

DISCOVER THE PHILIPPINES

**EXPLORE
PALAWAN ISLAND**

**THE SECRETS
OF SIQUIJOR**

Published by

**ASIAN
Geographic**



TPB PHL
TOURISM PROMOTIONS BOARD PHILIPPINES





WELCOME TO THE PHILIPPINES

Situated in the western Pacific Ocean and in the heart of the Indo-Pacific's Coral Triangle, this archipelago consists of over 7,000 islands and islets lying just 800 kilometers off the coast of Vietnam.

Defined by its thriving rice fields, bustling cities, colorful jeepneys, smoldering rocky volcanoes, interesting tropical wildlife, year-round sun and charming and warm hospitality, the Philippines is one unique destination with an astonishing diversity spread across its varied landscapes that you should never miss! It should come as no surprise that the Philippines is the ultimate destination in all of Southeast Asia.

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 offerings!

Read on as we capture the perfect introduction to the island experience - from the stunning natural landscapes and their centuries-old traditions to their exuberant fiestas and the welcoming warmth right in the beautiful islands of the Philippines.

TRAVEL GUIDE ...

WHEN TO GO

November to May



WHAT TO BRING

Don't stress out about your clothing choices. Keeping in mind that the Philippines is a tropical archipelago 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 also 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 to capture the unmatched scenery. It is truly incredible and the adventure activities are an absolute thrill! In addition to that, remember to bring sunscreen, a snorkeling mask, and a dry bag to store all your belongings. If you are going to the beach or doing sea activities, you will find the latter extremely useful.



📍 Siquijor

📍 Puerto Princesa

📍 El Nido

GETTING AROUND

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



LET'S HEAD TO TO SIQUIJOR & PALAWAN ISLAND!

Enjoy the tropical Filipino sun on these two popular tourist destinations! There are many beaches in Siquijor and Palawan Island to relax at, including Paliton Beach, Salandog Beach, and Nacpan Beach. Visitors are greeted with an abundance of dive destinations as well as natural wonders such as the cascading waterfalls.



Be one with mother nature at the thrilling Ugong Rock Adventures at Puerto Princesa. Experience the blend of Filipino cultures of the two locations and get the chance to celebrate alongside the locals. Whatever you choose, you're guaranteed to enjoy Siquijor and Palawan Island and love its diversity.

MAP OF PALAWAN ISLAND (WATER AND LAND ACTIVITIES)

The map shows Palawan Island with various activity icons and location markers. The map is surrounded by images of water and land activities, including kayaking, scuba diving, beach scenes, and underwater life.

- EL NIDO
- PUERTO PRINCESA
- Puerto Princesa International Airport
- Nacpan Beach
- Seven Commandos Beach
- Taladyong Beach
- Helicopter Island
- Dilumacad Tunnel
- Miniloc Island
- Big Lagoon, Small Lagoon, Secret Lagoon
- Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park
- Taraw Cliff
- Ugong Rock Adventures
- Honda Bay Island Hopping
- Cuttlefish Shawl
- Mares Rock

Logos: TBP, PHILIPPINES

BEACHES IN PALAWAN ISLAND



Nacpan Beach

Located on the northern tip of the island, Nacpan Beach is the most popular and beautiful beach in El Nido. With four kilometers of white sand, coconut trees, and clear water, Nacpan Beach is a perfect beach getaway trip.

How to Get There

Nacpan Beach is a 45-minute drive from the heart of El-Nido.



Seven Commandos Beach

Experience heaven on earth at the famous Seven Commandos Beach. The blue clear waters and soft sand are a mesmerizing sight – and you'd not want to miss.

How to Get There

Seven Commandos Beach is only accessible via a boat ride from El Nido Town.



Taladyong Beach

Heading further down Palawan Island to Puerto Princesa, visitors are encouraged to visit Taladyong Beach. Perfect for sunbathing and swimming, the beach is mostly untouched and rarely visited by tourists and locals.

How to Get There

Visitors will need to rent a private vehicle to get to Taladyong Beach. It is about a 45-minute drive from the city center of Princess Puerto.

DIVE IN PALAWAN ISLAND



Miniloc Island

Located near El Nido, the two small Tagbao Islands are home to three reefs nestled in between them. The shallow waters make it suitable for beginner divers. Encounter an abundance of colorful reef fish, corals, and crayfish.

How to Get There

A boat ride is provided to Miniloc Island from El Nido Town, which lasts around 40 minutes.



Cuttlefish Shawl

Cuttlefish Shawl is recommended for experienced divers as the dive site has a challenging depth. Divers can observe barracuda, sea turtles, angelfish, and, as the name suggests, cuttlefish.

How to Get There

It's best to find a local guide in Puerto Princesa to locate this dive spot.

Mares Rock

This sloping reef site sits at the mouth of Puerto Princesa Bay and has an astounding depth of 112 feet. Popular with underwater photographers, divers can encounter octopus, nudibranch, crustaceans, tuna, barracuda, and turtles.

How to Get There

Mares Rock is easily accessible from Puerto Princesa Bay with a 10-minute boat ride from the bay.





Dilumacad Tunnel

This stunning 115-foot long tunnel was discovered in the 1990s by a Japanese diver, and has since been a 'must-dive' spot among divers worldwide. The tunnel starts at a depth of 40 feet and leads divers to a spectacular sandy bottom.

How to Get There

Dilumacad Island, home to many other fantastic dive sites, is 15 minutes by boat from El Nido.

NATURE



Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park

A UNESCO Heritage site, this park features a beautiful natural landscape with an underground river. Visitors can board a boat and cruise along the clear waters of the river, admiring the rock formations of these caves.

How to Get There

The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park is located in Sabang, about 80 kilometers from Puerto Princesa's city proper.



Taraw Cliff

Climb the towering Taraw Cliff that overlooks the town of El Nido. Don't forget your hiking shoes and other safety equipment as the path up is jagged and rocky.

How to Get There

Taraw Cliff is located in the heart of El Nido and it is not difficult to miss. The hike up takes around 45 minutes.

GO LOCAL-OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Ugong Rock Adventures

Located just north of Puerto Princesa, Ugong Rock Adventures is the perfect way to experience the utterly breathtaking natural wonders of Palawan Island. through the park and explore underground caves with a guided tour. For a more relaxed experience, opt for a bus tour.

How to Get There

Ugong Rock Adventures is an hour's drive north of Puerto Princesa.



FESTIVALS

January

Ati-Atihan Festival

The Barotuan Ati-Atihan of El Nido is celebrated annually in January to honor Santo Nino (Infant Jesus). Tribal music and street dancing are two of the many exciting activities lined up for the festivals. Performers don native costumes and parade on the streets to loud rhythmic drums amongst the crowd.



March

Puerto Princesa Founding Day and Balayong Festival

Celebrating the founding anniversary of Puerto Princesa, the region is overtaken by colorful performances and activities that highlight the strong camaraderie and skills of the locals. It is also celebrated in conjunction with the Balayong Festival, which marks the start of the blooming of cherry blossoms.

WHERE TO STAY IN PUERTO PRINCESA AND EL NIDO



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 Puerto Princesa/El Nido 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 is 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-range hotels, you can have an enjoyable stay in Puerto Princesa/El Nido. These hotels can be found in the city center as well as in local neighborhoods; that way you can experience the Puerto Princesa/El Nido culture too!

LUXURY

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

WHAT KIND OF TRAVELLER ARE YOU?

Recommended Itineraries for

THE CURIUSER (THE SPONGE - FIRST-TIME TRAVELLER)

DAY 1 (EL NIDO)

- Nacpan Beach
 - Seven Commandos Beach
 - Miniloc Island
- Getting around:** You can rent a scooter or travel in the local tricycles



DAY 2 (PUERTO PRINCESA)

- Talaudyong Beach
 - Cuttlefish Shawl
 - Mares Rock
- Getting around:** You can rent a scooter or travel in the local tricycles



DAY 3 (PUERTO PRINCESA)

- Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park
 - Ugong Rock Adventures
- Getting around:** You can rent a scooter or travel in the local tricycles



THE ESCAPIS (WELLNESS, VOLUNTOURISM, ECO NATURE TOURISM)

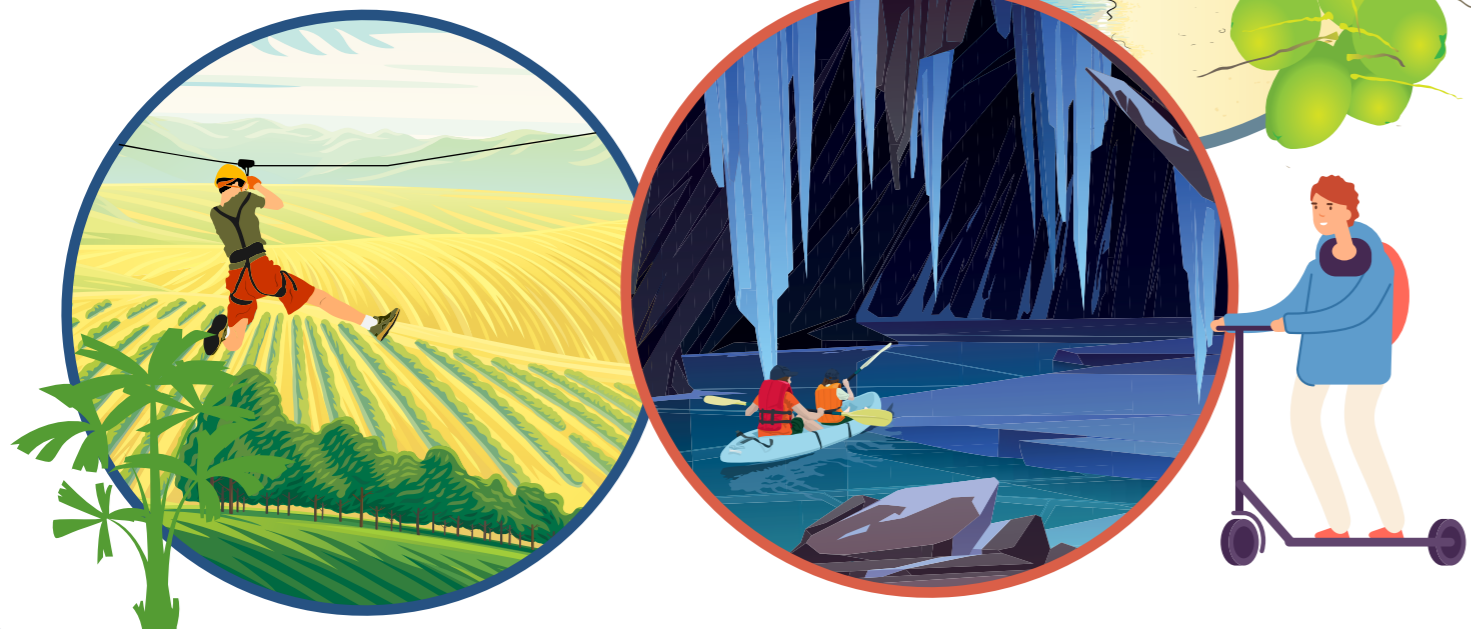
DAY 1 (EL NIDO)

- Nacpan Beach
 - Seven Commandos Beach
- Getting around: You can rent a scooter or travel in the local tricycles



DAY 2 (PUERTO PRINCESA)

- Talaudyong Beach
 - Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park
 - Ugong Rock Adventures
- Getting around: You can rent a scooter or travel in the local tricycles



THE THRILL-SEEKER (ADVENTURER YOLO)

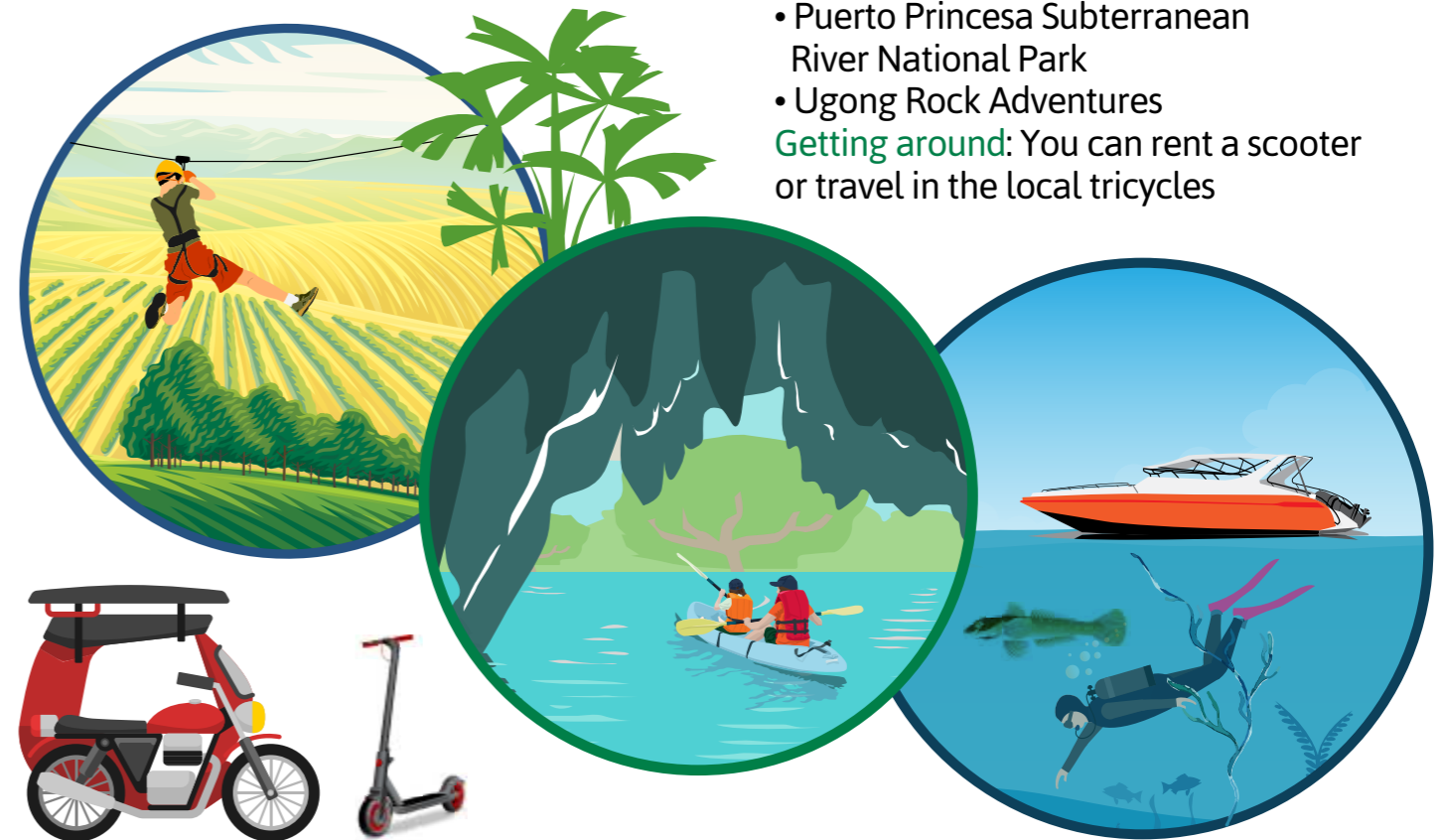
DAY 1 (EL NIDO)

- Miniloc Island
 - Taraw Cliff
 - Dilumacad Tunnel
- Getting around: You can rent a scooter or travel in the local tricycles

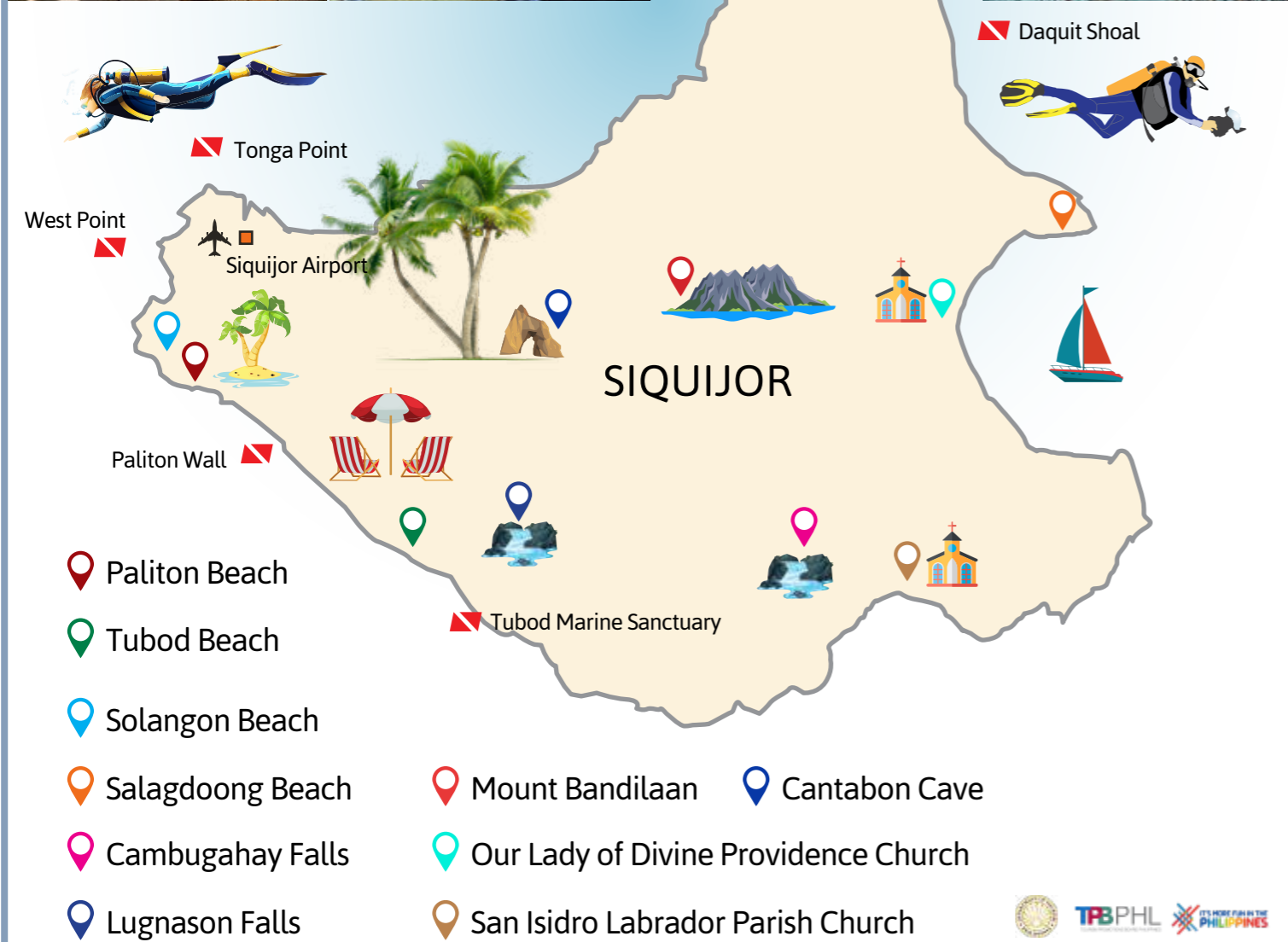


DAY 2 (PUERTO PRINCESA)

- Cuttlefish Shawl
 - Mares Rock
 - Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park
 - Ugong Rock Adventures
- Getting around: You can rent a scooter or travel in the local tricycles



MAP OF SIQUIJOR (WATER AND LAND ACTIVITIES)



BEACHES OF SIQUIJOR



Paliton Beach

Bathe in the tropical sunlight on the white, powdery sand of Paliton Beach. Be sure to stay for the sunset on this less-frequented beach, that reflects off the clear waters.

How to Get There

From the church at barangay Paliton, take the road that heads toward the sea. The walk is around 1.5 kilometers from the church.



Tubod Beach

A part of a beach resort, Tubod Beach is pristine and offers visitors an entertaining night by the sea. Access to the beach is for resort guests and the public, at P200.

How to Get There

Drive down from Siquijor port to San Juan and visitors can spot the resort, which is adjacent to the road. The drive will take you around 30 minutes.



Solangon Beach

Catch the fiery sunset that falls onto the long stretch of white sand on Salangon Beach. The low-tides also call for a pleasant stroll along the beach and a quick dip in the cool waters.

How to Get There

Take a public tricycle or motorbike from Siquijor Port to Solangon Beach, which is around 10 kilometers away.

Salagdoong Beach

Unleash your inner child at Salagdoong Beach with its exhilarating cliff-jumping adventures. Jump off either a 20-foot or 35-foot cliff into the clear waters of the beach.

How to Get There

Drive from Siquijor Port to Maria, which is located at the eastern tip of the island. The ride will take around 30 minutes. Travel through the forest before emerging at the beach.



DIVE IN SIQUIJOR



Paliton Wall

Dropping to 40 meters, Paliton Wall is covered with colorful corals and fans, offering a large overhang and caves. Divers can spot giant frogfish, ornate ghost pipefish and Spanish dancers among the corals.

How to Get There

From Paliton Beach, hop onto a kayak and row out the shore, or book a dive trip with a local dive center.

Tonga Point

A more challenging dive, Tonga Point begins with a gentle slope to 12 meters that leads to a steep drop-off of 65 meters. An abundance of colorful marine life is observed at the shallow ends, but dive deeper to encounter schools of barracuda, turtles, and blue-spotted rays.

How to Get There

Tonga Point is easily accessible from Siquijor Airport and Siquijor Port.



NATURE



Cambugahay Falls

Located on the east of the island, Cambugahay Falls is a magnificent sight to the eyes. Visitors can soak in the waters at the pool below or rope swing into the pool for P50.

How to Get There

Cambugahay Falls is around a 50-minute drive from Siquijor Port. Rent a scooter for the entire day to travel around Siquijor at your own pace.



Mount Bandilaan

The majestic Mount Bandilaan towers over the island of Siquijor. Mountain springs and rivers surround the mountain's foot coupled with caves and the Bandilaan Butterfly Range and Breeding Farm. Perfect for trekkers!

How to Get There

Mount Bandilaan is located in the heart of Siquijor. The ride to the mountain is around 30 minutes from Siquijor Port.

Cantabon Cave

An adventurous trail, the opening of the cave will lead you to pitch-black interiors under the Earth

How to Get There

It takes around 30 minutes from San Juan and 20 minutes from Siquijor Port.



CHURCHES



San Isidro Labrador Parish Church

San Isidro Labrador Parish Church, more commonly known as Lazi Church, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was also declared a National Cultural Treasure by the National Museum of the Philippines. Declared independent in 1857, the church stands strong and is seen as a prized possession of Siquijor.

How to Get There

Lazi Church is located near the southeastern tip of the island and is about a 40-minute ride from Siquijor Port.

Our Lady of Divine Providence Church

This Roman Catholic church was built in 1887 and has since been the topic of many supernatural stories. The legend of Black Maria is rooted in the history of the church. Amaze at the religious architecture of this standing piece of Siquijor history and it is a great addition to your Siquijor to-visit list!

How to Get There

The church is a 34-minute drive from Siquijor Port and it's much closer from Salagdoong Beach if you are staying at a beach resort.



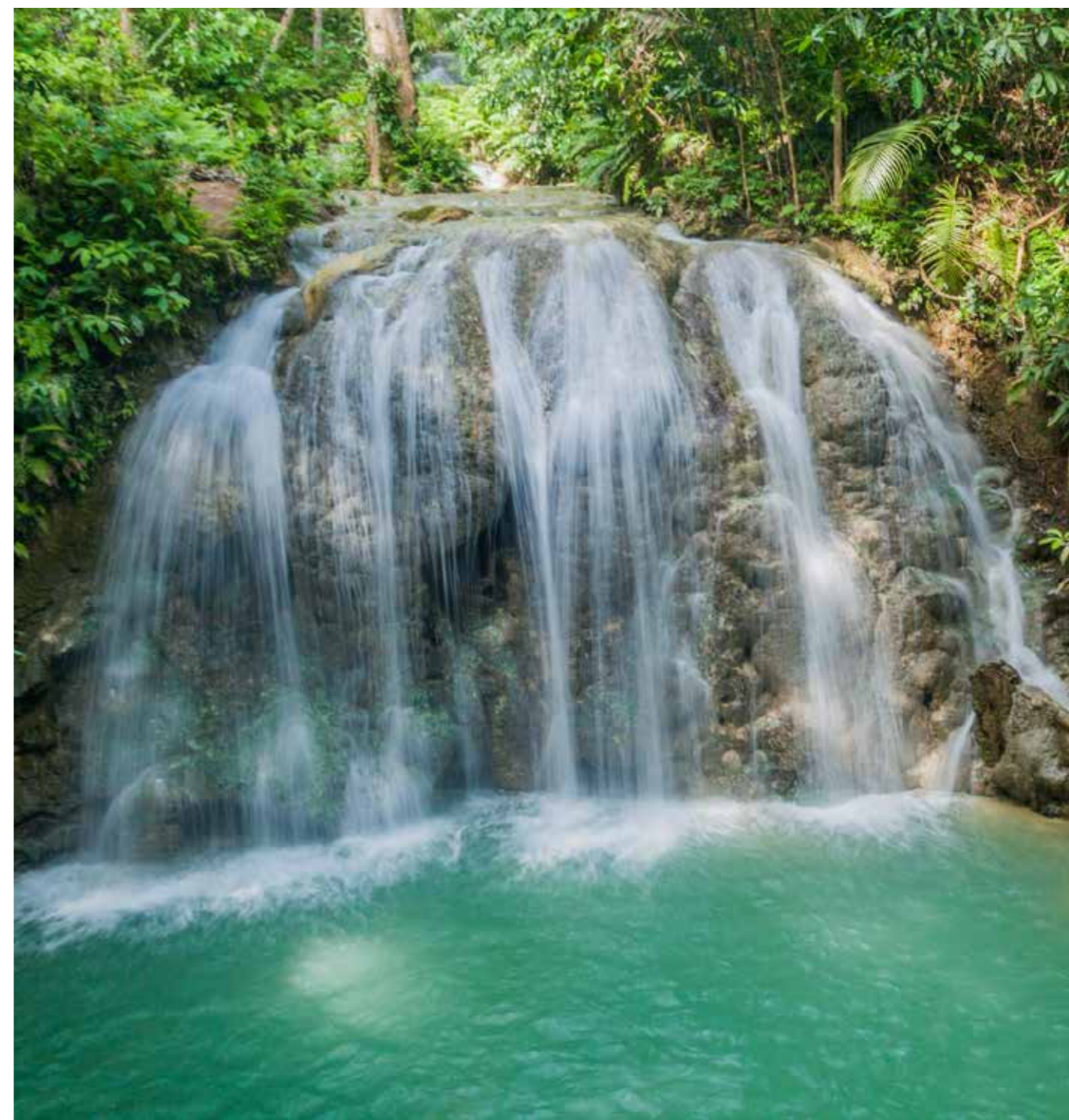
GO LOCAL-OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Lugnason Falls

Less-frequented by tourists and locals, find yourself in the serenity of the lush green forest and the cool waters of the waterfall pool. Visitors can rope swing and jump off a huge platform for a thrilling experience.

How to Get There

The waterfall is a 10–15 minute ride from San Juan, the tourist capital of Siquijor.



FESTIVALS

October

Dilaab Festival

The festival is celebrated in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, the town's patron saint.



HISTORY



The province of Siquijor is commonly associated with magic; black magic, in particular. The legend goes that since olden times, the island natives were involved in mystery and magic who could engage with spirits from the other world. There are healers who practice spiritualism and prepare herbal blends to cure love and health problems.

WHERE TO STAY IN SIQUIJOR



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 Siquijor 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 is 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-range hotels, you can have an enjoyable stay in Siquijor. These hotels can be found in the city center as well as in local neighborhoods; that way you can experience the Siquijor culture too!

LUXURY

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

WHAT KIND OF TRAVELLER ARE YOU?

Recommended Itineraries for

THE CURIUSER (THE SPONGE - FIRST-TIME TRAVELLER)

DAY 1 (WEST SIQUIJOR)

- Paliton Beach
- Tubod Beach
- Solangon Beach

Getting around: You can hire a tricycle or a multicab if you are traveling in big groups



DAY 2 (EAST/CENTRAL SIQUIJOR)

- Salagdoong Beach
- Mount Bandilaan
- Our Lady of Divine Providence Church

Getting around: You can hire a tricycle or a multicab if you are traveling in big groups



DAY 3 (SOUTH SIQUIJOR)

- Cambugahay Falls
- San Isidro Labrador Parish Church
- Lugnason Falls

Getting around: You can hire a tricycle or a multicab if you are traveling in big groups



THE ESCAPIS (WELLNESS, VOLUNTOURISM, ECO NATURE TOURISM)

DAY 1 (WEST SIQUIJOR)

- Paliton Beach
 - Tubod Beach
- Getting around: You can hire a tricycle or a multicab if you are traveling in big groups



DAY 2 (EAST/CENTRAL SIQUIJOR)

- Salagdoong Beach
 - Mount Bandilaan
 - Cantabon Cave
 - Our Lady of Divine Providence Church
- Getting around: You can hire a tricycle or a multicab if you are traveling in big groups



DAY 3 (SOUTH SIQUIJOR)

- San Isidro Labrador Parish Church
 - Lugnason Falls
- Getting around: You can hire a tricycle or a multicab if you are traveling in big groups

THE THRILL-SEEKER (ADVENTURER YOLO)

DAY 1 (WEST SIQUIJOR)

- Palitan Wall
 - Tonga Point
- Getting around: You can hire a tricycle or a multicab if you are traveling in big groups



DAY 2 (CENTRAL SIQUIJOR)

- Mount Bandilaan,
 - Cantabon Cave
- Getting around: You can hire a tricycle or a multicab if you are traveling in big groups

DAY 3 (SOUTH SIQUIJOR)

- Cambugahay Falls
 - Lugnason Falls
- Getting around: You can hire a tricycle or a multicab if you are traveling in big groups

