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The Philippines is a true stargazers' paradise. The numerous quiet coastal villages and small islands throughout this archipelagic country promise a magical stellar experience all year round. Yet, you might need more careful timing to plan the most special night. The answer depends on what constellations you crave to see. If you're into the elusive Milky Way galaxy, your best bet would be heading to the South-South East from March to May. What's more, the peak hours to spot the Milky Way's galactic core are between 1 am and 4 am. But your sleepless night is worth such a mesmerizing spectacle. Still, don't worry if you can't make it within this timeframe, for each season has its highlights. Find out what's on by visiting the Philippines' astronomical diary in the External Resources below.As for the most rewarding localities near Manila, we suggest checking out WK Forest Reserve & Campgrounds in Tanay, Rizal. Other places to visit include Batanes Islands, Siargao Island, Sombbrero Island, and Camiguin Nightscapes in Itum, Baylao. Also, the provinces of Zambales and Batangas on Luzon Island shelter an array of untouched spots for a splendid night of stargazing. For example, go to Laiya beach in San Juan, or if you don't mind hiking, climb Mt. Gulugod Baboy. Additionally, consider Mt. Pulag in Benguet—Luzon's highest peak is praised for exceptional stargazing. You can find all the sites on the map and book accommodations nearby for the utmost convenience of your stay. Should you have any questions about stargazing in the Philippines, contact the Philippine Astronomical Society via their Facebook (see External Resources below). WK Forest Reserve & CampgroundsLast updated: August 30, 2023 3:23 AM, you can see the Milky Way from the Philippines, and it offers some of the best stargazing opportunities in Southeast Asia. The visibility of the Milky Way largely depends on factors such as light pollution, weather conditions, and timing. The archipelago's remote locations, especially away from urban areas, provide ideal settings for viewing this stunning celestial phenomenon. The Milky Way is a barred spiral galaxy that contains our solar system. It is composed of billions of stars, and its core is particularly bright and dense with star clusters. In the Philippines, the galactic core is typically visible in the southern sky, especially during specific months when conditions are optimal. Key Factors for ViewingDescription Light PollutionAffects visibility; less pollution means better views. Weather ConditionsClear skies are essential for optimal viewing. TimingBest viewed between March and May during new moon phases. The best time to observe the Milky Way in the Philippines is during the dry season, particularly from March to May. During these months, the skies are generally clearer, and there is less humidity, which enhances visibility. Peak Visibility: The Milky Way's galactic core is most visible between 1 AM and 4 AM during these months. Stargazers should plan their outings accordingly to catch this breathtaking view. New Moon Phase: Observing during a new moon significantly improves visibility since the moon's light does not interfere with the faint light of stars. Avoiding Rainy Season: The wet season lasts from June to November, which can obstruct views due to cloud cover and rain. To maximize your chances of seeing the Milky Way, it's essential to choose locations with minimal light pollution. Here are some of the top spots in the Philippines: Mount Pulag: Known for its breathtaking views and high elevation, Mount Pulag is considered one of the best places for stargazing. It offers clear skies and a stunning backdrop of clouds. Cagabate Island: This island in Quezon Province provides a serene beach setting perfect for stargazing while enjoying the sound of waves. Siargao Island: Famous for surfing, Siargao also offers clear night skies ideal for capturing the Milky Way. Batanes: This remote group of islands has minimal light pollution and stunning landscapes that enhance stargazing experiences. Sombbrero Island: Located in Batangas, this spot is known for its beautiful beaches and clear night skies. To ensure a successful experience while stargazing in the Philippines, consider these practical tips: Choose a Dark Location: Select spots away from city lights. Locations like national parks or remote islands are ideal. Check Weather Conditions: Clear skies are crucial. Use weather apps to check cloud cover before heading out. Use Stargazing Apps: Applications like Stellarium or Sky Guide can help you locate constellations and track the Milky Way's position. Bring Proper Equipment: A good camera with a wide aperture lens (f/2.8 or lower) can help capture stunning images of the Milky Way. A sturdy tripod is essential for long exposure shots. Plan Around Moon Phases: Aim for nights when there is little to no moonlight to enhance visibility. The Milky Way holds cultural significance in various Philippine communities. Many indigenous groups have their interpretations of this celestial feature, often linking it to agricultural cycles or folklore. For instance: In some cultures, it is seen as a guide for planting seasons based on its visibility. The term "Ariwansan" refers to the Milky Way in several indigenous languages, showcasing its importance in local lore. While many locations in the Philippines offer excellent opportunities to see the Milky Way, challenges do exist: Urban Light Pollution: Areas like Metro Manila have significant light pollution that obscures celestial views. Traveling outside urban centers is necessary for optimal viewing. Weather Variability: The tropical climate can lead to sudden changes in weather conditions. Always check forecasts before planning a stargazing trip. When is the best time to see the Milky Way?The best time is from March to May during new moon phases. Where are the best places to view it?Top locations include Mount Pulag, Cagabate Island, Siargao, and Batanes. How can I avoid light pollution?Travel to remote areas away from city lights for clearer views. What equipment do I need?A good camera with a wide aperture lens and a sturdy tripod are recommended. Can I see it from Metro Manila?It's challenging due to light pollution; better views are found outside urban areas. In conclusion, witnessing the Milky Way from the Philippines is not only possible but also an extraordinary experience that combines natural beauty with cultural significance. By choosing optimal times and locations while preparing adequately, you can enjoy one of nature's most magnificent displays. Whether you are an avid photographer or simply an admirer of cosmic wonders, exploring the night sky over this beautiful archipelago will surely be rewarding. Having been a city girl all my life, getting to see a sky full of stars (yup, I'm singing Coldplay's song in my head, too) has always been pretty unreal to me. One of my favourite things about beach getaways is getting to see way more stars than I do back home! Even as a local, it's sometimes hard to believe there are so many amazing Philippine destinations for stargazing. Chancing upon a time-lapse video of the Milky Way as seen in Siargao, however, was a whole other story. Without even getting to see it for myself in real life, I immediately fell in love. It was only then that I realised it was possible to spot it with our very own eyes, and right here, in my very own home country. (I know, I'm late to the party. Can you believe it?) So here's a special list for all you stargazers, travel photographers, and people who just plain love being in awe of nature's beauty. Below are some Philippine destinations where, if you get the timing just right, you're likely to see the Milky Way at night! 1. Jomalig Island, Quezon Image credit: Ivan Torres 4-hour boat ride from Real, the enchanting Jomalig Island is located off the coast of the Pacific Ocean. At this well-kept paradise lie some of the most gorgeous white and golden sand beaches you'll ever see. By day, you'll be exploring beautiful spots like "Little Boracay", and Lingayen Cove (also known as "Little Batanes"); at night, expect to be treated to breathtaking views of the night sky. Trust me, you'll want to stay outdoors during the entirety of your visit! Also read: Jomalig Island Travel Guide: All You Need to Know Before Your Getaway 2. Cloud Nine, Siargao Image credit: YouTube/Travel Imagez Though Siargao is now one of the top Philippine destinations for tourists, you still won't find much light pollution at night. As you probably already know, Cloud Nine is one of the country's top surfing locations — but did you know that it also makes for a spectacular nighttime hangout? And no, I'm not talking about parties (though nightlife in Siargao is pretty great). Cloud Nine offers stunning views of the stars — and if you're lucky, the Milky Way! 3. Anawangin, Zambales Image credit: thefool0803 If you were looking for another reason to finally go on that camping trip to Anawangin Cove, this is it! The dreamy, off-the-grid hideout in Zambales is just the place to relax and unwind with nature's wonders. The fact that there's no internet access is perfect for a night of stargazing and catching the Milky Way! 4. Anilo, Batangas Image credit: Eddie Yip This gorgeous coastal village may not have the same beach scene as Boracay, but that doesn't all take away from Anilo's charm. And if you thought it was nothing more than a scuba diving destination, then you thought wrong! While you'll definitely want to spend your whole day exploring underwater or soaking up some rays, you shouldn't turn in early just yet. You'll want to stay out once the stars come out — Anilo is also a great spot for stargazing! 5. El Nido, Palawan Image credit: Allan Soul Will we ever run out of reasons to fall in love with Palawan? As time passes, this Philippine destination just seems to keep getting dreamier and dreamier. The white sand beaches, the rich marine biodiversity, the other-worldly lagoons, lakes, and rock formations... Add the fact that you can see the thousands of stars and the Milky Way from here, and it's really not hard to see why Palawan has been named the number one island in the world! 6. Baler, Aurora Image credit: YouTube/Aaron Palabayz Studio After just a few hours on the road, you're immediately rewarded with a peaceful break from busy city life once you get to Baler. It's easy to fall in love with this quiet town, thanks to its beaches, hidden coves, and the delicious suman, coco jam, and peanut butter you'll find around the area! The breathtaking night sky views are a great bonus — go stargazing, and hopefully spot the Milky Way from Sabang Beach, or Baler's famous lighthouse. Also read: Baler, Aurora: The Ultimate Travel Guide with Insider Tips! 7. Kalanggamisan Island, Leyte Image credit: thefool0803 With its clear blue waters, stunning sandbars, and powdery white sand, the untouched Kalanggamisan Island is considered one of the most beautiful islands in the country. Besides enjoying activities like swimming, snorkelling, kayaking, and scuba diving, going stargazing is another must-do activity when visiting this state of paradise. For the full experience, go camping and watch out for the Milky Way! 8. Don Salvador Benedicto, Negros Occidental Image credit: Marco Verch/Creative Commons Thought Baguio was the only Philippine destination where you'd find pine trees? Here's another cool spot you might want to take note of. The Summer Capital of Negros Occidental, Don Salvador Benedicto is known for its sweeping mountain views and beautiful lake terraces. Besides offering the ultimate escape from the summer heat, it's also a site for night sky views like no other! 9. Dingalan, Aurora Image credit: Jose Nicdao Dingalan may have been dubbed the "Batanes of the East", but it truly is so much more than that. Home to stunning caves, beaches, waterfalls, and rolling hills, this town has an unmatched charm of its very own. While you can't expect a verzhing nightlife scene at Dingalan, do prepare to be awed by amazing nighttime views! If you play your cards right, you're in for remarkable scenes of the Milky Way. 10. Mount Pulag, Benguet Image credit: YouTube/Bong Baoj Cool weather, awe-inspiring views — really, what doesn't Mount Pulag have? Truly one of the dreamiest Philippine destinations for stargazing, it's certainly a bucket list item for many Filipino travellers! The country's third-highest peak, Mount Pulag rewards climbers with the most stunning scenes of the night sky. With promises of amazing sunrises and great chances of spotting the Milky Way, how could you not be tempted to finally make the climb? 11. Tanay, Rizal Image credit: YouTube/Chris Librojo If you were looking for a destination that's just a few hours' drive from Manila, then you've found it! Maybe you were already planning to see Tanay's famous Mount Daraitan and Daranak Falls, or you've been enjoying a trip to Masungi Georeserve. Make it an overnight trip and take advantage of Tanay's unobstructed views of the night sky! 12. Dasol, Pangasinan Image credit: YouTube/MilkywayHunter In addition to Bolinao and Alaminos, Dasol is another town you'll have to visit in Pangasinan. Besides being a not-so-touristy spot (yay for no crowds!), Dasol is filled with hidden gems you won't want to miss out on. If you find yourself visiting, make sure to go beach-hopping, and take a dip in the town's famous (but unnamed) cave pool! Malacapas View Deck should be at the top of your list — here, you'll witness unforgettable sunsets and views of the night sky. 13. Manila Bay Image credit: Joseph Christopher Orpael via Canva Pro Not only is Manila Bay one of the best Philippine destinations for stargazing, but it also offers the most iconic sunset views you'll ever see! Here, you can level up your sky-watching experience aboard a private yacht and sail through its waters while having a candle lit dinner. Alternatively, you can simply go on a relaxing walk along Roxas Boulevard while the stars shine brought above you! 14. Sabtang Island, Batanes Image credit: Batanes Tattus Travel and Tours Official Facebook Page Batanes is a province located in the region of Cagayan Valley, Philippines. It is the smallest province in the country in terms of population and land area. But what it lacks in size, it makes up for in views and sights. One of its most famed tourist attractions is the Basco Lighthouse, which allows people to catch sight of the starry night sky. It stands atop the lush green Naidi Hills and overlooks Basco Bay, which offers the prettiest backdrop for the lighthouse! 15. Calagua Islands, Camarines Norte Image credit: Michael Angelo Umali via Canva Pro Calagua is a chain of islands tucked away in the province of Camarines Norte. This hidden gem boasts stunning beaches — the most popular among these is Mahabang Buhangin. Here, you'll find familiar Boracay-esque features like crystal clear waters, fine white sands, and a serene atmosphere. But contrary to Boracay's commercialised scene, Calagua offers the perfect escape for those looking for some peace and quiet. At night, its skies are dotted with glimmering specks — making it one of the ideal Philippine destinations for stargazing. Also read: Minagmasdan Niya ang mga Tala: Mga Stargazing Sites sa Pilipinas As I reach the end o15 this list, I'm left awed at how many beautiful places there are here in the Philippines. And we're just scratching the surface! Know of more Philippine destinations for stargazing and Milky Way sightings? Don't hesitate to let us know — we'd love to hear them! Facebook image credit: David Docil | Unsplash In major cities such as Metro Manila and Metro Cebu, the dark skies peppered with glittering stars are often overlooked—or practically nonexistent. In fact, night skies and stars are hardly appreciated in the city. After all, metropolitan cities are often bright with lights themselves— inasmuch that stars in the sky look like nothing more than mere specks of dust to city dwellers. Indeed, in cities beleaguered with light pollution, Mother Nature's work often takes the backseat while the artificial lights around the city dance around. As a result, stargazing is practically impossible to do. Considering that stargazing in cities besieged by light pollution already poses a challenge by itself, it becomes almost impossible to capture any decent image of the night sky and the stars with a camera. In this regard, executing astrophotography shots in the city is not exactly a feasible idea. Luckily, events such as the annual Earth Hour where people are encouraged to unplug for an hour (and when the surroundings are dark enough to expose the stars we often overlook) allow us a moment's reprieve from the light pollution. However, even then, it can be quite difficult for astrophotographers to take worthy shots of the night sky. With this in mind, they would be constrained to look for places all over the Philippines with minimal to no light pollution at all. Read on below to see the top places for astrophotography in the Philippines. VISUAL ASTRONOMY VS PHOTOGRAPHIC ASTRONOMY Image Source In a nutshell, the main difference between visual astronomy and photographic astronomy is that the former is basically just gazing at the stars whereas the latter involves the capturing of still or moving images of objects in the night sky. Long ago, all of astronomy was based solely on visual observations only making it a bit challenging to chart planetary movements, constellations and star locations. In fact, history is fraught with notes and sketches from the patient and determined work of dedicated astronomers such as Kepler, Galileo and the Herschels'. It was not until 1840 where the first successful astrophoto was released. It was an image of the moon captured by Louis Jacques Mande Daguerre. However, while it took him twenty minutes to expose, it was not much to look at. As time progressed, technological innovations were made to increase the capturing power of the camera. In this regard, individuals with an affinity for the night sky have beefed up their gears. As a result, astrophotography has become a leisurely activity or hobby but more importantly, it revolutionized the scientific understanding of the universe the moment it was introduced. If not for it, the sky would not have been mapped out completely. THE TOP ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY SPOTS IN THE PHILIPPINES Image Source WK Forest Reserve and Campgrounds (Tanay, Rizal) Image Source Nested deep in the mountains of Tanay is WK Forest Reserve and Campgrounds, one of Rizal's best-kept secrets. It is one of the latest campsites in Tanay, Rizal and is a favorite among 4X4 enthusiasts. The camp is very secluded (seeing as it can only be traversed by a 4x4 vehicle, hiking or a motorbike) ensuring that you get a magnificent view of the night sky. WK Forest Reserve and Campgrounds has three types of campsites (Open, Forest and Overlooking Camp) with the Open Camp being the most feasible for stargazing and astrophotography. Mt. Gulugod Baboy (Mabini, Batangas) Image Source Climbing Mt. Gulugod Baboy is pretty much like a journey underneath a blanket of stars. Apart from the intriguing name, Mt. Gulugod Baboy is said to offer an expansive view of the sea from its mountaintop. In fact, apart from being a popular place for stargazing and astrophotography, Mt. Gulugod Baboy is an ideal campsite for individuals who just wish to enjoy scenic views. Laiya, Batangas Image Source While largely a beach hotspot, Batangas is one of the best places in Luzon for stargazing. In lieu of a beach getaway such as in Calatagan and Tali, head to Laiya. It is one of the few places in Batangas that remains mostly untouched and allows the beach-goers a semblance of peace in a starlit place. As the place has no active nightlife, it is an excellent place for stargazing and astrophotography. Cagabate Island Image Source Cagabate Island mostly consists of beach spots considering that it has a shoreline with powdery white sand. However as the vibe of the island is laidback and as there are a lot of secluded spots, it is one of the ideal spots in the Philippines for stargazing and astrophotography. Cloud 9 Boardwalk (Siargao) Image Source Siargao is mainly a place for beach lovers and surfers who love the tropical lifestyle. Cloud 9 Boardwalk, one of its hotspots, attracts both beach enthusiasts and surfers. However, the place is quite magical at night as the night sky becomes clearer and the stars more evident. As this part of Siargao only has a handful of lights peppered around the place, it is the perfect spot for both stargazing and astrophotography. Zambales Image Source Zambales is rife with places ideal for astrophotography and stargazing. Even its well-known coves and hotspots such as the Nagassa Cove are places feasible for capturing images of the night sky. What makes Nagassa Cove so magical is that you can lie down by the shores and just delight in the heavenly bodies above as you drift to sleep. Alternatively, if you do not wish to suffer-through a boat ride, then consider Pundacuti in Zambales as an alternative. The place offers a few homestays in their coastal community and by dusk, you can revel in the wonder of the night sky filled with a billion stars. Tinalisayan Island (Masbate) Image Source One of the lesser-known beach hotspots in the Philippines is Tinalisayan Island in Masbate. Owing to its anonymity, few travelers ever go here and it has remained virtually untouched. As a result, it is one of the most beautiful places in the country. With the stunning and velvety ivory sandbar, the view is incredibly breathtaking by the time the sun settles and the moon takes over. Just imagine how it would look with the milky-way galaxy in the vast skies. Mount Pulag (Benguet) Image Source Mount Pulag is one of the most famous campsites in the Philippines—and for good reason. With the cool weather and awe-inspiring views, who could resist a visit to the place? It is truly one of the most beautiful destinations in the country and is worth a spot on your bucket list. As the country's third-highest peak, Mount Pulag offers a view unlike any other. It has one of the most stunning scenes of the night sky making it a premier spot for astrophotography and stargazing—certainly a rewarding feat after a grueling climb! Calagua Island (Camarines Norte) Image Source Located in the province of Camarines Norte, Calagua Island is an island that allows you to explore heaven on earth. Apart from the tranquil and serene vibe, a magnificent night sky awaits its visitors. In Calagua, visitors can enjoy a myriad of activities from swimming to stargazing and astrophotography. Batanes Image Source Dubbed as the most cinematic place you will ever see in the Philippines, Batanes is a visual delight whether it is day or night. Apart from its remoteness, Batanes is ideal for stargazing and astrophotography owing to its proximity away from large cities as well as the scarcity of artificial lighting on the small island. Here, visitors are lucky enough to see the Milky Way sky—something that cannot be appreciated in cities. The Philippines, albeit peppered with major cities fraught with light pollution, still has an abundance of places that offer travelers a glorious and serene view of the night sky. So, if you have ever wondered how the night sky looks in its plain glory, pack your bags and take a trip to one of the places enumerated above. Oh, and to commit the trip to memory, bring your camera with you and snap a shot of the night sky that is never visible in the cities. For your camping needs and essentials, shop at Philippine Camping Gears Online Shop. Stargazing in the Philippines offers a unique opportunity to witness the beauty of the night sky. From remote islands to secluded mountain tops, these destinations provide breathtaking views of the stars and the Milky Way. Whether you are a seasoned astronomer or a casual observer, bringing a telescope or binoculars can enhance your experience and allow you to see celestial objects in more detail. When planning your stargazing trip, consider the best times of the year to visit for clear skies and minimal light pollution. What are the top places in the Philippines where you can enjoy an unforgettable night under the stars? Make sure to pack essentials such as warm clothing, a comfortable blanket or mat, and some snacks to make the most of your stargazing adventure. 1. Pamintan Protected Landscape The Pamintan Protected Landscape, located in Rizal, is a great spot for stargazing near Manila. This protected area covers 608 hectares in the Sierra Madre mountain range. When heading to Pamintan, make sure to bring a telescope or binoculars for a better view. Pack a mat or blanket for comfort while you enjoy the night sky. Don't forget to carry water and light snacks. For more details on visiting, check out Pamintan Protected Landscape. 2. Batanes Batanes offers some of the most peaceful and clear night skies. This northernmost province in the Philippines is perfect for stargazing. Bring binoculars or a telescope to fully enjoy the view. Head to the Basco Lighthouse for an uninterrupted view of the stars. Pack warm clothes, as nights can be chilly. Be ready for a spectacular celestial display. 3. Calauit Safari Park Calauit Safari Park in Palawan is a unique spot for stargazing. The park offers wide open spaces, far from city lights, making for a clear night sky. When visiting, bring a telescope or binoculars to enhance your experience. Comfortable seating and warm clothing are also recommended, as nights can get chilly. The serene environment of the park adds to the magical experience of observing the stars. 4. Mount Pulag Mount Pulag is known for its stunning night skies. As the country's third-highest peak, it offers clear views of the stars, making it perfect for stargazing. To enhance your experience, bring a telescope or binoculars for a closer look at the celestial wonders. Warm clothing is essential, as the peak can get chilly at night. 5. Mayon Volcano Natural Park Mayon Volcano Natural Park offers incredible views of the night sky. The park is located in Albay, and its remote location means less light pollution. Bring a telescope or binoculars to get the best views of the stars. A blanket and some warm clothing are also recommended, as it can get chilly at night. Don't forget a flashlight to help you navigate in the dark. You'll also want to pack some snacks and water for your stargazing adventure. Ideal Times for Stargazing To make the most of your stargazing adventure, timing is crucial. Here are the best seasons and optimal times of the night to spot stunning celestial sights in the Philippines. Best Seasons The Philippines offers great stargazing opportunities during its dry season. The months from March to May are ideal. During this period, the skies are usually clear, allowing you to see celestial objects without much obstruction. Bring a telescope or binoculars for a closer view of the stars and planets. You might also want to carry a star chart or a stargazing app to help you identify different constellations. Another good time is during the colder months of December to February. These months often have clearer skies compared to the rainy season. The cooler weather during these months can make your outdoor stargazing more comfortable. Optimal Time of Night For the best stargazing experience, aim to start late at night, from 1 am to 4 am. During this window, the sky is darkest, and there is less light pollution from artificial sources like streetlights. You can spot the Milky Way most vividly between March and May during these hours. Make sure to find a location away from city lights to maximize your viewing experience. A blanket or camping chair can make your wait more comfortable. You may also want to bring snacks and warm clothing if you are stargazing in the cooler months or higher altitudes. Necessary Equipment and Preparation To have a great stargazing experience, you need the proper equipment and need to consider weather conditions. Good preparation ensures you see the sky's beauty without any interruptions or disappointments. Choosing the Right Telescope Choosing the right telescope is crucial for a clear view of the stars. Aperture size is the most important feature. A telescope with a larger aperture captures more light, offering clearer and sharper images. An 8-inch Dobsonian telescope is highly recommended for beginners. Binoculars are also a good option if you don't want to carry a heavy telescope. For stargazing, look for binoculars with specifications like 7x50 or 10x50. They are lighter and easier to use for a quick session. Tripods are essential if you use binoculars or a smaller telescope. A stable tripod reduces shaking and provides a steady view. Lastly, don't forget to bring a red flashlight to help you navigate in the dark without affecting your night vision. Weather Considerations Weather can make or break your stargazing plans, so always check the weather forecast before heading out. Clear skies are ideal, while cloudy or rainy weather will hinder visibility. Humidity levels are also important. High humidity can cause dew to form on your equipment, so consider bringing a dew shield. Temperature is another factor. Dress in layers to stay comfortable as temperatures can drop significantly at night. In some places, it might get windy, so ensure your equipment is secured properly. Make sure to familiarize yourself with the moon phases. A full moon can wash out many stars, reducing visibility. Try to plan your stargazing activities around the new moon for the best experience. Astronomical Events to Look Out For When stargazing in the Philippines, certain times of the year offer special astronomical events. These include amazing meteor showers and various lunar phases that make your sky-watching adventures even more thrilling. Meteor Showers One of the most spectacular events you can catch are meteor showers. The Perseid Meteor Shower, peaking in August, is a must-see with up to 100 meteors per hour. Another notable event is the Geminid Meteor Shower in December, which can surpass 120 meteors per hour. To enhance your experience, consider bringing a telescope or binoculars. A star map app also helps you pinpoint the best viewing spots. For comfort, bring a reclining chair or blanket. Plan to stargaze from a dark, open area to avoid light pollution. A trip to the mountains and a clear night sky are the best conditions for stargazing. Full moon phases offer a different perspective on the night sky. The full moon provides a beautiful view of the moon's surface, but it also washes out the stars. Plan your stargazing around the new moon phase. The new moon offers the best view of the stars, but it's also a good time to observe lunar phases, pack a high-quality telescope to see lunar craters and seas in detail. A pair of binoculars can also be handy. Apps like Lunar Phase Pro can help you track moon phases and plan your viewing times. A visit to Camiguin Nightscapes on the island of Camiguin offers a unique vantage point for these celestial events. Bicolano photographer Kenneth John Gomez's photo of the Milky Way over Mayon Volcano in Albay. The Milky Way galaxy was clearly sighted in the Philippines' night sky by photographer Kenneth John Gomez who wowed netizens with a captivating photo taken over Mayon Volcano in Albay, Bicol. The Bicolano photographer posted the Milky Way photo on social media on July 24, 2020, which was shared several times online and was picked up by various national news organizations. Gomez shared with media that the photograph was taken on his way home after he hurriedly took out his camera to capture the breathtaking sight. "Habang paui ako malapit sa bahay nakita ko young group of stars kaya bigla akong nagmadali kail alam ko na Milky Way 'yun at 'yung position niya kaya kinuha ko agad camera ko, punumta ako sa madilim na palayan para kumain siya." Gomez said in a CNN interview. A photo of the Milky Way over the city lights of Makati and Quezon City taken from Manila. From PAS' official Facebook page. It's possible to see the Milky Way galaxy arcing overhead. Stargazers can spot it in the sky as long as there's little to no air or light pollution. The Milky Way galaxy was previously only visible away from Metro Manila. However, it was reported that the dip in the city's air and light pollution as a result of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) made better viewing of the galaxy possible. The Philippine Astronomical Society (PAS) shared a photo in March of Manila's night sky, taken over the city lights of Makati and Quezon City. The organization cites "the clear sky, new moon, less air pollution, and less light pollution" as factors that made the galactic center of the Milky Way easier to spot in the photo taken by its president Kashogi Astapan. The photo was shared as part of the society's #StarAtHome series, a weekly series of astrodiscussions. Experts likewise affirmed the society's statement, saying that the air quality in Metro Manila has improved after the Luzon-wide EQ. In the Philippines, the Milky Way's galactic core is usually found towards the South (South-South East). Milky Way sightings in the Philippines. Here's how to see the elusive Milky Way in the night skies: PAS says that with low levels of light pollution, you can see the Milky Way with the naked eye. Stargazers trying to see the Milky Way in areas with high levels of light pollution would have better luck capturing it with a camera, the organization tells enthusiasts. PAS shared astrophotography tips in a live broadcast. PAS also points to light pollution as the culprit for preventing one-third of humanity from seeing the Milky Way. The society posits that the Milky Way is best seen in far-flung areas, away from artificial lights. The skies also have to be clear and moonless. Stargazers should look towards the south and find one or two of the key constellations: Scorpius and Crux. Once you find them, the Milky Way's just below! Photos of the Milky Way over Philippine skies. The night sky holds endless wonders. A meteor shower lights up our skies these last days of July. The rare comet NEOWISE made an appearance in PH skies earlier this month. A rare solar eclipse was seen in the country on Father's Day. SHARE WITH US in the comments below your photos of the night skies in the Philippines! Want to know how to be a Proud Pinoy? Like, Follow, Subscribe to GoodNewsPhilippas.com, and our socials Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Good News Philippines! on YouTube, for new story notifications, and e-mail newsletters for updates on more Filipino Pride stories. Stargazing actually brings a certain feeling of comfort and astonishment to a lot of people, as they become very enticed by the night sky's natural beauty that they do not usually see during the day. In case you didn't know, the Philippines has so much to offer for all the star seekers out there. And here are some of the best stargazing spots in the country that will give you a better and closer encounter with the stars. 1. Big Handy's Grounds Big Handy's Grounds in Rizal is a popular venue for public stargazing events that are hosted by the Philippine Astronomical Society. They usually facilitate some deep sky observation marathons that you can join in, which give you an unforgettable experience of witnessing shooting stars, starry night skies, and a majestic glimpse of the milky way. If you want to experience sleeping inside a tent while seemingly embracing the stars between your arms, you certainly have to visit this spot. Just take note that you need to inquire with them first before going to the venue, as they strictly implemented the "no walk-in policy" to protect the environment. 2. Mount Pulag Truly one of the