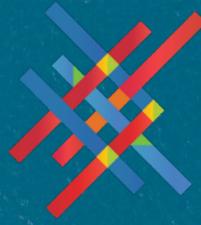


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THE PHILIPPINES

PEARL OF THE ORIENT SEA



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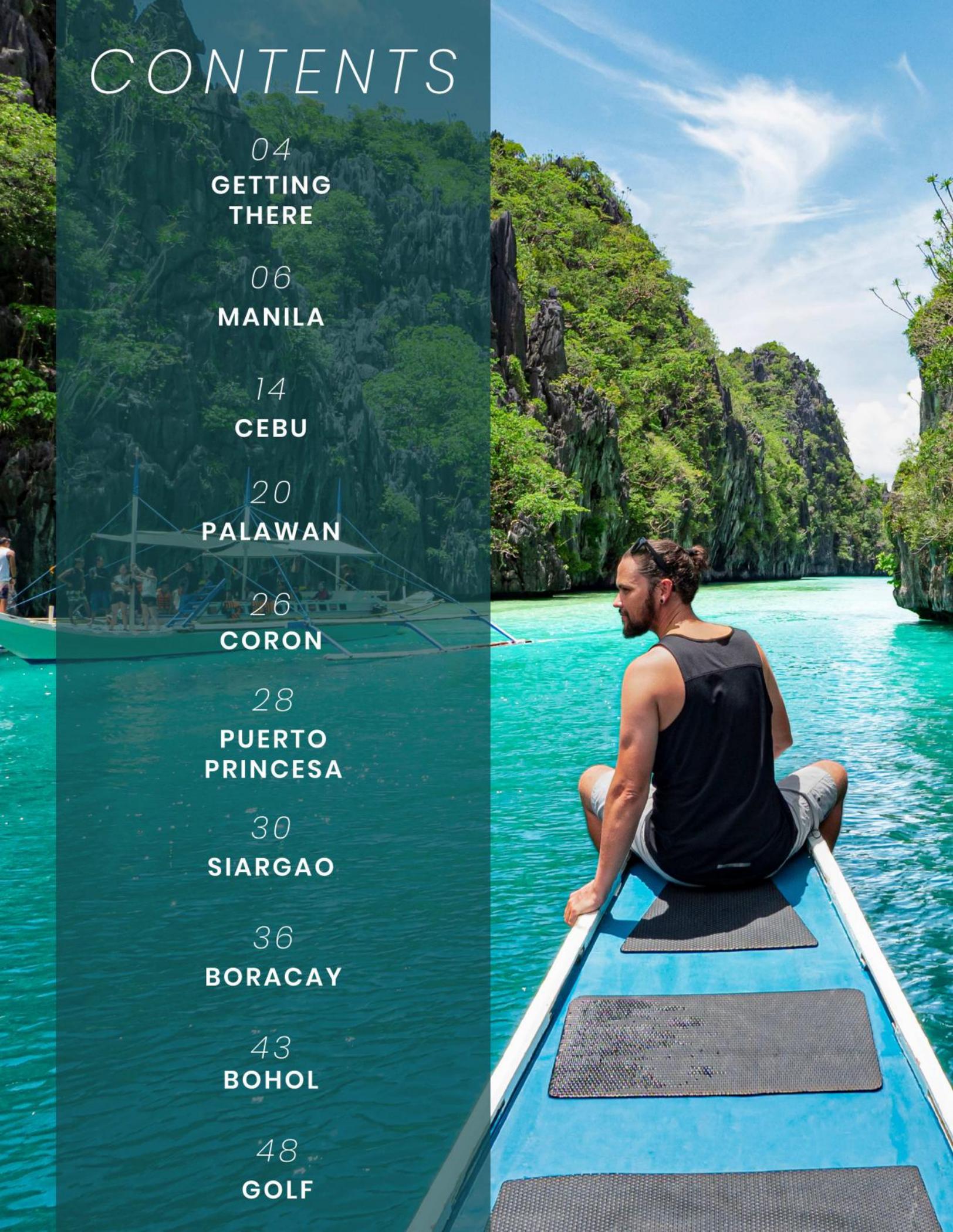
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Welcome Back to the Philippines!



WELCOME TO THE PHILIPPINES

In 1521, renowned explorer Ferdinand Magellan landed on the shores of Homonhon — one of the 7,641 islands that were destined to collectively become the Philippines — during his search for a new spice route to the East Indies under the auspices of King Charles I of Spain. At the height of the resulting colonization, Jesuit missionaries bestowed a sobriquet inspired by the country's overflowing natural beauty — 'Perla del Mar de Oriente', or 'Pearl of the Orient Sea'. The nickname succeeded in illustrating how stunningly gorgeous the Philippine islands are, but subsequent visitors would still find it challenging to encapsulate everything about the archipelago into one defining adjective.

The Philippines literally has a lot to offer to keen travelers — rich history that's partly rooted from centuries of foreign influence; culinary traditions that seamlessly fuse flavors from Asia, Europe, and the New World; a sprawling megacity teeming with all manner of sights, sounds, and experiences; a vast number of natural attractions like pristine beaches and turquoise-blue waters; and locals possessed by an unfathomable amount of warm hospitality and an enthusiastic eagerness to share their culture with their guests. So what are you waiting for? Take the plunge into one of the most picturesque up-and-coming Southeast Asian destinations today!

Kawasan waterfalls, Cebu



NEXT STOP: THE PHILIPPINES

Travelers from the United States who want to visit the Philippines have access to multiple direct flight options, all of which will conveniently take them to two of the six international gateways in the country: Manila & Cebu. Visitors can fly nonstop from the US to Manila (MNL) via LAX, SFO, HNL, GUM, and SPN. They will arrive at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) – the premier international hub of the Philippines. US travelers can also fly nonstop to Cebu (CEB) via LAX, JFK, ORD, SFO, and SEA. Alternatively, travelers can utilize South Korea’s award-winning Incheon Airport as a convenient via point to fly into Cebu or Manila.

In a nation comprised of thousands of islands and islets, one would certainly expect to spend some time traveling from one breathtaking location to another. Rest assured, there’s plenty of solid options for exploring the archipelago. Air travel remains as the fastest method of moving around the Philippines, but there are excellent sea travel options that visitors can take – such as the ferry route from Cebu to Bohol.



AIR TRAVEL FROM MANILA TO:

- Cebu 1.5 hours
- Palawan 1.5 hours
- Siargao 2.5 hours
- Boracay 1.5 hours
- Bicol 1.5 hours
- Coron 1 hour 15
- Puerto Princesa 1.5 hours



AIR TRAVEL FROM CEBU TO:

- Palawan 1.5 hours
- Boracay 1 hour



SEA TRAVEL FROM CEBU TO:

- Bohol 2 hours



AIR TRAVEL VIA INCHEON TO:

- Manila 4 hours 15 min
- Cebu 4 hours 45 min

FANTASTIC PHILIPPINES

MANILA, EL NIDO & CEBU 10 DAYS / 9 NIGHTS

Saying “the Philippines has diversity” is an understatement to say the least. This is a declaration that is in no way false, but it somewhat oversimplifies the true extent of what the Philippines is. There are plenty of places in the archipelago that delivers more than enough of their fair share of dazzling diversity.

This experience gives you a superb sampler of the country’s cornucopia of offerings: a vibrant culture where Spanish influence can be found around every corner, but modern life takes on many American traits; one of the friendliest people on the planet; great multi-cultural cuisine touted as the “next American food trend” by culinary celebrities like Andrew Zimmern; a “don’t worry, be happy” kind of relaxing island vibe; and an insane amount of absolutely stunning beaches.

FEATURED INCLUSIONS:

- 2 Nights Manila, 4 Nights El Nido with All Meals & 3 Nights Cebu
- Private Arrival & Departure Transfers Per City
- Private Old Manila Charms Half-Day Tour
- Private Cebu City Half-Day Tour
- Daily Breakfast

[LEARN MORE](#)

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



MANILA

Although a thriving settlement already existed as far back as 1258, the seeds of the modern metropolis were planted when conquistador Miguel López de Legazpi founded the Spanish city of Manila – to be governed by Madrid by way of Mexico – in 1571. Today, it is the deliciously hyperactive capital of the Philippines; an excitingly provocative yet underrated destination that readily offers its secrets to any traveler willing to put some effort to unmask the captivating beauty that hides beneath its concrete urban facade.

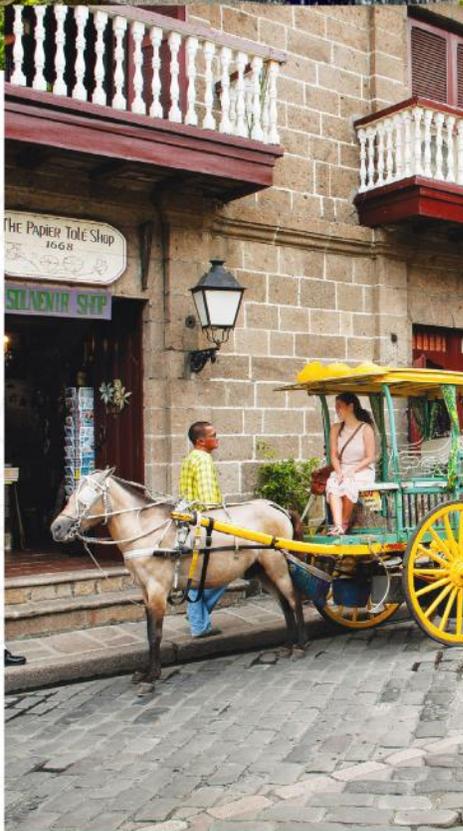




MIXED HERITAGE

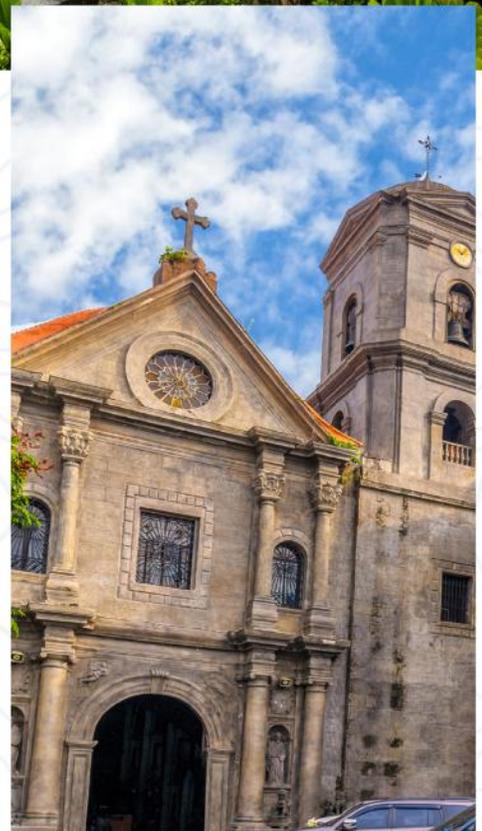
WATCH VIDEO

Although remnants from 333 years of Spanish rule are littered across the country, the impact of the Americans is astonishingly pervasive. Not only is the Philippines the third largest English-speaking country in the world, it's also the home of quirky cultural gems like the 'Jeepney' – a type of public transport based on extremely modified Willys MB Jeeps that were left behind during the aftermath of WWII. This is especially true in Manila, the republic's bustling capital. Experience Manila's melting pot qualities through local customs, food, and other heritage attractions variously influenced by diverse sources like Spain, the United States, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, and even India!



DISCOVER INTRAMUROS

Dating as far back as 1571, the 'Walled City' is the oldest district in Manila. It was the seat of Spanish governance in the Philippines, and the location of Fort Santiago, and San Agustin Church.



SAN AGUSTIN CHURCH

One of the five Baroque Churches of the Philippines deemed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, this church was built in 1607 and survived Manila's destruction during WWII.

THE BIG BINONDO FOOD WOK

Nibble your merry way through Binondo, the oldest Chinatown in the world! Established by the ruling Spaniards in 1594, its purpose was to house the Chinese immigrants forced to convert to Catholicism. These settlers brought with them the quintessential recipes from various regions of China, and travelers can still savor the numerous dishes and treats even to this day!

The tour starts at a landmark that's 400 years old: Binondo Church. Learn about the history of the area from Ivan Man Dy, the foodie tour guide who accompanied the late celebrity chef and author Anthony Bourdain during his first ever visit to Manila's Chinatown. Check out popular landmarks such as Plaza Calderon dela Barca, Basilica de San Lorenzo Ruiz, and Ongpin Street.

Weave through the bustling crowds and enjoy a tasting experience like no other in the country. The menu varies day-to-day, but some of the staple items that can be expected include dumplings from Dong Bei, Fujianese-style bean pastries called hopia, fresh lumpia, and Cha siu bao-inspired pork-filled steamed buns called siopao. The tour ends with a stop at a local vendor, where travelers can purchase the perfect souvenir to bring back home.





LOCAL IMMERSION WITH AETAS +

Three hours away from Metro Manila lies a tourism office in Capas, Tarlac where travelers can take a one-hour 4x4 Jeep ride to reach an Aeta Village and get immersed in the indigenous way of life of the locals. These nomadic people are one of the earliest known inhabitants of the Philippines. More than 140 Aeta families were displaced from their ancestral lands when Mt. Pinatubo erupted in 1991 and destroyed the surrounding landscape with its violent volcanic mudflows.



TRAVEL THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Many Aetas are scattered throughout central Luzon, many of which have no access to water, sanitation facilities, electricity, roads, and bridges. While interacting with local Aetas in the settlement, the guide will help travelers communicate with them. If they wish, guests can bring and donate items such as clothes, food, and other necessities.



A TASTE OF SOUTHERN LUZON

Bicol comprises the southern part of Luzon – the largest island in the Philippines – and is a fantastic getaway from the urbanized chaos of Manila. It offers plenty of amazing destinations including: Albay, home of the famous cone shaped Mayon Volcano; Caramoan, a peninsula famous for being the location of the 26th season of Survivor; and Donsol, a highly regarded spot for whale shark watching.

But for most Filipinos, Bicol is mainly defined by one thing: its spicy cuisine. The region is known for its abundant use of chilies and coconut milk; infusing everything with a unique flavor profile that's guaranteed to turn up the heat. Notable dishes include Laing, Kinunot, and the eponymous Bicol Express.



Igado – Pork tenderloin, liver and vegetables



A DOSE OF SOFT ADVENTURE

TAGAYTAY WELLNESS

Just 31 miles to the south of Manila, located on the edge of an 18.6-mile-wide ancient volcanic caldera, sits Tagaytay – a beautiful city that offers panoramic views of Taal Lake, a gamut of first-rate restaurants and hotels, and an assortment of relaxation and wellness options. Head to Tagaytay's first premier spa and choose from a range of Filipino-inspired treatments in Ifugao huts and packages infused with indigenous customs.





*FAIRMONT MAKATI 5**

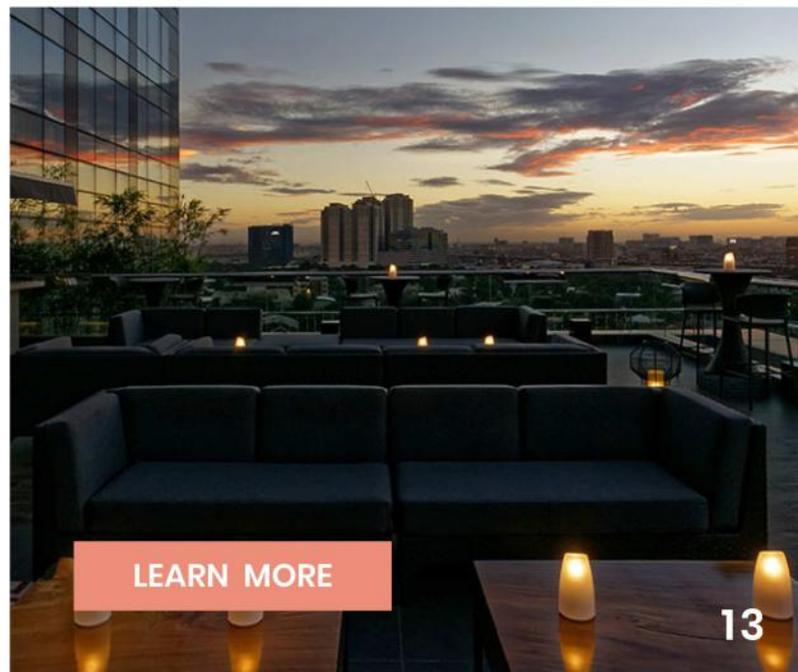
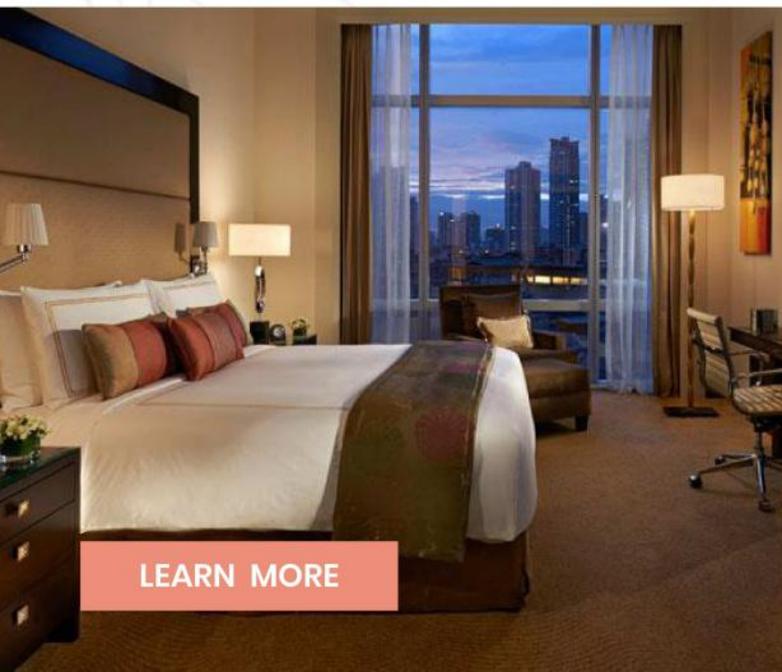
This five-star luxury hotel is set in an excellent location in Makati — Metro Manila's prosperous central business district. The property is within walking distance from the Ayala Museum, the Philippine Stock Exchange, and the Greenbelt malls — the district's popular upscale shopping establishments.

The Fairmont offers ideal proximity to first-rate restaurants offering traditional Filipino fare, superb shopping options, and Makati's glamorous and electrifying nightlife.

*RAFFLES MAKATI 5**

Located in the same block as the Fairmont, this sophisticated luxury property offers stylish suites — each designed to create a sense of warmth and comfort — that deliver commanding views of the financial district. It also features floor-to-ceiling windows as well as a highly regarded butler service.

Not only will the hotel guests enjoy convenient access to nearby museums, restaurants, bars, and shopping malls, Raffles Makati also lies within 3.1 miles away from Ninoy Aquino International Airport and the Manila Golf and Country Club.







CEBU

Known as the 'Queen City of the South', Cebu is the oldest city in the Philippines and is considered as the birthplace of Christianity in the Far East. Cebu has been selected by Condé Nast Traveler time and again as one of the most beautiful islands in the South Pacific — a slice of heaven on earth that offers relaxing beach escapes, thrilling eco-adventures, popular snorkeling and diving spots, expertly-crafted local products, colorful festivals, and more.

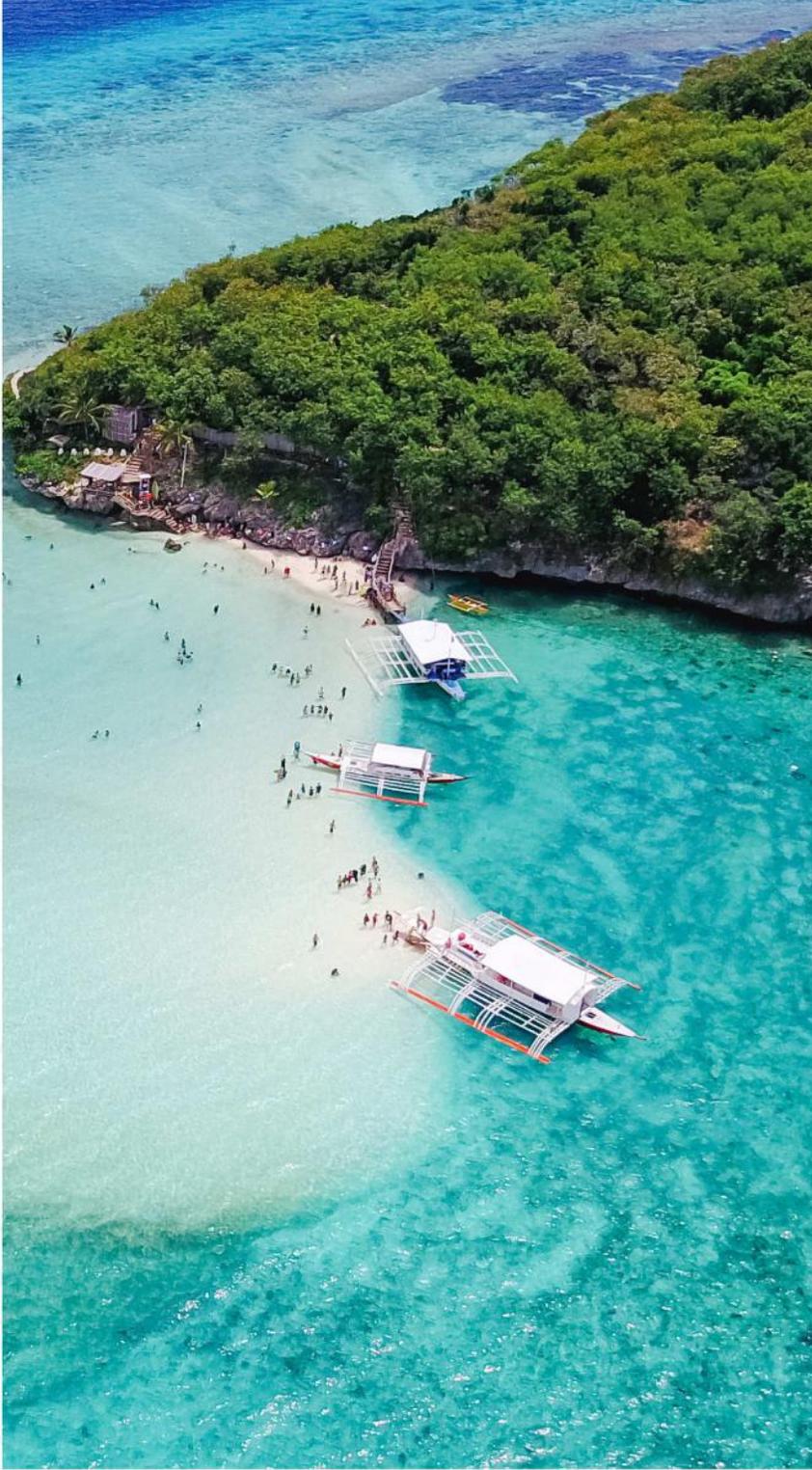
HISTORICAL CEBU

Travel to Magellan's Cross and bear witness to the spot where the first Christian Filipinos were baptized. The cross still stands, now encased in tindaloo wood and sheltered by a kiosk-like structure — a poignant reminder of Christianity's overall impact on the Philippines and its people.

Just across the site is the Basilica Minore Del Santo Niño De Cebu, where the oldest religious relic in the country is kept — an image of Santo Niño that Ferdinand Magellan gave to Queen Juana as a gift during the baptism of King Humabon in 1521.

Forty years after the death of Magellan at the hands of Lapu-Lapu — neighboring Mactan's ruler and the first native to resist the advance of the Spaniards — Miguel Lopez de Legaspi arrived in Cebu to formally convert the Cebuanos with Fr. Andres de Urdaneta's help, and to kickstart Spain's aggressive colonization efforts.





ISLAND HOPPING + EXPERIENCE

WATCH VIDEO

Travel to Hilutungan Marine Sanctuary aboard a motorized boat that locals refer to as 'banca'. During the 45-minute journey, enjoy fabulous views of lush islands sprinkled across the glistening sea. Upon arrival, discover abundant corals teeming with tropical marine life. Travelers can snorkel in the pristine waters and feed the fish while at the sanctuary.

The next stop will be Nalusuan, a man-made resort island located in Cebu Strait. It's a veritable aqua sports paradise that offers cool options like ocean kayaking, snorkeling, banana boat riding, and more. Snorkel your way across the protected coral garden and marvel at the otherworldly beauty that lies beneath the surface of the crystal-clear waters.

Breathe in the fresh air and get lost in the moment as you unwind and cap your stay at one of several available cozy cottages.





BUTANDING

There are several places in the world — Thailand, Australia, the Maldives, etc. — where travelers can find and swim with the largest fish in the world: Whale Sharks. Known locally in the Philippines as Butanding, these gentle giants can grow as large as 60 feet!



LEARN MORE

BLUEWATER MARIBAGO 4*

Enjoy a high-end Cebuano-style vacation at this posh beachfront resort. Bluewater Maribago puts heavy emphasis on delivering ‘Amuma’— a Visayan umbrella term that means caring, nurturing, tending, and feeding.

Along with its chic rooms, suites, and bungalows, the hotel offers numerous leisure features including a private island, 3 lagoon-shaped swimming pools with waterfalls, a recreation and water sports center, full-service restaurants, and spa facilities.



LEARN MORE

CRIMSON MACTAN RESORT & SPA 5*

Located in Mactan, Cebu —one of the Philippine’s most popular tourist destinations — this sprawling 6-hectare beach resort and spa is situated in a historical area that’s 1.8 miles away from the famous Magellan Shrine and a 20-minute drive away from Mactan International Airport.

The luxury property features bright and contemporary Asian-style rooms, elegant villas with great ocean views, and a private white-sand beach. The resort also offers water sports activities like jet skiing, kayaking, island-hopping tours, and scuba diving trips.





PALAWAN

This archipelagic province in the Visayas region is a consistent fixture in yearly 'best of' lists created by respected travel publications such as Condé Nast Traveler, Travel + Leisure, and National Geographic Traveler. Palawan pretty much solidifies the reputation of the Philippines as the location of the most enchanting tropical islands this side of the proverbial paradise. Among these magical places is El Nido, home of the stunning Bacuit Archipelago — 45 limestone islands dotted with karst cliffs, white-sand beaches, lagoons, sinkholes, and coves.

ROMANCE IN THE ISLANDS

Like most tropical island getaways — with their sundrenched coastlines, idyllic beach life, and drinks with tiny umbrellas — Palawan is unsurprisingly considered a lover's paradise, especially according

to travelers who are familiar with its tempting allure. The 1,780 islands and islets of Palawan offer rest and recreation that's naturally bathed in a romantic vibe — definitely perfect for couples.



Pass Island, Coron



ROMANCE TIP

Surprise the love of your life with a candlelit dinner on the beach beneath the stars! A lot of island resorts in Palawan will gladly help you create that unforgettable romantic experience. Unsure if this is possible? At least in the Philippines, it doesn't hurt to ask.



INTIMATE EL NIDO

Take your special someone away from the madding crowds and make a beeline for this dreamy destination. Exotic accommodations, like Miniloc Island Resort, provide the exquisite backdrop for celebrating love.

EXCITING EL NIDO

WATCH VIDEO

Palawan is a sprawling haven for soft eco-adventures. This is especially true in El Nido, where travelers can find the fantastic Bacuit Archipelago — the Philippines' answer to Vietnam's Halong Bay. Quintessential activities include island hopping, scuba diving, kayaking, snorkeling, windsurfing, hiking, and even mangrove tours where travelers get to enjoy some bird watching.

MARINE LIFE GALORE

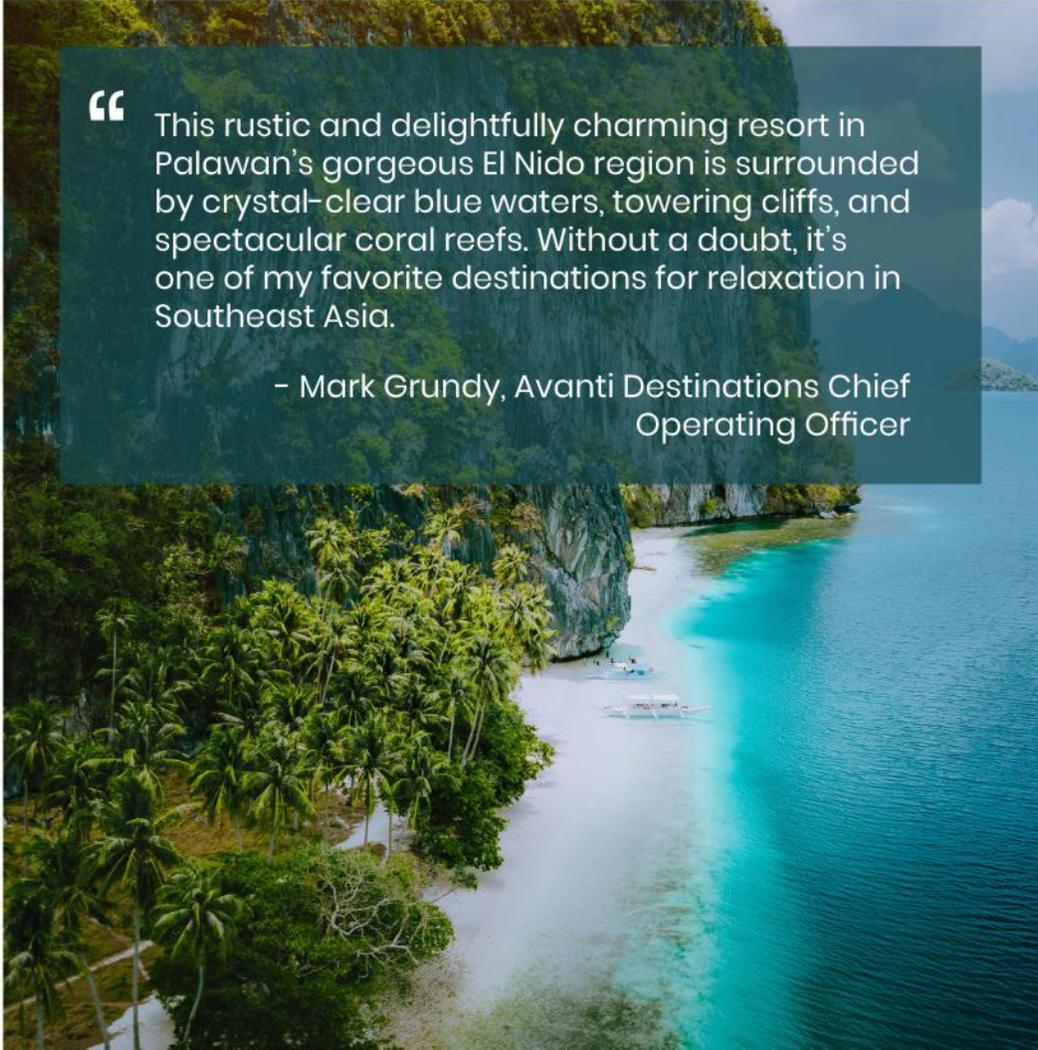
The Bacuit Archipelago's abundant marine biodiversity and ideal weather makes it one of the best scuba diving and snorkeling hot spots in the world. The crystalline turquoise waters are teeming with hundreds of coral and fish species like jack fish, sergeant majors, damselfish, and manta rays; as well as varieties of marine mammals like dolphins and native dugongs.



ALL-INCLUSIVE MINILOC ISLAND RESORT EXPERIENCE

Accessible only by boat, Miniloc Island Resort is tucked inside a cove on one of the famous islands of the Bacuit Archipelago; surrounded by otherworldly limestone karsts and the tempting waters of Bacuit Bay. It is a gateway to popular hotspots – like the Big Lagoon and Snake Island – and diving locations that are teeming with marine biodiversity. The resort exudes a back-to-basics coastal village vibe and has Filipino-style cottages and rooms built over the water, surrounded by gardens, or beside the beach.

[LEARN MORE](#)



“ This rustic and delightfully charming resort in Palawan’s gorgeous El Nido region is surrounded by crystal-clear blue waters, towering cliffs, and spectacular coral reefs. Without a doubt, it’s one of my favorite destinations for relaxation in Southeast Asia.

– Mark Grundy, Avanti Destinations Chief
Operating Officer



Bacuit Archipelago

MINILOC ISLAND RESORT 4*

Hotel guests are free to explore Miniloc – known as ‘Eco-Discovery Island’ – where a variety of unique and exciting activities and leisure options are available. Consider spending the day swimming or snorkeling with jackfish and other various fascinating marine species. A stay at the hotel includes:



INCLUSIONS

- Complimentary round-trip boat transfers to and from Lio airport
- Full-board meals with brewed coffee and tea at the Clubhouse Restaurant
- Fruit juices during breakfast
- Use of snorkeling equipment
- Use of available non-motorized water sports equipment (paddle board, windsurf, kayak, etc.)
- Standard resort guided activities/tours (snorkeling at house reef, kayaking, island hopping, etc.)

CORON

El Nido may arguably have the edge over Coron as far as accommodations, dining, and island-hopping options go, but the latter is the superior choice for snorkeling and scuba diving. Like most areas in Palawan, the waters of Coron are incredibly clear to the point where you can easily glimpse the beautiful marine environment that lies underneath. Coron's

must-see attractions include the crystal-clear Kayangan Lake, the sunken World War II shipwrecks, the white-sands of Banul Beach and Malcapuya Island, and Twin Lagoon — two bodies of water separated by stunning limestone cliffs. Coron also has a more serene and laidback atmosphere than El Nido.



Banul Beach



[LEARN MORE](#)

TWO SEASONS BAYSIDE 4*

Located alongside Coron Town's scenic bay, this superb 4-star accommodation offers spacious rooms and suites that feature floor-to-ceiling windows as well as notable amenities like the BAYA Resto Lounge, the Skydeck Jacuzzi Lounge, a fitness center, and an infinity pool that delivers amazing views of Coron Bay. This upscale hotel is a great choice as a base from which travelers can explore the area's tourist attractions such as Kayangan Lake, Twin Lagoons, the popular Siete Pecados snorkeling site, Maquinit Hot Springs, and more.

The advertisement features a large background image of a tropical resort. On the left, a large thatched-roof structure stands in a swimming pool. In the center, a modern building is surrounded by palm trees. On the right, a tropical beach with a white sand shore and turquoise water is shown, with a boat and a person in the distance. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

LEARN MORE

TWO SEASONS ISLAND RESORT 5*

Enjoy some well-earned break from life's hustle and bustle with a superb stay at one of Coron's best 5-star accommodations. Located on an island that's known as a turtle and giant clam sanctuary, Two Seasons is only accessible by boat from Coron Town. The resort features a vibrant house reef, lush tropical gardens, modern amenities, and two private beaches on opposite sides — providing guests with spectacular unhindered views of both sunrises and sunsets. The surrounding crystal-clear waters are excellent for snorkeling and scuba diving.

A photograph showing the interior of a Hilltop Bungalow. The room has a high, vaulted wooden ceiling with exposed beams. There are two beds with white linens and patterned throws. A wooden dining table and chairs are in the foreground. Large windows offer a view of the outdoors.

Two Seasons Island Resort - Hilltop Bungalow

PUERTO PRINCESA

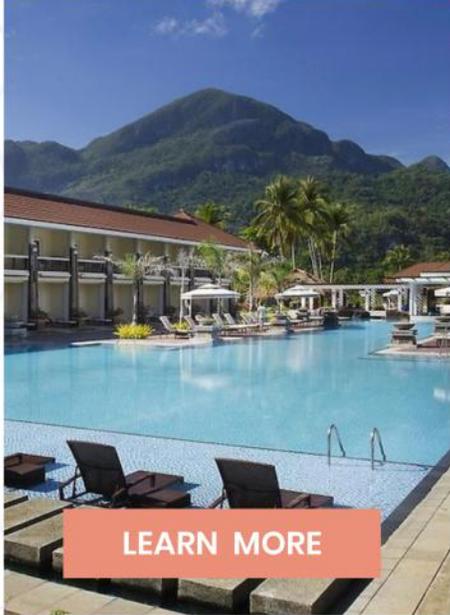
This coastal vacation destination is the capital of Palawan and is widely recognized as the cleanest and greenest city in the Philippines. Apart from being Palawan's main arrival hub, the city is best known as the home of the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park — a UNESCO World Heritage Site that encompasses one of the world's most impressive cave systems which was voted as one of the 'New 7 Wonders of Nature' in 2012. Puerto Princesa boasts a pleasant and laidback lifestyle with excellent modern-day conveniences while being surrounded by stunning natural environments. Simply put, it's an excellent starting point for travelers who wish to explore one of the most paradisiacal regions in the Philippines.





SHERIDAN BEACH RESORT & SPA 5*

This upscale beachfront property features colonial-style architecture, fantastic mountain and sea views, an outdoor pool, a full-service spa, and other excellent features and amenities. As the first green resort in the Philippines to champion environmental sustainability amidst one of Palawan's most protected areas, Sheridan Beach Resort & Spa is a perfect choice for travelers who are mindful of the environmental impact that the tourism industry brings. The hotel offers ideal proximity to heavyweight local attractions like the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, which is just 15 minutes away by boat.



[LEARN MORE](#)







SIARGAO

Home to 15 separate surf breaks including the acclaimed Cloud 9, the teardrop-shaped island of Siargao is rightfully regarded as the 'Surfing Capital of the Philippines'. It counts the rock star Anthony Kiedis and the legendary Kelly Slater — the most dominant surfing professional ever — amongst its fans who are in the know. Although one doesn't need to be a surfer to enjoy the island's idyllic atmosphere, gorgeous white-sand beaches, coral reefs, secluded waterfalls, tranquil forests, and warm local hospitality.

THE ISLAND GEMS OF SIARGAO

Just a short boat ride away from the coast of General Luna in Siargao is an experience that's bound to stay with you for the rest of your life. Embark on an amazing must-do island hopping activity that lets travelers visit and explore three famous islands near Siargao: Daku, Guyam, and Naked Island!



NAKED ISLAND

The name pretty much fits the description of this beach destination — fine white-sand and cool clear waters. It got its name because of its 'nakedness' — there's no shade or almost anything on the island! This minimalist location is essentially a sandbar, with about 100 meters of sand.



DAKU ISLAND

This is the biggest in the trio and has fine bone-white-sand, emerald waters, and swaying coconut trees — all of which make it the perfect spot for lunch. Enjoy a midday meal — comprised of classic local food such as grilled chicken, adobo, mango, pineapple, and salad — while chatting with the friendly locals who populate Daku.



GUYAM ISLAND

It may be small, but Guyam's picturesque beachscape, shallow waters, and tropical appeal more than makes up for its diminutive size. Smiling ladies will greet visitors with a small box to cheerfully let them know that there's a fee once you set foot on the island. Your entrance fee is covered of course. It's a small place, and one can easily walk from one side of the island to the other, weaving through 100 or so coconut palms. The surrounding water is crystal-clear, and visitors can see the big reef that surrounds the entire island.



ISLAND EATS

Previously unknown to tourists — before its reputation as the ‘Surf Capital of the Philippines’ elevated Siargao to its current state — the island now welcomes a good number of visitors each year. With them comes the need for good establishments that will satiate even the most demanding gourmand’s appetite. Fortunately, Siargao is home to a gamut of exceptional restaurants that specialize in local Filipino fare (grilled seafood, fresh ceviche, kinilaw, Filipino-style barbecue, adobo) as well as Italian, French, and even Moroccan cuisine — with a growing number of them placing heavy emphasis on healthy food choices.



CLOUD 9

Of all the surf breaks in Siargao, Cloud 9 is by far the most popular. Not only does it have the best barreling waves in the Philippines, it also strikes the perfect balance between nature and infrastructure — something that helps safeguard the island from turning into a spoiled and over-touristed destination. Surfing is certainly Siargao’s biggest draw, enticing amateur and professional surfers alike from all corners of the globe. So be sure to pack your rash guard and aqua shoes before setting off for the best surf experience this side of the pond!

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

An aerial photograph of Siargao island, Philippines, showcasing a lush tropical landscape. The image is dominated by vibrant green palm trees. A prominent feature is a zipline that extends from a tall palm tree on the left towards the center. Two individuals are visible on the zipline: one is positioned higher up, and another is lower down, suspended in the air. The island's terrain is a mix of dense forest and sandy areas. The surrounding water is a deep, clear blue. The overall scene conveys a sense of adventure and natural beauty.

SECRETS OF SIARGAO

Looking for a dreamy getaway to escape life's frenetic pace? Siargao may just be the perfect answer that you are waiting for! Experience four lovely nights in the celebrated tropical destination — a veritable paradise for surfers, water lovers, and general adventurers.

[LEARN MORE](#)

SIARGAO BLEU RESORT & SPA 4*

Surrounded by lush tropical foliage, this beachfront property is Siargao's sole spa resort as well as its largest hotel. Guests can pamper themselves with luxurious accommodations and amenities, including personalized butler service that's available upon request. The resort is just a 5-minute walk from Cloud 9 and its famous waves.

Siargao Bleu Resort & Spa offers attractive fishing and surfing packages, the biggest seafood restaurant in the island, a bar where surfers can enjoy a drink after a day of riding the waves, and a spa that provides an array of massage techniques done by highly trained professional therapists.



Sugba lagoon in Siargao

MAGPUPUNGKO ROCK POOLS

Magpupungko is literally a hidden Siargao gem – visitors must patiently wait for the low tide when the receding coastline reveals natural tidal pools that are perfect for dipping, swimming, and cliff jumping. It is definitely one of the most popular destinations in Siargao. Think of it as an infinity pool that Mother Nature expertly created – it's that beautiful!

Part of the attraction is the imposing Magpupungko Rock – a dramatic formation that serves as the site's recognizable landmark. This scenic spot was named after this very boulder, which appears to be sitting on another rock. 'Pungko' means to squat in Visayan; hence the name. Separated from the ocean by a large reef, the clear water is amazingly tinted with all shades of blue, green, and everything between.





BORACAY

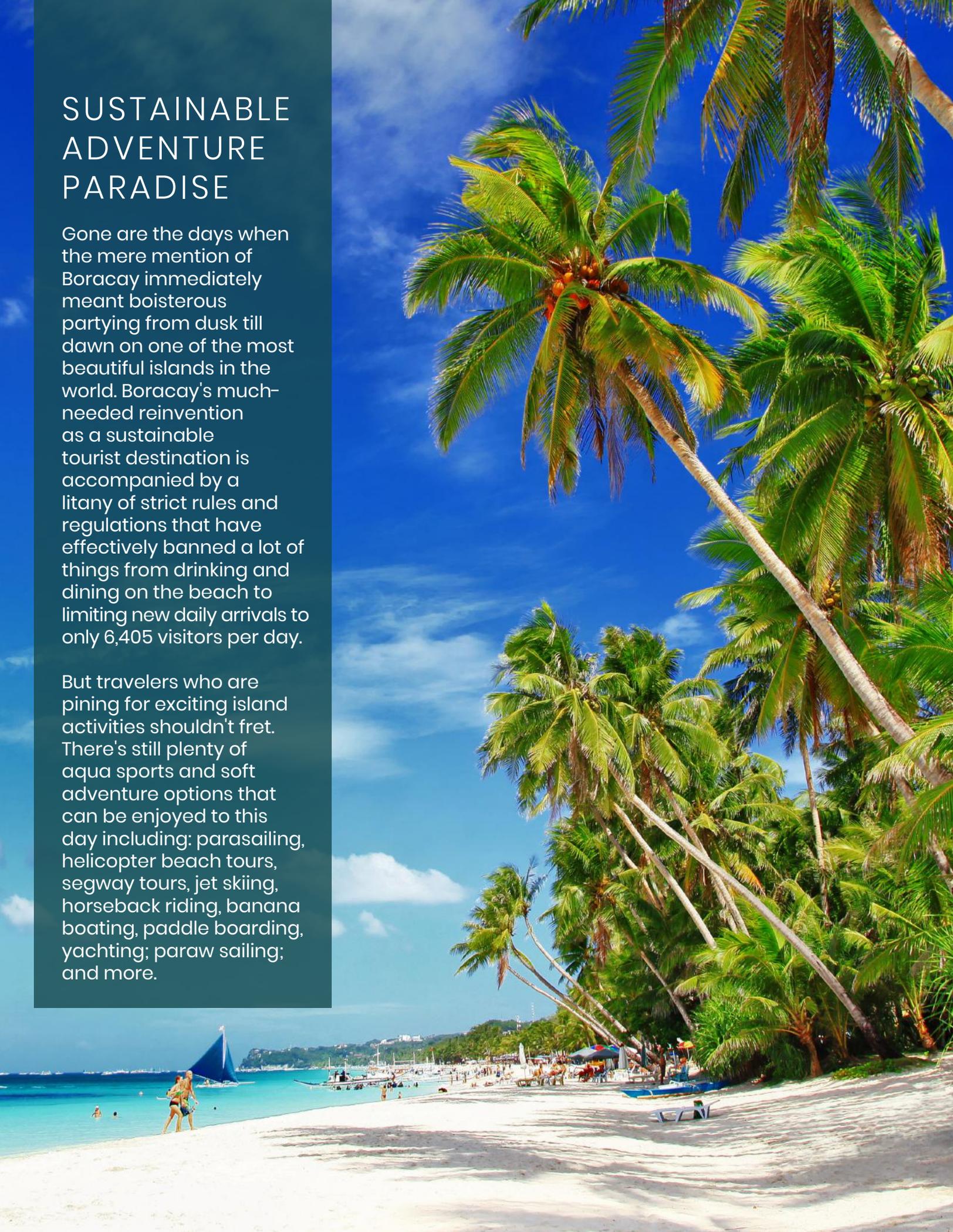
After shutting down for six months in 2018 to address the adverse effects of over-tourism and unregulated development, Boracay continues to deliver the 'wow factor' to excited visitors looking to experience the many reasons why the popular vacation hotspot has been voted several times as one of the best island beaches in the world. Completely reinvigorated, the world-class tropical destination now has stern guidelines in place to ensure ecological sustainability. Despite all the changes, the tiny island in Aklan — with its famed powdery white-sand, shallow and tranquil azure waters, and first-rate accommodations and restaurants — remains as one of the most beautiful places in the archipelago.



SUSTAINABLE ADVENTURE PARADISE

Gone are the days when the mere mention of Boracay immediately meant boisterous partying from dusk till dawn on one of the most beautiful islands in the world. Boracay's much-needed reinvention as a sustainable tourist destination is accompanied by a litany of strict rules and regulations that have effectively banned a lot of things from drinking and dining on the beach to limiting new daily arrivals to only 6,405 visitors per day.

But travelers who are pining for exciting island activities shouldn't fret. There's still plenty of aqua sports and soft adventure options that can be enjoyed to this day including: parasailing, helicopter beach tours, segway tours, jet skiing, horseback riding, banana boating, paddle boarding, yachting; paraw sailing; and more.





PARASAILING

Also known as parakiting, this recreational water activity has historically been quite popular on the island. Riders — attached to specially-designed canopy wings resembling parachutes — can enjoy a stunning bird's eye view of Boracay's white-sand shoreline as they are towed by a fast-moving vehicle below. This is definitely an adrenaline-soaked experience, especially for adventurers who don't mind heights.



JET SKIING

There's nothing quite like the rush of speeding along on the open waters of Boracay onboard a jet ski. It may be the complete antithesis of idyllic island life, but it sure is a lot of fun! Regardless of Boracay's regular weather patterns and waves, which ranges from calm to slightly spirited, this activity option is a surefire delight. Perfect for teenagers and grown-ups alike.



PARAW SAILING

Enjoy the traditional way of sailing onboard a Paraw — a type of sailboat that the locals use. Go to the best sites around Boracay, taking Instagram-worthy pictures all throughout. Combined with the nimble craft's excellent ability to cut through the waves, the sailors' tendency to stay close to the shoreline, and Boracay's generally calm waters, this usually tranquil experience is a pleasant introduction to the joys of sailing.



[LEARN MORE](#)

COAST BORACAY 4*

Welcome to beachfront bliss at this comfortable accommodation that knows how to harness quirky charm and fuse it with authentic Filipino hospitality. Immediately after arrival, travelers are greeted by transfer staff offering sweet treats and wearing bright pink uniforms that have taglines like 'You Talk, We Listen' printed on the back. Guests even receive a welcome drink and a cold towel while the hotel staff checks them in. From that moment onwards, it's realistic to expect the same degree of warmth, friendliness, and quality service all throughout your stay.

The hotel's clean and contemporary design, accentuated by handmade accent pieces from skilled weavers in Mindanao, are most certainly Instagram-worthy. Boracay Island's dreamy beach – with its vaunted powdery sand and calm crystal-clear waters – is just a few steps away from the hotel entrance; and 1-bedroom suites feature floor-to-ceiling windows that provide poolside views.



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DISCOVERY SHORES 5*

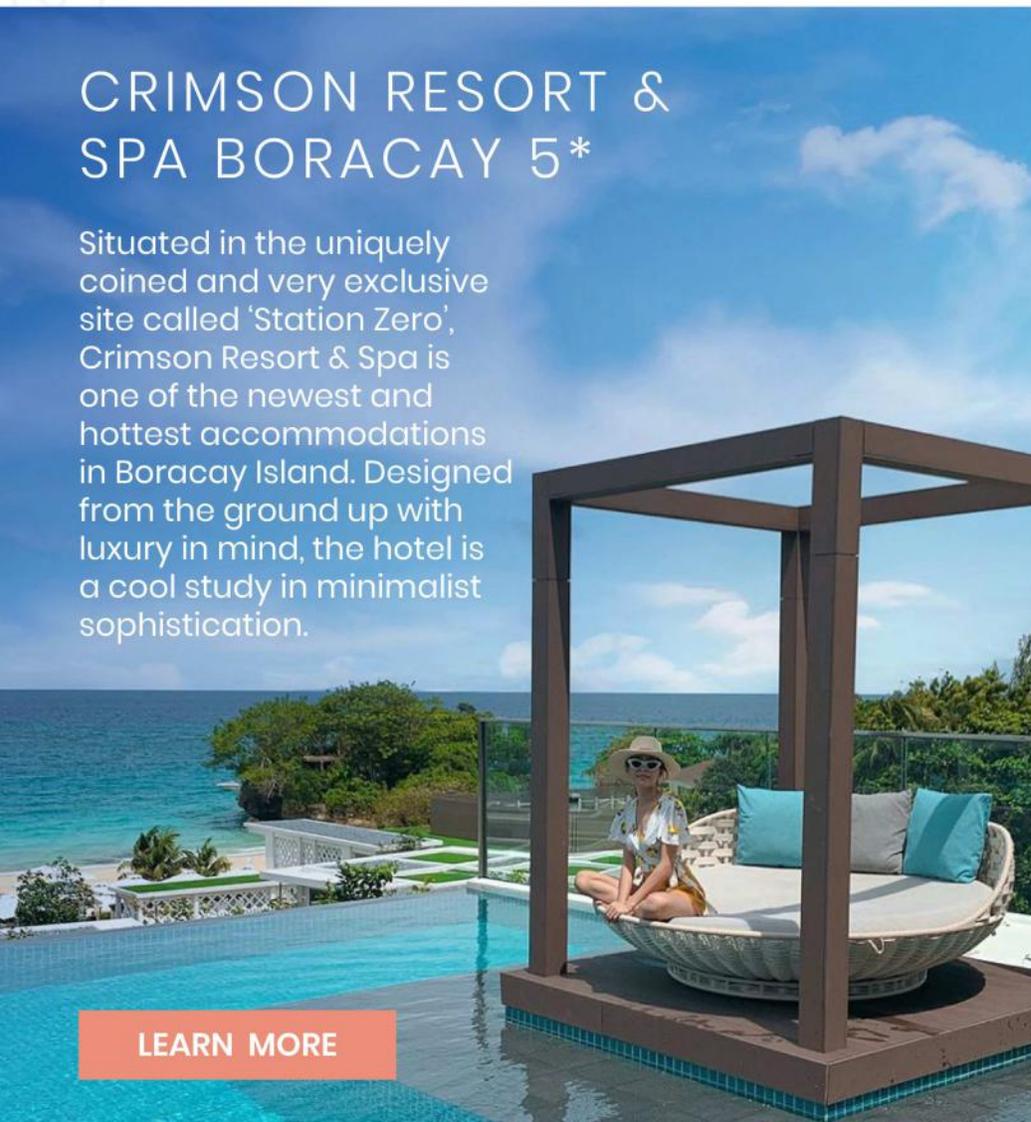
Set inside a beachfront complex composed of well-designed modern buildings, this award-winning accommodation is ideally positioned in Station 1 of Boracay's White Beach – a stretch of coast famed for its powder-soft white-sand, crystal-blue waters, magical sunsets, exuberant nightlife, exciting water activities, and notable foodie experiences. The hotel features elegant contemporary rooms, some of which offer private decks with Jacuzzis. Amenities include three of Boracay's top restaurants, an outdoor pool, a spa, and convenient beach access.



Crimson Resort & Spa Boracay

CRIMSON RESORT & SPA BORACAY 5*

Situated in the uniquely coined and very exclusive site called 'Station Zero', Crimson Resort & Spa is one of the newest and hottest accommodations in Boracay Island. Designed from the ground up with luxury in mind, the hotel is a cool study in minimalist sophistication.



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The property features spacious and elegant rooms and villas, floor-to-ceiling windows that allow guests to enjoy breathtaking ocean views, top-notch restaurants that serve Asian and Latin American cuisines, and a private and undisturbed white-sand beach!

Guests have access to a range of cool activities including beach soccer, yoga, beach volleyball, kayaking, and paraw sailing. Travelers who prefer a bit of excitement in their island vacations will certainly like the beachside DJ sets and special events like foam parties.





BOHOL

Located in the country's central Visayas region, this island-province is famous for two main things: the diminutive bug-eyed Tarsier — one of the world's smallest primates; and the Chocolate Hills — a fascinating hilly terrain composed of over 1,200 generally conical and almost symmetrical limestone mounds that turn cocoa-brown during the dry season. After ticking off the two bucket-list items, travelers can discover Bohol's other draws: white-sand beaches, superb dive spots brimming with marine life, remnants of Spanish rule, and a variety of memorable travel experiences worth checking out.



NATURE

WATCH VIDEO

THE CHOCOLATE HILLS

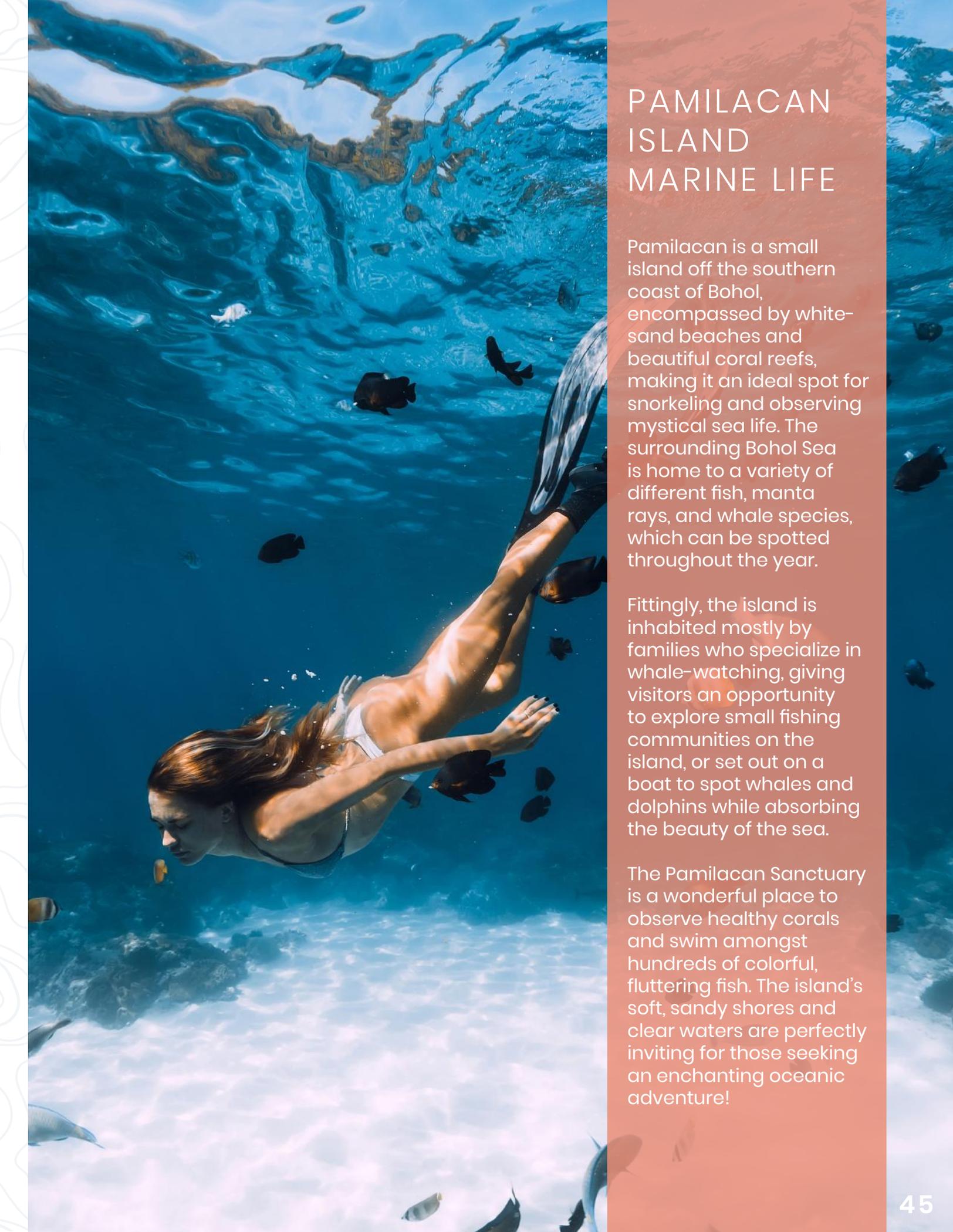
These famous geological formations can be found in the very heart of Bohol, in the municipality of Carmen to be specific. From the viewing deck situated on one of the hills, visitors can savor a panoramic view of most of the 1,268 cone-shaped hills which are green during the rainy season and chocolate brown during the summertime — the latter being the reason for the area's name.

THE TARSIER

Bohol is one of the few places in the world where the Tarsiers — those tiny, nocturnal, and cute arboreal primates with bulging eyes — are endemic. The palm-sized creatures prey on insects, lizards, and even snakes. They move through the rainforest by deftly launching themselves from trunk to trunk; a surefire treat to behold.

WATCH VIDEO



A woman with long brown hair, wearing a white bikini and black fins, is snorkeling underwater. She is positioned horizontally, looking towards the left. The water is a vibrant blue, and numerous small, dark fish are swimming around her. The background shows the surface of the water with ripples and reflections of light. The overall scene is serene and captures the beauty of marine life.

PAMILACAN ISLAND MARINE LIFE

Pamilacan is a small island off the southern coast of Bohol, encompassed by white-sand beaches and beautiful coral reefs, making it an ideal spot for snorkeling and observing mystical sea life. The surrounding Bohol Sea is home to a variety of different fish, manta rays, and whale species, which can be spotted throughout the year.

Fittingly, the island is inhabited mostly by families who specialize in whale-watching, giving visitors an opportunity to explore small fishing communities on the island, or set out on a boat to spot whales and dolphins while absorbing the beauty of the sea.

The Pamilacan Sanctuary is a wonderful place to observe healthy corals and swim amongst hundreds of colorful, fluttering fish. The island's soft, sandy shores and clear waters are perfectly inviting for those seeking an enchanting oceanic adventure!

BOHOL HISTORY

Visit the Blood Compact Commemorative Shrine, a historical landmark that memorializes the 'Sandugo' — Visayan for 'one blood' — between Spanish explorer Miguel López de Legazpi and chieftain Datu Sikatuna in 1565. This ritual sealed their friendship according to the dictates of local tribal tradition. A few miles from the monument is the centuries-old Baclayon Church — known for its expertly-carved wooden altars built during the heydays of the Spanish regime. The church houses a museum that showcases a collection of old religious relics, artifacts, and antiques.

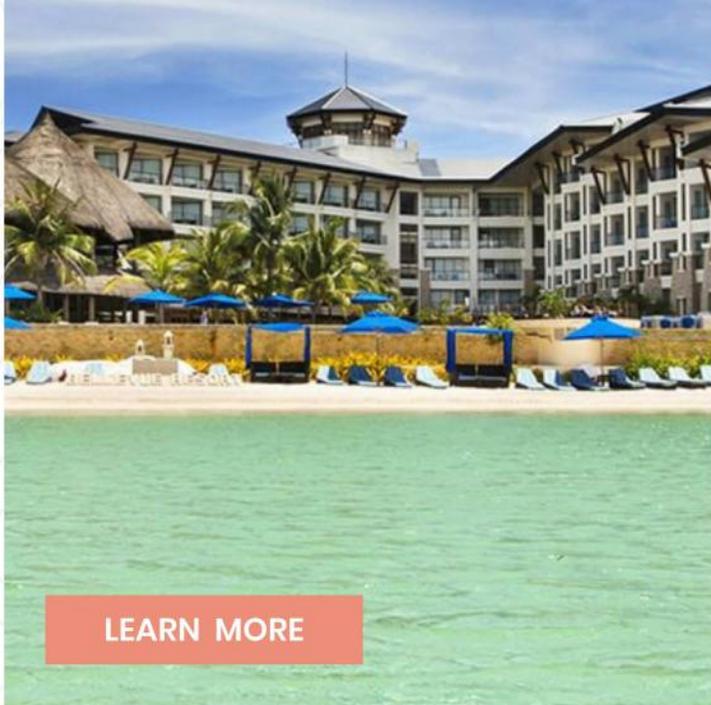


COUNTRYSIDE EXPERIENCE



Aside from checking out the Chocolate Hills, travelers can drive through the towns of Loboc, Batuan, and Bilar where they can see along the way how Bohol is an agricultural province first and foremost. One highlight activity involves a 50-minute Loboc River cruise. Passengers aboard the motorized catamaran are treated to a sumptuous lunch as they enjoy views of rolling hills, cliffs, and lush foliage.

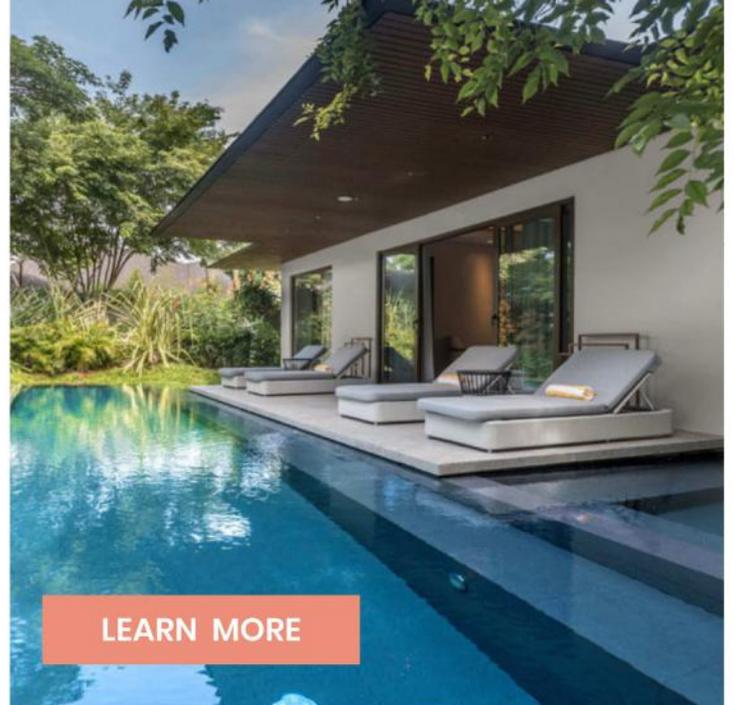




LEARN MORE

BELLEVUE RESORT 4*

This eco-friendly five-star property is situated 4 miles northwest of Panglao Island's famous Alona Beach. The Bellevue offers stunning seaside views bathed by magical sunsets, dining options that serve delectable Filipino or International dishes, watersport activities, a private beach, and relaxing spa facilities.



LEARN MORE

AMORITA RESORT 5*

Nestled atop a limestone cliff that overlooks the glistening azure waters of Bohol Sea, this luxurious accommodation effortlessly combines world-class service with quintessential Filipino warmth and hospitality. The award-winning hotel has spacious rooms, excellent restaurants, infinity pools, its own wellness spa, and an in-house PADI dive center.



PANGLAO

Notable for world-class dive sites and coral white-sand beaches, Panglao is a wonderful tourist destination that's conveniently accessible from Bohol's more prominent attractions such as the Chocolate Hills.

GOLF

The Philippines may not be the first country that golfers would think of when asked about their list of dream golfing destinations, but the archipelago definitely has the right ingredients for a perfect holiday on the green. First played in the islands in 1886 by British expats, the sport has since boomed after the birth of the Manila Golf Club in 1901 and the subsequent creation of the Philippine Open — the oldest national championship in Asia.

The Philippines has hosted prestigious international golf tournaments such as the World Cup, the Johnnie Walker Classic, and the Asian PGA. Tee off and enjoy a superb round on world-class courses designed by luminaries such as Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, Greg Norman, and Robert Trent Jones Senior and Junior; surrounded by unique environments including lush mountain forests, scenic valleys, tranquil seaside views, and even the storied walls of a famous colonial fortification!



FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER

Does the idea of playing golf at one of the best island beaches in the world enough to make you book a trip and pack your luggage and golf clubs immediately? If so, head to Boracay and enjoy playing at the 18-hole, par 72, 6,524-yard championship course designed by prominent golf course architect Graham Marsh.



MANILA SOUTHWOODS

Regarded as the first golf club in the Philippines that's also a gated community, this award-winning property is the home of two Jack Nicklaus championship courses: 'Masters' and 'Legends'. Masters is one of the country's premier courses, notable for its multiple creek crossings and lakes. Legends is more forgiving, although its signature hole at the long 17th is regarded as one of the toughest par fives in the Philippines.



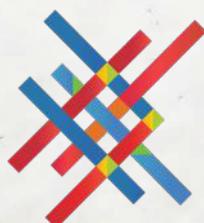
QUEEN'S ISLAND GOLF & RESORT

Located in the northern part of Cebu, this new eco-friendly 6,850-yard championship golf course has 18 holes and is rated par 72. It uses the highest quality Plantinum TE Paspalum grass that the developers imported straight from the United States. This property offers scenic views of the Pacific Ocean and is an excellent starting point for island hopping activities.

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