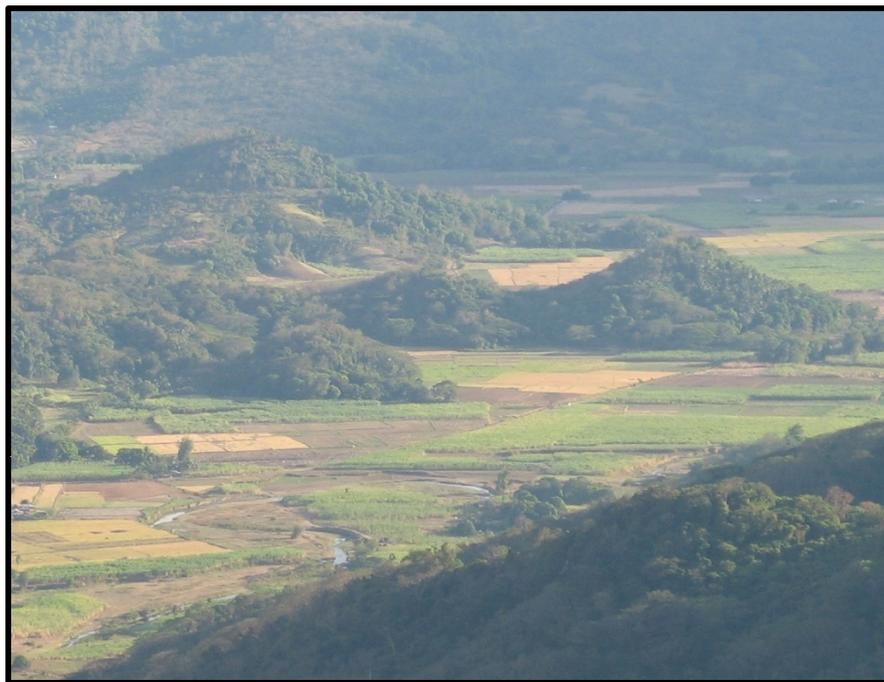




# DAHONPALAY MOUNTAINEERS



## MT. PICO DE LORO

<b>LOCATION:</b>	Cavite-Batangas Province
<b>ELEVATION:</b>	664 meters above sea level
<b>LEVEL:</b>	Minor Climb, Level I, Moderate
<b>JUMP-OFF POINTS</b>	Ternate Cavite
<b>ESTIMATED BUDGET</b>	P 500.00
<b>IT CREATED BY:</b>	J. Tanega (Thanks to MMS, Mr. L. Henson)

### CORE GROUP & GUEST:

Core Group:

Ian, Jojo, Allan, Bhong

Guest:

Joel, Jane and Rochelle

### INFORMATION:

Pico de Loro is located 85 kilometers southwest of Manila. It is bounded by the island of Corregidor and the Caraballo Mountains in the north, Nasugbu Batangas in the south, Maragondon on the east and the South China Sea on the west. With the height of 664 meters above sea level, it is considered the highest mountain in the generally flat Cavite province. Pico de Loro is the highest point on a series of rolling hills and mountains within the boundary of Cavite and Batangas. Though not really that high, the view from the summit is awesome, facing the tranquil seas on the north-eastern side particularly the Manila Bay area giving you a good vantage point to watch the ships passing by while the entire Batangas and Cavite on the south-eastern side will give you a glimpse of the south-eastern mountains like Batulao and Talamitam. Pico de Loro has a majestic view when seen near the base camp wherein it resembles a mighty rock-face with exotic flora along the sides resembling the North American rocky mountains, though on a smaller scale.

Pico de Loro is somewhat part of the vast naval military park in Ternate Cavite because of its strategic location giving a vantagepoint of the strategic Corregidor Island. It was used strategically as an observation post for Japanese naval movements during World War II.

Pico de Loro is currently on a constant threat against modernization. The place has been controversial when a plan to make a highway connecting Nasugbu and Ternate was proposed. It seems that several thousand of trees will be cut to make way for this project. Another issue was the Hacienda Looc controversy, which is generally the fight for ownership of the lands within the Pico de Loro area.

### **LEGENDS:**

According to legends, the mountain got her name from the first Spanish colonizers. They have seen the mountain from a distance while they were cruising their way to Manila bay and have noticed the peak resembling a parrot's beak hence was it called "Pico de Loro" from the Spanish word "Parrot's Peak". Another story goes that early Caviteños named the mountains from the tropical birds, a specie of the parrot family, which they often encounter while they were hunting for food within the mountains.

### **WHERE & HOW TO GO:**

There are generally two jump-off points for the Pico de Loro climb. It is actually a continuous trail between the two trailheads, and the climb towards Pico de Loro summit branches off from the center. The first jump-off point is a spot along the Ternate hi-way going to Caylabne Bay Resort. Passing by Puerto Azul entrance, this jump-off point has a DENR marker you will never miss within the "magnet" area. It was so-called magnet since the hill was claimed to be magnetic wherein your car would continue its climb even when the engine is turned off, similar to the magnetic hill of Laguna. To get there, catch a bus bound for Maragondon or Ternate Caviteat the Lowton or Liwasang Bonifacio area. Saulog bus line is one bus company who piles the route. Then at Maragondon Cavite, hire a jeep that will take you to the jump-off area. From the jump-off or trailhead, a 2-hour hike will take you to a base camp passing by open fields, farms and grazing lands. Base camp is actually established anywhere or any open fields within the base of the mountain. Set-up camp here. A 45-minute hike to the summit is usually done without the packs. You can actually camp on the summit though it can accommodate only few tents and winds at the summit are usually strong which will continually pound your tents. From the base camp to the summit, the climb is very steep but with ample bamboo to hold on. Usually, the trail going to Nasugbu is the on used in going down. Just follow the same trail straight to Barangay Papaya, Nasugbu Batangas. This bario is accessible from Nasugbu town proper by pump boat or a long jeepney ride along the rough road to Nasugbu. If climbing from these side of the trail, you have to take a bus ride to Nasugbu from Manila (BLTB) and from there arrange transportation for Barangay Papaya.

### **POINTS OF INTEREST:**

Both Nasugbu and Ternate are known tourist sites. A lot of places of interest are along the way. Going to Ternate, you will pass by the historical town of Kawit, home of the first president of the Philippine Republic, Emilio Aguinaldo. Ternate host a lot of wonderful resorts particularly the Puerto Azul and Caylabne Bay. On the other side, Nasugbu is famous beachfront. Climbing down from here, it's advise to take a stop along one of the beaches for a refreshing bath. On the way to Manila, you will be passing by the famous tourist spot, Tagaytay City.

### **SUGGESTED ITINERARY:**

<b>DAY 01</b>	
<b>February 21, 2006 (Tuesday)</b>	
0600H	Assembly Carmona – Biñan (Cavite Terminal)
0630H	ETD for Maragondon Cavite
0930H	ETA Maragondon Public Market
1000H	ETD for Jump-Off points
1100H	ETA trailhead at "Magnetic Hill"
1130H	Start trek at first Nipa Hut
1230H	Break at Nipa Hut
1330H	Resume Trek
1700H	ETA Base Camp, Set Camp, Prepare Dinner
1800H	Dinner and Socialites
2200H	Lights Out

<b>DAY 02</b>	
<b>February 22, 2006 (Wednesday)</b>	
0600H	Wake-up Call, Prepare Breakfast
0700H	Prepare to summit
0800H	Summit
0830H	Start Descent to base camp

### CONT. SUGGESTED ITINERARY:

DAY 02	February 22, 2006 (Wednesday)
0900H	Base Camp, Prepare to Descent to Nipa Hut
1130H	ETA Nipa Hut, Prepare for Lunch
1300H	Start Descent to Jump-Off point
1400H	ETA Jump-off
1430H	ETD to Pacita Complex
1630H	ETA Pacita Complex

### MEAL PREPARATION:

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Day 1 – Feb 21	NA	Pack Lunch (baon kayo)	Rice, Adobo, Soup, Veggie
Day 2 – Feb 22	Bread and Can Goods	Lunch at Nipa Hut	NA

### CHECKLIST:

DESCRIPTION	ITEM
Trekking Attire	T-shirt with warmer or sweat shirt, short, leggings, mountain boots, sandals bandana or cap, rain gear, sunglass, and socks
	Extras: 1 trek attire, jogging pants, socks, towel and undergarments
Equipment and Supplies per individual (IMPORTANT)	Water source available at camp, bring trail water
	Flashlight each with reserved batteries
	1 mess kit (spoon, fork, plate and goblet)
	1 toiletry (tissue, soap, toothpaste)

### CONT. CHECKLIST:

DESCRIPTION	ITEM
Group Equipments	Cookset, and stove, lantern and stoves
Meal Contributions	100 pesos each camper for the food, liquor, spices and others.
	Each camper should bring at least 2 can goods and bread.
REMINDERS: Follow the itinerary and NO LATE PLEASE...	

### CLIMBERS RESPONSIBILITIES:

**If there is an established trail**, walk in a single line and avoid creating new trails. Widening of such and formation of new ones can damage the soil and kill the plants crossing the paths of hikers.

**Do not take anything from the forests as souvenir.** If each climber would bring home one souvenir, the future climbers may be left with nothing but ugly remains of a once-beautiful place.

**Avoid disturbing wildlife.** Many species of animals become stressed due to disturbance by man.

**Never leave garbage along the trail or at the campsite.** Oftentimes, the local communities do not have well-managed waste disposals, so it will be better to bring the garbage to the cities for proper disposal.

**For human waste, each climber can dig his own "toilet"**, about six inches deep, and cover it with soil afterwards. Common latrines are proven to be bad because the soil cannot break down concentrated amounts of waste in reasonable time; it would be much better to bring along waste treatment gear to bring down the wastes back to the cities for proper disposal.

**Do not bathe or wash dishes along rivers.** The people downstream may be using the water for drinking purposes. Do the washing or bathing about twenty feet (make that 100 ft.) from the river bank. A more acceptable bathing practice is to do it without using soap.

**CONT. CLIMBER'S RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**Before traveling to a foreign culture** or to an isolated village, it is best to learn the locals' culture to avoid embarrassing situations, both to the visitors and to the hosts.

**Be sensitive to the values of the local people.** Tourists may bring culture shock to the villagers and may alter the basic values of the population..

**Do not buy souvenir** items made from rare animal or plant species or questionable sources.

**Find out the maximum capacity of the trekking area** before going to prevent over-crowding and to minimize the impacts on the environment.

**Always register with the municipal or barangay** (village) or park office or leave the names and number of the trekkers to any local official at the jump-off point. Tell them the date the group is expected to return so that emergency measures can be adopted the soonest possible time in case of accident.

**Make sure that health measures are taken into account** in order to avoid disease transfer between the visitors and the locals.

**If no one is familiar with the destination,** always hire a guide. It saves time and lessens the probability of accidents.

**CONTACTS:**

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