



## DESTINATION: BULUSAN VOLCANO

<b>LOCATION :</b>	Sorsogon Province
<b>ELEVATION :</b>	1548 meters above sea level
<b>LEVEL :</b>	Major Climb, Level II, Moderate
<b>JUMP OFF POINTS :</b>	Irosin and Bulusan Sorsogon
<b>AVERAGE DAYS REQUIRED :</b>	5 Days (including travel time from Manila)
<b>MINIMUM DAYS REQUIRED :</b>	4 Days (including travel time from Manila)
<b>IT CREATED BY :</b>	Long Henson
<b>DISTINCT CHARACTERISTICS :</b>	Active Volcano; Bulusan Lake
<b>LAST EDITED :</b>	March 1, 2000

### ◆ INFORMATION

Mt. Bulusan is one of the popular climbing destinations in the Bicol region the other being Mt. Mayon, Mt. Isarog and Mt. Iriga which is also known as Mt. Asog. Towering 1,584 meters above sea level, Bulusan volcano appears like a crawling giant in the midst of a forest. Declared a national park in 1935, it covers 3,673 hectares of rainforest that harbors rare plants and animals. Located 60 kilometers south of Legaspi in the Sorsogon province, the jump off point is in the towns of Irosin and Bulusan.

Bulusan Volcano is located at the south central part of Sorsogon Province. It covers a surface area roughly 400 square kilometers. The volcano forms part of the Bicol Volcanic Chain, which stretches from Camarines Norte in the north to Sorsogon in the south. The chain, sometimes called volcanic belt, is composed of active and geologically young volcanoes most probably related to the Philippine Trench. Bulusan is classified as a composite volcano and is made up of lava flows and domes. It is flanked by several cones namely: Mt. Homahan, Mt. Binactan, Mt. Batuan, Mt. Juban, Mt. Calauan, Mt. Tabon-Tabon, Mt. Calungalan and Mt. Jormajan. Beside the active volcano is an old ridge called Sharp Peak, which is 1215 meters high and 1.8 kilometers to the northeast. Between Bulusan and Jormajan is the Natakop lava dome.

The earliest recorded eruption of Bulusan Volcano occurred in 1852. This was followed by periods of eruptive activity in 1886, 1892, and 1894. Another 22 years elapsed before Bulusan showed signs of restiveness. On January 16, 1916, the volcano ejected mud and ash for five days, thereby triggering landslides. Dust emissions and lava out pouring characterized the volcano's eruptive activity from Oct. 1918 to March 1919. Bulusan's series of 17 eruptions during May 1919 to May 1922 were of short duration ranging from 15 to 30 minutes each. Other eruptions were recorded in June 1928 and

December 25, 1933 and then the volcano rested for 45 years. On June 28, 1978, it suddenly ejected ash-laden steam clouds, which formed in a dark column of smoke 1500 meters high. Andesitic basalt ash was ejected and blown by winds as far as Barcelona in the northeast about 15 km. from the volcano. The eruptions which followed in 1979, 1980, 1981 and 1983 were all phreatic and as mild as the previous ones. A total of 60 barangays within the territorial jurisdiction of six municipalities (Barcelona, Bulusan, Casiguran, Gubat, Irosin and Juban) are covered by the Bulusan Volcano hazard zones established by PHIVOLCS. These barangays lie within 4-10 km. from the summit of Bulusan Volcano.

## ◆ LEGENDS

Bulusan Lake has interesting legends. It was said that a village once stood where Bulusan Lake is currently located. It was ruled by a ruthless pagan chieftain. One day, the chieftain conquered one village in Mindanao and brought back slaves from the conquered villages. In the middle of the voyage back home, a typhoon struck devastating the fleet. The captured slaves prayed for their safety. The chieftain upon noticing the slaves praying asked that they pray for the safety of the fleet in exchange for their freedom. After that, the storm abated and they were able to get back to their kingdom safely. The chieftain broke his promise and made the lives of the slaves more difficult. One day, one of the slaves reminded the chieftain on his promise of freeing them but the chieftain instead laughed and replied that since he is on dry land, he is "god." Then suddenly waters poured in from the skies engulfing the entire village killing everything on it. The slaves that were out on the fields working were saved. They founded the town which is today known as Bulusan, Sorsogon.

## ◆ WHEN AND HOW TO GO

Since Bulusan is an active volcano, it is best advised to check first the condition of the volcano from the PHIVOLCS office. Bulusan can be climbed all year round but is best climbed during the summer months. From Manila, there are provincial buses bound for Sorsogon. You can even take a bus bound for Legaspi and from Legaspi, another bus will take you to Sorsogon. You can also take a plane for Legaspi City if you have the budget and time restraints. There are two trails in scaling Bulusan. One is via Irosin and the other one is via Bulusan. The Bulusan trail will only require a day or two of climbing. From Bulusan town take a tricycle to Bulusan Lake. The trailhead is located at the edge of the lake. Along the way, you will catch a glimpse of Sharp Peak. Then finally to Angigay Valley or the crater rim. The Irosin trail on the other hand will require from 3 to 4 days as listed below.

## ◆ POINTS OF INTEREST

Most mountaineers include Bulusan a part of a series of climb in the Bicol region to save resources and the advantage of being in that province. Other mountain you can hike while in Bicol includes Mayon, Iriga or Asog and Isarog. You can also pass by Lake Buhi and Itbog falls.

## ◆ SUGGESTED ITINERARY

### DAY 1

Travel time from Manila to Legaspi

### DAY 2

- 13:00 - ETD Legaspi City to Sorsogon Province
- 15:00 - ETA Sorsogon, ETD to Irosin
- 17:00 - ETA San Roque at Irosin. Arrange accommodations

18:00 - Dinner

### DAY 3

06:00 - Wake-up Call/ Breakfast  
07:00 - Start trek to Camp 1  
11:30 - Lunch along trail  
17:00 - ETA Camp 1  
18:00 - Dinner

### DAY 4

05:30 - Breakfast  
06:00 - Start trek to summit  
07:00 - ETA summit, explore the area  
08:00 - Start decent  
08:30 - ETA Camp, break camp  
09:00 - Start trek to San Roque  
11:30 - Lunch on trail  
14:00 - ETA San Roque, ETD to Irosin  
16:00 - ETA Irosin  
16:30 - ETD for Sorsogon then Legaspi  
18:30 - ETA Legaspi City

### DAY 5

Travel Time from Legaspi to Manila

**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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