

## TAAL VOLCANO

With the present news about Mayon volcano's eruptions, I get prompted to write about Taal volcano, which is more meaningful to me and some friends.



At the volcano crater with Gerry, TonyE, Jong, Freddie and Ruben. This photo was probably early 1970s.

About 1975, the volcano erupted again, and I had the chance to fly over the crater in a piper cub on my way to a rush work assignment in Batangas..

In Sept 1977, our family (my folks and Lisa's folks) took a trip to Taal, where we swam in the bigger lake, then boated over to the island where the crater of the above pictures were taken, but it seemed so different.



For one, the ground was warm, hot at many places, with steam coming out. And ground was black.

See picture of me below, seating, feigning doing #2.



Barely visible is large marking on sand "DR ABAD, UP" Jimmy may have just come back from the US, and this was an excursion of the old gang. All four of them feigned #1, "passing water" and were facing the other way. Left most is Ruben and Jong. Not too sure if others were Tony & Freddie.

### EXCERPTS FROM A GOOGLE WRITEUP ON TAAL

Taal Volcano (2½ hours from Manila) is regarded the world's smallest active volcano and one of its deadliest. It also has the unusual distinction of being the world's only volcano within a lake within a volcano within a lake within a volcano. The largest lake is inside a large volcanic caldera that was produced hundreds of thousands of years ago by a catastrophic eruption by a supervolcano that was thousands of times larger than Krakatua. Inside the lake is a smaller volcano and lake with a small island topped by a relatively new volcanic crater. Taal is only 1,000 feet tall but don't let its small size deceive you. It has a deadly history. The worst of its numerous eruptions killed thousands of people in 1754. The main lake at Taal is 30 kilometers across and is filled with dugout canoes, small boats, and motor-powered outriggers. Once part of an the ocean channel in Balayan Bay in the South China Sea, the lake was created during the 1754 eruption, when a huge lava flow surged into the sea and transformed the channel into a lake. As the water in the lake rose entire towns were submerged and the water became less and less salty. Today it is a fresh water lake, even though it contains salt water species, such as sardines and highly venomous sea snakes that have adapted to the fresh water. Up until 70 years ago, there were even freshwater sharks in the lake. Inside the small crater lake within Taal volcano is a tiny volcanic island that emits sulfur and steam. This island was immortalized by "Ripley's Believe It or Not" as the "amazing island in a lake on an island in a lake on an island." Steam and sulfur also rise from yellow furmoles on the slopes of Taal volcano and the cliffs on the interior of the crater.

Danny Gil 1/27/18