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PHILIPPINE CORAL REEFS: UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

The spectacular beauty of a coral reef is something that most people see only on PBS and in National Geographic articles. But for an actual up close and personal look at a coral reef and the marine life it supports, one must go, or dive, to the source.



For divers like J. R. Calanoc, who runs a dive tour company and organizes diving expeditions to the Philippines, diving has provided a chance to appreciate the beauty of Philippine waters.



"After diving in other parts of the world," says J.R., "I began to realize that Philippine marine environments were not only beautiful but could quite possibly be the most amazing and diverse." In fact, scientists believe that Philippine reef systems are among the most biodiverse, supporting countless species of marine animals and plants, some not seen anywhere else in the world.



"The Philippines is truly one of my favorite dive destinations in Asia," says San Francisco Bay Area diving instructor Tom Yang, a recognized authority on diving, "because of the spectacular diving conditions, rich marine life and healthy coral reefs."



Tom considers the Philippines "a paradise for photographers who love underwater close-up and macro photography." His portfolio won the "Hi Five Award" at the 6th Celebrate the Sea photo competition held in Manila last year.

For those who don't have the opportunity to join a dive tour and witness the magnificence of a living coral reef, the **PHILIPPINE CORAL REEF EXHIBIT** at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco is the next best thing.

The exhibit opens on September 27th in the Academy's new building in Golden Gate Park, and will showcase a variety of soft and hard coral, reef fishes, sharks, rays, and mangrove trees.

For more information: www.pusod.org/reef

Photos courtesy of Tom Yang



**THE PHILIPPINE CORAL REEF EXHIBIT
AT THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California
OPENS SEPTEMBER 27, 2008**

For information about the Academy:
www.calacademy.org

CORAL IS INTEGRAL