

Local and foreign tourists also buy jars directly from any of these factories. Since Pagburnayan is a must-see section in Vigan tours, jars, especially the miniatures, are easily sold. The miniatures have a potential for expansion as they are bought and resold with some value added, as in converting these into painted decorative items.

#### **JAR MAKING:**

The jar maker takes a piece of the clay according to his desired jar size. He sprinkles it first with fine sand before placing it on the potter's wheel, which he manually operates with his foot. He earns P5-7 for every large jar he makes.

For huge jars, the molder creates the lower and upper parts separately. Then, another helper combines the two parts. The jars are then left to dry for a day and then placed in the oven or dragon kiln, which is 50 meters long and more than four feet high. Made of bricks, its roof is designed with dragon's scales. The jars are cooked in 1200°C heat, vitrifying the sand and clay to form a metal glass-like surface that resonates like a bell when struck by stone. After three days in the kiln, it takes another 20-22 hours for the jars to sufficiently harden.

### **Barangay Officials**

**Brgy. Captain:**  
Felicisimo "Bong" Artajos

**Brgy. Kagawad:**  
Fidel Go  
Mario King  
Purita Rebaula  
Emilia Artajos  
Cecilio Azurin Sr.  
Pablo Millan  
Edwin Singson

**Secretary:**  
Nenita L. Castillo

**Treasurer:**  
Clara Espiritu

**SK Chairman:**  
Aubrey Espiritu

**SK Kagawad:**  
Ann Rose Artajos  
Jennifer de Guzman  
Ell June Go  
Jayson Arconado  
Karen Arriola  
Paul Anthony Agcamaran  
Kristine Dianne Collado



**BURNAY**  
in  
**Pagburnayan**

## VIVA VIGAN

Vigan is an island, which used to be detached from the mainland by three rivers - the great Abra River, the Mestizo River and the Govantes River. It is unique among the Philippine towns because it is the country's most extensive and only surviving historic city that dates back to the 15th century Spanish colonial period. The name Vigan came from the Ilocano word "kabigan" pertaining to the plant "bigaa" which is a tuberous plant that once grew along the banks of its rivers.

Vigan is a World Heritage Site in that it is the most intact example of a Spanish colonial town in Asia, and is well-known for its cobblestone streets and a unique architecture that fuses Asian building design and construction with European colonial architecture and planning. Vigan, earlier known as "Ciudad Fernandina" from 1758 to late 19th century, is the oldest surviving Spanish colonial city in the country. Vigan brings images of antiquated houses, cobbled narrow streets of the old Mestizo District, popularly known in the olden days as Kasanglayan (Chinese Quarters). People describe Vigan as a place where "time stood still". Yet, despite all the romantic images this place provokes, much is still to be learned about Vigan.

It was once a thriving center for trade and commerce among the people of Ilocandia and the Cordilleras. Vigan is situated at the delta of the Abra River going to the South China Sea. This position at the mouth of the river connected to the China Sea has made trade feasible and convenient with other islands and with China. Vigan was where Juan de Salcedo established the Spanish government of Ilocos and was made the seat of the Bishopric of Nueva Segovia in 1778. It became the center of Spanish rule and influence and the preaching of Catholicism and pacification movements in the Ilocos Region.

Local and foreign visitors describe Vigan as a "place like no other" due to the uniqueness of its historic townscape. The architectural monuments of its mercantile heyday still stand, and a number of museums preserve the area's cultural heritage. It has auspiciously escaped the bombs of World War II unlike its sister cities, Manila and Cebu. The people of the province are very thankful that it has survived the wrath and destruction of the Second World war.



## BURNAY INDUSTRY

The burnay is an earthenware jar crafted by a potter's hands with the aid of a potter's wheel. It uses fine sand (anay) as a tempering material and fired at a high temperature in a huge brick-and-clay ground kiln that makes it is harder and more durable than other terra cotta. The local bagoong (fish sauce), sugarcane vinegar and basi wine would not taste as good if not fermented in stoneware burnay jars.

Burnay technology was brought to Vigan by Chinese artisans, who, according to Vigan folk historian Damaso King, came from Kwi-Sao, Chun-chiu province in Mainland China. As such, it may have existed in the area even before the coming of the Spaniards in 1572. These Chinese artisans who set up this cottage industry depended on the natives for their clay supply and labor.

Fidel Go, owner of the Ruby Pottery and descendant of the first Chinese potter who came to Vigan, has his own account of the burnay industry's history in Vigan. According to him, burnay technology was introduced to Vigan around 1890 by Pedro Go, a Chinese settler from Chinkang, in Fukien, Mainland China. He set up his camarin (jar factory) along what is now known as Rivero Street in Brgy. VIII. Today's Barangay VII is still more popularly known as Pagburnayan, which means "place where burnay is made".