



DESTINATION : MT DAGULDUL

LOCATION	Batangas Province
COORDINATES	
ELEVATION	670 meters above sea level
LEVEL	Minor Climb, Level I, Moderate
DISTINCT CHARACTERISTICS	Beach Trekking, Seascape Views, Large Campsite
ACTIVITIES	Hiking, Mountain Bike
JUMP-OFF POINT	Hugom San Juan or Mona Lobo Batangas
AVERAGE DAYS REQUIRED	2 days (including travel time from Manila)
MINIMUM DAYS REQUIRED	2 days (including travel time from Manila)
IT CREATED BY	Long Henson and Herbert Ymata. IT shared by Basil Reyes
DATE LAST UPDATED	January 1, 2002

● INFORMATION

Mt. Daguldul is a fairly new climbing destination. But the beauty it offers has been proven by how rapidly the place has become popular to mountaineers. Some of the reasons for this maybe summarized as follows :

1. Travel from Manila to Jump-off point is very convenient. 99 % of the road from Manila to the jump-off point is cemented or asphalted. Commuting is also convenient.
2. There are ample secured parking spaces at jump-off point.
3. Organized guide association welcomes every visitor. Their rules and fees are reasonable.
4. Supplies are not a problem. 3 Market place (Lipa, Rosario and San Juan) act as travel transition points.
5. Trail grade is not that easy to be boring and not that difficult to be dreaded.
6. You will encounter the following on trail :
 - a. Beach
 - b. Seascape rock formations
 - c. Big, majestic waterfalls
 - d. Awesome seascape views on trail
 - e. Awesome viewpoint at peak area
 - f. 3 designated campsites that can house approximately 150 tents.
 - g. More room for emergency campsite

- h. Friendly people
 - i. Lambanog, fruits, buko juice abounds
 - j. Lots of birds for bird watching
 - k. Water source is not a problem in fact there is a water pipe at the summit campsite
 - l. Facilities are being develop as government would like to promote this local treasure
7. Place is not yet frequented and crowded. It was discovered only recently.
 8. There are lots of places to explore like the waterfalls, peaks, viewpoints and the nearby Mt. Naguiling.

● LEGENDS

According to Mang Zardo, although he has not yet experienced any paranormal activity, there are stories from climbers being lost or what locals describes as "nalilikot" especially on the copra area after Mang Zardo's residence.

● WHEN AND HOW TO GO

HOW TO GET THERE

San Juan Batangas is 115 kilometers from Manila, a two to three hours drive depending on traffic situation and routes taken. When commuting, there are two options to get there. The first, common and easiest way to get there is via Lipa Batangas. From Manila you can take either Lipa, Cuenca, Batangas City or Lucena bound buses. From Lipa bus terminal (Big Ben, Jollibee, Mc Donalds) take a tricycle ride to the Lipa City Public Market. From the main road, CM Recto corner Mercury Drug Lipa is where jeepneys plying San Juan Batangas passes by. Alight at the San Juan Batangas Public Market (Petron Gas Station). From that road, the second corner is where jeepneys plying Barangay Hugom wait for passengers. The second option is via Batangas City. From Batangas City there are jeepneys and buses plying San Juan Batangas.

If you have your car with you, you can take the STAR toll ways to Lipa City. If you see Mc Donalds, take the right road (CM Recto). Turn right at the corner of Mercury Drug (with signboard indicating the road is for Candelaria, P Garcia, Tiaong, Rosario and San Juan bound vehicles). At the Municipal Hall of San Juan Batangas turn right at the next road after the hall with an indication that it is the road that will take you to Laiya Resort. The road from Manila to Barangay Hugom is 99% cemented or asphalted. From Lipa to San Juan, it's a 45-minute drive while from San Juan to Hugom it's another 45-minutes drive over a 24 kilometers stretch. You know you are already near Hugom if you pass by Applaya Laiya Corporation, a ranch type resort. Anyway, Barangay Hugom is the endpoint of that road system so you don't need to worry overshooting the jump-off Barangay. At the Hugom Environmental Guides Association (HEGA) waiting shed, you can park your vehicles for your overnight stay for free.

From Lipa to San Juan Batangas, fare is 24 pesos (2001) and from San Juan to Hugom its 20 pesos.

Finally, according to the mountain inhabitants, during summer months, you can climb this mountain as well as the nearest peak, Mt. Naguiling easier via Barangay Mona in Lobo Batangas. But since mountaineers are not familiar with this one, better to stick to the conventional route.

CLIMB/ TRAIL INFORMATION

Each climbing group is required to take a guide but the guide is not required to stay with you throughout the climb. You can just take them on your way up. The cost per guide is 350 pesos (2001) per day. Other than guide fee, a climbing fee of 20 pesos is required per each climber. The Hugom Environmental Guides Association (HEGA) was organized by the local government of San Juan with the help of UPM headed by Bubuy Francisco. They were the first mountaineers who have scaled the mountain sometime March or April of 2001 meaning the place is a fairly new destination

for Filipino mountaineers. Although according to Mang Lizardo, one of the residents of the mountain, some mountaineers have already attempted to scale the mountain as early as four years ago. The locals on the other hand already inhabited the place since time immemorial. The leader of the association is Mang XXX, a former CAFGU Member.

The trek is approximately 3 hours to the campsite. It starts at the Hugom beach front towards the other side of the island- a very different type of trekking indeed. Then you will enter the forest line to a gradually ascending trail with the seascape at your back. A marker points to a branch on the trail. The left trail leads you to Naambon Falls. It's a three-minute descending trail to the falls. The waterfall is not the usual small waterfalls you encounter on most Philippine trails. It's a more than a hundred feet rock-face 45 feet wide with water gushing all over the rock face, standing proud and majestic. It's a must to visit the place so try to reserve ample time for this side trip.

On your way up, you will pass by some small streams but the first potable water source is located on a house along the trail. Further upland is the house of a popular mountaineer's friend, Mang Lizardo (Zardo). For 5 pesos, you can ask them to prepare a refreshing buko juice for you. Mang Lizardo is very friendly and also works as a guide once in a while. His house is also interesting since he has quite a number of pets and some of them are exotic birds. From their hut, the trekking time is from 1-2 hours to the campsite.

PEAK AREAS

Mt. Daguldol has one of the best, convenient and huge campsites compared to other Philippine mountains. The campsite is owned by a relative of Mang Zardo, Mang Dolpo (Rodolfo). It is a good gesture for him to share his abode to total strangers so the best thing we can do is to stick to our mountaineering ethics and show our respect and friendship to Mang Dolpo and the rest of the residents of Hugom since majority of them came from 3 families only and they really knew each other well. Any news of misbehaviors will travel throughout the whole community and it will not be a good reflection for us mountaineers. Be generous and don't abuse the goodness of the people (i.e. don't throw your garbage at Mang Zardo's place even if he insist or give something in return from the fruits or Lambanog they offer for free).

Here are some of the features of the Peak Area :

1. Daguldol Campsite 1 (Gulugod Baboy) – Mang Dolpo particularly calls the first campsite as Daguldol although this is the name of the mountain itself. Others especially mountaineers calls this campsite as Gulugod Baboy. It's a majestic hill covered with Carabao grass, with two trees at the top and some furnishings created by Mang Dolfo like benches and tables. It's a small campsite that can accommodate 5 tents comfortably and about 10 more during emergency camps. On its lower slope has a marker indicating the demarcation line between the town of Lobo and San Juan Batangas since the mountain is within its borders.
2. Daguldol Campsite 2 (Niyugan) – This is the best and recommended campsite. It can accommodate more than 50 tents; it has Carabao grass covering the place, coconut trees and a piped-in water source. Compared to Campsite 1, this one is covered from strong winds but views are not that great compared to the other campsite.
3. Bilaran ng Limatik – This is the best viewpoint of the place. It's an open rock face where you can take a glimpse on Mt. Makulot, Malipunyo, Banahaw and Tayabas Bay. It was called Bilaran ng Limatik since limatiks abounds the place long time ago. Nowadays, there are no more limatiks at the peak area, the only remaining place where limatiks abound is on the nearby Naguiling Peak.
4. Anahawan – It's a golf course like campsite with views of the other side of the mountain like Mindoro and Marinduque as well as Mt. Naguiling and Mt. Lobo/Banoi. This one can accommodate more than a hundred tents. It is also the highest place in the Daguldol Peak Area. It is the playground of Mang Dolpo's white horse and pet dog.

5. Mt. Naguiling – it's a neighboring Peak which is also part of the Daguldul mountain range. It can be reached via a day's trek and its jump-off point is at the same Campsite 1 area although it may be best climbed via Barangay Mona in Lobo Batangas.

There are still other places to explore in this fairly new mountaineering destination and as what we usually say, "your imagination is your limitation."

● POINTS OF INTEREST

San Juan is a beautiful place. The travel from Lipa to San Juan is already a feast to the eyes of Manila grown city slickers. The road to San Juan passes by the back-end of Mt. Malipunyo thereby giving you a glimpse of its other side. San Juan is a popular beach destination. It has a number of beach resorts ranging from the expensive house resorts to low cost cottages. On the way to Hugom, you will pass by an exclusive golf and country club resort, Corte de Madera. San Juan Batangas is also popular for its Lechon Fiesta.

● SUGGESTED ITINERARY

DAY 1

06:00	Assembly at 7-11 Buendia corner Taft (JAM Bus)
06:30	ETD for Lipa
09:00	ETA Mc Donalds (or Jolibee). Breakfast
09:30	ETD for Market Place
09:45	ETD for San Juan Batangas
10:45	ETA San Juan Batangas. Market Time and Early Lunch
11:30	ETD for Barangay Hugom
12:30	ETS Barangay Hugom. Arrange for Guides
13:00	Start Trek - Beach Front
13:30	Ascend the Forest Line
14:00	First Water Source
14:30	Mang Lizardo's House. Refreshments
15:00	Resume Trek
16:30	ETA Campsite, Set Camp
17:00	Explore Anahawan Campsite
18:00	Back at the Campsite, Prepare Dinner
19:00	Dinner, Socials
22:00	Light's Out

DAY 2

08:00	Wake-up Call, Breakfast
08:30	Start Trek to Bilaran ng Limatik
08:15	ETA Bilaran ng Limatik
09:00	Trek back to campsite, Break Camp
10:00	Start Descent
10:30	Mang Lizardo's House. Refreshments

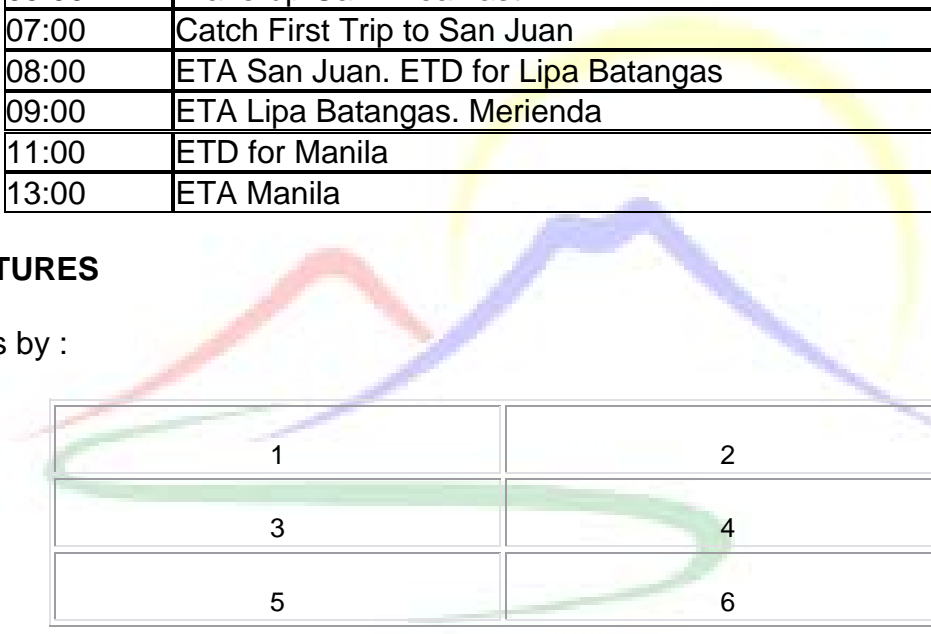
10:45	Resume Trek
11:30	Turn Left to Naambon Falls (leave back-packs at trail fork)
11:32	ETA Naambon Waterfalls. Explore
12:00	Resume Trek
13:00	ETA Hugom Beach. Set Camp along beach front (advised to hire cottage for 400 Php)
14:00	Free Time (Swimming)
18:00	Dinner
19:00	Socials II
23:00	Light's Out

DAY 3

05:00	Wake-up Call. Breakfast
07:00	Catch First Trip to San Juan
08:00	ETA San Juan. ETD for Lipa Batangas
09:00	ETA Lipa Batangas. Merienda
11:00	ETD for Manila
13:00	ETA Manila

PICTURES

Photos by :



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CHARTS

Daguldul Camp 1		
Camp 2 Niyugan		
Bilaran ng Limatik		

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● SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

WATER SOURCE

Water source abounds the place.

SECURITY

Daguldol was once rebel infested, in fact Mang Dolfo can tell you stories of the times he has been interacting with NPAs (New People's Army) who have once roamed (and terrorized) the place. But no need to worry, nowadays, the place is rebel free as indicated by the disbandment of CAFGU elements on the area, compared to the nearby climbing destination, Mt. Banoi, which still remains as rebel infested.

● CONTACTS

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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