LOVE
BICOL

REGION V



BICOL REGION

Eating spicy ice cream, swimming with whale sharks, hiking an active volcano—traveling through Bicol is not for the faint of heart.

Located in the southernmost part of Luzon, the region is full of natural wonders. It boasts of active volcanoes, abundant coral reefs, and untouched white sand beaches. So, if you're ready for some adventure, then Bicol is ready for you.



MAYON VOLCANO

The Mayon Volcano is the platonic ideal of a volcano. No other volcano can hold a candle to its perfect cone shape. Legend has it that the volcano rose from the burial grounds of lovers, Daragang Magayon and Pangaronon. Thus, it was named Mayon. Aside from admiring its symmetry, you can also go on an ATV tour around its base.



CALAGUAS OF CAMARINES NORTE

Take a boat ride from Camarines Norte to see the pristine white sand beaches of Calaguas. The island rose in popularity in recent years because of its untouched natural beauty. There, you can stay at an affordable beach resort or go full castaway mode and setup camp under the stars.



CARAMOAN

Caramoan served as the location for the popular reality show, “Survivor”, and with good reason. This group of islands are incredibly cinematic with their powder-white shores, hidden lagoons, limestone cliffs, and rich marine life.



DONSOL

Diving is fun. But diving with the largest fish in the world is more fun. And also maybe more intimidating. These gentle giants live on a diet of plankton, so you don't have to worry about them eating you. Donsol in Sorsogon is blessed to be often visited by whale sharks between March and May.





PURARAN OF CATANDUANES

Puraran is a surfer's paradise. Visitors from all over the globe travel to Catanduanes to surf "The Majestic Wave." If you're not into battling huge waves, Puraran's laidback beach is the perfect place to chill and sip your fresh coconut water right in its shell.

TICAO ISLAND OF MASBATE

Ticao Island is one of the region's best-kept secrets. The locals take pride in the island's rich marine biodiversity; it's a haven for manta rays. So put on your scuba gear and discover the stunning underwater world of Ticao Island.



FUN THINGS TO DO



Sun and Beach

There's no shortage of gorgeous beaches in the Bicol region. If you're a surfing enthusiast in search of the biggest waves, Puraran Island will challenge your strength. If you're a workaholic in need of peace and quiet, maybe even some soul searching, Calaguas Island in Camarines Norte offers the perfect escape. It's just you, the pristine white sand, and the crystal clear waters.



Dive

They say diving is the ultimate escape from the worries that plague us on dry land. Well what could be more peaceful than swimming with whale sharks in Donsol, witnessing manta rays in action at Ticao Island, exploring the beautiful coral reefs of Catanduanes, or discovering the pristine waters of Calaguas.



Adventure

Nature lovers, Bicol is the region for you. Test your endurance and take a hike at the Quitinday Hills and Nature Park. Want something more challenging? Ride an ATV and conquer the rough trails of Mayon Volcano. You can also try wakeboarding at the world-class Camarines Sur Water Sports Complex. But if you want to just chill and relax, go on a river cruise and see the lush mangroves of Buhatan River.



Food and Hospitality

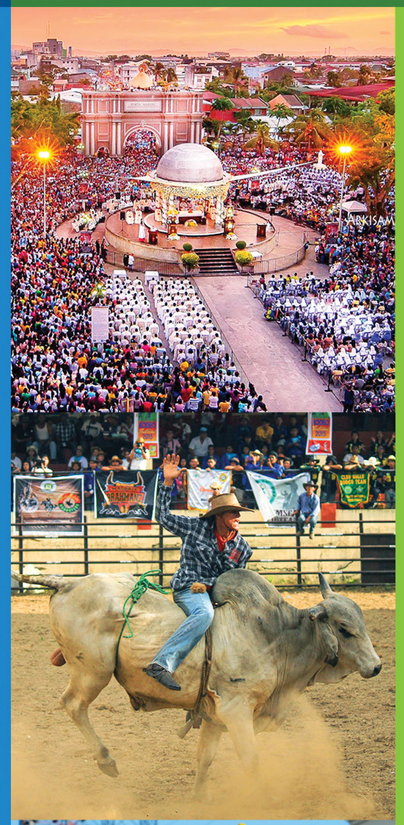
Food is a destination of its own in Bicol. Bicolanos love their contrasting flavors. They like it spicy. They like it creamy. Sometimes, they like both in one dish! Their most popular one is the Bicol express, a stew made from chili, pork, coconut milk, shrimp paste, onions, and garlic. Pinangat which is fish stewed in sour broth is also a winner. For dessert, how about ice cream topped with chili? Other delicacies like caramelized pili nuts and timitim (a native cake made from cassava) are great treats to bring back home. These dishes are anything but basic.



Events and Culture

Locals often hold festivals as a way of thanksgiving for the things that keep their region thriving. Don't miss the most celebrated religious festival in the Philippines, the Peñafancia festival, where people honor the feast of the Our Lady of Peñafrancia, the Patroness of the Bicol region. Another example is the Tinagba Festival where people wish for good harvest for the year. Don't miss the grand parade of beautifully decorated cow carts carrying harvested crops. Another event is the Butanding Festival where locals celebrate the season of whale sharks coming to their waters.

TOP 5 FESTIVALS



Penafrancia Festival

Perhaps the most famous religious festival in the country, this festival has lit up the City of Naga and her eclectic people for centuries. Come celebrate with us! Fill your senses with the sights, sounds, tastes, and indomitable spirit that gives this region its colorful character.

WHEN: Second Week of September
WHERE: Naga City

Rodeo Masbateno

Think the tropics is no place for cattle riding, rodeo wrestling, and horse lassoing? Think again. Check out these cowboy-worthy skills and discover the rich heritage of Masbate City in this one-of-a-kind festival that celebrates "The Cattle Country of the Philippines"!

WHEN: Summer
WHERE: Masbate City

Magayon Festival

The country's only perfectly shaped volcano has a mythical story behind it–and you can watch this legend come to life! Here, Mayon Volcano is known as "Daragang Magayon," or Beautiful Maiden. Celebrate her beauty in a festival of culture, music, and the spiciest food in the country!

WHEN: May
WHERE: Albay Province



Kasanggayahan Festival

The name of this festival signifies a range of positive virtues, from happiness to beauty. But this festival is all about one thing: a celebration of life in peaceful Sorsogon. Make the trek to this region's hottest fiesta to indulge in music, laughter, food, raw nature, and a passion for life!

WHEN: October
WHERE: Sorsogon City



Ibalong Festival

Baltog, Handyong, and Bantong. These are the names of the three legendary heroes that fought in a battle to liberate Bicol. And these are the heroes celebrated by the entire City of Albay in this unique festival! Join us to relive this classic conflict and discover the region's splendor.

WHEN: August
WHERE: Legazpi City

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