

YACHT FRIENDLY MOORINGS – PANDAN ISLAND

As at October 2005

Our first yacht-friendly mooring location is Pandan Island on the West coast of Mindoro, a good day sail or, more likely, an overnighter from Puerto Galera.

Pandan Island is a small, private, eco-tourism resort with 17 bungalows/rooms and a PADI dive center; the rest of the island is uninhabited. Apart from a designated mooring/anchorage area the whole reef around the island is a protected marine park.

Pandan Island is the only resort on the West coast of Mindoro and is the gateway to Apo Reef. For cruising yachts from Puerto Galera en route to Coron, Busuanga it is the perfect midpoint, being 90NM from both the Puerto Galera Yacht Club and Coron town.

There are two moorings available for day visitors:

Mooring 1:	12° 51.331 north	120° 45.266 east	depth: around 20 metres
Mooring 2:	12° 51.406 north	120° 45.304 north	depth: around 4 metres

Pandan Island also offers good anchorage for all sizes of vessels (up to 31 metres) south west of the beach, in fair and medium weather conditions. For vessels with less than 2 metre draft there is a sandy area about 4 metres deep, vessels with more draft need to anchor further offshore in about 25 metres of water (good holding in mud). N.B. Avoid dropping your anchor between the two areas as the steep slope may cause your anchor to drag in northerly winds.

The resort boasts a tropical restaurant with lunch and dinner buffet style dining, especially fresh fish, seasonal fruits and vegetables. Short order spaghetitis, burgers, sandwiches, soups or salads are also available. A buffet meal runs about US\$7 per person; beers less than US\$1.

At the dive shop you can rent everything you need and they offer courses for all levels. All dive sites around Pandan Island are within short distance from the beach or you can take a longer trip out to the amazing Apo Reef on the custom dive-catamaran.

Need a day in a bed that does not move with the waves? The resort offers family houses, standard bungalows and budget rooms. As an eco-tourism resort, all of the electricity needed to run the lights etc. comes from a solar system (12V) installed in each cottage; 220 V outlets are available for charging batteries for cell phone, video camera or flash. For the communicably bound, both Globe and Smart signals are good and there is an Internet Café (US\$3 per hour).

Sports and stuff: volleyball, ocean kayaks, petanque, darts, pool/billiards, ping pong and a babysitter can be arranged.

If you panic in the peace and tranquility and just need to know there is a big island nearby, a 1.5 mile banka trip will deliver you to Sablayan town (30,000 inhabitants) from where you can get road transport to the provincial capitol, San Jose, where there are daily ferry services to Batangas and scheduled flights by South East Asian Airlines (SEAIR).

Nearest Typhoon shelter: San Jose harbour, GPS Position: 12° 20' N 121.0° E; 40NM distance from Pandan Island

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