

2010 Fact sheet

- Transfers** The airport can be a little confusing. Here are some simple instructions for finding our driver depending on whether you arrive with a) PAL or B) Cebu Pacific or C) All Other Airlines
- a) After collecting your bags exit the terminal. Outside the terminal turn right and walk past the Coffee shop. Just beyond this point are barriers. Our driver will be here and will have a signboard with your name and 'Frontier Scuba'. Identify yourself and the driver will help you with your bags.
 - b) Exit the baggage hall and turn left. You will see the driver standing opposite the exit with a guest name board.
 - c) Collect your bags and exit the terminal. You must then cross the service road and take the stairs down to the lower service road. On the other side of the lower service road you will see barriers with people waiting for friends. Our drivers will wait under the letter 'F' with a signboard with your name and 'Frontier Scuba'. Identify yourself and the driver will help you with your bags

If you can't see the driver please call us on 0917 540 8410 or our head driver Rey at 0928 506 7579. We can tell you exactly where the driver is waiting. On departure there is a \$20 / P 750 exit tax.

Money There is only one ATM machine in Puerto Galera and it is usually broken. It is best to bring cash [pesos or any major currency] Money can be changed in Sabang at a good rate of exchange.

Credit cards Almost all businesses in Puerto Galera add 7% for credit cards, so bring one for an emergency but plan to pay for most things with cash [including at the dive center].

Health While it is unusual for people to fall sick here we do recommend that you get **travel/health insurance** with your travel agent. Malaria, typhoid, cholera or yellow fever shots are not required. Medicines are easily available in town, however it is a good idea to bring any prescription medicines that you require.

Equipment Our rental equipment includes BCD, regulator, dive computer, mask, fins and snorkel. If bringing your own equipment plan on a 3mm wetsuit from late March until early December and then a 5mm suit for January, February and early March (or 3mm full suit with hooded vest) Don't forget to bring your c-card and logbook!

- Budget** How much to bring? It is much cheaper to live here than in the west and meals, cloths, gifts and drinks are all cheap. Peso 2000 a day would be a rough guide, but if you plan to eat and drink a lot then bring a bit more.[Sep 2010: \$1 = P45]
- Clothes** Dress is very informal in Puerto Galera. Bring mostly light summer clothes (see Weather for year round temperatures). Shorts and T-shirts and polo shirts are cheap and available everywhere here. When visiting government offices or churches long trousers or skirt are required. Vans and shopping malls in Manila are heavily air-conditioned so a sweater is recommended. The final rule would be: If you think you don't have enough then you've probably carrying too much!
- Doctors** There is a 24-hour clinic and dentist in Sabang. All medical services are private so it is highly recommended to have full travel insurance
- Insurance** We highly recommend that every diver has dive insurance . If you plan on doing deep, technical courses you must have insurance that covers you to the maximum depth of the course
- Internet** There is a local internet cafe located in the center of Sabang. The dive centre and restaurant have free WiFi access
- Electricity** Voltage is 220v/60Hz. Plugs are flat two pin
- Sikat** The Sikat is a tourist bus/ferry service that leaves the City State Tower Hotel in Manila (and return from Puerto) everyday at 0800. The trip takes about 4 hours, is safe and costs approximately Peso 1400 for the round trip.
- Markets** Two small supermarkets in Sabang supply almost of what you might need. Food, drinks and toiletries are all available. Milk and diapers are also available for babies. Tampons and contact lens solution are not available.
- Tipping** Tipping at the restaurant, resort or dive is always welcome. Most establishments have a tip box where you can tip the whole staff. In Manila Taxis usually expect a 10% tip. Porters or boatmen carrying bags are usually paid P50 a bag.
- Visas** Most nationalities: with a return air ticket you will be issued a 21 day visa at the airport. Please check to see that your country does

not require a visa in advance. For longer stays it is best to apply for a 59 day visa at the Philippine embassy in your own country. After 59 days you can get another extension of 2 months for approximately Peso 3000.

Weather The Philippines is generally hot year round, with the summer being quite hot and humid. Unlike the rest of the Philippines our rainy season is short

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| Winter | Average 28C sunny and dry,. Water temperature 25C |
| Summer | Average 33c Hot and humid from March to July, with May and June being the hottest months |
| Monsoon | Average 32c July to the end of August. It usually rains only in the early morning and early evening. |
| Autumn | Average 30c Hot and dry in September and October, starting to cool down in November. December is the beginning of the winter and can sometimes be rainy. |
| Typhoon season | Typhoons generally don't hit Puerto Galera and aren't dangerous in our area. They come through the Philippines from July to October and can affect diving for just 2 days. |

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