



OTHER DESTINATIONS NEAR MANILA

DESTINATION: DAMPALIT FALLS

LOCATION: Los Banos, Laguna
 ELEVATION: 20 meters
 LEVEL: Easy/ Day Trek
 JUMP-OFF POINT: DPWH, Los Banos

INFORMATION:

Take the highway from Calamba to Los Banos. In Los Banos, you will see a signage, Dampalit Falls, on your right, across Villa Maricar Resort (on your left). Turn right after the signage and you will enter the Department of Public Works and Highways. Ask permission from the guard to enter and proceed. Go straight on the paved road, and when you turn on the right, notice the dirt path on your left. Take that dirt path, and you will reach a paved road. Follow the road, passing through a residential area. Walk by the river, on the left side, and cross ahead. You will see an entrance and trail leading to the falls. Waterfall is around 40-feet high, with a pool underneath it. You can have your back massaged by the momentum of the water or take a cold dip in the water.

DESTINATION: MT. BULALO

LOCATION: Bgy. Bitin, Bay, Laguna
 ELEVATION: 505 meters
 LEVEL: Moderate/ Day Trek
 JUMP-OFF POINT: Makban Geothermal Plant, Bay, Laguna

INFORMATION:

This is a small mountain in the geothermal area of Makiling, which is now accessible by motor vehicle through the geothermal site of Makban. Make your way towards Sto. Tomas, Laguna and on your left you will see a signpost for Makban Geothermal Site. Follow the road pass the barangay outpost and barangay hall. When you reach a pipe forming an arch across the road, take a right turn, that is A. Mabini Street. There is also a small chapel on the right corner. Follow the cemented road and said street all the way. If you feel unsure, ask the locals along the way. You will pass steam outlets and begin steep ascent. At the end of the paved road, you will reach a small plateau, an outpost. Park your vehicle there and begin a short hike up to the summit, through a trail behind a small hut. The summit is bare except for cogon grass and geothermal posts. You can get a good view of Mt. Makiling, Mt. Lagula, Mt. Nagcarlang, and Taal Lake from certain areas. Manila - Sto. Tomas Batangas, (one way) - 60.00 Php

DESTINATION: MADLUM CAVES

LOCATION: San Miguel Bulacan
 ELEVATION: not available

LEVEL: Easy/ Day Trek
 JUMP-OFF POINT: San Miguel Bulacan

INFORMATION:

The Madlum cave is the smallest of the Bulacan caves. In fact you can go around the place in less than 20 minutes. This might be frustrating for those who have experience with more extensive cave system. Overall, the cave system has 3 grand portals leading to a 50 meters long cavern. There is a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the first of the openings which the locals pay homage to. It is the place where the town's patron, St. Michael was believed to have been found. Other activities you can do within the cave system includes climbing its roof, do some rappelling and some rock climbing on its wall. Madlum cave is located near the Biak na Bato caves in Bulacan. From the San Miguel hi-way, pass by the access road to Biak na Bato (turn right from the junction towards Barangay Sibul) and a few kilometers later, a sign along the highway points to the road going to Madlum cave. The cave is located at a riverbank. You have to pass by the other side of the river to get to the cave. It would take you around 1 1/2 hours of trekking to reach the peak. There are guides along the jump-off point

DESTINATION: PINAGREALAN CAVES

LOCATION: Norzagaray Bulacan
 ELEVATION: not available
 LEVEL: Easy/ Day Trek
 JUMP-OFF POINT: Norzagaray Bulacan

INFORMATION

The word Pinagrealan can be derived from a Spanish term, which means "*a place where they had a meeting*". Pinagrealan caves got its name because the place is a favorite meeting place of the Katipuneros during the Spanish revolution. The interior of the cave is bigger than the San Miguel caves and is a popular place where local movies shoot their films for their horror and fantasy movies. Maybe the reason why it was a favorite meeting place of the *Katipuneros* during the Spanish revolution is because of its large interior. Currently, the cave system is being threatened by the rampant quarrying of the mountain for its rich marble deposits. The locals are not that keen in protecting their natural treasures. The place is not easy to locate. You can go to Norzagaray, Bulacan and ask for information from the locals particularly from the local government units. The place has no markers. It is located along the highway and is a 10-minute walking distance from the road. There are some houses located near the vicinity where you can ask for information.

DESTINATION: MT. NAGCARLAN OR CALAUAN

LOCATION: Laguna
 ELEVATION: 760 meters above sea level
 LEVEL: moderate
 JUMP-OFF POINT: Nagcarlan, Laguna

INFORMATION

Mount Calauan, also known as Mt. Nagcarlan is a single almost denuded volcanic cone, located close to the town of Calauan. Turn left in the town proper. Proceed on that road for a few more kilometers until you are right at the foot of the mountain. There is no official path and access has to be sought through one of the larger plantations that border the road. The lower slope are mostly covered by coconut plantations and a network of little trails. Further up, the slopes are either bare or planted with root crops. A little patch of forest on the western flank serves as a landmark- keep left on it and hike along it's margin. The summit offers a beautiful view in almost directions.

DESTINATION: CALAUAN VOLCANIC CONES

LOCATION: Laguna
ELEVATION: not applicable
LEVEL: easy- moderate
JUMP-OFF POINT: Calauan, Laguna

INFORMATION

In Calauan, Laguna, there are intermittent swamps and remains of old volcanic craters, lots of springs, rivers, coconut groves and sugar cane fields. You can travel from Manila to Calauan by car and ask the locals from Calauan town proper the directions to the old craters.

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