



Manila • Banaue • Sagada • Vigan



Tropical Experience Travel Services

TUTTI I COLORI DELLE FILIPPINE, COME LI VUOI TU

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

**TOUR 3 – BANAUE, SAGADA, VIGAN AND ILOCOS**

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See Program in the Following Pages

## GUIDE

The tour includes an English-speaking guide. An Italian-speaking guide may also 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.

Moving towards East you will reach the great oceanic coasts of Ilocos Sur, where you will find **Vigan**, a small city recently listed as **one of the New 7 Wonder Cities of the World**. This small city will take you to another era, experiencing the originality of the rare Spanish colonies in Asia. You will get lost around the tiny preserved roads, visiting ancestral houses and tasting the elaborated and original local cuisine.

**In the Ilocos Region** you can also spot 2 of the important UNESCO Baroque Filipino churches, marked with the local Filipino-Chinese-Spanish cultural mix. Going north, you will reach the Ilocos Norte province. Here you will discover the Filipino contemporary history at the Palace of the former dictator Marcos and then an adrenalin rush adventure at the Laoag sand dunes.

## 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.

While in Vigan you will sleep in a medium-budget comfortable hotel, while in Banaue and Sagada, the hotel/guesthouses are necessarily simple and low budget solutions: a bit of ad 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), Sagada-Vigan (5 hours) and Vigan-Laoag (1.5 hours), you will be provided with a private van with a driver. You will then transfer from Laoag to Manila with a domestic flight.

Some other minor transfers could be needed, using tricycle (small side-car motorbikes) or other means (like the famous local Filipino "Jeepneys" or the "kalesa" cart pulled by a horse).

## 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 – Sagada and Vigan**

- Early breakfast and check-out.
- Transfer to Sagada (2 hours travel time).
- Arrival in Sagada and walk in the Echo Valley, discovering the “hanging coffins”, the famous funeral tradition. You will also observe the nearby “burial cave”.
- Lunch (not included) and transfer to Vigan (5-6 hours travel time). Rest and toilet stops on the way.
- Free night and time to stroll around the main roads of Vigan. Dinner (not included) in Vigan.

#### **Day 5 – Visit of Vigan (Ilocos Sur)**

- In the morning, proceed with the walking tour of Vigan. During the stroll, you will witness its picturesque roads like Calle Crisologo and its antique shops. Other interesting stops will be those of the jar makers' bodegas and elegant house-museums like Syquia Mansion.
- You will also get to experience the local atmosphere while riding a “kalesa” (cart carried by a horse) to further explore the town and dive into the elegant local past, witnessing the Filipino-Chinese-Spanish multiculturalism that heavily influenced these areas. Lunch on the way (not included).
- Free night and autonomous dinner (not included).

#### **Day 6 – Ilocos Norte and back to Manila**

- Early departure from Vigan and transfer to Ilocos Norte.
- Visit of the “Malacañang of the North”, summer palace of the former President of the Philippines Ferdinand Marcos, example of modern architecture with typical Filipino-style features.
- Visit of Paoay Church, a UNESCO Heritage.
- Follows a small adrenaline rush adventure with 4x4 vehicle ride on Laoag Sand Dunes.
- Lunch (not included) during one of the stops of the itinerary.
- Transfer to Laoag Airport and flight to Manila. Arrival in Manila and transfer to the hotel.
- Autonomous dinner (not included).

Check our website [www.tropicalexperiencephilippines.com](http://www.tropicalexperiencephilippines.com) and decide how to extend the trip!



**PREZZI**

For a free quotation, write an e-mail to [experiencetropical@gmail.com](mailto:experiencetropical@gmail.com).