

Stairways to Heaven

Monday, 21 January 2008

Last Updated Saturday, 16 February 2008

A seemingly endless stairway of cultivated rice and vegetables, mostly build by hand, stretch over more than 10 500sq km (4000 sq mi) of mountainside area in the northern province of Luzon – Philippines.

The astonishing terraces, that stretch as far as the eye can see, are carved from the specific provinces’ scenic - forested mountains rising above 1500m (4300ft). The terraces are fed by a natural irrigation system from the rainforests high in the mountains, and the locals still cultivate them in their traditional way. The Ifuao people use no electricity, and there are no roads as we know it, ‘cause the people chose to retain a spiritual connection with the Earth and their surroundings, as they’ve been doing over the past 2000 years. The Banaue rice terraces are a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and some consider it even the 8th wonder of the world. {jumi [includes/googleadshor.php]} There is a number of hiking trails that go through the region, which has a good tourist population who come to admire these majestic creations.

{mosmap |lat=17.559592,121.061783|lon=0.456289,0.917358}