



DESTINATION: MT MALIPUNO - MANABO PEAK

LOCATION	Batangas Province
COORDINATES	
ELEVATION	830 meters above sea level
LEVEL	Minor Climb, Level I, Easy
DISTINCT CHARACTERISTICS	360 Degrees View of the Southern Luzon Mountains
ACTIVITIES	Hiking
JUMP-OFF POINT	Barangay Sta. Cruz, Sto. Tomas Batangas (Sulok)
AVERAGE DAYS REQUIRED	1 day (including travel time from Manila)
MINIMUM DAYS REQUIRED	1 day (including travel time from Manila)
IT CREATED BY	Long Henson as contributed by Joey Perez
DATE LAST UPDATED	August 30, 2001

● INFORMATION

Manabo Peak is one of the numerous peaks of Mt. Malipuno. Actually, Mt. Malipuno itself is one confusing mountain. Some calls the whole mountain range as Mt. Malarayat but locals calls them Malipuno. Mountaineers calls Malipuno the main peak or the highest point, the summit. They have christened two of the other peaks as Manabo and Bagwis (Susong Dalaga). There are lots of local trails along the mountain so chances are there are more than three peaks that you can discover in Malipuno but right now, only three peaks are climbed, Malipuno, Manabo and Bagwis. There are however, recorded traverses from Laguna to the Quezon side of the mountain passing by the three peaks. Malipuno and Bagwis is accessible from Barangay Talisay in Lipa Batangas while Manabo is in Barangay Sta Cruz, Sto. Tomas Batangas.



The Malipuno Peaks seen from Manabo Camp Site

Manabo is one easy hiking destination. The place though is not public or a national park. You can actually climb the peak in just two hours. There are grazing cattle and horses even up to the peak itself. The campsite has 360 panoramic view of Makiling, Banahaw, Cristobal, Maculot, Taal, Mindoro, San Pablo City and Lipa City. The peak area is bare with carabao grass making the place beautiful but hot when the sun is up just like Maculot's shoulder.

● LEGENDS

The word Manabo came from the local words MAtaas NA BUndok, literally translated as "high mountain" Although it's not really that high, the locals may only have this mountain as reference point to christen it "high mountain." It is also popularly called as "Paligawan" which literally means as place for courtship. It was so described since it is where they bring their cattle and horses for mating.

● WHEN AND HOW TO GO

Although Manabo is in Sto. Tomas Batangas, the place is accessible by public transport via Lipa Batangas. From Manila, ride a Bus going to Batangas City or Lemery. Alight at Lipa City on the road going to Fiesta Mall. From Fiesta Mall you can get a tricycle ride or hire a jeep going to Barangay Sta. Cruz. There are also regular trips from the Public market of Lipa. The local transportation may find it easier if you will tell your destination as "Sulok" rather than Sta. Cruz. The road going to Sta. Cruz passes by the Malarayat golf club then instead of turning right for Barangay Talisay (Malipuno trek), you will turn left to Sta. Cruz. If you have your own car or transportation, it's easier to go there via Sto. Tomas Batangas. From Barangay San Pedro, turn left straight to Sta. Cruz. There are no public transport from there that is why you cannot commute from that approach although you can hire a tricycle at very high cost.

Pass by the Barangay Captain for courtesy call. Then you can ask the locals for the trail. You will be passing three creeks or small rivers which serves as your only water source but water is not potable. You will then stumble on a fence blocking the trail wherein you have to crawl inside to pass the other side. From then on, there are lots of trails being used by the locals but you don't need to worry since the area has a hut where you can ask for directions. There is a hut at midpoint the trail to the summit. Mang Arman lives there and is very accommodating to climbers. This is where you can load your water supply.

NEW TRAIL

After the locals have discovered the potentials of the place for tourism, they have started developing it not only by registration facilities but also the trail itself. One of the care taker, Mang Lucas have created a shorter easier trail to the peak. He started placing markers indicated by the name "Calbaryo." Follow this marker to the summit.

● POINTS OF INTEREST

There are also other destinations within the Manabo area. There is a waterfalls accessible via a whole day trek. The trail going there can be found from the cogonal area of the new trail mentioned previously. From the Barangay, you can climb Bagwis or popularly known to the locals as Susong Dalaga. It is also as easy as Manabo but a bit steeper. If you go to Barangay Talisay, you can climb the summit of Malipuno.

● SUGGESTED ITINERARY

DAY 1


06:00	Assembly at JAM Bus Station in Buendia-Taft (Any bus bound for Batangas City)
06:30	ETD Manila to Batangas City
09:00	ETA Lipa Batangas, Fiesta Mall (arrange for transportation going to Barangay Sta Cruz)
09:15	ETD towards Barangay Sta. Cruz
10:00	ETA Barangay Sta. Cruz
10:15	Start Trek
12:15	ETA Peak/ Lunch
18:00	Dinner
21:00	Light's Out

DAY 2

09:00	Wake-up Call, Breakfast
10:00	Start Descent
12:00	ETA Barangay Sta. Cruz, Lunch
13:30	ETD for Manila
15:00	ETA Manila

PICTURES

Photos by : Long Henson/Joey Perez (2000)

<p>Resting at First River System</p>	 <p>Picture Taking at Manabo Summit</p>
<p>Exploring The Campsite Area</p>	<p>Viewing Lipa City at Sunset</p>
<p>Campsite Being Engulf by Clouds</p>	<p>Still More Clouds</p>



Forest Line Trail

Still at the Forest Line

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There is an informal registration requirements near the jump-off point. You can also take your shower there after the climb. If you want guide services, look for Mang Lucas. He is more than willing to assist climber. Some locals though are not fond of climber after the incident where the group who spent their night at the peak used the cross at the peak as firewood. It is the duty now of us, responsible mountaineers to win back their trust. There is also an open garbage pit at the campsite area. PLEASE DO NOT USE THIS. The locals are not aware of its impact.

CONTACTS

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