

Praycation

A VACATION WITH THE LORD
by The Pilgrims' Center, Inc.

FEATURING

BATANES



4 Days

Date: January 18-21, 2026

FR. JERRY ORBOS, S.V.D.
Pilgrimage Chaplain

ITINERARY:

18JAN (Mon). MALATE - QUEZON CITY - CLARK – BASCO (Batanes).

Meet at *The Pilgrims' Center* or *Christ the King Mission Seminary (E. Rodriguez, Quezon City)* for the bus transfer to *Clark International Airport* where you will take the flight to Batanes.

Fly to *Basco* in the morning. Upon arrival, you will be met by your local guide for a day tour of Basco, capital of Batanes. The island-province of Batanes was created by a series of volcanic activities and other geologic forces millions of years ago. The province is home to the famous Ivatans who are nationally acclaimed as the "*True Insulares*." The province of Batanes comprises of six (6) municipalities namely: Basco, Mahatao, Ivana, Uyugan, Sabtang Island, and Ibayat Island.

Proceed to *Mount Carmel Chapel*, modeled after the traditional Ivatan houses. On the ceiling, different saints of Batanes are painted by Ivatan artists trained at the Pacita Abad Center for the Arts. Continue to *Radar Tukon* where one can see both the Pacific Ocean on the east and the South China Sea on the West. Enjoy the spectacular view of Mount Iraya and Basco town with a commanding view of Batan hedgerows.

View Basco's *Idjang*, a settlement of early Ivatans, our forefathers, before the arrival of foreigners in the Philippines. These are located in elevated hills difficult to climb. They are purposely shaped by early Ivatans to have steep surroundings to make it difficult for invaders to attack and to make it easier for the settlers to defend it from the elevated position.

Begin your afternoon tour to the round stone filled shoreline of *Valugan Boulder Bay*. It is believed that the that the boulders were washed ashore during a volcanic eruption on the island centuries ago.

Proceed to Basco's town proper. Visit *Basco Cathedral*, also known as Sto. Domingo de Basco, the first Spanish Catholic Church ever built in Batanes in the early parts of 18th century. The church is dedicated to the Immaculate Concepcion, Patroness of Batanes and designated as one of the Jubilee Churches in the Philippines. Mass to be arranged for the group.

See the *Vayang Rolling Hills* of Batanes before continuing on to *Naidi Hills*. Stop at the *Basco Lighthouse* which provides an unobstructed 360-degree view of the Mt. Iraya, Basco town proper, Basco port, and the West Philippine Sea. It was also

the previous location of American telegraph facilities linking Batanes to the central government until it got demolished due to the bombing of the Japanese Imperial Army at the beginning of World War II. Return to *Amboy Homotel* in time for your dinner. **(B,L,D)**

19JAN (Tue). BASCO - MAHATAO- BASCO.

Take an early breakfast and spend the day visiting different places in the enchanting town of *Mahatao*, 6 kms. from Basco, nestling at the foot of three hills namely, Naidi in the south, Langud in the east, and Majorojoron on the north. The six-kilometer stretch to this quaint town is a winding road that gives you one of the most breathtaking views of Batan Island at every turn. Stop at the *Tayid Lighthouse* (subject for approval of the landowner) for morning prayers. Located in the municipality of Mahatao, the tower is strategically situated on one of the hills found in the coast of the town as this faces the Pacific Ocean. Tucked in a small cove east of Mahatao lies the tiny *Diura fishing village*, best known for its gorgeous landscape and the Kapayvanuvana ritual. Kapayvanuvana is performed at the start of the fishing season to avoid accidents and to attract a more bountiful catch, mostly dolphinfish (arayu) and flying fish (dibang). Visit the *Chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes*.

Proceed to the *Parish Church of San Carlos Borromeo*. Built in the 19th century by the Dominicans, this church is characterized by a stone structure in the courtyard used to house the beaterio, a local institution to assist in the work of the church. Elsewhere in the churchyard are stone monuments used perhaps as guiding lights for fishermen. The entire site gives a good idea of the simplicity of missionary life (as a counter-balance to the 'baroque' sensitiveness of more affluent areas). Mass to be arranged for the group.

Continue to *Racuh Apayaman*, touted as the Marlboro Country, a communal pastureland. Marvel at the undulating valley, hills and green meadows where water buffalos, horses, and cattle roam freely. Return to your hotel. **(B,L,D)**

20JAN (Wed). BASCO - IMNAJBU - ITBUD - UYUGAN IVANA - BASCO.

After breakfast, begin the day with a visit to the town of *Imnajbu*, birthplace of Christianity in Batanes. Visit the *San Lorenzo Ruiz Chapel*. This small church (dedicated to the local Saint Lorenzo Ruiz) was built on the spot where the very first Mass in Batanes was supposedly celebrated in 1682. Then, off to *Alapad Hills and Rock Formations* known for its picturesque view of the Pacific Ocean and was the setting of the famous local movie "*Hihintayin Kita Sa Langit*."

Leave for the municipality of *Itbud*, once a settlement of old Ivatans. Celebrate the Holy Mass at the *Church of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal*, designated as one of the Jubilee Churches in the Philippines.

Head for the southernmost town of Batan Island, *Uyugan*. Visit *San Antonino de Florencia Parish Church*. Drive by the Ruins of Songsong, a ghostly barangay which is really a cluster of roofless shells of cold stone houses abandoned after a tidal wave that hit the island of Batanes in the 1950s.

Drive to *Ivana*. Stop by at the *"Honesty Coffee Shop,"* a store/coffee shop located near the port of Ivana, Batanes. It is owned by an Ivatan couple which became famous worldwide for showcasing Ivatan's honesty. What makes this store one of its kind in the world and in the Philippines? There is no one manning the store. Instead, the owners rely on the honesty of the guests visiting the place.

Visit *San Jose Obrero Church* which was built in 1814 although its foundation dates back to 1795. Located in front of Ivana Seaport, the church offers a commanding view of the sea and surrounding countryside due to its elevation. Visit the *House of Dakay*, one of the oldest houses in Batanes. This traditional structure is considered as a heritage treasure of Batanes, and cannot be found anywhere else in the Philippines.

End the day at the *Chawa View Deck*, one of the highest areas in South Batan Island in Batanes that offers an overlooking view of the West Philippine Sea. Return to Amboy Hometel for your farewell dinner followed by a night of fellowship. **(B,L,D)**

21 JAN (Thu). BASCO – CLARK - QUEZON CITY - MALATE.

After breakfast, check-out of your hotel. Transfer to *Basco Airport* for your departure flight back to *Clark* in the morning. Upon arrival in *Clark International Airport*, board the coach for your transfer to *Christ the King Mission Seminary, Quezon City* and finally to *The Pilgrims' Center, Malate*. **(B)**

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- ➔ Roundtrip bus transfers Manila - Clark - Manila
- ➔ Roundtrip economy airfare Clark – Basco – Clark via Philippine Airlines with 10 kgs allowance
- ➔ Airline Taxes
- ➔ Three (3) nights hotel accommodation
- ➔ Transportation by vans all throughout the tour
- ➔ Meals on full board basis (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)
- ➔ Tours as specified in the itinerary
- ➔ Daily Masses
- ➔ Services of a local tour guide in Batanes
- ➔ Services of a Tour Leader and Pilgrimage Chaplain
- ➔ Tips to guides, drivers, and waiters
- ➔ Travel Insurance (for passengers below 75 years old)

TOUR COST PER PERSON:

Based on Minimum of 30 Pax:

On Twin/Triple Sharing Php 49.750.00

BOOKING CONDITIONS:

- 1) 50 % deposit is required upon reservation.
- 2) Deadline for full payment should be at least sixty (60) days before departure date.
- 3) All cancellations must be done in writing. The following charges will apply:
 - > 50 % of the tour cost will be charged if cancellation is made 45 days before the departure date.
 - > Full tour cost shall be forfeited if cancellation is done thirty (30) days prior to departure date.

CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

BASIC TOUR COST DOES NOT INCLUDE: Airport terminal fee, hospitalization and other medical expenses, tours and transportation during free periods, portorage of extra pieces of luggage in excess of the maximum allocation (10 kgs.), drinks and beverages taken during meals, items of personal nature such as laundry, telephone, fax, room service, tips for drivers, guides, tour escorts, and other expenses not mentioned in the itinerary terms and conditions.

EXECUTIVE RESOURCES, INC. has arranged for the various tour services to be performed under the responsibility of various contractors. Executive Resources, Inc., its employees or its sub-agent's therefore only act as agents for the contractors providing the various services described in the tour and accept no responsibility or liability in connection with losses or accidental expenses due to delays of schedule, overbooking, defaults or *"force majeure."* All tours and arrangements are subject to the

*****SCHEDULE AND RATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE!*****

For more information, please call:



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