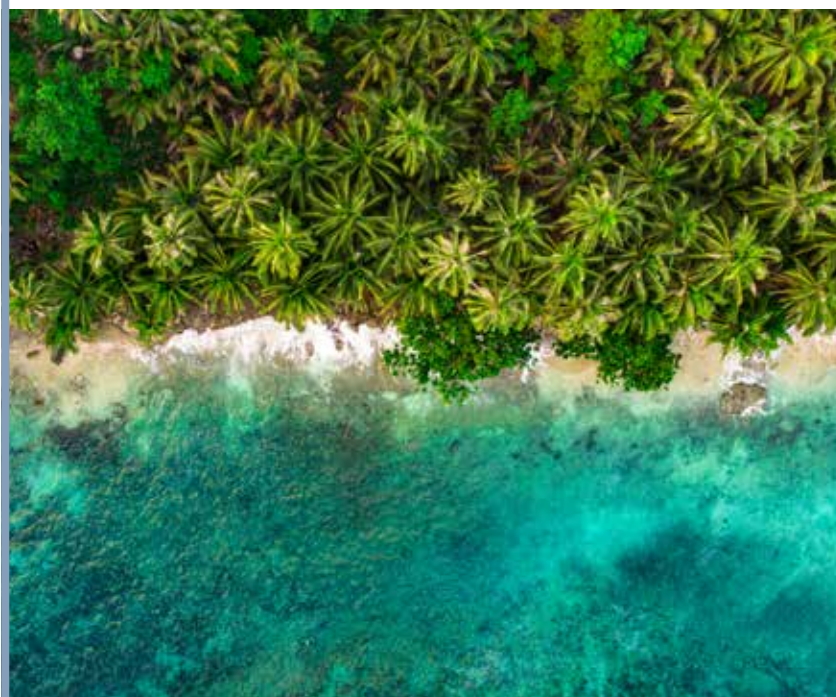


Secret Beach

Guiwan Beach, also known as Secret Beach, is more suited for longboarding. Visitors can spend hours on the beach exploring the coastline, drinking coconuts, and enjoying an unforgettable sunset over the Philippine horizon. Sink your toes into the sugary soft sand of Guiwan Beach and jump into the clear waters.

How to Get There

The best way to travel to Guiwan Beach is on a scooter! You can rent a scooter in General Luna for P300-400 per day. You can also choose to walk from the main road to the beach at a short 10-minute walk.



Alegria Beach

If you are looking for a secluded beach, look no further than Alegria Beach! The beach is far away from the city center, with a palm-tree shoreline, crystal clear waters, and soft white sand. As the beach is isolated, there are not many shops around so make sure to bring along some extra snacks and enough water to keep yourself hydrated under the tropical sun.

How to Get There

Located on the extreme north end of the island, Alegria Beach is an hour and a half scooter ride from General Luna.



Magpupungko Beach

Want to get your adrenaline pumping and cliff-jump into the crystal clear waters? Magpupungko Beach is the perfect place for you! Besides cliff jumping, enjoy swimming through the small caves and exploring the rocky coastline. For safety reasons, bring along a pair of reef shoes or any old pair of shoes you own to climb up the rocky formations along the coast.

How to Get There

Located in the eastern region of Siargao Island, Magpupungko Beach is a 45-minute drive from General Luna. There is also an entry fee of P50.





Doot Beach

Immerse yourself in the natural ecosystems of the Philippines at the incredible Doot Beach. While it is a private beach, you can seek prior access to the area by local Filipinos who know the owner. Palm trees are scattered over the beach where you can relax under the cooling shade or you can even climb them for a fresh coconut! The secluded swimming areas are perfect for a relaxing swim in the calming waters and there is a vast mangrove forest that sits right across the freshwater river, where you can request a boat ride through the mangroves.

How to Get There

The secluded Doot Beach is a 10-minute drive southeast of General Luna. There is a coastal road at the end where you can drive along and emerge at the beautiful Doot Beach.



Pacifico Beach

Another popular surfing destination in Siargao is Pacifico Beach for surfers who'd like to veer away from the crowded Cloud 9 Beach. Apart from surfing, you can simply soak yourself in the warm blue waters of Pacifico Beach and stay for the breathtaking sunset that casts orange and purple hues on the island.

How to Get There

Located in the northern coastline of Siargao, Pacifico Beach is about an hours' drive away from the center, General Luna.



DIVE IN SIARGAO

Blue Cathedral

Located just off the coast of Cloud 9, Blue Cathedral is the most famous dive location in Siargao. With an average depth of 35 meters, explore the underwater tunnels, arches, reefs, and encounter tropical fishes like jackfish, emperors, and barracudas. Blue Cathedral is best suited for those with previous diving experience due to the open Pacific waters and a rocky entry.

How to Get There

This dive site is near Rock Island, one of Siargao's tiny outlying islands. It is reachable by boat from General Luna in less than half an hour.



Dona Dolores and Daku Hills

These Pacific-facing dive sites are closely located and are well worth visiting! With good visibility all year round, there are healthy corals and the natural Pacific greens awaiting divers. Keep an eye out for the tropical fishes that roam the waters such as red-tooth trigger, snapper, fusiliers, tuna, and jackfish!

Sohoton Cave

Sohoton Cove is a 60-hectare cove in Bucas Grande Island. It's the idyllic definition of paradise: towering limestone hills covered in tropical plants and hardwood trees like the magcono, or known as ironwood, framing a shoreline of white sand and tiny shells.

How to Get There

Ride to Sohoton Visitor's Center and Eco-Lodge in Wespal, the departure point to Sohoton Cave. If you are traveling from Tacloban, the travel duration is about two hours.



Hagukan Cave

Hagukan Cave is one of the must-visit attractions when one visits the Sohoton Cove in Bucas Grande Island. The entire cave is estimated to extend up to 30 meters in area. The cave is located in the high-tide parts of the island so there sits a small pool of clear water for visitors to swim in.

How to Get There

Hagukan Cave is located within the Bucas Grande Island of Siargao. Visitors can ride a tricycle to Siargao City's Pier 1, where they can hop onto a scenic two-hour boat ride to Bucas Grande Island.



NATURE



Sugba Lagoon

Sugba Lagoon is a secret tucked away in the quiet town of Del Carmen in Siargao. Visitors will find this spectacular site in the middle of a mystical mangrove forest surrounded by mountains. This stunning 4,000-hectare turquoise swimming spot is isolated from the chaos of the city and the ideal chillout location.

How to Get There

Hagukan Cave is located within the Bucas Grande Island of Siargao. Visitors can ride a tricycle to Siargao City's Pier 1, where they can hop onto a scenic two-hour boat ride to Bucas Grande Island.



Sohoton Cove National Park

Sohoton Cove National Park's beauty attracts tourists from all over the world. Surrounded by massive green limestone formations and clear blue waters, it is also home to thousands of stingless jellyfishes.

How to Get There

Located in Bucas Grande Island, Sohoton Cove National Park is only an hour's boat ride away from Dapa port in Siargao.



Bolitas and Crystal Caves

These two caves have the same opening! Crystal Cave is an open-ended cave. The name was derived due to its shining stalactites, stalagmites, columns, and formations that seem to be dotted with crystals. With its big chamber and pathway, it is definitely an easy trek. Bolitas Cave is a close-ended cave named Bolitas, a Filipino term for pellets, due to the abundance of small pellet-like stones inside. These rounded stones are droplets from tiny stalactites and are believed to have formed thousand years ago.

How to Get There

Bolitas and Crystal Caves are located within the Bucas Grande Island of Siargao. Visitors can ride a tricycle to Siargao City's Pier 1, where they can hop onto a scenic two-hour boat ride to Bucas Grande Island.

Tayangban Cave Pool

Over 100 meters deep, Tayangban Cave Pool is probably one of the most extreme tourist spots, though unpopular, in Siargao. You can canyoneer in Tayangban, starting your journey by entering a dark cave and wading through chest-deep waters. The cave eventually opens up to natural light when you are led to a fantastic emerald green rock pool under the shadows of growing vines and forest trees. There is a 7-meter cliff-jumping spot at the end that leads you to around 5-meter deep water.

How to Get There

Tayangban Cave Pool is situated a short 35-minutes drive from General Luna. You will not miss the entrance of the cave as it is located right on the highway. There is a small makeshift parking area nearby if you decide to bring your own vehicle.



Taktak Falls

The only waterfall in Siargao, Taktak is a magnificent sight and the perfect place to escape the tropical heat. The fall is shaded by the trees and the chilly waters are inviting visitors who are looking to unwind and cool down. It is 15 meters high and you can even try cliff-jumping with the local kids. There are cottages around the waterfall where you can lounge and unwind.

How to Get There

The only way to get to Taktak Falls is by renting a scooter or by riding there yourself. The long hour and a half ride will definitely not bore you as you'll be surrounded by lush greens and nature's finest.

GIVE BACK VOLUNTOURISM



The Sun Crew

The Sun Crew is a grassroots charity based on Siargao Island, the surfing capital of the Philippines. They work to lift women and children out of poverty and to create sustainable island communities. They use surfing as a tool to get the children and their families involved in their education, sustainability, and skills programs. They believe educating women and children is the key to creating an effective, lasting change and this belief forms the foundations of our projects to fight poverty and plastic pollution.



GO LOCAL-OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Bayatakan Farm Experience

Escape the city-life bubble of Siargao and spend a day at Bayatakan Farm! Learn about the local fruit and vegetables and how to apply native herbs for medicinal usage, cooking, and insect repellents. It is perfect for visitors looking for a sustainable and educational tour in the heart of nature.

How to Get There

Visitors can hop onto a Filipino Jeepney heading towards the Farm. We recommend that visitors spend around 3 hours on this farm.



FESTIVALS

April

Siargao International Game Fishing Tournament

The annually celebrated Siargao International Game Fishing Tournament is the largest and first-ever game fishing event in the Philippines! Anglers from around the world bring their fishing boats here to gape at the teeming seascapes with thousands of rare fish species.



July

Siargao International Marathon

Siargao International Marathon is a fundraising campaign organized by the Municipality of Del Carmen for the benefit of the mangrove rehabilitation in Del Carmen. Sign up for different categories and do your part for the community.



September

Siargao International Surfing Cup

Siargao International Surfing Cup is a part of General Luna's yearly fiesta. A packed two weeks of parades, parties, live bands, and discos, tourists and locals celebrate Festivals the surfing culture of the island. The competition also attracts thousands of avid surfers around the world to compete on the stunning waves.



WHERE TO STAY IN SIARGAO



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 Siargao 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 Siargao. These hotels can be found in the city center as well as in local neighborhoods; that way you can experience the Siargao culture too!

LUXURY

The luxury hotels in Siargao 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 Siargao island, perfect for families and couples.

WHAT KIND OF TRAVELLER ARE YOU?

Recommended Itineraries for

THE CURIUSER (THE SPONGE - FIRST-TIME TRAVELLER)

DAY 1 (GENERAL LUNA)

- Cloud 9 Beach
 - Alegria Beach
 - Tayangban Cave Pool
- Getting around: Rent a scooter in General Luna



DAY 2 (CENTRAL SURIGAO DEL NORTE)

- Guiwan Beach
 - Hagukan Cave
 - Balitas and Crystal Caves
 - Sohoton Cove National Park
- Getting around: Rent a scooter in General Luna

DAY 3 (NORTH SURIGAO DEL NORTE)

- Bayatakan Farm Experience
 - Sugba Lagoon
 - Taktak Falls
- Getting around: Rent a scooter in General Luna and make your way North. For Sugba Lagoon, you will need to take a boat ride off the coast of the island



THE ESCAPIS (WELLNESS, VOLUNTOURISM, ECO NATURE TOURISM)

DAY 1 (GENERAL LUNA)

- Cloud 9 Beach
- Alegria Beach
- Tayangban Cave Pool
- Doot Beach
- Blue Cathedral

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



DAY 2 (CENTRAL SURIGAO DEL NORTE)

- Guiwan Beach
- Sohoton Cove National Park
- Pacifico Beach
- Dona Dolores
- JDK and Daku Hills

Getting around: Rent a scooter in General Luna



DAY 3 (NORTH SURIGAO DEL NORTE)

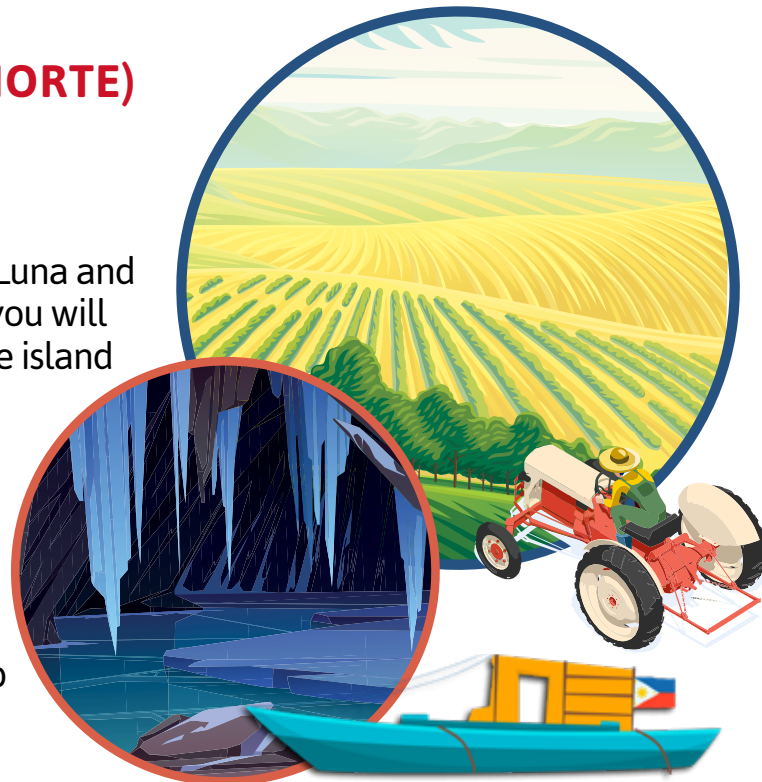
- Bayatakan Farm Experience
- Sugba Lagoon
- Taktak Falls

Getting around: Rent a scooter in General Luna and make your way North. For Sugba Lagoon, you will need to take a boat ride off the coast of the island

DAY 4 (BUCAS GRANDE)

- Sohoton Cave
- Hagukan Cave
- Balitas and Crystal Caves

Getting around: Visitors can ride a tricycle to Siargao City's Pier 1, where they can hop onto a scenic two-hour boat ride to Bucas Grande Island



THE THRILL-SEEKER (ADVENTURER YOLO)

DAY 1 (GENERAL LUNA)

- Tayangban Cave Pool
- Blue Cathedral

Getting around: Rent a scooter in General Luna



DAY 2 (CENTRAL SURIGAO DEL NORTE)

- Sohoton Cove National Park
- Dona Dolores
- JDK and Daku Hills

Getting around: Rent a scooter in General Luna

DAY 3 (NORTH SURIGAO DEL NORTE)

- Sugba Lagoon
- Taktak Falls

Getting around: Rent a scooter in General Luna and make your way North. For Sugba Lagoon, you will need to take a boat ride off the coast of the island

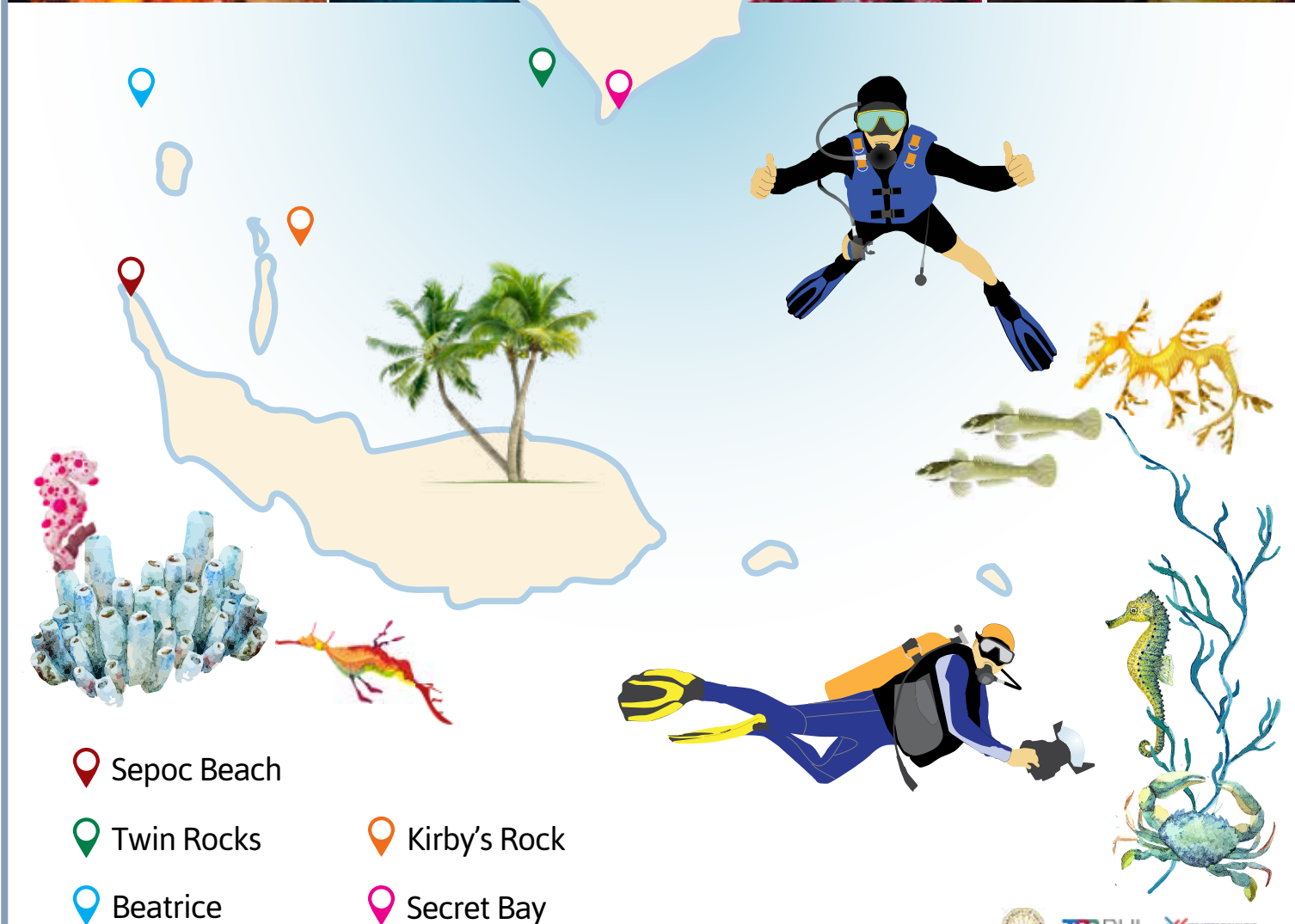
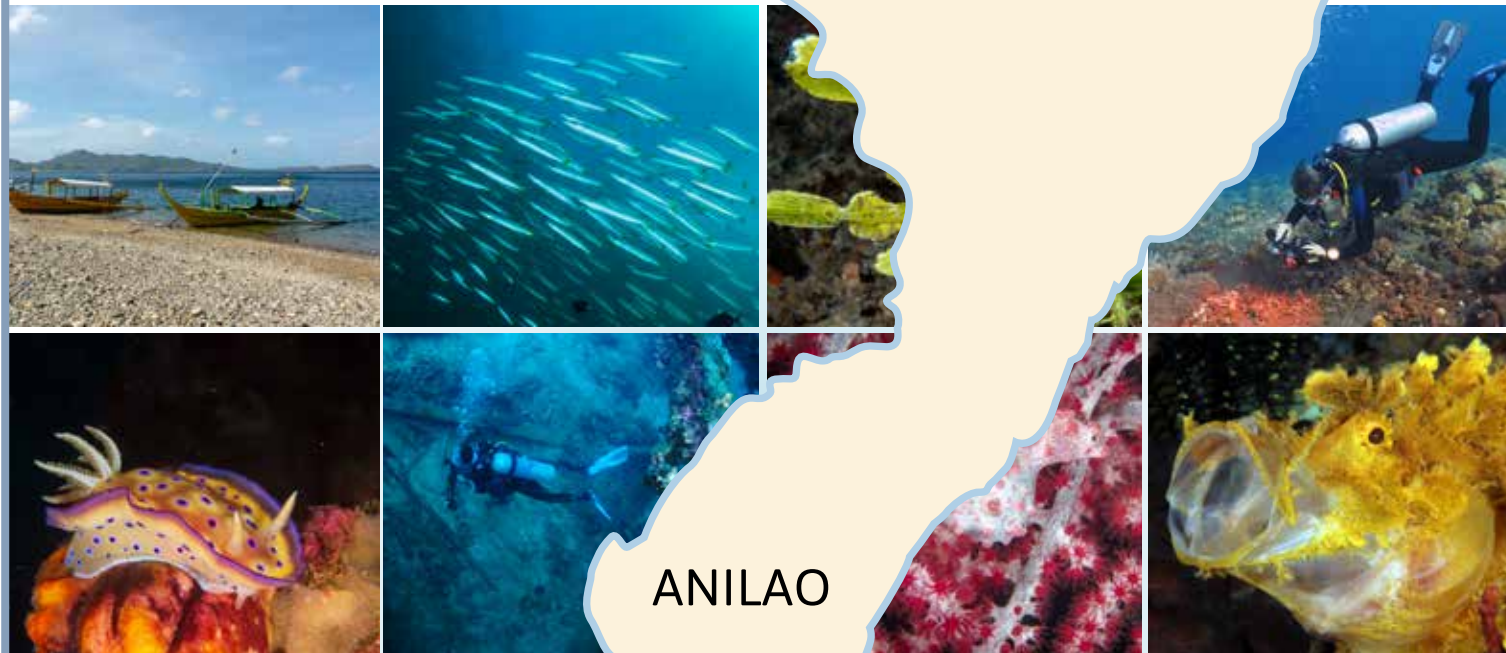


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- Sohoton Cave
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MAP OF ANILAO (WATER AND LAND ACTIVITIES)



📍 Sepoc Beach

📍 Twin Rocks

📍 Beatrice

📍 Kirby's Rock

📍 Secret Bay

BEACHES OF ANILAO



Sepoc Beach

Located in Maricaban Island, Sepoc Beach is a white sandy beach. While visitors are able to dock at the beach, they are not allowed to go inland and visit the premises as it belongs to a private beach resort. Don't forget to book a tour with the island resorts to explore the island. The boat tour price costs around P2700 for 8 pax.

How to Get There

Visitors have to ride to Anilao Port or Crossing before taking a tricycle to Eagle Point Resort. Make a reservation in advance for a van ride from the resort to the boat. The boat ride to Sepoc Island takes around 20 minutes.



DIVE IN ANILAO



Twin Rocks

Twin Rocks is one of the best diving sites in Anilao. With a depth of 130 feet, divers can observe a colorful diversity of marine life at all levels of depth. This site is particularly visited by underwater photographers seeking macro and wide-angle shots. Soft corals, ribbon eels, mantis shrimps, porcelain crabs, schooling jacks, jawfish, and other smaller fishes roam the area.

How to Get There

Twin Rocks is easily accessible from Anilao city center, around a 30-minute boat ride away from the shore.



Beatrice

Beatrice is a dive spot that features stronger currents and hence, we recommend this spot for experienced divers. There are great wide-angle photography shots to be taken, especially upwards against the corals. The marine life here is abundant with countless Anthias.

How to Get There

Beatrice dive site is easily accessible from Anilao city center, slightly over a 30-minute boat ride away from the coast.



Kirby’s Rock

With great visibility, Kirby’s Rock is flooded with macro critters. This is known as a haven for macro underwater photographers. The wall is filled with beautiful marine creatures of all sizes, who are always posing for eager photographers.

How to Get There

Kirby’s Rock is located northwest of Tingloy Island and it is a 30-minute banca boat ride from Anilao.



Secret Bay

A popular muck diving site, Secret Bay is home to a considerable amount of marine life creatures such as mimic octopus, wonderpus, pipefish, seahorses, frogfish, and many others.

How to Get There

Secret Bay is reachable from Anilao and you can take a jeepney to the Mabini town or Anilao pier.

NATURE



Mount Gulugod Baboy

Mount Gulugod Baboy directly translates to ‘pig’s spine’, which can be attributed to its appearance. The landscape is a long-range of three separate hills - Pinagbanderahan, Gitna, and Gulugod Bay - that stand at a towering 525 meters above sea level. The hike up is perfect for beginners. Once you’ve reached the summit, you can soak in the great views of Balayan Bay, Maricaban Islands, and even Verde Island and Mindoro on a clear day.

GIVE BACK VOLUNTOURISM

AdvocaSea

AdvocaSea is a great ASEAN beach clean-up initiative that has established itself in the Anialo region. Team up with local and international volunteers to contribute to the environment of your favorite tourist destination and sign up to collect the litter scattered over the pristine beaches.



GO LOCAL-OFF THE BEATEN TRACK



Masasa Beach

The crystal clear and shallow waters reflect a gorgeous shimmer at Masasa Beach. This beach has become a favorite among tourists seeking off-the-beaten tracks. The serenity and calming ambiance are perfect for a relaxing day at the beach, and even for a dive into the tropical waves.

How to Get There

You can reach Masasa Beach from Port Anilao which takes around 40 minutes and costs around P40.

UNIQUE PEOPLE CULTURE

Anilao, Batangas has an overflowing cultural heritage that traces back long before the Spanish colonization. The early settlers of Anilao would engage in trade with China, Japan, and India from the 13th to 15th centuries. With an influx of foreign influence, the locals adapted much of their cultural influence, beliefs, religions, and customs to those they traded with.

The arrival of the Spanish forces established the ports of Anilao as an important trading hub. Unfortunately, the American and Japanese occupation

disrupted trading for a period of time, and the region experienced a spur of violence and attacks from the European forces. The unrest in Batangas finally settled after the second world war.

Anilao soon laid the foundations as a popular tourist destination. Coral reefs were transplanted into the shores of Anilao, which met with a lot of resistance and debate. However, the venture succeeded and Anilao has become a popular diving destination, thanks to its abundance of marine creatures and a colorful coral reef.



FESTIVALS



November

Banaag Festival

Celebrated from October 31–1 November, Banaag Festival is a cultural tradition in Anilao that was inspired during the Spanish era. The local sentinels would guard the towering bamboo watchtowers and warn their people of sea pirates and bandits, using the flame of a lit torch as a signal to flee. Ever since, the torch symbolizes the unity of the people of Anilao, representing their palpable pride. It continues to be an inspiration for the locals over the years.

FOOD

Lomi Batangas

A trip to Anilao is not without a foodie adventure! Don't miss out on the authentic local dish, Lomi Batangas, an oh-so-tasty egg noodle dish. The burst of flavors in your mouth will leave you wanting more; the thick noodles served with vegetables and hard-boiled eggs, topped with a crunchy layer of chicharon and pork meat. This thick soupy dish is best served piping hot!



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Recommended Itineraries for

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DAY 1 (MABINI, BATANGAS)

- Secret Bay
- Mount Gulugod Baboy
- Twin Rocks

Getting around: You can ride a jeepney or you can opt for public transport to save on cost



DAY 2 (TINGLOY, BATANGAS)

- Sepoc Beach
- Masasa Beach
- Kirby's Rock

Getting around: You can reach Tingloy from Port Anilao



DAY 3

- AdvocaSea

Getting around: Check out their official website for further information



THE ESCAPIS (WELLNESS, VOLUNTOURISM, ECO NATURE TOURISM)

DAY 1 (MABINI, BATANGAS)

- Mount Gulugod Baboy
- AdvocaSea

Getting around: You can ride a jeepney or you can opt for public transport to save on cost



DAY 2 (SOMBRERO ISLAND)

- Beatrice

Getting around: You can hire a boatman to take you from the coast of Anilao to the island



DAY 3 (TINGLOY, BATANGAS)

- Masasa Beach
- Sepoc Beach
- Kirby's Rock

Getting around: You can reach Tingloy from Port Anilao

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- Secret Bay
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- Masasa Beach
- Sepoc Beach

Getting around: You can reach Tingloy from Port Anilao