



DESTINATION : PICO DE LORO

LOCATION	Cavite-Batangas Province
COORDINATES	
ELEVATION	664 meters above sea level
LEVEL	Minor Climb, Level I, Easy
DISTINCT CHARACTERISTICS	Highest Point in Cavite, Spectacular Viewpoint
ACTIVITIES	Hiking
JUMP-OFF POINT	Ternate Cavite, Nasugbu Batangas
AVERAGE DAYS REQUIRED	2 days
MINIMUM DAYS REQUIRED	1 day
IT CREATED BY	Long Henson
DATE LAST UPDATED	August 8, 2001

● INFORMATION

Pico de Loro is located 85 kilometers southwest of Manila. It is bounded by the island of Corregidor and the Caraballo Mountains in the north, Nasugbu Batangas in the south, Maragondon on the east and the South China Sea on the west. With the height of 664 meters above sea level, it is considered the highest mountain in the generally flat Cavite province. Pico de Loro is the highest point on a series of rolling hills and mountains within the boundary of Cavite and Batangas. Though not really that high, the view from the summit is awesome, facing the tranquil seas on the north-eastern side particularly the Manila Bay area giving you a good vantage point to watch the ships passing by while the entire Batangas and Cavite on the south-eastern side will give you a glimpse of the south-eastern mountains like Batulao and Talamitam. Pico de Loro has a majestic view when seen near the base camp wherein it resembles a mighty rock-face with exotic flora along the sides resembling the North American rocky mountains, though on a smaller scale.



Pico de Loro

Pico de Loro is somewhat part of the vast naval military park in Ternate Cavite because of its strategic location giving a vantage point of the strategic Corregidor Island. It was used strategically as an observation post for Japanese naval movements during World War II.

Pico de Loro is currently on a constant threat against modernization. The place has been controversial when a plan to make a highway connecting Nasugbu and Ternate was proposed. It seems that several thousand of trees will be cut to make way for this project. Another issue was the Hacienda Looc controversy, which is generally the fight for ownership of the lands within the Pico de Loro area.

● LEGENDS

According to legends, the mountain got her name from the first Spanish colonizers. They have seen the mountain from a distance while they were cruising their way to Manila bay and have noticed the peak resembling a parrot's beak hence was it called "Pico de Loro" from the Spanish word "Parrot's Peak". Another story goes that early Caviteños named the mountains from the tropical birds, a specie of the parrot family, which they often encounter while they were hunting for food within the mountains.

● WHEN AND HOW TO GO

There are generally two jump-off points for the Pico de Loro climb. It is actually a continuous trail between the two trailheads, and the climb towards Pico de Loro summit branches off from the center. The first jump-off point is a spot along the Ternate Hi-way going to Caylabne Bay Resort. Passing by Puerto Azul entrance, this jump-off point has a DENR marker you will never miss within the "magnet" area. It was so called magnet since the hill was claimed to be magnetic wherein your car would continue it's climb even when the engine is turned off similar to the magnetic hill of Laguna. To get there, catch a bus bound for Maragondon or Ternate Cavite at the Lawton or Liwasang Bonifacio area. Saulog bus line is one bus company who plies the route. Then at Maragondon Cavite, hire a jeep that will take you to the jump-off area. From the jump-off or trailhead, a 2-hour hike will take you to a base camp passing by open fields, farms and grazing lands. Base camp is actually established anywhere or any open fields within the base of the mountain. Set-up camp here. A 45-minute hike to the summit is usually done without the packs. You can actually camp on the summit though it can accommodate only few tents and winds at the summit are usually strong which will continually pound your tents. From base camp to the summit, the climb is very steep but with ample bamboo to hold on. Usually, the trail going to Nasugbu is the one used in going down. Just follow the same trail straight to Barangay Papaya, Nasugbu Batangas. This barrio is accessible from Nasugbu town proper by pump boat or a long jeepney ride along the rough road to Nasugbu. If climbing from this side of the trail, you have to take a bus ride to Nasugbu from Manila (BLTB) and from there arrange transportation for Barangay Papaya.

● POINTS OF INTEREST

Both Nasugbu and Ternate are known tourist sites. A lot of places of interest are along the way. Going to Ternate, you will pass by the historical town of Kawit, home of the first president of the Philippine Republic, Emilio Aquinaldo. Ternate host a lot of wonderful resorts particularly the Puerto Azul and Caylabne Bay. On the other side, Nasugbu is a famous beachfront. Climbing down from here, it's advised to take a stop along one of the beaches for a refreshing bath. On the way to Manila, you will be passing by the famous tourist spot, Tagaytay City.

● SUGGESTED ITINERARY

DAY 1

06:00	Assembly at Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila
06:30	ETD for Maragondon Cavite
09:30	ETA Maragondon Public Market. Market Time/ Early Lunch

10:00	ETD for Jump-off Point
10:30	ETA Trailhead at "Magnetic Hill" along Ternate Highway
11:00	Start Trek to first Nipa Hut
12:00	Break at Nipa Hut
13:00	Resume Trek
15:00	ETA Base Camp. Set Camp
16:00	Trek Towards Summit
16:45	ETA Summit
17:30	Start Trek Towards Base Camp
19:00	Dinner, Socials
21:00	Light's Out

DAY 2

06:30	Wake-up Call, Breakfast
07:00	Start Trek Towards Nasugbu
09:00	ETA Barangay Papaya. Take Tricycle Towards Barangay Proper
09:30	ETA Barangay Proper. Arrange Jeepney Trip to Nasugbu Town Proper
10:00	ETD Barangay Papaya
11:00	ETA Nasugbu. Look For Resort to have Lunch and Refreshing Bath
15:00	ETD for Manila
18:00	ETA Manila

PICTURES

Photos Taken by : Arin Desembrana (2001)



Jump off Point at Ternate



Viewpoint at the Summit



The Parrot's Beak - Rockface



The Parrot's Beak - Rockface



On the way to the summit



The Summit

● SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Information sent to us by MMS member, Tonie Santos dated November, 2000

Pls. take special considerations when climbing PICO during rainy/stormy season. Such as the following:

If u plan to take the nasugbu trail going down, bear in mind that jeeps/bus/public transpo are very seldom (because of the rough road), in fact sometimes NONE, so prepare to ride the banca going to the nasugbu beaches (Brave the waves!). Banca fare is P600.00, since there were 6 of us, it's 100 bucks per head.

Additionally, the following are the most recent expenses in terms of jeep/bus/banca fares for Pico (since Nov. 1, 2000):

GOING UP TO PICO via Caylabne trail:

- Bus from Lawton to Maragondon = P 57.00
- Hired jeep from Maragondon to Jump-off pt (magnetic sign) = P300.00 (6 persons)
- I don't know if it's legal, or if it's the current practice, but @ Pico base camp, there is a nipa hut wherein a father and son lives. You have to pay 5 bucks/head, and register. you may use the CR for taking a leak/dump, and the water-via-bamboo-shower for taking a bath. You may also camp there, if it's too late assaulting the summit. Manong is friendly and polite.

GOING BACK TO MANILA via Brg. Papaya Trail:

- Brgy. papaya to Nasugbu town banca ride = P600.00, P100.00/head
- Tricycle ride = P4.50/head, pag siningil kayo ng 10.00 bucks, 'wag kayo papayag, pero for consideration na rin, cge lang.

** Lodge/Resort fee, in case you want to take a nice refreshing bath = P25.00 (rate @ Rebekah's Resort)

** Overnite stay @ Rebekah's Resort (owned by Manong Eddie, with Cable TV, nice CR, nice BED + pull-down bed, 1 electric fan) = P600.00, since anim kami, P100.00/head. Manong Eddie is pretty nice and accommodating. Pwede pa kayo makipagbaratan sa kanya.

** P100/head meal at this resto right beside Manong Eddie's resort. A pop/modern band performs. (It's okay, but the locals/visitors who frequent the place usually request for songs by Aegis and the likes, so if you don't trip on those kinds of music, better spend your night relaxing at Manong Eddie's swimming pool.) But they do serve good meals. We tried Sinigang na Baboy, Sizzling Beef something, and chopseuy, all good.

- BLTB Bus bound for Manila = P97.00

** Optional

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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