

PUERTO GALERA PHILIPPINES

DIVE SITES

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Hole In The Wall

A dive where currents meet, descends in several drop-offs in well-lit water completed with fields of table corals reaching towards the Hole at about 13 metres down. The hole is 1.5 metres wide and enclosed by multi-coloured sponges and crinoids.

The Canyons

This is a world class exhilarating drift dive for experienced divers looking for a real thrill. It can be reached from the Hole in the Wall site by continuing deeper until you reach three spectacular canyons in the reef. The canyons are populated by big sea fans, octopus, scorpionfish and even pelagics like mantas and hammerheads.

Shark Cave

The cave is a large overhang, which is a favored spot for white-tip reef sharks to rest. The ledge is 27 metres deep and is also home to blue spotted stingrays, moray eels and octopus with sharks hanging out further inside the cave. It is usually visited at the beginning of a multilevel dive on the Pink Wall or as a stop on the way to the Canyons.

Odie's Wall

The wall is covered with enormous gorgonian sea fans and large black coral trees, unseen at other dive spots in the locality where you can find butterfly fish and hawkfish. Numerous small holes in the wall are home to eels and blue-triggerfish. Stingrays are common on the sandy patch below the wall and a tremendous variety of soft corals can be studied on the end of the wall.

Sabang Point

A good quality wall dropping down to 24 metres encompassed by stony corals, soft corals many fish and unusual invertebrates such as large cuttlefish and octopus. A ridge rising to 5 metres is covered with more crinoids that are colourful and corals. It is best suited for diving at night.

Monkey Wreck

A 20 metre local pig-boat sunk in 1993 lies off the main reef in sand and hosts a large school of batfish and some good-size snappers and groupers. It is an advanced dive due to the depth and the strength of the currents.

Manila Channel

It is a shallow starting dive on a beautiful reef abundant with stony hard coral and schooling small fish. The reef starts at 1 metre depth and drops to about 18 metres and along the way, you will encounter everything from large groupers to purple gorgonian sea fans and giant tree corals.

Coral Gardens

It is the best-suited dive site for beginners, snorkellers and photographers but it can also be an exhilarating drift dive from the Manila Channel to the Batangas Channel. Attractions in the area are large coral strewn terrain shelves, which are also used by white-tip reef sharks.

Batangas Channel

A good drift dive on the right tide this dive site has many unusual sponge and coral formations and is a good place to find some more unusual creatures such as blue-ribbon eels, crocodile fish and stonefish.

St Christopher

A retired 20m live-a-board dive boat sunk off the end of the El Galleon Pier in 1995, this is good start to begin exploring the reef fronting Small Lalaguna Beach. After some time enjoying some large snapper that live on the wreck, the current will propel you up to another wreck, the Speedboat.

The Hill

A good dive for novices as long as it is slack water. Good corals and sponges abound, with small reef fish teeming around them.

Monkey Beach

A coral slope down to 18metres makes an easy dive, apart from the intermittent currents, good for novices. Small coral heads have crinoids, nudibranchs and plenty of small reef fish. If you drop in the middle of the bay, you will most likely encounter a wreck lying on its side at 15 metres where numerous aquatic life seek shelter.

Ernie's Cave

Ernie's Cave consists of two small caverns located at 21 metres and 27 metres. The caverns are adorned with sea fans with plentiful fish life, including shoals of surgeonfish, unicornfish, fusiliers and snappers. None of the caves are large enough to penetrate and there are intermittent tidal changes and eddys to be aware of.

Dungon Wall

It is an easy multilevel dive, with a dozen of attractions to be spotted from big barracudas to beautiful hard and soft corals along the slope and even a catamaran wreck. There is an abundance of aquatic macro life including big carpet anemonies and porcelain crabs.

Wreck Point

Excellent corals lead down from the large wreck that is actually positioned on the rocks at the surface. Very nice hard corals and all the expected fish make this a good dive for novices and photographers.

West Escarceo

The reef starts at around 5 metres with a healthy reef spotted with very large coral boulders, and turns to sand in 25 meters. In the shallower areas is where blue spotted stingrays are spotted. The deeper areas sport long whip corals and lots of red toot trigger fish trying to hide from you in the many cracks and crevices. There is also a profusion of octopus and scorpionfish.

The Atoll

The atoll is a huge rock stands upright on the bottom, with an overhang on one side and lots of small crevices on the deep side. The rock face is spotted with moray eels and swarms of small reef fish. The small crevices in the bottom are where reef sharks and stingrays can be found, while on the other side, lionfish and octopus are located.

Pink Wall

An overhang which, when dived on the correct tide, is perfect for novices and photographers. Surface conditions can be a little rough. Good night dive.

Sabang Wrecks

These three wrecks consist of one small steel yacht, and two wooden boats. The wrecks amazingly attract an unusually large number of eels, large lionfish, damsels, trumpets, and the occasional stonefish. Flounders and stargazers inhabit the sand and offer excellent photography opportunities.

Japanese Wreck

This is the remains of a WWII Japanese patrol boat where sweetlips and moray eels are residing. The dive site can be a bit tricky as it is hard to find and can only be done on a flood tide.

Sinandigan Wall

A real wall goes down to 40metres with all manner of corals plus at least seven different varieties of nudibranchs and plenty of larger fish.

VERDE ISLAND SITES

The Washing Machine

A high-voltage dive made over a series of seven shallow gullies with the current taking your bubbles in all directions, and throwing you around. Requires a good guide and some experience of current diving. Made at slack tide it is an easy dive.

The Drop Off

Pinnacles reach the surface on the East side of Verde Island and drop away to great depths. A vertical reef with some nice gorgonian fans, sea snakes and frogfish and some large pelagic schools. Current can be tricky. Volcanic bubbles rise through the table coral at the safety stop.

APO REEF SITES

Shark Ridge

On the eastern side you will find shark ridge - needless to say, so named after the many whitetip and blacktip sharks you're sure to see. Mantas are common as well. Corals are not so good here, but this is more than made up for by the size of the animals you will encounter.

Binangaan Drop-off

Another good wall to explore is Binangaan drop-off to the southwest. There are impressive gorgonians and plenty of soft and hard corals. Marine life is vibrant and you'll see schools of humphead parrotfish, tuna, groupers, snappers and other large pelagics.