



## DESTINATION: MT MALEPUNYO (MALIPUÑO)

<b>LOCATION :</b>	Batangas Province
<b>ELEVATION :</b>	1000+ meters above sea level
<b>LEVEL :</b>	Minor Climb, Level II, Moderate
<b>JUMP OFF POINTS :</b>	Lipa, Batangas
<b>AVERAGE DAYS REQUIRED :</b>	2 Days (including travel time from Manila)
<b>MINIMUM DAYS REQUIRED :</b>	2 Days (including travel time from Manila)
<b>IT CREATED BY :</b>	Long Henson
<b>DISTINCT CHARACTERISTICS :</b>	Views of Banahaw, Lukban, Cristobal, Taal, Maculot
<b>LAST EDITED :</b>	March 1, 2000

### ◆ INFORMATION

Malipuno or Malepunyo to some is one of the lesser-known hiking grounds near Manila. Mt. Malipuno is actually an in-active volcano. Located in Lipa Batangas, it commands a wonderful panoramic view of the major mountains of the Southern Tagalog Region namely Mts. Maculot, Taal, Banahaw, Cristobal and Makiling. It also offers a beautiful camping ground on its summit, amply covered and protected with trees but with a magnificent opening like a balcony as its viewpoint. If you have hiked Mt. Banahaw de Dolores via its *Tatlong Tangke* route, Mt. Malipuno is the mountain that you will see from the viewpoint from the "*Tatlong Tangke*" campsite. Located at Lipa Batangas, the place is abundant with *Lipa* tree (maybe the reason why the place was called Lipa) which causes itchiness when your skin comes into contact with it's leaves. Along the trail, you will often see panoramic views one of which is like a half mountain with a flat wall. Malipuno is sometimes called Mt. Malarayat ever since the golf course bearing the said name was established along the foot of the mountain. If you want mountains away from the "beaten trail", this is the place to be.

### ◆ WHEN AND HOW TO GO

Mt. Malipuno is accessible via Lipa Batangas. Buses going to Batangas City as well as Lemery Batangas pass by Lipa. From the bus terminal and stop over in Lipa, you have to ride a tricycle to the Lipa Public Market. Look for the station of jeepneys bound for Barangay Talisay in Lipa Batangas. In going to Malipuno, you have to do a lot of asking and research since it is not a popular place for hiking so locals may not be familiar if you ask directions from them. Since there are many houses along the trailhead in Barangay Talisay, there are many trails initially but those trails later merges to one on the way up to the mountains. There is a small river at the initial part of the trail. Upon

reaching higher grounds, Mt. Makulot will be visible from your back as well as Taal Volcano. Loggers are actually using this main trail and is also the same trail going straight to Candelaria. The trail is steep climbing up until it becomes almost level going around the mountain. At your right viewpoint, you will then see a mountain with a big wall as if it was a conical mountain sliced in the middle exposing its core showing a big wall. You will then approach a saddle. From this point on, be alert for the trail branches off to your left, up towards the summit. The trail is not visible. From the number of friends who have been there, all them got lost even initially before they have decided to directly climb the summit creating their own trail. Be careful though since Malipuno has a number of peaks so if you will directly climb the summit, you might stumble on the wrong peak. Generally, Malipuno should be hiked by individuals who are open to possibilities like getting lost, backtracking or directly assaulting the summit. It is really not frequented therefore, trails not established. If you erroneously continued your hike from the main trail, you will eventually descend on your way to Candelaria, Quezon. There are other trails in the mountain like the one in Candelaria but the Lipa trail is the one that is commonly used by mountaineers in hiking to the summit.

## ◆ SUGGESTED ITINERARY

### DAY 1

- 06:00 - Assembly at Tritran Bus Station in Buendia-Taft (Take bus bound for Batangas City)
- 06:30 - ETD Manila to Batangas City
- 09:00 - ETA Lipa Batangas Bus Terminal (take tricycle going to public market)
- 09:15 - ETD towards Brgy. Talisay (look for jeepneys at public market)
- 10:00 - ETA Brgy. Talisay
- 10:15 - Start Trek
- 11:15 - Trail branches off at saddle (not visible so be careful)
- 14:00 - ETA camp site, Set Camp
- 18:00 - Dinner
- 21:00 - Light's Out

### DAY 2

- 09:00 - Wake-up Call, Breakfast
- 10:00 - Free Time
- 12:00 - Lunch
- 12:30 - Start Trek
- 14:00 - Prepare for Trip back to Manila (bathe along river)
- 14:45 - ETA Lipa Batangas Terminal
- 17:45 - ETA Manila

## ◆ SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS IN CLIMBING

Be careful in hiking Mt. Malipuno because this place is not a national park, you will often meet loggers along the trail. The trail itself is confusing due to the ones made by the loggers (logger's trails are more visible than the trail going into the summit). Water sources are also not available along the trail or even near the campsite so bring enough water supplies. If you are planning to go here without somebody who has been in the mountains before, be prepared to get lost because chances are, you

will. This place is recommended for the adventurous as well as those who are not very much obsessed with reaching the summit. Permits or courtesy registrations are not required.

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