

teel to Compostela and cascading into the Cateel River. The bridge is a great vantage point for looking at this endlessly long, 20m-wide show of nature. The turn-off for Compostela is 7 km south of Cateel, from there it's 12 km to the Aliwagwag bridge. Get there by habal-habal (P400 there and back, incl. waiting time).

Places to Stay

Oar Inn, Cel 0908-9659742. P250-1000. Utilitarian little rooms, some without windows, with fan and shared bath.

Edar's Place, Cel 0921-4766907. P1000-1500 (4 people). Basic, but spruce. Cosy building with lots of wood. The best accommodation in the place. Good restaurant.

Getting There & Away

From Bislig

Bus: With Lyra Express or Mallen Express (2½ hrs).

Jeepney: At 11am from the jeepney terminal near the Bislig market (3 hrs).

From Davao

Bus: At 3am and 6pm with Mallen Express (6 hrs); via Compostela. Back at 5am and 3pm. Bachelor Express leaves at 3am and 2pm (10 hrs); via Mati, Caraga and Baganga (coastal road).

From Mati

Bus: 5x daily with Bachelor Express (4½ hrs).

Van: Several departures from early morning until 3pm (3½ hrs).

Caraga

Pop 37,000 / Postcode 8203 / Tel (087)

If you go in for geographical extremities, then interrupt your trip at Caraga Bay and head for **Pusan Point**, where a cross marks the eastern-most point of the archipelago. There, on the wild, rugged Pacific coast in the south-east of Mindanao, the sun first rises on the Philippines. From Santiago, 10 km south of Caraga, a road leads to Pusan Point (9 km, mostly paved). Get there with a habal-habal (P200 there and back, incl. waiting time).

Mati

Pop 141,000 / Postcode 8200 / Tel. (087)

Mati, capital of the province Davao Oriental in the south-east of Mindanao, guards the head of

Pujada Bay and is itself protected from the waves of the Pacific by the Guanguan Peninsula. In contrast, surf is actually welcome on the long, wide, white-sand **Dahican Beach**, where surfers and skimmers in particular feel at home, and several beach and surf resorts have opened up. The resorts on the other side of the peninsula provide a gorgeous view of Pujada Bay, but have no sandy beaches and some of them were built on stilts in the water. White-sand beaches grace the islands of Oak (sandbank), Pujada and Wani-ban, all at the entrance to Pujada Bay.

In the north-west of the bay the main attraction is the **Sleeping Dragon**, a peninsula which resembles the fabled reptile in a sleeping position. Best seen from the Badas Zigzag Road at Baso.

Museum

Subangan Museum, National Highway (near the Provincial Tourist Office). Mo-Su 9am-6pm; P100 (Filipinos P50). Dedicated to the history and culture of Davao Oriental Province, its main attraction is the skeleton of a 16m-long sperm whale.

Places to Stay

La-ne's Katulganan, Bonifacio St, Tel 8111576. P500-1000; incl. breakfast. Basic, small, but OK. Next to Hotel Beatrice.

Baywalk Hotel, Burgos St, Tel 8113440. P650-800 (3 people). Neat, spacious, with hot water. At the eastern end of the Plaza and Baywalk, next to the harbour area entrance. Restaurant.

La-ne's Kita-anan, Bonifacio St, Tel 8113598, @. P1000-2000 (4 people), suites P3000; incl. breakfast. Beautiful, spruce rooms, comfortably furnished. Directly next door to La-ne's Kan-anan Restaurant. Secure parking in the courtyard.

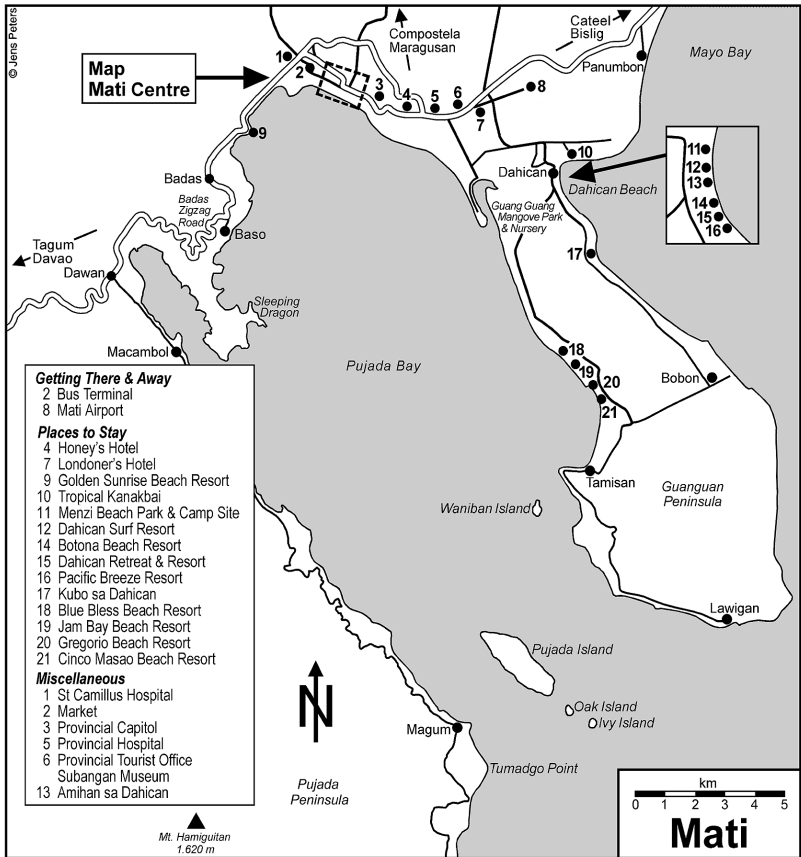
Dahican Beach

Botona Beach Resort, Cel 0918-5255227, @. P2000-2300 (5 people). Basic rooms in double cottages. Friendly resort. Restaurant.

Tropical Kanakbai, Cel 0927-2871790. P3500-4000; incl. breakfast. Fairly comfortable rooms with additional living area in sturdy stone buildings. Upmarket hotel that only has rooms for a few guests. On a stony beach, but it's only a short walk to the sandy beach. 1.3 km of track from the highway, coming from Mati after the school turn left at the tight bend.

Places to Eat

La-ne's Kan-anan, Bonifacio St. Very pleasant restaurant with fast service. On an airy terrace



World Heritage Site Mt Hamiguitan

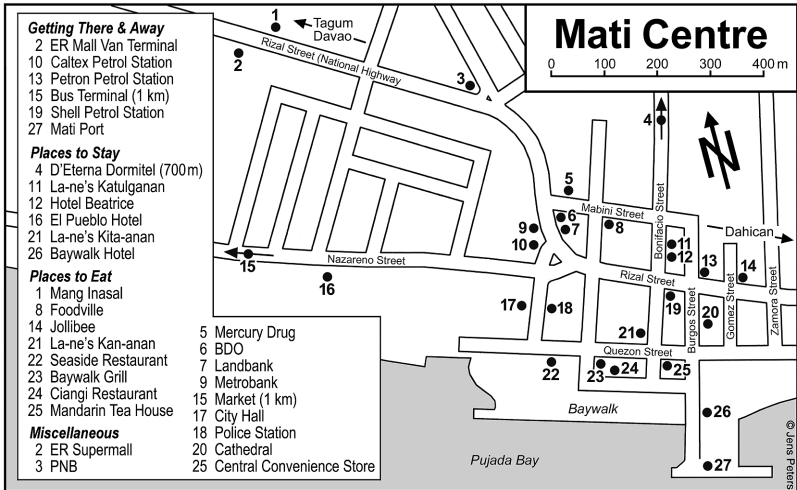
Roughly 25 km south of Mati on the Pujada Peninsula, a 1620m-high mountain range is the setting for the **Mt Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary**. Covering almost 70 km², this ecosystem was declared a World Heritage site in 2014 by UNESCO. At the heart of its species-rich flora and fauna (1380 species, 341 of which are endemic to the Philippines) is a so-called Pygmy Forest (Bonsai Forest).

Getting there: Base is Barangay La Union (between San Isidro and Governor Generoso). Register there for guides and porters.

(one floor up), serving excellently prepared food: a tasty selection of traditional Filipino cooking from inexpensive rice toppings (P95) to crispy pata (P280).

Ciangi Restaurant, on the plaza. Big place, where you can sit inside or out while enjoying regional specialties such as humba (like pork adobo, P60) and imbao (mussel soup, P150) with a view of the Baywalk.

Mandarin Tea House, Quezon St (next to the Central Convenience Store/24 hrs). Light and modern restaurant with a wide range of Chinese delicacies, including dim sum (P60, wide choice), noodle soups (P80) and vegetables with oyster sauce (P180).



Miscellaneous

Festivals: Summerfrolic Music Festival on the 1st or 2nd weekend in April on Dahican Beach. Cityhood Anniversary and Pujada Bay Festival 15-19 June. Sambuokan Festival on the last weekend in October.

Medical Services: Provincial Hospital, National Highway, Tel 3883420, 3883174.

Surfing: Amihan sa Dahican, Skim & Surf Team on Dahican Beach, Cel 0927-6806180.

amihansadahican.com

Dahican Surf Resort, Cel 0927-2871790. Skim and surf instruction P300/hr. Dahican Surf School, Botona Beach Resort, Cel 0928-1828500.

Tourist Office: Provincial Tourist Office, Mati Cultural Center, National Highway, Tel 3883234.

Getting There & Away

By Bus/Van: Bus terminal 1 km west of the centre, next to the market. Vans wait for passengers near the entrance to the terminal.

From Cateel

Bus: 5x daily with Bachelor Express (4½ hrs.); via Baganga and Caraga.

Van: Frequent departures from early morning until 3pm (3½ hrs).

From Davao

Bus/Van: Frequent departures during the day with Bachelor Express (5 hrs). Vans take 4 hrs.

South Mindanao

Davao

Pop 1.6 Mio / Postcode 8000 / Tel (082)

Davao is the fastest growing city in the Philippines after Manila. There's still plenty room for newcomers here, as it covers 2440 km² and is one of the most sprawling urban areas in the world.

After an energetic campaign against crime and the city's urban environmental problems, Davao is one of the safest, cleanest and most pleasant large cities in the country. The most recent example beautifying the cityscape is the **People's Park**, with lots of green, sculptures, and its Durian Dome entrance based on the well-known spiky fruit.

In the **Centre** north-east of the Davao River, between E Quirino Ave, Claro M Recto Ave und Magallanes St (A Pichon St) visitors will find a well mixed neighbourhood with hotels in every category, restaurants from fast food to *haute cuisine*, banks, laundries, and Gaisano South Mall. The Chinese influence is palpable. In **Chinatown** itself traders run lots of little shops, countless of them in the 168 Mall alone. The entrances into this lively quarter west of the Santa Ana Pier are marked by 3 Chinese arches: the Arch of Friendship, Arch of Peace and Arch of Unity. Also not far from the pier and the adjacent **Magsaysay Park**, Muslims have established the so-called **Muslim Fishing Village**.