

ILOCOS NORTE INTERLUDE 12-23 FEBRUARY 2025 (12D11N)
(Laoag,Vigan,Abra,Sagada,Banaue,Buscalan,Manila)

Trip Cost Per Person RM4,400 (8-16 pax)

Based on 1 USD = MYR4.71, 1USD = PHP58.75 on 23 JUNE 2024

EXCLUDING FLIGHT TICKETS (INTERNATIONAL & DOMESTIC PRICED TOTAL OF RM1871 ON 23 JUNE 2024)

12 FEB 25 WED KUL MNL 0055 0510 CEBU PACIFIC

12 FEB 25 WED MNL LAO 1110 1220 PHILIPPINE AIRLINES

22 FEB 25 SAT LAO MNL 1310 1420 PHILIPPINE AIRLINES

23 FEB 25 SUN MNL KUL 1735 2130 AIRASIA

UPDATE 27 JULY 2024 - We are adding another van to cater for more people, maximum for this trip is 14-16pax

NOTE PLEASE DO NOT BOOK THE FLIGHT TICKET UNTIL ADVISED BY US. Contact trip handler Lee Keng at 60123158353 or yongleekeng@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE. This is meant to be a "free and easy" budget trip. Participants should be relatively fit, with a good sense of humour, and above all, have the right attitude for close travel with others through possibly some trying times. Most definitely, this is not a trip for prudes, whiners, fuss-pots, and other similiarly assorted types! Although every effort will be made to stick to the given itinerary, ground conditions may change and cause some disruption and/or deviation from the norm. Otherwise, have fun!

Travelling from Laoag to Vigan to Abra to Sagada to Banaue to Buscalan is more than a physical journey; it's a profound exploration of the Philippines' diverse landscapes, cultural heritage, and the enduring spirit of its people. Each destination unfolds layers of history and natural beauty, leaving a lasting impression of the richness and diversity of this remarkable region

Starting in **LAOAG** , the capital of Ilocos Norte, you are immediately immersed in a blend of history and modernity. Spanish colonial architecture graces the city, exemplified by the majestic Paoay Church, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its unique earthquake-resistant design. The nearby La Paz Sand Dunes offer a striking contrast with their vast expanse of rolling sands meeting the sea.

Continuing south to **VIGAN**, a **UNESCO World Heritage City**, you step back in time to the Spanish colonial era. The cobblestone streets of Calle Crisologo are lined with well-preserved ancestral houses, each with its own stories of centuries past. The atmosphere is enhanced by horse-drawn calesas, adding to the city's nostalgic charm.

From Vigan, the journey heads inland to **ABRA**, where verdant mountains and winding rivers define the landscape. This region offers a glimpse into rural Filipino life and traditions, less touched by modern development.

Moving deeper into the Cordillera mountains, **SAGADA** captivates with its serene beauty and rich cultural heritage. Known for its hanging coffins, ancient burial caves, and spectacular limestone cliffs, Sagada invites exploration and contemplation amidst stunning natural scenery.

Further south, **BANAUE** reveals the breathtaking terraced rice paddies, carved into the mountainsides by the Ifugao people over two millennia ago. This UNESCO World Heritage site is a testament to indigenous engineering and sustainable farming practices, offering panoramic views that inspire wonder and admiration.

Finally, the journey culminates in **BUSCALAN**, home to the legendary Kalinga tattoo artist Whang-od. Nestled amidst towering mountains and lush forests, Buscalan offers not only the opportunity to witness ancient tattoo traditions but also to immerse oneself in the tranquil beauty of the Cordilleras.



DAY 1 KUL-MANILA-LAOAG Meet up KLIA on **11 FEB 2024 1030PM** for our flight departing to Manila at **0055 12 FEB 2024** via Cebu Pacific **KUL-MNL (0055-0510)** . Arriving Manila 0510, connecting to our domestic flight **MNL-LAO (1110-1220)** via Philippines Airlines. Pick up from airport and continue our journey to Vigan city (96KM,2 hours). Along the way, we will have a stop and enjoy a thrilling fun of 4x4 drive and sand boarding at La Paz Sand Dunes amidst scenic landscapes and sandy slopes.

Overnight Vigan

DAY 2 VIGAN CITY SIGHTSEEING Full day sightseeing in Vigan. E.g. Exploring Calle Crisologo, where you can stroll amidst historic houses and shop for local crafts. Visit the Vigan Cathedral and Plaza Salcedo for their historical significance. Enjoy local delicacies like empanada and Vigan longganisa. Take a calesa ride for a nostalgic tour of the city (own cost) Visit the Crisologo Museum or Syquia Mansion Museum for deeper insights into Vigan's past. Visit Baluarte Mini Zoo, a wildlife sanctuary featuring a variety of animals, perfect for families and animal enthusiasts. End with a cultural show (own cost) or night market experience at Plaza Burgos for a vibrant end to your day, soaking in the charm and history of this unique Philippine city. **Overnight Vigan**

DAY 3 VIGAN-ABRA The journey from Vigan to Abra spans approximately 70 kilometers, taking us through scenic landscapes of the northern Philippines. A highlight stop along the way is Tiggalay Falls, a picturesque waterfall nestled in the lush mountains near the town of Sinait. Its tranquil pools and cascading waters offer a refreshing break, perfect for a brief exploration and rejuvenation amidst nature's beauty before continuing our road trip to Abra. Free and easy evening. **Overnight Abra**

DAY 4 ABRA-SAGADA In the morning we will visit Lusuac Springs in Lagayan (28KM,45mins), known for its refreshing waters and tranquil surroundings. Here, we can relax, swim, and enjoy the natural beauty before continuing our journey to Sagada (207km, 6hours). **Overnight Sagada**

DAY 5 SAGADA SIGHTSEEING/HIKING Full day exploring Sagada. Start early with Sumaguing Cave, famous for its impressive limestone formations and underground rivers. Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for some adventurous spelunking. Visit the Echo Valley to see the hanging coffins, a traditional burial practice of the local Igorot people. After lunch, perhaps a hike to Bomod-Ok Falls, a scenic waterfall surrounded by terraced rice fields. The trek takes about 1-1.5 hours each way, passing through picturesque landscapes. time permitting, we will drive to Kiltapan Viewpoint for a panoramic view of Sagada's mountains and valleys. It's famous for its stunning sunrise views, but sunset offers a serene and equally breathtaking experience. **Overnight Sagada**

DAY 6 SAGADA-BANAUE Continuing our journey to Banaue (65KM,2.5hours). Take a leisurely walk around the town of Banaue to get a feel for the local culture and atmosphere. we may come across interesting shops, markets, or street vendors. Not to miss to try the local delicacies, pinikpikan, binungey, etag and many more. Free and easy evening and maybe enjoying the sunset view from one of the rice terrace if the weather permitting. **Overnight Banaue**



DAY 7 BANAUE SIGHTSEEING The Batad Rice Terraces, a UNESCO World Heritage Site are renowned for their unique and striking amphitheater-like structure, which sets them apart from other rice terraces in the region. The hike from the Batad Saddle Point down to Batad village is an adventure in itself. It takes about 30-40 minutes downhill, and will pass through lush greenery and get glimpses of the terraces along the way. wander through the narrow paths between the houses In Batad Village, interact with locals, and learn about their way of life. A short hike from Batad village will lead you to Tappiyah Falls. The trail takes about 30-40 minutes and passes through rice terraces and forested areas. The waterfall itself is impressive, plunging into a natural pool where we can swim and relax. **Overnight Banaue**

DAY 8 BANAUE-BUSCALAN We will continue our journey (102KM,3.5hours) via windy mountain characterized by steep inclines, sharp curves, and rugged terrain but with stunning view of the dense forest. Buscalan is renowned as the home of the last mambabatok (traditional tattoo artist), Whang-od Oggay. Whang-od, now in her late 100s, has become a cultural icon for her skill in traditional Kalinga tattooing, using ancient techniques passed down through generations. Many visitors travel to Buscalan specifically to receive a hand-tapped tattoo from Whang-od or her apprentices, making it a pilgrimage site for tattoo enthusiasts and cultural seekers alike. If getting a tattoo is not on the priority list, there is so many other things to do in this calm village like sipping the rice coffee while enjoying the relaxing nature and the beauty of Padjao rice terrace **Overnight Buscalan**

DAY 9 BUSCALAN-LAOAG Embark on a long journey back to Laoag city (436KM,10hours). Free and easy to rest after the windy mountainous road with twists and turns. **Overnight Laoag**

DAY 10 LAOAG SIGHTSEEING Discover the Sinking Bell Tower, an architectural marvel and a historical landmark in Laoag City. The Bell Tower stands over 45 meters high and has survived earthquakes that destroyed its adjacent church in the 1700s. Not to miss the historical St William Cathedral and Museo Ilocos Notre, one of the better ethnographic museums in the Philippines. It houses a large collection of Ilocano, Igorot and Itneg traditional clothing, household utensils, ceremonial objects and more. Free and easy rest of the day. **Overnight Laoag**

DAY 11 LAOAG-MANILA Free and easy morning before transfer to airport to catch our flight back to Manila **22 FEB 2024 LAO-MNL (1310-1420)** via Philippines Airways. Transfer to hotel, free and easy day to explore Manila City on own for sightseeing and last minute shopping. **Overnight Manila**

DAY 12 MANILA-KUL Morning transfer to airport to catch our flight home **23 FEB 2024 MNL-KUL (1735-2130)** with all the cherished memories of Ilocos Norte Interlude!



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Cost cover accommodations and chartered transport to all the destination towns in the itinerary.
2. Cost does not include both international and domestic flights, travel insurance, meals, entrance fees, optional activities, tipping for the local drivers etc.(Yongo will provide info on suggested tipping amount). Meals is affordable in this region, budget Rm80 x 11 days = RM880 is more than sufficient)
3. Accommodations will be in doubles or twins budget hotels/guesthouses
4. Cost is subject to change depending on fluctuations in exchange rates and adjustments will be made at time of full balance.
5. A deposit of **RM1400** will be payable to confirm your place

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