



Kayangan Lake, The Jewel of Coron

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Summer is synonymous with swimming. In the Philippines, you'll never run out of places you can go to for a swim, what with its countless beaches lining its long kilometric coastline. And then, there are its numerous lakes. One of the best is Kayangan Lake, said to be one of the cleanest lakes in Asia.

Kayangan Lake is located on the northern tip of Coron Island, a 20-minute boat ride away from Coron town on the island of Busuanga in the province of Palawan. The lake is part of the ancestral domain of the Tagbanuas, an indigenous tribe, said to be the guardians of its pristine waters.

To get to the lake from where your boat docks, you need to hike up a hill along a narrow clearing lined by rough stone steps, marked by crude bamboo railings. There are more than a couple hundred steps in all, and it can be steep and slippery in some parts. Trees and thick vegetation line the earthen path on both sides.

About ten minutes into your uphill climb, stop at a viewing point near a small cave where you can get an awesome view of Kayangan Bay below and linger for a few moments to soak in the scene. Then, continue your hike for a few more minutes. Start your descent into the interior where you'll find the placid lake surrounded by towering limestone cliffs, typical of the topography in the area. You'll immediately feel as if you've been transported to another world, a fascinating world of clear, liquid emerald, sparkling under the sun.

The water is so clean, you can almost see the bottom of the lake, which is about ten feet deep. Underwater are interesting rock formations around which you can swim or snorkel to your heart's content. You can feed the tiny fish that seem to welcome your presence or take the most memorable snapshots with your friends. Or, you can simply commune with the beauty of nature that surrounds you. You can rest on a bamboo raft and just drift with the tide, while time slowly slips away. 📷

Experience world class beauty as you take a swim in one of Asia's cleanest lakes.