

developed as a world class recreation and tourism center.

Portabaga Falls in Sta. Praxedes is the tallest falls in the province. It has three drop off points and a big man-made catch basin.

The **Cagayan River** or **Rio Grande de Cagayan** is the mightiest watercourse and the longest and widest river in the Philippines. Small streams originating from Balete Pass, Cordillera, and Sierra Madre mountains meet other streams and rivers and flow to the Cagayan River.

Aparri Delta is an expanse of water where Cagayan River meets the China Sea. The **Buntun Bridge** in Tuguegarao, the second longest bridge in the country, offers an unobstructed view of the Cagayan River.

Other places to visit are the **Cagayan Provincial Museum and Historical Research Center**, the **Miraculous Lady of Piat**, **St. Peter's Cathedral**, the **Iguig Calvary Hills**, and the **Parish of St. James the Great** where you can find larger than life-size concrete 14 stations of the cross depicting Jesus Christs' suffering before his death at Mount Calvary.

Buses plying Cagayan are **Armel Trans**, **Lal-lo Bus Line**, **Malamug Trans**, **Caltran Bus. Co.**, **Nelbusco**, **Piat Auto Bus**, **Baliwag Transit Inc.**, **Dagupan Bus Co.**, **Dangwa/Greenland Busline**, **Royal Eagle**, **Royal Tours**, and **Victory Liner**, among others.

Water & Power Supply

Water sources come from the **Cagayan River** and **Chico River** with its tributaries being distributed to the **National Irrigation Administration** and other local water districts in the municipalities of Tuguegarao, Solano, Aparri, Gonzaga, Gattaran, Sanchez-Mira, and Claveria.

All municipalities of Cagayan except Calayan are served with power sources from the **Cagayan Electric Cooperative I (CAGELCO I)** and the **Cagayan Electric Cooperative II (CAGELCO II)**. CAGELCO I cover the municipalities of Tuguegarao, Solano, Enrile, Amulung, Alcala, Piat, Rizal, Iguig, Sto Niño, Tuao, Baggao, Peñablanca, while CAGELCO II cover the municipalities of Aparri, Buguey, Sta. Ana, Sanchez-Mira, Gonzaga, Sta. Praxedes, Sta. Teresita, Camalaniugan, Lal-lo, Gattaran, Lasam, Allacapan, Pamplona, Abueg, Claveria, and Ballesteros.

Telecommunication Facilities

Telephone, including direct dialing, FAX messages, and other communication services are provided by the following telecommunication firms: **RCPI** with three branches in Tuguegarao, Claveria, and



Ballesteros; **PT&T** in Tuguegarao, Aparri, Claveria, and Ballestros; **PLDT** at Burgos St., Tuguegarao, Cagayan; **Telecommunications office** at San Gabriel, Tuguegarao; **Government Regionl Telephone System** at San Miguel, Tuguegarao, and branches at Aparri, Buguey, Solona, Ballesteros, Lal-lo, Sanchez-Mira, Claveria, Pamplona, and Piat.

Media Infrastructure

There are five local newspapers in Cagayan which are published weekly at Tuguegarao. These are: *Metro Post* with 1,000 copies, *Cagayan Star* with 1,000 copies, *Northern Post* with 2,500 copies, *Northern Forum* with 2,500 copies, and *Valley Inquirer* with 300 copies.

Cagayan have five AM radio stations and three FM stations. The AM stations are: **DZCV** (5 kw) of the Pilipinas Broadcasting Network, **DZYT** (5 kw) of the Nation Broadcasting Corporation, **DWPE** (10 kw) of the Philippine Broadcasting Service, **DZGR** (5 kw) of the People's Broadcasting Services, and **DZTG** (5 kw) of the Radio Philippine Network. The FM stations are: **DWRJ** (5 kw) of the Rajah Broadcasting Network, **DWXY** (2 kw) of the Vanguard Radio Network, **Star FM** (5 kw) of the New Sound.

There is presently no television station in the province.

March 2001

PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN

A PROFILE



REGION II

Developed by the
Philippine Information Agency
OPS

Cagayan



Cagayan got its name from the Ilocano word *karayan* or river referring to the Rio Grande de Cagayan, also called the Rio Ibanag by the early Spanish settlers. Others say that the name was derived from the word *tagay*, a kind of plant that grows abundantly in the northern part of the province. Thus, *katagayan*, which means a place where the *tagay* grows abundantly was shortened to *Kagayan*, the present name of the province.

Cagayan today is the regional seat of Region II. The town has 29 municipalities. These are: Abulug, Alcala, Allacapan, Amulung, Aparri, Baggao, Ballesteros, Buguey, Calayan, Camalaniugan, Claveria, Enrile, Gattaran, Gonzaga, Iguig, Lal-lo, Lasam, Pamplona, Peñablanca, Piat, Rizal, Sanchez-Mira, Solana, Sta. Ana, Sta. Praxedes, Sta. Teresita, Sto. Niño (Faire), Tuao, and Tuguegarao, the capital town which is the seat of commerce and trade, and center for learning. The towns and 820 barangays are spread over an expanse of 9,002.7 square kilometers.

Geography & Climate

The province is bounded by the Sierra Madre mountain on the east, on the south by Isabela province, on the west by the Cordillera mountain, and on the north, the Balintang Channel, Babuyan Channel, and the China Sea.

About two kilometers from the northeastern tip of the province is the Island of Palau, a few kilometers to the west is Fuga Island. The Babuyan group of Islands which include Calayan, Dalapuri, Camiguin, and Babuyan Claro is about 50 to 60 nautical miles north of Luzon mainland.

The seasons in Cagayan are not very pronounced. Dry season occur during the months of March to June, and rainy season from July to October, although it is relatively cold during the months of November to February.



A furniture-maker at work in a shop at Tuguegarao City.

Population, Languages & Dialects

Cagayan has a total population of 895,050 as of 1995 with a 1.43 percent annual growth rate.

Ybanag, Ytawes, and Malaweg are the dialects spoken by the people with Ilokano as the prominent language. Other ethnic groups that migrated to the province speak their own dialects. People in places where literacy is high, speak and understand Tagalog and English.

Commerce & Industry

Rice, corn, peanut, beans, and fruits are the agricultural products in Cagayan. Common livestock include cattle, hogs, carabaos, and its poultry products in the province. Fishing is also a common livelihood source along the coastal towns of the province. Other sources of livelihood are woodcraft furniture-making made of hardwood rattan and other indigenous materials.

Investment Areas

The hum of business activities are constant backdrop to Cagayan's life, especially for those in Tuguegarao and Aparri. Tuguegarao, the capital town is the seat of commerce and trade center for learning. The province has the largest marine fishing grounds and 73 percent of the region's potential fish pond area.

The province is also being promoted for adventure and ecotourism destination. Retail trade and manufacturing are the main pre-occupations of the people. Some of their products are peanuts, *longanisa*, milk candy, rattan and narra handicrafts for souvenirs.

Growth Areas

The launching of the municipality of Sta. Ana as one of two regional industrial centers (RIC) in the region has given good opportunities for manufacturing and commercial industries in the province. Among the projects in Sta. Ana's RIC development pipeline is an export processing zone, more roads, an additional port, specifically Port Irene which is being developed as an international port of call, as well as power and telecommunication facilities.

Modern Infrastructure

Tuguegarao, the capital town of Cagayan is 163.8 km. from Manila by land through the Maharlika Highway. It is also a 45-minute plane ride away from Tuguegarao airport.

Ships may dock in either of Cagayan's two ports: the 4,000 sq. m. port of Aparri, a commercial seaport, which can accommodate 31,407 metric tons of cargo; and the 40,000 sq. m. port of Sta. Ana, one of the Philippine's major ports for domestic and international shipping port. Sta. Ana has a 133 linear wharf. Cagayan also has three minor ports in Claveria, San Vicente, and Camiguin which are mainly used by the local fishing industry.

Accommodations & other Facilities

The province has sufficient hotels and lodging inns most of which are located in Tuguegarao. These are: **Hotel Lorita, Hotel Roma, Hotel Delfino, Ivory Hotel and Convention Center, Hotel Candice, Casa Ludivina, Pension Abraham, Hotel Michaela and Restaurant, and Pampangueña Pension.**



The Cagayan-Apayao concrete road at Mungo section is a big boost to the province's economy.



One of the signs of development in the province is the construction of this school building.

The **Bassig Hilltop Resort and Mini Zoo** with recreational facilities is in Peñablanca, **Lakay-lakay Lodge** in Claveria, and **St. Patrick Garden Hotel.** These accommodations have complete facilities where tourists and visitors can relax.

Tours & Transport

Cagayan is rich with breathtaking places of interest, natural, man-made and historical. Some of these are: the **Callao Caves Tourist Zone** of Peñablanca 24 kilometers from Tuguegarao. The seven-chambered Callao Caves boast of massive limestone and rock formations, skylights, and chapels. Other pristine and undisturbed caves with living rock formations in the area include **Sierra Cave, Quibal Cave, Odessa-Tumbali Cave System, Jackpot, ROC and San Carlos**, among others. These caves can be explored with guides from the Sierra Madre outdoor club. More than 300 caves dot the area, 75 of which have been documented by the National Museum since 1977. Within the area is the **Pinacanauan River** conducive for river rafting or boating and swimming, while the mountains are perfect for trekking and mountaineering. Daily circadian flights of bats from a bat cave occur at dusk.

Passenger jeepneys leave Don Domingo public market in Tuguegarao everyday for Callao Caves Resort, the only accommodation facility available at the Callao Caves tourist zones.

Jackpot Cave is located at Sitio Tumallao, Barangay Quibal in Peñablanca at 115 meters, the second deepest cave in the Philippines. The cave has walking size passage, with shafts and drops of varying depths that provide for a lot of rope works.

Meandering streams and four pools of varying sizes abound inside the cave. A sump of undetermined depth is flooded from the lower section of the cave to the roof during rainy season as evidenced by logs jammed on the roof of the cave.

Odessa-Tumbali Cave System is the third longest cave in the Philippines. It is approximately 12.60 kms. with five entrances with potential to exceed its length to 15 kilometers. The cave has superb formations and passage shapes, canals and lakes for swimming and cave diving opportunities. It is also a good subject for photographers.

San Carlos Cave is the toughest cave in the Philippines. A chamber called the "ice cream parlor" contains clusters of white stalagmites that resemble scooped ice cream.

The **John the Baptist Chamber** is a very deep underwater sump that one has to take a deep breath to dive and swim to the other side of the chamber. Sharp and rough stones could scratch skin and tear clothing. The half of the cave is covered by a cold running subterranean water.

San Vicente, Sta. Ana, and Paluai Island are destinations for water and sports fishing enthusiasts. Sta. Ana is the Philippine sailfish capital, famous for its abundant marine life and is site of national and international game fishing competition.

The **Cape Engaño Lighthouse** in Paluai Island is the operational lighthouse in the northeastern coast. The island boast of its rich marine resources and uncontaminated environment ideal for ecotourism.

Black and white fine sand beaches are found along coastal towns of Sanchez-Mira, Sta. Praxedes, Claveria, Buguey, Aparri, Ballesteros, Abulug, and the Islands of Paluai, Fuga, and Calman. **Fuga Island** is being



San Jacinto Chapel, an undefaced, quaint and attractive 17th century chapel in the heart of Tuguegarao.