Cruising the Magnificent Philippines

Sherry & Dave McCampbell
s/v Soggy Paws
SE Asia Overview

VIETNAM
CAMBODIA
South China Sea
Raja Ampat
SV Soggy Paws Florida to the Philippines

Across the Pacific

~30,000 nm
Why the Philippines for so long?

• Marina/yard:
  – First world facilities
  – Easy provisioning
  – Skilled yard work @ $10/day !!

• Below typhoon zone
• Inexpensive living
• Really wonderful people
• Great base for cruising & touring SE Asia
4 years cruising in SE Asia from the Philippines
2018 Cruise Route

2,000 NM  6 Months

Mindanao

Surigao Strait

Bonbonon

Palawan

Coron

Busuanga

Puerto Galera

Sulu Sea

Mindanao
Philippines Facts

• 7641 islands to explore
  – Entire Caribbean only has ~7000
• Evidence of early man 700 K years ago, Humans from Taiwan 67 K years ago
• European discovery by Magellan in 1521
• Spanish territory 1565-1898
• US until 1942, 250 K killed after S/A War
• Japanese until 1945, 1,000 K killed
• Independence since 1946, Marcos 1965-86
Philippines Facts

• 95% Christian, 4% Muslim
• Still some Rebel problems
  – ISIS-backed Muslim separatists
  – Communist rebels
• President Duterte’s drug war, 8 K killed
• Most speak English, Tagalog & local dialect
Philippines Weather

- **NE Winds**
  - Nov-Mar
- **SW Winds**
  - Jun-Sep
- **Typhoons possible year round**
  - June-October
  - Nov-December
- **Abu Sayyaf**
- **Spratly Islands (Chinese)**
- **Mindanao**
- **Davao**
- **Surigao Strait**
- **Subic**
- **Manila**
- **Luzon Rice Terraces**
- **Radivoy Islands**
Plenty of Typhoon Holes
Ocean View Marina, Samal Island, Davao, Mindanao, Philippines, looking north
Marina Security
after 2015 kidnappings

Navy Patrols
Coast Guard Boat
4 Armed Militia in Towers
4 Armed Security Guards
Perimeter Fence
Better Security Cameras
“Panic Button”
Increased Vigilance
911 Numbers
Philippine Navy
Patrol Boat
(Weekly patrols around Samal)
GREAT Marina Workers
Alex and Kim
Dave & Alex working on Sail Drives
Philippines Transportation

- Walk
- Bikes
- Trikes
- Motos
- Jeepneys
- Vans
- Old bus
- Luxury bus
Mainly honest, friendly people just trying to make a living
Leg 1: Up the East Coast of Mindanao
Hazards

FADS

Fishing boats

Fish nets

No pirates
No overnights
Sherry’s Forecast
‘Sailing’ Route North
Against Wind and Current
Actual Route North  
Against Wind and Current

- Wait for weather window
- **Day hops only**
- Leave at the crack of dawn
- Motor sailing with “one foot on the beach”
- Anchor down by 3-4 PM
- Digital satellite image charting (example: GoogleEarth)
- Extensive anchorage listing (Valhalla) [Link](#)
- Cruising Guide: Sherry’s [Philippines Compendium](#)
Plenty of Possible Anchorges

But very difficult with commercial charting!
Satellite Digital Charting (GE)

Much better accuracy and detail!
Beautiful East Coast of Mindanao

Typical day sailing along the coast
Large fishing fleets
Friendly Kids
Leg 2: Hinatuan Passage to Mindoro (Puerto Galera)
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Navigating the Hinatuan Passage

Up to 10 Kts Current

Very Reefy
Major Stops

- Hinatuan Passage (timing the current)
- South Leyte (Diving)
- Cebu/Port Carmen (Boatyard)
- Malapascua (Thresher Sharks)
- Romblon (YC & Diving)
Lucky Stop—Sonok & Whale Sharks
Hey Sailor, wanna see a whale shark?
Our Dive Boat, guide and two spotters - $30
Commercial Dive Boat -- $120 pp
25’ Whale Shark
Frogfish
Stonefish
Night Dive

Stargazer
Nudibranchs!
Cebu / Port Carmen Shipyards

- Decent cyclone hole
- Cruising community
- Central location
- Inexpensive labor
- Grubby work conditions
- No dry storage
Malapascua

Dive to See Thresher Sharks (leaves at 4 am!)
Thresher Shark
Moored off Romblon Yacht Club
Diving
Romblon
In this site will rise the

**Muelle Bay: Puerto Galera**

Cultural Heritage Site

**Project Cost:** Php 59,256,026.19

(thru the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority)

**MUNICIPALITY Puerto Galera**

**AMAZING PUERTO GALERA**

**“BAGONG Puerto Galera. BETTER Puerto Galera.”**
Puerto Galera Yacht Club
Good typhoon hole
Ferry & bus to Manila airport
Named after Spanish galleons
Puerto Galera (8 Weeks)

- Diving in Puerto Galera/Sabang area w/ Badladz Scuba @ ~$18/dive
- Anilao- Bluewater Photo UW photo workshop
- Tubbataha- liveaboard diving trip w/ Discovery Palawan
- Trip to N Luzon highlands
- Local touring on motor scooter @$6/day
- Easy living (PGYC social life)
- Waiting for weather
PGYC Mooring Field
Sabang Beach, Puerto Galera
Between dives stop
Iconic Philippine Jeepney
Mindoro Waterfall River Adventure
Water Buffalo
Anilao Dive Trip / Photography Workshop
Hermit Crab
Spotted Boxfish
Hairy Frogfish
Yellow Goby in Bottle
Fire Urchin
Coleman Shrimp Living on a Fire Urchine
Candy Crab
Box Crab
Nudibranch
Nudibranch
Electric Clam (Video)
Tubbataha in the Sulu Sea
Choosing How to Dive Tubbataha

**ON OUR OWN**
- 100 miles to get there
- Exposed location
- Difficult diving
  - Current
  - No anchoring
  - Steep drop-offs
- **2 dives per day MAX**
- Permits & etc
- Cost-effective

**LIVE ABOARD**
- Easy
- Safe diving
  - Surface support
  - Guided dives
- Easy fills
- **4 dives per day**
- Luxury living
- **Great food/drink**
- Expensive ($2,500pp)
- Recommended!
Discovery Palawan Tubataha
DISCOVERY PALAWAN

DAY 3

06:00  WAKE UP CALL
06:20  LIGHT BREAKFAST

07:00 - 07:15  DIVE 1 - SHARK AIRPORT
08:30  FULL BREAKFAST

10:15 - 10:30  DIVE2 - SEAFAN ALLEY
12:00  LUNCH

13:30 - 13:45  DIVE 3 - SEAFAN ALLEY
15:00  TEA

16:30 - 16:45  DIVE 4 - SHARK AIRPORT
18:00  HAPPY HOUR
19:00  DINNER

* SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Our Guide and Guardian Angel
Moray Eel
4 Whale Sharks!
Whale Shark Video
Fire Goby
Schooling Barracuda
Large School of Jacks
A Clown Triggerfish Getting a Facial
20 lb Sweet Lips
Dave gets an engine room tour
Tubbataha Ranger Station
Tubbataha Ranger Crew
Our Dive Buddies from Austria
Touring the Luzon Highlands and Rice Terraces
Overview Map of where this is

Luzon Rice Terraces

Manila
Subic Bay

Original
Mountain Residents
2000 year old terraces
How many cabbage balls can you get in one van?
June 1, Happy Hour, the beginning of the SW Monsoon Season
Leg 3: Puerto Galera to Palawan
(Busuanga and the Calmian Islands)
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El Rio y Mar Resort
NW Busuanga

- Moorings
- Dive Center (Dugongs, Japanese Shipwreck)
- Fancy expensive resort
KYOKUZAN MARU

„The Dimalanta Wreck“, North East of Busuanga
Japanese Cargo Ship, Type: Army Auxiliary Supply Ship
Sunk in World War II, 24th September 1944

Total Length: 136 m (450 feet)
Position: Upright

Wreck Depth:
Mast area: 12 - 14 m (40 - 45 feet)
Wheel House: 22 - 24 m (70 - 80 feet)
Deck Level: 26 - 28 m (85 - 95 feet)
Maximum Depth: 42 m (140 feet)

DUGONG DIVE CENTER

Busuanga - Palawan - Philippines
www.dugongdivecenter.com
Truck remains
Feather Duster Worms
Flabellina Sea Slug
Diving with Dugongs (Manatee Relatives)
Caluit Game Park in Busuanga
A Marcos Legacy
Zebras
Philippine Porcupine
Philippine Eagle
Busuanga Bay Lodge Diving
WW II Wrecks in Busuanga/Coron
Deep inside a Japanese Shipwreck
Lion Fish
El Nido, Palawan

Don’t go during SW Monsoon!
Booming Tourism
Deserted Beach
WELCOME TO KUYAWYAW FALLS
NO LITTERING.
"Basura mo, Dala mo"
Waterfall in the rain
Exploring Malampaya Sound
Don’t go in the SW Monsoon!
Leg 4: NW Palawan to Negros, Across the Sulu Sea

220 Miles, 6 Days, Day Hops Only
Visiting Friends In Sipalay
11 SIMPLE REMINDERS!

NO

- Overcrowding
- Alcoholic Drinks
- Sound System/Karaoke
- Left-overs/Garbage
- Cooking Except Grilling
- Overnight Stay
- Breaking of Corals
- Picking of Shells
- Littering
- Vandalism
- Unauthorized Vending

Take nothing but memories. Leave nothing but footprints. Kill nothing but time.
S Negros and Port Bonbonon

Great Typhoon Hole but
also the ‘Home of Broken Dreams’
Future charter boat?
Anyone for a great deal on a new plywood cat?
On special today only!
A nice Lyle Hess design, only two patches?
Vintage Japanese cruising boat, needs some work?
Lightly used fishing boats?
More Diving! Dauin, Apo Island & Moalboal
Banded Sea Snake
Garden Eels
Flamboyant Cuttlefish
Red Banded Shrimp Goby

Shrimp
Shrimp continuously cleaning house
Crinoid
Aka “Feather Star”
Sea Whip Shrimp
Leg 5: Bonbonon to Surigao

- 200 miles, 2 weeks
- Finally sailing downwind!
Arriving in Surigao with 30 knots astern
President Duterte’s warning to drug dealers, corrupt officials and other criminals
Philippines crocodile ‘Lolong’ - 20ft 3in, 2370 lbs
Largest Croc in Captivity – found in NE Mindanao

World Record 24 ft Crocodile in Africa
BATTLE OF SURIGAO STRAIT
MUSEUM
Open from Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Open Saturday-Sunday by Appointment

Managed by:
Surigao City Tourism Office, Surigao City Tourism Council Foundation, Inc.

With Major contributions from:
HMAS CANBERRA-HMAS SHROPSHIRE Association,
LIBIO Municipality, Province of Dinagat Islands and
Mr. Jake Miranda of Surigao City

Look us up on the Internet:
www.facebook.com/BattleofSurigaoStrait
Battleships

Last Crossing the T battle
Rare WWII Japanese Long Lance Torpedo
Final local market shopping
Habal-habal
Filipino taxi
Welcome to SILOP CAVE COMPLEX

Mas lingaw sa Surigao
Brgy. Silop, Surigao City
Local Silop cave tour
3 local beauties
The Family Car
World famous surf break
Famous “Cloud 9” Surf Break in Siargo on a Calm Day
Inter-Island Ferry
Beach side boat construction
Beach side boat construction
Sohuton Park caves and tunnels
Local guides waiting for us tourists
Tourists and their guides
Philippine snorkel gear, Home-made fins from plastic float
In the caves
One of our last anchorages
2019 Cruising Plan

Plan A: PNG, Solomons, SE Indonesia
Plan B: PNG, Solomons, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Australia
Plan C: PNG, Solomons, ????
More Information

• Soggy Paws Philippines Blog
  http://svsoggypaws.blogspot.com/search/label/Philippines

• Philippines Compendium- now over 300 pgs
  http://svsoggypaws.com/files#se-asia

• Valhalla’s SE Asia GoogleEarth Page
  http://yachtvalhalla.net/navigation/terrystopics.htm

• Zubi’s Diving - Wrecks in Coron
  http://starfish.ch/dive/Sangat.html

• This Presentation
  http://svsoggypaws.com/presentations.htm
The End

www.SVSoggypaws.com