

Accommodations & other Facilities

The province has two hotels and five lodging houses, namely: **Circle A**, **St. Anthony Hotel**, **Ronnie's Inn**, **Village of Love Lodging House**, **Rodieflor's Lodging House**, **Alburo's Lodging House**, and **Talua's Lodging House**, all located in the capital town. The other hotel is the **Bituon Hotel** which is located in Mobo City.

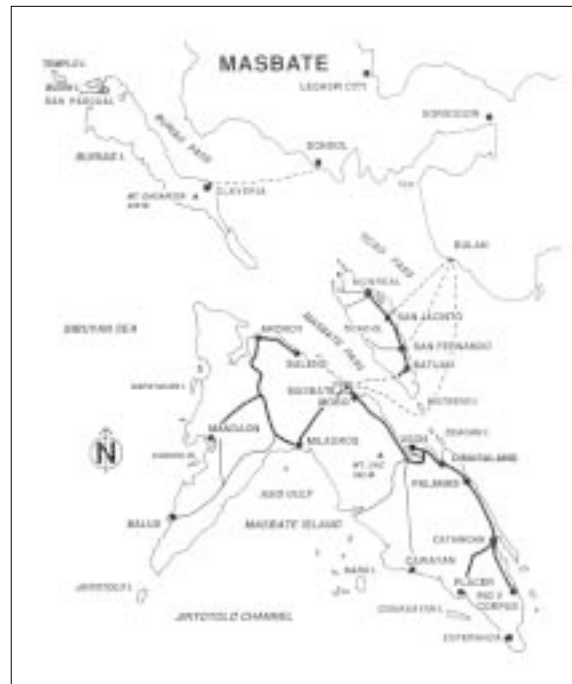
Tours & Transport

Masbate is filled with fascinating places of interest that never fail to delight tourists.

In Balud town, the main attraction is the picturesque **Jintotolo Lighthouse** in its 19th century architecture. For the adventurous tourists, Manduon town's **Bat-ongan Cave** is recommended. A five-kilometer stretch of glittering sands in **Napayawan Island** in Aroroy town is ideal for snorkeling and scuba diving.

The **Deagan Island** is considered the most beautiful in the Palanas coast. It is also in Masbate that the **San Pascual Catholic Church**, the second oldest church in the Philippines and the first in Bicol, is found. Local and foreign tourists find the breathtaking beauty of the underwater cave in Claveria town captivating. Cave houses have sealed human caskets carved out of solid wood believed to be 500 years old which still contain human remains. Each casket measures 24 inches long and 12 inches wide.

Getting to Masbate by land is not a problem. Mini-buses like **Ran-D**, **Gelli**, **Triple L**, and **Friendship Liner** serve the transportation needs of the people of the province as well as visitors and tourists. They are stationed at the maintown's land terminal, which is beside the municipal public market.



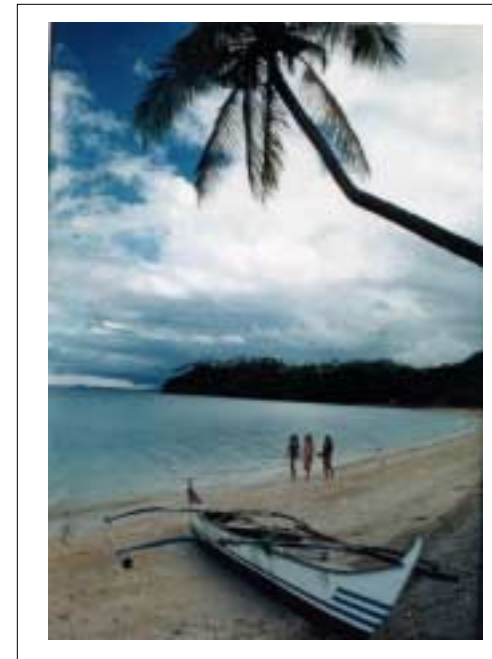
Media Infrastructure

There are two radio stations in Masbate, the **DYME-AM** (5 kw) of the Masbate Community Broadcasting Corporation and **DYME-FM** (1 kw) of MCBC, an affiliate of ABS-CBN.

The **Masbate Cable** and **Charles Cable** are the two cable television firms that service the towns of Masbate, Aroroy, Baleno, Dimasalang, and Cataingan.

Masbate has four local publications: The weekly **Dos for Dos** (1,000 copies), **Latigo** and **Masbate Times** with 1,000 copies each; and **Panahon** with 3,000 copies weekly.

PROVINCE OF MASBATE A PROFILE



REGION V

Developed by the
Philippine Information Agency
OPS

Masbate



The province of Masbate was part of Albay until it became a separate *comandancia politico militar* in 1846. It remained so until the Americans organized it as a province in 1901. Finally, on December 15, 1920 Masbate became an independent province by virtue of Act No. 2934.

Masbate has 20 towns and a city spread over an expanse of 4,047.7 square kilometers. The 20 municipalities include: Aroroy, Baleno, Balud, Batuan, Cataingan, Cawayan, Claveña, Dimasalang, Esperanza, Mandaon, Milagros, Mobo, Monreal, Palanas, Pio V. Corpuz, Placer, San Fernando, San Jacinto, San Pascual, and Uson. Its lone city is Masbate, its capital.

Geography & Climate

The boundaries of Masbate consist of the Burias Pass and Ticao Pass on the north; Visayan Sea, south; Simbuyan Sea, west; and on the east by the Samar Sea.

Mainland Masbate has a short dry season while Ticao and Burias have no dry season at all. Ticao Island lies in the center of the Philippine fault, it is also in the direct path of typhoons.

Population & Languages

Masbateños numbered 653,852 as of the 1995 census. Masbateño is the predominant

medium of communication with a mixture of Bicolano. Waray or Cebuano is spoken in the southeastern towns while Ilonggo or Capiceno is spoken in southwestern towns. Masbateños are also conversant in Tagalog and English.

Modern Infrastructure

Travel by air is facilitated by the Moises R. Espinosa airport at the provincial capital. It is utilized by a 50-seater Asian Spirit which flies to Manila daily.

The province has one major port set up at the capital town and 14 municipal ports. Travel through the provincial seaport is facilitated by the **WG&A's Our Lady of Sacred Heart**, for travel to and from Manila, the **Sulpicio Lines' MV Cebu Princess**, **Viva Lines' MV Peñafrancia** for those going to Lucena, and **Trans-Asia's MV Indonesia** for passengers bound for Cebu City.

The municipal ports are served by motorized boats which can accommodate 50 passengers. These same ports connect the municipalities to Bogotown in Cebu, Estancia town in Capiz, Pasacao town in Camarines Sur, and to Pilar and Bulan towns in Sorsogon.



A typical fishing village in the town of Batuan. Fishing is one of the major industries in Masbate.



The rodeo Masbateño is a yearly attraction that draws thousands of cattle raisers and cowboys to Masbate. It is a sports of skill and stamina.

Commerce & Industry

Farming remains the main source of livelihood. Cattle raising is growing its popularity among the people of the province while fishing is considered one of the major industries. Copra is the leading product followed by corn and rootcrops. Considered as one of the richest in terms of mineral resources, Masbate has considerable deposits of copper, silver, iron, manganese, and chromite.

Growth Centers

Identified growth centers in the province are Masbate, Aroroy, Cataingan, Dimasalang, and Milagros. While coconut production and fisheries remain the basic industries, Masbate is expanding to include wholesale and retail trade, bigger ventures in manufacturing, community and personal services, transportation, communication and storage, financing, insurance, real estate and business services, agriculture, fishery, forestry, and electricity and gas.

Preferred Investment Areas

Masbate has plenty. Among them are nursery operation, mango production, and processing corn and feed grain production, industrial tree, cutflower production, and gold production, cattle fattening, wine breeding, broiler production, layer production, lapu-lapu culture, crab fattening, agro-industrial estate, feedmills, sea transportation, airlines, bus terminals with amenities like malls, shopping centers, passengers waiting area, comfort rooms, power plant, modernized printing/publishing center, rural bank, local travel agency, water sewerage system, ship building/breaking and repair, food processing, leathercraft, non-metal craft, coconut production and by-products processing, organic fertilizer production, pharmaceutical products, manpower placement agency, and tourist estate.

Establishment of tourism accommodation facilities like hotels, resorts, apartels, pension houses, and tourist inns is also preferred.

Water & Power Supply

The **Masbate Water District (MWD)**, the main source of water supply, serves only Quezon street and barangay Tugbo in the maintown. All other areas in the capital town are currently supplied with water by water peddlers. Masbate Water District's (MWD) new water system project for Mobo is fast nearing completion and it is expected to boost potable water supply in the area.

The power plant of the National Power Corporation, augmented by a Napocor Power barge, generates enough power to serve the power requirement of almost all municipalities of the province.

Telecommunication Facilities

To date, the **Pilipino Telephone Corp. (Piltel)** has installed phone lines for over 2,000 households and business establishments in the maintown and has established calling stations in the towns of Milagros and Cataingan. Long distance phone calls can be made through other companies, such as **RCPI-Bayantel** and **PT&T**.



An anchor recovered from a sunken galleon in the treacherous San Miguel Pass off Ticao Island is on display at San Jacinto town plaza.