



Around Manila

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Antonio's (p98)
- ➔ Kinabuhayan Cafe Bed & Breakfast (p102)
- ➔ Josephine (p98)
- ➔ Feliza Café y Taverna (p99)
- ➔ The Castle (p106)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Kinabuhayan Cafe Bed & Breakfast (p102)
- ➔ Arthur's Place Dive Resort (p100)
- ➔ Villa Severina (p99)
- ➔ Sonya's Garden (p97)
- ➔ Alvin's Mt Pinatubo Guesthouse (p109)

Why Go?

After the urban joys of Manila have exhausted you, you'll probably be ready for some fresh air. Believe it or not, it's in ample supply in the hilly regions surrounding Manila.

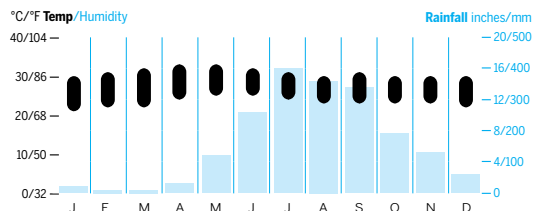
The area south of Manila is home to a clutch of interesting military history sights and some of the most dramatic landscapes you'll find anywhere. Volcanoes are the speciality, with some impressive sea- and townscapes thrown in.

Head north and you'll run square into the most notorious volcano of them all, Mt Pinatubo, in the underrated Zambales Mountains. It overlooks the twin ex-military bases of Subic and Clark, now struggling to become tourism hubs.

Though it's possible to visit these places as day trips, getting out of Manila can take the bulk of the morning, so it's better to do overnight stays.

When to Go

Manila



Dec–Feb The coolest months are particularly welcome.

May Local peaks become places of refuge in the height of the hot season.

Aug–Oct Some surf on the Zambales Coast within range of Subic.



Around Manila Highlights

- 1 Journey to volcanic drama on **Mt Pinatubo** (p109).
- 2 Enjoy sumptuous views of Taal Volcano and sumptuous cuisine in **Tagaytay** (p95).
- 3 Immerse yourself in WWII history on a day trip from Manila to **Corregidor** (p94).
- 4 Paddle along the heart of darkness in **Pagsanjan** (p101).
- 5 Go to extremes amid the virgin forests and sunken wrecks in and around **Subic Bay** (p104).
- 6 Spend a weekend in **Anilao** (p100), offering the best diving close to the capital.
- 7 Wander the relaxed streets of **Taal** (p98), lined with heritage ancestral houses.