

# Favourite Spots Philippines

Written S to N for vessels S/Y Freebird & S/Y Java (although we actually travelled N to S)

Dave and Jackie Peers & Fergus McCormick, S/Y Brigadoon, 2013 – 2014

Davao, Mindanao – Ocean View Marina, Samal Island only decently run marina we know of in Philippines.

Good place for haul out, work done or leaving boat if you have to. Off season rates available. Long way from rest of Philippines, but good for entry to Indo.

Siargao Island – famous for surfing. We anchored by the town, Dapa, which is grotty. But S/Y Munyana anchored near General Luna (which appears buoyed off, but they snuck round the E end). Lagoons & islands in NW apparently very pretty. Deserves more exploration than we gave it.

Surigao City, top of Mindanao. Didn't stop. V strange currents in this vicinity!

Dinagat Island above Surigao City. Ruined by mining. But wee village of Puerto Princesa 10°06'N 125°29'E one of the prettiest, and friendly welcoming people (esp William & family). Limestone coastline around PP very lovely indeed. A well kept secret!

Pintuyan 9°57' 125°15' Nice people, nice place. Did trip up to Napantaw Coral Reef from there. British run conservation reef. Good snorkeling. Saw whale sharks while sailing.

San Juanico Strait between Samar & Leyte Islands is navigable and pretty. Enjoyable day. Plenty of room under bridge and power line.

Navatas Point Village 11°29' 124°50' Wild excitement at our visit. Near hysteria. Biggest event for years!

Malapascua Is Quite nice, many dive resorts. Affected by Typhoon Haiyan, but prob ok now.

Carnasa Is One yacht raved about it, but didn't find it that interesting. Except for the upcoming Mr Macho Gay Talent Competition being advertised round town! But couldn't stay for it (didn't want to show up locals).

Gigantes Island 11°35' 123°21' An island of rare beauty, despite destruction of reef sadly. Anchor in lovely SE bay. But worth a visit to the village in SW bay. Friendly people.

Boracay Island 11°57' 121° 56' Philippines main tourist destination. Very crowded & noisy. Bit bizarre. Brief visit interesting, out of curiosity. Be happy you have a yacht and don't have to stay there!

Romblon Is 12°35' 122°21' Very colourful Philippines atmosphere. A real favourite of ours, and others. Handful of expats eg Denis & Barbara at Marlin Bar v friendly & welcoming. Hire motorbike to go round island.

Port Carmen, Cebu. Many boatyards. Zeke a character. Tim Mumble, aluminium cats, a good person to talk to about what's available.

Bohol Island Very scenic island. Great fun to motorcycle round. Chocolate Hills and tarsiers etc Apparently some very beautiful near deserted beaches in E. We anchored Tagbilaran 9°39' 123°50' (Poor family who'd been begging at ferry came back singing their wee hearts out, but when they saw us looked sad again!)

Pamilacan Island 9\*30'N 123\*55' Anchor fee was bit of a shock (but could stay as long as u like). Also snorkeling fee. But a pretty island, friendly people which we liked a lot, and easily the best snorkeling we had in Philippines. (If only Gigantes had done something similar!)

Siquijor Is 9\*16' 123\*35' The witches' island! Only stopped one night. Amazing sunset. Had been here b4 on flying holiday.

Port Bonbonnon 9\*03' 123\*55' aka Buffet Bay! A famous yachties' haven – perfectly sheltered. People leave their yachts there – sometimes permanently. Nearby Kookoo's Nest Resort very pretty. Can go by motorbike & jeepney to Dumaguete for supplies.

Apo Island would be worth a visit. But too windy when we went by.

Negros Is is very scenic and well worth exploring. One of the best.

From Pt Bonbonnon we zigged up to Busuanga Is, stopping at Catmon Pt, Anini-Y, Tanguayan Is & Quiniluban Is. We enjoyed this trip very much. Well off the beaten track.

Busuanga Is and islands in vicinity, and islands down to El Nido a highlight of Philippines for us. Circumnavigated Busuanga Is. Found anchorage in Minangas Bay 12\*09' 120\*15'. Enjoyed meeting Tagbanwa people. Dugongs, esp at full moon. Also stopped Diboyoyan Is and Caluit Is safari. Some people enjoy this, but we found rather silly. The jeep we hired took us all of 200m! Nice anchorage though. Puerto del Sol/Pearl Bay 12\*01' 119\*59' is where we sheltered from Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda. Very fond of Al Faro Resort (whimsical tower). Made friends with Jimmy & Nenita. Sangat (Tangat) Is Resort very nicely done indeed. Brunch not too expensive. (Did welding repair for free too!) Has mooring buoy round corner to W near cliff. Excellent snorkeling.

Coron Town – can anchor Discovery Resort W of town (peaceful), in front of town (not peaceful), or by rough little port Tagum to E of town. 11\*59' 120\*13' We of course preferred rough little port! Wonderful sunset views of Coron Island. But can't go directly across from W to E. Have to go long way round. Little cove Coron Island 11\*57'120\*14' very gorgeous. Talk of anchoring fee, but never collected. (Fees for every stop round this area a pain! Avoided most of them.)

Port Culion – 11\*53' 120\*14' We loved this ex-leper colony. Visited 3 separate times. The ladyboys' volleyball tournaments a highlight! Never visited the expensive museum, being cheapskates, but whole town a museum.

Many pretty islands between Busuanga & El Nido – Linapacan, Malubutglubut, Ditaytayan etc Particularly warm welcome at Cabulauan Is further to E. Some hard case old ladies enjoyed joking with us!

El Nido – prettiest spot in Philippines. Anchoring off town is pretty, but noisy. Round corner 11\*10' 119\*23' more peaceful. Many pretty islands to explore. Anchorage at 11\*6' 119\*24' was peaceful. Can get to 'Cathedral Cove' from there, b4 tourist boats arrive.

From El Nido township, nice walking track round to E, past Cadlao Resort (lovely views) and beyond.

We also enjoyed visit to Liminangcong on way to Malampaya Sound. Anchored in channel, and walked back to township. Friendly people and local atmosphere.

Pretty islands on NE side of Palawan too, although pearl farms a pain. Second time we went right around Dumaran Island instead. Great anchorage at Araceli 10\*33' 119\*59'

Going South – anchorage between Verde Islands very pretty. Looks a bit hairy on approach, but fine.

Puerto Princesa – Abanico Yacht Club 9\*46' 118\*44' a famous yachties' haven. Commodore John Leader is charming and helpful. Best approached early on in day, for reasons which will become apparent. Nice banquets on Sundays.

We enjoyed our trip down to Kudat. Rio Tuba 8\*30' 117\*26' hard case little town, and great anchorage. (Crocs!) Stopped at Cabugan Islands and weaved down thru islands to Balabac Is. Very nice. **BUT** German couple taken hostage by Abu Saiyef 2014!

Going Nth from Busuanga.

We stopped at Apo Reef. Very nice, but didn't really know where to snorkel. Island was pretty. Fergus nearly ate the rare pigeons b4 their historic release b4 dignitaries a couple of days later!

People love the yacht friendly Pandan Is Resort, but we didn't go there.

Puerto Galera – best approached from E. Very hard work into wind & current from W!

We liked PG. Very pretty atoll. Use NW channel – other one has an unmarked power line!

Yacht Club friendly. Moorings sheltered, but not many guest moorings. Can anchor for free round corner at Bocquette Beach. Pretty there, but exposed to constant strong E winds. We walked each evening short distance to Little Balateros Cove where had wee bbqs out of wind. In PG harbour can be quite oblivious to all the tourism at Sabang and other beaches. Sabang Beach good spot for watching rugby league while being lapdanced upon.

Fun to hire motorbike. Go up hill to Golf Club (great views) and fun to explore both E and W.

Towards Subic – nice anchorage at Fuego Pt 14\*07' 120\*36'

Subic Bay – much nicer than we expected. But Yacht Club expensive and not worth it. Pt

Binanga 14\*45' 120\*16' a favourite spot. Sometimes a swell coming in (use stern anchor) but usually fine. Supplies in village across the bay, and jeepney to Subic.

Vasco's Restaurant 14\*48' 120\*18' is the free anchorage we used. Also Arizona Floating Bar for more girly atmosphere in beach further to W.

We had work done by Alan Hyde [regahyde@yahoo.com](mailto:regahyde@yahoo.com) Laidback, friendly Ozzie guy, well worth talking to.

Nth Luzon – no one goes there, but some v nice spots.

San Salvador Is 15\*31' 119\*55', Hundred Islands 16\*13' 120\*02', Solvec 17\*26' 120\*26' not a great harbour, but visited historic Vigan town from there.

Bolinao 16\*23' 119\*54' a typhoon hole (but not good enough to save 'Aisling V', a lovely HK yacht.

Very friendly welcome at Currimao 18\*00' 120\*29'

Aparri – port of entry, but not nice people to deal with. We anchored at sheltered Port Irene 18\*23' 122\*07'

Babuyan Islands – a big highlight for us. Camiguin Is 18\*54' 121\*52' has shelter from NE, lovely people, resident humpback whales. Calayan Is 19\* 15' 121\*28' also lovely, but rolly. (Jack & Fergs stayed in Guesthouse!)

Batanes Island 20\*27' 121\*58' Very scenic, seldom visited, very wonderful. Hire motorbike to go around the island

\* **NB** Waypoints approximate, due to discrepancies with Navionics. \*

Anchoring straightforward round most of Philippines, with gently sloping sheltered beaches common. Never dragged once.

Round Busuanga & El Nido a bit trickier.