

DIVING IN THE PHILIPPINES

Mindoro, Puerto Galera for 5 days at USD 353.00pp

Minimum 2 pax

A. MINDORO, PUERTO GALERA

150 kilometers away from Manila on the northwestern tip of Mindoro Island. 1½ hrs by land to Batangas pier and 1 hr. by ferry to Puerto Galera. There are dozens of coves, bays, islets and islands within ten kilometers in any direction from Puerto Galera.

Twin Sharing: USD 343.00 per person

Single Supplement: USD 68.00 per person

Extra Night with breakfast and 2 dives: USD 67.00 per person

INCLUSIONS:

Accommodation on an air-conditioned room twin sharing basis

Daily breakfast

2 dives per day starting day 02 – 04

Rental of equipment: tanks, weight belts, boat flashlight

Services of a Divemaster

Roundtrip shuttle service Manila - Batangas – Manila (1 ½ hrs o.w)

Roundtrip boat transfers Batangas – Puerto Galera – Batangas (1 hour)

DIVING

The diving is famous for it's diversity. Area is noted for its opportunities for macro – photography, fish and invertebrates, but there are plenty of larger subjects to photograph, plus corals, gorgonians, barrel sponges and whip corals. The reefs are forever changing with the tides.

Dive Season: Diving is possible all year round, with the best time being March to October.



INTAS TRAVEL

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1. **VERDE ISLAND – EAST POINT** ★★★★★

LOCATION: The East Point of Verde Island

ACCESS: By banca

CONDITIONS: Usually calm with some current

AVERAGE DEPTH: Whatever you like

MAXIMUM DEPTH: 60 m (200 ft) plus

A true wall, from the surface to 60m (200ft) with all the large soft corals, gorgonian sea fans, fish and pelagic visitors you would expect in such situation. This dive is done as a day trip.

2. **THE WASHING MACHINE** ★★★★★

LOCATION: The center of the south side of Verde Island

ACCESS: By banca

CONDITIONS: An advanced dive; can be very rough

AVERAGE DEPTH: 15m (50 ft)

MAXIMUM DEPTH: 30m (100 ft)

A high voltage dive comprising a series of small canyons at 15m (50ft) with currents going on all directions, throwing you around. This dive is done as a day trip.

3. **THE HOLE IN THE WALL** ★★★★★

LOCATION: Just west of Escarceo Point

ACCESS: 20 minutes east by banca

CONDITIONS: Usually choppy on the surface, with strong currents, but it can be very rough with fierce currents. Visibility can reach 25m (80ft)

AVERAGE DEPTH: 12m (40 ft)

MAXIMUM DEPTH: 19m (62 ft)

Allowing for currents, you drop into 9m (30ft) of well-lit water, with fields of table of table corals as good as anywhere in the world. You descend in several stepped drop-offs, each about 3m (10ft), and eventually reach the hole in the wall at 12m (40ft). The hole is about 1 ½ m (5ft) high and 0.8m (2 ½ ft) wide, covered with multicolored sponges and crinoids, leading to the canyons. The area teems with small reef fish, angelfish and butterfly fish. There are male Titan Triggerfish guarding eggs in nest, Moorish Idols, snappers, sweetlips, trumpetfish, pufferfish, Scrawled Filefish, lionfish and jacks, plus tuna and groupers. There are several species of nudibranchs on the wall, sea stars and sea cucumbers on the sand, and moray eels on the crevices.

4. **SHARK CAVE** ★★★★★

LOCATION: East of Escarceo Point

ACCESS: 25 minutes east by banca

CONDITIONS: Very rough with fierce currents.

VISIBILITY: can reach 20m (65ft)

AVERAGE DEPTH: 25m (80 ft)

MAXIMUM DEPTH: 30m (100 ft)

The Shark Cave is an overhang 30m (100ft) long at a depth of 29m (95ft). It is 1m (3ft) high at the opening but closes to 15cm (6in) about 4m (13ft) back. Whitetip Reef Sharks rest up here during the day. Nearby is a large boulder covered in soft corals, green Tubastrea corals, small gorgonian sea fans and small barrel sponges. There are lots of different species of nudibranchs, Six banded angelfish, Longnose Butterflyfish, shoals of Moorish Idols and pennantfish, filefish, triggerfish, surgeonfish, parrotfish, pufferfish, and small shoals of soldierfish under the overhang. The area is teeming with the smaller reef fish and colorful crinoids, which open out when the current is running.

5. **SABANG POINT** ★★★★★

LOCATION: Off Sabang point

ACCESS: 5 minutes by banca

CONDITIONS: Usually calm with slight current

VISIBILITY: can reach 20m (65ft)

AVERAGE DEPTH: 15m (50 ft)

MAXIMUM DEPTH: 22m (72 ft)

A good wall dropping down to 22m (72ft), with stony corals, soft corals, fish and invertebrates. A ridge coming up from the wall to 5m (16ft) is covered with even more corals and colorful crinoids. A good night dive.

6. **CORAL GARDENS** ★★★

LOCATION: The west face of Medio island

ACCESS: 15 minutes by banca

CONDITIONS: Usually calm though it can get rough. Best dived on a flood tide for visibility, which can reach 20m (65ft)

AVERAGE DEPTH: 6m (20 ft)

MAXIMUM DEPTH: 9m (30ft)

Considered the best snorkeling in the area and a good dive for the novice. The terrain shelves out from the shore to 9m (30ft). Lots of corals, both stony and soft, are found around the 2m (6 ½ ft) level, with more sand and coral head in the deeper water. There are some crevices deeper down with moray eels and the occasional immature Whitetip Reef Shark.



FIRST CLASS



HIGHLY RECOMMENDED



GOOD



AVERAGE