

Heritage Village

An outline of the past...

Vigan's yesterday started in this village where Spanish settled for colonization considering the best-preserved Spanish architectural plan in Asia.



Present: a turn of events



Vigan through the years..

Pre-colonization:

Vigan used to be Isla de Vigan located at the mouth of the Abra river, was an important coastal trading post. It was a port of call of sailing merchants who brought in exotic product from China, Indochina, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan and Arabia.

Spanish Colonization:

1521- Magellan discovered the Philippines (1st Expedition)

1542- Ruy Lopez de Villalobos (2nd Expedition)

1564- Miguel Lopez de Legazpi (3rd Expedition)

Period of Conversion of the Natives:

Christianity was introduced by the Augustinian Friars by befriending the natives trying to understand their dialect. From nipa hut, the Vigan house evolved, now made of bricks, because of the frequent fires destroying local traditional houses.

Brick houses were built out local available materials like San Esteban stones, bricks and hard wood from Abra brought thru the Abra river.

VIGAN: As a NUNESCO World Heritage Site

In 1999, Vigan was inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List of Cultural Properties on the basis of:

“Vigan represents a unique fusion of Asian building design and construction with European architecture and planning.”

“Vigan is an exceptionally intact and well-preserved example of an European trading town in the east and east Asia.”

Services:



Hotels



Restaurants



Souvenir shops and products

