

## ITINERARY

### DESTINATION: MT AMUYAO

<b>LOCATION :</b>	Mountain Province
<b>ELEVATION :</b>	2,702 meters above sea level
<b>LEVEL :</b>	Major Climb, Level III, Moderate-Difficult
<b>JUMP OFF POINTS :</b>	Barlig, Mountain Province
<b>AVERAGE DAYS REQUIRED :</b>	3 Days (including travel time from Manila)
<b>MINIMUM DAYS REQUIRED :</b>	3 Days (including travel time from Manila)
<b>IT CREATED BY :</b>	Long Henson
<b>DISTINCT CHARACTERISTICS :</b>	
<b>LAST EDITED :</b>	July 3, 2000

### ◆ INFORMATION

Mt. Amuyao is the highest point in the mountainous Mountain Province and is also the eight highest in the archipelago although some resources rank Amuyao as the fifth highest mountain in the country. With an elevation of 2,702 meters above sea level, it is located between the boundaries of Banaue and Mayoyao and between Ifugao and the Mountain Province. High it may seem, the climb itself is not that difficult since the jump-off point is already located on a high elevation and the top of the mountain is occupied by a transmission station, giving it a well-maintained manageable trail. In fact some parts of the trail have cemented stairways and in the summit campsite, the area is cemented with some human structures. The view from the summit is awesome, overlooking the vast Cordillera mountain range. Orchids, pitcher plants and other wild and rare plants abound the place. Its summit provides the climber with a breath-taking panorama of the Mountain Province, Isabela, Nueva Viscaya and Ifugao. Mayoyao legend says that the first Ifugao couple, Bagan and Wigan took refuge in this mountain during the 40-day deluge that inundated the province. Being the only survivor, they became the first ancestors of the Ifugaos. There are two stations at the summit of Amuyao, the PT & T Relay station and the ABS-CBN transmitter. The former was established on 1977.

### ◆ WHEN AND HOW TO GO

Amuyao can be climbed any time of the year since it has established trails. Amuyao has two known trails; the most common is the easier route via Barlig in Bontoc. The other trail is a long cross country hike to Mayoyao Ifugao. In Barlig, you can climb the mountain in a day while via Mayoyao may require you more than 3 days of trekking. Best if you can use both routes on your way up and down the mountain.

Barlig can be accessed via Banaue or via a long trip from Baguio to Bontoc. If you want to travel around the beautiful Northern back country, you can use both routes just the same as the usual trip taken by tourists in going to Sagada. The Bontoc route however, is longer. From Banaue to Bontoc is 45 kilometers, Bontoc to Barlig is 30 kilometers and Bontoc to Baguio is 146 kilometers.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

The area can be accessed via both Banaue and Bontoc thereby it lies within one of the most exciting places in the country. You can pass by Banaue in Ifugao, the Bontoc tourist spots, the enchanting Sagada and the city of Pines, Baguio on your way home. In terms of action adventure, the area is within or uses the same traveling route going to Mt. Napulauan as well as the lesser mountains of Ifugao and even as far as Benguet. Here are some tourism interests within Amuyao:

**Philippine War Memorial Shrine (Kiangan)** Located at Linda 10 km from Lagawe, it is a concrete pyramidal structure resembling an oversized Ifugao native house with an intricately carved mosaic design. A memorial shrine to commemorate the end of World War II, it features, historical events from the Filipino opposition to the Death March and the role of Ifugao and American troops in the defeat of Gen. Yamashita.

**Ambuwaya Lake (Kiangan)** According to legend, the lake used to be a large sitio. Because the children in the area killed and made fun of the leeches in the small spring, the gods turned it into a deep lake. Used mostly for swimming and boating, it is also a fish culture research site.

**Million Dollar Hill (Kiangan)** A hill overlooking the poblacion of Kiangan, it earned its name from the last war when the allies spent literally millions of dollars for bombs and ammunitions to annihilate the enemies in the area.

**National Museum (Kiangan)** Only 300 meters from the Municipal Hall, the museum houses a comprehensive collection of all aspects of Ifugao life. Artifacts of farming, hunting, household utensils and weaving represent the ancient lifestyle of this unique ethnic group.

**Ibulao River (Kiangan)** According to the Ifugao folklore, the first Ifugao couple, Bugan and Cabbigat, survived the great flood that swept the land and settled in the valley of Kiangan, around 2 kilometers upstream from the Ibulao bridge.

**Tam-an Village (Banaue)** This is a typical Ifugao adjacent to the Banaue Hotel. Woodcarvings and hand-woven products, traditional products of the people of the area, can be brought at reasonable prices.

**Bintakan Cave (Lagawe)** Situated on the rocky slope of Ibulao, a short 2 km from the capital, the cave's mouth overlooks the Ibulao river. A 3 room cave with dripping water that forms stalactites and stalagmites of different beautiful shapes present an irresistible invitation to spelunkers and hikers alike. Another nearby cave is Nah-toban Cave which is a joy to explore because of its descending entrance with 4 rooms. Huge quantities of guano are found here.

**Guihob Natural Swimming Pool (Banaue)** A 4 km drive from the poblacion, an adventurous trail full of hops and jumps over huge boulders leads to the crystal clear waters of Guihob - an ideal place for swimming. Not so far away in Batad, Banaue is Tappiya Waterfalls a cascading waterfall with an enormous natural pool for swimming.

**Ducligan Hot Springs (Banaue)** Found at the banks of the Banaue-Ducligan River, it lies adjacent to a deep pool and is 21 kilometers away from poblacion.

**Magat Dam (Alfonso Lista)** Built in the 1970's, it is reputedly the biggest dam in Asia. Located 25 km from the town center of Sta. Maria, it is a vital water source for the rice terraces.

**Viewpoint Six (Banaue)** Four kilometers along the road from Banaue to Bondoc, the viewpoint provides a perfect view of the rice terraces. It is also where Ifugaos come in full tribal regalia to pose before the fabulous panorama.

**Bocos** Lying along the scenic hiking trail stretching from Banaue town proper all the way to Mayoyao, the village is also noted for one particular cluster of houses decorated with skulls of water buffalo and other animals. Its woodcarving and weaving tradition are also well-known.

**Matang-lag** Further down is Matang-lag known for its bronzemiths who cast fertility gods and good luck emblems by the "lost wax" method. Clay is molded around a wax model of the item to be cast then is allowed to dry. Hot metal is then poured into the mold and as the wax is melted the bronze figure takes shape within the mold. The details are then carved into the figure when it is unmolded.

**Poitan** At the bottom of a trail from the main road, downhill through the terraces is a village which has retained much of its old traditions and beliefs. Its collection of native huts is populated with weavers, carvers and blacksmiths. The village has a stone protected and idolized by the villagers and a pit where elders gather to discuss tribal problems. Nearby is a waterfall respected as a holy place.

**Lumawig Stone (Mayoyao)** A huge enchanted black rock held by only 3 smaller stones in the middle of the Balangbang river, it is widely believed to hold the future of the town. As long as the stone stands, the Mayoyao people will stay strong and happy.

**Makhaligwa & Lebhong Burial Caves (Mayoyao)** Famous for wood coffins and the remains of the first Mayoyao, legend tells of an attentive lizard leading the people to these 3 funeral chambers and designating each one for man, woman and child.

**O'phaw Mahencha Falls (Mayoyao)** Known as the Leap of Mahencha (6km from the town proper), the falls feature a series of high cataracts. Local folklore says a beautiful woman named Mahencha had to jump 13 to 15 meters into the water to retrieve her native amber necklace which fell while she was taking a bath. Each of the maiden's leap is represented by a waterfall and a natural pool. Truly a sight to behold.

**Apfo'or Burial Tombs (Mayoyao)** The tombs are large stone mausoleums containing the bones of the town's ancient warriors and elite. The constructions of these stone igloos reflect the resourcefulness of the Ifugao in adapting his stoning techniques for a multitude of uses.

**Akakoy Viewpoint & Park (Mayoyao)** Located 600 meters from the town hall, the site offers a good vantage point from where the Alatabang rice terraces cluster as well as all of central Mayoyao and the Isabela plateau can be viewed.

**Mount Nagchayan (Mayoyao)** The site of fierce battles between the Japanese troops and Fil-American troops in World War II, the mountain now stands as a symbol of peace. Several grottos where the Japanese hid as well as stone walled trenches and foxholes dot the terrain. Someone looking hard enough will be able to find rusty shells used in the many battles.

**Tenogtog Waterfalls (Mayoyao)** Five kilometers from the town proper, 3 natural pools rising about 12 meters from each other mark this beautiful spot. The waterfalls from the top pool cascade to the next in fluid succession. Untouched by human hands, these natural pools provide clear, cool mountain spring water for anyone to enjoy.

**Mount Napulawan (Hungduan)** This magical 2,642 meter peak is on the second leg of the Banaue-Tino trekking route. Climbers normally make their climb to the peak on the first 2 days of the Tungoh ad Hungduan in April. not so far from the mossy forests, near the peak is a disappearing lake.

**Bacung Terraces (Hungduan)** Known as the spider web terraces, it is about a kilometer from Hungduan proper.

**Tugawi Viewpoint (Hungduan)** A kilometer walk from Bokiawan village, a majestic view of the winding Hungduan terraces can be best appreciated from here.

**Bokiawan Village (Hungduan)** Situated 12 kilometer from Banaue and in the very center of Bokiawan rice terraces is this village where traditional Ifugao practices of land use and livelihood still exist.

**Dakkitan Natural Swimming Pool (Hungduan)** A refreshing bath in the cool pure spring water from Mt. Napulawan can be enjoyed by visitors to this site.

**Hapao and Baang Terraces Viewpoint (Hungduan)** Just above Hapao village, the 3 valleys of extensive stone-walled terraces carved into mountainsides are a sight to behold.

**Hapao Fault (Hungduan)** For someone with a yen of excitement, the fault can be reached through a short hike from the poblacion. This crevice is the reason for the occasional shake felt for the entire region.

**Kinga Rice Terraces (Hungduan)** Comparable to the rice terraces of Batad, it has fabulous amphitheater-like stonewalled terraces about 5 kilometers from the town proper.

**Kibayuwong Stone (Hungduan)** This legendary stone lies next to the Hapao rivers and is a thrilling spot for river swimming and diving

**Pula and Cambulo Native Village (Banaue)** A rustic village located on the first leg of the trekking route from Banaue viewpoint to Banga-an. This cobbled stone village offers a native homestay as well as 2 village lodges. The ancient craft of bark cloth weaving thrives here. The peak of Mt. Amuyao can be reached starting in Pula or Cambulo for a stay in the ranger station at the peak.

**Banga-an Terraces (Banaue)** The last leg of the viewpoint Banga-an trek sits just off the road to Mayoyao. This terrace cluster and village represent the native Ifugao style and has 1 lodge and restaurant. Also within walking distance from the Ducligan Warm Springs.

**Gohang Mummified Couple (Banaue)** The mummies preserved and kept in the traditional house of decades typify the elaborate burial methods of the Ifugao. The ancestor's bones are housed with favorite possessions for the afterworld and can be viewed from the glass wall of the native house.

**Matanglag Bronze Smiths & Nuntamangan Village (Banaue)** A leisurely 2 hour hike to the waterfall in Banaue, the smiths can be observed producing or finishing native jewelry, while the carvers may be observed as they carve the Bulol, protector of home and harvest and many other traditional woodcraft.

## **SUGGESTED ITINERARY**

### **DAY 1**

22:00 - Assembly at Autobus Station in Dimasalang Manila

23:45 - ETD for Banaue, Ifugao

### **DAY 2**

08:05 - ETA Banaue/ Breakfast

09:30 - ETD for Barlig Mountain Province

10:15 - ETA Bay-yo

10:45 - ETA Talupeng, Bontoc

- 11:30 - ETA Barlig
- 12:00 - ETA Jump-off Point, Macalama, Barlig / Lunch
- 13:00 - Start Trek
- 16:00 - Camp 1
- 18:00 - ETA Summit / Dinner
- 21:00 - Light's Out

### DAY 3

- 08:00 - Wake-up Call / Breakfast
- 10:00 - Break Camp
- 10:30 - Start Trek
- 13:30 - ETA Barlig Jump-off Point
- 14:00 - Trip back home to Manila either via Bontoc-Baguio or Banaue

### ◆ SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS IN CLIMBING

No permits are required in climbing Amuyao although it's better to have a courtesy call at the barangay hall within the jump-off point. The temperature during evening ranges from 8-15 degrees Celcius so bring proper clothing. There is a water source at Camp one but none at the summit. It is advisable to bring all necessary water requirements than depend on water sources on trail. The caretaker and technician of the relay stations at the summit is Mr. Simeon Langgao.

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Long Henson has published a book on itineraries entitled: [101 hiking and climbing destinations](#) which you can buy on local bookstores.