



Southeast Luzon

Includes ➔

Bicol	166
Naga	167
Caramoan Peninsula ..	171
Legazpi	172
Donsol	178
Masbate	180
Catanduanes	183
Virac	184
Marinduque	186
Boac	187
Gasan & West Coast...	188

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Pacific Surfers' Paradise (p186)
- ➔ Residencia de Salvacion (p171)
- ➔ Balai Tinay Guesthouse (p173)
- ➔ Victoria's Guest House (p180)

Best Outdoor Adventures

- ➔ CamSur Watersports Complex (p170)
- ➔ Bicol Adventure ATV (p173)
- ➔ Majestic (p186)
- ➔ Mt Isarog National Park (p170)

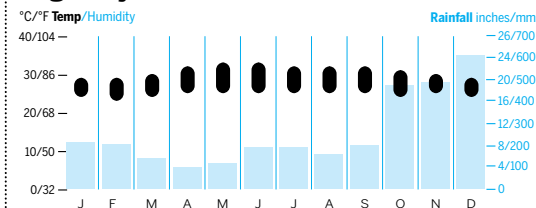
Why Go?

Looking rather like a seahorse that's headbutting a football, Southeast Luzon is one of the less-explored parts of the Philippines. More's the pity, since it's a wildly varied and weird part of the country, where travellers are likely to encounter anything from creatures of the deep (in Donsol and Ticao) to Eastertime Romans and self-flagellation (Marinduque) and cowboys rounding up both steers and crabs (Masbate).

Travellers who do make it down here tend to be surfers, drawn to the waves whipped up by the fierce winds in Southeast Luzon's outer reaches, and those who favour uncertainty and adventure over infrastructure and well-beaten tourist trails. Studded with some of the country's most active volcanoes, Southeast Luzon also attracts fresh-air fiends who come to scale these magma pressure cookers simply because they are there. Last but not least come the foodies; appropriately enough for this volatile land of fire, Bicolano cuisine brings some very welcome heat to the otherwise bland Filipino table.

When to Go

Naga City



Apr & May Cheer at the rodeos involving bulls and crabs.

May–Jul Sunny (and hot!) time of year, ideal for island-hopping and diving.

Aug–Nov Surf's up in Catanduanes and Bagasbas; kitesurfing also takes off.

Southeast Luzon Highlights

1 Snorkel alongside Bicol's gentle giants, the **whale sharks** of Donsol (p178).

2 Ride an ATV (quad bike) on the old lava trails of **Mt Mayon** (p176), Bicol's prettiest volcano.

3 Sample the best of Bicol's fiery cuisine in **Legazpi** (p166).

4 Watch the cattle hustlers round up some doggies at the **Rodeo Masbateño** (p183) in Masbate.

5 Ride the Catanduanes' legendary **Majestic surf break** (p186).

6 Explore the uninhabited islands and beaches of the pristine **Caramoan Peninsula** (p171).

7 Dive with manta rays in the **Manta Bowl** at Ticao Pass (p179).

8 Wakeboard, wakeskate, kneeboard and waterski at **CWC** (p170) near Naga.

9 Make like a Roman legionary at Marinduque's wild **Moriones Festival** (p189).

