Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park

Facts about Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park

The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park is a protected area of the Philippines located about 80 kilometres (50 mi) north of the city centre of Puerto Princesa, Palawan. The river is also called Puerto Princesa Underground River. The national park is located in the Saint Paul Mountain Range on the western coast of the island. It is bordered by St. Paul Bay to the north and the Babuyan River to the east. The City Government of Puerto Princesa has managed the National Park since 1992. The entrance to the subterranean river is a short hike or boat ride from the town of Sabang.

In 2010, a group of environmentalists and geologists discovered that the underground river has a second floor, which means that there are small waterfalls inside the cave. They also found a cave dome measuring 300 m (980 ft) above the underground river, rock formations, large bats, a deep water hole in the river, more river channels, and another deep cave, as well as marine creatures and more. Deeper areas of the underground river are almost impossible to explore due to oxygen deprivation.

On November 11, 2011, Puerto Princesa Underground River was provisionally chosen as one of the New7Wonders of Nature. This selection was officially confirmed on January 28, 2012. (source https://nature.new7wonders.com/wonders/puerto-princesa-underground-river-philippines/)

Photo credits to EV Antolino
Hote to get there from Puerto Princesa City
From Hue Hotel (Puerto Princesa City) it will take you approx. 1.5 hrs to 2 hrs of land travel going to Sabang Wharf depending on traffic.

From Sabang Wharf, guest will be escorted to the motorized boats going to the entrance of the Underground River. The estimated waiting time before boarding is 15 min. per group. Travel time from Sabang Wharf to the entrance of the Underground River is 20 mins.
Additional notes:
There will be 3 vans that will service the participants from the hotel going to Sabang Wharf. Each van will also have a tour guide which will give an orientation before the start of the tour. The duration of the Underground River tour is approximately 1 hour from the starting point. Guests are also provided with individual audio device which provides the history and wonderful facts about the Underground River as your guide navigates your boat inside the cave. Safety measures are also implemented such as wearing of life vests and hard hats.

Attire of the day:
The guests are encouraged to wear comfortable clothes for the tour. For example, T-shirts, shorts, slippers and rash guard (optional). You can also wear pants but please expect to get your feet wet when we arrive at the beach/entrance of the river. You can also bring sunblock and hats as protection from the heat of the sun.

What to bring:
Guests can bring mobile phones and cameras during the tour (AQC will also provide dry bags to the participants to protect your belongings from getting wet)

What not to bring:
Guests are advised not to bring any kind of food and drinks inside the underground river. Snacks and beverages will only be allowed at Sabang Wharf.