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Subic Bay Philippines

By Nestor Santos

For many centuries, Subic Bay was recognized as a deep safe harbour. Realizing Subic Bay's

potentials, the Spaniards used the bay as a port to defend and maintain the Philippines as a part of their empire in the 17th century. In 1885, it was built into a naval base that utilized the safe harbors and natural resources.

After their victory over the Spaniards in 1898, a naval repair and supply base in Subic Bay was established by the Americans. It was only reachable by sea until 1932 when the zigzag roads were opened linking Subic Bay and Olongapo to the rest of the Philippines.

The Japanese bombed Subic Bay in 1941 and was held by them until the US took back the Philippines in 1945. The naval base was returned to the control of the United States. The two invasions by the Japanese and Americans produced a number of bombed or scuttled naval ships in Subic Bay. Scuba divers from around the world are now enjoying these wrecks in their underwater graveyards.

Control and maintenance of Subic naval base remained under the United States despite the Philippines gaining their independence. The United States was given 99 years free access of the facility via an agreement signed between the Philippines and US. With the outbreak of the Vietnam War, Subic Bay became a strategic site in the maintenance of a strong US presence in Asia.

In 1991, the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo covered Olongapo and Subic Bay with nearly half a metre of ash. After the Senate of the Philippines rejected the renewal of the US bases treaty in 1992, the Subic Bay Freeport was established after the last of the American naval ships completed its pullout of forces.

Since then, Subic Bay Freeport Zone has now become a well−known economic, commercial and tourist hub. It is booming with world class restaurants and duty−free shopping.

Subic Bay is situated in Zambales Province on the west coast of Luzon 120 kilometres north of Manila. Mountains with lush jungles bound its coastal area. Mountains with lush dense jungles, suitable for trekking, surround the coastal area. The bay cuts out into the South China Sea.

Subic Bay brags of interesting wreck dives. It is home to a impressive combination of wrecks. The six wreck sites have an average depth of 45 ft.

Subic Bay boasts of its rainforest and a white sand beach. Its world−class facilities, which include a marina, yacht club, hotels, shopping arcades and food shops, are supported by Philippine tourism. An international airport is another attraction.

Nestor Santos is a field reporter for

http://www.PhilippinesVacation.org

, where you can enjoy great

articles about the Philippines. Philippines Travel Tips:

http://www.philippinesvacation.org/philippines−travel−tips/philippines−travel−tips/

Philippine Travel: When And Where

By John Grant

When you're about to embark on a journey to the Philippines, the two most important questions to ask is "when" and "where". If you're traveling to the Philippines, do be aware that the experiences you're about to encounter is unlike anything you'd encounter anywhere else in the world. Each and every country has its own unique experience to offer you and when you travel to the Philippines, you should expect the same.

When Is It Best To Travel To The Philippines?

Are you allergic to rain? If so, it would do you good to avoid traveling to this part of Southeast Asia during the months of June till November as that's when the occasional typhoon or two makes time to visit the Philippines. Traveling during the rainy season of the Philippines can be quite a hassle, especially if you don't have a car. But if you do, you could expect smaller crowds to contend with as most people tend to stay indoors.

If you're unable to take the heat and still be merry, then you should not travel to the Philippines during the months of March till May because that's officially the summer season of the country. Everyone heads for the nearest beach so if you don't want to feel crowded when you're sunbathing, set your travel date for another time of the year. The Easter season is always busy for everyone in the Philippines so expect a difficult time on reserving transportation when it's Holy Week.

If you're on the lookout for the world−famous fiestas that only the Philippines could offer, schedule your travel date for January, May or December. The flower season of Baguio - described as the summer capital of the Philippines because of its perennially cool weather - is something to look forward to. And then there's the Santacruzan during May and which each and every town parades its most beautiful

residents in a walk around town.

Where In The Philippines Is It Best To Travel To?

There are so many types of places to visit in the Philippines that it's hard to enumerate each and every one of them. Beaches, however, are one of the most favorite travel spots of the country so if you want to enjoy your stay in a beautiful paradise of clear blue green water and cool white sand, you could check out Tali Beach, the world−famous Boracay or try surfing the secluded beaches of Surigao and La Union.

John Grant has been living in the Philippines for 5 years and has travelled the country extensively. His online Philippines Travel Guide

http://www.netguard.dk

covers major destinations like Boracay

http://www.netguard.dk/visayas/boracay/

Puerto Galera and Palawan.

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