



## OTHER DESTINATIONS SOUTH OF MANILA

### **DESTINATION: LEYNES TRACK**

LOCATION: Tagaytay City  
 ELEVATION: not available  
 LEVEL: Easy/ Day Trek  
 JUMP-OFF POINT: DAP Tagaytay

#### INFORMATION:

Start either at the rotunda on Tagaytay Ridge or an alternate turn-off right across the elementary school near the Development Academy of the Philippines. From the trailhead, a 13-kilometer road winds its way down the caldera slopes to the town of Leynes on the lakeshore. Jeepneys still use this road which in spite of short stretches of mud, is in relatively good shape. This route provides breathtaking vistas of the lake and volcano. Meandering its way past patches of dense forest, this route may even provide the hiker or mountain biker, a challenge to see local wildlife such as colorful birds, insects and monitor lizards. The trail is passable by vehicles during the dry months of January to April.

### **DESTINATION: MT. BAGACAY**

LOCATION: Labo, Camarines Sur  
 ELEVATION: not available  
 LEVEL: Strenuous  
 JUMP-OFF POINT: Barangay Bagacay, Labo Camarines Sur

#### INFORMATION:

This Itinerary was sent to me by Dennis of LCC-D Mountaineers. According to him, the place is difficult and challenging. It has four major peaks and a few minor peaks. One of the minor peaks is called "atang-ga" which is a ninety degree rock formation accessible through its back side at 30 to 50 degrees. Only one of the four major peaks has been explored by the local mountaineering group, Oryol outdoor club. The rock formation is a promising rock climbing destination. It will take two to three days to scale one of the peaks. From Daet Camarines Sur, take jeeps bound for Labo. From Labo town proper, proceed to Barangay Bagacay. For details, you can contact Dennis at [den@pinoymail.com](mailto:den@pinoymail.com).

**DESTINATION: MT LABO**

LOCATION: Camarines Norte  
ELEVATION: 924 meters above sea level  
LEVEL: Strenuous  
JUMP-OFF POINT: Barangay Pabrika, San Vicente Camarines Norte

INFORMATION:

Another Itinerary from Denis of LCC-D Mountaineers, Mt. Labo is more difficult than Mt. Bagacay. Although only 924 meters above sea level, the hike to the summit will take approximately 4 to 5 days. It has a few couple of peaks including the so-called Knife Edge Peak near the summit. Guide to be contacted are the Mananap Mountaineers also through Dennis. From further research, Mt. Labo together with Mt. Bayabas, are in-active volcanoes.

**DESTINATION: MT. GULUGOD BABOY**

LOCATION: Batangas  
ELEVATION: not available  
LEVEL: Easy/ Day Trek  
JUMP-OFF POINT: Anilao, Batangas

INFORMATION:

One of the mountains of Batangas, Gulugod Baboy is located in the town of Anilao Batangas, famous for its beach resorts and dive sites. The hike is pleasant commanding spectacular views of the batangas towns as well as the Batangas Bay. From Anilao, you can ask the locals for directions towards Gulugod baboy.

**DESTINATION: MT. BANAHAW VIA SARIYAYA**

LOCATION: Quezon  
ELEVATION: 2177 meters above sea level  
LEVEL: Strenuous  
JUMP-OFF POINT: Sariyaya Quezon

INFORMATION:

Sariyaya or the Guis-guis trail is the most difficult of the Banahaw trails. The trail enters inside the crater of the volcano via the opening from the Sariyaya side then makes it way up to the Dolores's Durungawan peak. The trail from the upper portion of the crater is really steep. You can either climb from this trail and descend on the other Banahaw trails or you may opt to descend from the steep trails of Sariyaya from the mouth of the crater via Durungawan. The Sariyaya experience will take a minimum of 3 to 4 days of hike. There are also unestablished trails from the Dolores towards the lower slopes of the Sariyaya Trail. Trail head is located at the Sariyaya Guis-guis resort.

**DESTINATION: PINAGBANDERAHAN**

LOCATION: Mabini Quezon  
ELEVATION: not available  
LEVEL: moderate  
JUMP-OFF POINT: Mabini, Quezon

**INFORMATION:**

A group of mountaineers from Taytay Rizal who owns the Rizal Outdoors mountaineering store told me of this destination. It is a small mountain nestled near a beachfront. From Mabini, Quezon, you can ask the locals to take you to the jump-off or trailhead for a peak locals call "Pinagbanderahan." The hike is easy to moderate with spectacular views of the Batangas Bay. After the hike, you can camp at he beach grounds and enjoy the rest of the weekend swimming.

**DESTINATION: NAGCARLAN LAGUNA**

LOCATION: Laguna  
 ELEVATION: not available  
 LEVEL: easy to strenuous  
 JUMP-OFF POINT: Nagcarlan Quezon

**INFORMATION:**

Nagcarlan is one blessed town offering a lot of outdoor activities. You can explore the bounty and magnificence of eight mountains: Mt. Atimbia, Mt. Mabilog, Mt. Nagcarlan, Mt. Malauban, Mt. Lansay, Mt. Bayaquitos, Mt. Cristobal and Mt. Banahaw. There is also a lake we call Yambo and numerous crystal-clear bodies of water such as rivers and great waterfalls. The most prominent waterfall is the famous Bunga Falls.

**DESTINATION: IMOC HILL**

LOCATION: Laguna  
 ELEVATION: not available  
 LEVEL: easy  
 JUMP-OFF POINT: San Pablo

**INFORMATION:**

Imoc hill is a small in-active volcano near San Pablo City. You can go there by taking the San Pablo to Calauan highway. You can start you hike at any portion of the highway at the foot of the mountain but its better starting your hike at the highest portion of the highway. The hill has a little crater and allows a fine view. From there you can see that at the foot of the hill. Right across the highway, there is another crater with a shallow lake. It is also accessible to hikers and only a few minutes from the highway.

**DESTINATION: INFANTA BOTANICAL GARDENS**

LOCATION: Quezon  
 ELEVATION: not available  
 LEVEL: easy to strenuous  
 JUMP-OFF POINT: Infanta Quezon

**INFORMATION:**

Infanta is a little, quite town on the Pacific coast of Quezon Province. Access to the area is usually via Rizal Province rather than South Super Highway, passing by Siniloan then Famy Laguna crossing the Sierra Madre. It has sandy beaches and primitive resorts currently being developed for local tourist. Hikers will appreciate the impressive cascades of waterfalls deep in the heart of the mountains, and the National Botanical Garden, a first rate destination for botanist and explorers. The

place was previously notorious for insurgents but nowadays, it's safe to travel this area. You have to stay overnight to appreciate the place.

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