



Lying east of Bicol mainland, Catanduanes is an island paradise in the Pacific, covering a total land area of 1,511.5 square meters.

Your visit to this island is more than just exploring its unspoiled beaches or enjoying surfing at Puraran Beach located on the northside. For aqua sport try scuba diving and sports fishing.

Catanduanes offers much more. It is rich in history, blending quaintly with the peaceful jutting mountains all over the island.

Adventures hike the twisting trails of Gigmoto and San Andres and enjoy the cool refreshing waterfalls, the religious visit to the ancient church of Bato and hike to the stone chapel a kilometer away where the first mass was believed to have been celebrated by the Spanish conquerors.

Island life is not as quiet as it seems. The capital town of Virac is irresistible for an oceanfront entertainment and arousing videoke bars. A hotel offers a breathtaking view of the entire island as its penthouse restaurant.

Resorts abound to accommodate leisure-seeking travelers, with a chain of picnic sheds and cottages over a well-manicured landscape, surrounded with lush greeneries.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Air

Catanduanes is served by Asian Spirit. This airline flies direct from Manila to and from Virac daily.

By Land

Air Conditioned buses (Philtranco and Tawtrasco) travel direct from Manila to Virac daily. Other air-conditioned buses can take you from Manila to the Port of Tabaco where a ferry boat can take you across to Virac, Catanduanes.



Scheduled trips leave the Araneta Center in Cubao and in Pedro Gil St., in Malate, Manila daily.

By Sea

For the more adventurous tourist and sightseeing travelers, Virac is the best reached through the sea.

Two shipping lines - San Pablo Shippin Lines and Star Ferry - set asail from the Port of the Tabaco to Viract/San Andres daily.

BRIEF HISTORY

The PROVINCE OF CATANDUANES, (opposite the Bicol Region), is bounded by the Maqueda Channel on the west, the Pacific Ocean on the north and east, and the Lagonoy Gulf and Cabugao Bay on the south.

The Island, with a land area of 1,511.5 square kilometers and a population of 215,356 in 2000, is composed of 11 towns, with Virac as the capital. Its fertile soil was made richer by the volcanic ashes from the distant Mayon Volcano.

Catanduanes is frequently visited by storms. However, the vessels that visit its ports are provided with safe anchorage by the bays and coves of Kalapalan, Giogmoto, Soboc, and Cabugao.

The important industries of the province are fishing, and cattle raising. In Pandan, "buri" hats and mats, roof shingles, and alcohol are manufactured for local consumption.

The province, formerly known as "Catanduan," "Catandognan," and finally, "Catanduanes," derived its name from the "tando" trees which then abound in the Island.

In 1573, Juan de Saceldo explored Catanduanes. Later, on January 6, 1576, Fr. Diego de Herrera with nine Augustinians sailed from Acapulco to the Philippines aboard the galleon, "Espiritu Santo."

Although it was reported that the galleon was shipwrecked near the coast of Catanduanes in April 1576, the others claimed that the disaster was caused by bad weather and all the crewmembers perished. Some said that the survivors were either killed by natives or made servants of a certain "Datu" of the island.

Catanduanes was once a part of Ibalon, now Albay. The ecclesiastical mission in the province was controlled by Nueva Caceres. However, in 1582, it was allotted to four "encomenderos."

In 1663, Fr. Francisco Colin, SJ. described the inhabitants as noted shipbuilders, without using nails or futtock timbers.

In 1755, the Muslims overran the island, defeated the "alcalde mayor," and pillaged and burned the towns including important ecclesiastical and municipal records.

During the Philippine Revolution, the Spaniards left Catanduanes on a motorboat named Josefa on September 18, 1898, before the arrival of the first Philippine revolutionary troops under Major Estanislao Legazpi.

When the Philippine-American war broke out, Brigadier General William A. Kobbe occupied Virac on January 24, 1900.

The island was governed by Japanese Imperial Forces after they occupied Legazpi in 1941. After the liberation of Bicol region in 1945, including Catanduanes, the United States Armed Forces maintained a military base in Panay island.

On September 26, 1945, Commonwealth Act. No. 687, Catanduanes (a subprovince of Albay) became a separate and independent province. Under Republic Act No. 159, dated June 26, 1947, the former municipality of Caramoan was recreated out of the Municipality of Pandan; under R.A. No. 491, dated June 12, 1950, the Municipality of Bagamanoc was also created.

In the town of Bato, Msgr. Teotimo Pacis, Bishop of Legazpi, declared the Holy Cross of Batalay as a Diocesan Shrine on April 1, 1973. The cross was said to be the place by Geronimo Galves at the burial site of Fr. Herrera in 1576.

GEOGRAPHY

Catanduanes is an island province. It lies beyond Maqueda Channel and Lagonoy Gulf off the coast of Southern Luzon. Other than the main island there are a number of smaller islands of the

northeast coast. All of these comprise the white islands of the province.

Among these islands, the largest and economically important are the following islands: Panay, Palumbanes, Parongpong and Calbagio. On the northern tip of the island of Panay is a former base of the USE Coast Guard Signal Station.

POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

Virac is the capital town of the island province. It is composed of eleven (11) municipalities. They are Bagamanoc, Baras, Caramoan, Pandan, Panganiban, San Andres, San Miguel, Viga and its capital town, Virac.

Catanduanes belongs to only one legislative district.

CLIMATE

Catanduanes geographical position has a serious drawback to the economic development of the whole province. It lies completely open and unprotected within the typhoon belt and facing directly the wide Pacific Ocean. Very often, it is overly exposed to off and on seasonal tropical storms which frequently visit the area every year.

Catanduanes belongs to the second type of climate. It has no dry season with a very pronounced maximum rainfall from November to January.

POPULATION

The 2000 Census of Population shows 215,356 inhabitants.

CATANDUANES..... At a Glance... 2006

INDICATORS	CAT
Land Area (sq.m.) (Source: DENR, 2000)	1,492.2
Percentage to the Region's Land Area	8.2
No. of Cities	-
No. of Municipalities	11
No. of Barangays	315
No. of Districts	1
POPULATION	
Population 2000 (Source: NSO)	215,356
Population Growth Rate (1995-2000)	1.33
Household Population (2000)	215,151
Average Household Size (2000) Persons/HH	5.25
Population Density (Pop/sq.km)	144.3
Projected Population 2004	240,177
Projected Population 2005	244,435
Projected Population 2006	248,827
Projected Population 2007	253,217
Projected Population 2008	257,622
Projected Population 2009	262,012
Projected Population 2010	266,404
Income Classification (Source: NSCB 2001)	3rd
Agricultural Areas (Source: BSWM 1998) (has.)	
Palay	
Irrigated	3,514
Rainfed	3,051
Upland	219
TOTAL	6,784
Corn	-
Coconut	15,897
Sugarcane	-
Abaca	22,287
Diversified Crops	843
Coffee	-
Citrus	-
Banana	1,112
Fruit Trees	-
Grassses	20,558
Shrubs	38,827

LIST OF MUNICIPALITIES

CATANDUANES/MUN.	MAYOR	TELEPHONE NO.
Lone District		
BAGAMANOC	ODILON PASCUA	
BARAS	JOSE J. TEVES JR. *	
BATO	LORENZO T. TEMPLONUEVO, JR. *	
CARAMORAN	MARIA TERESA QUA	
GIGMOTO	ARMANDO GUERERO *	
PANDAN	EULALIA VERCELES	
PANGANIBAN	CARMEN URGEL	
SAN ANDRES	ALLY ROMANO	
SAN MIGUEL	FRANCISCO L. CAMANO, JR.	(052)811-2184
VIGA	JOSE TORRES	
VIRAC	JOSE U. ALBERTO II	(052) 811-7950

Philippine Standard Geographic Code

Province of Catanduanes

REGION V (Bicol Region) Code: **05000000**

Province: **6** City: **7** Municipality: **107** Barangay: **3,471** District: **14**

CATANDUANES Code: **05200000**

Income Class: **3rd** City: **0** Municipality: **11** Barangay: **315** District: **1**

City/Municipality	Code	Income Class	City Class	Rural/ Urban	District
BAGAMANOC	052001000	5th Class		Partially Urban	lone
BARAS	052002000	5th Class		Partially Urban	lone
BATO	052003000	5th Class		Partially Urban	lone
CARAMORAN	052004000	4th Class		Partially Urban	lone
GIGMOTO	052005000	5th Class		Partially Urban	lone
PANDAN	052006000	5th Class		Partially Urban	lone
PANGANIBAN (PAYO)	052007000	5th Class		Partially Urban	lone
SAN ANDRES (CALOLBON)	052008000	4th Class		Partially Urban	lone
SAN MIGUEL	052009000	5th Class		Partially Urban	lone
VIGA	052010000	5th Class		Partially Urban	lone
VIRAC (Capital)	052011000	2nd Class		Partially Urban	lone

As of March 2001

Source: NSCB R5

PHYSICAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

a. Physical Area

Forest occupies about 51% of the total land area. Alienable and Disposable land total roughly 49%. About 29% of the total land areas is devoted to active agriculture.

MUNICIPALITY	PALAY			TOTAL
	IRRIGATED	RAINFED	UPLAND	
CATANDUANES	3514	3051	219	6784
Bagamanoc	98	119	42	259
Baras	273	67		340
Bato	241	151		392
Caramoran	217	309	18	544
Gigmoto	187	12	24	223
Pandan	320	286	31	637
Panganiban	196	296		492
San Andres	157	965		1122
San Miguel	5	99		104
Viga	1225	530	30	1785
Virac	595	217	74	886

MUNICIPALITY	COCONUT	ABACA	DIVER. CROPS	BANANA	GRASSES	SHRUBS	PALM TYPE	FISH POND	TOTAL
CATANDUANES	15897	22287	843	1112	20558	38827	1121	1467	108896
Bagamanoc	961	1589	74	15	317	4316	24		7555
Baras	873	2410	45	133	4128	1350	56		9335
Bato	959	1108	42	58	685	715	148	22	4129
Caramoran	786	3274	39	114	4682	8102			17541
Gigmoto	1513	4935	26	166	3480	3364	235		13942
Pandan	1873	1001	41	79	1274	4087		134	9126
Panganiban	970	1214	12	26	102	1134	223		4173
San Andres	2472	1161	15	91	1100	6697		68	12726
San Miguel	198	3984	2	79	2337	1832	385		8921
Viga	3246	1045	484	299	1152	2685	50	1243	11989
Virac	2046	566	63	52	1301	4545			9459

Source: BSWM, 1993

b. Land Use (classified as alienable and disposable, arable, pasture, grassland, shrub land. Forest, wetlands, inalienable lands, etc.)

MAPPING SYMBOL	LAND USE/ VEGETATION	CATANDUANES
AGRICULTURAL AREAS		46,879
1	Paddy rice irrigated	3,514
2	Paddy rice non-irrigated	3,051
3	Upland rice	219
4	Corn	90
24	Ampalaya	-
26	Squash	-
31	Chayote	-
36	Cabbage	-
51	Cassava	289
52	Sweet Potato	420
56	Yam Beans	-
57	Arrow Root	-
59	Ginger	-

MAPPING SYMBOL	LAND USE/ VEGETATION	CATANDUANES
60	Gabi	-
72	Watermelon	-
81	Cofee	-

83	Citrus	-
91	Banana	1,112
105	Mixed Fruit Trees	-
107	Abaca	22,287
112	Sugarcane	-
113	Pineapple	-
114	Pili	-
116	Coconut	15,897
127	Pasture Land	-
GRASSLAND/SHRUBSLAND AREAS		60,279
126	Grasses	20,621
131	Ipil-Ipil	231
134	Shrubs	39,427
WOODLAND AREAS		38,393
136	Forest	38,393
140	Pine Tree	-
WETLAND AREAS		2,588
141	Mangrove Palm Type	1,979
142	Mangrove Tree Type	385
144	Inland Marsh Grass Type	-
146	Salt Bed	-
147	Fishpond	224
148	Nipa	-
MISCELLANEOUS AREAS		3,009
151	Built-up	2,173
152	Beach Sand	398
154	Mine Pit	-
155	Quarry	-
157	Airport	30
158	Riverwash	70
160	Major River/Lakes	338
159	Rockland/Volcanic Debris	-
161	Volcanic Ashes	-
TOTAL AREAS (Ha.)		151,148

Source: BSWM/SWAT

LAND USE / VEGETATION	
MAPPING SYMBOL	CATANDUANES
AGRICULTURAL AREAS	46,879
GRASSLAND/SHRUBSLAND AREAS	60,279
WOODLAND AREAS	38,393
WETLAND AREAS	2,588
MISCELLANEOUS AREAS	3,009
TOTAL	151,148

Source: BSWM/SWAT

TOPOGRAPHY

a. Mountain Ranges

MAPPING SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION	CATANDUANES
A	0-100 m	42,130
B	100-300 m	52,553
C	300-500 m	24,184
D	500-1000 m	32,281
E	1000-2000 m	
F	>2000 m	
TOTAL		151,148

The general land configuration is rugged and mountainous, becoming more pronounced towards the central portion of the island. Only about 10% of the land area has slope gradients under 7% comprised mainly by fractures and narrow strips of plains generally found near the coastal area.

Uplands, Lowlands, Mountains and Peaks- With mostly hilly to mountainous landscape, Catanduanes is faced with few choices for gainful agricultural pursuits.

b. Slope

SLOPE	CAT'NES
0-8 degree	16,838
8-18 degree	6,392
18-30 degree	73,841
30-50 degree	44,186
50 degree & above	9,891

MAPPING SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION	CATANDUANES (Ha.)	MAPPING SYMBOL	SLOPE CLASS (%)	DESCRIPTION	CATANDUANES
Eo	No apparent erosion	16,212	M	0 - 3	Level to nearly level	13,932
E1	Slight erosion	51,656	N	*3-8	Gently sloping to undulating	2,906
E2	Moderate erosion	38,506	O	*8-18	Undulating to rolling	6,392
E3	Severe erosion	41,765	P	18-30	Rolling to moderately steep	73,841
Eu	Unclassified erosion	3,009	Q	30-50	Steep	44,186
TOTAL		151,148	R	>50		9,891
			TOTAL			151,148

Source: BSWM/SWAT

A. Soil Physiography

a. Soil Type and Soil Characteristics

SOIL TYPE	LAND CAPABILITY	DOMINANT FEATURES	LIMITATIONS & HAZARDS	RECOMMENDED LAND USE	EXTENT	
					HA.	%
San Miguel silty clay loam	Very good land and suitable for cultivation	Level to nearly level, well drained; medium textures, deep to very deep soils	None to very light	Diversified upland field crops	1,376	0.91
Bantog clay Loam Mandawe clay Loam Virac sandy clay Loam	Good land (Lands suitable for cultivation)	Level to nearly level, somewhat poorly drained; fine subsoil; deep soil	Slight wetness subject to occasional overflow	Paddy rice; may be used for uplands crops with simple drainage system	7,905	5.23
Calatagan clay loam	Moderately good land (Lands suitable for cultivation)	Moderately sloping, well drained; fine subsoil, deep soil	Moderate erosion	Upland field crops with intensive soil erosion control practices	14,661	9.70
Beach sand	Fairly good land (Land suitable for limited cultivation)	Nearly level to gently sloping excessively drained; moderately deep	Severe droughtiness; low fertility; severe alkalinity problem	Pasture (forage production) or limited upland cropping with sufficient irrigation water to correct salinity problem	801	0.53
Luisiana clay Loam Alimodian clay Loam Mountain soils undifferentiated	Lands limited to pasture or forest	Steep; well drained; shallow soils	Very severe erosion of cultivated	Pasture (grazing) or tree farm or forest	125,120	82.78
Hydrosol	Lands limited to wildlife	Very poorly drained; marshy or swampy	Very severe wetness	Fishponds, salt bed site or recreation	1,285	0.85

PEDO-ECOLOGICAL ZONE	LMU	DESCRIPTION	CATANDUANES
WARM LOWLAND	1	Active Tidal Flats, Developed (Fishpond/Salt Bed)	224

	2	Active Tidal Flats, Natural (Mangrove/Nipa)	2364
{<8% slope,<100 m}	8	Beach Ridges and Swales	1958
	9	Broad Alluvial Plains (width >500m.)	2230
elevation,25c or >}	10	Former/Old Tidal Flats	1074
	12	Lower River Terraces	
	13	Upper River Terraces	1654
	15	Lacustrine Plain	
	17	Inland/Stream/Enclosed Valleys	2226
	18	Collu-Alluvial Fans	
	21	Solutional Depressions(Karst Valley,Sinkhole)	846
	22	Limestone/Karst Plains,Lower Terraces	1460
	23	Limestone/Karst Plains,Upper Terraces	
	24	Tuffaceous Plains (Convex,Flat and Concave Slope	
	25	Volcanic Plains/Residual Terraces	
	26	Lower Foothslopes(Shale,Sandstones Hills)	450
	27	Lower Piedmont Plains/Foothslopes(Volcanic Hills)	
	28	Lower Foothslopes (Limestones Hills)	
	29	Lower Foothslopes of Volcanic Cones	
	30	Lower Foothslopes(Metamorphic Hills)	
WARM COOL UPLAND	43	Broad Alluvial Valleys (100-500m.elevation) with Remnants of Low Hills	
{<18% slope,100-500m. elevation,22.5-25 c}	45	Inland/Stream/Enclosed Valleys	
	46	Collu-Alluvial Fans	
	49	Residual Terraces,Sloping to Undulating	
	50	Residual Terraces,Sloping to Rolling	
	51	Lower Foothslopes (Volcanic Hills or Mountains)	
	53	Upper Foothslopes (Volcanic Hills or Mountains)	
	55	Lower Foothslopes of Volcanic Cones	
	59	Lower Foothslopes (Limestones Hills or Mountains)	
	61	Solutional Depressions(Karst Valley,Sinkhole)	
	62	Limestones/Karst Plains, Lower Terraces	
	63	Limestones /Karst Plains,Upper Terraces	
	66	Low Limestone Hills	288
	67	Karst Plateau with Isolated Limestones Hills	
	68	Shale/Sandstone Plateau	
	74	Volcanic Complex Plateau	
	76	Low Shale /Sandstone Hills	1280
	77	Low Conglomeratic Hills	
	78	Low Pyroplastic Hills	1110
	80	Low Volcanic Complex Hills	
	82	Low Andesitic Hills	
	83	Low Dioritic Hills	70
	88	Low Metamorphic Hills	
	89	Low Ultrabasic Hills	
	90	Low Meta-Rock Complex Hills	
WARM COOL	111	High Limestone Hills	6484
HILLYLAND	112	High Shale/Sandstones Hills	41488
{>18% slope,<500 m. elevation,>22.5c}	113	High Conglomeratic Hills	1276
	114	High Pyroclastic Hills	
	115	High Basaltic Hills	16723
	116	High Andesitic Hills	
	117	High Volcanic Complex Hills	

	118	High Ultrabasic Hills	
	120	High Dioritic Hills	1224
	125	High Metamorphic Hills	31428
	126	High Meta -Rock Complex Hills	
COOL HIGHLAND	129	Cinder Cones,Low Rounded & Steep Hills & Ridges	
	156	Shale /Sandstone Mountains	10186
{>500 m.elevation <22.5c}	160	Low Meta-Volcanic Mountains	
	162	Metamorphic Mountains	13089
	163	Basaltic Mountains	8286
	164	Andesitic Mountains	
	165	Ultrabasic Mountains	
	168	Complex Volcanic Mountains	
	170	Volcanic Cones,Non-Active	
	171	Volcanic Cones Active	
MISCELLANEOUS	180*	Built-up Areas/Urban Lands	2203
	183	Sandbras/Beach Sand	398
	184	Rock Land	
	186	Riverwash	70
	188	Open Pit and Mines	
	190	Quarry	
	191	Escarpment	
	193	Major Rivers	338
	194	Inland Water Lakes	
	195**	Volcanic Ash	
		TOTAL	151148

Source: BSWM/SWAT

b. Soil Suitability

GROUP	COMMODITY CROPS	HECTARE
1	Paddy rice, irrigated & non-irrigated	5302
2	Upland rice, corn sorghum, pineapple, ramie, sugarcane, soybean, mungo, stringbeans, peanuts, cassava, sweet potato, gabi, ubi, eggplants, upo, batao, melons, etc.	4636
3	Baguio beans cabbage, white irish potato, carrots, lettuce, cowpea, sweet peas, and sweet pepper, spinach, cutflower, strawberry, etc.	1110
4	Ginger, garlic, onion, cucumber, etc.	6742
5	CottoN, tobacco	5632
6	Coconut, oil palm, banana, abaca, coffee (robusta), etc.	6742
7	Mango, cashew, papaya, santol, tamarind, atis, jackfruit, guava, citrus, guyabano, chico, etc.	6742
8	Durian, marang, lanzones, rambutan, avocado, rubber, etc.	1110
9	Bamboo, ipil-ipil, paragrass, pasture, etc.	8968
10	Coffee (arabica), tea, black pepper, etc.	1148

Source: SWAT 1997

Cropping Pattern

	TYPE II
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Rice	June-August
Corn	
Wet Season	January-February
Dry Season	March-May
3 rd Planting	
Tobacco	
Cotton	
Ampalaya	June-August; November-February
Arrowroot	June-September
Beans	February-April
Cabbage	January-March
Carrots	March-April
Cassava	Whole year round
Celery	January-March
Paayap	January-March
Pipino	March-April
Eggplant	January-April
Garlic	November-December
Ginger	Whole year round
Potato	February-March
Lettuce	March-June
Melon	March-June
Monggo	February-June
Mustard	January-March
Okra	Whole year round
Beans	January-May
Patola	March-September
Dry Season	August-September
Wet Season	May-June
3 rd Planting	
Pechay	January-March
Seguidillas	February-April
Utaw	January-March
Squash	Whole year round
Sitsaro	February-March
Pepper	February-March; August-September
Sweet potato	April-June; Nov.-Jan.
Tomato	January-April, August-September
Ube	Whole year round
Upo	November-March
Watermelon	January-March

DOT-V Accredited Establishments

Marem's Pension House

Emmalyn Paradise Resort

Agojo, San Andres Catanduanes

Sta. Cruz, Virac, Catanduanes

Cell No. 0917-3446667

General Manager-Emmalyn Munjar

Rizal Avenue, cor. Rafael Street
Sta. Cruz, Virac, Catanduanes
Tel.No. (052) 811-1104
General Manager - Sixto N. Landig

Natural Attractions

Kosta Alcantara

Puraran is the home of the world-renowned "Majestic" waves. Its breathtaking long-barrel-type surf is perfect for both the serious surfers and the novice. Offshore waves are in their greatest shape during the months of September to November. The surfing area also boasts a magnificent view of mountains and coves. Photo enthusiasts can get a perfect view of sunrise. For holiday seekers, this is a place for total relaxation, a place for communing with nature and, simply, a place for rejuvenation and serenity. There are no luxurious accommodations, only native cottages with basic facilities. There are two resorts to choose from: *Puting Baybay* and *Majestic*. One hour and 30 minute ride from Virac. [Travel Gallery](#)

Puraran

A fascinating place for the tired and weary, it has a spring-fed swimming pool, and a magnificent beach. It boasts of luxurious and world-class air-conditioned cottages, an orchidarium and other world-class facilities. Its complete line of scuba-

Emmalyn Paradise Resort

Its shoreline is covered with fine white sand and its pristine azure waters never fail to lure the visitors to take a dip. It faces the mainland Bicol where one could take a full view of the breathtaking Mayon Volcano.

Amenia Beach

One can easily lose oneself and drift away while leisurely walking along the stretch of its powdery-white sands and dabbling in its undeniably tamed waters. The entire stretch of the shoreline beckons visitors to take a dip in its pristine waters and wave-combed sands. The well-manicured landscape by itself is so inviting for a relaxed, laidback retreat. It is highly accessible from the town of Virac with travel time of approximately thirty minutes.

Twin Rock

Pockets of white sand beaches sandwiched between coves, where one can explore caves after swimming. Splash in waters of incredible clarity beneath which lie sanctuaries of rich and colorful marine life. Its underwater coral formations offer an added adventure for spear

Balite Beach

The whole stretch of Balite and Mamangal continues to beguile visitors with its unspoiled beauty - an asset which the locals within the area guarding zealously. The sprawling beach is covered with cool and shady trees and blessed with fine white sands, both in the shorelines and in the swimming area. Provides an alternative area for recreation, fun, relaxation and picnics.

Solong Falls

Secluded and relatively unexplored, the waterfalls beckon trekkers for a refreshing dip. It has several cascading waters flowing into natural pools. With its elevation of 100 meters, it is ideal for adventure treks. Visitors may choose from either a river or forest trek to get to the waterfalls.

Maribina Falls

Gushing with breathtaking rapids of crystal-clear waters, the cascading falls is located amid rustic surroundings and lush-green vegetation. A few minutes ride from the capital town of Virac.

Historical/Religious Landmarks

This magnificently situated edifice greets everyone upon entrance to the town of Bato. It is the only remaining structure of its kind in the entire island. Despite the test of time, wars and ravages of natural calamities, this massive structure of mortar and coral stones was able to retain its old glory. It took 53 years to build this Church under six different parish administrators. Construction started in 1830 and finished in 1883. Twenty minute drive from Virac.

Bato Church Batalay Shrine

The site of the first cross in Catanduanes and believed to have been constructed over the grave of the shipwrecked Fr. Diego de Herrera of the Augustian order who died in 1576 in the barangay of Batalay. From downtown Bato, it would take ten to fifteen minutes to get to the place.

Luyang Cave

Feel the cool, damp air as you go inside this mute witness to and tomb of the massacred natives who fled from the Moro pirates during the 17th

Batong Paluay

The locals relate that the image of the mystical face of Our Lady of Sorrows was found in a flooded stream near the barangay of Batong Paluay. The image was etched on a piece of stone that has progressively increased in size.

👉Banks . There are 5 commercial banks and 1 Government Financial Institution serving the province.

Land Bank of the Philippines
Philippine National Bank
Equitable-PCI Bank
Legazpi Savings Bank
Rural Bank of Camalig
Vision Bank

👉Power Supply. Electricity is served on 24-hour basis to all the 11 municipalities. Installed capacity of its power plants - a mix of diesel-powered generators and hydroelectric turbines - is 10.786 MW.

Virac Cathedral

Marvel at the stained glass windows of the Church of The Immaculate Concepcion at the heart of the capital town of Virac.

St. John the Baptist Church

The oldest preserved religious structure in the entire island, located in the municipality of Caramoran, it was built as the first parish church of Pandan.



souls, a mini-grotto and altar was built inside. In memory of this massacre, a "Requiem Mass" is said on April 28 of every year. The adventure could revel in the sight of the corridors of majestic and colossal stalactite and stalagmite pillars and rock formations. Plus hanging from the ceilings and walls of the cave are countless bats that inhabit the whole length of the cave. Century. The natives sought refuge inside Luyang but the marauders traced them. The Moros uprooted sili (red peppers) plants growing near the cave, added dried leaves, stuffed them in the cave afire, suffocating the hapless natives. To appease their troubled



At present, one can view the image with bare eyes unlike before, when one had to use a magnifying lens. Its repository has been replaced three times to accommodate the increasing size of the miraculous Mother Mary.



Cultural Attractions

Kalbaryo

Staged in all parishes the season of Lent or Holy Week, Kalbaryo is actually the reenactment of the Passion of Christ.

Kagharong

A depiction of the rejection by the Jews of Joseph and Mary in their search for a place to stay in anticipating of the delivery of Jesus in the eve of the Nativity. It is held every year during the Yuletide Season.

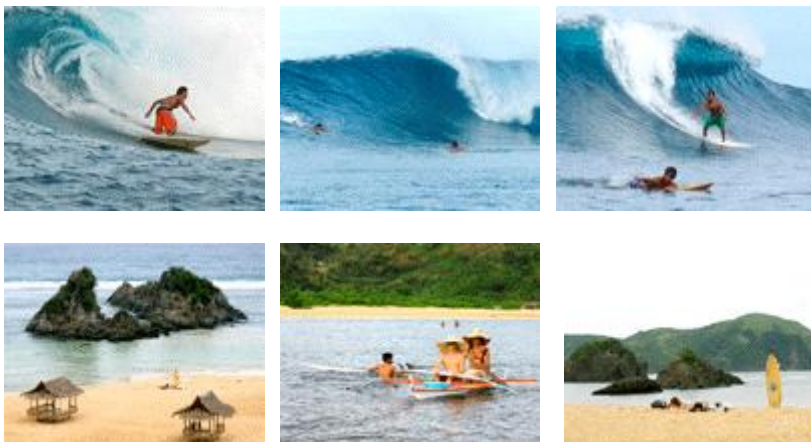
Padadyaw sa Tinampo

Revived in 1995 as part of the province's foundation anniversary, Padadyaw sa Tinampo is a purely native cultural presentation of street dancing. It brings together for a day-long competition the finest street dancing contingent from the province's eleven towns.

Fiesta Days

Fiestas abound in almost every town or barrio, giving locals and guests the chance to indulge in merrymaking and reunite with loved ones in nostalgic get-togethers.

Puraran



Solong Falls

Secluded and relatively unexplored, the waterfalls beckon trekkers for a refreshing dip. It has several cascading waters flowing into natural pools. With its elevation of 100 meters, it is ideal for adventure treks. Visitors may choose from either a river or forest trek to get to the waterfalls.



Luyang Cave Park

Feel the cool, damp air as you go inside this mute witness to and tomb of the massacred natives who fled from the Moro pirates during the 17th century. To appease their troubled souls, a mini grotto and altar was built inside.

Note: To enlarge pictures, click the thumbnail.



Source: CATANDUANES PROVINCE WEBSITE
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