

YACHT FRIENDLY MOORINGS: MAYA MAYA, BATANGAS

As at March 2006

Located approximately 42 miles from both Manila and Puerto Galera and 50 miles from Subic Bay are the Yacht Friendly Moorings operated by the Maya Maya Yacht Club.

There are usually three doughnut moorings laid a hundred metres or so, due South of Maya Maya's marina entrance. The most seaward mooring is near GPS coordinates N14° 06.875' E 120° 36.818'. More moorings can be made available if you telephone or email in advance -- there are in fact ten sets of ground tackle on the seabed waiting to leap into action.

Maya Maya is nestled in a cove in the northeast corner of Nasugbu Bay, Batangas. It offers a safe, airy mooring and anchorage area during the Amihan season (NE Monsoon) and a completely sheltered marina during the Habagat (SW Monsoon). Set amongst lush tropical canopies of broadleaf trees, the heavy scent of kalachuchi (frangipani) can seduce even the most hardened yachtsmen ashore to partake of well-portioned meals and cool, refreshing drinks at the club's bar and restaurant.

Want to sleep ashore? There are 14 native cottages of nipa / sawali, set amongst eight hectares of trees and facing either the marina or the swimming pool.

In need of a relaxing massage or more in-depth pampering? The Sanctuary Spa is an integral part of Maya Maya's paradise offering to yachtswo/men, and visitors from the city who arrive overland (2-3 hours from Makati).

Only a day-sail (or a morning motor) from Manila Yacht Club ("MYC"), Maya Maya was established as a frequent cruising destination more than thirty years ago. It rapidly grew in popularity to become a de-facto MYC out-station in 1979. It has played host to the international President's Cup Regatta and is a regular destination for the MYC Offshore Race Series.

Today, Maya Maya is probably the best-equipped provincial sailing destination in the country. It boasts the actual 50-ton travel-lift that hoisted Team New Zealand boats in their victorious defence of the America's Cup. The travel-lift rolls along custom-engineered finger-piers correctly proportioned to lift any vessel without risk of damage. Adjacent to the travel lift is an area set aside for repairs and cleaning, and for medium to long-term boat storage. Fuel is available as well as potable water. Basic victuals and other provisions can be found in the nearby town of Nasugbu.

The boutique marina can accommodate up to 40 boats using a Mediterranean style, stern-to-berthing arrangement, and typhoon moorings are available should your reason to visit be to find refuge from an approaching storm.

Approaching Maya Maya from the North it is safest to sail along a transit past Fuego Point to the Calatagan reef and when the mooring location is at a bearing of 050 deg (about three miles from Maya Maya), turn and make your approach. [It is possible to sail along the South shore of Fuego Point into Maya Maya but there is a shoal near to the Twin Islands that is only exposed at low water so this route is not recommended if this is your first visit, and especially not after dark] Approaching from the South it is safest to sail along the same transit between Calatagan reef and Fuego Point until the mooring location is at a bearing of 060 deg.

Once at the moorings you can hail the service boat on marine VHF channel 68 between the hours of 07:00 and whenever the bar closes (when the last customer goes to bed). The mooring-to-shore service boat fee is built into the Php250 (US\$5) per day mooring charge.

If all of the moorings are full when you arrive then it is recommended that you anchor in the area South of the moorings where reasonably good holding (depending upon your anchor type) will be found in sandy mud.

One of the delightful features of mooring hopping around the Philippines is the friendly fisher folk who will paddle by every morning to offer you the catch of the day. In Maya Maya the catch of the day is most frequently lobster, although there seem to be fewer and fewer each year.

Maya Maya is a very convenient location for the nearby residential developments of Kawayan Cove, Terrazas de Punta Fuego, Tali Beach and Peninsula de Punta Fuego.

If you fancy staying a few more days in Maya Maya then you can visit the dive sites near the Twin Islands or go out a little further for some excellent fishing grounds where Marlin, Sailfish, Dorado (Mahi-mahi) and Tanigue can be found during their seasons.

Maya Maya is a mooring location run by yachties for yachties and as such is an excellent place to tie-up for a while to share cruising and racing stories from around the country and farther afield.

Nasugbu Bay and the mooring area are not typhoon shelters but the Maya Maya marina is a safe location to hold up in a storm. Note: the entrance to the marina is a little over two metres deep at low water.

The only reported downside to this mooring destination is that food and drink, and most services ashore are offered at no discount from Manila prices.

To find out more about this cleanest, greenest and most spacious Yacht Friendly Mooring location visit the Maya Maya website (www.mayamaya.com) or telephone +63 918 909-7170 or +63 918 909-7167