LOVE ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA

REGION IX



ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA REGION

Welcome to the Southern Paradise of the Philippine Archipelago! The Zamboanga Peninsula Region is nestled close to our neighbors, Sabah, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, and Indonesia, making it a melting pot of culture, language, and cuisine.

Region IX takes up an area of 17,046.64 sq. km covering three provinces–Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga Sibugay, and Zamboanga del Sur.
Within these provinces are five vibrant cities–Dapitan, Dipolog, Pagadian, Zamboanga, and Isabela.

With its stunning natural sights, deeply rich culture, well-preserved history, and flavorful cuisine, Zamboanga Peninsula is a region travelers definitely want to experience again and again.



ZAMBOANGA HERMOSA FESTIVAL AND REGATTA DE ZAMBOANGA

The Hermosa Festival is one of the biggest and most awaited festivals in the city and region. Festivities last the whole month of October. The highlights include a 9-day novena, fashion shows, dance and song competitions, trade fairs, a pageant, and the famous Regatta, which is a race of colorful vintas.



YAKAN WEAVING VILLAGE

The Yakan are an indigenous Muslim tribe from the southernmost region in the Philippines. These native sons of the Philippines now make a living selling their traditional Yakan woven products–considered to be among the finest in the whole country. Visitors can even watch the tribespeople turn brightly-colored thread into prismatic sheets using ancient techniques!



STA. CRUZ ISLAND, ZAMBOANGA CITY

It's no wonder this sun-drenched island was named one of the world's best beaches by National Geographic–travelers can truly find paradise here. With pink sand that glows under the sunlight, and calm waters dotted by colorful vintas and filtered by natural mangrove forests, this is one beach that definitely has to be seen to be believed!



BOTTLED SPANISH SARDINES CAPITAL-DIPOLOG CITY

The capital of Zamboanga del Norte, Dipolog City, is known as the Bottled Sardines Capital of the Philippines. Their nearby shores are rich with sardines, influencing the local industries to produce lots of Spanish-style bottled sardines–a product that started as a gift from Spanish families to their friends.



RIZAL SHRINE, DAPITAN CITY

The José Rizal Memorial Protected Landscape, also known as the Rizal Park and Shrine, is an area conserved in memory of the Philippines' national hero, exiled for four years in a local barrio. Come and revisit the last years of the Great Malayan!



ONCE ISLAS, ZAMBOANGA CITY

These charming islands have only recently been opened to snorkeling-happy tourists, but already this chain of eleven pristine islets already have a reputation as an exotic gem. A quick outrigger boat can take you to this serene and well-preserved paradise.



MALAMAWI ISLAND, ISABELA CITY

If you love your privacy while on vacation, you're in for a treat. Malamawi Island offers uncrowded beaches with stretches of beautiful, white sand. Make sure you check out their open cottages, because you'll surely want to stay for a night or two.



MT. TIMOLAN PROTECTED LANDSCAPE, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR

This wild bird sanctuary is the epitome of mother nature: a geologically-crafted reclining lady figure with a heart-shaped crater on her bosom. Here, travelers can find Lake Maragang, the prime ecotourism destination of Zamboanga del Sur.



FUN THINGS TO DO



Sun and Beach

This region is simply teeming with sandy beaches and picture-perfect sunsets! Check out Malamawi Island or Sumagdang Beach for a relaxing tropical getaway, or Dapitan Bay and Paseo del Mar for seaside recreation. You can even charter a boat to go out and find a beach to call your own!



Dive

Home to some of the most beautiful and diverse corals, fish, and crustaceans set against a backdrop of warm, clear water and colorful vintas, this region is a diver's dream! If you can't wait to dive into the underwater world, rush to Buluan Island off the coast of Zamboanga City, or the diving mecca of Dakak Beach.



Nature

Region IX covers a landscape blessed with gigantic rock formations, breathtaking mountain ranges, and magnificent waterfalls. Visit Lake Dasay to discover calm and inviting waters in the heart of nature. Pasonanca Park, Merloquet Falls, and the ever-popular Nancy Falls are just some of the natural wonders that keep travellers coming back for more!



Food and Hospitality

Surrounded by mountains, cloud-fresh air, and crystal clear water, it's no wonder that organic food abounds in this rich and abundant region. Experience the freshness at Marcian Garden Hotel for an urban stay, or the Vista del Mar Beach Resort for a seaside getaway. Make it a point to try the unique and interesting local delicacies you might see along the way!



Events and Culture

"Asia's Latin City" flaunts that heritage in a fun-packed calendar of festivals, historic events, and celebrations. Citywide fiestas such as the Kinabayo, the P'gsalabuk, and the intensely colorful Pasalamat Festival never fail to bring the region together and lure thousands of fun-seekers. Come and join the party!

TOP 5 FESTIVALS



Fiesta Hermosa

Every October, Zamboanga City holds a celebration in honor of Our Lady of the Pillar, the patroness of the city. Local Zamboangueños are devoted to the patroness because they believe She's performed miracles for them. You might believe in miracles too after visiting the whole fort-turned-shrine in Her honor called the Real Fuerza de Señora Virgen del Pilar.

WHEN: October
WHERE: Zamboanga City



P'gsalabuk Festival

P'gsalabuk, meaning togetherness, is celebrated in Dipolog through a festival that showcases the mix of cultures from the Muslim and Lumad people. The long celebration includes festive street dances, colorful parades, variety shows, and more.

WHEN: 3rd week of April – 4th Saturday of May
WHERE: Dipolog City



Kinabayo Festival

Immerse yourself in a scene from the past – the Battles of Clavijo and Covadonga, as Dapitan City honors Saint James the Greater, a.k.a. "the Moor Slayer," in July. This battle is where the apparition of the saint happens, believed to be an intercession that resulted in the triumph of the Catholic faith over Mohammedanism followers. Recently, they've dialed-up the festival to add more color to this dance-drama, so be sure to catch it while you can!

WHEN: July 23-27
WHERE: Dapitan City



Pasalamat Festival

Pasalamat, meaning thankful, is a celebration that gives thanks for the arrival of the image of Sr. Santo Niño in Pagadian City. This event starts with a procession of the Sto. Niño image, then is followed by a parade, some trade exhibits, carnival shows, and a beauty pageant.

WHEN: 3rd week of January
WHERE: Pagadian City



Sakayan Festival

There's nothing like the glorious rhythm of tribal drums and the unique sound of the local instrument, kulintangan, to symbolize a coming-together of diverse cultures. The Sakayan festival celebrates unity in diversity as the local term "sakayan" refers to a vehicle (usually a water craft) that everyone, regardless of culture, gets on to travel to one shared destination. If you find yourself in Isabela City, you won't want to miss this ride that brings everyone together!

WHEN: April 25
WHERE: Isabela City

TPB PHL
TOURISM PROMOTIONS BOARD PHILIPPINES

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM PHILIPPINES

LOVE THE PHILIPPINES