BY: Christian Jay Rayon Nob
Mindanao State University-Naawan Campus
Bachelor Of Science in Marine Biology III
Northern Mindanao

♣ Region of the Philippines, designated as Region X

♣ Composed of five provinces
  ➤ Camiguin
  ➤ Misamis Oriental
  ➤ Lanao del Norte
  ➤ Bukidnon
  ➤ Misamis Occidental
Northern Mindanao

🌱 Component cities

- Bukidnon
  - Malaybalay City
  - Valencia City

- Misamis Occidental
  - Oroquieta City
  - Ozamiz City
  - Tangub City

- Misamis Oriental
  - Gingoog City
  - Cagayan de Oro City
  - El Salvador City

- Lanao del Norte
  - Iligan City
### Political Divisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province/City</th>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>No. of Cities</th>
<th>No. of Municipalities</th>
<th>No. of Barangays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bukidnon</td>
<td>Malaybalay City</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camiguin</td>
<td>Mambajao</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanao del Norte</td>
<td>Tubod</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misamis Occidental</td>
<td>Oroquieta City</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misamis Oriental</td>
<td>Cagayan de Oro City</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>424</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Highly urbanized cities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>-</th>
<th>-</th>
<th>-</th>
<th>80</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cagayan de Oro City</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iligan City</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Source: Infogram
Geography

Northern Mindanao has a total land area of 2,049,602 hectares (5,064,680 acres). More than 60% of Northern Mindanao's total land area are classified as forest land. Its seas abound with fish and other marine products.

Climate

Rainfall in Northern Mindanao is evenly distributed throughout the year. Its abundant vegetation, natural springs and high elevation contribute to the region's cool, mild and invigorating climate.

Economy

The economy of Northern Mindanao is the largest regional economy in the island of Mindanao. The economy in Northern Mindanao is mainly agricultural. But there is also a booming growth of industries particularly in Cagayan de Oro City and in Iligan City. The famous Del Monte Philippines located in the Province of Bukidnon and its processing plant is located in Cagayan de Oro City, which shipped to the entire Philippines and Asia-Pacific region. The Agus-IV to VII Hydroelectric Plants in Iligan City and Baloi, Lanao del Norte supplies most of its electrical power in Mindanao.
Indigenous people in Northern Mindanao
Lumad peoples in the Region

**Bukidnon**
- Believe in one god, Magbabaya (Ruler of All), though there are several minor gods and goddesses that they worship as well.

**Manobo**
- The most numerous of the ethnic groups of the Philippines in the relationships and names of the groups that belong to this family of languages.

**Subanon**
- History has better words to speak for Misamis Occidental. Its principal city was originally populated by the Subanon, a cultural group that once roamed the seas in great number; the province was an easy prey to the marauding sea pirates of Lanao whose habit was to stage lightning forays along the coastal areas in search of slaves. As the Subanon retreated deeper and deeper into the interior, the coastal areas became home to inhabitants from Bukidnon who were steadily followed by settlers from nearby Cebu and Bohol.

**Higaonon**
- The Higaonon is located on the provinces of Bukidnon, Agusan del Sur, Misamis Oriental, Rogongon, Iligan City, and Lanao del Norte. Their name means "people of the wilderness". Most Higaonons have a rather traditional way of living. Farming is the most important economic activity.
At the beginning of the 20th century, the Lumads controlled an area which now covers 17 of Mindanao’s 24 provinces, but by the 1980 census, they constituted less than 6% of the population of Mindanao and Sulu. Significant migration to Mindanao of Visayans, spurred by government-sponsored resettlement programmes, turned the Lumads into minorities. The Bukidnon province population grew from 63,470 in 1948 to 194,368 in 1960 and 414,762 in 1970, with the proportion of indigenous Bukidnons falling from 64% to 33% to 14%.

Lumads have a traditional concept of land ownership based on what their communities consider their ancestral territories. The historian B. R. Rodil notes that ‘a territory occupied by a community is a communal private property, and community members have the right of usufruct to any piece of unoccupied land within the communal territory.’ Ancestral lands include cultivated land as well as hunting grounds, rivers, forests, uncultivated land and the mineral resources below the land.
Unlike the Moros, the Lumad groups never formed a revolutionary group to unite them in armed struggle against the Philippine government. When the migrants came, many Lumad groups retreated into the mountains and forests. However, the Moro armed groups and the Communist-led New People’s Army (NPA) have recruited Lumads to their ranks, and the armed forces have also recruited them into paramilitary organisations to fight the Moros or the NPA.

For the Lumad, securing their rights to ancestral domain is as urgent as the Moros' quest for self-determination. However, much of their land has already been registered in the name of multinational corporations, logging companies and other wealthy Filipinos, many of whom are, relatively speaking, recent settlers to Mindanao. Mai Tuan, a T'boli leader explains, "Now that there is a peace agreement for the MNLF, we are happy because we are given food assistance like rice ... we also feel sad because we no longer have the pots to cook it with. We no longer have control over our ancestral lands."
Various Festivals in Northern Mindanao
Kaamulan Festival (Bukidnon)

“Kaamulan” is from the Binukid word “amul” which means “to gather”. It is a gathering of Bukidnon tribespeople for a purpose. It can mean a datuship ritual, a wedding ceremony, a thanksgiving festival during harvest time, a peace pact, or all of these put together.

Showcasing the unique indigenous culture of Bukidnon, the Kaamulan is held annually in the province, particularly in Malaybalay City, the provincial capital, from the second half of February to March 10, which latter date marks the anniversary of the creation of Bukidnon as a province in 1917.
As an ethnic festival, the Kaamulan celebrates the customs and traditions of the seven tribal groups that originally inhabited the Bukidnon region, namely, the Bukidnon, Higaonon, Talaandig, Manobo, Matigsalug, Tigwahanon and Umayamnon. Several tribal folks representing these seven hill tribes of Bukidnon gather in unity with the local dwellers in town, wearing their intricately woven costumes studded with trinkets, anklets, earrings, necklaces, leglets, headdresses and amulets. They dance together, chant, perform ancient rituals, and compete in indigenous sports.
Lanzones Festival (Camiguin)

- Held every third week of October and it is a four day grand celebration of the lanzones fruit. The most important livelihood in Camiguin is lanzones. It is when a lot of tourists come to witness the joyous Lanzones festival. Lanzones is one of the major fruit producers in the Philippines.
Diyandi Festival (Iligan City)

An annual month-long cultural celebration every September in Iligan City. It is celebrated in honor of Iligan's patron Saint, St. Michael the Archangel, thus, the festival is concluded on his feast day on September 29th. Diyandi Festival was derived from the word "diyandi" which means "celebrate" and "mag-diyandi" meaning "to celebrate." It was conceptualized in 2004 when Iligan City Council passed and approved a resolution establishing Diyandi Festival as the tourism name of Iligan.
KALIGA FESTIVAL (Gingoog City)

(July 23) KALIGA means thanksgiving for the Gingoognos. This colorful and joyous festival of abundance and prosperity, also arouse to look back the city. Manobo and Higaanon roots, their culture and traditions through rituals and street dancing. The festive Kaliga is also the Gingoognon expressions of gratefulness to the Almighty undying love and continued.
BAROTORERA FESTIVAL (Gingoog City)

- A traditional boat/yacht racing among our city. Seventeen coastal barangay boatmen done every 21st day of May.

LUBI-LUBI FESTIVAL (Gingoog City)

- LUBI-LUBI FESTIVAL (May 22) - Sayaw â€œLubi-Lubiâ€œ (coconut dance) is the countryâ€™s most original and ingenious fun dance (street parade) utilizing the cityâ€™s abundant coco plants and materials. It is a celebration of peace, love and unity among the Gingoognonâ€™s done every May 22nd to pay honor to the local patroness Sta. Rita de Cascia on her annual feast day. It involves the cityâ€™s rural and urban barangays.
Kagay-an Festival (Cagayan De Oro City)

From August 26 to 28, the locals of Cagayan de Oro pay homage to the city’s patron saint: St. Augustine of Hippo. There are three days of activities that see the locals in native dress and doing traditional dances in the streets. There are cultural shows, competitions, concerts and more. Some of the biggest highlights of the festival include the Miss Kagay-an beauty pageant, the Higaonon Street Dancing competition, and the Golden Float Parade. There’s also a fluvial (boat) parade on the Cagayan de Oro river.
Sakay-Sakay Lambago Festival (Cagayan de Oro City)

This annual boat race is held in August and allows the people of Cagayan de Oro to show off their boating skills. The boats are made of local wood and are manned by anyone from fishermen to restaurateurs. The race is extremely colorful and filled with energy, and is a great way to spend your time on the banks of the Cagayan de Oro river.
Tabanog Festival (Oroquita City)

One of Oroquieta City’s favorite past times is the Tabanog (Kite-Flying) Festival, which is held during the Summer months. The festival is held in the Plaza, near the bay front. Oroquieta City’s bay front is somewhat comparable to Chicago’s Lake Michigan, except the warm and soothing trade winds are irresistible to everyone’s desire to fly kite with full enjoyment.
Dalit festival (Tangub City)

Held every September 29 is celebrated in honor of Tangub City’s patron saint, St. Michael the Archangel. Dalit means offering, the people’s offering of thanksgiving for the blessings the people received from the Almighty through the years.
Subayan Keg Subanon Festival (Ozamis City)

A week long festivity in celebration of the Feast of Nuestra Señora del Triunfo which also happens to be the Charter Anniversary of the city. This celebration portrays the rich cultural heritage of the first settlers of the place, the “Subanons”. Street dancing in very colorful costumes highlights the lifestyles of the Subanons.
Balls of Fire Festival  (El Salvador City)

This festival is held August 31st of every year in the city of Nejapa in El Salvador. You will see painted faces and fire balls hurled in the streets, and it is a great way to experience the culture of El Salvador. The festival attracts many people to watch the events and those who want to participate.
Tourist Destinations
Tourism in the Region

- Cagayan de Oro (CDO) City is one of the top places to visit in Northern Mindanao. Apart from its very active night life, CDO also offers tourists outdoor activities that adventurous travelers will surely love.

- White Water Rafting is one of the outdoor activities CDO has to offer. Depending on the preference of the guests, white water rafting operators offer half-day and whole-day tours with different level of rafting difficulties.

- Dahilayan Nature Park in Bukidnon is where the longest Zipline in Asia that stretches 840 meters long can be experienced. For those who love adrenaline pumping adventure, they can opt to try the zipline and scream their hearts out. Apart from the zipline, visiting Bukidnon during Kaamulan Festival on February to March will also be a great idea to enjoy the rich culture and history of Bukidnon.

- Waterfalls-hopping, then Iligan City would be the perfect destination. Iligan City, endowed with lush forests and numerous waterfalls, is also referred to as “City of Waterfalls”. Iligan city is the home of the famous Maria Christina Falls which is the source of the hydroelectric power in almost entire Mindanao. Among the other majestic falls in Iligan City are the Dodiongan Falls, Limunsudan Falls, Lumbatan Falls, Mimbalut Falls and Tinago Falls. Tinago Falls is given such name because it is literally hidden in a deep ravine and behind the lush green trees.
Tourism in the Region

- Camiguin Island is ideal for adventure lovers, nature enthusiasts and leisure trippers. The island is known for its numerous hot and cold springs that one will surely enjoy during a warm day and a cold night. Among the many hot springs in the island, Ardent Hot Spring is the number one destination of travelers who want to relax in a 40 degrees Celsius pool of water coming from the depths of Mt. Hibok-hibok, a live but dormant volcano. Another spring resort to visit in Camiguin is the Sto. Niño Cold Spring that is located north of Catarman. The place is ideal to visit during warm summer days.

- White Island of Camiguin, which is an uninhabited piece of white sand bar. Most people visit the place to sunbathe, snorkel and collect sea shells. The shape of the island differs upon the level of the tide. It also offers a beautiful view of Mt. Vulcan and Mt. Hibok-hibok.

- The Katibawasan Falls is a pride of Camiguin Island. It measures 250 ft high and is surrounded with trees, boulders, wild ferns and beautiful ground orchids. The icy cold waters of the falls provide refreshing feeling and relief during hot summer days.

- Other historical areas in Camiguin Island that may interest leisure trippers and culture enthusiasts are the Sunken Cemetery and the Catarman Church Ruins.
Northern Mindanao has a lot of things to offer and the only way to enjoy these things is to pay the place a visit and see its beauty for yourself.

---END---

Thank You