



DESTINATION : MT MARIVELES - TARAK RIDGE

LOCATION	Bataan Province
COORDINATES	14.5 N 120.5 E
ELEVATION	1,288 meters above sea level (Mariveles Summit) 1006 meters above sea level - Tarak Ridge
LEVEL	Major Climb, Level II, Moderate- Difficult
DISTINCT CHARACTERISTICS	Scenic Views of Bataan
ACTIVITIES	Hiking
JUMP-OFF POINT	Mariveles, Bataan
AVERAGE DAYS REQUIRED	2 days (including travel time from Manila)
MINIMUM DAYS REQUIRED	2 days (including travel time from Manila)
IT CREATED BY	Long Henson, Manny Zacarias, Arin Desembrana
DATE LAST UPDATED	August 10, 2001

● INFORMATION

For a long time, Mt. Mariveles was elusive to climbers. Unlike its neighbor Mt. Natib, Mt. Mariveles was not known as a climbing destination. There were talks before that the place is rebel infested that is why it is not yet opened to climbers. The mystery that surrounds it incited all the more, mountaineers who are in search of new destinations. There were several attempts to conquer this mountain and the result is this first established destination, the Tarak Ridge. Although its summit has already been conquered, Tarak Ridge became the popular destination. Its is like Manabo of Mt. Malipuno.

Located at 14.5N, 120.5 E, this 1,288 high mountain is a stratovolcano with no historic activity. A single carbon-14 date from a volcanic sample yielded a date of 2050 BC. Bordering Mariveles is the Manila Bay and the famous Corregidor Island. From Tarak Ridge, you will have a 270 degrees viewpoint of interesting places such as Corregidor Island, Mt. Samat, Mariveles Ridgeline and the town of Mariveles and its port.



Space Shuttle photo STS045-152-274 taken in March 1992

● LEGENDS

Romance surrounds the legend behind Mariveles. There were once two lovers in Mexico, one the son of a wealthy family and the other lovely señorita named Maria Velez. True to their nobility, both volunteered to go to the Philippines and help in the evangelization of the country. They have also planned of getting married while they are in Manila. Maria Velez went ahead on a separate Galleon while the young man followed on a different ship. On the long cruise, Maria Velez decided to join the cloistered nuns of Sta. Clara since she felt that she did not want to marry. Upon reaching Manila, the young man, disheartened, returned to Mexico and joined the Franciscan Order as a monk. He returned to Manila and was asked to be in charge of one of the convents of Santa Clara since it was under the supervision of the Franciscans. While celebrating the mass one day, the couple recognized each other. As time passed, both fell in love again to one another. They decided to elope back to Mexico via a ship from Bataan. On the way to Bataan, the man rode a horse (caballo) while Maria Velez, a carabao. They were discovered by their superiors and was pursued on their way to Bataan. But tragedy happened when the couple were killed by wandering Negritos. Since then, the place was named Mariveles in honor of Maria Velez. The other islets near the place were also named after the incident, Carabao and Caballo and Corregidor Islands.

● WHEN AND HOW TO GO

Tarak Ridge can be climbed any time of the year. Summer months are hot since trails are exposed although views are awesome. To go to Tarak, the same options as that of going to Natib are applicable. You can take Buses bound for Bataan or you can take the speedboats plying the Bataan route at CCP complex. From Orion Bataan, catch a ride to Barangay Alasanin (or Alas-asin) in Mariveles. From that same Barangay, ask the locals for the trail head. From clearing you'll be descending about 300 meters passing along several eroded trails until reaching Papaya river (w/c is the last water source during the dry season). After the Papaya river, a gradual ascent for 15-20 minutes, then steep ascent all throughout until pre-ridgeline area. You can follow the tied straws on the plants along the trail, if it is still there. Campsite is rocky so bring sufficient or cushy sleeping pads. Campsite is at 1006 meters above sea level with coordinates of 14 degrees, 30 minutes and 16 seconds north and 120 degrees, 29 minutes and 13 seconds East.

● POINTS OF INTEREST

Near Mt. Mariveles is another popular climbing destination, Mt. Natib. Another place near Natib is Mt. Samat, which is a small mountain with roads up to the summit, and a cross-shaped structure commemorating the historic event, "fall of Bataan". It is advisable to take the speedboats to Orion to experience the scenic views while cruising and take a bus on your way home for different scenic views on the route from Orion to Manila.

● SUGGESTED ITINERARY

DAY 1

05:00	Assembly at CCP Complex Jet Ferry Terminal (same as Samat Ferry Terminal- the one for Natib climb)
06:00	ETD for Mariveles, Bataan (195Php+5Php Terminal Fee). You can also go to Orion (Samat Ferry) then to Mariveles.
07:00	ETA at Mariveles, hire Jeepney to Bgy. Alas-asin (200 Php) You can pass by Mariveles Public Market for Supplies.
07:30	ETA Barangay Alasanin (Alas-asin) KM 156, 15-20 minutes from Mariveles. The dirt road that leads to the mountain is to your left between a cellphone transmitter

	and a kilometer post coming from Mariveles. But before turning to this dirt road, you may want to register first at Bgy Alas-asin Barangay Hall. Start Trek (Dirt Road 1.5 kilometers)
10:00	ETA at Triangular Cogon Clearing
12:30	ETA at Papaya River, Lunch. From the river, take the trail to the left before the river. Do not take the trail after the river.
14:00	ETA Lumber Jacks
15:00	ETA Tarak Ridge (Pre-ridgeline)
15:30	ETA Tarak Ridge Campsite
22:00	Light's Out

DAY 2

04:00	Wake-up Call, Breakfast
06:00	Start of Trek to Tarak and Nearby Peaks
09:00	Breakcamp, Start Trek to Barangay Alas-asin
11:00	ETA Papaya River
12:30	ETA Trailhead
15:00	ETA Barangay Alas-asin Hall. You can take your shower here.
15:30	ETD for Mariveles
16:30	ETA Mariveles
17:00	ETD for Manila (If you are late for the Mariveles trip, there is an option of going to Orion for the 5:30 trip)
18:00	ETA Manila at CCP Complex Terminal

PICTURES

Photos by : Arin Desembrana (2001)



Mt. Mariveles as seen from the Ferry Boat



Papaya River Along the Trail



Colorful Sunset



Time for Reflection



Si Oyie cook ?



Group Photo



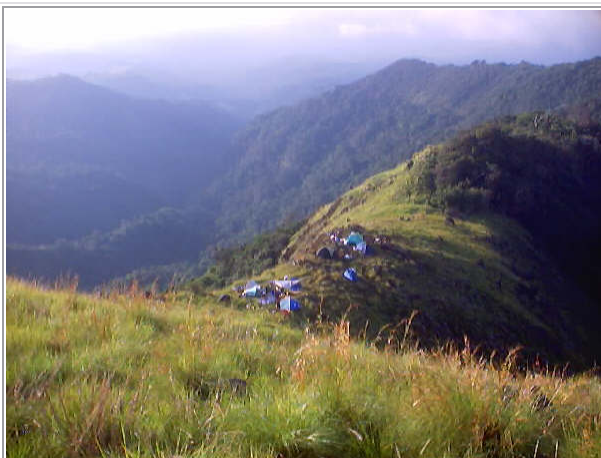
What is it like to be in the Ridge



Inclined Campsite ?



Awesome View from the Campsite



So that is why it is called a "Ridge"

● SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no permits required in climbing Mt. Tarak Ridge.

● 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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