



## DESTINATION: MATULID RIVER SYSTEM

<b>LOCATION :</b>	Rizal-Bulacan Province
<b>ELEVATION :</b>	not applicable
<b>LEVEL :</b>	Major Climb, Level III, Difficult
<b>JUMP OFF POINTS :</b>	Rodriguez (Montalban) Rizal
<b>AVERAGE DAYS REQUIRED :</b>	5 Days (including travel time from Manila)
<b>MINIMUM DAYS REQUIRED :</b>	5 Days (including travel time from Manila)
<b>IT CREATED BY :</b>	Myrtle Yap/ Long Henson
<b>DISTINCT CHARACTERISTICS :</b>	Backpack Riding
<b>LAST EDITED :</b>	March 6, 2000

### ◆ INFORMATION

From all other destinations here in this website, this one is one unique adventure. Mountaineers call it backpack riding since you will be riding your backpack like logs floating in the river. Majority of the trek is done on the river rather than land trails. Definitely it's one awesome, one hell of an adventure.

Matulid River Trail starts from Rizal, through Sierra Madre mountain ranges, and ends in Angat Dam, Bulacan. Its length is approximately 45-50 kilometers, passing through mountains, streams, and river. Dumagat people inhabit the area. And most of them have established their own barangays to address community, health, and educational concerns. Their way of life involves planting, hunting, and fishing. Flora and fauna still flourish in the area. Such samples a wide array of fruits and vegetables, wild orchids and flowers, wild boar, iguana, snakes, few leeches, various insects and large mosquitoes, and different birds.

Trail inclinations vary from 40-85 degrees through rocky and heavily forested areas. Daily trek involves 6-8 hours of hiking, rock climbing, traversing, backpack riding, river crossing, and swimming. General weather condition is warm and sunny, with occasional and scattered rain showers. Temperature ranges from 22-31C. Water sources are available throughout the trip. And there are plenty of clearings for campsites.

### ◆ WHEN AND HOW TO GO

It is advisable to explore Matulid River Trail during dry season. If taken during rainy season, expect flash floods, deep water, strong water current and wild rapids. Choose an elevated area for camping and away from the riverbank. Before the trip, secure a permit from NAPOCOR (Tel. no. 921-3541) or from the Angat Dam's Site Manager.

From Mercury Drug (COD), Cubao take FX Mega-Taxi to Philrock, Montalban (P30/person) or take a jeepney (P10/person). From Philrock, take another jeepney bound for Toyang (P15/person). The jeep terminal is by the market. But if the road after Toyang is fixed, then the jeep can take you further to Este del Sol. Trekking starts from Toyang. You can pre-arrange a guide from Kaingalan or once you get in Lagyo, which is along the way.

If a guide is unavailable for the first two days, you can ask for directions from locals and follow the river, downstream, from Lagyo. Once you get in Bgy. Inuman, the Dumagat people can provide you a guide. A guide usually costs P150/guide/day. The whole trek concludes in Bgy. Suwag where you can arrange for a boat ride to Angat Dam (P600/boat). If regular public transportation is not available from Angat Dam, hike up to NAPOCOR main gate (3km), then ask the security guard to contact public transportation to Bigti, Norzagaray. From Bigti, you can either take the bus (P50/person) or hire a jeepney (P300/jeep) to SM City, Quezon City. Please refer to the following suggested itinerary.

### ◆ POINTS OF INTEREST

The rainforest and the river are already illustrations of Mother Nature's beauty and wealth that still exist in this Modern Age. The boldness of the waterfalls and the excitement that one can get from jumping over it is something to anticipate. Moreover, backpack riding, especially along *mahabang lalim*, (which translates to "the long deep") is a rare experience. Angat Dam itself is a vast, radiant site to behold upon your return from an arduous but gratifying five-day river trek.

### ◆ SUGGESTED ITINERARY

#### DAY 1

05:30 Assemble in Mercury Drug (COD), Aurora Blvd., Cubao  
06:30 ETD for Philrock, Montalban  
07:10 ETA in Philrock, Montalban  
08:00 ETD for Toyang  
08:35 ETA in Toyang  
08:45 Start trek  
12:45 ETA in Kaingalan; Lunch  
13:45 Resume trek  
16:00 ETA in Ilas; Camp for the night

#### DAY 2

05:30 Wake-up call; Breakfast; Break camp  
07:30 Start trek  
09:00 ETA in Lagyo; Rest then proceed down the river  
12:00 Lunch on trail  
17:00 Camp along the trail (riverside)

#### DAY 3

05:30 Wake-up call; Breakfast; Break camp  
07:30 Start trek  
10:30 ETA Bgy. Inuman; Register with barangay council  
11:00 Early lunch  
12:00 Resume trek. Camp along the trail (riverside)

#### DAY 4

05:30 Wake-up call; Breakfast; Break camp  
07:30 Start trek  
12:00 Lunch on trail  
15:00 "Mahabang Lalim"  
17:00 Camp along the trail

#### DAY 5

05:30 Wake-up call; Breakfast; Break camp  
07:30 Start trek  
12:00 Lunch on trail  
14:00 ETA Suwag  
14:30 ETD for Angat Dam  
16:30 ETA in Angat Dam; Rest; Take snacks  
17:00 Hike to NAPOCOR main gate  
17:30 ETA at main gate; Board PUV  
19:00 ETA in Bigti, Norzagaray; Supper  
20:00 ETD for Manila  
21:30 ETA SM City, Quezon City

#### SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS IN CLIMBING

The place is rebel infested and you will definitely meet one along the trail. Hire local guides within the barrios along the way. They will serve as your "safe conduct pass."

**Waiver** : Although the author have tried to make the information in this itinerary as accurate as possible; time changes policies, inflation/cost and even the physical condition of places mentioned here thereby we accept no responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience sustained by any person who used this itinerary. You may contact the resources listed in the contacts section of this itinerary or via the directories section of this website to make your trip as more accurate.

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