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**PASEO DE ILOILO & BACOLOD FOR Ms. JOY PENA & FAMILY
JULY 31 – AUGUST 4 , 2023**

ITINERARY

Monday, July 31, 2023

AIRPORT PICK UP PR2141 (Mla - ILO) ETA 9:45AM

CENTRAL ILOILO AND ONWARDS TO MIAGAO

9:45	ETA ILOILO / PICK UP FROM AIRPORT
10:00	DEPART FOR CABATUAN
10:15	BALAY TABLEA TSOKOLATE METATE DEMO WITH LIGHT SNACKS
11:30	DEPART FOR CLARA FARM IN MAASIN OR AREVALO FOR SEADOOD LUNCH
12:00	LUNCH
1:30	START OF COUNTRYSIDE TOUR
2:00	SEAFDEC FISHWORLD
2:30	MIAGAO CHURCH
3:00	MIAGAO HABLON WEAVERS
4:00	BACK TO ILOILO
5:00	DINNER AT BREAKTHROUGH (IN CASE YOU DECIDE TO HAVE LUNCH AT CLARA FARM)
7:00	CHECK IN AT HOTEL
	END OF DAY 1

BALAY TABLEA, CABATUAN – see how tsokolate metate is done. A metate is a slab of rock or volcanic stone that is hand carved and used throughout Latin America to grind cacao, corn, chiles, and many other ingredients. The metate that Ms. Catherine Villobos Taleon uses was handed down to her; this was used to make tsokolate by generations before her. Package Cost of 200/pax includes tsokolate aguada for everyone as welcome drinks, demo of how cacao is turned into tablea. Another round of hot choco in a small cup .. this time Tsokolate espresso with ibus (kakanin made of sticky rice, yummy) and with mangoes, if still in season. This is a hands-on experience that most of my guests love.



CLARA FARM at Maasin

Perhaps 10 minutes away from the Balay Tablea is a small farm run by a banker/entrepreneur / restaurant owner / organic farming practitioner young lady, Myka Perlas. Clara Farm is a 1-hectare Permaculture Demo Farm. Myka describes her place as *"Nestled amidst the bright green colors of sugarcane fields is our slow and sweet naturally maintained farm"*.

Would your family want to visit a farm?

She can whip up a good farm-to-table lunch. The cost would be around 350 per person.

These are some of my recent happy guests.



BAYI BAYI ALONG THE DIVERSION ROAD

From Pavia or Sta. Barbarbara, you can buy the good bayi bayi along the road. Will get some for your family.

Another good place to have lunch is BREAKTHROUGH OR TATOY'S at Villarica de Arevalo. Lunch by the beach ... your choice, no introduction is needed. Either of the two is good. I will just have to get that pulot as some sort of dessert since that one I miss. Hahahah. Yes ... it is the place where you can eat the seafood you're craving for.

We can't go to the Iloilo City Proper Museums yet since this will fall on a Monday and all of the Museums are closed ... So, I suggest that we take the Southern Iloilo Tour.

SEAFDEC FISHWORLD

Kids can see the turtles that have been saved ... and what is interesting here are the *sabalo* and one is even 40 years old. Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center Aquaculture Department in Tigbauan, Iloilo carries one of over 700 sabalo or mother bangus or milkfish breeders (though most of them are male), the biggest being almost 4 feet long and 119 kilograms in weight (as of last week since I was there).

Cool, right? Picture on the left is not mine. The right one is.



[SEAFDEC's mother bangus prolific at 35 - VERA Files](#)

For this afternoon leg, visit the Miag-ao Church - a fortress church included in the UNESCOs World Heritage List and the women hablon weavers of Miagao. Oh, they make UP sablay na hablon.



Trip back to Iloilo, if parents need to rest, they have like an hour to sleep while riding the coaster when we go back to the city. Like this ... ? Oh, this group came from Las Islas de Gigantes with a 4-hour ride. Our guides are not that boring, I swear.



If time permits ...

DISTRICT OF MOLO

Visit the ST. ANNE PARISH CHURCH in Molo, one of my favorite churches in Iloilo. We can have a brief look at the MOLO PLAZA, and the MOLO MANSION which is not really much of a mansion but for small districts like Molo, it is one of the pretty ones that survived the Japanese occupation --- or should I say survived the scorched Earth policy of the guerillas. Molo Mansion is presently owned by the Sys (as in SM) so they have turned it into a Kultura souvenir shop (though I can't guarantee if they are all locally sourced, heheh).



Molo may be a visited before dinner or the day after.

Meal Options

Lunch at Clara Farm (hopefully) there are local fruits that your family can enjoy on those dates).

Lunch or early dinner at Breakthrough or Tatoys

Dinner somewhere near your hotel or in the hotel in case parents are a bit tired.

Check in at your hotel.

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

ILOILO CITY / JARO

8:00 PICK UP FROM HOTEL
8:30 NATIONAL MUSUEM WESTERN VISAYAS
 CASA REAL/ CALLE REAL TOUR
 PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC HISTORY MUSUEM
 PHILIPPINE MARITIME MUSUEM
 LUNCH .. BATCHOY?
1:30 RUNNING TOUR OF THE ANCESTRAL HOMES IN JARO
2:00 JARO CATHEDRAL
2:30 CASA MARIQUIT
3:30 DISTRICT OF MOLO IF THIS WAS NOT DONE ON DAY 1
 PANCIT MOLO
6:00 DINNER
 BACK TO THE HOTEL / REST
 END OF DAY 2

Take the Calle Real Route and visit these museums.

By the way, almost all museums in Iloilo are a wow and FREE!

These are great examples of architectural adaptive reuse.

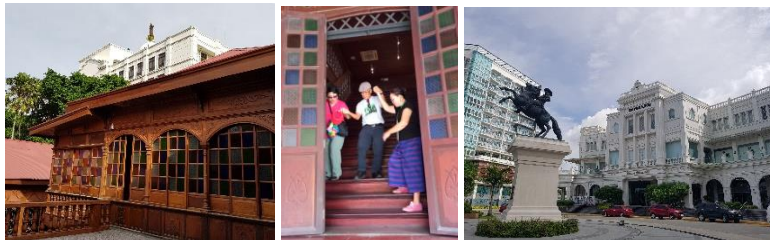
MUSEUM OF PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC HISTORY (the old Ynchausti y Sia Commercial Bldg.)

THE PHILIPPINEMARITIME HISTORY MUSUEM (old Customs House aka Aduana)

THE NATIONAL MUSUEM OF WESTERM VISAYAS (Old Provincial Jail)

UPV MACH - Museum of Arts and Culture (this one is near Molo)

.. and of course, while in Calle Real, you shouldn't miss the QUEEN, the famous Roberto's siopao.



Running Tour of Bonifacio Drive, Lapaz, and the ancestral homes of Jaro.
Stop by: DEOCAMPOS, BISCOCHO HAUS, RGIES for some sampling ..

You might be interested in visiting these places that requires entrance fees:

Casa Mariquit - 50 pesos

Nelly Garden – 250, I think (kinda pricey .. but it is the grandest among all mansions. Well you may view it from afar so it is okay.

ILOMOCA – Iloilo Museum of Contemporary Arts – a three story art gallery and the works are the collection of only one person. Actually a cool place. 100 pesos, I think. There's also the first brandy museum in the country at the ground level of ILOMOCA.

PANCIT MOLO? No problem. Although the gates of garage of where I used to take my friends are now closed to the public, we can still eat the same yummy pancit molo (na walang pancit) at a small resto nearby. Still in a caldero .. with the same yummy goodness that I have I have always loved. The place may not be that fancy but it speaks of what Ilonggos are; very humble and very simple. Kap Ising easily beats the rest of the pancit Molo makers in the district.

While in Molo, we then should not be afraid to try the famous street food that even my sosyal classmates would rave about. These balls never changed their texture and flavor through the years, JOANNE'S FISHBALLS!

AVANCENA BALAY NA BATO is one of my favorite places to bring my guests but now we have to number around 18 for them to prepare lunch or dinner. If there are others who have previously arranged with them, we could join. Separate tables, of course. Walk ins can have a round or two of espresso tsokolate, biscuits and pancit molo for 250 pesos just to see the place. Their ancestral home is more than a hundred years old. Here's a secret: They order from Kap Ising that's why their Pansit Molo is thaaat good.



A stone's throw away is the VILLANUEVA SINAMAY HOUSE. We shall be going there not for Sinamay (similar to hablon) but for Corona Villanueva's cookies. She uses locally sourced ingredients. My favorite are the chewy mango cookies.

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

TRANSFER TO BACOLOD

Choices for Iloilo – Bacolod Trips

Via OceanJet (nicer seats)

7:20 AM

11:00 AM

Via Weesam

6:30 AM

9:50 AM

6:00	Breakfast
8:00	Check out / Pick up
9:30	ETD ILOILO
11:00	ETA BACOLOD
	BACOLOD CITY TOUR
	SAN SEBASTIAN CATHEDRAL
11:30	LUNCH BACOLOD CHICKEN INASAL
1:00	PASS BY BAILON FOR ARTISANAL PIAYA SAMPLING
1:30	NVC SHOWROOM – Meet Ms. Millie Kilayko
	PROVINCIAL CAPITOL AND LAGOON
	NEGROS FOREST PARK
	DEPART FOR TALISAY
3:30	TANA DICANG
5:00	THE RUINS
	YOU MAY OPT FOR A LIGHT DINNER AT THE RUINS
	BACK TO BACOLOD
	REST/ END OF DAY 3

PROVINCIAL CAPITOL AND LAGOON PLUS THE BACOLOD CITY GOVERNMENT CENTER

The Capitolyo is an imposing structure of Romanesque neo-classical architectural design, served as headquarters of the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II. It is presently the official seat of the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental. The Bacolod Government Center has a huge Bacolod signage ... that's about it. Photo ops lang.



NEGROS FOREST PARK

"Our biodiversity conservation center is at the heart of our conservation efforts. Here, we take care in raising and breeding our native Negros wildlife in the hopes of reintroducing them back into our forests, while also educating the public about our amazing wild Negros."

[Negros Forest Park | Talarak Foundation](#)



NVC SHOWROOM

Negrense Volunteers for Change (NVC) Foundation, Inc. was established in August 2010 in Bacolod City, Philippines by private citizens who believe that by pooling the energies, resources, talents, and skills of individuals, we can bring about a better future for Filipinos.

[About Us - NVC Foundation - A Philippine Charity \(nvcfoundation-ph.org\)](#)

If you plan to do some pasalubong shopping, I would rather bring you here ... proceeds go to the foundation. NVC's Nespresso Art is something else ... from mask holders to earrings ... to full scale artworks on the wall. Ms. Millie Kilayko is the President, founder, and Mr. Yu's good friend 😊.



CITY OF TALISAY

BALAY NI TANA DICANG

Among all Balay na Bato ancestral homes (there's only a few Spanish period houses left standing), this one is the best maintained.



THE RUINS

One of Negros Occidental's most iconic landmark. They have a super funny guide named Roger who takes amazing group photos.



THE MUST-TRY LIST WHEN YOU'RE IN NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

Care for some sweets? Of course, there's more than just sugar in Negros but what will your tour be without trying some? After all, Negros Occidental is the land of sweet surprises. Well, I'm a tad too literal here, hahaha.

Try the Halo-halo in Silay, just a hole in the wall kind of place but they make really good halo-halo, 15 concoctions to choose from.

Emma Lacson's savory empanada and yummy pili squares, Silay's lumpia, Virgie's mango tarts, El Ideal's guapple pie, Roli's napoleones, Sharyn's cansi, Felicia's ensaymada, ... the list goes on and I don't think you have the time nor the stomach to fill them all in. Aida's Chicken barbeque (never leave Bacolod without trying one), don't miss this one.

Speaking of Piayas, Bailon Piaya has been in existence for more than 20 years. Its unique and distinctive crunchy dough is neither flaky nor powdery and its inside is lightly coated with naturally sweet muscovado. In Negros, you will come across a lot of piayas but this one tops my list.



Thursday, August 3, 2023

- 9:00 PROCEED TO BAGO
CRIOLLO CACAO FARM OF CHRISTOPHER FADRIGA, AWARD WINNING CRIOLLO
[\(4\) Negros's Padre de Cacao " Bring me cacao... - Virna Ascalon Tan | Facebook](#)
- 11:00 MAY'S ORGANIC GARDEN (OPTIONAL TOUR)
LUNCH AT LANAI BY FRESH START OR KUCINA MARIA OR BOB'S
- 2:00 ORANGE PROJECT AT THE ART DISTRICT
DEPART FOR SILAY, THE LITTLE PARIS OF NEGROS
RUNNING TOUR OF THE ANCESTRAL HOMES
SILAY PRO CATHEDRAL, CALLE LUNA HALO-HALO
- 4:00 HOFILENA ANCESTRAL HOME (My favorite ancestral home in Silay)
- 6:00 GINA'S SEAFOOD PALA (SEAFOOD IN THE CITY)
SHOULD YOU WANT DESSERT: CALEA OR BOB'S CAFÉ
BACK TO THE HOTEL / REST
END OF DAY 4

LANAI BY FRESH START at MAY'S ORGANIC GARDEN

The epitome of a Slow Food restaurant ... not that food is slow-cooked, or service is slow, but the place is definitely anti-fast food. Almost all the ingredients are sourced locally (including the cheese). They have a Slow Food Ark of Taste degustation (prepared in advance) that is a bit pricey at 1500 per person (minimum person is just 2) but it includes everything from appetizers to dessert drinks (welcome drinks, smoothies, and even alcoholic based drinks). I think it is more than just a 6-course meal.

[Dec 5 Arc of Taste sampling at Lanai by Fresh... - Virna Ascalon Tan | Facebook](#)

However, one can choose from their menu which can even be shared. Most of their servings are good for 2. This place is far from the madding crowd. Your parents might be interested in May's Organic Garden tour.

[LANAI by FreshStart | Bacolod City | Facebook](#)

[Lanai by Fresh Start: a hip and trendy organic restaurant – The Bacolod Food Hunters](#)

THE ORANGE PROJECT AT THE ART DISTRICT

The Art District showcases the talents of many young artists and the works other older Negros based artists are there too. The murals are quite "instagramable" (or whatever they call it).



Pics I took of some of my guests. The Orange Project is closed on Sundays but I requested the owner, Charlie Co, to open it for another Charlie (Mr. Yu still has no idea about this).

[Pandemic fuels creativity at Bacolod Art District - Digicast Negros](#)

[Orange Project | Bacolod City | Facebook](#)

Friday, August 4, 2023

Check out / PR2134 (BCD-MNL) ETD 2:30 PM

9:00 CHECK OUT
PASALUBONG SHOPPING

11:30 LUNCH AT STEPHEN'S BALAY PUTI
[Balay Puti Sizzles Back to Life \(negrosseasonofculture.com\)](https://negrosseasonofculture.com/)
[\(1\) Stephen's at Balay Puti | Facebook](#)

1:10 PROCEED TO THE AIRPORT
JUST 7 MINUTES AWAY FROM THE AIRPORT, MORE OR LESS 😊

1:20 ETA BACOLOD SILAY AIRPORT

2:30 ETD BCD VIA PR2134 (BCD-MNL)



Your coaster ...