



DESTINATION: CANLAON (KANLAON) VOLCANO

LOCATION :	Negros Oriental and Occidental Provinces
ELEVATION :	2465 meters above sea level
LEVEL :	Major Climb, Level III, Strenuous
JUMP OFF POINTS :	Bacolod, La Carlota, Kan-Laon Cities
AVERAGE DAYS REQUIRED :	6 Days (including travel time from Manila)
MINIMUM DAYS REQUIRED :	6 Days (including travel time from Manila)
IT CREATED BY :	Long Henson
DISTINCT CHARACTERISTICS :	Active Volcano, Highest Mountain in Visayas
LAST EDITED :	March 1, 2000

INFORMATION

Canlaon Volcano is a large stratovolcano and is located in the North Central portion of Negros Island. It forms a natural boundary between the provinces of Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental. Canlaon has a maximum elevation of 2,465 meters above sea level and a basal diameter of 30 kilometers. It is part of the volcanic arc related to subduction along the Negros Trench, which includes Mt. Silay in the North and Mts. Mandalagon and Cuernos de Negros in the South. Canlaon consists of a multitude of craters and parasitic cones aligned linearly, with an older caldera in its central portion. Most of the older craters have formed lakes or lagoons. The volcanic edifice has been built by airfall deposits, lava agglutinates and lava flows, pyroclastic flows and lahar. The earliest record of Canlaon's eruption dates back to 1866. Since then, it has at least 15 eruption periods. Recorded eruptions have so far been mild, consisting of ash and steam explosion sometimes coupled with lava flows and pyroclastics. Occurrence of older deposits, however, suggests that pre-historic eruptions have been more violent. Though a large segment of the volcano is considered a forest reservation, settlers have already encroached on the area. Several sugarcane haciendas are located on Canlaon's slopes. Vegetables and rice form secondary agricultural products.

Canlaon Volcano is part of the Canlaon National Park. It is a famous climbing destination in the Visayas. The national park contains a delicate ecosystem containing plants and animals like the Strangler Fir, delicate orchids, ferns and epiphytes, hornbills, parakeets, many species of migratory birds of Asia, monitor lizards and flying lizards called "Dracos." The summit area offers panoramic views of cliffs, walls, forest and the nearby provinces of Negros.

August of 1996 placed Canlaon into newspaper headlines due to the death of 3 foreign mountain climbers scaling the mountain when huge boulders were hurled into the skies producing showers of deadly boulders hitting most of the members of that expedition. It was however not a volcanic eruption but a phenomenon where water seeped in into the hot crater producing an interaction that caused an explosion.

◆ LEGENDS

A long time ago, the people living near the mountains of Negros lead a happy and peaceful life when one day, a dragon with seven heads appeared from the mountain and started destroying everything in it's path as well as killing countless men, women and children. Once in a while the monster re-appears destroying everything at the same time wreaking havoc and fear into the lives of the people. One day one of the pretty woman of the village went into the mountain and never returned. The dragon became silent for one year. The village people concluded that in order to appease the dragon, one of the beautiful maidens of the village should be offered every year. One day, there was no more beautiful maiden to be offered except the daughter of the king. The king, being reluctant offered treasures and the hand of her daughter to anyone who can stop the beast.

A young Indian prince came, which was actually one of their gods and told the king that he would take care of the monster. He went into the mountain. He can actually communicate with the animals of the mountain and has instructed ants, bees and eagles to help him. When he found the dragon, he ordered the animals to go to their position and with a signal, he awakened the dragon. The ants bit the dragon while the bees stung the eyes blinding the monster. The eagles then attacked and plucked the eyes of the dragon. The prince later slew the dragon and returned to the village with the head of the dead dragon.

He married the princess and became the ancestors of the people living in Negros. The mountain was later named Khan Laon (God Laon) to his honor. It was later shortened to Kanlaon.

◆ WHEN AND HOW TO GO

The best time to hike the park is during the summer months of February to May though you can climb it all year round. Be cautious, however, since the park is sometimes closed due to forest fires, volcanic activities, and preservation so contact the local government offices and DENR for verification before going there.

Negros can be reached via the domestic planes as well as inter-island ferries. The usual stopover is Bacolod City. The park contains more than 40 kilometers of foot trail. Depending on your physical condition like entry point and time restraints, hikes lasting for a few hours to several days can be arranged. Canlaon has 4 major trails, the Guintubdan, Mapot, Masulog and Wasay. The Wasay trail, the most popular, can be reached via Bacolod City. It penetrates the most pristine wilderness of Canlaon National Park giving the visitor, two days of rain and mossy forest environment. The Masulog Trail, accessible via La Carlota City offers the shortest route at 8 kilometers, which is a steady uphill climb through the most severely damaged portions of the park. Mapot via Kanla-on City and Guintubdan via La Carlota provides a pleasant one day access tot he summit.

◆ POINTS OF INTEREST

Bacolod is also a popular City in the South. For other adventures, you can hike Mt. Cuernos de Negros or popularly known as Mt. Talinis as well as Mt. Silay both on the southern part of the island.

◆ SUGGESTED ITINERARY

DAY 1

Travel Time from Manila to Bacolod City either via Ship or Plane. Secure permit from the Bacolod DENR Office.

DAY 2

- 08:00 - ETD Bacolod City to Mambucal Resort
- 10:00 - ETA Mambucal, arrange for overnight accommodation
- 12:00 - Lunch, Spend the rest of the day exploring the area

DAY 3

- 05:00 - Break fast
- 06:00 - Start Trek
- 06:30 - Register at Wasay entrance to the park
- 07:00 - Hike up lower slopes through the dense rainforest
- 11:00 - Lunch at first water source
- 12:00 - Resume Trek
- 15:00 - Arrive at the Hardoy Sang Balo camp area, set up camp here or continue through the mossy forest to the next water source at Samoc Lagoon.
- 18:00 - Dinner
- 21:00 - Light's Out

DAY 4

- 06:00 - Break fast
- 07:00 - Start Trek to Summit
- 09:00 - Reach PMS Lagoon
- 09:30 - Climb ridge overlooking Margaha Valley
- 10:00 - Continue past Makawiwili Peak around extinct crater
- 12:00 - Reach the eastern saddle just below Canlaon Volcano. Set up camp, Lunch.
- 13:00 - Scramble up the lava and cinder covered slopes of the volcano. Spend the afternoon exploring the summit.
- 17:00 - Return to camp
- 18:00 - Dinner
- 21:00 - Light's Out

DAY 5

- 05:00 - Break fast
- 06:00 - Break Camp/ Start Trek
- 06:30 - Hike past the summit towards the western entrance Guintubdan
- 10:00 - Reach Rancho Dos camp area.
- 12:00 - Reach the Guintubdan Entrance Station. ETD for Bacolod City

14:00 - ETA Bacolod City

DAY 6

Travel Back to Manila

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS IN CLIMBING

Permits should be secured prior to climbing Canlaon this can be done through the local office of DENR. Water sources are abundant but bring purifiers or filters for your safety. Since Canlaon is a highly active volcano, it is advisable to contact the local PHILVOCS office before scheduling a climb for your own safety and security. The upper portion of the mountain is exposed so protect your self from the weather.

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