

## **YACHT FRIENDLY MOORINGS: CORAL COVE, PUERTO GALERA As at May 2007**

When approaching Puerto Galera from the East (around the Baco Islands (bearing 277°M) or close in past Calapan (289°M)) during the South West monsoon (May to October) it is easy to be tempted by the sheltered coves in Varadero Bay. Indeed the holding for an anchor there is good -- provided you take care to drop the hook sufficiently far from the small coral outcrops. However, just installed in time for the 2007 cruising season are three, sheltered, Yacht Friendly Moorings close to Escarceo Point that should not be missed.

The three moorings (distinctive drums with orange and yellow bands) lie just off the beach in deep water, facing the Coral Cove Resort (approx Lat N13° 30.95' Long E120° 59.10'); from Baco/Calapan just head for the northern most, prominent red-and-white communications tower. The resort has installed them to offer respite to weary skippers and crew who seek a friendly welcome; they were also installed to attract the day-sailor who seeks a tummy stuffing lunch or a maybe a night away, who doesn't want to bother with hauling anchor ropes on a full stomach or having crew complaining of roughed-up hands.

The resort does not operate a regular radio listening service but you can telephone them during most hours of the day and night. From the moorings take you dinghy in close to the West wall of the resort pier; there is a cleared, ten meter wide channel along the West wall of the pier, avoiding the rocks all the way in to the beach.

The Coral Cove Resort is famous for its proximity to some of Puerto Galera's most scuba-dived attractions (Sinandigan Wall, the Boulders, Japanese Wreck, House Reef and Turtle Rock) and a significant part of its business is derived from introducing local and international scuba diving enthusiasts to the marine-life-abundant, deliciously-clear-waters of the Verde Island Passage. However the resort is rapidly becoming a popular destination for all sun-seeking visitors who wish the peace and tranquility that was once the hallmark of every beach in and around Puerto Galera.

For the visiting yachtsman there is a well proportioned menu with a comprehensive selection of international dishes plus a range of tropical drinks as well as the more conventional. There are basic shower facilities attached to the dive shop and a place to dry wet clothes. Or, if your "night away" happens to be a Saturday, you can feast on the convincingly genuine Indian curry buffet dinner. Well appointed rooms are available at sensible prices with a range of styles from discrete cottages for two, to larger family rooms; all are air-conditioned and with cable television, so you can relax in comfort and catch up on the latest news and movies. The restaurant area is a free WiFi zone, so you can bring your laptop ashore and plan the next leg of your trip in comfort.

For the pleasure seekers on the yacht the Coral Cove Resort will shortly open their own spa: Indulgence. Especially designed to pamper and please the traveller's senses when s/he feels the need for the finer things in life . . . or just for a change of pace. Slip into the Jacuzzi or get steamed before a massage; or after, if that is your fancy.

Although it is not likely that the cruising yachtsman will have the requirement, within the resort there is a fully serviced conference and seminar facility with all the latest gadgets to make an impact on the assembled audience.

If staying here for a couple of days then the Coral Cove Resort could be a base to explore the nearby attractions in the towns of Sabang and Puerto Galera. Sabang offers a 24 hour entertainment scene that is guaranteed to please anyone seeking distraction from the ocean swells; Puerto Galera contains a market and stores in abundance to refill depleted ice boxes and larders aboard – possibly the best pizzas in the Philippines are available along the ferry pier. Potable water can be acquired and fuel is available in Puerto Galera town.

Replaced your provisions? Then maybe its time for a dive, a round of golf or a splash in the waterfalls; hiking in the rain forested hills can be arranged or relive your youth at the Puerto Galera Yacht Club's regular Wet Wednesday (afternoon), fun dinghy sailing events.

If you do not own a yacht then another reason to use the moorings could be to fill a banka (locally designed outrigger boat used extensively around the Philippines to transport any number of people) with your friends or colleagues and just head on over to Coral Cove for a day of fun in the sun. On the day that we visited, the moorings became temporary home to a banka full of Manila executives from a well known telecommunications company who were on a team-building course.

The Coral Cove Resort Yacht Friendly Moorings will provide you with the perfect introduction to the many attractions of Puerto Galera as well as delivering a taste of how Mindoro used to be before it was “discovered”.

Note: the moorings are not considered typhoon-safe; the nearest typhoon shelter is in the nearby Muelle and Dalaruan bays.

For more information contact the Coral Cove Resort directly: telephone +63 43 287 3220; email [info@coral-cove.com](mailto:info@coral-cove.com); or, website [www.coral-cove.com](http://www.coral-cove.com).