

Get into The Grove

Birth on the beach

They emerged from under the sand, all eighty-eight of them. Guided by instinct, they waddled their way into the sea. The sight of these turtle hatchlings was wondrous and poignant, a significant ecological event on Kawayan Cove, a protected turtle sanctuary.

A couple of months earlier, female sea turtles (pawikan in local parlance) laid eggs on Bamboo Beach. They abandoned the eggs and went back to the sea. With the help of the WWF (World Wildlife Fund), the nest was fenced off to protect them from predators like seabirds and reptiles. It was the second hatching in the beach in a span of two months.

Identified as olive ridley turtles, they are in danger of extinction. They are often hunted as food. Their beautiful shells are prized and transformed into accessories like payneta (hair comb). The pollution in Manila Bay has forced the turtles to search for cleaner, more hospitable shores on which to build their nests.



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The simple pleasures of the great outdoors have never seemed more exhilarating than in the newest addition to Kawayan Cove's growing list of irresistible attractions. Called the Mango Grove, the site was specifically created to foster family togetherness in a sylvan setting.

The Mango Grove is dominated by several enormous mango trees that have stood in silence for six decades. Each tree's girth is encircled with a built-in picnic table where families can bond over a refreshing and revitalizing meal. The thick-leaved tree canopies provide ample shade. Barbecue pits are strategically located to allow families to grill their own food.

The picnic stations are connected by a concrete walkway bearing the imprints of fossilized leaves of plants native to Kawayan Cove, like anahaw, talisay and taluto.

This same walkway leads to another magnificent mango tree that shelters a unique tree house for kids to play in. The house has no roof because the treetop serves as cover. Children can while away hours in this nest, chatting and picking fruits during summer.

Next to the tree house is a gigantic spider web, which is an inventive variation of the jungle gym. Made of sturdy cordage, the web can be used by both children and adults for climbing.



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