

Hagnaya

Hagnaya Beach Resort, Cel 0917-6230377, Tel 4068387. SR/DR/ac/bath P1800 (no hot water) and P2800, suite P3600 (four people). Spacious rooms with TV, most also with a refrigerator and veranda onto the beautiful big swimming pool. Well-kept, inviting resort on the sea - there's no beach though. A 100m long walkway leads to a platform over a fish farm, where anglers can catch their own food; the resort restaurant will prepare it as you prefer. Located 1½ km south-east of the pier, it can be reached from there via a modest little road which is narrow in places (better access from the main road). Admission P150 for day guests.

Maya

Abba Lodge, Cel 0927-4651065, Tel 4372525. SR/DR/fan P400, SR/DR/ac P700. Basic accommodation near the jetty with small rooms, OK for one night.

Bantayan Island

Located in the north-west of Cebu Province a little off the usual tourist route, Bantayan Island basks in the sunshine with its beautiful beaches. It was once an outpost of the colonial rulers, who built watchtowers there in the 16th century, whereby the island got its name (the Cebuano and Tagalog word for 'guard, watch closely' is *bantay*).

Especially on the southern coast between Santa Fe and Maricaban there are beautiful beaches to beckon the visitor, including Sugar Beach and the picturesque beach near Tingting-on.

So far, only a few tourists have come to this pleasant island with its friendly locals. There are only about a dozen beach resorts, which can be comfortably reached on foot from Santa Fe, where the ferries from Hagnaya on Cebu arrive. Bear in mind that weekends and Easter see an influx of visitors from Cebu City crowding onto the island to enjoy its beaches, making it difficult to find accommodation.

This pancake flat island is also good for a motorbike tour; there's not much traffic and the roads are mostly good for driving on. In Madridejos at Bantayan's northern tip, Kota Park with its ruined Spanish fort is well worth a visit, and a walk out into the sea on the 187m long Bantay Baywalk will make a lasting impression on you.

A popular day trip destination is the beautiful little Virgin Island (Sillon Island) off the east coast of Bantayan, with snow-white sand and crystal clear water. The island is privately owned, but day visitors are welcome (P450 for a boat and three people, each additional person pays P50).

A small airport was built about two km west of Santa Fe, which it is hoped will encourage a tourism boom to the island. However, in the meantime local fishermen are still making a living supplying squid to the Cebu mainland, while the farmers use their land for raising poultry. They ship millions of eggs to other islands.

Bantayan

Pop 75,000 / Postcode 6042 / Tel (032)

Bantayan is the largest town on the eponymous island. It has a nice plaza with a few old buildings and the St Peter & Paul church, a clean and lively market (mercado), a picturesque port, a hospital and some simple restaurants at the pier. However, there are no beaches worth talking about in the area of this friendly little harbour town.

Between Cadiz and Sagay (both on Negros) and Bantayan there's a boat service at least every two days, and possibly even daily, so you can include Bantayan Island in a round trip through the Visayas.

Places to Stay

In Tacad, just east of Bantayan there are a few basic but acceptable places with SR/DR/bath for around P500, including **Halle's Tourist Inn**, Tel 4609406, **Montemar Square Pension House**, Tel 4605722, and **Sacred Heart Apartelle**, Tel 3525729.

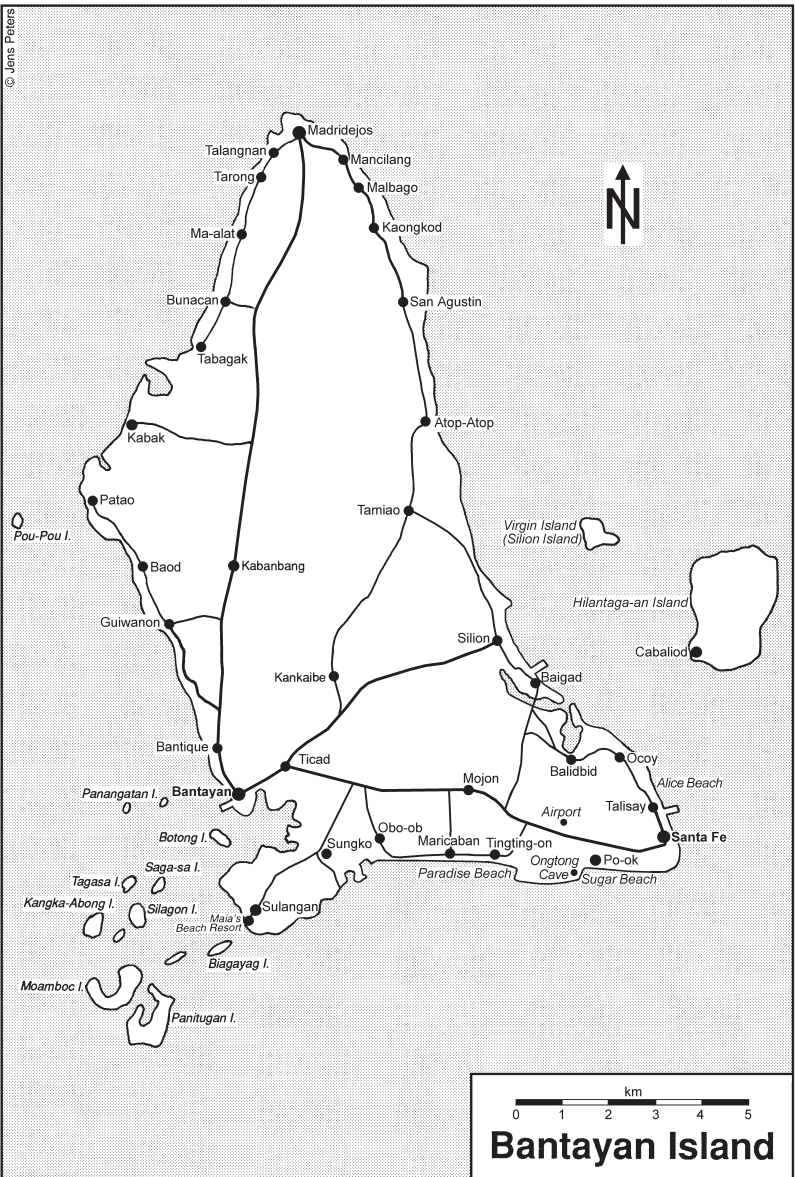
Maia's Beach Resort, Basawon, Sulangan, Cel 0918-5714297, @. Cottage/fan/bath P1550, cottage/ac/bath P1850; including breakfast. Well-kept place with solidly built cottages in a peaceful location a bit out of the way in the south-west of the island, about five km from Bantayan. Restaurant, swimming pool, motorbike hire.

Santa Fe

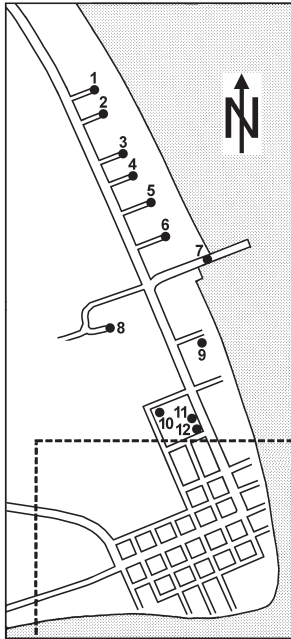
Pop 28,000 / Postcode 6047 / Tel (032)

Santa Fe is the third-largest community on Bantayan and has the best tourist infrastructure on

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Bantayan Island



Getting There & Away

- 7 Wharf
- 16 Airport (2.5 km)

Places to Stay

- 2 St Bernard Beach Resort
- 3 Abaniko Beach Resort
- 4 Joy Beach Resort
- 5 Beach Placid Resort
- 6 Santa Fe Beach Resort
- 8 Je Gra John's Lodge
- 9 Hoyhoy Villas
- 11 Bantayan Cottages
- 13 Tristan's Beach Resort
- 14 The Bamboo Oriental Villas & Suites
- 23 Onde Guest House
- 24 Seaview Apartelle
- 25 Marlin Beach Resort
- 29 Kiwi Kottages
- 30 CouCou Hotel
- 36 Kota Beach Resort
- 37 Budyong Beach Resort
- 38 Yooneek Beach Resort
- 39 Ogtong Cave Resort (800 m)
Sugar Beach Resort (100 m)

- 11 Moby Dick's Bar & Restaurant
- 13 Tristan's Restaurant
- 17 Balikbayan Restaurant
- 19 Mama Tita's Bakery & Restaurant
- 20 Arjaymay Sutukil Restaurant
- 21 DJungle Bar & Restaurant
- 22 Blue Ice Bar
- 26 HR Music Bar & Restaurant
- HR Native Restaurant
- 27 Le Petit Bonheur
- 28 Marisqueira O'Portuguese Bar & Restaurant
- 29 HK Kafé
- 30 CouCou Bar & Restaurant

Miscellaneous

- 10 Cockpit
- 12 Internet Café
- 15 Money Changer
- 16 Post Office (2.5 km)
- Town Hall (2.5 km)
- 18 Church
- 20 Western Union (Lhuillier)
- 29 Money Changer
- 31 Market
- 32 Sports Complex
- 33 Church
- 34 Police Station
- 35 Tennis Courts

Places to Eat & Entertainment

- 1 Ticky Boo Bar & Restaurant
- 6 Majestic by the Sea



Santa Fe

the island. Day trips can easily be made from there to the small offshore islands of Virgin (Silion), Hilantaga-an, Jibitnil, Guintacan and other destinations. The centre of Santa Fe with market, shops and restaurants is one km south of the pier.

Places to Stay

Bantayan Island is popular for short visits, especially in the Easter week when, unfortunately, prices can actually double.

Bantayan Cottages, Cel 0908-3094717. Cottage/ac/bath P500. Pretty, cosily furnished cottages with TV. Use of the kitchen possible. Noticeably good value. Friendly little place with a tropical garden on the road to the pier; 150m from the beach. Next to Moby Dick's Bar & Restaurant.

Kiwi Cottages, Cel 0920-6681268, Tel 4389075, @. Cottage/fan/bath P550, cottage/ac/bath P750 (TV). Clean, spacious bamboo cottages with refrigerator and veranda. Good value. Restaurant.

Sugar Beach Resort, Cel 0921-7755058. Cottage/fan/bath P500 to P800, cottage/ac/bath P1500. Basic cottages of various sizes in generously laid-out grounds on Sugar Beach near Po-ok; popular place for picnics at the weekend.

Budyong Beach Resort, Cel 0921-3145275, Tel 4385700. Cottage/fan/bath P500 to P1000, cottage/ac/bath P1300 to P2200. Fairly basic, but nice cottages of differing sizes on a beautiful section of the beach right next door to the Kota Beach Resort. Restaurant.

Kota Beach Resort, Tel 4389042, @. SR/DR/fan/bath P700, cottage/fan/bath P1100, SR/DR/ac/bath P1300, cottage/ac/bath P1600 and P2000. Utilitarian rooms and ageing cottages on a beautiful beach on the south-eastern tip of Bantayan, about 1.3 km from the pier. Restaurant.

CouCou Hotel, Cel 0918-4541960, Tel 4389385, @. SR/DR/fan/bath P850, SR/DR/ac/bath P1000 to P1650. Great accommodation near the market with cosy, comfortable rooms, nearly all with TV. Restaurant.

Beach Placid Resort, Cel 0917-7222993, Tel 4385340, @. Cottage/fan/bath P800, cottage/ac/bath P1500, SR/DR/ac/bath P1900 to P3500. Sturdy cottages made of bamboo and stone, furnished practically, some with refrigerator and TV. Restaurant. 500m north of the pier.

St Bernard Beach Resort, Ocoy, Cel 0917-9636162, @. Cottage/fan/bath P850 to P1500, cottage/ac/bath P1300 and P1900. Attractive, friendly resort with out of the ordinary, round, stone cottages which are cosily furnished. Under Danish management. Restaurant. Located on the white sand Alice Beach, 800m north of the pier.

Abaniko Beach Resort, Cel 0919-2427622, @. Cottage/fan/bath P950, cottage/ac/bath P1500 and P2000 (kitchen). Amiable resort with solidly built, practically furnished cottages, 700m north of the pier. Meals on request (German and Philippine food).

Seaview Apartelle, Cel 0919-4381296, Tel 4389179, @. SR/DR/ac/bath P950 to P2400 (refrigerator, own balcony, four people). Squeaky clean, well furnished rooms of various sizes, nearly all with TV and access to a communal balcony or onto the veranda. Three-storey hotel; 100m to the beach.

Santa Fe Beach Club, Talisay, Cel 0928-7787770, Tel 4389107, @. Cottage/fan/bath P1000 to P1450, SR/DR/ac/bath P1950 to P3600. Well-kept rooms and cottages. Attentive service. Good restaurant. Kayaks. A bit north of the pier. **Ogtong Cave Beach Resort**, Cel 0920-8999456, Tel 4380165. Cottage/fan/bath P1600, cottage/ac/bath P3230 to P16,000 (jacuzzi), depending on size and furnishings. Attractively furnished stone buildings, the more expensive have a refrigerator, TV, and some also have a kitchen. Extensive, well-maintained grounds with a big swimming pool; built around the Ogtong Cave near Sugar Beach. Run by the Santa Fe Beach Club.

Marlin Beach Resort, Tel 4389093, @. SR/DR/fan/bath P1950, SR/DR/ac/bath P3400 and P4900 (refrigerator and TV). Spacious, immaculate rooms with balcony in a big, two-storey stone building on the beach. Restaurant, beach bar, kayaks, windsurfing.

Hoyohoy Villas, Cel 0917-3261068, Tel 4389223, @. Cottage/ac/bath P5000 and P6000. Attractively designed, comfortably furnished cottages with refrigerator and TV. Open-air 'living rooms' under the cottages standing on high stilts. Restaurant.

Places to Eat

In the basic, but very good value **Arjaykay Sutukil Restaurant** across from the market, live

fishes are displayed in tanks and seafood prepared according to the guests' wishes. Near there, you'll find the **D'Jungle Bar & Restaurant**, **Blue Ice Bar** (excellent pizzas), the **Marisqueira O'Portuguese** (Mediterranean cooking), the **CouCou Bar & Restaurant** (comprehensive international menu, wide selection of wines), **Le Petit Bonheur** (ice cream and cakes), **HR Native Restaurant** (seafood, pizza, pasta) as well as the **HK Kafé** that's open until late (billiards).

You can enjoy tasty Philippine and German food in the **Balibayan** garden restaurant on the western edge of town, while **Tristran's Restaurant** at the other end of town mainly pulls in the customers with its outstanding thin crust pizzas.

Miscellaneous

Money: ATM only at the Allied Bank in Bantayan (more available at the BDO and PNB in Bogog on Cebu Island). Two moneychangers in C Batiancila St, near the corner with F Roska St and various resorts, will change cash, as will the souvenir shop next to the Marisqueira O'Portuguese restaurant.

Getting Around

Motorcycle: Several places rent motorbikes in the town, including the HK Kafé and the HR Native Restaurant, a 125 cc bike costing P350 or P400/day.

Getting There & Away

By Air: The little Bantayan Airport is located about 2½ km west of Santa Fe. Unfortunately, not just Seair but also Mid-Sea Express have stopped running flights from and to Cebu City (temporarily?).

By Boat: There is a pier in Bantayan Town (boats to and from Cadiz and Sagay on Negros) and Santa Fe (car ferries to and from Hagnaya/Cebu). A tricycle from the pier in Santa Fe to the beach resorts, eg Kota and Budyong (1.3 km), costs P20.

Cebu City

Bus: Cebu Autobus and Ceres Liner buses leave Cebu City's North Bus Terminal for Hagnaya, roughly hourly from early morning until 3pm (3½ hrs).

Info for Self-drivers: If you don't want to take your car or motorcycle on the crossing to Bantayan, you can leave it in Hagnaya at a secure, monitored parking facility (car P100/day).

Hagnaya

Boat: From Hagnaya to Santa Fe there are *Island Express* car ferries at 5, 6.30, 9.30 and 11am, and at 1.30, 3.30 and 5.30pm (1½ hrs). Departures from Santa Fe to Hagnaya are at 5, 7.30, 9.30 and 11.30am, and at 1.30 and 3.30pm.

Departure of the car ferry *Super Shuttle Ferry* from Hagnaya to Santa Fe is at 7, 8.30, 10.30am, then 12.30, 2.30 and 4.30pm (1½ hrs). Departures from Santa Fe to Hagnaya at 8.30 and 10.30am, as well as 12.30, 2.30, 4.30pm and midnight.

Malapascua Island

Boat: A Special Ride from Santa Fe to Malapascua costs P2500 to P3000 (big outrigger), and takes 2½ hrs.

Malapascua Island

Pop 3600 / Postcode 6013 / Tel (032)

Malapascua Island is about eight km north-east of Cebu and 25 km west of Leyte. It is sometimes referred to as Logon, after Barangay Logon, the main community in the south of the island. A walk around the island, which is 2½ km long and one km wide, will take you to friendly little fishing villages and deserted bays in idyllic locations. In 1994 a lighthouse was built on the island, and the panoramic view from the top is a sight worth seeing. If he is around, no doubt the lighthouse keeper would not be averse to letting you up there for a small tip.

All together there are about a dozen beaches scattered round the island, however the white sand **Bounty Beach** on the south coast has been most developed for the tourism industry. There you'll find a small selection of restaurants, beach bars, dive shops and accommodation of various standards.

The best snorkelling area can be found around the craggy little offshore island of Lapus-Lapus.

Places to Stay

BB's Lodging House, Cel 0916-7566018. SR/DR/fan/bath P600 and P800. SR/DR/ac/bath