



Banaue • Sagada



Tropical Experience Travel Services

ALL THE COLOURS OF THE PHILIPPINES, DESIGNED YOUR WAY

Tropical Experience Travel Services
On-The-Road Tours in Northern Luzon Region, Philippines

TOUR 2 – BANAUE AND SAGADA

For inquiries: experiencetropical@gmail.com

Website: www.tropicalexperiencephilippines.com

See Program in the Following Pages

GUIDE

The tour includes an English-speaking guide. An Italian-speaking guide may also be available upon request.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This trip will let you discover the unique landscapes of Luzon Region, in the North of the Philippines. The places you will visit will give original and surprising experiences both on a naturalistic and a cultural-human side.

This tour will take in the north of the country, up on the local mountains towards **the majestic Banaue Rice Terraces**, in the landlocked Ifugao Province. You will get to have not just a glance but walk and trek along the terraces of this ancient and spectacular agricultural landscape located at 1500 meters height, which building process started more than 2000 years ago.

You will interact with the local inhabitants, discovering their traditions, and you will see **the typical Ifugao houses**, where you will also get a chance to sleep overnight. You will also visit the local handcraft bodega of the skilled local carvers.

Ifugao is the ideal region of the Philippines to witness the pre-colonial ethnic culture of the country in an authentic way. During this tour you will have the chance of **exploring small tribal villages of Batad and Bangaan**, nonetheless the town of Banaue and its most picturesque viewpoints.

You will then transfer to **Sagada, in the "Mountain Province"**, famous for its funeral tradition of the "hanging coffins" in the Echo Valley and the "burial cave", and also for the presence of other limestone caves witnessing the marine origin of the local mountains.

WHAT KIND OF TOUR

It is quite of an active and energetic trip that offers the chance to explore a far world and very unique landscapes. There are several transfers and outdoor activities, like trekking: it is a tour accessible to anyone, not involving challenges that require specific professional experience nor vigorous physical preparation. Anyway, we do not advise this tour to persons with serious health/physical problems.

In Banaue and Sagada, the hotel/guesthouses are necessarily simple and low budget solutions: a bit of adaptability is needed. In any case basic comfort and cleanliness are guaranteed.

TRANSFERS

For the land transfers from Manila to Banaue (around 8 hours of trip), Banaue to Sagada (2 hours) and Sagada back to Manila (10 hours), you will be provided with a private van with a driver. Some other minor transfers could be needed, using tricycle (small side-car motorbikes) or other means (like the famous local Filipino "Jeepneys").

MEALS

The local cuisine is quite varied which includes various seafood, meat (especially pork and chicken), a good choice of vegetables, rice and a lot of fresh tropical fruits and fruit juices. Filipino cuisine is quite flavorful but not too spicy, often showing an interesting and original fusion of Spanish, Chinese and American cooking style. It usually matches well with Western taste; anyway it will not be difficult to find more Western-style food. Meals included in the final price are only those mentioned as "included" in the Tour Program. Included meals are fixed sets: the clients will be charged for additional purchases.

TRAVEL PROGRAM

Day 1 – Transfer to Banaue

- Morning departure from Manila and trip towards Ifugao Province, passing through the countryside and rice fields of Luzon region. Lunch (not included) during one of the stops.
- Arrival in Banaue in the evening, check-in at local hotel or bed and breakfast. Time for dinner (not included)

Note 1 – Activities in Banaue: the trek, though consistent, is ok for everyone and all ages. The trip being private, it is possible to modify the program depending on the group's pacing or physical conditions at the moment. For instance, you may opt just enjoying the viewpoints or re-routing, pauses and rest stops, or just slowing down your pace.

Note 2 – Evenings: during the free evenings/nights, your guide will be available to accompany you to have dinner or to give you instructions/suggestions if you prefer to do it on your own.

Day 2 – Discovering Rice Terraces

- With the help of a local guide, it will be time to discover Batad, one of the local villages included in the UNESCO Heritage List, where you will admire and trek the famous rice terraces and enjoy some of the local life. Lunch on the way (not included).
- After, there will be the chance to visit also the tiny and picturesque Bangaan Village.
- Back to the hotel during late afternoon. Free night and dinner (not included).

Day 3 – Banaue Town and Overnight in the "Fale" (Traditional Ifugao House)

- After breakfast, there will be a stroll to visit a small village near Banaue. You will then be taken to the best view points to observe the spectacular rice terraces. You will also experience a bit of the town life visiting the handcrafters' shops and the central market road. You will also visit the small but interesting local museum.
- Lunch (not included) in one of the small restaurants in the town of Banaue.
- In the afternoon, transfer out of the town center to experience the local Ifugao house*, where you will also sleep for the night.
- Free time to relax or for autonomous activities. Free night and dinner (not included).

**The Ifugao House (or "Fale") is a small but comfortable wooden hut which is the locals' traditional dwelling place. They don't come with a private bathrooms (there will be shared bathrooms, with verified cleanliness). The availability of these houses is limited, so, in case of unavailability at the moment of the reservation, you will sleep again in the guesthouse of your first days in Banaue. If ever you prefer to sleep in the same guesthouse/hotel in any case, kindly let us know before your reservation.*

Day 4 – To Sagada

- Departure from Banaue and transfer to Sagada.
- Stop at the municipality of Bontoc along the way, where you will visit the center and local bazaars.
- Arrival in Sagada and deposit of luggage in the hotel. Lunch (not included) in one of the many small restaurants of the town.
- After lunch, trekking to Echo Valley, to observe the funeral tradition of the "hanging coffins", then visit the burial cave.
- Back to the hotel and free time. Free night and dinner (not included).

Day 5 – Back to Manila

- Departure from Sagada and back to Manila. Lunch (not included) during a stop-over on the mountain city of Baguio.
- In the evening, arrival in Manila, check-in in the hotel and rest.
- Dinner (not included) during the transfer or upon arrival, as you prefer.

Check our website www.tropicalexperiencephilippines.com and decide how to extend the trip!



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For a free quotation, write an e-mail to experiencetropical@gmail.com.