

# Philippines Diving Adventure with Anilao Macro Photography Workshop & Dugongs in Palawan

22 March – 1 April 2019

## Anilao at Crystal Blue Dive Resort

Anilao is famous for the incredible macro photography on its reefs and its “muck” diving, but also has some spectacular reefs full of larger subjects. The dive sites boast an extensive list of species encountered including Rhinopias, blue ringed octopus, bearded gobies, hairy frogfish, bobbit worms, squid, flamboyant cuttlefish, and hundreds of colorful nudibranchs. Truly a photography paradise. Mike Bartick is the resident photo - pro with extensive knowledge of macro photography, use of “snoots” & strobes, and the critters of the muck and reefs.

You will transfer from Manila to Anilao then enjoy 6 nights at Crystal Blue Dive Center. The resort features rooms with a great view over the water, a spacious dining area, launching from the resort’s beach, a climate controlled room with stations for working on camera gear, a classroom, and a great dining and bar area.

We will do a total of 20 dives; most days will be 4 dives per day. Underwater photography seminars and image reviews are conducted in the mornings, afternoons, or evening between dives and meals.





## Busuanga Dugong Watching with Dugong Dive Center

On the island of Busuanga south of Manila, we will seek dugongs and dive with Dugong Dive Center. There are 30 dugongs resident in the bay around Busuanga and the excellent crew have an 80% success rate of sighting dugongs.

We go out for a full day excursion to several feeding grounds along the Busuanga coastline. If a dugong is spotted (they surface every 4 to 5 minutes), we watch the animal first from the boat then approach the dugong by snorkeling and if the dugong doesn't shy off, get in with scuba to watch them feed on the bottom. We do two dives with the dugong then if time permits, a dive on a nearby reef.



We stay at the El Rio Y Mar resort. The dive shop is adjacent to the resort. Besides diving there are two swimming pools, a bar and restaurant with excellent seafood and local cuisine.

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Dates: 22 March – 1 April 2019

Cost: USD\$ 3,060.00 per person shared +\$410 Single Supplement

Included:

Anilao:

- 6 nights shared accommodation in ensuite room with AC
- 20 dives on macro, muck, and reef locations
- photography workshops, use of photo room
- all meals, dive guides, boats, tanks (Nitrox included), weights
- roundtrip transfer from / to Manila

Dugong:

- 4 nights shared accommodation in ensuite room with AC
- 3 full days on the boat to look for dugongs, 9 dives
- Breakfast
- Dive guides, weightbelts, tanks (air)
- Transfer from Coron airport

Not Included:

Rental equipment

Bar Tab

Transfer from location outside of Manila airport region

Extra dives

Staff and crew tips

Room upgrades and single supplement

At El Rio Y Mar:

packed lunch on boat, dinner, bar tab

room upgrades, single supplement, spa and extra activities

staff and crew tips

Payments

40% deposit due to secure a space

60% balance due by Dec 15, 2018



## Itinerary

21 March	Mostly likely, you will arrive this day to Manila (MNL) and stay in a nearby hotel
22 March	Meet transfer to Anilao and Crystal Blue Resort. Orientation and unpacking. 2 afternoon dives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In order to be ready for the afternoon dives on the first day, we recommend arriving in Anilao before 10am which most likely will require an arrival into Manila on the 21st and spending a night in an airport area hotel.</li> </ul>
23 - 26 March	Today we start our 4 dives per day plus seminars and image review sessions. This will be the schedule for these 4 days
27 March	2 morning dives then time in the afternoon to pack up and have a final classroom session
28 March	Transfer to Manila airport and then to our flight to the Island of Busuanga – Coron airport (USU) . Transfer to the El Rio Y Mar
29 March	Full day out on our dugong watching boat - 3 dives per day
30 March	Our 2 <sup>nd</sup> day out for dugong diving and a local reef
31 March	3 <sup>rd</sup> day diving with dugongs
1 April	Transfer to our flight to Manila, stay in Manila or depart

## Flight Advice:

You will want to arrive to Manila airport (MNL) on the 21st March or very early on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March. You will want to get a morning transfer to Anilao so that you can arrive early enough to participate in the afternoon dives. (no refunds for missed dives)

A nice hotel in the airport area is the Manila Marriott hotel, 2 Resorts Drive, Pasay, 1309. They have a shuttle that transfers from the airport and they are connected to the casino and in easy walking to some shops and restaurants. Their breakfast buffet is stellar.

## Flying to Busuanga

We will transfer from the Anilao resort on the morning of 28 March to Manila arriving on time to catch a flight to Coron (USU) for the dugong portion of the trip.

Guests should book the following flight to Busuanga Island and Coron  
CEBU Pacific Airlines flight # 6051 13:00 MNL to 1415 USU

For a return flight to Manila on the 1<sup>st</sup> April, we must take a short boat ride and 1 hr+ taxi ride to the airport so please select a return flight that allows for a relaxed transfer:  
Cebu has flights at 9:55am, 11:10am, and 1435am

Philippines Airlines (PAL) also has flights to and from Coron.



