

PUERTO GALERA PHILIPPINES

ATTRACTIONS

NATURAL ATTRACTIONS

Tamaraw Falls

One of the nearby attractions from Puerto Galera is Tamaraw Falls, which is a 423-foot series of asymmetrical waterfalls situated alongside the road. Its cool refreshing waters are perfect for a quick dip before heading out to visit other natural attractions Mindoro has to offer.

Mt. Halcon

It is the country's third highest peak at 8,488 feet above sea level. It is a favorite destination for nature tripping and mountain climbing and is regarded as the toughest and meanest mountain in the Philippines. The jump-off to Mt. Halcon is Baco, two hours away from Puerto Galera.

Tukuran River Tour

It involves two or three hours of trekking through rivers and rice fields to view some of the most stunning sceneries in the Mindoro countryside. The tour begins and ends in Abra de Ilog, two hours by boat north of Puerto Galera.

Lake Naujan

It is a freshwater lake surrounded by hot mineral springs and free-flowing water. It serves as a wildlife sanctuary for various species of waterfowl and other migratory birds and supplies freshwater fish to the province as well as mainland Luzon. Located 40kms south of Calapan.

Apo Reef National Marine Park

It is acclaimed as the best in Asia and second largest in the world. It is a 40-square kilometer reef located 20 miles west of Mindoro Island. The waters are abundant with marine fauna and luxuriant coral growth represented by approximately 400-500 kaleidoscopic coral species. Marine life includes varieties of sharks, turtles, stingrays and manta rays. Apo Reef also includes the fascinating bird-populated islands of Binagaan and Caios del Bajo.

San Jose

It is the commercial heart of Occidental Mindoro and is accessible directly from Manila with daily flights. While San Jose can serve as an alternative jump-off point for Apo Reef, its main attractions are three sun-drenched islands with powdery white sand beaches and an array of aquatic sports and leisure activities.

Ambulong Island

Abounds with white sand beaches, cliffs along pillars jutting out of the water, underwater caves, coral gardens and tropical fish and a fisherman's village at the sheltered side of the island.

Ilin Island

It is the biggest among the group of islands located near San Jose. It has a village of shell divers, being abundant in shells and coral reefs.

White Island

It has a 1.5 kilometer long white sand beach, which is ideal for swimming, scuba diving and fishing. Turtle eggs are found occasionally found buried in the sand, and visitors are cautioned to keep them undisturbed.

Pandan Island

It is surrounded with great diving opportunities, fantastic jump-off point for Apo Reef.

Mt. Iligit Baco National Park

It is the sanctuary for the tamaraw, a rare and endangered species of dwarf buffalo found only in Mindoro Island. This 75,000-hectare game refuge provides a nice ecotourism, trekking, or mountaineering alternative to beach/dive resorts.

SPORT ATTRACTIONS

Ponderosa Golf Club

It is a beautiful 9-hole golf club 500 meters in the mountains with spectacular views. These places are in short distance of Puerto Galera and can be reached by jeepney or outrigger boat.

The Puerto Galera Yacht Club

The club offers yearly regattas especially during Christmas and holy week season. The breezes and winds are not only perfect for regattas and for windsurfers.

CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS

The Mangyan Settlements

One can have intimate encounters with this ethnic group found only in Mindoro. The settlements are located in Barangay Dulangan, Baco, and two hours away from Puerto Galera.

The Excavation Museum

Located within Puerto Galera, houses several collections of Chinese and Siamese pottery from the 15th century. It is also contains Ming Dynasty burial jars as well as a fine collection of shells.

REGIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Marinduque

East of Mindoro is the island province of Marinduque, where one of the most colorful Philippine festivals is celebrated in time with the Lenten season. It is the Moriones Festival, a reenactment of the legend of Longinus, a Roman centurion whose blindness was cured by the blood of the crucified Christ. This miracle converted Longinus to Christianity and earned the ire of his fellow centurions. The re-enactment reaches its climax when Longinus is caught and beheaded. (weeklong from Palm Sunday to Easter). The festival is characterized by colorful Roman costumes, painted masks (i.e., Morion), helmets and brightly-coloured tunics. It is sometimes referred to as the Oberammergau of the Philippines, though the Moriones is celebrated annually in all five major towns of the province.

Romblon

Recognized as the Marble Country of the Philippines, Romblon is famed for its rich marble deposits. Cobrador Island, the largest among the islets dotting the seas around Romblon, is reputed to hold deposits of rare black, gold and green marble. The other treasures of Cobrador Island are its beaches – the most prominent being the wide expanse of fine white sand about one kilometer along its eastern side.

Much attention nowadays is being given to Carabao Island, where beaches are said to be similar to those of Boracay 20 years ago.