LOVE CAGAYAN VALLEY

REGION II





CAGAYAN VALLEY REGION

The Cagayan Valley Region is strategically located on the northeastern corner of mainland Luzon. Its proximity to East Asian countries makes it a natural gateway for trade, investment, and culture.

The region abounds with natural resources and development potential across rich agriculture areas, forest land, and grassy plains, as well as a plentiful bounty of mineral and marine resources. In fact, this widely undeveloped region accounts for about 9% of total land area in the country!

Cagayan Valley is protected on three sides by mountain ranges, namely the Cordilleras to the west, the Caraballo down south, and the mighty Sierra Madre to the east. The east coast of the Sierra Madre dips right into the Pacific Ocean while the Bashi Channel borders the region on the north. Inland, the valley is criss-crossed by the longest river in the country, the fresh and plentiful Cagayan River.

Region II is made up of five provinces: the island province of Batanes, the valley provinces of Cagayan and Isabela, and the highland provinces of Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino. These provinces consist of 90 municipalities, four cities, and 2,311 barangays.





BATANES: HOME OF THE WIND

This northernmost province of the Philippines is on the shortlist to become the next UNESCO World Heritage Site. Batanes is a group of islands where you will find:

Home of the Ivatans – Here, women still wear the Vakul, a large and striking wig-like headpiece made from palm fiber that protects from the sun and rain. Men wear a traditional vest called the Kanayi.

Bahay na Bato – or houses of rock that are typhoon-tough, embedded with meter-thick limestone walls and bushy roofs made of indigenous cogon grass. These are built to last centuries even in the worst weather.

Vayang Rolling Hills – Created by nature, preserved over time, the hills are definitely alive in this province.



PALAUI ISLAND: UNTOUCHED PARADISE

Found in Santa Ana, Cagayan, this is a protected landscape and seascape managed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Palaui Island was declared a National Marine Reserve with 21 commercial species of fish and over 50 hectares (120 acres) of undisturbed coral reef. This island is in the Top 10 of CNN's list of the World's 100 Best Beaches due to the remarkably raw beauty that extends all the way to the historic Cape Engaño Lighthouse at its northernmost tip.



HONESTY COFFEE SHOP

Witness the honesty system at work! Discover a unique retail experience at the Honesty Coffee Shop, where locals and visitors are trusted to pick up whatever they need and pay the exact amount without having to deal with any cashiers or salespeople. A unique fact about Batanes is that there is virtually zero crime!



MADDELA WATERFALLS

Why visit one waterfall... when you can visit seven! This pristine and peaceful nature retreat in Quirino is home to this incredible seven-staged cascade with a crystal-clear pool perfect for a refreshing dip after your invigorating trek. There's also a picturesque picnic area, so make sure to bring your favorite local food!





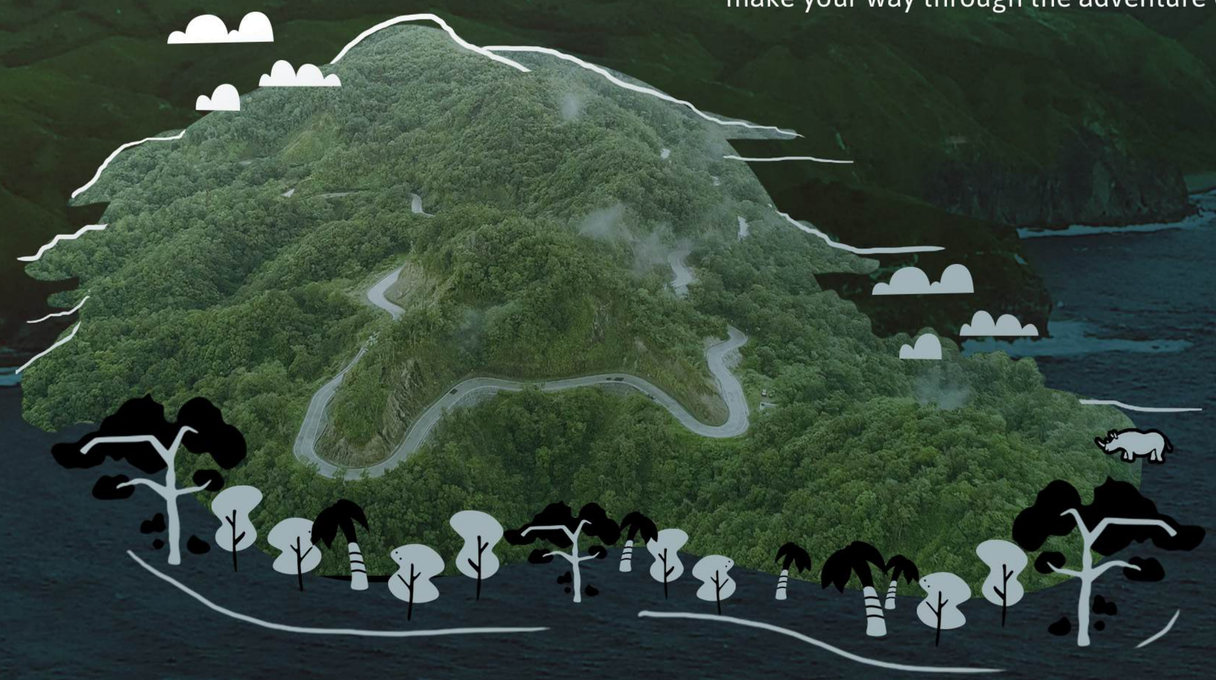
CROCODILE ISLAND

Don't worry, there are no giant reptiles here! This island was named for its long, tapering shape. Here, visitors can explore amazing rock formations and untouched beaches.



CAPISAAN CAVE

The fifth-largest cave system in the country (and one of our best!) can be found in the barangays of Capisaan and Alayan in Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya. In its depths, you can crawl like a soldier, waddle like a duck, and climb like a tarsier as you make your way through the adventure of a lifetime!



NORTHERN SIERRA MADRE NATURAL PARK

Both the largest protected area in the country with more than 300,000 hectares of rainforest, and the lowest national forest park at 800 feet above sea level. This is the go-to destination for indigenous wildlife in the country, and is in fact among the Top 10 most bio-diverse places in the world–but this untouched paradise is easily accessible from the coastal towns of Isabela like Maconacon and Palanan!

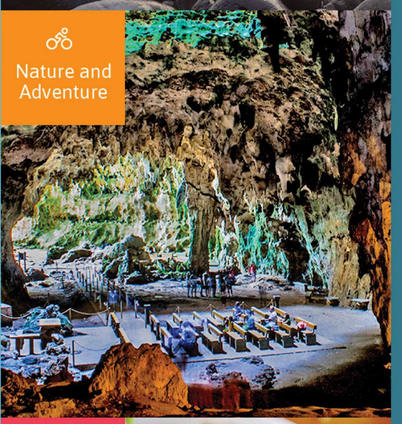
FUN THINGS TO DO

Sun and Beach



Cagayan Valley promises long days of friendly sunshine and warm waves for weary travelers! Check out Valugan Beach or Sabtang Island for a rejuvenating getaway and witness breathtaking rock formations polished smooth by the mighty Pacific Ocean. The paradise of Palaui Island is another destination that snorkel-lovers and beach campers love coming back to.

Nature and Adventure



Region II has countless wonders for travelers to discover–both high above the ground and under it. Walk over the pristine rolling hills of Vayang to get the selfie of a lifetime. Or dig deep and trek down into the caves of Callao and Sierra, just a jeepney ride from the central market of Tuguegarao. Don't forget to visit the unforgettable Bluewater Falls in Baggao, Cagayan!

Food and Hospitality



As famous as the Cagayan River is, it still doesn't match the delicious reputation of the food in Region II! Try local delicacies like Tilapia and Pancit Batil Potun, sweet rice cakes such as Patupat and Binallay, Water Buffalo Milk Candy, Beef Tapa, and some of the best Pork Longganisa in the country. Make it a point to taste the hard-to-find Flying Fish while in Cagayan Valley!

Events and Culture



In this region, one can find traditions dating back thousands of years still thriving today. Discover the anthropological history of Cagayan Valley and find amazing pieces of tribal artisanry as well as the 67,000 year-old Homo Luzonensis at the Cagayan Museum. Make your visit fun by joining in the different festivals throughout the region that showcase centuries of Filipino tradition!

TOP 5 FESTIVALS











Bambanti Festival

Who knew scarecrows could be this fun? Don't miss the Bambanti Festival in Isabela which attracts both local and foreign tourists. Witness grand performances and cultural shows celebrating the good harvest in the region.

WHEN: January 28-30
WHERE: Jones, Isabela

Grand Ammungan Festival: Nueva Vizcaya Day

People all over Nueva Vizcaya gather to celebrate life and bounty during the Ammungan festival. The province holds various events like street dancing competitions, beauty pageants, and a talent show for returning OFWs.

WHEN: May 19-24
WHERE: Province of Nueva Vizcaya

Ivatan Festival: Batanes Day

Fly north for Batanes Day and experience the rich culture of the Islands. The festival is known for cultural demonstrations that show how Ivatan culture has flourished and stood the test of time and is now reaching the world outside the province's islands.

WHEN: June 21-26
WHERE: Province of Bataan

Aggao Nac Cagayan: Cagayan Day

The month of June marks the anniversary of Cagayan's local government. The celebration is highlighted by festive events like beauty pageants, parades, and cultural showcases such as exhibits, lectures, and an agro-industrial fair.

WHEN: June 23-29
WHERE: Province of Cagayan

Panagdadapun Festival

Get in a festive mood for a whole week in Quirino's Panagdadapun Festival. Join the locals in festival staples like cultural parades and beauty pageants and unique experiences like traditional pet shows and the crowd's favorite, the motocross event.

WHEN: September 5-10
WHERE: Province of Quirino

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