

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

Mindanao is the second-largest island in the Philippines. With its smaller surrounding islands, it forms the island group of the same name. Most visitors to Mindanao arrive into the cosmopolitan capital Davao City, and from there head to Cagayan de Oro to catch a ferry to Camiguin with its protected landscapes and focus on sustainability.

GETTING TO AND AROUND

Davao City's Francisco Bangoy International Airport has flights from Singapore, Hong Kong, Doha and Quanzhou, as well as internal flights. Other domestic flights operate to and between several airports within Mindanao including the island paradise of Siargao (see separate leaflet).

There are also ferries to the region from Luzon and the Visayas, and from Malaysia and Indonesia, plus long-distance buses to Davao and other destinations in Mindanao from Manila. Onward journeys within the region can be made by air (see left) or long-haul buses, while for shorter distances there are the usual jeepneys and taxis.

Camiguin can be reached by air from Cebu in 50mins. From Davao City, buses take you to Cagayan de Oro (260km) in about 7hrs 30mins to hook up to ferries to Camiguin taking about 2hrs. Alternatively, fly to Cagayan de Oro from Manila (1hr 40mins) or Cebu City (50mins), then catch the ferry. On the island, there are motorbikes, multicabs and vans to hire to explore, as well as public transport.

WHERE TO STAY

Davao City has a wide choice of clean modern accommodation, ranging from luxury to budget options, both around the airport and in the city centre – in the latter, the People's Park area is a lively hub. Camiguin offers beach resorts, eco-retreats, cabins, cottages, villas, lodges and guesthouses, most of them clustered on the north coast within easy reach of the airport and all of them excellent value when compared with their equivalents in the West.

DAVAO & CAMIGUIN



CLIMATE

With an average daily high of 33°C, tropical Mindanao is one of the warmest regions in the Philippines, with high humidity and rainfall. The wet season is July to October; the least rain falls from December to April.

Regional Offices

- Department of Tourism, DOT Building, Limketkai Center, 9000 Cagayan de Oro City, Tel: +63 88 880 0172, dot10@tourism.gov.ph
- Department of Tourism, Rm. 512, LANDCO Corporate Center Bldg., J.P. Laurel Ave., 8000 Davao City, Tel: +63 82 225 1940, dot11@tourism.gov.ph, www.Facebook/DOTDavaoRegion

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Philippine Department of Tourism
Indonesia Office
Jl. Dr. Saharjo No. 96A
South Jakarta, 12960
Indonesia

Tel: +62 (21) 8379 3456

info@wisatafilipina.com
pdotindonesia1@gmail.com
www.wisatafilipina.com

DAVAO & CAMIGUIN

Philippine Eagle



WELCOME TO DAVAO & CAMIGUIN

Tropical rainforest, rugged mountains including the UNESCO World Heritage listed Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary, killer surf and beaches lure travellers to the island of Mindanao, dubbed the 'land of promise' for its wealth of farming and marine products – which include what many claim to be the world's finest pearls.

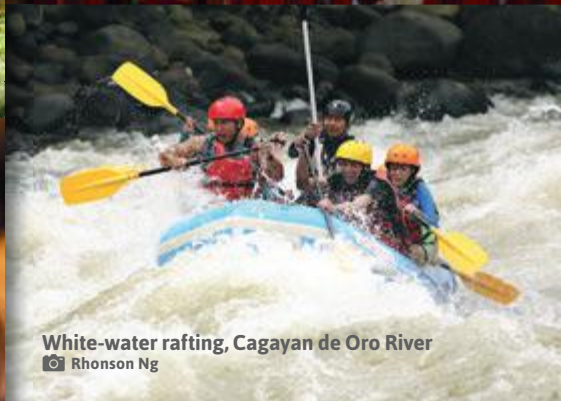
Mindanao's capital – and the country's third most populous city – vibrant **Davao City** has plenty of cultural, foodie delights and beaches just waiting to be discovered before you head to the island-province of **Camiguin**.

As well as its tropical beaches, the latter is best known for its Mount Hibok-Hibok Protected Landscape of interior forest reserves (designated an ASEAN Heritage Park) and for its three National Cultural Treasures.

"The island's capital, Davao, is home to the Philippine eagle – the largest in the world – popular beaches, many fruits and orchids, and a number of nature reserves and parks."
– The Telegraph



Kadayawan Festival, Davao City
© Rolan Garcia



White-water rafting, Cagayan de Oro River
© Rhonson Ng



Tuasan Falls, Camiguin



Lanzones fruits

WHY IT'S MORE FUN IN DAVAO & CAMIGUIN

Hiking, diving, surfing and white-water rafting are just some of the exciting activities that await the adventurous in Davao Province and Camiguin, although wildlife encounters and visits to natural sites are high on the agenda too. Beaches promise relaxation, as do the likes of yoga and meditation with their associations with the Hindu-Buddhist traditions that influenced local life during the classic epoch of Philippine history.

You might also consider a day-trip or overnighter to Lake Sebu a 4hr bus-ride (145km) southwest of Davao City – a growing ecotourism and adventure-sports destination as well as home to the T'boli and Ubo tribes.

CULTURE AND FOOD

Davao province and the region of Mindanao as a whole have a rich cultural mix, being home to the Philippines' largest Muslim community along with Roman Catholics and 18 tribal Filipino groups. In Davao City, you'll find Christian churches and chapels alongside temples, mosques and other places of worship, a Chinatown and a Japanese presence, plus heritage sites including Davao Museum, the Mindanao Folk Arts Museum and the Japanese Tunnel (used by Japanese forces during World War II). Meanwhile, Camiguin's reputation as a beach destination belies the cultural wealth evidenced by its many heritage buildings.

Davao is famed for its durian fruit, and Camiguin for its lanzones. You'll also see lots of fresh tuna from General Santos City on menus. Davao City's most popular dish is *kinilaw*, a kind of of vinegar-marinated ceviche with tuna, mackerel or swordfish, cucumber (and sometimes radishes) and chilli. Camiguin is a good place for both local and international dishes, with a wide choice for vegans.



White Island, Camiguin

Pearl Farm Beach Resort, Samal Island
© Christian Sangoyo



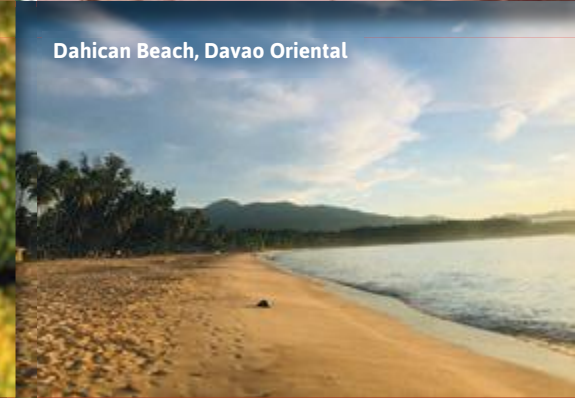
Durian fruit



Enchanted River, Surigao Del Sur



Dahican Beach, Davao Oriental



TOP 10 ACTIVITIES

- Trek to the top of **Mount Apo** in Davao province – the Philippines' highest peak, at 3,144m, or the UNESCO-listed **Mount Hamiguitan** (1,620m).
- Explore **Davao City** including the **D' Bone Collector** natural-history museum.
- Visit **Davao Crocodile Park & Zoo** with its wildlife shows and educational exhibits.
- Between Davao and the Cagayan de Oro, swim in **Blue Water Cave** in Bukidnon, and rappel, climb and spelunk nearby.
- Go white-water rafting in the **Cagayan de Oro River** with its electrifying rapids.
- Surf at **Dahican Beach** in Davao Oriental.
- Explore Camiguin's historic gems: the **Old Bonbon Church** ruins and **Sunken Cemetery** in Catarman, Guinsilibas' Spanish-era watchtower, **Old Mambajao** fountain and municipal building, **Santo Rosario Church** in Sagay town, and 14 heritage and ancestral houses.
- Immerse yourself in nature at **Tuasan Falls** on Camiguin island, a lovely spot to swim.
- Dive or snorkel at sites suited to all levels, especially those around Camiguin island.
- Visit Davao's luxury farm resorts **Pearl Farm** and **Dusit Thani Lubi Plantation**

TOP EVENTS & FESTIVALS

- **Barrios Feast Days, Davao City, various times** – fiestas celebrating patron saints.
- **Kadayawan Festival, Davao City, August** – a celebration of the area's indigenous tribes, with native street dances, motorcades, and local arts and crafts.
- **Lanzones Festival, Camiguin, October** – 4-day celebration of the harvest of the local fruit
- **Hermosa Festival, Zamboanga, October** – one of the country's oldest festivals, held in the sardine capital of the Philippines with its many Spanish colonial buildings, an 80-min flight from Davao City.