



DESTINATION: TAYTAY FALLS (MAJAYJAY)

LOCATION :	Laguna Province
ELEVATION :	300-400 meters above sea level
LEVEL :	Minor Climb, Level I, Easy
JUMP OFF POINTS :	Majayjay, Laguna
AVERAGE DAYS REQUIRED :	1 Day (including travel time from Manila)
MINIMUM DAYS REQUIRED :	1 Day (including travel time from Manila)
IT CREATED BY :	Long Henson
DISTINCT CHARACTERISTICS :	Waterfalls
LAST EDITED :	March 2, 2000

◆ INFORMATION

Taytay Falls was formerly known as Imelda Falls. It was renamed Taytay Falls since the name of the Barangay which occupies the place is Barangay Taytay of Majayjay Laguna. The falls is actually located along the lower slope of Mt. Lukban de Banahaw at the side of Majayjay Laguna. In fact there is a trail from Lukban that goes to Majayjay's Taytay Falls. Likewise, you can trek to Lucban de Banahaw via Taytay Falls. Taytay Falls is very convenient to hike. The locals have been active in developing and protecting this treasure. There are cemented pathways to the campsite. Canals that redirect the route of the water are also located along trail where clear and clean water flows. It is also just a 15-minute walk from the nearest settlement where you can buy food and supplies. The campsite is also big which can accommodate around 20 tents. The falls itself is a series of several basins with the final big waterfalls flowing to a big catch basin, which is ideal for swimming. The place also teems with a large variety of plants and birds.

◆ WHEN AND HOW TO GO

Local tourist or excursionist frequents the place all year round so the place is actually not that quiet and peaceful. But during the rainy season, there are days that you may have a chance to have the place on your own. Be prepared though that water level sometimes reaches to alarming proportions when the rain is really hard. In fact one time we camped there during the last week of December, the waterfalls more than doubled its actual size causing the basin to overflow; the campsite was reached by the water level forcing us to evacuate that night.

Taytay falls can be reached either via Lukban or via Majayjay but for those coming from Manila, the route taken is usually via Majayjay. From Manila, take a bus going to Sta. Cruz Laguna. From Sta Cruz ride a jeepney to Majayjay Laguna from the Sta. Cruz public market. Alight at the Majayjay Catholic Church where the jeepneys bound for Lukban can be found at the back of the church. Ask the driver to take you to the jump-off point for Imelda Falls or Taytay Falls. The trail is actually a cemented road going to Barangay Taytay which later changes to a rough and muddy road. This is actually an access road for the produce of the locals since the area is a vegetable plantation. There are shortcuts along the right side of the road which you can easily distinguish. Continue till you reach the waiting shed before entering the river. From here, the trail changes to a paved walkway straight to the campsite.

◆ POINTS OF INTEREST

From Majayjay, the centuries old, Majayjay church is worth the visit. The place is also popular for their "*lambanog*", a local coconut wine. Along the road to Lukban, you will see the bamboo stilts interconnecting the coconut trees where these *lambanogs* are being harvested.

◆ SUGGESTED ITINERARY

DAY 1

- 06:00 - Assembly at Tritran Bus Station at Buendia-Taft (Take bus bound for Sta. Cruz)
- 06:30 - ETD Manila to Sta. Cruz
- 09:00 - ETA Sta. Cruz Laguna
- 09:15 - Take jeep for Majayjay Laguna (at Sta. Cruz Public Market)
- 10:00 - ETA Majayjay Laguna
- 10:15 - ETD for Lucban Quezon
- 11:15 - ETA Jump off point, Start Trek
- 14:00 - ETA camp site

DAY 2

- 12:00 - Lunch Break
- 12:30 - Start Trek
- 14:00 - Prepare for Trip back to Manila
- 14:45 - ETA Sta Cruz
- 17:45 - ETA Manila

◆ SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS IN CLIMBING

No permits are required to go to Taytay Falls. Although water sources are abundant and potable, it's still advisable to use these only for cooking. Bring enough water for drinking or if you will be getting it from the falls, you need to purify the water for your own safety.

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