
PROVINCE OF NEGROS ORIENTAL

Location. Negros Oriental is one of the four provinces comprising Central Visayas Region. It is also one of the two provinces comprising Negros Island. The other province is Negros Occidental that belongs to Western Visayas Region.

Negros Oriental occupies the eastern portion of Negros Island and is separated from Negros Occidental by a chain of rugged mountains. It is bounded on the south by the Mindanao and Sulu Seas and on the east by Tañon Strait. The latter separates Negros Oriental from the province of Cebu.

The capital of the province is Dumaguete City.

Topography. The province is characterized by low but serrated mountain ranges that are mostly close to the shoreline. Towards the interior, volcanic peaks, hills and occasional plateaus are found.

At the southern end of the province is a group of volcanic mountains, the highest of which is Cuernos de Negros with a height of 2,000 meters. At the northern end is Mt. Canlaon, the highest peak in the island, with 2,465 meters elevation. The small crater lakes in the interior are evidences of the volcanic character of the province. These lakes are Danao, Balanan and Balinsasayao.

Climate. The climate of Negros Oriental is influenced by the mountain ranges stretching from north to south of Negros Island. The eastern part of the province has Type III climate under the Corona Climate Classification System. Type III climate is characterized by the lack of a pronounced maximum rain period and a short dry season lasting from one to three months. The other half of the province has Type I climate characterized by distinct wet and dry seasons.

The average temperature in the province is between 26.1°C to 27.7°C. The average humidity is 78 percent.

Political Subdivision. Negros Oriental consists of five cities, twenty municipalities, and five hundred fifty-seven barangays. It is divided into three congressional districts.

Dumaguete, Bais and Canlaon became cities between 1948 and 1968. Bayawan and Tanjay were converted into cities only in 2000 and 2001, respectively.

Under the latest Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) income classification system, Dumaguete and Bais are 2nd class cities while Canlaon is 6th class. Three-fourth of the municipalities in the province are considered 4th and 5th class.

Province of Negros Oriental

Table 3
Local Government Units by Congressional District, Classification, Area,
Population Level, Density and Average Annual Growth Rate

Political Subdivisions	Classification ^{1/}	Area ^{2/} (km ²)	Population ^{3/}	Pop'n. Density (Persons/ km ²)	1995-2000 Ave. Annual Growth Rate (in %)
First District					
Ayungon	4 th	153.60	40,744	265	2.13
Bindoy	4 th	173.70	34,773	200	3.61
Canlaon City	6 th	160.70	46,548	290	2.58
Guihulngan	2 nd	422.80	83,448	197	0.73
Jimalalud	5 th	139.50	26,756	192	2.81
La Libertad	4 th	139.60	35,122	252	1.71
Manjuyod	4 th	264.60	37,863	143	1.98
Tayasan	4 th	154.20	30,477	198	(0.75)
Vallehermoso	4 th	152.90	33,914	222	1.87
Second District					
Amlan	5 th	59.40	19,227	324	3.23
Bais City	2 nd	316.90	68,115	215	1.56
Dumaguete City	2 nd	55.80	102,265	1,833	2.14
Mabinay	3 rd	142.60	64,451	452	0.51
Pamplona	4 th	202.20	32,790	162	2.49
San Jose	5 th	54.40	15,665	288	1.00
Sibulan	4 th	163.00	37,523	230	4.03
Tanjay City ^{4/}		539.30	70,169	130	1.44
Third District					
Bacong	5 th	25.00	23,219	929	4.18
Basay	4 th	237.80	21,366	90	3.13
Bayawan City ^{5/}		637.90	101,391	159	2.35
Dauin	5 th	114.10	21,077	185	1.56
Sta. Catalina	2 nd	523.10	67,197	128	1.56
Siaton	3 rd	335.40	64,258	192	2.48
Valencia	3 rd	148.30	24,365	164	4.16
Zamboanguita	5 th	85.50	23,338	273	4.62

^{1/} Source: Bureau of Local Government Finance- DOF, Region 7

^{2/} Source: Negros Oriental Provincial Physical Framework Plan

^{3/} Source: 2000 Census of Population and Housing, National Statistics Office

^{4/} Converted into a component city per RA 9026 approved on 05 March 2001

^{5/} Converted into a component city per RA 8993 approved on 05 December 2000

Agriculture and Fishery Products. The major agricultural products of Negros Oriental are coconut, corn, sugarcane, rice, vegetables, fruits, abaca, tobacco and root crops.

Its two major fishing grounds are the North Sulu Sea and Tañon Strait. Commercial fish species are caught all year round from these fishing grounds.

There are also many freshwater areas in the province. These are ideal for the culture of shrimp, milkfish and various mollusks.

Mineral Resources. The province is endowed with a variety of mineral resources. Some of these minerals are found in commercial quantities. Among these are copper, silica, sulfur, magnesium, phosphate, manganese, dolomite limestone, coal and iron.

Industrial Activities. Because the economy of Negros Oriental is largely agri-based, almost all its industries are engaged in sugarcane, coconut and fruit processing. Its major exports are also principally agri-based products.

Airport Facilities. The province has a trunk line airport located in Dumaguete City. This airport serves daily flights to and from Manila.

Port Facilities. The province's main port is the Port of Dumaguete. This port serves regular passenger and fast ferry services to and from Cebu City, Dipolog City, Manila, Ozamis City, Zamboanga City, Siquijor and Tagbilaran City.

The other major ports in the province are the ports of Tandayag (Amlan), Guihulngan, and Bais.

Utilities. There are three NPC power generating plants in Negros Oriental. These are the Palimpinon Geothermal Power Plants I and II with combined rated capacity of 192.5 MW and the Amlan Hydroelectric Power Plant with a rated capacity of 0.8 MW.

The island of Negros forms part of the Cebu-Negros-Panay-Leyte-Samar Transmission Grid. These islands are interconnected with each other through high voltage submarine cables.

Electricity in the province is distributed by two electric cooperatives: NORECO I and NORECO II.

Level I, Level II and Level III water supply systems provide the water requirements of the province. Either the local government units or water districts manage the Level III water supply systems.

Communication Facilities. PLDT, Islacom, and Cruztelco provide local exchange service in Negros Oriental. In addition to these private companies, the Telecommunications Office (Telof) also provides this service but only in the municipality of Guihulngan. As of 1999, there were 42,192 telephone lines throughout the province.

The cellular mobile telephone service providers in Negros Oriental are Smart, Islacom, Globe, Piltel and Extelcom. There are also 23 telegraphstations and 15 telegraphic transfer stations throughout the province. These are all operated by the government.

Banks. There are many government, private and rural banks in the province. Most of the government and commercial bank branches are located in Dumaguete City. The rural banks are generally found in the municipalities.

Tourism. Negros Oriental's peaceful and clean environment, unhurried pace of life, and wide variety of tourist attractions make it a perfect place for rest and recreation.

Among the province's many tourist attractions are:

Apo Island. This island is a haven for scuba divers and snorkelers with its crystal clear waters and kaleidoscope of coral and marine life. Apo Island is home to the Negros Oriental Marine Conservation Park and Kan-upe Beach Resort.

Dolphin and Whale Watching. Off the coast of Bais City, tourists can experience a once-in-a-lifetime encounter with dolphins and whales. Boats for hire are available with a marine biologist and spotter on board to make the trips more educational.

Beaches. Negros Oriental has many white sand beaches. Most of these have been developed into beach resorts equipped with facilities to suit the needs of tourists.

Mountain Trekking. For mountain lovers, trekking at Mt. Talinis, popularly known as the Cuernos de los Negros, is the place to go. This mountain, which rises to an elevation of 1,800 meters, is blessed with rare flora and fauna, verdant forests and lakes.

Spelunking. Cave explorers will be fascinated with Odloman Cave in Mabinay, the second longest cave in the country.

Coconut Plantation Inn. Located in Dauin, this is a sprawling hotel complex that offers modern amenities. It is a haven for scuba divers and serves as a take-off point for quick trips to Apo Island.

Casiroro Falls. For nature lovers, this falls is a must. Casiroro is one of the three waterfalls found in Kampesa, Valencia. It is surrounded by lush vegetation and provides sanctuary to wildlife.

Rizal Boulevard. This is the most popular landmark of Dumaguete City. This is a favorite place by locals and tourists alike for picnics, playing or simply gathering around.

Landmarks. The Gates of Opportunity and the Museum of Silliman University and the Bell Tower, all located in Dumaguete City, are famous historical and architectural landmarks.

Festivals. Dumaguete City is famous for its Kasadya-an, Santacruzán and Sandurot Festivals.