

Luzon Exploration Expedition

Philippines

The Redfern Team is organising the **Luzon Exploration Expedition** to observe and photograph several little known *Nepenthes* taxa, in some cases, for the very first time.

This is an unconventional trip, in the sense that there is no guarantee we will find the little-known *Nepenthes* that we set out to see. But that is the nature of exploration!

We propose to run this trip in July or September or December 2023. We propose to find a group of participants first, discuss the itinerary with the participants as a group, and jointly select which of the following objectives to focus on, then agree mutually convenient dates.

The cost will depend upon the number of participants coming, and the combination of objectives (and the logistics involved (e.g. domestic flights, hotels 4*4 vehicles etc.)), but is likely to be between £2,500-£3,200 for a 2 week trip.

Objectives include:

Objective 1: No definite photographs exist of *Nepenthes alzapan*. The species is known only from herbarium specimens collected in 1925, and has never been seen with certainty since. It was described by botanists Martin Cheek and Matthew Jebb in 2013. Even the name “Mount Alzapan” does not appear on any maps. After months of research, the Redfern Team has located the likely candidate mountain. We will try and see this long-lost species (note: absolutely no guarantee of success - it is possible we may climb this mountain and find no *Nepenthes* at all - but this is the nature of exploration!)

Objective 2: We will then transfer to northern Luzon to climb a mountain where two possible new species have been reported (one similar to *Nepenthes ventricosa* and one similar to *N. argentii*). Our visit would be observation only (we cannot collect herbarium specimens without permits, which our Philippine colleagues may undertake at a later date, once permits have been issued). We may be able to shed light on whether these reported populations are new species or not and all findings will be shared with our botanist friends in the Philippines.

Objective 3: As a slightly more easy and reliable final objective, we will observe the very little known *Nepenthes barcelonae* in the wild and follow reports of a further new species growing on the same mountain which this species occurs.

This expedition is intended to add new knowledge to our understanding of the genus *Nepenthes* in Luzon, and no matter how many new taxa we discover, we will have a really fun and exciting trip.

Email sales@redfernadventures.com for more information and to make bookings.

NOTE: this trip is photographic / observation expedition. No scientific research, collection of herbarium specimens, or plant material will be undertaken, in accordance with Philippine laws. A copy of all photographs and all findings will be shared with our colleagues and friends in the Philippines.



OBJECTIVE 1: *NEPENTHES ALZAPAN*

Nepenthes alzapan was collected in 1925 and described in 2013, but no definite photographs of this species exist. We will attempt to observe this 'lost' species for the first time since 1925!



