

# PHILIPPINES ISLAND EXPLORER



DAYS



Boasting pristine white beaches, majestic emerald cliffs and rich cultural heritage, the Philippines is a tropical haven to entice every sun seeker, culture lover and adventure junkie. The Philippines Island Explorer is our 13 day adventure that will have you snorkelling turquoise waters, visiting local villages, hanging out at waterfalls, discovering untouched islands on a multiday boat expedition, and much more! Oh, and did we mention that you'll be doing this with an experienced group leader and instant crew of new friends? Get ready for the trip of a lifetime exploring this island paradise.

## MANILA -> EL NIDO

Transport: Planes, Ferries,

Tricycles & Minibuses

Meals: 12B, 6L, 2D

Group Size: 4 - 18
Age Range: 18 - 39
Local Fees: None

# HIGHLIGHTS

- Canyoneering through the stunning Kawasan Falls
- Experience an underwater wonderland at the famous Sardine Run in Moalboal
- Explore majestic emerald cliffs, uninhabited islands and incredible snorkelling spots on a 3 day boat expedition
- Tour the best of the iconic El Nido in a traditional Jeepney



## **INCLUSIONS**

- ✓ Airport Pickup To The Accom 24/7
- $\checkmark$  12 Nights Accommodation
- ✓ All Transport & 2 Internal Flights
- ✓ 20 Meals
- ✓ Awesome Group Leader
- √ Waterfalls
- √ Beach Sunsets
- ✓ Sardine Run
- √ Kawasan Falls Canyoneering
- √ Simala Shrine
- √ Hot Springs
- ✓ Coron Viewpoint
- ✓ 3 Day Boat Expedition
- √ Snorkelling
- ✓ Deserted Paradise Islands
- ✓ Cultural Activities
- √ Jeepney Tour of El Nido
- √ Nacpan Beach
- ✓ Help with Onward Travel

### **NOT INCLUDED:**

International flights, travel insurance, visas & some meals







## **ITINERARY & IMPORTANT INFO**

## **DAY 1 - ARRIVE & MEET THE GROUP**

• MANILA Welcome to Manila! We'll meet you at the airport and take you to the hotel. Once you've checked in you'll then have plenty of time to recover from your flight and relax before you meet everyone in your group!

## DAY 2 - TRAVEL TO MOALBOAL

• MOALBOAL Today we travel to the stunning island of Cebu via a short internal flight and ferry, stopping at some of the Islands best waterfalls along the way. Get ready to capture the best instapics whilst feeling like you're in paradise!

# DAY 3 - KAWASAN FALLS CANYONEERING

• MOALBOAL Today we'll stop for a thrilling canyoneering adventure at Kawasan Falls that'll have us leaping into bright blue pools and exploring the magical rainforest surroundings.

# DAY 4 - SNORKELLING & SARDINE RUN

• MOALBOAL This morning we're off on a snorkelling trip to observe the Sardine Run that Moalboal is famous for. A phenomenon worthy of a David Attenborough documentary, we'll have the chance to snorkel amongst countless sardines in amazingly clear water - an experience like nothing else! The afternoon is yours to check out more of Moalboal town or relax by the beach or pool under the tropical sun.

# DAY 5 - SIMALA CHURCH & TRAVEL TO CORON

• CORON Today we'll stop at Simala Church, a castle-like monastery where we can learn about the Spanish colonisation of the Philippines. From Cebu City we'll take our second internal flight to Busuanga Island and check into our accom!

## **DAY 6 - SNORKELLING IN CORON**

• CORON It's time to whip out the snorkel goggles and underwater camera as we go snorkelling in the Sulu Sea. Visiting some of Coron's most iconic snorkel spots, we'll be sure to spot some beautiful creatures! Tonight we'll get to experience Coron's vibrant nightlife.

## **DAY 7 - EXPLORE CORON**

• CORON This morning you can choose to wander Coron Town or just chill by the pool. Later that day, we'll hike up Mount Tapyas for beautiful views of the bay. After some exercise we'll travel to Maquinit Hot Springs to relax our bodies and be rewarded with a golden sunset as we soak in the hot saltwater pools.

## **DAY 8 - BOAT EXPEDITION**

Today we set off on a spectacular 3-day island-hopping expedition from Coron to El Nido. Sailing on a traditional Banca boat we'll go off the beaten track to explore untouched islands, pristine oceans, meet local tribes and sleep on the beach. Our Filipino huts are simple, but with very few tourists, loads of fresh food and marvellous vistas everywhere you turn, we think the trade off is absolutely worth it.

## **DAY 9 - BOAT EXPEDITION**

Continuing our trip to Palawan we'll pass more white beaches and swim with fish in some of the world's most colourful snorkelling spots. Completely off the grid we'll be able to fully immerse in the heavenly beauty of our surroundings. With nothing else to worry about, all we have on the agenda is swim, snorkel, sunbathe, repeat! Tonight we stay on the beach in a traditional camp, dozing off to the sounds of the waves under the stars.

## DAY 10 - EL NIDO

• EL NIDO Today our island hopping expedition comes to an end as we arrive on the island of Palawan. After a few days of swimming and sailing today is ours to relax on the beach, sip cold drinks and discover El Nido. Tonight we'll get to experience the island's nightlife!

## **DAY 11 - CANOPY WALK**

• EL NIDO This morning we'll ease your muscles with an included a Filipino massage, the ultimate way to chill after so much adventure. We'll then head off to see the town from above on a walk through the lush jungle canopy. Tonight you'll choose how you want to spend your evening. A sunset bar or perhaps a chilled dinner, the options are endless!

# DAY 12 - JEEPNEY TOUR & NACPAN BEACH

• EL NIDO Our last full day will see us hopping in a Jeepney to tour El Nido. We'll visit a local organic farm and enjoy lunch on the beach with a traditional Filipino dance performed by the local children. Then we'll visit Nacpan Beach, one of the most beautiful spots on Palawan. Tonight we wrap things up our last dinner and drinks to toast the incredible adventures we've had together.

# DAY 13 - CHECK OUT & ONWARD TRAVEL

• EL NIDO Your amazing 13 day adventure comes to an end. You can either check out and make your way back home, stay on longer in El Nido or continue your travels in the Philippines.

### **ARRIVAL INFORMATION**

Philippines Island Explorer starts in Manila. It's best to arrive on the actual start date. There's no activities on the first day, so you can arrive at any time. If you do arrive early we'll still pick you up from the airport and will book you into our accommodation from the day you arrive. Extra nights can be pre-paid with your agent or direct to us.

It's also recommended to have onward travel booked out of the Philippines before travelling there, as you may get asked for proof of this before boarding your flight to the Philippines.

#### **AFTER YOUR TRIP**

Philippines Island Explorer finishes in El Nido, Palawan. You can choose to stay on longer in El Nido or continue your travels around the Philippines. If you need to get back to Manila or are flying to any of the other islands, the closest airport is El Nido (ENI), which is about a 30-minute drive away but has limited flight options which can be quite expensive. A cheaper option with more regular flights is Puerto Princesa airport (PPS), which takes approx. 5 hours by minibus from El Nido and costs approx. £10/\$20 AUD. If you have a flight from Manila on Day 13, you will need to take into consideration the costs and times of getting there from El Nido or Puerto Princesa airport.

When booking your flights to the Philippines we recommend comparing your flight cost options versus the options to return to Manila and decide what's best for your circumstances. If you need any further help or advice just contact us.

Your group leader can help with any other onward travel options within the Philippines.

### **VISAS**

Most nationalities including the UK, Europe, Australia, NZ, Canada, USA, Scandinavia and most South American countries will generally receive a 30-day visa exemption on arrival for free. Brazilian passport holders can receive a 59-day visa exemption on arrival for free. If you're unsure of your visa requirements or need any help please just contact us!

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance for the Philippines is compulsory to join the trip. Your group leader will ask to see proof of your cover before your trip begins. You can organise a quote and policy for yourself <a href="https://example.com/here/be-nc/4">here</a>.

# ACCOM GUIDE

## **MANILA - LUB D HOTEL**

1 NIGHT

Funky hotel in the heart of Manila.

Twin/Double Rooms

Ensuite

WiFi, Air Con, Laundry & Restaurant

## **MOALBOAL - PESCADORES SEAVIEW SUITES**

## **3 NIGHTS**

A beach front resort in a perfect location.

Twin/Double Rooms

Ensuite

WiFi, Air Con, Laundry & Beach Front Pool

## **CORON - VIENNA HOTEL**

**3 NIGHTS** 

A modern hotel in a central location.

Twin/Double Rooms

**Ensuite** 

WiFi, Air Con, Laundry & Pool

## **BOAT EXPEDITION - TRADITIONAL HUTS**

2 NIGHTS

Basic and traditional Filipino huts on a remote hidden island.

Twin Huts

**Shared Bathrooms** 

A unique experience sleeping under the stars!

## **EL NIDO - SOUTH ANCHORAGE INN**

**3 NIGHTS** 

Comfortable and close to the beach.

Twin/Double Rooms

Ensuite

WiFi, Air Con, Laundry & Restaurant

## **IMPORTANT NOTE**



The accommodation featured in this document is our usual properties. At certain locations we use alternative accommodation (of equal standard) when needed.





## SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL



PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT



SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES



CULTURAL EXCHANGE & EDUCATION



ANIMAL WELFARE

Making a positive difference to the amazing destinations we travel is at the core of what we do.

Small Change is our own socially conscious initiative aimed at making the world that little bit better place to explore!

Click <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a> to learn more!



# WE'RE PLANTING 10 TREES FOR EVERY INTRO TRAVEL BOOKING!





## DO MANY PEOPLE TRAVEL ALONE?

Yes. Lots of people on our trips are travelling solo. But by doing our trip you'll instantly be part of a group, so it's a great way to meet others and make friends! Most of our accommodation is twin or triple share, so we will put you in a room with someone of the same gender.



# CAN I CHAT TO MY GROUP BEFORE I LEAVE?

You can start chatting to people in your group and other travellers before you leave. Just go to our Facebook page, click on 'Groups' and choose <u>Philippines</u>.



# WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT THE PHILIPPINES?

The great thing about the Philippines is it's usually quite hot and dry whilst we are operating, so it's great to go at any time from late September to early June. Please keep in mind that we don't operate our tours during the main wet season (July, August, early September).



# HOW MUCH SPENDING MONEY WILL I NEED?

All your activities, accommodation, transport and some meals are included, so you'll just need money for any extra meals, drinks, shopping and any onward travel. We recommend you bring at least £300 / \$500 spending money.



## **TERMS & CONDITIONS**

For the full set of terms & conditions for our tours including your responsibilities as a traveller with us, please see the <u>Terms & Conditions</u> section of our website.



# HOW WILL I ACCESS MY MONEY WHILE I'M AWAY?

We recommend getting a travel currency card through <u>Wise</u>. You can use the Wise card almost everywhere and withdraw cash and use it with Google or Apple Pay. If you transfer your money into the local currency, you can avoid paying foreign exchange fees when you use the card. There are ATM's available throughout the Philippines so it's easy to get access to cash.



# IS THERE WI-FI THROUGHOUT THE TRIP?

Some accommodations we stay at have free Wi-Fi available. The Philippines network quality is often lower than you're used to but you can generally connect and do basic stuff



# WHAT LUGGAGE DO YOU RECOMMEND?

We always recommend travelling with a backpack and packing light! 10-20kgs of stuff should be plenty. There is luggage storage at the airport or at some accommodations if needed. You'll also need a small overnight bag (we would recommend a drybag/waterproof bag) for the 3-day boat expedition.



## WHAT POWER OUTLETS ARE USED?

The Philippines generally uses a 2-pin flat socket the same as North America, or a 2-pin round socket the same as most of Europe. It's always best to grab yourself an appropriate adaptor if needed before you go.

### That's about it for now!

Once you've booked you'll get access to 'Manage My Booking' and the INTRO Travel App, which will give you all the information you'll need on the Philippines and Philippines Island Explorer, so you can just relax and enjoy the experience.

Of course if you have an more questions just contact us. We're happy to help!