

Batanes & Luzon Route (minimum two weeks)

Manila - Batanes Islands (flight), Batanes Islands - Tuguegarao (flight), Tuguegarao - Laoag (bus), Laoag - Vigan (bus), Vigan - San Juan or San Fernando (bus), San Fernando - Baguio (bus), Baguio - Sagada (bus), Sagada - Bontoc (jeepney), Bontoc - Banaue (bus or jeepney), Banaue - Manila (bus)

or: Banaue - Angeles (bus; via Santa Rosa), Angeles - Manila (bus)

Manila - Batangas (bus), Batangas - Puerto Galera/Mindoro (boat)

or: Manila - Legaspi (flight), Legaspi - Samar (bus and boat)

This route includes several scenic and historical highlights: the Callao Caves near Tuguegarao, the remote and secluded Batanes Islands, the sand dunes and old Spanish churches at Laoag, the old colonial town of Vigan, the surf beach at San Juan just north of San Fernando, the mountain town of Baguio, starting point of the hair-raising Halsema Road, the caves and hanging coffins of Sagada and the rice terraces of Bontoc and Banaue. On the return journey from Banaue to Manila you could also make a detour via Angeles, departure point for impressive Pinatubo tours.

If you want to add a couple of days at the beach, you could leave Manila for Puerto Galera on the island of Mindoro. Another idea would be to fly from Manila to Legaspi in the south of Luzon where you could explore the volcano Mt Mayon, then go from Legaspi to Samar, Leyte and Cebu.

