

# Discover the Philippines

**BOHOL UNEARTHED**

**JOURNEY THROUGH CORON**





# Welcome to the Philippines

Located in the western Pacific Ocean, this island country is an archipelago consisting of some 7,000 islands and islets lying just 800 kilometres off the coast of Vietnam.

Defined by its lush emerald rice fields, teeming megacities, graffiti-splashed jeepneys, smouldering volcanoes, bug-eyed tarsiers and happy-go-lucky people, the Philippines is one destination with such astonishing diversity of geography that you should never miss. With dazzling beaches, year-round sun and hundreds of incredible islands to visit, it's no surprise that the Philippines is the ultimate beach destination in all of Southeast Asia,

attracting a steady stream of foreign travellers from around the world.

No matter what you're in the mood for, the Philippines has a little bit of everything for everyone. Don't be surprised if you wind up staring at an endless bucket list and wondering if it would be more prudent to simply move to the Philippines in order to experience all the wondrous things it has to offer.

Read on as we capture the perfect introduction to the island experience - from the stunningly varied natural landscapes, their centuries-old traditions to their exuberant fiestas and welcoming hospitality right in the beautiful Philippines.

## Travel Guide ...

**WHEN TO GO**  
November to June



### WHAT TO BRING

Don't stress out about your clothing choices. Considering that it's a tropical island with almost-constant temperatures all year round, light summer clothing should suffice. Choose items that are comfortable and breathable.

Having a light rain jacket handy is a good idea - you never know when a storm will pop up, and you'll need long sleeves to enter a church.

Make sure to bring your camera because the scenery is incredible and the adventure activities are great! In addition to that, remember to bring sunscreen, a snorkeling mask, and a dry bag for keeping your things. If you are going to the beach or doing sea activities, you will find the latter extremely useful.

### GETTING AROUND

The most convenient way of getting around most towns is either by tricycle or jeepney - the ubiquitous, colourfully decorated buses that are the most popular means of public transportation in the Philippines. Depending on where you are going, cheap flights are also an option for travel between cities. Travellers can also consider hiring private cars or motorcycles to get around.



# Let's head to Bohol and Coron!

For a blend of the Philippine culture and beachside serenity, Bohol and Coron is the perfect place to soak yourself in. Home of the famous Chocolate Hills and Coron Bay, Bohol and Coron is one of the most visited destinations in the Central Visayas region of the Philippines. With colonial churches and watchtowers in the background, rice paddies



adorn the rural countryside, and perfect aquatic spots to dive in, it will definitely satisfy your adventurous cravings. The island's provinces offer breathtaking spots for history buffs, beach lovers, and adrenaline junkies. Whatever you choose, you're guaranteed to enjoy Bohol and Coron and love its diversity.

# Map of Bohol (Water and Land Activities)

- Anda**  
 Anda Beach  
 Lamanok Island & Mangrove Boardwalk  
 Cabagnow Cave Pool  
 White Beach Anda
- Antequera**  
 Mag-aso Falls
- Balilihan**  
 Camugao Falls  
 Kawasan Falls
- Buenavista**  
 Cambuhat Village  
 Ecotour
- Candijay**  
 Cadapdapan  
 Rice Terraces  
 Can-umantad Falls  
 Canawa Cold Spring



**Cabilao Island**

**Panglao Island**

**Virgin Island**

**Balicasag Island**

**Pamilican Island**

**Daus**  
 Hinagdanan Cave

**Danao**  
 Danao Adventure Park

**Dimiao**  
 Ingkumhan Falls  
 Dimiao Twin Falls  
 Dam-agan Falls

**Jagna**  
 Kinahugan Falls  
 Lonoy Cold Spring  
 Canuba Beach

**Loboc**  
 Tontonan Falls  
 Loboc River Cruise  
 Ecotourism Adventure Park  
 Loboc Church



# Bohol (Diving Around)

Bohol, in the Western Visayas, has long been regarded as home to some of the best diving in the Philippines.

## Panglao Island (Beaches)

One of the first things you're going to want to do when arriving is to hit the beach to cool off. The island of Panglao is home to several golden beaches. Located near the southwestern tip of the

main island of Bohol, Panglao is connected to Tagbilaran City by a bridge. It comprises two municipalities – Dauis and Panglao, both cradling stretches of coral white sand.



### Alona Beach

Alona beach on the southern side of the island, is arguably one of the best beaches in Panglao. This famed tourist attraction only spans 800m (2,625ft), but it has become a crowd favorite among local and foreign travelers with its snorkeling, kayaking, jet-skiing, kitesurfing, and scuba diving opportunities. Many dive boats line the beach because of the spectacular reef there, which is home to clownfish, Moorish idols, angelfishes, and more. At night, Alona Beach is a peaceful, romantic spot to watch and catch the sunset on Panglao Island.

### How to Get There

Alona Beach is located at barangay Tawala, Panglao Island, around 20 kilometers from Tagbilaran City. Travel time from Tagbilaran City to Alona Beach may take about 30-40 minutes.



### Danao Beach

Fringing the shoreline of Barangay Danao, Danao Beach is just 5 to 10 minutes southwest from Alona Beach. While not as popular as its counterpart Alona, Danao is an undiscovered jewel as it boasts of fine white sand, cool azure waters, teeming aquatic life and is also home to some famous dive spots.

### How to Get There

Danao Beach is located at Barangay Danao, Panglao Island, around 20 kilometers from Tagbilaran City. It is walking distance from Alona Beach.



## Bagobo Beach

Located at Barangay Libaong, Panglao Island, Bagobo Beach is a beach with very fine white sand and is fringed by tall coconut palm trees and other tropical varieties. The water is crystal clear, revealing an underwater world of such beauty that divers and snorkelers come back again and again bringing friends and acquaintances to explore. Guests have been lured by the tranquil beauty of the place and now there are two beach resorts catering to their needs. Offering first-class accommodations and excellent services are the Amarela Resort and the Bagobo Beach Resort.

### How to Get There

Bolod Beach is located at Barangay Bolod and situated on the south side of the island, about 1.3km east, or 5 minutes away, of Alona Beach.

## Dive sites near Panglao Island

### Arco Point

Known as the Hole in the Wall, Arco Point is located near the exclusive Bohol Beach Club. Arco Point houses a colony of sea snakes and a tunnel starting with an entrance of 8 meters, exiting at around 18 meters. Covered with a garden of soft corals, the interior is teeming with small tropical fish, including wrasse, butterflyfish, tangs and copper sweepers. The northwest tip of the island has a gentle drop-off leading to a bottom which becomes deeper the further south you swim. Currents can be quite strong here, so you should dive with a guide. The gorgonians are impressive, as is the mix of hard and soft corals and sponges.



## Doljo Point

Located at the northwest side of Panglao Island, Doljo Point is acclaimed for its amazing seashells, deep calm, clear blue waters and a stunningly flamboyant marine life and biodiversity. Get ready to dive with many species of hard and soft corals and sandy spots between two walls. At the deep drop off, deep sea divers can see hammerhead sharks, manta rays and whale sharks. Frogfish, Spanish mackerel, barracudas, eagle rays can also be seen here.



### Garden Eels

About 100 meters, or an approximate 3 minutes banca ride from Alona beach on southwest of Panglao Island, is the favoured Garden Eels night dive site with a steep slope and wall dive. On top of the wall is a beautiful coral garden with colourful fishes shoaling around. Enjoy thrilling deep sea sights from 5-23 meters where underwater macro photography is well-known. At rock bottom, expect to see sand eels, moray eels and spotted garden eels reigning on the seafloor. This area is not affected by dynamite fishing. The site is suitable for beginners to advanced divers.

### BBC Dive Site

About 3.5 km, or 12 minutes boat ride from Alona Beach is the BBC dive site suitable for all divers. In this area, which is named after the Bohol Beach Club resort, there is a sandy slope with pinnacles of corals, and we will see two Jeepneys, the famous colorful buses in the Philippines. Soft coral covers the entire Jeepney at a depth of 8 meters. The second one can be found upside down at a depth of 14 meters. You can observe pygmy seahorses on steep slopes with tubastraea corals and sea fans. Also keep an eye open for fire dart gobies, Pegasus, demon stinger (spiny devil fish), giant frogfish, clown frogfish, saddleback anemonefish, whiskered pipefish and others.



## Balicasag Island

A diver's paradise can be found beyond Panglao on Balicasag Island, lying 10km southwest of Panglao. Balicasag is a well-known travel destination thanks to its abundance of marine resources, white sand beaches, and beautiful coral reefs. Balicasag is one of the world's most pristine dive sites because of its stunning coral reef and Balicasag marine sanctuary. In Balicasag, you'll find drop-offs, bottomless walls, overhangs, huge table corals, star corals, large clumps of black coral, and huge fish. But that is not all that the sanctuary entails.



### Black Forest

Starting off with one of the famous dive sites in Bohol Triangle: Black Forest. Located on the eastern side of Balicasag Island, its name originated from the black corals, Antipathes, found at a depth of 35 -45 meters. It is recommended that experienced open water divers dive here. Normally the dive starts against the current, stays low over the sandy bottom and after 20 minutes the current will change, so you can drift dive the second part.

### Diver's Heaven

On the northeastern side, experience wall diving in Diver's Heaven, an easy site for all levels. With Gold band Fusiliers, Big-mouth Mackerel, Midnight Snapper, Red tooth triggerfish, and Turtle, this aquarium is a must-see. Reef edges between 10 and 15m contain corals like Brown Daisy coral and some Big Bucket sponges.

### Cathedral/Royal Garden

An excellent place to snorkel, the Cathedral/Royal Garden on the northern side of Balicasag Island is a terrific scene of vast underwater sea wall with huge overhangs, cavernous gaps, and incredible ledges.

### How to Get There

From Tagbilaran, you can ride a taxi or van bound for Alona Beach in Panglao Island. Upon reaching Alona Beach, you can now take a 30-45 minute boat ride going to the island of Balicasag.



## Pamilacan Island

To the east of Balicasag and southeast of Panglao lies Pamilacan Island. Pamilacan means "resting place of mantas" in the local dialect, and when diving you may be lucky enough to swim with impressive creatures including schools of spinner and bottlenose dolphins jumping and twirling in the open sea! In the waters surrounding Pamilacan Island, the current is the strongest and the dolphins' favorite area to play. These playful mammals are extremely social and playful. Small and large groups are common. It is possible to see only two or three on the surface, but there are usually five to ten underwater. In other words, if you see more on the surface, twice as many are under water. Proceed to Pamilacan Island to swim on the powdery white sand beach and snorkel in lush coral gardens. In a shallow coral-filled area, we jump about 500 meters



before the buoys, after which we descend through a steep slope rich in macro life.

On the island's northwest side, there is a marine sanctuary where you can find wonderful gorgonians and hard corals along the walls, as well as anemones, sponges, tunicates and sea fans. There is a sandy slope on Pamilacan Island, The Pamilacan Dive Site that is decorated with huge trees of black sun coral, soft corals, and long wiping corals. It is not very good for snorkeling because it is too deep with sandy parts in the shallow portion, hence recommended for advanced divers only. The reef slopes are covered with coral heads and soft corals and coral strings. You will find the delicate Sea Whip, Napoleon Wrasse, Barracudas, Batfish, and an occasional Manta Ray.

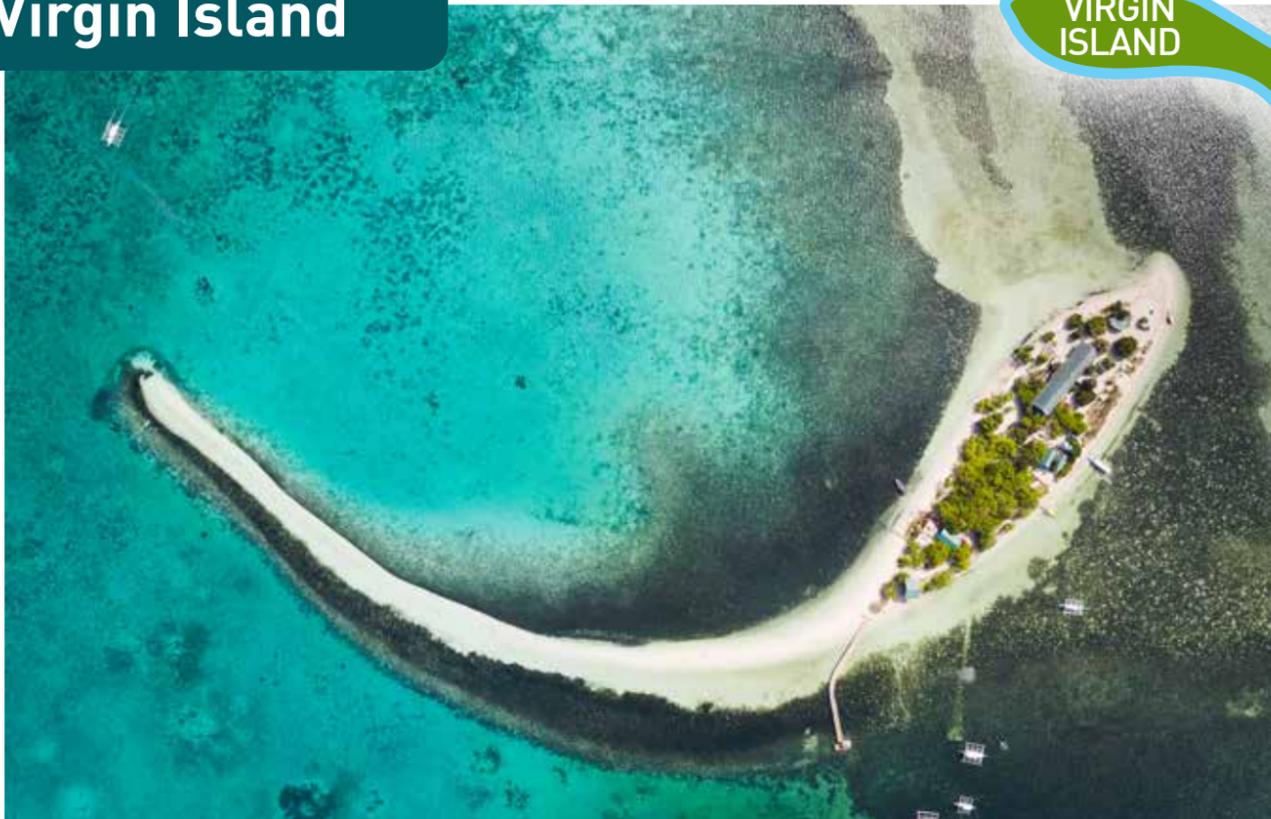
### Cervera Shoal

Cervera Shoal is located between Pamilacan and Balicasag. It is a small underwater island that drops off to 20 metres and is home to a large colony of banded sea snakes. You can expect to see several interesting species of pelagics and white tip sharks occasionally, as well as butterflyfish, scorpionfish, damsels, and surgeons.

### How to Get There

From Tagbilaran, go to Baclayon or Loay boat station. It's about 10 to 25 minutes to the station. After that, ride a boat to reach Pamilacan Island.

## Virgin Island



More commonly known to tourists as Virgin Island, Pungtud Island lies in the middle of a relatively shallow area between Balicasag and Panglao Islands. Known to many locals as the “hidden oasis”, Virgin Island is clearly an attraction due to its long stretch of white sand beach during low tide which spans around 1 hectare. It is always a crowd favorite because of its C-shaped naked sandbar. Its main draw: a lengthy sandbar that curls and fades into the sea like the tail of

a mischievous tadpole (or a sperm cell; there, we said it). The sandy runway makes for a postcard-perfect backdrop! The surrounding areas are mostly grassy, though.

### How to Get There

From Tagbilaran or Panglao Island, it is about a 15-20 minutes boat ride.

### Food

#### Dare to Try This Fear Factor?

On Virgin Island, there are small sea urchins known as swaki, which gained fame after appearing in several episodes of the American reality show ‘Fear Factor’. The creatures are abundant on the island and are sold on boats to curious tourists seeking exotic cuisine. They are regarded as a delicacy in high-class Japanese restaurants. A soy sauce or wasabi dip makes it taste even better!



## Cabilao Island



Cabilao Island is located further north, off the west coast of Bohol. A divers’ trip begins from this island, which is about two and a half hours away by boat from Mactan, Cebu. A series of overhangs, cracks, and coral gardens can be found just off the Lighthouse on the northwestern tip of the island. This dive is exceptionally pretty as gorgonians, crinoids, sponges, and soft corals adorn the walls and drop-offs. In fact, the most famous thing about this island are the hammerhead sharks. It is common to see schools of these awesome creatures congregate around the island from December to May, usually at depths around 40 or 45 meters

(April is usually the best month, but it varies from year to year, so check with your operator). Among the many species found here are barracuda, jacks, mackerel, tuna, triggerfish, butterflyfish, and humphead wrasses feeding in the strong current.

### How to Get There

From Tagbilaran City, take a bus from Dau terminal and alight at Loon. Take a jeepney to Mocpoc on Sandigan Island or you can just simply tell them how to get to Cabilao Island.



# A Guide to Island Hopping in Bohol



## WHAT TO EXPECT

Reviewers have generally been unhappy with the additional costs associated with island hopping in Panglao. Here are a few things you should consider before setting out on your island hopping adventure to avoid disappointment.

Panglao island hopping rental generally includes:

- Boat rental (all vessels registered with Coast Guard)
- Pick-up and drop-off Alona Beach
- Dolphin-watching
- Island hopping to Balicasag and Virgin Islands
- Life jackets

Be sure to opt for an early boat ride at 6 A.M. to maximise your chances at seeing these marine creatures.



## WHERE TO BOOK YOUR TOUR

When it comes to booking your tour, you have two options. You can either go to Alona Beach and book the island hopping tour straight from one of the tour operators there or you can book it online. (We'd recommend the former if you have the time since it is cheaper!)



## WHAT TO BRING

Pack some snacks or breakfast as you are likely to leave your hotel before breakfast. You can also pack your own lunch to save costs. You may want to bring along aqua shoes as there are many sea urchins. Bring along cash as there are some islands with entrance fees and local shops to shop in!

# Nature (Land Activities)

## What to See and Do?

### Activity Recommendations from Panglao

## Loboc

In contrast to some larger area churches, San Pedro Church is the second oldest church in Bohol and stands out as an uncrowded, warm, and friendly parish providing a more intimate worship environment. San Pedro

was built in 1602, but burned down to the ground soon after. A new one was built in 1638. Located near the river, it has endured a number of floods. You can find some remarkably naive paintings on the ceiling of the church.

San Pedro



## Tontonan Falls

Situated in Loboc, Tontonan Falls is more than a popular natural attraction. It actually generates the NPC Hydroelectric Plant which is located just a few meters away from the Loboc River. Through Tontonan Falls, the plant is able to supply electric power to six municipalities.





Bohol's serene charm comes to life once you experience the **Loboc River Cruise**. Located in southern Bohol, Loboc River boasts a distinctly green but crystal clear water surrounded by towering trees, making it a breathtaking sight to behold. On your boat tour, in which a large wooden boat also serves as a buffet area, you'll discover a fascinating mix of natural, cultural, and historical marvels. The trip starts at the **Loay Bridge** and ends near **Busay Falls**, a smaller but charming waterfall. During the cruise, you will also get a glimpse into history, as you see the remains of **Loboc Church**, the second oldest church in Bohol overlooking the river.

Your sightseeing journey will be accompanied by musical performances by the locals of Bohol, both on the boat and along the river! A Loboc River Cruise is the perfect way to enjoy the beauty of nature and culture in Bohol!

After cruising the Loboc River, experience the heart-pumping rides at **Loboc Ecotourism Adventure Park**. Located 3.5km north of Loboc, the Loboc Eco Adventure Park offers zipline and cable car rides at exhilarating heights of 120 and 100 metres respectively. It is best to avoid weekends, as this location is also popular with locals.

With a name that sounds straight out of Willy Wonka's factory, the **Chocolate Hills of Bohol** are iconic to the Philippines. These cocoa-brown dome-shaped mounds have been repeatedly compared to Hershey's Kisses. Visitors can look forward to viewing the hills from above while riding a bike zipline, or better yet, a surf zipline at the Chocolate Hills Adventure Park (CHAP), an eco-tourism park located at the town of Carmen.



You can also rent ATVs for a more up close exploration of the Chocolate Hills and its surrounding, including the Rice Terraces of the Chocolate Hills and Eight Sisters Hillock. The best time to see the Chocolate Hills are during sunrise and sunset from January to May, especially if you are viewing them from the complex in Carmen.

### How to Get There

From Panglao, it is a 70km, or 1.5-hour drive, to reach Chocolate Hills. From Tagbilaran, you can take a bus to Carmen so your journey from Tagbilaran to Chocolate Hills will be easy. Simply ask the bus driver to drop you off at Chocolate Hills.

### Food

#### Chocolate Hills Making You Hungry?

Don't eat the earth, instead try Bohol's most popular delicacy, Peanut Kisses! These cookies, which resemble the famous brown hills, promise nutty goodness in every bite. Peanuts and egg whites are rolled into cookies that are baked until they are crunchy. Almost every department store and souvenir shop in Bohol sells these cookies. In fact, Peanut Kisses are so popular in the Philippines that they are also available in Cebu as well as some souvenir shops in other tourist destinations!

### Bilar Man-Made Forest

The Bilar Man-Made Forest is a 2km-stretch of red and white mahogany trees located between the towns of Bilar and Loboc on Bohol Island in the Philippines. Planted 50 years ago, the forest was originally part of a reforestation project. You can't help but feel the abrupt change in temperature upon entering the forest, especially during summer or hot season. Completely free of charge, travelers going to the Chocolate Hills from Loboc will not miss this.

### How to Get There

The best way to reach the man-made forest in Bohol is to rent a scooter in the main tourist area of Panglao and make the 1-hour and 15-minute drive to Bilar.



# Dimiao

**There are actually 3 waterfalls in Dimiao. It is recommended to go via private transport to visit all three waterfalls in a day.**

## Dimiao Twin Falls

Dimiao Twin Falls, or known as Pahangog Falls, is a hidden gem tucked in the deep forest of Brgy. Guingoyuran, Dimiao, Bohol. This area is surrounded by lush vegetation and big trees, allowing the waterfall to flow effortlessly, creating a calming atmosphere. The locals say that even at the extremes of the summer, this waterfall maintains its beauty.

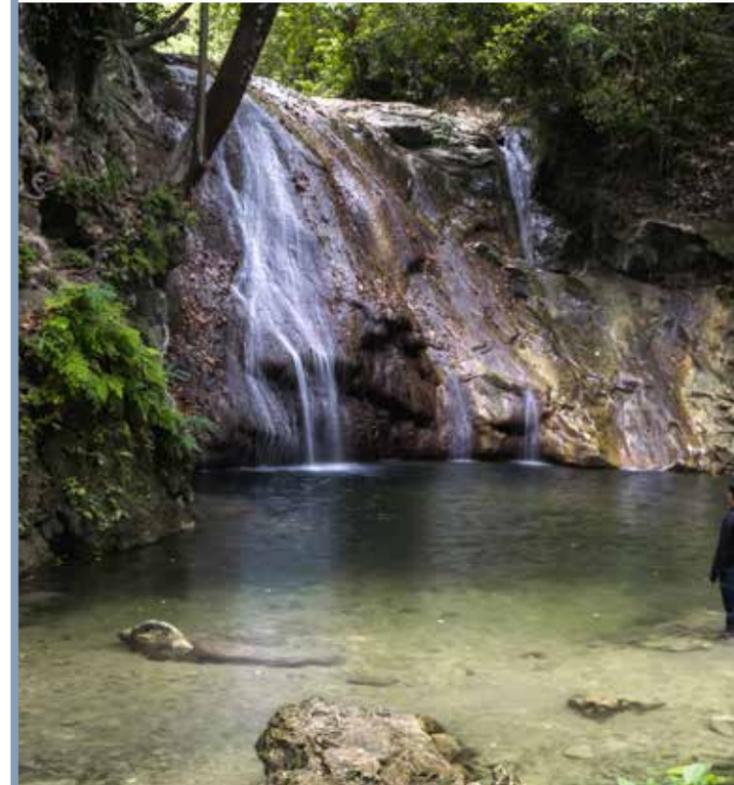
Streams of water flow from the higher elevation to the catching basin, gently cascading down crags and ridges to form a natural lagoon. About 30 meters or 90 feet high, the waterfall is naturally divided into two, hence being called Twin Falls. The waterfall is surrounded by captivating caverns. Stalactites and stalagmites

of all shapes and sizes adorn both with jaw-dropping beauty.

Getting to the Dimiao Twin Falls requires walking on a rocky trail and climbing down several stairs. It's a moderate hike that takes about 10 minutes but it can be challenging for people with disabilities or limited mobility. The phone signal here may be slightly weak here.

### How to Get There

There is a small entrance fee of P10 to Dimiao Twin Falls. From Tagbilaran City's integrated bus station Dao, it is a 45min - 1-hour jeepney/bus ride. Drop off at Dimiao Proper.



## Ingkumhan Falls

A 20 to 30-minute walk from the main road will take you to Ingkumhan Falls, said to be the enchanting waterfalls of Bohol. During the summer, the Ingkumhan Falls can serve as a quick getaway for many locals, since it is a popular summer destination.

Perfectly tucked away in the forest, the picturesque location has captivated the attention of many. Ingkumhan Falls' first tier has an enticing natural pool formed by its broad and deep catching basin. With a depth of nearly 12 feet, there is no better place to cool off from the summer heat than the pool. The uneven trail may make it challenging to reach the second tier of the falls, but it will surely be worth the effort.

### How to Get There

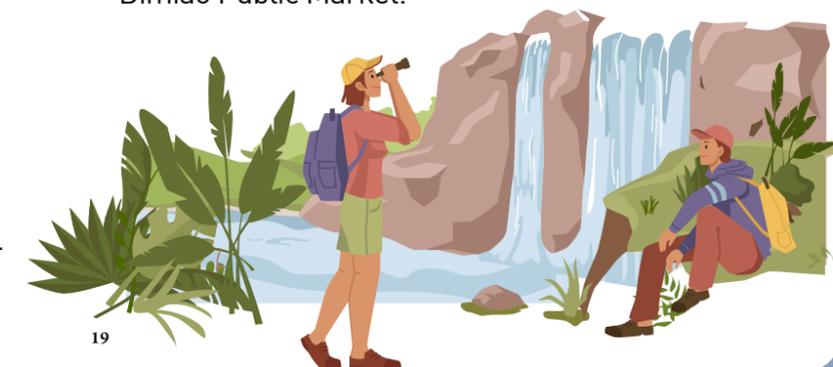
There is a small entrance fee of P10 to Ingkumhan Falls. From Tagbilaran City's integrated bus station Dao, it is a 2-hour jeepney/bus ride. Drop off at Dimiao Proper.

## Dam-agan Falls

Those looking to cool off from the heat can enjoy Dam-agan Falls, or famously known as Zig Zag Waterfalls, is a breathtaking package of adventure surrounded by old trees and rocks. The waterfall provides you with a sense of fulfillment that is unusual for this type of place. They called it Dam-agan because you might fall down walking through the stiffly narrow aisle. ("Dam-ag" is a Visayan term of "Fell off"). Hiking is required for around less than an hour.

### How to Get There

There is a small entrance fee of P10. From Tagbilaran City's integrated bus station Dao, it is a 2-hour jeepney/bus ride. Drop off at the Dimiao Public Market.



## Dauis



### Hinagdanan Cave

One of the many wonders of Bohol is Hinagdanan Cave, which means ladder in Cebuano. Located just 2.5km from Tagbilaran City, Hinagdanan is a karst cave which means it is made of limestones. Boasting several stalactite and stalagmite formations parallel to each other and a freshwater lagoon that is about 10 to 12 meters deep.

A farmer discovered the cave by accident when he found two holes while clearing his land and dropped a stone. He constructed a ladder "hagdan" to access the cave and find its hidden beauty, hence the name Hinagdanan.

Hinagdanan does not only hold stunning natural beauty, it also holds a bit of history dating back to World War II. Locals once used the cave to escape the Japanese Imperial army, but sadly, they were still discovered there. An entrance to the cave that leads to a cavern less than 100 meters long can only be accessed by one person at a time.

#### How to Get There

There is an entrance fee of 25 pesos and a bathing fee of 100 pesos. From Tagbilaran City, it is a 5 - 10 minutes ride via scooter or car.



Around the swimming hole under the falls are a number of huts and rest areas where you can perch up and enjoy the beauty of the surrounding environment. If you intend to spend some time at Camugao Falls, it's best to bring your own snacks and drinking water since there are no food or drink options nearby. There are not many Bohol tours that stop by this location, so it is best to make your own way to Camugao Falls.

## Balilihan

### Camugao Falls

Amidst the thick jungles of Balilihan is the beautiful hidden gem Camugao Falls. Known as Bohol's Highest Falls, this is one of the many sources of water supply for drinking and irrigation in farmlands. It is even used for drinking and irrigation in Tagbilaran, the capital city, and other nearby towns. There is a trail that leads down into a canyon where a vibrant blue pool and a waterfall are visible above towering cliffs.



#### How to Get There

Camugao Falls is located 42 kilometers from Panglao and takes about one hour to reach. There is a 25 peso entrance fee and 20 pesos for parking as well. You can reach the bottom of the

cliff and the jungle trail at the base of Camugao Falls in no more than ten or fifteen minutes of hiking. While the stairs are quite steep, bamboo handrails allow you to navigate them.



### Kawasan Falls

Not to be confused with Kawasan Falls in Cebu, this waterfall in Balilihan is one of the tallest cascades that can be found on the island. While taking a refreshing dip in its natural pool, visitors can enjoy the surrounding scenery and enjoy the calm atmosphere. Although it's not a spectacular waterfall with a great flow of water, the lush jungle surrounding it and the Abatan River nearby make this a very tranquil place.

On your way down to the Abatan River, you can find a few huts on stilts sheltered from the elements. They are fantastic spots to have a picnic!

#### How to Get There

Kawasan Falls located in the town of Antequera. It takes roughly 30 minutes to get to Kawasan Falls Bohol from Tagbilaran City or an hour from Panglao, and there is a small entrance fee of 75 pesos for foreigners.



## Antequera



### Mag-aso Falls

Located in the barrio of Mag-aso in the town of Antequera, Bohol, Mag-aso Twin Falls is a picturesque view against a backdrop of tall trees, wild plants including giant ferns, and deep ravines. There are two distinct sounds you're sure to hear: birds chirping and the currents rushing from the falls. Streams cascade through a layered wall speckled with small pods into a deep, turquoise catch basin where you can swim.

The 197 steps needed to reach the waterfalls may seem daunting, but the experience of being at the waterfalls is relaxing, meditative, and fun once they reach the top. With an 8-metre drop cascading down a deep pool, its waters can enchant even the most reluctant swimmers. This waterfall appeared smaller as a result of erosion and rock movement after the powerful earthquake that struck Bohol in 2013. Even so, Mag-Aso Falls remains a charmer. Still, its natural pools and jacuzzis are worth discovering, as are its stunning views.

### How to Get There

The best way to get to Mag-Aso Falls in Bohol is to take a 15-20 minutes tricycle ride from Barangay Oringao. When you arrive at the jump-off point, you'll come to a small parking lot and ticket office. The Mag Aso Falls entrance fee is 20 pesos and an additional 15 pesos for parking if you are driving.

### Inambakan Falls

Situated in the highland barangay of Calabawan, Inambakan Falls is known for having a beautiful five-layer, 100-ft waterfall that plunges into a wide pool of blue water. Amidst lush jungle greenery, it is truly an amazing scene. The multi-level hike to different pools and waterfalls is what makes Inambakan Falls such a memorable adventure.



## How to Get There

Inambakan Falls is located in the small village of Ginatilan in the south of Cebu Island in the Philippines. Inambakan Falls Ginatilan is best accessed by car from the nearby beach town of Oslob, 33km away and approximately 45 minutes away. It takes 1 hour and 15 minutes to drive to Inambakan Waterfalls from Moalboal, which is 52km away.

## Danao



### Danao Adventure Park

Known as the Extreme Adventure Tour destination in Central Visayas, Danao Adventure Park is the place to embark on a thrilling eco-adventure amidst the green valleys and hills as daredevils visitors can test their mettle by walking along glass plank above the beautiful Wahig River or taking a plunge down among other action-packed activities you can do here. This huge nature park is situated on what used to be the base camp of revered Boholano Hero Francisco Dagohoy who led the longest revolutionary movement in Philippine History against the Spaniards.

If heights don't break you out in a cold sweat, then incredible views await you as you move along

these thrilling activities to capture unforgettable sights of gushing rivers, rugged terrain and deep cleft between escarpments.

Aside from their adrenaline pumping activities, Danao Adventure Park is designed to promote the preservation of natural resources, scenic beauties and cultural heritage. Enjoy sightseeing, kayaking and bird watching as visitors conquer their fears of heights and trek in caves.

### How to Get There

From Tagbilaran, Danao is accessible via a 2-hour van ride. You can then take a local bus from the Dau Bus Terminal.

## Buenavista



### Cambuhat River and Village Tour

The Cambuhat River and Village Tour is now the pride of the municipality of Buenavista, Bohol. What makes Cambuhat tours unique is that the local women run and manage the upland resources and tours, while the men provide the boats, boat trips, paddling as well as the management of the oyster farm and coastal resources. Because of this project, the community is now able to generate more income while showcasing their rustic village life and managing the river, estuarine and mangrove areas.

Enjoy paddling with a fisherman along a mangrove-lined river and be treated to a hearty

lunch of oysters and other seafood from their established oyster farms. Visit the villages to see the making of traditional handicrafts and interpretative dances performed by the community, and learn about local interpretation of the value of river and mangrove management.

#### How to Get There

Take a small boat to Cambuhat Village, Bohol, on the Daet River. A three-person boat can accommodate 2 passengers and a paddler/tour guide. It takes 30-40 minutes to travel 2 kilometers (1 nautical mile) by boat. Both oyster farms and villages are on your itinerary.

## Baclayon

### Baclayon Church

Baclayon Church was established in 1596 and was declared a national cultural treasure in 2010. It is the second oldest church in the Philippine archipelago and the oldest church in Bohol. The current stone structure, which you see today, was completed in 1727, though it was established in the 16th century. More than 200 forced laborers are believed to have built Baclayon Church Bohol from coral stone as well as mixing it with egg whites to form cement.

Sadly, a 2013 earthquake damaged the site severely. The building still stands, however, and contains a lot of significant religious relics. With its dark and striking 19th-century Baroque and Neoclassical pulpit, crystal chandeliers, colorful window panes, and life-sized religious images, you won't overlook it.

#### How to Get There

There is a minimal entrance fee of P25 per person to cover maintenance costs.



### Spanish Colonial Ancestral Houses

A short walk from Baclayon Church is Spanish colonial ancestral houses lined up along the main road. With over 67 ancestral houses in the municipality, they are often utilised for cultural shows, festivals, fiestas, and even home stays, which is a great accommodation option for those who want a true taste of Boholano culture and lifestyle.



### Wednesday Market Days

To experience Baclayon culture in its entirety, go to the Wednesday Market Days. You can learn about Baclayon culture first hand at Wednesday Market Days. Native handicrafts are available, along with delicious, locally produced delicacies and sweets such as Broas (ladyfingers), nut bars, pastels, tortas, rice cake and suman. Curious visitors can also explore an impressive assortment of fruit, vegetables, and dried fish. Avoid purchasing dried Manta Ray in the dried fish section, as this encourages the hunting of these endangered, but supposedly "protected" animals.

### How to Get There

**Bacalyon Ancestral Homes Association (BAHANDI)**  
 Visit the Baclayon Tourism Information and Activity Center to book your tours website: [www.baclayontourism.com/contact-us](http://www.baclayontourism.com/contact-us)  
 BAHANDI offers heritage walks and tours in preservation and promotion of the Baclayon ancestral houses and the heritage of the community.



### Have a sweet tooth? Try Kalamay!

You have to try this sweet and sticky snack when you're in Bohol. One of the most popular Bohol pasalubongs, Kalamay is made from glutinous rice, brown sugar, and coconut milk. Another variation of Kalamay contains peanuts. They are usually stored in coconut shells that are sealed with red bands, but some are sold in plastic containers as well. Kalamay can be eaten on its own, over kakanin snacks, or on bread and pastries for a sweet spread.

## Anda



Located on the southeast tip of Bohol, Anda Beach, with its long stretch of powdery white sand beach fringe with coconut palm trees, crystal clear blue waters, and a seabed of powdery white sand with no rock formations or marine flora whatsoever for miles on end, it can even surpass that of Boracay's White Beach.

Anda beach is the nicest in all of Bohol and in all of the Philippines.

### How to Get There

From Tagbilaran City, take a tricycle to Dao Bus Terminal and take a bus towards Anda. Alight at Brgy. Poblacion.

### Lamanok Island

Bohol's "cradle of civilization", Lamanoc Island (sometimes spelled Lamanok) in Anda, is an island rich with history and heritage. Visitors to the Lamanoc Mystic Island Tour can see limestone rock formations, caves, and white sand beaches, which are accessible from the town of Anda. Lamanoc Mystic Island Tour not only takes you to see different kinds of plants and animals, but also explains the island's mysterious history. According to legend, pre colonial priests and medicine men offered offerings to nature spirits at Lamanoc during precolonial times. Often, these magic beings were invoked for bountiful harvests or successful catches.





Traditional house at mangroves forest at Lamanok Island of Anda at Bohol island Philippines

Make sure not to walk too fast here, and take some time to observe the roots of these trees, and look for animals hidden within these mangroves. During low tide, you can wade in the water and walk to the island. At high tide, tourists can travel by bancas.

### How to Get There

If by private transport, go to Lamanoc Information center. Travel time takes about 2 -3 hours from Tagbilaran City. From Tagbilaran City, take a tricycle to Dao Bus Terminal and take a bus towards Anda. Alight at Brgy. Badiang. From the shore to the hinterlands, it only takes about 10 minutes.

### Cabagnow Cave Pool

Cabagnow Cave Pool is a must-visit attraction to sum up Bohol. Bohol is reportedly made up mostly of limestones, so over the years, due to geological activities, coupled with heavy rains and harsh weather, cave pools like Cabagnow were formed. To enter the pool, there is a ladder to be climbed down. The not-so-shallow, beguiling dark blue water is a perfect place to swim in, but non-experienced swimmers should rent a ring buoy for safety.

### How to Get There

Cabagnow Cave Pool is a private property with an entrance fee of P50. From Tagbilaran, Cabagnow Cave Pool is accessible via a 3-hour van ride. You can then take a local bus from the Dao Bus Terminal.



## Candijay



The most captivating of Bohol's rice terraces - Cadapdapan Rice Terraces - is located in Candijay, one of Bohol's top rice-producing towns. Bohol is dotted with rice terraces. These carved hills and mountains dot the hinterlands of the island, perhaps not as grand as those in the Cordilleras, but simply as beautiful all the same. It consists of a few hectares of mountain slopes irrigated by the water of the Cadapdapan River, the same water that flows through Can-Umantad Falls.

A 15-minute trek down is Can-Umantad Falls, the most iconic attraction of Candijay. Can-Umantad Falls is the tallest waterfall in Bohol. Cascades serve as irrigation for the rice terraces directly above the Cadapdapan River before flowing downstream. There are three layers of the main cascade, which reaches a height of 60 feet. The water flows freely into a shallow, rocky basin.

Downstream, a lower cascade, which is quite smaller at 10 feet high, drops into a large circular pool. This is a favorite spot for those who want to cool off quickly.

### How to Get There

A 15-minute trek down is Can-Umantad Falls, the most iconic attraction of Candijay. Can-Umantad Falls is the tallest waterfall in Bohol. Cascades serve as irrigation for the rice terraces directly above the Cadapdapan River before flowing downstream. There are three layers of the main cascade, which reaches a height of 60 feet. The water flows freely into a shallow, rocky basin. Downstream, a lower cascade, which is quite smaller at 10 feet high, drops into a large circular pool. This is a favorite spot for those who want to cool off quickly.

# "Give Back" VolunTourism

(Sustainable Blue Economy + Giving back to Community)

## Dauis: Bohol Bee Farm

A very cozy and relaxing place on Panglao island, the Bohol Bee Farm aims to encourage and inspire farmers to practice organic farming, including companion planting and basic composting. From squash muffins to vegetable lasagna to her specially brewed coffee with roasted corn and wild berries, Vicky Wallace, owner and chef, prepares delicious meals from organically-produced vegetables. Guests who want to enjoy the peace and serenity of having the entire farm to themselves can rent her chalet-style home. It is of great importance to us to return to our communities, and to society, in general, the benefits we have derived from them. Let's learn from Bohol Bee Farm!

### How to Get There

Bohol Bee Farm is located in Dao, Dauis, Panglao Island. Please visit [www.boholbeefarm.com](http://www.boholbeefarm.com) for more information.



## Bilar: Simply Butterflies Conservation Center

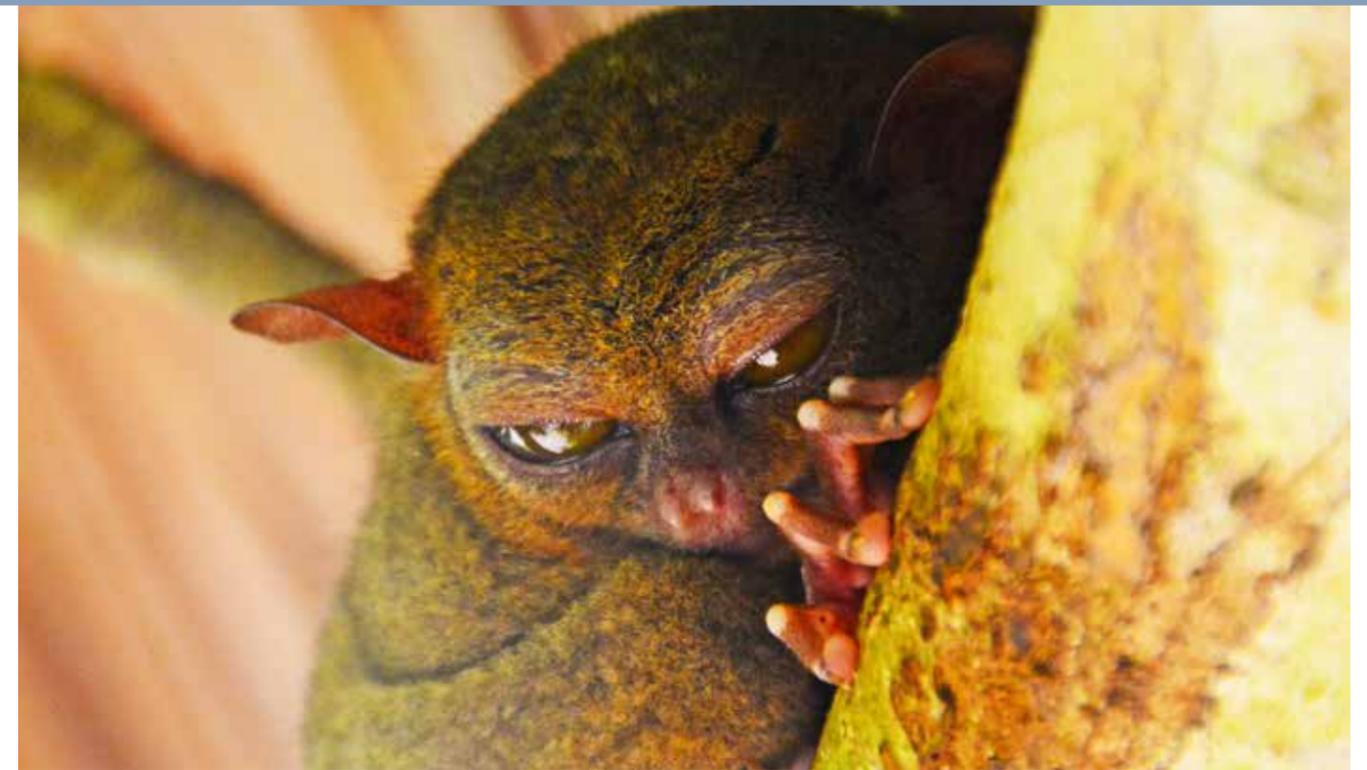
Butterfly livelihood breeding and conservation is the first program of Simply Butterflies Conservation Center in Bohol. Through plant research, breeding, and release, it seeks to protect and strengthen the natural environment for butterflies. While working to raise the number of butterflies in Bohol, the Center also uses butterflies and butterfly by-products to boost the local economy. Several local town folk have been taught how to breed butterflies, and presently a community of paid breeders has emerged.

Expect to see rare butterflies as the Center also studies, researches, and preserves host plants which are in danger of extinction due to illegal poaching and deforestation.



### How to Get There

Simply Butterflies Conservation Center is located in Bilar, Bohol. From Tagbilaran City, take a bus towards Talibon from Dau bus terminal. Alight at Simply Butterflies.



## Bohol Interior: Philippine Tarsier and Wildlife Sanctuary

In the past, tarsiers were hunted, kept in harsh conditions, or killed. In June 23, 1997, former Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos issued Proclamation No. 1030, declaring the tarsier a special faunal species of the Philippines. A sanctuary was created to protect these endangered tarsier, the world's smallest primates

composed of shrubs and mini-forests. In this sanctuary, tarsiers rest up in trees, hidden behind leaves, or in branches, jumping from one tree to another when disturbed. Strictly do not touch the tarsiers and to be quiet in the area as they can get stressed/anxious to the point of death.

It is like visiting a thick forest of flora and fauna with thick vegetation. Within the sanctuary, travelers can see tarsiers living in their natural habitat. In the sanctuary, tarsiers are free to roam within the mini protected forest and within the larger area. It is possible to spot and photograph the tiny tarsiers in the semi-enclosed area

### How to Get There

The tarsier sanctuary is located exactly 4 kilometers from the town center of Corella and a mere 20 minutes drive from Tagbilaran City. The best season to visit is from December to May. Please visit [www.tarsierfoundation.org](http://www.tarsierfoundation.org) for more information.



# "Go Local - Off the Beaten Track"

## Binabaje Hill

There's more to Bohol than beautiful beaches and epic waterfalls. On the north-eastern portion of the island of Bohol, you can also find hiking trails, and our favourite is the Binabaje Hills Hike where you can catch the amazing, unspoiled image of the sunset. It takes around 1 hour to reach the summit, and offers spectacular views of the island and its coastlines. The Binabaje Hills are a breathtaking ridgeline in Alicia, Bohol, overlooking a gorgeous mountain range. The hike itself takes about one hour up a steep, muddy

hill but the habal-habal ride takes an additional 30-minutes. It is located in the north-eastern region of Bohol and is accessible within one hour from Anda, a popular tourist spot. Visit the municipal town hall in Alicia to get a local guide to begin hiking.

## How to Get There

From Panglao, it's a 115km drive that takes approximately 2.5 hours via scooter.



# Unique People Culture



Bohol's tribe Eskaya is one of the least visited places. Eskayas are an indigenous tribe found in Bohol's southeast interior, primarily in the towns of Duero, Guindulman, Pilar, and Sierra Bullones. Biabas, Guindulman, is the settlement of this tribe, founded by Mariano Datahan early in the 20th century. There are distinct cultural, literary, and linguistic characteristics of the tribe. The tribe's most common settlement is in Duero, Bohol, in barangay Taytay.

There are many controversies and stories regarding the history of the tribe. Most of it is based on stories passed down from generations to generations.

Pinay is the person who devised the Eskaya Tribe's writing system. It is said to be based on the human body and the position of the head, arms, and legs of a man. The Eskaya language is a pure syllabary, similar to Japanese Katakana, according to some linguists.

The Eskaya are now officially recognized as an indigenous group under Republic Act No. 8371 entitled "The Indigenous People's Rights

Act of 1997. In 1996, President Fidel V. Ramos recognized the group, and the community received a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim (CADC). CADC No. R7-CADC-14 deemed as ancestral domain 3,173 hectares of land in Taytay (Duero), Biabas (Guindulman), Lundag (Pilar), Canta-ub (Sierra-Bullones), and Cadapdapan (Candijay).

As everyday people, Eskayan tribe members wear regular clothes, build their houses with regular materials, and speak a dialect of Bisaya/Cebuano.

## Visiting Eskayan Tribe in Bohol

In Tagbilaran, you can register at NCIP (National Culture of Indigenous People). Alternatively, you can drop by the Culture office of the Municipality of Duero first (Near the market). In the culture office, the tribe will be informed about your visit and an elder, a member of the tribe council or a tribe teacher will assist you.

You can visit the tribe on Eskaya Tribe Day that falls on May 5 or on any Sunday and attend Eskaya Sunday Service, when Eskaya kids are learning Eskaya tribe culture.

# Festivals

## January

### Ubi Festival

Ubi is so sacred to Bol-anons, and the Ubi Festival is a concrete proof of their love and respect for Ubi and their culture in general. The trailing stems and the heart-shaped leaves of the Ubi are a common sight on the island! Why? Innumerable times, this humble Ubi saved their parents and ancestors from hunger and death. During the Japanese, American and even Spanish occupations, it was the only crop that flourished during the droughts and was easily available in the mountains when people fled from their oppressors. As the largest Ubi producer in the country, the Ubi Festival is celebrated during harvest time every January! Don't miss this event when you travel to Bohol in January!



### Take a Big Bite of Ubi Kinampay Polvoron!

Big fan of the purple tuber too? Ubi polvoron is fast becoming a Boholano delicacy wherein the Ubi meat is boiled and mashed then mixed with butter, milk and sugar then pressed and cut into small circles. With its violet color, the crumbly polvoron shortbread cookie already looks yummy and delicious much more so than the plain polvoron made of flour! Tip: Pair it with a cup of coffee or tea to best enjoy this delightful treat!

## March

### Sandugo Festival

Otherwise known as the Bohol Sandugo Celebration or the Blood Compact Commemoration, Sandugo Festival commemorates the treaty of friendship of Miguel Lopez de Legaspi and Datu Sikatuna; two people of different race and creed.. Sandugo is an annual event held in March in Bohol Island. The most remarkable thing about this festival is that it commemorates the cutting off of arms by the leaders and the drinking of their blood as a type of covenant. Traditionally,

this was seen as a way to formalize relationships and friendships.

To no one's surprise, street dancing is the most important event of the festival. Look for ways to mingle with the locals at one of the most colorful events in the Philippines during one of the many sports tournaments organized. This festival also features cockfighting competitions and beauty pageants. At dusk, a dazzling fireworks display illuminates the streets. In the Philippines, Sandugo is the perfect celebration of friendship.

# Where to Stay in Bohol



## BUDGET

When you go on a vacation, you might want to spend less on hotels and more on experiences; and we've completely understood that. There are many budget hotels in the Bohol region that provide decent accommodation as well as in-hotel services that save you the hassle of contracting a third-party vendor for tours. The hotel provides amenities and the hotel staff are welcoming to your needs. You will definitely not compromise on service by paying a lower price.

## MIDDLE

Middle-range hotels are the perfect combination of value-for money and comfort. With more spacious

rooms and more hotel facilities than budget hotels, mid-ranged hotels, you can have an enjoyable stay in Bohol. These hotels can be found in the city centre as well as in local neighborhoods; that way you can experience the Bohol culture too!

## LUXURY

The luxury hotels in Bohol treat you so well, you'd come back for more. Relax at the blissful spa sessions and tickle your tastebuds at exotic restaurants with flavours from all across the world. Luxury hotels elevate your stay on the sunny Bohol island, perfect for families and couples.

# What Kind of Traveller are You?

Recommended Itineraries for

## The Curiouser (The Sponge - First-Time Traveller)

### DAY 1 (COUNTRYSIDE ATTRACTIONS AND CHOCOLATE HILLS)

- Chocolate Hills
- Loboc River Cruise
- Bilar Man-Made Forest
- Tarsier Conservation Area
- Butterfly Garden
- Hanging Bridge
- Baclayon Church

Getting around: Hail a tricycle (or private car)



### DAY 2 (DANAO ADVENTURE PARK)

- Danao Adventure Park
- Getting around: Hail a private or public ride



### DAY 3 (ISLAND HOPPING)

- Panglao Island
  - Balicasag Island
  - Balicasag Marine Sanctuary
  - Virgin Island
  - Dolphin Watching
- Getting around: Charter a banca



## The Escapist (Wellness, Voluntourism, Eco Nature Tourism)

### DAY 1 (COUNTRYSIDE ATTRACTIONS AND CHOCOLATE HILLS)

- Chocolate Hills
  - Loboc River Cruise
  - Bilar Man-Made Forest
  - Tarsier Conservation Area
  - Butterfly Garden
  - Hanging Bridge
  - Baclayon Church
- Getting around: Hail a tricycle (or private car)



### DAY 2 (CANDIJAY AND ANDA TOUR)

- Anda Beach
  - Cadapdapan Rice Terraces
  - Can-umantad Falls
  - Candijay Mangrove Forest
  - Canawa Cold Spring
- Getting around: Hail a tricycle (or private car)

### DAY 3 (ISLAND HOPPING)

- Panglao Island
  - Balicasag Island
  - Balicasag Marine Sanctuary
  - Virgin Island
  - Dolphin Watching
- Getting around: Charter a banca



## The Thrill-Seeker (Adventurer YOLO)

### DAY 1 (COUNTRYSIDE ATTRACTIONS AND CHOCOLATE HILLS)

- Chocolate Hills Adventure Park
  - Loboc River Cruise
  - Bilar Man-Made Forest
  - Tarsier Conservation Area
- Getting around: Hail a tricycle (or private car)



### DAY 2 (DANA O ADVENTURE PARK)

- Danao Adventure Park
- Getting around: Hail a private or public ride



### DAY 3 (ISLAND HOPPING)

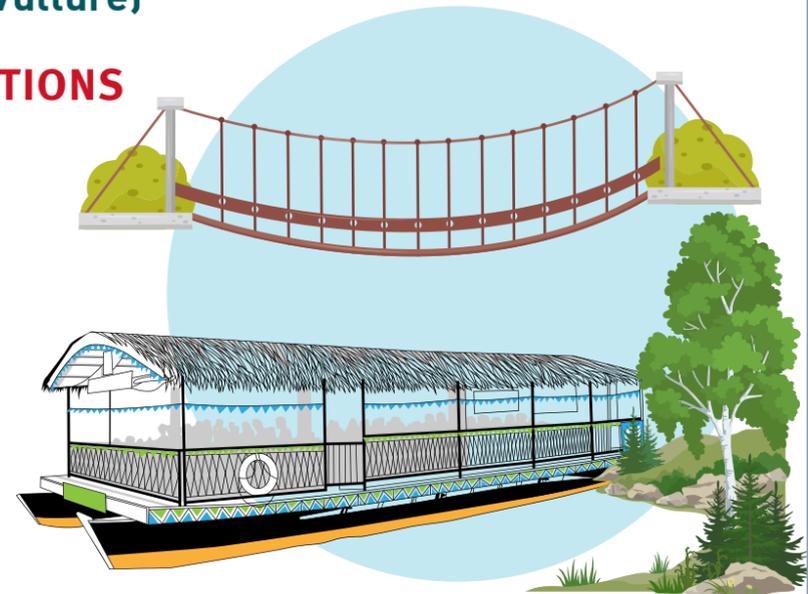
- Panglao Island
  - Balicasag Island
  - Balicasag Marine Sanctuary
  - Virgin Island
  - Dolphin Watching
- Getting around: Charter a banca



## The Pilgrim (Religious Culture Vulture)

### DAY 1 (COUNTRYSIDE ATTRACTIONS AND CHOCOLATE HILLS)

- Chocolate Hills
  - Loboc River Cruise
  - Bilar Man-Made Forest
  - Tarsier Conservation Area
  - Butterfly Garden
  - Hanging Bridge
  - Baclayon Church
- Getting around: Hail a tricycle (or private car)



### DAY 2 (VISIT THE ESKAYA TRIBES)

- Eskaya Tribe
- Getting around: In Tagbilaran, you can register at NCIP (National Culture of Indigenous People). Alternatively, you can drop by the Culture office of the Municipality of Duero first (Near the market)



### DAY 3 (HERITAGE TOUR)

- Baclayon Church
- Bee Farm
- Buenvista River Paddling and Oyster Village Tour



# Map of Coron (Water and Land Activities)

-  Twin Lagoon
-  Maquinit Hot Springs
-  Mt. Tapyas
-  Barracuda Lake
-  Kayangan Lake
-  Coron Bay
-  Malcapuya Island
-  Kingfisher Park
-  Pass Island
-  Dimakya Island
-  Calauit Safari



# Coron (Water Activities)



## Barracuda Lake

Located on the shore of Coron Island in the Philippines, Barracuda Lake offers one of the most unique diving experiences in the world. Occasionally referred to as Luluyuan Lake by locals, its crystal blue waters are framed by majestic rocky formations that would be a perfect addition to your social media feed. Despite its name, Barracuda Lake isn't actually big on barracudas and other wildlife. Instead, the lake is known for waters so clear that when you look through your mask down at your flippers, you will be overwhelmed with the surreal feeling of floating in the air.

Starting out on the surface of the lake, divers, swimmers, and scuba enthusiasts can expect temperatures of around 28°C. However, as you descend into the depths of the lake, at around 45 to 50 feet down the temperature rises to just over 37°C. This strange increase in temperature is due to the unique mixture of salt and freshwater in the lake. The stunning limestone formations that rise up on all sides also extend

below the surface of the lake which creates a unique underwater scenery.

## How to Get There

Barracuda Lake is situated on the north shore of Coron island in Palawan, Philippines. It can be reached via an easy 20-minute boat ride from Coron town. If you are going with a dive operator, ask to dive at Barracuda Lake first as there are fewer tourists early in the morning and visibility is better.





## Twin Lagoon

is that place that you would not want to miss when you visit Coron. The place leaves people wondering if this paradise is real, stunning them with its unspoiled beauty. The name itself promises revelers and sun chasers that they will get not only one but two paradise treats! With the limestone towers of Calis Mountain embracing the inner lagoon, fresh and saltwater meet causing a thermocline with layers of varying water temperatures.

The limestone walls surrounding the inner lagoon are rich with corals and marine life. Aside from when you stir up the brackish water and cause it temporarily to look like oil mixing with vinegar,



you can see down clearly for at least 50 feet. You cannot miss this place because of the unique environment coupled with stunning walls of coral. Simply float and drift in the lagoon while wearing a life jacket - there's no better way to relax.

### How to Get There

From Busuanga Airport, take a 30-45 minutes ride via van or car to Coron town proper.



## Maquinit Hot Springs

Soaking in Maquinit Hot Springs might sound a bit insane in the insanely hot Philippines. Honestly, sitting in 39-41°C (102°F) sounds like the last thing we'd recommend you do. But believe us, Maquinit Springs is better than you'd expect. It is one of very few salt water hot springs in the world. The mangrove forest has two pools, and a small beach is just beyond. The therapeutic waters in the pools are produced by natural hot water from an underground volcano. And actually, it will definitely feel good even after the

hot climb up the nearby Mt. Tapyas. Don't worry about any dangerous eruption. This hot spring is entirely safe. Taking a dip in the warm waters is a great way to relax after a long day of island hopping and outdoor adventure.

### How to Get There

The springs are located about 30 minutes outside of Coron Town, but you can easily hire a tricycle. Entry to the springs is P200 for the first hour and an hour is really enough.



## Something Wiggly and... Edible in the Mangroves?

**Tamilok** is a popular Filipino delicacy also known as 'woodworm' because it is found in decaying, rotten logs or thick tree trunks submerged underwater in swamps-like mangroves. There is a great story behind the name "Tamilok" which dates back to WW2 when two American GI's observed the local Filipinos harvesting the woodworm, prompting one to yell to the other "Tommy, look!". The wood is then cracked open in order to extract the slimy creatures from inside.

It's easy to see the tamilok clams wriggling through the log once you've cracked open the log. It is, however, not an extremely flavorful dish and is unlikely to appeal to everyone's palate.



## Kingfisher Park

If you are a nature lover, Kingfisher Park is the perfect place for you to explore. Kingfisher Park strives to conserve the forest, wildlife, and vegetation in the area, while providing our guests with a memorable experience with Mother Nature as part of the ecotourism concept.

You can choose from a variety of marine (sea), aquatic (wetlands and streams), and terrestrial ecosystems. A variety of activities are available at this time, such as: Mangrove Kayaking, The Mount Lunes Santo Trek, and Starry-starry night Tour. Additionally, Kingfisher Park encourages

scholarly research, artistic endeavors, and charitable endeavors. Make the most of your day here by trekking around the park and exploring the crystal-clear Kaluluwang Falls. Kayak through the stunning mangroves of Malbato. Experience Coron's unique ecosystem by kayaking through its eerie channels and inlets, admiring its myriad species of birds, crabs, and other unique inhabitants. A magical journey filled with natural wonders and wonderful biodiversity awaits you.

### How to Get There

Visit [www.kingfisherpark.com](http://www.kingfisherpark.com) or more information.



## Banul Beach

If anyone tells you that island hopping in Coron and El Nido are the same, they clearly didn't get Banul Beach all to themselves. This stunning stretch of sand is the epitome of paradise: dazzlingly white, powder like sand, incredibly clear water that is bright blue and a wild landscape that makes you feel like you're a million miles away from civilization. Just a few minutes away by boat from the Twin Lagoons and Kayangan Lake, Banul is an ideal lunch stop on a Coron island-hopping tour. If you like diving and snorkelling, this is a perfect place to spend the day. Rent a thatched hut on the beach for next to nothing.

### How to Get There

From the town proper, you can either join a group tour (Coron Island Tour) or charter a private boat going to Banul Beach.



## Malcapuya Island

As you are island hopping, visit Malcapuya Island to experience a dreamlike scene. A few hectares are all that the island is made up of. All tourists who have visited Malcapuya Island agree that the bumpy yet exhilarating trip to the island will be quickly forgotten once you are already enjoying the one-of-a-kind beauty of this little paradise. Its powdery white sand and pristine waters - a clashing mixture of deep blue and cerulean - are truly incredible.

Because of its secluded location, it's a perfect place to relax. Instead of swimming, you can just lay in hammocks to let the wind rock you as you relax in every spot. See beyond Malcapuya's shore and dive into a fascinating underwater view - the island is so well protected and visitors



can see Malcapuya's rich marine life. Be sure to visit the neighbouring islands, Bulog Dos and Banana Island along the way!

### How to Get There

There is an entrance fee of P250. From Coron Town, take a 2 hour boat ride to Malcapuya Island. Private or Group Tours are available from Coron Town.



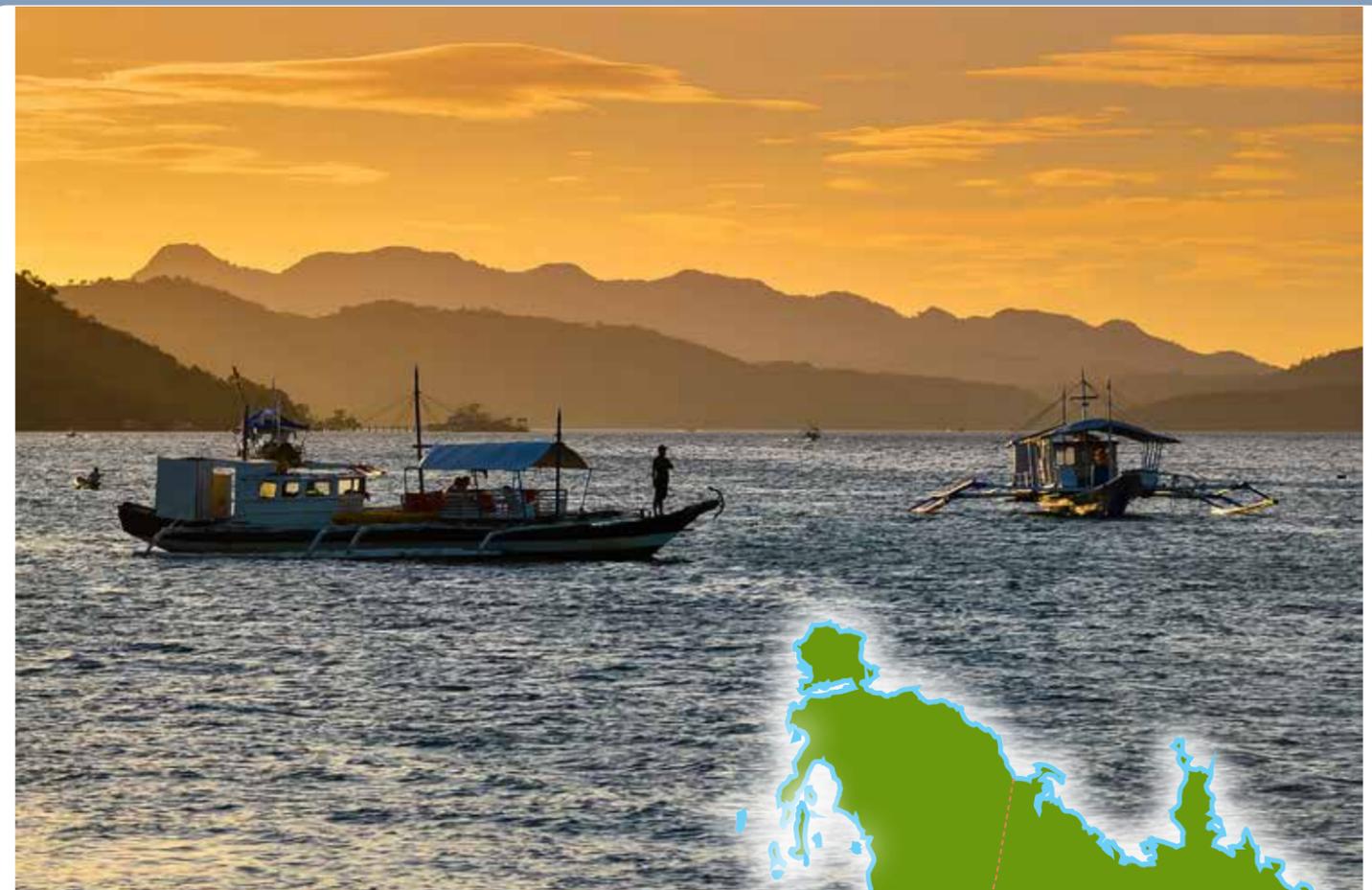
## Pass Island

Located on the northern part of the Calamianes Island, off the island of Busuanaga, Pass Island Coron is one of the whitest, sandiest, tropical islands I've ever travelled to. Imagine pure white silica, soft underfoot, and tall, green palm trees towering skywards and casting blissful shadows over the beach. Then imagine a cold beer in hand and refreshing, calm waters to swim in. That's Pass Island, Coron's white sand paradise, where its crystal clear waters invites you right in for a refreshing noontime dive, including a protected reef teeming with life! The fantastic variety of coral, with lots of small fishes, can keep your attention for a good hour or more.



### How to Get There

There is an entrance fee of P200. From Coron Town, take a 2 hours ride to Concepcion. From there, take a boat ride to Pass Island. Private or Group Tours are available from Coron Town.



## Coron Bay

The wreck diving in Coron Bay has been described as one of the best anywhere, all packed into a small area. On September 24, 1944, Admiral "Bull" Halsey ordered an airstrike the minute he realized they had discovered a camouflaged Japanese fleet. US Navy pilots reported 24 sunken vessels upon their return to the United States. The attack was ruthless, but the legacy that it left would not be discovered until recreational diving was introduced to these islands.

You can't describe the feeling of standing on a jetty and knowing you've got a half-dozen huge warships lying just a short boat ride away. Every wreck is unique, but on average they are large, mostly intact, within reasonable diving depths, and filled with amazing artifacts.

Coron is heaven on a stick for wreck divers who love to reach deep into wrecks. Wrecks

- Tae Maru
- Kogyo Maru
- Olympic Maru
- Irako
- Mamiya Maru

there are more than 170m long! A knowledgeable guide and good planning can help you make the most of them. It is possible to wander through passageways, peep below ground level and see engine rooms with massive boilers, workshops full of tools and kitchens replete with pots and pans.

### How to Get There

Have to fly from Manila to Busuanga airport, Palawan. You can take Cebu Pacific Air, Zest Air or PAL Express. From Busuanga airport, can take a jeepney for about one hour to reach Coron Town.

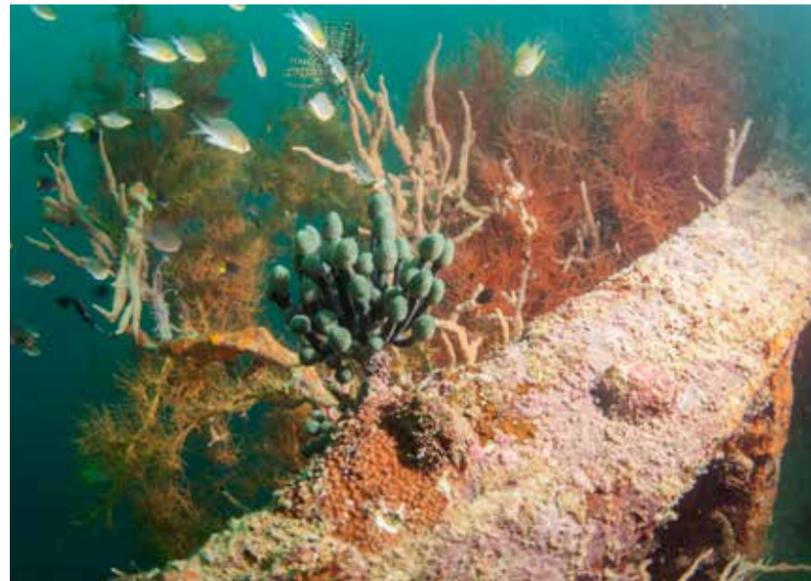
## Irako

The southernmost wreck visited frequently by local divers here is the Irako. The Irako was a refrigeration ship, about 200 meters long displacing 9,570 tons. Now it is home to big groupers and shoals of yellowfin tuna. Lying in over 40 meters of water, the deck of this relatively intact wreck is at 28 - 33 meters.



## Kogyo Maru

To the north is the 140-meter-long freighter Kogyo Maru. Also known as the Tangat Wreck, she is lying upright in about 30 meters of water. Divers come onto the deck at between 18-24 meters. The cargo holds are easily penetrable, and have fish all over. Look for giant puffer fish, especially around the masts, bow and stern. Soft corals and sponges and some small hard corals have attached themselves to the remains. This is a good first wreck dive for beginners.



## Mamiya Maru

West of the Kogyo Maru is the Mamiya Maru, another freighter about 160 meters in length. Lying on its starboard side in 34 meters of water, the wreck is easily penetrable in some places. The cargo holds still contain construction materials and anti-aircraft weapons remain on the deck. Lots of groupers have made their home on the Mamiya Maru, and the port side has many hard and soft corals and a variety of fish, including snappers, wrasses and lionfish. To the northeast is a gunboat about 35 meters long on the other side of Tangat Island. Lying in only 18 meters of water, this wreck is a good snorkelling site as the bow is in only three meters.



## Olympic Maru

Northwest of the gunboat is the Olympic Maru, 120 meters long and lying on its starboard side in 25 meters of water. Once again, there are plenty of groupers on this wreck, and the port side, which is only 14-18 meters underwater, it is covered in hard corals. Easy penetration of the cargo holds and engine room makes this an interesting dive, but watch out for scorpionfish which are all over the area!

## Tae Maru

Further away, to the northwest, is the Tae Maru, which is also known as the Conception Wreck, a tanker about 200 meters long lying upright in 26 meters of water. You come onto the deck between 10 and 16 meters. The bow is completely smashed, allowing for easy penetration, and the wreck is covered in hard and soft corals and sponges. Sweetlips, grouper, lionfish, surgeons, wrasse, tang and soldierfish have made this wreck their home, and barracuda occasionally swim overhead. The currents can be treacherous sometimes, taking an unwary diver by surprise, especially when rounding the stern or bow.



## Dimakya Island

Dimakya Island lies northwest of Busuanga. There are a number of excellent coral dive sites near this island. Divers love to explore a coral garden with tame reef fish on the west side of the island. The slope drops from 17 meters to about 4 meters and is home to tunicates and sponges along with groupers and parrotfish. There is a large swath of staghorn coral at the very end of the wall, with a lot of barracuda, rainbow runners and goatfish. Turtles and manta rays can occasionally be seen here and, more frequently, at the north end of the island.



### How to Get There

From Busuanga airport to Coron, you will take a 20-minute van ride followed by a 45-minute boat ride to Dimakya Island



## Nature (Land Activities)

### What to See and Do?



With panoramic views of the rolling hills and a direct view of Coron Island in Palawan, Mount Tapyas is the most popular viewpoint in Coron Town, Busuanga. The view at the top isn't easy though, since you have to climb 721 steps to reach the giant cross. The scorching sun of Coron makes this a challenge that leaves many drenched in sweat and gasping for breath when they reach the top. Mount Tapyas is one of two tourist hotspots in Coron Town; the other is Maquinit Hot Spring. Almost all hotels near the town center are within walking distance of Mount Tapyas, and you can also take a tricycle if you are short on money.

We suggest starting the hike about 1-hour before sunset or maybe a little bit earlier. That way you can reach the top and see the view in daylight and hang out there for about an hour as you enjoy the daylight turn into the sunset and get the full experience.



### How to Get There

There is no entrance fee for Mt Tapyas, which is great as it encourages tourists and locals to get out, get active and enjoy the view. Mount Tapyas can only be reached by foot, and the starting point is located next to the 'Davens Palace' in Coron Town Proper. Tapyas stairway is only a 10-minute walk from Coron Town.

# "Give Back" VolunTourism

(Sustainable Blue Economy + Giving back to Community)

## Calauit Game Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary

A spitting image of Africa in the Philippines, the Calauit Game Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary is located at the heart of the Calamian Islands chain off the coast of Palawan, particularly at Calauit Island, which occupies 3,700 hectares. Besides the giraffe and the zebra, there are even exotic animals like impala, waterbuck, gazelle, eland, topi and bushbuck are all species of antelope! Because of habitat loss and hunting for their horns and fur, these animals have been declared endangered.

Because of the abundance of animal life at the Calauit Game Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary, it has become a good place for conservationists,

biologists, veterinarians and students to learn more about ecology and wildlife. Animals there roam freely and live with little human interference. Due to this, a great deal of effort is being made to preserve their natural habitat. In addition, tourists visiting the facility are urged to observe certain rules to prevent noise pollution and harm to the animals.

### How to Get There

From Busuanga, you can take a jeepney going to Calasiao Wharf, and from there, it is a three-hour pumpboat ride to Calauit.



# "Go Local - Off the Beaten Track"

## Local Villages

Away from the popular luxury resorts of Palawan in the west of the country, there's another side to island life - visit the local villages on different islands! Rural communities scattered throughout the Bacuit Archipelago and the Calamian Islands offer travellers a glimpse of authentic island life. The unspoiled islands, such as Barangay Lajala on Uson Island, are free of souvenir shops and resorts, and you can visit them on a traditional bangca (wooden boat). Despite being geographically close to the backpacker havens of El Nido and Coron, these isolated communities feel worlds apart in terms of culture and lifestyle.

### How to Get There

Visit the local tour office for more information. While you can charter a boat independently, arranging a tour with a local crew and guide gives you intimate access to the villages where they live; the people you meet are the crew's families, and the homes you visit are theirs. The communities do not have the infrastructure to support large-scale tourism, so visiting the remote villages in this way is sustainable.



## Unique People Culture

### Tribal Tagbanua: The fishermen of Palawan

The name Tagbanua means “people of the village.” Tagbanua are native to both eastern and western coasts of Palawan Island, located between Mindoro and Borneo. The higher concentration of population is in the more extensive lowlands to the east of the island’s mountain range. The Tagbanua are descendants of some of the earliest settlers of the Philippines. Many people who visit the lagoons and lakes overlook the fact that these islands are inhabited by people who have resided here for thousands of years.

Tagbanuas are believed to be related to Tabon Man, a 16,500-year-old human skeleton found in a cave in Palawan. They remained isolated in these remote areas until the twentieth century, when Filipinos began migrating from other parts of the country to Palawan and Coron.

By the late 1990s, the Tagbanua had been granted ancestral domain over their own homeland by

the government, but most of the mass tourism in Coron has kept them in the shadows. When tourists are island hopping and scuba diving in Coron, they will not hear much of the Tagbanua culture. In the Tagbanua view, each of the beautiful lakes that attract a growing number of tourists each year has its own legend, and as guardians of their ancestors’ lands, they have a responsibility to keep the lakes clean and protected.

The Tagbanua collect rubbish at Kayangan Lake or sweep the beaches clean, and while technically they own the land, they have frequently been pressured to lease it out to tourism companies that take most of the profit. People from the Tagbanua, who are usually shy and reticent, are reluctant to open up more land, but with increasing numbers of tourists every year, they may have no choice. Responsible tourism that includes the Tagbanua and their heritage will hopefully allow them to emerge from the shadows through small cultural interactions.



## Where to Stay in Coron



### BUDGET

When you go on a vacation, you might want to spend less on hotels and more on experiences; and we’ve completely understood that. There are many budget hotels in the Coron region that provide decent accommodation as well as in-hotel services that save you the hassle of contracting a third-party vendor for tours. The hotel provides amenities and the hotel staff are welcoming to your needs. You will definitely not compromise on service by paying a lower price.

### MIDDLE

Middle-range hotels are the perfect combination of value-for money and comfort. With more spacious

rooms and more hotel facilities than budget hotels, mid-ranged hotels, you can have an enjoyable stay in Coron. These hotels can be found in the city centre as well as in local neighborhoods; that way you can experience the Bohol culture too!

### LUXURY

The luxury hotels in Coron treat you so well, you’d come back for more. Relax at the blissful spa sessions and tickle your tastebuds at exotic restaurants with flavours from all across the world. Luxury hotels elevate your stay on the sunny Coron island, perfect for families and couples.

# What Kind of Traveller are You?

Are you ready? You'll be amazed by the beauties you're about to discover in Coron. Pick what best suits you and we'd recommend you a 3-day itinerary!

## The Curiouser (The Sponge - First-Time Traveller)

### DAY 1 (TOUR OF CORON TOWN)

- Explore the people
  - Culture and tradition of Coron Palawan
  - Climb Mt. Tapyas peak for sunset,
  - Relax in Maquinit hot springs in the evening
- Getting around: Hail a tricycle (or private car)



### DAY 2 (CORON ISLAND TOUR)

- Twin Lagoon
  - Skeleton Wreck
  - Banol Beach
  - Barracuda Lake
  - Kayangan Lake, Beach 91
  - Siete Pecados, Coral Garden & Malwawey Reef, CYC Beach
- Getting around: Charter a boat



### DAY 3 (CORON ISLAND HOPPING TOUR)

- Malcapuya Island
  - Bulog Dos Island
  - Banana Island
- Getting around: Charter a boat



## The Escapist (Wellness, Voluntourism, Eco Nature Tourism)

### DAY 1 (CORON ISLAND TOUR)

- Twin Lagoon
  - Skeleton Wreck
  - Banol Beach
  - Barracuda Lake
  - Kayangan Lake
  - Beach 91
  - Siete Pecados
  - Coral Garden and Malwawey Reef
  - CYC Beach
- Getting around: Charter a boat



### DAY 2 (CALAUIT SAFARI PARK AND KINGFISHER PARK)

- Calauit Safari Park
  - Concepcion Falls
  - Night tour in Kingfisher Park
- Getting around: Join a tour in the day and another at night



### DAY 3 (CORON ISLAND HOPPING TOUR)

- Malcapuya Island
  - Bulog Dos Island
  - Banana Island
- Getting around: Charter a boat



## The Thrill-Seeker (Adventurer YOLO)

### DAY 1 (CORON ISLAND TOUR AND WATER SPORTS)

- Climb Mt. Tapyas peak for sunset,
  - Relax in Maquinit hot springs in the evening
  - Watersports at Royal Island Sports
- Getting around: Hail a tricycle (or private car). Alternatively, you can join a town tour



### DAY 2 (WRECK DIVING AND ISLAND HOPPING)

- Pass Island
  - Coron Bay Wreck Diving
  - Balicasag Island
- Getting around: Charter a boat



### DAY 3 (CORON ISLAND HOPPING)

- Skeleton Wreck
  - Twin Lagoon Barracuda Lake
  - Reef Garden
  - Banol Beach
- Getting around: Charter a boat



## The Pilgrim (Religious Culture Vulture)

### DAY 1 (CORON ISLAND TOUR)

- Coron Public Market
  - Town Plaza
  - San Agustin Church
  - Lualhati Park
  - Harbour center
  - Cashew harvest factory
  - Mount Tapyas, Maquinit Hot Spring
- Getting around: Hail a tricycle (or private car)



### DAY 2 (KAYANGAN LAKE AND TRIBE VISIT)

- Kayangan Lake and Tribe Tagbanua
- Getting around: Charter a boat and contact the local tourism office to visit the tribe.



### DAY 3 (CORON ISLAND HOPPING)

- Skeleton Wreck
  - Twin Lagoon Barracuda Lake
  - Reef Garden, Banol Beach
- Getting around: Charter a boat

