ArrivalGuides
the world's largest network of destination information

Davao

Photo: mystical_selzki

Photo: Constantine Agustin

A multi-cultural metropolis on the island of Mindanao, Davao is one of largest and most cosmopolitan cities in the Philippines. With the country's highest mountain, Mount Apo, as its backdrop, this vibrant city offers a mix of fabulous landscapes that include parks like the Eden Nature Park and the Mount Apo National Park, superb beaches, diving waters and islands such as the unspoiled Samal Island. The San Pedro Cathedral is just one of its great monuments, while its shopping malls, colourful festivals and gourmet restaurants are legendary. Top notch hotels and resorts make it a tourist hotspot. Davao is famous for its gold and is home of the famous Philippine Eagle National Centre where the truly beautiful but endangered national bird is bred.

Photo: Burgermac

Photo: Shubert Ciencia

New App coming soon

ANDROID APP ON Google play
Available on the App Store

Top 5

Crocodile Park
The native home to the Philippines's largest known crocodile at nearly 20 metres in length, the Crocodile Park is an important...

Mount Apo National Park
The country's tallest peak dominates this treasure of a park. Experienced climbers can head for the Sibulan and Cooland Trails...

San Pedro Cathedral
Enthusiasts of Spanish architecture will be captivated by the beautiful and highly original San Pedro Cathedral. Dating from t...

Puentespina Orchids and Tropica...
Some of the world's most exotic orchids, including the famous Waling-Waling and the Vanda Sanderiana, are on display and can b...

Shrine of the Infant Jesus
This open-air shrine to the Infant Jesus of Prague and Our Lady of Fatima is a wonderful place to escape the bustle of city li...

THE CITY

Photo: Constantine Agustin

Indigenous tribes like the Bagabo, B'laan, Mandaya, Masaka, Manobo and T'boli mingle with migrant settlers, bohemian, Muslim and expatriate communities and a steady flow of tourists. Add to this a vibrant business and investment sector, a large seaport that handles cargo in and out of the country and you have a mix that makes Davao one of the most engaging and busiest cities imaginable. Davao may be on the map as being one of the world's largest cities in terms of size but to the people of the Philippines it is, above all, one of their most charismatic and culturally diverse cities. Its population comes from all corners of the globe.

Davao, or Metropolitan Metro' Davao as it is often referred to, hugs the southernmost coastline of Mindanao island to the south of the Philippines. Although, technically, independent of any province it is generally linked with Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental and the Compostella Valley. The four areas are known as the eleventh region of the Philippines, with Metro Davao being its capital. All the areas have their own distinct characters. Davao del Norte is known for its acres of banana plantations and citrus groves along with the beautiful Samal Island just off its coastline. Davao del Sur is where visitors will find the Mount Apo National Park dotted with orchids. The white beaches and waterfalls make Davao Oriental a natural haunt of visiting holidaymakers while the Compostella Valley affords the cream of earth's natural wonders.

DO & SEE

Photo: Burgermac

Davao is famous for many things – eagles, gold, exotic flowers, eye-popping attractions and landscapes to name just a few. Look out for the Puentespina Orchids and Tropical Plants centre where the colours and scents will leave you bewildered, or the shops selling beautiful works in gold – the city is a major producer of gold and crafts.

For adventure seekers there's the Davao River where white water rafting is a popular and the Crocodile Park where it's best to keep a distance from the residents. No visit to Davao would be complete without sampling some of its great local fruits, the durians are especially good, or enjoying one of its colourful festivals. Visiting the Araw ng Dabaw Festival in March, the Padigo San or the Sambuokan in September or the Banayan Festival in October is an excellent way to see local tradition at its best.

Crocodile Park

The native home to the Philippines's largest known crocodile at nearly 20 metres in length, the Crocodile Park is an important breeding centre as well as a popular tourist attraction. There are picnic areas and activities like horse-riding offered too. Shows start at 4:30pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Address: Diversion Highway Ma-a
Phone: +63 82 286 8883
Internet: www.davaocrocodilepark.com
More Info: Riverfront, Corporate City

Mount Apo National Park

The country's tallest peak dominates this treasure of a park. Experienced climbers can head for the Sibulan and Cooland Trails in Sta Cruz or the Kapatagan Trail in Digos to begin their ascents. The tourist office organises gentler climbs and tours too. Open from 9am to 4pm daily.

Address: Davao del Sur
Phone: +63 82 222 1956

San Pedro Cathedral

Enthusiasts of Spanish architecture will be captivated by the beautiful and highly original San Pedro Cathedral. Dating from the 19th century, it is the city's oldest church.

Address: San Pedro Street
Phone: +63 82 222 1956

Puentespina Orchids and Tropical Plants Centre

Some of the world's most exotic orchids, including the famous Waling-Waling and the Vanda Sanderiana, are on display and can be purchased at this sprawling flower and plant centre. The colours and scents are a delight.

Address: Bolcan Street
Opening hours: Open from 9am to 4pm daily
Phone: +63 82 221 8248
Internet: www.orchid.ph

Shrine of the Infant Jesus

This open-air shrine to the Infant Jesus of Prague and Our Lady of Fatima is a wonderful place to escape the bustle of city life and reflect, as well as enjoying an outstanding panoramic view of Davao.

Address: Matina Hill
Phone: +63 82 222 1956

Eden Nature Park

Located on the outskirts of the city at the foot of Mount Talomo, the Eden Nature Park is a delight for visitors keen on walking, hiking, bird-watching and seeing native plants. It is peaceful and a great way to relax away from the city centre.

Address: Matina Town Square
Phone: +63 82 299 1020
Internet: www.edennaturepark.com.ph

Philippine Eagle Conservation Centre

The Philippine Eagle is the national treasure of the country, but an extremely rare and endangered species. The conservation centre has a breeding programme to protect this, one of the world's largest eagles. Visitors can see them in special habitat areas.

Address: Malagos, Baguio District
Opening hours: Open 8am to 5pm daily including holidays
Phone: +63 82 224 3021
Internet: www.philippineeagle.org

Davao River

The Davao River is famous for its 30 or so rapids spaced along a stretch of water that starts in the Baguio district's highland areas and flows to the lowlands. It has become the' place to enjoy extreme white water rafting.

T'boli Weaving Centre

There are a number of museums and craft centres in the Davao area, but the T'boli Weaving Centre is one of the best. Tribal women in traditional colourful dress demonstrate the skills of the T'boli tribe. See jewellery, cloth and rugs.

Address: Lenang
Opening hours: Open from 9am to 4pm daily
Phone: +63 82 222 1956

Samal Island

Offering a mix of beautiful white sandy beaches, superb diving and snorkelling waters, waterfalls and heritage sites, sports and top notch holiday resorts, Samal Island is a tourist hotspot. Visitors can stay or visit for the day.

Address: Samal Island, Davao del Norte
Phone: +63 82 222 1956

Tribal Villages and Plantations

Be sure to visit some of the tribal villages that are dotted around Davao City, including the B'laan Cultural Tribal Village at Matanao and the Tagakaolo Cultural Tribal Village at Digos, along with plantations like those at Hagonoy and Padada (banana and other tropical fruits) and the durian farms at Sta Cruz.

Phone: +63 82 222 1956

EATING

Photo: Shubert Ciencia

Dining out in Davao is an international affair. Restaurants that serve traditional Cantonese style dishes of beautifully prepared seafood, fruit and vegetarian dishes sit surprisingly well with Mediterranean themed eateries specialising in kebabs, pizzas, mezes, hamburgers and grills. There are French, Italian and Indian restaurants too, plus Chinese, Japanese and Korean. Davao is such a culturally diverse city and this is reflected in its vast range of places to eat. Davao is famous for its grilled tuna, known as inihaw, and its version of tuna sashimi, called kinilaw. Both should be tried.

Kamayo Café

A range of international dishes make up one of the best buffet spreads in the city. Stylish and inviting, the Kamayo Café is located within the luxurious Royal Mandaya Hotel, a landmark premier hotel in Davao and is a favourite eaterie with fashionable business types.

Address: J Palma Gil Street
Phone: +63 82 225 8888
Internet: www.theroyalmandayahotel.com

Lotus Court

This is widely regarded as one of the finest restaurants for Cantonese style cuisine in the city. It is famous for its specialist selection of traditionally prepared seafood dishes. Located within the five star Marco Polo Hotel, it is elegant with an Oriental soft red themed décor.

Address: CM Recto Street
Phone: +63 82 221 0888
Internet: www.marcopolohotels.com

Ate Loleng

Located in the heart of the city, Ate Loleng is a bright characterful restaurant with a modern feel. It serves a good range of Filipino, Oriental and International lunch, merienda and dinner dishes.

Address: E Quirino Avenue
Phone: +63 82 221 1099
Internet: www.towerinnmakati.com

River Walk Grill

Diners can sit outside right by the Davao River and enjoy starter dishes such as Tuna Sashimi followed by barbecued meats and seafood accompanied by rice and fabulous salads including its speciality the Thai Mango salad. It's located within the grounds of the Davao Crocodile Park.

Address: Diversion Highway Ma-a
Phone: +63 082 221 9643
Internet: riverwalk.psdgroupph.com
More Info: Riverfront, Corporate City

Sarimanok Coffee Shop

With its traditional décor and bright and informal atmosphere, the Sarimanok Coffee Shop is a good place to enjoy a light meal at any time of the day. Located within the Grand Regency Hotel, it is close to the city's main tourist attractions.

Address: JP Cabaguio Avenue, Agdao

Phone: +63 82 300 8188
Internet: www.crownregency.com

Luz Kinilaw

A fun if simple iconic eatery that promises good, wholesome local Davao dishes and is famous for delivering every time. Eating here is rather like a cultural experience but one that shouldn't be missed.

Address: Quezon boulevard
Phone: +63 82 226 4612

CAFES

Photo: Burgermac

Local coffee shops are present on pretty much every block. The coffee culture in Davao is very similar to the one in Manila.

Montmartre Café

A stylish brasserie-style eatery located within the Grand Regal Hotel, The Montmartre Café specialises in vegetarian dishes made from fresh, local ingredients, but has a good choice of meat-based dishes too. Great for watching the world go by.

Address: Laurel avenue
Phone: +63 82 235 0888

Café Mediterranean

With its striking décor of white and black interspersed by brilliant jewel colours, and one of the widest menus of informal international dishes imaginable, the Café Mediterranean is a landmark place to eat in the city. There are light meals from Italy, such as pizza and pasta dishes and Middle Eastern favourite kebabs, plus lots of traditional Filipino delicacies.

Address: Grovenor Sales Street
Phone: +63 82 225 0975
More Info: Chimes Speciality Store

Lin Café

A bright white and turquoise themed eatery, the Lin Café serves fresh regional cuisine that represent good value. There's a special children's menu too and a lengthy range of beverages.

Address: Lakandula street, Agdao
Phone: +63 82 221 2915
Internet: www.linmarrdavao.com

Bistro Rosario

While this attractive little bistro has a good choice of informal light meals based on Filipino and continental recipes, it is famous for its sandwiches, pastries and cakes that are made in its bakery. A good place to stop for a lunch break.

Address: F Torres Street
Phone: +63 82 221 7780

Kopi Roti

Kopi Roti is an import from Singapore, bringing with it super strong andd very tasty coffee as well as breakfast that can be ordered any time of the day.

Address: Tagum
Internet: www.davaodeli.com
More Info: Ground floor of LZ Dental Center, Jacinto Extension

BARS & NIGHTLIFE

Photo: Constantine Agustin

Davao is a lively, cosmopolitan city and as such has a wide choice of nightlife. The options range from refined jazz clubs and piano bars, excellent restaurants with live music, concert events and Davao's famous festivals – and, of course, its famous nightclubs. Music and neon lights penetrate the evening's air every day. Most of the nightclubs and discos can be found in downtown Davao and along the McArthur Highway, and are open into the small hours.

The Venue

Billed as Davao City's ultimate party place, The Venue is capable of hosting up to 1,500 or so people. It has a large dance area and stage where local bands play live music every night, plus throughout the year it hosts music concerts and special festival events. There's dining areas on several floors, a collection of themed bars, a video wall and no less than 24 kinds of billiard tables.

Address: Jacinto Extension
Phone: +63 82 224 4150

Blue Room Jazz Bar

A great place to relax, the Blue Room' has live jazz musicians playing each evening. Cocktails are served, and visitors can enjoy dining on buffet-style food in its Entrée eaterie. The Blue Room Jazz Bar is located within the Apo View Hotel.

Address: J Camus Street
Phone: +63 82 221 6430
Internet: www.apoview.com

O'Flannagan's

Davao may seem like a long way to go to find Irish drinks and cuisine, but a visit to O'Flannagan's should satisfy anyone with a craving for Guinness. The Irish Pub can usually be found full of visitors in animated conversation over their drinks. Meals are large and inexpensive.

Address: Ilustre Street
Phone: +63 82 303 5484

Déjà vu Music Bar

Frequented by trendy young things looking for conversation and good music, the Déjà vu Music Bar is lively and popular.

Address: R Castillo
Phone: +63 82 234 1305

Kristoffer Videoke Bar

When videoke, a sort of karaoke with a technical visual twist, is a must on a holiday agenda then there are few better places to head for than Kristoffer Videoke Bar. It serves the usual range of drinks and light snacks too.

Address: F Inigo Street, Anda
Phone: +63 82 227 5847

SHOPPING

Photo: Constantine Agustin

Shopping in Davao is a serious business and a collection of huge, impressive multi-floored malls that have emerged in recent years proves the point effortlessly. The city is famous for its malls. It's a mecca.

Among the best is the Gaisano Mall in JP Laurel Avenue, which was created with the sole intention of providing a one stop' place for all consumer purchases and entertainment. Here you can purchase everything from ladies and men's fashions, children's gear, cosmetics and perfumes, leather handbags and shoes to household items like soft furnishings, music, videos and confectionery. Big international trading names as well as local stores can be found in this modern complex. There are restaurants and cafes too, along with arcades and multi-plex' style cinema screens.

Another popular mall is the Gaisano South Citimall in Ilustre Street, which has all of the above plus a business centre and ticket offices for air or sea travel. The New City Commercial Centre (NCCC) mall is one of the newest and located just off the McArthur Highway, while the SM Shoemart is one of the Philippines's longest established retailers. It is also one of the leading names in the industry.

The Victoria Plaza shopping mall in JP Laurel, Bajada, takes the shopping experience even further with a large supermarket that sits alongside a department store, business centre, cinema and a collection of specialist stores. Davao has some fabulous markets, too, where everything from fresh produce to jewellery and crafts can be found. It is acceptable to haggle for the best price.

SLEEPING

Photo: Constantine Agustin

Davao City is spared of typhoons and the weather is nice and balmy all year long. The temperature ranges between 20 and 35 degrees Celsius which makes this a popular tourist destination. In order to get the accommodation of your choice, your best bet is to book ahead.

Eden Nature Park

Within the grounds of the Eden Nature Park are delightful holiday cottages where it's possible to really get away from it all. Vista Cottage overlooks a ravine and has a great terrace that looks out over the park. Holiday Lodge is a short distance away and it, too, has lots of facilities. Both are for couples, but there are other lodges, pine cabins and mountain villas that can accommodate up to around 12 people. Campsites are dotted around the park. On site facilities include a swimming pool, animal sanctuary and an activity centre where guests can get information on walks, fishing and hiking trails.

Address: Matina Town Square, McArthur Highway, Matina
Phone: +63 82 299 1020
Internet: www.edennaturepark.com.ph

Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao

A luxurious hotel set within landscaped tropical gardens right on the waterfront of Davao. Its traditional Filipiniana

interiors, open-air spaces in which to relax and its gourmet cuisine makes it a memorable place to stay.

Address: Lanang, Davao City
Phone: +63 82 233 2881
Internet: www.waterfronthotels.net

Marco Polo

Known for its excellent Cantonese cuisine, state-of-the-art fitness and leisure suite and its conference facility, the luxurious centrally-located Marco Polo is a great place to stay whether on business or a holiday break. Be sure to relax with a drink and take in the superb view of Mount Apo from the poolside terrace.

Address: CM Recto Street
Phone: +63 82 225 0111
Internet: www.marcopolohotels.com

Chateau Veronica

Family-owned and known for its homely atmosphere, the Chateau Veronica is delightfully presented with pretty guest rooms, lounge and dining areas. It is centrally located, making it ideal for sightseeing around Davao – all at inexpensive prices.

Address: Araullo Street
Phone: +63 82 222 4826
Internet: chateauveronica.multiply.com

Grand Men Seng Hotel

Located in downtown Davao a few minutes walk from the San Pedro Cathedral and the City Hall, the Grand Men Seng Hotel offers well-equipped guest rooms and leisure facilities such as a pool and fitness suite. It has great views of Mount Apo from its poolside eaterie Ihaw Ihaw, and is popular with visitors and business type because of its fast wireless internet connections.

Address: Magallanes-Anda Street
Phone: +63 82 221 9040
Internet: www.grandmenseng.com

Elles Pension House

A beautifully presented yet inexpensive hotel that is located within easy reach of the Mount Apo National Park. Guest rooms are well presented and have lots of amenities, plus the team serve traditional Filipino dishes in the hotel's attractive lounge restaurant.

Address: Mount Apo Street
Phone: +63 82 221 8499

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Photo: Constantine Agustin

Airport

Flights arrive into Davao International Airport (DVO). Most flights arrive from other airports in the Philippines, but a growing number of international flights arrive from Asian cities like Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, Seoul and also from Indonesia. The airport has a range of facilities, including ATM's and telephones. The best way to make the 20 minute or so journey into the centre of the city is by taxi. Metered and fixed rate taxis can be found outside the airport terminal. Expect to pay around 30 pesos for the journey.

Public Transport

Getting around in Davao is relatively straightforward although you can expect some interruptions if the weather is bad, for example torrential rain. Taxis can be seen everywhere – simply flag one down. The more adventurous forms of transport are the Jeepney, tricycle or pedicab but be sure to have some loose change to pay

ArrivalGuides
the world's largest network of destination information

your driver.

Dentist

There are many clinics and private dental practices in the city, including Maidan Dental Clinic (Tel.+63 82 305 3731) and the Horfilla Rebecca Lagunay Dental Clinic (Tel: +63 82 227 9658).

Internet: www.davaodental.com
More Info: In case of emergency call 911

Pharmacy

Davao has a number of pharmacies, including several JOA Pharmacy outlets, Davao Shoppers' Pharmacy and New Botica Conception.

Phone: +63 82 222 7584
More Info: In case of emergency call 911

Telephone

Country code: 63

Area code: 82

Electricity

220 volts, A.C. 60 cycles. Most hotels have 110-volt outlets.

A
B
C
D
1
2
3
4
Victoria Placa
Sacred Heart Church
Convention Center
Assumption Church
Gaisano Mall
Santa Ana Parish Church
Aglipayan Church
Kingdom Hall
Foursquare
Seventh Day Adventist Church
PTA Grounds
University Mall
JS Gaisano Citimall
Fatima Church
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
San Pedro Cathedral
City Hall
Rizal Park
City Council
Osmena Park
Bonifacio Monument
Agdao Public Market
Magsaysay park
Davao Gulf
Davao River
Circumferential Road
Mabini
Florentino Torres Street
Avancena Street
Manuel Aruallo
Victoria Mapa Street
Tongko Avenue
Lopez Jaena
Camus
C Arellano
Gen Malvar
J Abad Santos
Elpidio Quirino Avenue
San Pedro Ext
Ilustre Street
Ilustre Ext
San Pedro Street
A Pichon Street
Jose Rizal
Bolton Street
Claro M Recto
Palma Gil Street
Ponciano Reyes
Emilio Jacinto Extension
Jose P Laurel Avenue
Alejandro Inigo
J Clarin
A Alzate
P Urduja
Trade School Drive
Jose Nedea
Teodoro Palma Gil
Lupo Diaz
Wenceslao Vinzon
Gonzalo Porras
Pacifico Sobrecarey
Nicasio Torres
Rustico Cabaguio
Dacudao Avenue
J P Cabaguio Avenue
Rafael Castillo Street
Lakandula
Ignacio Villamor Street
Gregorio del Pilar
Cervantes
Lapu-Lapu Street
Leon Garcia Street
A Alvares
6th Street
Rosa Sanz
R Guzman
Santa Anna Avenue
Villa Abrille
Narra
Chaves Street
Damaso Suazo
Monteverde Avenue
Bruno Gempesaw
C Lizada Street
F Bangoy Street
4th Ave
3rd Ave
2nd Ave
1st St
J Fernandez de Guzman
Ramon Magsaysay Avenue
Juan Luna Street
Juan Luna Ext
J de la Cruz
Leon M Guerrero
Pioneer
Quezon Boulevard
D Ponce
Fatima
Pag-asa
Gomez
Faura
Padre
P Zamora
Manuel Roxas Avenue
Mabini
Artigas
de Jesus
P Burgos
Quezon
Andres Bonifacio
Aurora
Jose Rizal Ext
0
250 m

ArrivalGuides
the world's largest network of destination information

1st Street	D2
2nd Avenue	D2
3rd Avenue	D2
4th Avenue	D2
6th Street	C2
A Alvares	D2
A Alzate	B1
A Pichon Street	A4
Alejandro Inigo	B1
Andres Bonifacio	B4
Artigas	B4
Aurora	B4
Avancena Street	A2
Bolton Street	B4
Bruno Gempesaw	C2 C3
C Arellano	A2
C Lizada Street	C2
Camus	A2
Cervantes	C1
Chaves Street	C2 C3
Circumferential Road	A1
Claro M Recto	B3 B4
D Ponce	C3
Dacudao Avenue	D1
Damaso Suazo	C2
de Guzman	D2
de Jesus	B3 B4
Elpidio Quirino Avenue	A3
Emilio Jacinto	B3 C3
Emilio Jacinto Extension	A2 B2
F Bangoy Street	D2
Fatima	C3
Florentino Torres Street	A2
Gen Malvar	A3
Gonzalo Porras	C1
Gregorio del Pilar	C1
Ignacio Villamor Street	C1
Ilustre Extension	A4
Ilustre Street	A3
J Abad Santos	A3
J Clarin	B1
J de la Cruz	C3
J Fernandez	D2
J P Cabaguio Avenue	D1
Jose Nedea	C1
Jose P Laurel Avenue	B1 B2
Jose Rizal	A4
Jose Rizal Extension	B4
Juan Luna Extension	C3
Juan Luna Street	C3
Lakandula	C1 C2 D1
Lapu-Lapu Street	C1 C2
Leon Garcia Street	D1 D2
Leon M Guerrero	C3
Lopez Jaena	A2
Lupo Diaz	C1
Mabini	A2 B3 B4
Manuel Aruallo	A2
Manuel Roxas Avenue	B3 B4 C3
Monteverde Avenue	C2 D2
Narra	C2
Nicasio Torres	C1
P Burgos	B4
P Urduja	B1 C1
P Zamora	B3
Pacifico Sobrecarey	B1 C1
Padre Faura	B3 B4 C3
Padre Gomez	B3
Pag-asa	C3
Palma Gil Street	B3
Pioneer	C3
Ponciano Reyes	B3
Quezon	C4
Quezon Boulevard	B4 C3 C4 D3
R Guzman	B1 B2
Rafael Castillo Street	D1
Ramon Magsaysay Avenue	C3
Rosa Sanz	C2
Rustico Cabaguio	C1
San Pedro Extension	A3
San Pedro Street	A4
Santa Anna Avenue	C2
Teodoro Palma Gil	C1
Tongko Avenue	A2
Trade School Drive	C1
Victoria Mapa Street	A2
Villa Abrille	B2 C2
Wenceslao Vinzon	C1