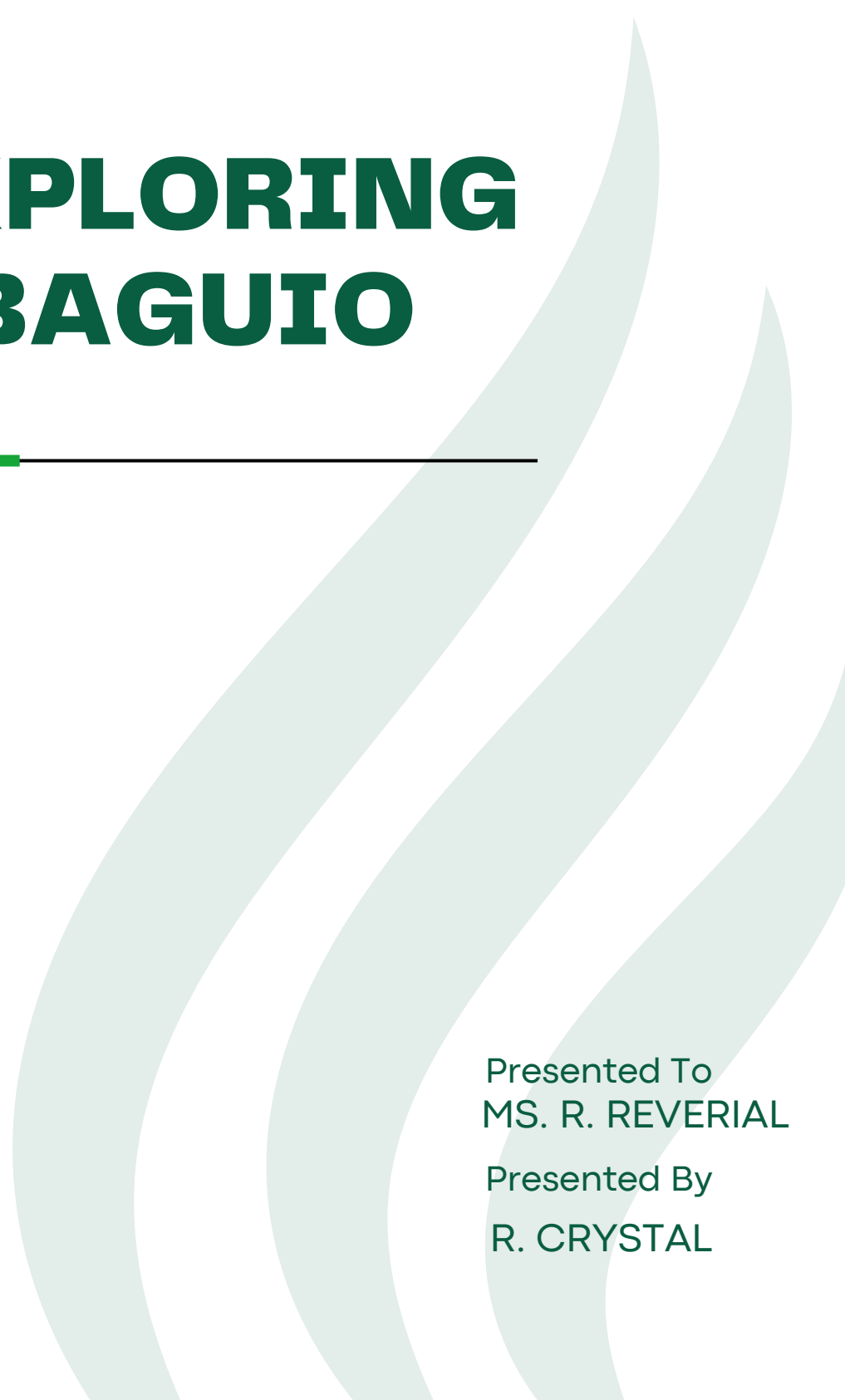




EXPLORING BAGUIO



Presented To
MS. R. REVERIAL

Presented By
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The City of Pines



Baguio from afar

Baguio is located some 1,400 meters (4,600 feet) above sea level, nestled within the Cordillera Central mountain range in northern Luzon.

It used to be part of the Benguet Province and it was once the province's capital until it became a chartered city in 1916. Baguio Day is a special non-working holiday in Baguio and it is celebrated every September 1st.



Ibaloi Tribe in their traditional attire

Before it became a famous city, Baguio was home to the Ibaloi families of Tagle, Pucay, Piras, Suello, Carantes, Molintas and Cariño. These families owned vast tracks of land and referred to the Baguio that we know now as "Kafagway." When the Americans came and built the city, they renamed it as "Baguio" because of the ample presence of moss in the area or also known as "bagiw" in Ibaloi. Another tribe called the "Kankana-ey" were also the early settlers in Kafagway (Baguio).

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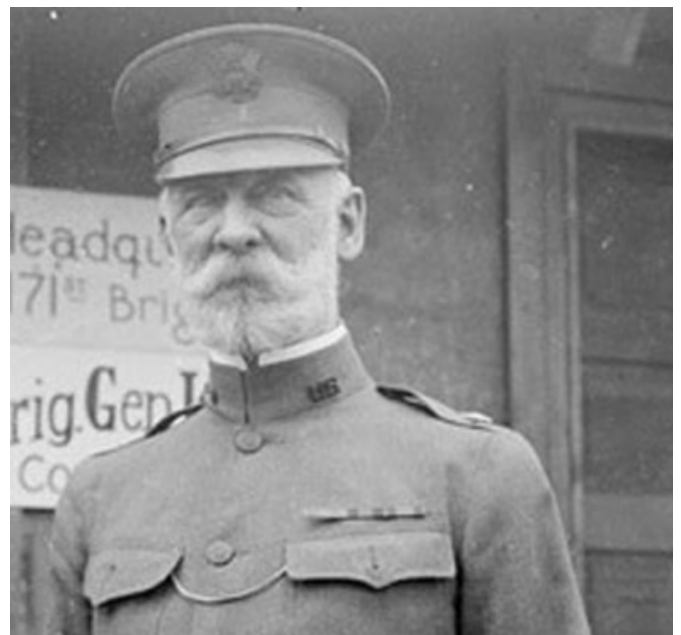


Gov. William Howard Taft

The Americans' discovery of Kafagway (Baguio) was the result of their political hold to the Philippines when Spain sold us to them after losing the war.

In 1898, Governor William Howard Taft and other officials proposed to make Baguio as the Summer Capital of the Philippines. Demographically, Baguio's weather was colder than the known provinces and cities at the time and it reminded the Americans the climate back home.

A team of expert engineers led by Colonel Lyman Walter Vere Kennon built the Benguet Road and renamed it as Kennon Road in his memory. Construction began in 1903 by a group of Filipino, Chinese, Japanese and American engineers and workers. It became open to public use on January 29, 1905. Today, there are alternative roads going to Baguio like the Aspiras-Palispis Highway (Marcos Highway) and the Naguillan Road.



Col. Lyman Kennon

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Kennon Road is shorter by 14 kilometers when compared with Marcos Highway but the road is always closed due to rehabilitation. Kennon Road is prone to landslides especially during the rainy seasons. Motorists find it easier to traverse Kennon Road even if the road is steeper because of its better banking of the road curves than that of Marcos Highway.

Travelling from Manila to Baguio took at least 8 hours until SCTEX and TPLEX became operational. Now, travel time takes only 3.5 hours from Baguio to Manila.

When Mount Pinatubo erupted in 1991, all major roads going to Manila and Northern Luzon were affected. Hence, the amount of people going there lessened.



Lion's Head at the Kennon Road



Foggy day at the Marcos Highway

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Panagbenga Festival
(pronounced as "Pa-nag-buh-nga")

Baguio is not only historical but also cultural. The most famous festival known to the lowlanders or people who live in the flat areas is the Panagbenga Festival. It started in February 1, 1995 with mostly the locals and people living in Baguio as spectators. But as time passed, this festival became one of the most awaited festivals in the Philippines like the Sinulog Festival in Cebu. Panagbenga is also known as the Flower Festival because of the presence of a variety of beautiful flowers there.



Flower Parade

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The foods that are related to the Ibaloi and Kankana-ey culture are dinakdakan, pinikpikan and pinapaitan. Dinakdakan is similar to sisig. Pinapaitan is a stew made with goat meat and flavored with bile. Pinikpikan is usually eaten after the cañao. Cañao is a socio-religious ritual where chickens, pigs and/or carabaos are butchered as a sacrifice and feasted on. This is usually a thanksgiving to their god Kabunyan long before the Spaniards came and introduced Christianity to us.



Dancing in canao



My mother's alma mater,
Saint Louis University

To date, Baguio's population is at 390,000 versus 500 in 1900. Aside from easy access to the city, Baguio has good universities that offer the same level of education to its Manila counterparts. The three most sought-after schools in the city are Saint Louis University, University of Baguio and the University of Cordillera. With the influx of students year after year, tourism also increased.

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Burnham Park



Wright Park



Lourdes Grotto



Botanical Garden

The famous tourist spots that are free to the general public are Burnham Park, Lourdes Grotto, Wright Park and The Mansion. The tourist spots with fees are Diplomat Hotel, Mirador Eco-Park, Botanical Garden and Mines View Park. Nearby tourist spots are the Bell Church, Valley of Colors and Strawberry farm in La Trinidad and the BenCab Museum in Tuba, Benguet.

The City of Pines

Aside from the flowers in season, most tourist buy their pasalubong at the Good Shepherd outlet which is known for their delicious ube jam. Strawberries, plants and flowers are also top choices for pasalubong.



Good Shepherd

There are many choices to choose from in terms of accommodation from the affluent hotels to affordable transient houses. Overall, Baguio's popularity as one of the best tourist spots in the country will continue to increase especially when domestic flights from Baguio to Cebu and vice-versa was opened. However, it will always be the city government's responsibility to regulate new constructions that might lead to the abuse of our natural resources and the provision of the best services to its people.



Foggy day in Baguio

COME
&
VISIT!