

DS DAVAO CITY: THE PREMIERE

DS
Tourist trade-Davao
P-7

also - Davao

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ATENEO DE DAVAO
Population

Dubbed with pride by Davaoños as the "Premier City of Mindanao, the land of promise" is Davao City, a real pearl of a tourist spot which is well worth the time and money of any pleasure-loving traveller to see and enjoy. For among its many tourists' attractions is a real honest-to-goodness pearl farm of the prominent Aguinaldo family, which produces cultured pearls that can equal in quality those produced in the more highly developed cultured pearl farms of Japan.

GEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION

The name "Davao" is tacked not only to Davao City itself but to the three provinces as well into which the area was subdivided, namely, Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte and Davao Oriental. Geographically, they cover 19,499 square kilometers or 7,526.61 square miles.

On the western shores of Davao Gulf lies Davao City, which is some 600 air miles southeast of, and only 1½ hours by jet, from Manila. Occupying an area of 214,000 hectares, it is often referred to as "the largest city in the world."

Davao City is relatively free from typhoons, a natural occurrence for about 6 months of the year, because of her natural deep harbors. Being so favorably located, the City is a shipping terminal for goods destined for southeastern Mindanao provinces and also for export commodities for shipment abroad as well as a port of entry for the country's importations.

Sources of research materials and photos: PAL, BTTI and PTTA.

Davao City, dubbed "the fastest growing city in the Philippines," is a "melting pot" of sorts in southern Philippines with more than four fifths of its inhabitants coming from all over the country. Name any dialect and chances are one will hear it spoken there. The Cebuano-speaking Visayans constitute the dominant group, followed closely by aggrupations of Ilocanos, Bicolanos, Tagalogs and Pangasinenses, though not necessarily in that order. It lays its claim to being the fastest growing city in the Philippines on the rather rapid increases in population which has risen sharply from 6,059 in 1903; 21,204 in 1918; 95,546 in 1939; 111,263 in 1948; 225,712 in 1960 and to an estimated whopping 750,000 in the '70s by City officials.

Culture

It is not easy to describe the culture of most developing communities. This is also true of Davao. However, it would not be saying a falsehood to say that the Spanish tradition has become its womb, as it were, which has given birth to its western way of living. In summation, the people of Davao may be described as strongly Malay in race, Spanish in heart, American in thinking, yet strictly Oriental in customs.

Climatic Condition

To the tourists who have been subjected to the heat and humidity of other tropical cities, hopping on to Davao will be a much welcome relief. Shielded from typhoons spawned in the Pacific which frequently wreak havoc in some portions of the Philippines, this beau-

tiful city in the south enjoys fair weather throughout the year, its climate mild and pleasing, what with it perennially fanned by the cool breeze from the sea and bisected by the big Davao river. Davao City indeed combines the ideal of a tropical paradise with big city conveniences.

Tourist Attractions

Davao Insular Hotel

Speaking of city conveniences, tourists who have been accustomed to such need no fear of going without them once they set foot in Davao. As of last year's record, there were no less than 25 hotels here with a total of 792 rooms. Of these, three have first class facilities that will meet the standards of the most meticulous tourist coming from Europe or America: the Davao Insular Hotel, the Apo View Hotel and the Imperial Hotel. The Davao Insular Hotel which is only seven kilometers from the heart of the city, is more than just a hotel: it is a landmark and an attraction, sprawling majestically on a lot fringed by tall cool coconut groves (see picture) and facing the legendary Samal island across Davao Gulf. This 104-room hotel was constructed at a cool cost of P6 million. Considered the country's plushiest, the Insular Hotel blends its modernity with abundant splashes of Muslim motif.

Mt. Apo

Of Davao's natural attractions, foremost is Mt. Apo, the Philippines' highest peak. This giant of a mountain-attraction rises to an arrogant 9,610 feet on a 6,900-hectare area, which has been declared a national park. Among its

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scenic attractions: the Malasita Falls, the Sibulao Lake, and the Kisante Hot Springs.

Iñigo Farm

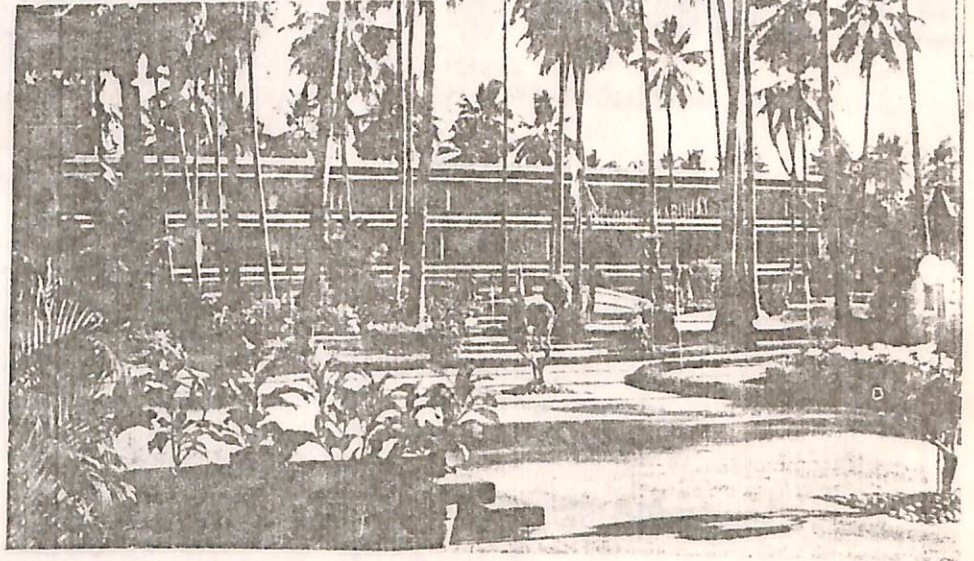
The 270-hectare Bago Iñigo fish farm is some 12 kilometers south of Davao City. Nowhere in the whole country can one find multicolored carps as in this fish farms, where they freely swim about in dazzling colors of yellow, gold, green, red, orange and black in more than two dozen ponds and lagoons (see picture). And surrounding the ponds are Philippine fruit trees whose variety can be summed up this wise: Name it, and nine out of ten we have it here in the Bago Iñigo Estate.

Talomo Beach

Davao City's biggest resort: this is Talomo Beach which, if proper-



Children playing with the multicolored carps in one of the famous Bago Iñigo fish farms, where they freely swim about in dazzling colors of yellow, gold, green, red, orange and black.



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ly developed, can compare with the world's best swimming spots. Weekends and holidays, Talomo Beach is practically teeming with business executives and ordinary office workers either cavorting in the clear blue waters or just strolling in the sun-drenched and coconut-colonaded sandy beach. Only 15-minute ride by car or jeep from the city proper.

Davao Penal Colony

This rich penal colony - it turns over to the government some P2 million every year from such products as abaca, ramie, cacao, coffee, rice and kenaf - is a 10,000 - hectare affair, sixty kilometers north of Davao City. With the introduction of rubber into the colony, its contribution to the government coffers will be greatly increased in two or three more years.

The Davao Penal Colony has a piggery, a poultry and fish ponds, a modest zoo and a botanical garden, that will surely be a delight to plant and animal lovers.

Folk Arts Center

The Mindanao Folk Arts Center - within the campus of the Philippine Women's College of Davao - was established in July 1957 as the PWC's repository of the indigenous art forms and folkways of the different ethnic groups in Mindanao. Since then, it has collected artifacts representative of native artistic skills and inventiveness as expressed in metal work, woodcarving and painting, textile weaving, jewelry, musical instru-

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