

# Port of Olongapo

The Port of Olongapo also referred to, as the inner harbor has been the site of many ships sinking over the decades. Some such as the PBY's (see historical section) have not been found while others have been salvaged or destroyed so as not to create a hazard to navigation. Numerous large ships enter the harbor everyday making most of the area unavailable for diving. This area has three wrecks that are safe for diving, The Oryoku Maru, Seian Maru and USS New York. Even these dive sites are sometimes closed due to ship traffic.

## The Oryoku Maru The "Hell Ship"

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|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Type of site | Wreck (not intact), artificial reef                                    |
| Depth range  | 15 to 20 meters  |
| specialties  |  |
| current      | Generally calm some current on tide, surge possible during bad weather |
| Rating       | **   |

A Luxury Japanese cruise ship converted for military use. At the time of her sinking on December 15 1944, she was being used to transport Japanese families and Prisoners of War to Japan.



*Oryoku Maru, before War and under Attack*

Located near the Alava pier the ship has been reduced to mostly rubble by demolition teams and nature. A wide variety of fish life has grown creating a nice artificial reef. While a nice site, divers do not often visit it

### Dive level

Novice and Basic: a simple site with little options for different skill levels. The mass of steel combined with coral growth makes for a great fish-life habitat.