

# What to do and see in Panay ...

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## **Things to Do and see in Aklan...**

### ***Historical***

#### **FREEDOM SHRINE**

Dedicated to the 19 martyrs of Aklan who started the revolt against Spain.

#### **KALANTIAW SHRINE, Batan**

Once the seat of government of Rajah Bendahara Kalantiaw promulgator of the famous Code of Kalantiaw.

#### **INGUS-INGUS HILL**

Buruanga. In Spanish time, it served as a lookout for approaching Moro pirates that used to maraud coastal villages. Underneath the hill is a cave, which according to folktales, was used as an ambush of English pirates, buccaneers, and other plunderers of Spanish galleons carrying precious cargoes.

#### **AGTAWAGON HILL**

Balete. Served as a camp and the last line of defense of Filipino soldiers and guerillas during World War II.

### ***Cultural***

#### **Museo it Akean**

Located within the town proper of Kalibo, corner Martelino-Burgos streets. A repository of antiques all dug up in Aklan. Famous works of arts are likewise displayed. This traces the province's rich cultural and historical past.

### ***Natural***

#### **Manduyog Hill and Aklan State University (ASU)**

(Banga, Aklan). Named after Datu Manduyog, successor of lawgiver Kalantiaw III. It is 500 feet high with life-size Stations of the Cross winding up the hillside and a chapel at the summit overlooking the countryside. Down the hill is the ASCA, an agricultural institution spread on 69 hectares. Tropical fruit trees such as rambutan, mangosteen, and lanzones abound in the school campus as well as pasture land and sprawling ricefields.

## **Ob-Ob Hill**

(Batan, Aklan). Stands 200 meters high like a lighthouse facing the Sibuyan Sea. At the foot of the rocky hill is a fine beach.

## **Tinagong Dagat**

8 km. long and 4 km. wide, between Altavas and Batan, partly hidden from Batan Bay by two islands, fringed with mangroves, thick undergrowth and rocky beach.

## **Tigayon Hill**

(Kalibo, Aklan). A solitary mountain of solid rock amidst stretches of flatlands. One of the sides is a shallow cave with an arched entrance. Inside are an altar-like rock and two bench-like rock formations on its side.

## **Ignito Cave**

(Buruanga, Aklan). Locally known as Elephant Cave due to its appearance. This and other nearby caves are managed by the San Lorenzo Ruiz Farm Eco-Tourism Cooperative. Beautiful limestone formations of stalagmites, stalactites, and other crystalline structures abound. It has a "skylight" in one of its chambers that lets in a soft glow of light at noontime.

## **Liloan Citrus Farm**

(Malinao, Aklan). A place where various fruits abound interspersed with colorful anthuriums and heliconias.

## **Tigis Falls**

(Buruanga, Aklan). Secluded in an area good as a summer hideaway for its cool surroundings.

## **Basang and Hurom-Hurom Cold Springs**

(Nabas, Aklan). These alternative summer destinations offer the beauty of fresh water gushing from nature-hewn rocks and exhilarating adventure down from Gibon river in a kayak.

## **Boracay Island (Manok-Manok & Yapak)**

Paradise Island of the Philippines. It is world-famous for its fine and lovely palm-fringed sugar-fine white sand beaches, azure waters, coral reefs, and rare shells. Its area is 1083 hectares consisting of

three barangays namely Balabag, Manok-manok, and Yapak.

### **Agnaga Falls**

(Malay, Aklan). A scenic view awaits visitors as they swim in its clear waters. It is a perfect hideaway especially during summer as its cool water beats the heat.

### **Tigwati-an Island (Crystal Cove)**

Shells of varying sizes and kinds lie on its predominantly white sand beach. Caves with interesting crystalline formations can be found in the area. The island is located near Boracay Island.

### **Jawili Falls**

(Tangalan, Aklan). Has seven basins tiered about 20 feet apart. The highest basin is about 100 feet high, oval-shaped, around 240 sq. ft. in area, and 12 feet deep with clear water almost like a small lake. The other basins are of similar shapes from 130 sq. ft. to 240 sq. ft. in area and 8-10 feet deep except for the sixth basin, which has a swimming area of around 540 square feet.

### **Tulingon Cave**

Fifteen kilometers from poblacion Nabas, it is believed to be one of the longest caves in the Philippines. Tulingon stretches twenty kilometers from Bgy. Libertad, Nabas, Aklan to Bgy. Patria, Pandan, Antique. A survey indicates an enormous deposit of guano. Cave entrance is at Bgy. Libertad, Nabas. Just 55 km. northwest of Kalibo, it is accessible by jeepney, bus, tricycle, or private car.

### **Fatima Hill**

Located 9 km. southwest of Kalibo, it is noted for its stations of the cross on the hillside culminating in a chapel made of marble on top of the hill. Accessible by jeepney, bus, tricycle, or private car.

### **Pink Sisters Convent**

11 kms. from Kalibo. To the highly religious New Washington folks, this convent means much. Everything here is pink, from the convent's facade to corridors and to the nuns' attires.

## ***Religious***

### **Fatima Hill**

Noted for its way of the cross on the hillside. On top of the hill is the chapel made of marble.

## **Pink Sisters Convent**

To the highly religious New Washington Folks, this convent means much. Everything here is pink, from the convent's façade to corridors to the nun's dresses.

Guinsimbahan, Malinao

The old original site of the Catholic Chapel was on top of the hill.

## ***Man-Made***

### **Campo Verde**

(Border of Tangalan and Ibajay). Straddling the border of Tangalan and Ibajay, 28 km. west of Kalibo, its 3,700 feet altitude makes it a perfect retreat in the hot summer months. Green pines, mahogany, acacia, ipil-ipil, and butterfly trees draw visitors deeper into the woods - a hiker's paradise.

### **Nabaoy Reforestation**

If Tangalan boasts of its Campo Verde, Malay itself has its own to be proud of. Greenery abound in the area, sparkling clean air - a nature's refuge one can call little Baguio, plus a clear river winding through it, just 6 km. from Malay town proper.

## ***Festivals***

### **Kalibo Ati-Atihan**

Scene of a yearly celebration in honor of Sto. Nino held every third week of January, popularly known worldwide as Ati-Atihan. So called because Aklanons, domestic and foreign tourists, wipe soot on their faces and don ethnic paraphernalia and masquerade around town as Negritos and make merry and dance in the streets to the beat of ambulant ethnic troubadours.

### **Aklan Fiber Festival (Fiberfest)**

A week-long festival held annually showcasing products with world-class craftsmanship and ingenuity utilizing abaca, piña, raffia and blended fabrics, nito vine, terracotta, handmade paper, bamboo, wood, seagrass, other indigenous fibers and wrought iron. The festival aims to promote, preserve and develop the loom-weaving industry and hopes to establish Aklan as the handloom-weaving destination of the country.

## ***Special Interest***

### **POTTERY MAKING/POP RICE (AMPAW) MAKING**

The industries that have augmented the people's livelihood in this municipality. Residents near the river bank make clay pots and jars the old-fashioned way, as others engage in poprice making. Popularly known as "ampaw" in the local dialect is being processed from cooked rice, dried, deep fried with oil and sugar and then molded into the same sizes and dried slowly.

## ***Economic***

### **Pottery Making**

Families living along the banks of Aklan River near the town plaza of Lezo make clay pots and jars the old-fashioned way.

### **Pop Rice (Ampaw) Making**

The industry that has augmented the people's living condition in this municipality. Some of its products are even exported to other countries.

## **Things to Do and see in Antique...**

### ***Historical***

#### **Malandog Marker**

(Hamtic). 7 km. south of San Jose, Antique; which marks the "Landing site of the first Malayan settlers 1200 A.D."

#### **Old Watchtower**

(Libertad). 143 km. north of San Jose. It served to warn natives of approaching pirates.

#### **EBJ Freedom Park**

In front of the Antique Provincial Capitol building in San Jose, Antique. In honor of the late Gov. Evelio B. Javier who was assassinated on February 11, 1986 while defending freedom and democracy from the forces of martial law.

#### **Telegrafo Hill Boundary**

Straddling the Iloilo-Antique boundary, it commands a view of San Jose, Antique. The hill was a Japanese stronghold during World War II. The place is ideal for hiking and horseback riding.

#### **Estaca Hill**

(Bugasong). 43 km. from San Jose, Antique; with an elevation of some 200 feet and a view of the sea and hills surrounding Bugasong. The hill was once the site of a watchtower to warn people of Muslim pirates.

### ***Cultural***

#### **Anini-y Church**

A massive white coral building located in poblacion Anini-y, 40.46 km. south of San Jose de Buenavista.

#### **St. Agustin's High School**

(Patnongon, Antique). 25 km. from San Jose, Antique; its building is a remodelled old Spanish convent near the site of the ruins of the century-old Spanish church St. Agustin's run by Mill Hill Missionaries.

## ***Natural***

### **Nogas Island**

A 24-hectare government naval reservation island 3 miles from the shoreline of Anini-y town proper; 20 minutes by sailboat or motorboat; ideal for shell hunting, snorkeling, and scuba diving.

### **Sira-an Hot Spring**

A government-owned hot sulphur spring atop solid rock; warm water flowing from crevices and collecting in tiled basins into a junior size swimming pool; is along the highway 1 1/2 kilometers from Anini-y town proper and overlooks Nogas Island.

### **Cresta de Gallo**

(Anini-y). Called Punta Nasog by natives; denuded mountain of solid rock shaped like a rooster's crown, believed rich in mineral deposit.

### **Camp Autajay**

5 km. from San Jose; also called Pina beach; 10-hectare lot ideal for camping, live-in seminars or conferences.

### **Pula Waterfalls**

Red-tinted water cascades down the waterfall. It is 2 km. away from poblacion San Remegio.

### **Bato Cueva**

(La Union, San Remegio). Located on a hilltop near a forest nursery. From there one can see San Jose and Sibalom and on clear weather Mount Madia-as in Culasi.

### **Danao Lake**

Located in the high mountains of San Remegio, ideal for hunting.

### **Batabat Coral Reef**

(Barbaza). One km. offshore, a 20-minute ride by pumpboat; varied colored corals can be seen through clear waters.

### **Cadioo Resort**

11 km. from poblacion Barbaza to Bgy. Capuyawan, then 5 km. on foot; has a Baguio-like temperature.

## **Macalbag Waterfalls**

A waterfall 50 feet high, 8 km. from poblacion Barbaza; several caves, some still unexplored.

## **Hatay-tay Resort**

(Barbaza). 5 km. from the poblacion; abundant spring water.

## **Manglamon Beach & Cave of Tiguis**

5 km. from poblacion Tibiao; with sparkling sand and nearby cave.

## **Mt. Madia-as**

(Culasi). 2,117 m. above sea level; beautiful mountain scenery, different species of flora and fauna, rare orchids, wild deer and boar, a lagoon and rain forest.

## **Batbatan Island**

8 km. from Mararison Island; a mound of soft greenery, an attraction to scuba divers; has natural coves, anchorages, and white sand beaches.

## **Bugtong Bato Waterfalls**

(Tibiao). 6 km. to Sitio Moleta; accessible by motor vehicle up to Bgy. Tuno and a short hike along murmuring streams and hidden rice terraces. Ideal for excursions/picnics with excellent opportunities for bathing, swimming and picture-taking. First three waterfalls with height up to 150 ft. are accessible.

## **Tibiao River**

4 km. from the poblacion; considered ideal for white water kayaking by the Boracay-based Tribal Adventure Group.

## **Kipot Falls**

Seven-basin falls in Culasi; 3 km. northeast of town proper.

## **Kalamasag Falls**

About 100 ft. high; 7 km. and a 3-hour walk from the national road.

## **Igpasungaw Falls**

3 km. from the national highway; a 30-minute walk up hills; a natural swimming pool.

## **Bugtong Bukid**

500 meters from the national highway; has a bamboo and nipa resthouse.

## **Malumpati Health Spring and Tourist Resort**

(Pandan). Spring water collects in a small lake believed to have medicinal properties.

## **Marble Mountain**

Marble deposit has different colors and expected to last a thousand years.

## **Kaniang Resort**

Has seven water basins; 7 km. from town proper.

## **Idiayan Resort**

Has the advantage of a sloping beach and nipa cottages.

## **Maanghit Cave**

The cave is rich in guano deposited by bats; 7 km. from the town proper.

## **Duyong Beach**

A privately owned white sand beach overlooking the mountains; ideal for swimming.

## **Palakopak Lake**

(Brgy. Banbanan, San Remegio). Two inter-connecting lakes abundant with freshwater fishes, it is surrounded by green vegetation still inhabited by endemic wild animals and is ideal for camping and picnics.

## ***Religious***

### **Sto. Niño Church**

Located at Hamtic, Antique, the church rests on an elevation; above it are a convent and a bell tower up which are winding steps among flowers. A wooded knoll sets off the scene.

### **San Jose Cathedral**

Located near the new provincial capitol of San Jose. It is easily identifiable with its bell tower, the highest in the province.

### **Sta. Rita Catholic Church**

Located at Sibalom town, 10 kilometers northeast of San Jose. The supine statue of Sta. Rita here was a gift from the Augustinian sisters in Casica, Italy, and the feast of Sta. Rita is celebrated on May 22.

### **Barbaza Catholic Church**

The church with the most modern architectural style in the whole of Antique and designed by the same architect who designed Museo Iloilo. It is located at Barbaza town 61 kilometers north of San Jose, Antique.

### **St. Blaise Church**

Located at Sebaste, Antique. The church of St. Blaise has always been an object of pilgrimage for Roman Catholic devotees through the years. The feast of St. Blaise is celebrated every February 2. Mysteries and miracles are attributed to the saint.

## ***Man-Made***

### **La Granja & Binirayan Site**

(San Jose) A sports complex with a grandstand and a library on a hillside; site of the yearly Binirayan Festival; also a venue for cultural presentations.

### **Polytechnic State College of Antique**

6th state college in Western Visayas; produces the best ceramic products, has a resthouse.

## **Liberty Park**

(Mt. Agongon, Libertad). Commands a view of the town of Libertad against the vast expanse of blue sea; a camping area for boy and girl scouts.

## ***Festivals***

### **Binirayan Festival**

(April 30 to May 2). Binirayan commemorates the landing of the ten Malay datus in Malandog, Hamtic, Antique in the middle of the 13th century to set up the first Malayan settlement or barangay in this country.

### **Council of Balabago Re-Enactment**

(March 4-6; Balabago River, Culasi). It is a re-enactment of the gathering of the Malayan Datus headed by Sumakwel after their settlement in Malandog for thanksgiving and renewal.

## ***Special Interest***

### **White-Water Kayaking**

Tibiao River rises on the slopes of Mt. Madjaas, the highest point in Panay, and plunges well over 1000m on its short run to the ocean. There's about 23km of navigable water on the river, but access to the upper section is difficult. The usual run is 8km, a pleasant 1-day excursion.

Gibon River offers a solid 6km run on clear grade 3 water, with some areas reaching grade 4 in high water. This is creek action, so you'll need a short, manoeurable boat. The Gibon is close to Boracay, and the trip can be made as a day excursion. The river starts well up in the mountains, with the upper sections offering steep drops and narrow chutes, and the lower section easing off to grades 1 and 2. The uppermost section has drops up to 4m, which can be jumped in kayaks.

Located in Pandan, Antique, not far from Boracay, the Malumpati is an exceptionally scenic river offering good still water for practising and a few mild rapids. This is where Tribal Adventure brings novices to introduce them to kayaking. The mountains above Malumpati contain one of Panay's only remaining virgin forests; the scenery is lovely, with trees coming right down to the river.

### **Trekking**

Rising over 2000m above the coastal plain of Antique, Mt. Madjaas is the highest point on the island of Panay, and home to one of the last expanses of virgin rainforest in the area. The views are panoramic, overlooking the beach-fringed islands of Maniquin, Batbatan and

Mararison on the west side and the rugged valleys of central Panay on the east. After rains, waterfalls as high as 300m snake their way down the near-vertical west side of the mountain. The jungle is home to a number of rare species, including the Philippine spotted deer and the cloud rat. You may still encounter nomadic groups of Ati Negritas, the original tribal inhabitants of the area, on the mountain.

## ***Economic***

### **Marble Quarries**

(Libertad). About 24 kinds of marble of various colors can be found in the quarries.

### **Patadyong Weaving**

The town of Bugasong produces the famous Bogasong Patadyong (a colorful native fabric), the only one of its kind and well known throughout the island.

### **Mat Weaving/Bag/Hat Making**

Located in Sto. Rosario, Pandan, Antique. Where the famous Pandan mats, bags, hats, and other handicrafts made of the native bariw, buri nito, bamboo, and rattan are made and sold at affordable prices.

### **Gemstone**

(Sibalom and San Remigio Rivers). Abundant with blue and green schist, jasper, quartz, red, green and blue cherts, and neohrite.

## **Things to Do and see in Capiz...**

### ***Historical***

#### **Birthplace of Manuel Roxas (Roxas City)**

Located in the city proper; a two-storey hardwood and stone house of First Philippine President Manuel Roxas, now a historical shrine.

#### **Moro Towers (Sitio Nipa, Roxas City)**

Half-torn stone structures built in 1814 in order to repel the invading Moros and Portuguese colonizers.

#### **Capiz National High School**

One of the pioneering educational institutions in the province, Capiz National High School (formerly Capiz High School) was established and completely organized in 1914. Its imposing structure and location (top of a hill) is always a welcome sight. Its 48-step stairway is a popular spot for picture-taking.

#### **Roxas City Bridge (Old Capiz Bridge)**

The old and imposing Roxas City Bridge (formerly Capiz Bridge) remained strong and firm after it was built in 1910. Overlooking the Panay River, the bridge is a silent witness to various changes that ushered in progress and development in the city. Like the old bridge, equally alluring is the huge stretch of Panay River that transverses the very heart of the city. Passing the major edifice of the city, the river of Roxas City has been dubbed as the "Venice of the Visayas".

### ***Cultural***

#### **Ang Panublion (Roxas City Museum)**

Built in 1910 as a water tank; has memorabilia of illustrious sons and daughters of Roxas City; collections of religious icons, artifacts, and artworks.

#### **Mundo Dance (Tapaz)**

The dance of the mountain tribe known as Mundo is a vanishing remnant of pre-Malayan Indonesian immigrants to Panay. The dance retains to this day the original choreography arranged around ancient Indonesian fertility rites.

## ***Natural***

### **Baybay Beach (Roxas City)**

Three kilometers from the city proper, this clean black sand beach has beach houses, motorboats for boating and fishing. Also a good place for water skiing.

### **Olutayan Island**

30 minute pumpboat ride from Banica Terminal, Roxas City. The waters are crystal clear. Thirty feet below, multi-colored fishes cavort in flashes of blue, yellow, and red colors sliding through colorful seaweeds. The island's beach is carpeted with tiny crushed shells called cascaho.

### **Quipot Cave (Bgy. Burias Mambusao)**

30 minute ride over rough roads, it is about 3 km. from the Mambusao Agricultural and Technical College or around 9 km. from the town proper. Wild birds, deer, and wild ducks abound in the place. Near the cave is a stream. The cave consists of many chambers, each at a level different from other chambers. In certain sections, one has to crawl because the space between the roof and cave floor is just two or three feet. There are also sections that seem like a dead end, except for small openings through which only one person can crawl. These holes lead to a chamber as big as a hotel ballroom, which is why it is dubbed as the "Quipot Hilton". There are plenty of stalactites and stalagmites. The cave is cool inside.

### **Napti Island (Pan-ay)**

About three to four hectares big, located near Olutayan Island; has white sand, small cave, and abundant shells for necklaces. The beach is inviting. The water is cool and clear and free of troublesome jellyfish the whole year round. A small cave, about 100 meters long, winds several feet below the surface across the island. It commands a breathtaking view of Roxas City and Pan-ay. Fishing enthusiasts and gourmets have a wonderful time here because of the plentiful fish and lobster.

### **Buntod Beach (Pan-ay)**

About a kilometer long and is located far from the inhabited section of Pan-ay; one of the cleanest beaches in Capiz; has fine black sand with a beach free of jellyfish all year round; and its water is cool and clear. It is approximately 10 minutes by jeepney, car, and tricycle from the town. It is also accessible by speedboat or pumpboat from any point of Capiz.

## **Pilar Cave (Pilar)**

One and a half km. from the poblacion by jeepney, tricycle, and car over rough roads. About two years ago, townspeople discovered earthen pots with intricately incised designs. The caves must have been burial sites of pre-Spanish Filipinos. The Balisong Cave where the Capiz revolucionarios routed Spanish soldiers is also found hereabouts. The side of the mountain where the caves are is a spectacular sight. It is grayish-black rock rising 200 ft. to the sky. Plants, orchids among them, hang from the cliffs, blooming in the summer and filling the air with exotic fragrances.

## **Casanayan (Pilar)**

A fishing village wherein patis and ginamos are made; vast fields of sugar cane, rice, and corn on the 3 km. road from the highway to this place. It has a beautiful 3 km. stretch of fine gray sand beach fringed with palm trees that neatly line the village as a haven for those who seek refuge from the city hassles. Casanayan is a barrio gifted with a bizarre phenomenon - a woman's dead body that refuses to decay. Maria Basanes died at the age of 47 from a heart attack way back in 1829. When her body was exhumed ten years after her death, it was found intact and well-preserved, which was surprising because her embalming was supposedly good for only 3 days. Now, the dead body, brownish-black and light and hard as wood, stands inside a small hand-me-down. Her forehead has a portion where its skin was peeled off surreptitiously by men who believed it could be a lucky charm in fishing.

## **Tucad Reef (Pilar)**

It is 10 km. from the Pilar shoreline; this is a submarine islet of seashells and corals topped with thin layers of sand. When the tide is low the whole island emerges, and with it, shells and corals of different colors - green, red, blue, pink, clear water. From this marine garden, the mountains of Masbate can be seen. Tucad Reef is accessible by a pumpboat or on foot during low tides.

## **Suhot Cave (Dumalag)**

Situated in Dumalag, Capiz and only 300 meters away from the provincial road. It is actually a series of interconnected caverns of different sizes. At the cave's arched entrance is a pool of clear, ice-cold water fed by a rock spring from within the cave. Further on, however, is a crack in the rocks where sulfurous water comes out. Suhot is believed to have a connecting tunnel to the Badiang Cave in Dumarao since both caves are found in the same mountain only 6 km. apart from each other, although Badiang is on a higher elevation. On the other hand, entrance to Badiang is hidden by dense jungle. In pre-war days, phosphate was said to have been extracted from the cave but it was a short-lived effort.

## **Igang Cave (Maayon)**

A limestone cave found in Tapulang, Maayon, around 7 km. away from the poblacion or a 15 minute ride by car or jeepney. It has several entrances at different levels which lead to a central chamber and fan out again to different passages. Big star-like structures connect upper portions to the central chamber, which is well lighted and well ventilated. A gradually sloping passage, 7 feet wide and a foot high, takes one to the lower chamber, which unlike the upper and central chambers is dark. The floor here is covered with guano which townspeople use as fertilizer. The cave has stalactities and stalagmites.

The Coves of Ivisan (Brgy. Basiao & Brgy. Balaring) 10 km. or 30 minutes by jeepney, car or tricycle over rough roads from the town proper. These two barangays have cornered the white sand beach coves in the whole Capiz. In Basiao are the following coves: Marangcalan, Dinogmaan, Patyo, and Basiao.

## **Suhoton Caves**

Located in Jamindan, it has several multi-layered chambers in its vast interior. Inside one chamber is an altar-like formation surrounded by stalagmites that seem like giant images in silent repose. Some chambers are as big as hotel ballrooms or cathedrals.

## **Mantalinga Island**

Nearby Mantalinga Island, which is a kilometer away from the shoreline of Baybay beach, has been identified by the Department of Tourism as an ideal spot for scuba divers and a perfect rotunda for sailboat (dilayag) and kayaking contests. Recently named "Good Luck Island" by DOT consultants, the place is believed by the local fisherfolk as source of luck when names of their fishboats are written on the side of the island before it goes fishing for the first time.

## ***Religious***

### **Pan-ay Church**

This awe-inspiring church is a monument to past Spanish grandeur in Pan-ay town. Almost a small fortress, it is about 250 ft. long and 80 ft. wide with 9-ft. thick walls of coral blocks. The floor is colored marble that shines in subdued tone in misty light. The central altar is an elaborately sculptured retablo of silver and hardwood in florid Baroque style. The lateral altars have intricately carved tiers of niches for images of saints. Sta. Monica is the patron saint. The church's five story belfry shelters a huge antique bell surrounded by 8 smaller bells. Shrouded with many enchanting tales, the huge bell holds more fascinating truth. It was cast from 76 sacks of coins believed to have been contributed by the citizens of the town. Its mammoth size holds a staggering record. It is seven feet in diameter and weighs 10.4 tons. In fact, it is estimated to be the largest in Southeast Asia.

## **Dumalag Church**

It is 200 feet long and 50 feet wide. The walls are 3 feet thick and made of yellow sandstone. It has two doors at its side and one main doorway in front. There are six arched windows at each side with columns between them reaching to the roof. There are also small buttresses at the sides. The facade is decorated with small columns. At the front left side of the church is the 5-story belfry housing 5 bells of different sizes, all made in 1881. The church's interior is shaped like a cross. The church was finished in 1872 when Fr. Ansel Abasolo was parish priest of the town.

## **Our Lady of Immaculate Conception Cathedral**

One of the oldest in Panay Island, the church is a silent witness to events that have unfolded in the city over the past centuries. Its imposing view is being complimented by its location which is beside the city plaza fronting the Panay River and the old Capiz (now Roxas City bridge). Fiesta lights add glitter to the church.

## ***Man-Made***

### **Mussel Farm (Sapian)**

Ten kilometers north of the town's commercial hub, out in the sea, this mussel farm patiently lies like a silent picture of a thousand bamboo stilts arrayed 6 feet apart into the briny water. However, each bamboo pole stuck through the sea floor 6 to 7 feet deep yields hundreds of fat dark green mussels neatly arranged like dark distended leaves sprouting heavily on top of each other. One gets to this sea farm by means of pump boats, dugouts or rafts from Sitio Angkin.

## ***Festivals***

### **Sinadya sa Halaran**

One of Roxas City's most important annual events is the Sinadya sa Halaran festival. A fusion of two festivals – "Sinadya" (City) and "Halaran" (Province) which literally means joy in sharing and thanksgiving. It is celebrated on December 4-8 to commemorate the religious activities that embody the true Capiceño spirit. The highlights of the celebration are the Dancing Parade, "Higantes", Fluvial Parade, Fireworks display, Mutya sa Halaran beauty pageant, Coronation of the Fiesta Queen, and Agri-Aqua Trade Fair.

### **Balintawakan Festival**

Pontevedra. Balintawakan is a simple gathering, mostly of senior citizens of Pontevedra, Capiz who are sentimentally bound together to an unwritten commitment to preserve a simple tradition which began

long ago and was only interrupted by WWII. Every December 31 people hold a Binayle at the town's public market. Its highlight is the search for Miss Balintawakan as the Festival Queen. The event is capped by a Rigodon de Honor. The Filipino costume called Balintawak is the official attire of the womenfolk participating in the affair.

## ***Special Interest***

### **Spelunking**

Go spelunking. The caves of Pilar, Suhot, Igang and Suhoton are waiting for you.

## ***Economic***

### **Cutflowers**

Aside from its rich fishing grounds, cutflower cultivation is now gaining popularity among the residents in Roxas City as an agri-based income-generating industry.

### **Cottage Industry**

Numerous home and cottage industries amply augment household incomes, among which are poultry and livestock raising, handicraft, shellcraft, ceramics, lime processing, garments, farm tools fabrication, furniture and boat making.

## **Things to Do and see in Iloilo...**

### ***Historical***

#### **Plaza Libertad (Iloilo City)**

Where the flag of the First Philippine Republic was raised in triumph after Spain surrendered Iloilo, her last capital in the islands, to the revolutionaries led by Gen. Martin Delgado on December 25, 1898. Available transport – jeepney.

#### **Panay Liberation Marker**

23 km. southwest of Iloilo City; commemorates American liberation of Panay from the Japanese in 1945. Available transport - jeepney.

#### **Molo District**

Called Parian in the old days. It was the Chinese quarters of La Villa de Arevalo; Athens of the Philippines. Has produced many intellectual and political leaders. Available transport - jeepney.

#### **Spanish Bailiwick (Brgy. Carmelo)**

300 meters from Banate town proper; a historical landmark known as the hiding place of the Spanish authorities from the Moros. Available transport - jeepney.

#### **Japanese Fortification (Cabatuan)**

Built by the Japanese as a lookout point for enemies. Available transport - jeepney.

#### **Concrete Pillboxes (Janiuay)**

Built by the Japanese during World War II. Available transport - jeepney.

#### **Andonna Creek (Bgy. Siwaragan, San Joaquin, Iloilo)**

Landing site of the 10 Bornean datu.

#### **Fort San Pedro**

Built by the Spaniards in the early 1600s; attacked by Dutch, British, American, and Japanese troops. Available transport - jeepney. Janiuay Cemetery. 32 km. from Iloilo City, Hispano-Filipino cemetery built in 1875. Available transport - jeepney.

## **Balantang Memorial Cemetery**

A national shrine located at Balantang, Jaro, Iloilo City. The only military cemetery established outside Metro Manila. The bloodiest battle of the guerrilla forces of Col. Macario Peralta, Jr. had occurred in these hallowed grounds of Balantang and vicinity from Feb. 6 up to the liberation of Iloilo City on March 20, 1945.

## **Memorial Cemetery Museum**

Located in Balantang, Jaro, Iloilo City. WW II vintage firearms, sub machine guns and 81 mortars are displayed. Photographs and situation maps depicting historical events are likewise exhibited.

## **Oton**

11 km. southwest of Iloilo City, seat of Confederation of Madiaas under Datu Paiburong; where the temple in honor of Virgin Mary was built by Fr. Martin de Rada around 1570; 1st pueblo in Panay in 1571; accepted on May 3.

## **Japanese Underground Garrison (Concepcion, Iloilo)**

Located at Bagongon Island.

## ***Cultural***

### **Jaro Belfry**

Ruined by a 1948 earthquake, but now restored. One of the few belfries in the country that stands apart from the church. Available transport – jeepney.

### **Guimbal Watchtowers**

29 km. southwest of Iloilo City proper; called "bantayan: built to warn the people of pirates. Available transport – jeepney.

### **Magdalena Jalandoni's Residence**

(Commission Civil St., Jaro, Iloilo City). Contains collections of Magdalena Jalandoni's works, the 1st Republic Cultural Heritage awardee in Literature in 1969.

## **Rosendo Mejica Museum (Baluarte, Molo, Iloilo City)**

Repository of valuable memorabilia, social & cultural literature in Hiligaynon, English & Spanish dating from the last quarter of the 19th century to the 6th decade of the 20th century.

## **Kuta (Watchtower) (Bgy. Baybay Norte, Poblacion)**

Stone watchtower constructed with the same material as the Roman Catholic church of Miag-ao.

## **Taytay Boni (Bgy. Igtuba, Miag-ao Iloilo)**

Old Spanish bridge.

## **Old Buildings at Downtown Area (Downtown Iloilo)**

J.M. Basa St. or Calle Real boasts of buildings that date back during the Spanish and American colonial periods. Available transport - jeepney.

## **Imbidayan Rock (Bgy. Sinugbahan, San Joaquin, Iloilo)**

Site of the barter of Panay.

## **Siwaragan River (San Joaquin)**

Where according to legend the barter of Panay took place. Available transport - jeepney.

## **San Joaquin Cemetery**

53 km. southwest of Iloilo City; built in 1892 of coral rock; a hexagonal chapel crowns a 20 step staircase flanked by stone ballustrades; rose windows at the main entrance. Available transport - jeepney.

## **Jaro**

3 km. from the city proper; old colonial houses of sugar barons and Hispano-Filipino houses of the elite still stand, seat of Catholicism in Western Visayas. Available transport – jeepney.

## ***Natural***

### **Sicogon Island**

A 1,104 hectare white sand palm-fringed island gradually sloping down to some 350 feet beyond the shoreline; 5 km. from the town proper of Estancia, 137 km. northeast of Iloilo City.

### **Isla de Gigantes**

Where 15th century burial caves are still found. One cave has a stone elephant and a natural swimming pool; 12 km. east of Estancia.

### **Nadsadjan Falls**

Located in Igaras, 39.9 km. southwest of Iloilo City; a 100-foot high falls dropping on a giant cauldron-like natural swimming pool.

### **Tinagong Dagat**

A lake situated in a plateau surrounded by rolling hills of Lambunao, Iloilo; 73 km. north of Iloilo City.

### **Cataan Cove**

Located in San Joaquin town, 60 km. southwest of Iloilo City; has beautiful marine garden; ideal for scuba diving.

### **Darangkulan Waterfall**

Located in Sitio Bagingbong, Brgy. Balabag, 8 km. from the town proper of Anilao; lush vegetation; situated at the foot of Mt. Manyakiya, the highest peak in the municipality.

### **Nagpana Falls (Barotac Viejo)**

Swimming hideaway; where Aetas (cultural minority) live.

### **Mt. Napulak (Igaras)**

55 km. from Iloilo city proper; has virgin forest, and abundant wildlife.

### **Bucari (Leon, Iloilo)**

30 to 40 min. from the Poblacion; known as Little Baguio; consists of 14 contiguous barangays in the Municipality of Leon & adjoining barangays in the Municipality of Alimodian. An eco-tourism site which boasts of vast varieties of fauna & flora, waterfalls, springs &

streams and a cool invigorating climate like Baguio.

### **San Mateo Mountain Spring (Bgy. San Mateo Norte, San Joaquin, Iloilo)**

Features 1.5 km. of rushing spring water.

### **San Juan Falls (Sara)**

6.2 km. from Sara town proper; a series of falls and pools located in a valley of lush vegetation.

### **Sampunong Bolo Wildlife Sanctuary**

3 km. from Sara poblacion and approximately 98 km. northeast of Iloilo City. The area is about 52 hectares classified as timberland. It has a reservoir where purple herons feed during daytime.

### **Darangkulan Waterfalls (Sitio Bagongbong, Brgy. Balabag, Anilao, Iloilo)**

8 km. from the poblacion; surrounded by trees, boulders; situated at the foot of Mt. Manyakiya, the highest peak in the municipality.

### **Sta. Ana Waterfall (Anilao, Iloilo)**

5 km. from the poblacion - small cave and small enchanting waterfall.

### **Duminding Cave (Sitio Duminding, Brgy. Balabag, Anilao, Iloilo)**

With free flowing spring.

### **Balaring Beach (Brgy. San Francisco, Barotac Viejo)**

9 km. from the poblacion; rocks and colored stones beautifully laid along the shore and under the sea.

### **Balbagon (Carles, Iloilo)**

A flat, palm-fringed island with white sand near Gigantes.

Molupulo or Seagulls Point (Carles, Iloilo, near Sicogon Island)  
Has thousands of seagulls perching on the point which is a fish area.

## **Danao-Danao & Basiao Island (Concepcion, Iloilo)**

Famous for its stone tables, beach, and other wonderful figures sculptured through centuries by wind and waves and noted for its lovers lane.

## **Mt. Manaphag or Mt. Pan de Azucar**

Landmark of Concepcion. It is a mountain situated in Bgy. Tambaliza with craggy slopes and ideal for mountain climbers; at 7,148 ft, the second highest spot in Panay.

## **Bolobadiangan Island (Concepcion, Iloilo)**

Wide beach with limped lagoon.

## **Agho Island (Concepcion, Iloilo)**

The home of Tabon birds that lay oversized eggs.

## **Baliguian Island (Concepcion)**

A coral reef rising only a few feet above sea level with its lighthouse and beach of white corals and shells.

## **Colebra Island (Concepcion)**

Its magnificent caves abound with guano and Alagit-it nests.

## **Agua Vendita (Concepcion)**

The place is located below Mt. Apitong wherein sea water enters during high tide and turns to fresh water during low tide, within it is a spring famous for its medicinal waters.

## **Iyang Beach (Concepcion)**

White sand beach

## **San Vicente Island (Concepcion)**

The guerilla sanctuary island with white beaches.

## **Igbon Island (Concepcion)**

Ideal for scuba divers

### **Anhawan Island (Concepcion)**

Scuba diving and white sand beach.

### **Tinagong Dagat (Concepcion)**

Where the hidden sea lies.

### **Lacaran Beach (Brgy. Ermita, Dumangas)**

View of Roca Encantada and Siete Pecados of Guimaras Island.

### **Beaches at Guimbal**

Coconut palm shades and cottages make them popular weekend retreats.

### **Ardemil Valley (Brgy. Ardemil, Sara)**

10.5 km. scenic spot. Beautiful valley atop a mountain as seen from the road. A panorama of ricefields, trees, hills, and mountains especially during sunrise and sunset. Cool atmosphere.

### **Mt. Lolo (Brgy. Aripdip, San Rafael)**

8 km. from the town. Ideal for hunting due to abundance of wild pigs, monkeys, deer, and wild chickens.

### **Beaches at San Joaquin**

Talisayan, Tara, and others; clean beaches with multi-colored pebbles. \*Chert rocks, now deposited at the museum, believed to be ranging from 65 million to 2 billion years old had been excavated in Nagsipit River in San Joaquin.

### **Lamintao Beach (Barotac Nuevo)**

9 km. from the town proper; ideal picnic ground.

### **Salihid Mountain and Caves (Barotac Nuevo)**

One km. from town proper; lush vegetation; attracts the adventurous.

### **Danao Lake or Tinagong Dagat (Miag-ao)**

Ten times bigger than the ordinary swimming pool; has elevation of 3,000 feet above sea level.

## **Sinuhutan Cave (Miag-ao)**

The cave provides a two-hour one-way tour passing from arrays of stalactites and stalagmites and chambers around the little cathedral intertwined by lase of underground waters.

## **Binugsukan Falls (Bgy. Dalije, Miag-ao, Iloilo)**

Accessible and unspoiled waterfalls with fresh & clear running waters.

## ***Religious***

### **Miag-ao Church (Miag-ao)**

40 km. southwest of Iloilo City; built in 1786; declared as national landmark in 1973; part of UNESCO's World Heritage List.

### **Sta. Barbara Church**

16 km. north of Iloilo City; a neo-classical church where Gen. Martin Delgado of the Visayan revolutionary government convened the junta that raised the first cry of revolution against Spain in Iloilo. Available transport - jeepney.

### **Tigbauan Church**

22 km. southwest of Iloilo City; baroque facade; behind the rectory was the first Jesuit school for boys in the Philippines established in 1592. Available transport - jeepney.

### **Guimbal Church**

Yellow sandstone church built by Fr. Campos. Available transport - jeepney.

### **Janiuay Church**

Ruins of the beautiful church with bells made in 1871 and 1898. Available transport - jeepney.

### **Cabatuan Church**

Neo-classical; built in early 1880s. Available transport - jeepney.

### **Pavia Church**

13 km. northwest of Iloilo City; red brick church of Byzantine style built by Spanish Agustinians and used as garrison by the Japanese who drew guerilla raids that pockmarked the walls. Available transport -

jeepney.

### **San Joaquin Church**

53 km. southwest of Iloilo City; the only church in the Philippines sporting bas-relief of historic battle between Christians of Spain and Moors of Morocco in Tetuan in 1859.

### **Molo Church**

3 km. from the city proper; Gothic Renaissance Church of coral rock; completed in the 1800s.

### **Jaro Cathedral**

3 km. from the city proper; seat of the Jaro Archbispheoric embracing Western Visayas.

### ***Man-Made***

#### **Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center**

A multi-national aquaculture research center; undertakes artificial breeding of prawns and milkfish.

#### **Science Centrum (Iloilo National High School Campus, Lapaz, Iloilo City)**

The first dynamic/interactive science museum in Region VI which seeks to draw children & adults into the world of science & technology - a world of learning, discovery, and fun.

#### **La Villa de Arevalo**

6 km. southwest of Iloilo City proper; 2nd capital of the Alcaaldia of Panay; flower village of Iloilo City. Available transport – jeepney.

#### **Muelle Loney**

Port of Iloilo named after British Nicholas Loney, Father of the Sugar Industry of Panay and Negros. Considered one of the safest harbors because of Guimaras Island that protects it from drastic winds; first opened to foreign trade in 1855. Available transport - jeepney.

#### **San Joaquin Cemetery**

53 km. southwest of Iloilo City; built in 1892 of coral rock; a hexagonal chapel crowns a 20 step staircase flanked by stone

ballustrades; rose windows at the main entrance. Available transport - jeepney.

### **General Macario Peralta, Jr. Statue & Park (J.M. Basa St.)**

Now known as Freedom Park, in honor of one of the bravest guerrilla fighter.

### **Battle Monument**

Located at Jaro Public Plaza; built in honor of the brave Ilonggo heroes.

## ***Festivals***

### **Dinagyang**

(every 4th weekend of January; Iloilo City). A colorful cavalcade in honor of the Holy Child Jesus amidst the cracking drumbeats, Iloilo's version of the world famous Ati-Atihan Festival.

### **Paraw Regatta (movable dates; Iloilo Strait)**

A race among swift and colorful native outriggers in the strait between Iloilo City and Guimaras Island.

### **Cry of Sta. Barbara (Nov. 17; Sta. Barbara, Iloilo)**

Celebrated in commemoration of the first cry of revolution against Spain in Iloilo. Activities include grand parade with participants dressed in Spanish costumes, games, and cultural presentations.

### **Christmas Light Festival (Dec. 16-Jan. 3; Pototan, Iloilo)**

A kaleidoscope of multicolored lights in a 6 ha. plaza with dancing fountain & food festival.

### **Pagtatal in Barotac Viejo (Good Friday; Barotac Viejo, Iloilo)**

A yearly depiction of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

### **Paghukom (Good Friday; Calinog, Iloilo)**

Lenten presentation depicting the judgment, crucifixion, death & resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### **Feast of Our Lady of Candles (every Feb. 2; Jaro, Iloilo City)**

Biggest and most opulent religious pageantry in Western Visayas with agro-industrial exhibits, garden shows, carnivals, and grand cock derbies, among others, that make Jaro fiesta the symbol of Iloilo's affluence and love for great celebrations.

### **Santacruzán Festival (April 24-May 31; Sta. Cruz, Arevalo, Iloilo City & Igaras, Iloilo)**

Features Mayflower festival, grand processions, and a contest of massive arches.

### **Pasungay (2nd Saturday of January)**

Bullfights staged at the hillside of San Joaquin, Iloilo.

### **Carabao-Carroza Race (every May; Pavia, Iloilo)**

A race among carabaos, each pulling a bamboo sled called carroza, on a 40-meter course.

### **Kanyon-Kanyon Festival (last week of December; Bgy. Cabugao Norte, Sta. Barbara, Iloilo)**

This is the residents' way of celebrating the New Year by making loud sounds through bamboo "kanyons."

### **Salakayan Festival (1st week of February)**

A dance-drama-type performance on the streets of Miag-ao which depicts events of the past. Also includes food fair, photo exhibits, fluvial parades, agro-industrial trade fair, and the coronation of queen of Miag-ao.

### **Tubong-Tubong Festival (May 1; Tubungan)**

A carousel-type cultural presentation participated in by high school students and the 8 councilor's districts, depicting various historical aspects of the municipality.

## **Katagman Festival**

A showcase of the noble history and culture of Oton.

## **Juego de Anillo (May 31; San Joaquin)**

A game of the rings participated in by men of all ages in the barangay vying to capture as many rings as possible on an uphill row. Started as a courtship ritual in the hinterland barangay.

## **Binanog Festival (January, movable dates; Lambunao, Iloilo)**

A dance depicting the movement of the birds accompanied by lively drum beatings.

## **Fireworks Display and Contest (3rd Sunday of January; Arevalo, Iloilo City)**

A dazzling display of sparkles and blazing lights which highlights the District Fiesta of Arevalo.

## **Hinirugyaw Festival (5th Sun. of Jan. /1st Sun. of February; Calinog, Iloilo)**

A 9-day event consisting of opening salvo, food fest, live Sto. Niño contest among young boys, Search For Lin-ay Sang Hinirugyaw and the tribes contest, all in honor of Calinog's devotion to Sr. Sto. Niño.

## **Pintados de Pasi Festival (March 14-17; Passi City)**

A festival depicting the history of Passi through "pintados" as a colorful celebration of how Passi got its name. Includes parade, and tribes competition, food fest, trade fair, among others.

## **Kapiya Display & Pasyon Singing Contest (Good Friday; Sta. Barbara)**

A contest of the most unique and beautiful kapiya or tableau of the 14 Stations of the Cross along with the most authentic Pasyon Singing.

## **Tampisaw Festival (3RD Fri, Sat., Sun of April; Bgy. Tambaliza, Concepcion)**

A 3-day festivity to commemorate the Earth Day Celebration. Features fluvial parade, tree planting, Tampisaw Dance Competition, Search For Miss Tampisaw, trade fair, among others.

### **Panagat “Fish”Tival (Last Sunday of April; Estancia)**

A celebration that calls for the ultimate cooperation and soul of Bayanihan among the neighboring towns and a tribute to the fishing profession.

### **Hirinugyaw Festival (Sept. 1-10; Cabatuan)**

Street dancing festivity participated by various agencies and NGOs in Cabatuan.

### **Hinugyaw sa Anilao (Oct. 31; Anilao)**

A celebration of the separation of Anilao from Banate which features various sports and cultural activities.

### **Ilonggo Lantern Festival (Dec. 1-31; Iloilo City)**

A contest of giant lanterns made of native materials.

### **Christmas Lighting (Dec. 16; Sta. Barbara)**

A Christmas lighting program to add life and color to the town’s celebration of Christmas.

### **Tultugan Festival (Dec. 29; Maasin)**

A festival which promotes the town’s bamboo industry and to project Maasinhon’s creativity with bamboo. The festival is a dance competition depicting students in colorful costumes, sashayed on the streets to the beat of the bamboo instruments.

### **Palupok Bayong (Dec. 30; Pavia, Iloilo)**

A revival of the old tradition in celebrating the New Year by making loud sounds through bamboo cannons (bayong).

### ***Special Interest***

#### **Sinamay Dealer (Osmena St., Arevalo, Iloilo City)**

Where jusi (banana fiber) and piña (pineapple fiber) cloths are loom-woven.

## **Flower Gardens (Arevalo, Iloilo City)**

Supplies of leis, corsages, bouquets, and potted plants.

## **Asilo de Molo**

Orphanage where church vestments, barong, hankies, and more are made, designed hand-embroidered by orphan girls.

## ***Economic***

### **Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center**

A multi-national aquaculture research center; undertakes artificial breeding of prawns and milkfish.