



BOOMING ANGELES

On a short trip to Paradise City, Angeles City, I found out that the boom is enormous. The last time I was there was 4 months ago and I saw a fast growing area around Fields and the many go go bars with at least 8,000 beautiful girls. The Koreans are very active with investments in and around Angeles. At the end of the golden strip I saw many Korean hotels and guesthouses and restaurants. Also the Japanese are investing in the property market and it is only the beginning of this booming place. Good news also for foreigners who want to stay in the Philippines as the government changed the visa rules. Everyone can stay 2 years in the Philippines without a visa. But you still have to renew your stay every 2 months. Also the

property market is booming and I saw prices going up fast. The fair prices of the tickets were very low at this time of the year. Many of my friends are staying there and again I met several Pattaya residents. One hotel owner told me that Thai Airways will fly direct from Bangkok to Angeles Clark airport soon. That would be a great advantage for the Angeles travelers as most don't like to travel from Manila to Angeles. In the afternoon and early evening it will take sometimes two and half hours to arrive in Angeles with the heavy traffic in Manila.

I heard a lot of people complaining about the food in Angeles and I agree this is not Pattaya where we have more than 1000 restaurants. But I can advise you of some good restaurants in Angeles City. 1.

ABC Hotel with great food and clean kitchen. 2. Tulip Hotel with special Dutch food. 3. Italian Restaurant above Lancelot is very good. 4. The Swiss Chalet has very good goulash soup. 5. Kokomos has



reasonable food. 6. Margarita Station has a great menu card. 7. Pacific Breeze restaurant. 8

Cottage Kitchen. 9. The SM Mall have many restaurants. Many hotels have promotional prices and discounts in the low season.

The exclusive ABC Hotel has a promo package 3

days/2 nights with breakfast for 90 US dollars including round trip and transfers, taxes and

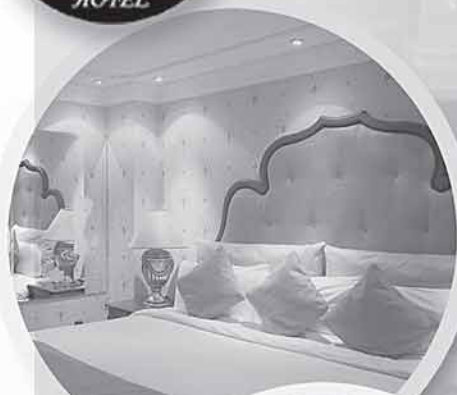
fees. Also available are Mount Pinatubo trekking, Golf packages or Subic Bay package 3 days/2 nights. There are also direct flights from Angeles to Cebu, Boracay and Palawan. Boracay was named through the Discovery Channel as the second nicest island in the world. I always enjoy my stay in Angeles and have many friends over there. My Belgian friend and driver Benny Verhoeven is always on time to pick me up and when I couldn't check in my hotel he offered me to sleep a few hours at his home. He operates under the name Butterfly Travel and his phone number is + 639185403622. E-mail benny.butterfly@scarlet.be You can also visit his website at www.butterflytravel.ph My taxi trip from Bangkok was not such a great success. We took one of the illegal taxis and we drove in a very old Volvo and the driver was acting very strange and suspicious. When we told him to turn left, he

refused and told us that he had to pick up his friend first and it took us a long time to come home.

At least more than 3 hours and that with an old car who drove not more than 60 kms. This was my second bad experience with these illegal taxi drivers, who at the end of the trip also wanted more money. These guys are a bunch of rip-offs and please avoid them and take the legal and organised taxi drivers or your own driver who you know.

I also heard good news about the Tulip House taxi boys who are always on time and at the end cheaper than the taxi mafia. They promise to bring you home for 1300 baht but at the end you pay for the motorway and tell you that you have to pay 400 baht more as it was further etc. When you don't pay they act very aggressive, especially when they are with 2 persons. Besides that they are very poor and dangerous drivers.

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