

SUBIC BAY



Subic Bay Freeport (SBF) is located southwest of the Luzon Island in the Philippines. The harbor is sandwiched by the Zambales Mountain Range at the east and the Subic Bay at the west and opens up to the South China Sea. It is northwest of the Bataan Peninsula and southwest of the Zambales Province. SBF is 110 kilometers north of Manila. Manila Bay and the Bataan Peninsula separate SBF from Manila. The mountain ranges around the Subic Bay area and the deep natural harbor provide excellent and protected anchorage. In addition, these features make SBF naturally sheltered from typhoons as well as from the effects of the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo.

SBF belongs to Region III or the Central Luzon Region. It is one of the points in the growth triangle and is an engine for economic development in the region. SBF is a supplier of services and products for the Central Luzon Development Program (CLDP), a regional growth area composed of the provinces of Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bataan, and Zambales.

The Olongapo area is exploding as a tourist destination with the number of both domestic and international guest on the rise. The transformation of the Subic Navy base into an economic zone with a concentration of recreational activities and a wide variety of accommodations has placed a new tourist destination on the map. Domestic tourists, especially those from Manila, are seeing the area as a qualified alternative to many other tourist destinations. The area most people refer to as "subic" or "Subic Bay" is the area around Subic Bay including the Subic Bay Freeport zone (SBF sometimes wrongly called SBMA), Olongapo City and near by communities in Zambales and Bataan provinces. The area makes an interesting tourist destination with jungle activities, water sports, wreck diving a wide range of night life and accommodations as well as many historical and natural sites.



The recent improvements in the Northern Expressway and the new Subic-Clark-Tarlac expressway SCTEx are bringing the area closer and closer. The rapid expansion of tourism facilities on the Subic Bay Freeport balanced by the Eco-tourism and the attraction of the Bay brings people for a variety of experiences. The



International tourist is what is really leading the way to the growth of Subic Bay. The number of visitors from other Asian countries is growing so fast that it is hard to keep pace. The increase in the number of flights and destinations at the Subic International Airport and the airport at the Clark Special Economic Zone in Angeles City is opening the area up to these international guests. It is human nature to ignore your own backyard, but it is time for the domestic tourists to look around and ask themselves what they are missing. Olongapo is for everyone's budget. Subic hotels are a value. There are Hotels & Resorts in all price ranges and cater to all sorts of activities. The number of Subic Bay hotels are increasing. Olongapo is much like a merging Honolulu, a combination city and tourist haven.