Heavens

Bohol • Boracay • Palawan
Manila • Ilocos • Bicol • Cebu

Fun-filled itineraries
Year-long festivities
Manila to Toronto non-stop
Enjoy comfort on our new B777-300ER

Starting November 30
Wednesdays, Fridays, Sundays

Fly non-stop from Manila to Toronto in the comfort of our new B777-300ER. Sumptuous culinary treats, spacious and ergonomically designed seats with state-of-the-art in-flight entertainment - available in both Mabuhay and Fiesta Classes.

For more information, call PAL reservations at 855-8888 or your travel agent, or log on to www.philippineairlines.com.
ADVENTURE
Get a dose of adrenaline rush from the array of activities that will test your mettle. Catch the waves of Siargao or surf the sand instead over at La Paz, either way will give you a different ride. Trek up to the peak of the Cordilleras or go deep down the scenic views of Tubbataha Reef and get the perfect high, or perfect low, that you are looking for.

CULTURE
Immerse your senses to a unique journey that merges Asian character and Western eloquence. A country that is said to have lived in a convent for 300 years and in Hollywood for 50 years, Philippines has evolved into a diverse nation that distinguished itself apart from its neighboring countries. See the fortresses and churches built during the Spanish era, ride the Jeepneys that ply the metropolitan since the American era, or sink your taste buds in the local cuisines that are distinctively Filipino.

NATURE
Explore wonders of nature at its best in some of the most picturesque destinations in the world. Scan the horizon with mound after mound of Chocolate Hills, straggle and meander into the Puerto Princesa Underground River, or simply indulge in luxury living at best beach in world Boracay or perhaps at one of the remote islands scattered around the country.

Spend your holidays with the company who truly knows Philippines inside-out. With more than 30 years of ushering travellers to different parts of the country, Uni-Orient Travel, Inc. has made countless happy and lasting memories.

Experience the Uni-Orient difference. Your business and travel concierge.
**For as low as**
- Call - $0.40/min
- SMS - P15.00/SMS

---

**Smart International Call & Text**

Connecting back home has never been more convenient with Smart International Call and Text service.

Dial directly from your mobile phone using the Smart Prepaid Sim and stay connected for as low as $0.40 per minute to 202 countries including **US, Canada, South Korea, Japan, China, Taiwan, Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong and the UK**. Whether you call for business or pleasure, Smart International Call and Text connects you to the world.

**To make a Smart International call, just dial:**
+ Country Code, Area Code, Party's Number & press send on your mobile phone
Example: To call Incheon, South Korea dial +8232123456789

**To make a Smart International text, type message and send to:**
+ Country Code, Area Code, Party's Number & press send on your mobile phone

Contact your travel agent now for a **FREE tourist kit** with a Smart Prepaid SIM.
INCORPORATED AND DUELY ESTABLISHED IN 1976, UNI-OORIENT IS REGARDED AS THE LEADING TRAVEL AGENCY AND TOUR OPERATOR IN THE PHILIPPINES. FROM ITS HUMBLE BEGINNING IN MANILA'S CHINATOWN, UNI-OORIENT BRANCHED OUT TO DIFFERENT STRATEGIC LOCATIONS IN THE COUNTRY AND OVERSEAS.


SINCE CARVING ITS MARK IN THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY, SALES PRODUCTION HAS PROPORTIONALLY INCREASED. UNI-OORIENT HAS GARNERED THE TOP SALES AWARD FROM SEVERAL AIRLINES THAT INCLUDE PHILIPPINE AIRLINE, CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS, CHINA SOUTHERN AIRLINES, CHINA AIRLINES, EVA AIRWAYS, KOREAN AIRLINES, ASIANA AIRLINES, SINGAPORE AIRLINES, AND NORTHWEST AIRLINES. THE COMPANY IS ALSO PRIVILEGED TO GARNER ONE OF THE HIGHEST ACCOLADES IN THE INDUSTRY – THE DIAMOND AWARD OF THE PHILIPPINES AIRLINES. FROM THEN, IT RECEIVED AROUND 200 MORE PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS FROM WELL-KNOWN GLOBAL ORGANIZATION IN THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY.

UNI-OORIENT'S SUCCESS COMES FROM ITS DEVOTED MANPOWER WHO ARE COMMITTED TO DELIVER THE BEST TRAVEL EXPERIENCE TO EVERY CLIENT BY PROVIDING AN ARRAY OF TRAVEL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES THAT ARE TAILORED-FIT TO EACH CUSTOMER WHILE ENSURING COMFORT, CONVENIENCE, SATISFACTION, AND SAFETY ABOVE ALL.

INDUSTRY'S EVER CHANGING DEMANDS, UNI-OORIENT CONTINUOUSLY EVOLVES AND OUTDOES ITSELF TO MEET TRAVEL MARKET'S UNIQUE NEEDS AND HIGH EXPECTATIONS.
12
[Re]Discover Manila

A mix of the past, present, and future, Manila serves a concoction beyond ordinary.

18
Going Loco for Ilocos
Mixing high octane activities with rich heritage tour.

24
Scenic Cebu
Experience surprising tranquility in a bustling metropolis.

30
Bright Bubbly Boracay
Care for the best beach in the world?

36
Bohol Dream
Turn your fantasies to reality complete with sweet sightings and cute creatures.
Welcome to the maiden issue of U-XPLOR, your guide to some of the best Philippine destinations. We are very glad to partake in the Department of Tourism’s campaign in showing why “It’s more fun in the Philippines” and we want you to be part of it as well.

Last year was indeed fruitful for the tourism industry. Statistically, in 2012, tourist arrivals reached around 4.27 million, a 9.07% growth compared to 2011 (Department of Tourism).

A part of this success is credited to the people behind the tourism industry who played spectacular role in bringing the best of the Philippines to the world. Because of their dedication, Philippines is leaning towards becoming one of the hottest destinations in the world and the recognitions it received from different organizations serve as the testament to what the country can provide.

The favorite beach in the Philippines, Boracay, was hailed as the Best Island Beach in the World (Travel+Leisure) and also 3rd Best Party Beach in the World (Cheapflights.com) while the time frozen town of Vigan in Ilocos Sur was recognized for implementing the Best Practice in World Heritage Site Management at the World Heritage Convention (UNESCO). A Palawan island was named as best getaway spot (UK Vogue Magazine) and Bohol’s beautiful Chocolate Hills earned a spot in World’s Most Dramatic Landscapes (TripAdvisor.com)

And speaking of beauty, Cebuana head-turner Rizzini Alexis Gomez took the title of Miss Tourism International 2012. Her elegant look, poise, and wit bested 54 other contestants to take home the crown, and what a pick she is to represent the world-class caliber of Filipinos.

And just as we are unveiling the 2013, Philippines is already fetching recognitions and awards from different credible tourism outfits and organizations. Ask Conde Nast Traveller who to watch out this year and they’ll tell you who their “new flame” is.

Chinese travellers also favored Philippines as the Most Romantic Destination (Shanghai Morning Post), the Best Tourist Destination (World Travel - Special Trips Awards), and one of the world’s top tourist destinations (Oriental Morning Post).

Now that the world is taking notice of our beautiful country, don’t be the last to experience and say “it’s more fun in the Philippines.”

Happy travelling!
The Philippines

An archipelago with more than 7,100 beautiful islands, cradled by magnificent seas and oceans, and blessed with warm tropical sun bestowed upon its wonderful collection of flora and fauna.

Manila: A booming capital with rich history and great escapades

Palawan: The final frontier. Home to finest beaches and underground river

Boracay: Best beach island in the world, don’t miss its lively night outs and water adventures

Cebu: The birthplace of Christianity in the Philippines

Bohol: Marvel at the Chocolate Hills and cute bug-eyed tarsiers

Ilocos: Visit olden days of the Spanish-era coupled with surfing on sand and sea

Bicol: Packed with intensity and beauty, bewilder at Mayon Volcano and Caramoan islands
Welcome to Philippines, your gateway to ultimate relaxation and private getaways.

Philippines boasts the second largest archipelago in the world with over 7,100 islands. Find your own paradise in any of its secluded island beaches, diving spots, and lush green forests that harbor thousands of endemic flora and fauna.

This country is also a melting pot of cultures with influences that span across various continents. Spain and Arab are evident in religion and architecture, English serves as the second language, Chinese founded what is now considered as the oldest Chinatown in the world, and a version of American service vehicles now rule the streets of the metro.

But more than anything else, it is the warmth and hospitality of the Filipinos that stands out the most. The welcoming smiles and benign nature of the locales will truly make your stay fun and worth cherishing.

With incomparable beauty, color and friendly smiles, make our country your new destination and see why everybody is saying “it’s more fun in the Philippines.”

Language
There are two official languages in the Philippines, the native tongue Filipino and international lingua franca English. Filipino is primarily based on regional dialect Tagalog. There are around 170 native languages in the Philippines used by different ethno-linguistic groups. Other major dialects are Cebuano, Ilokano, Hiligaynon, Waray, Kapampangan, and Bikolano.

On the other hand, English serves as the secondary language and commonly used in fields of education, commerce, government, in judicial proceedings, and other official and business transactions.

Religion
Philippines is predominantly a Christian nation with a large percentage belonging to Roman Catholic. Approximately, 80% of the total population practices Catholicism with relative Christian denominations amassing a number of devotees. Islam is also significantly present in the country, especially in the islands of Mindanao and some parts of Visayas. Other religions in the country are Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, and Judaism.

Geography
Philippines is an archipelago comprised of more than 7,100 islands located in Southeast Asia. Bodies of water surround it with Pacific Ocean to the east, Celebes Sea to the south, and South China Sea to the north and west. The entire country is grouped into three sections, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

Weather
Philippines is generally dry and humid with only two seasons prevailing all year round. The dry or summer season usually comes in the months of March to May while the wet or rainy season starts as early as mid May and exits around October.

Philippines also has a typhoon season that starts around June and lingers until October. As a tropical country, the country experiences these weather disturbances every so often.

Time
Standard time is eight hours ahead of GMT (+8 GMT)

Currency
Philipine Peso (sign: ₱; code: PHP)

Exchange Rate (approximate as of press time)
USD = 40.70; EUR = 55.46; CNY = 6.53

Visa
Many foreign nationals may enter Philippines without visa (for complete list, visit http://www.dfa.gov.ph) and stay for 21 days provided they hold passports valid for six (6) months beyond their period of stay and ticket to their point of origin or next destination.

Hong Kong, British, Macao, and Portuguese Passport holders issued in Macao may only stay not exceeding seven (7) days.

Brazil and Israel Passport holders may enter without visa and stay in the country for not longer than 59 days.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Holiday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1</td>
<td>New Year’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 10</td>
<td>Chinese Lunar New Year’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 25</td>
<td>EDSA People Power Anniversary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>Black Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>Araw ng Kagitingan (Day of Valor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 12</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 21</td>
<td>Ninoy Aquino Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 26</td>
<td>National Heroes Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>All Saints’ Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2</td>
<td>All Soul’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 30</td>
<td>Bonifacio Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 25</td>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 30</td>
<td>Rizal Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 31</td>
<td>New Year’s Eve</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
So the world did not end as others supposed it would. It is probably a miscalculation of thousands of years more but it is just a guess of course.

Anyway, since we are not yet ascending to heavens with our Almighty, let’s enjoy our time here on earth to do His will. And in between, it’s not a sin to have fun and be one with some of His creations.

For that, we got some places, nice and beautiful places, that you can treat as home or you can call heaven.

From north to south, Philippines is teeming with beautiful sceneries and natural riches. In Metro Manila, the gateway to your inter-island adventures, rediscover the glorious past of the country’s capital or join in the lively nocturnal crowds of glamorous nightlife around the metro. Going north, visit Ilocos and dare the sea for a crack at surfing or try the dunes instead for sand surfing.

If you seek for more adventure, head on to Bicol where the Survivor contestants outwitted, outplayed, and outlasted each other. You can also try the hot and fiery local cuisines of the region, as hot and fiery as the most perfect cone in the world, the Mayon Volcano.

Lounging instead? The twin islands of Cebu-Bohol can give you private time at some of the most secluded and beautiful beaches in the planet. Add some dramatic landscape of Chocolate Hills and historic sites of Mactan and Cebu City and you are up for a real treat.

But if you want to be “in” with the crowd, there’s no other place in the country that could satisfy your craving for endless parties than Boracay, the 3rd Best Party Beach in the World and the Best Island Beach in the World.

Last but not the least; embark on a journey in the country’s “Final Frontier,” Palawan, and frolic in its white sand-laden beaches and resplendent blue waters.

Read on and experience seventh heaven in these seven heavens.
Tracing Manila’s roots is like going on a world tour, from the Far East to the Land of the Free then back to the Pearl of the Orient. This cross-culture mix of influences is evident at every turn but still more treasures are yet to be uncovered in this booming metropolitan. Let us (re)discover the beauty of Manila’s past, future, and everything else in between.

Manila’s rich history predates long before conquistadors from Spain founded Christianity and the Commonwealth of United States of America was established in the Philippines.

But before the Spaniards came to Philippines, Manila already has established a good reputation in international trading. For many generations, Chinese merchants frequent Manila to trade silk and textile, papyrus, and other products for spices and local produce. The continuous business with Chinese folks led some of them to permanently settle in Manila harbor.

Today, the Chinese diaspora is alive and bustling at the heart of the metro. Binondo Chinatown area, considered as the world’s oldest Chinatown, remains to be the center of commerce and shoppers’ haven. Outrageously cheap products are sold here; from bags to bronze, shirts and shoes, and some commodities are bargained at a fraction of the cost.

Early 1500’s marks the beginning of Spanish colonial period in the Philippines. Like Chinese, Spaniards bestowed a big, if not the biggest, part of itself to Manila’s diversity. When the royal fleet of Spain first came to the Philippines, they brought with them the most important contribution they could ever give to the country, Christianity.

Philippines is largely a Christian nation. Old churches and religious artifacts found around Metro Manila and at every home prove a lot to Filipinos’ faith and devotion.
One of the most prominent churches in the Philippines is located in the confines of the walled city, Intramuros -- the Cathedral-Basilica of the Immaculate Conception or popularly known as Manila Cathedral. This cathedral serves as the highest pontifical seat in the Philippines. It was built in 1581 and houses various antique relics.

Other churches, ruins and standing, are also found in the vicinity of Intramuros; equally amusing and historically significant. They are the Lourdes Church, San Agustin Church, San Francisco Church, San Ignacio Church, San Nicolas de Tolentino Church, Santo Domingo Church, and the Third Venerable Order Church.

If cultural and artistic shows are your cup of tea, Cultural Center of the Philippines in Pasay City is the perfect place to go.

This 40-year old structure is the premiere venue for cultural performing arts such as stage plays, ballet performances, orchestra and classical music concerts, and painting exhibitions among others.

But Manila is not just a fragment of the past but also a promise of the future. As the country’s center of government, politics, commerce, education, and entertainment, there is so much to be excited about travelling, doing business, and perhaps living here.

The Central Business District of Makati City possesses modern upscale lifestyle. Rows of fine dining restaurant, lively hangout places, and high-end shopping centers are found here.

In Pasay City, the second largest mall in the Philippines and 10th in the world, the SM Mall of Asia is among the favorite hangout places in Metro Manila. The entire compound of Mall of Asia houses the largest indoor arena in the country, a big ferris wheel with a great view of Manila Bay, a vast convention center, a mind museum, and a world-class shopping center.

There are still plenty of things to do and things to try in Manila, keep on reading and you might stumble on some precious gems to marvel.
DID YOU KNOW?

In the Philippines, the name of a place is often derived from animals or plants like Manggahan from mangoes, Meycauayan from bamboo trees, and Malinta from leeches.

Maynila or Manila also has the same etymology. The capital’s name was derived from a plant called nilad, a small flowering mangrove found along the bay area, thus locals describe the place as ‘may nilad,’ literally means ‘there is nilad.’

TRIVIA

Did you know?

In the Philippines, name of a place is often derived from animals or plants like Manggahan from mangoes, Meycauayan from bamboo trees, and Malinta from leeches.

Maynila or Manila also has the same etymology. The capital’s name was derived from a plant called nilad, a small flowering mangrove found along the bay area, thus locals describe the place as ‘may nilad,’ literally means ‘there is nilad.’

TOUR

Within the Walls and Beyond

Intramuros or the “walled city” was built intentionally as a fortress against foreign hostile forces. The fortitude stood steadfastly amidst aggressions from Chinese pirates, Dutch naval, British forces, Americans, and Japanese militaries until in World War II when the stonewalls finally succumb to aerial bombings and artillery.

But in its heydays, Intramuros was a bustling and busy compound. Several constructions arose within its walls that are now considered as national treasures. From its entrance at the riverside, there is the Fort Santiago, a military garrison built during Spanish-era that acted as sentry and the first line of defense against trespassers and invaders. Inside its premises is the prison cell of Jose Rizal known as Rizal Shrine wherein various memorabilia of the national hero are curated. This area is also where Rizal spent his final days before being escorted to a firing range at Bagumbayan, modern day Rizal Park.

Few meters out of the fort is the primary basilica of the country, the Manila Cathedral. Officially known as Cathedral-Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, it holds the highest pontifical seat in Roman Catholic Church in the Philippines. A priest named Juan de Vivero constructed the original edifice in 1571 and from then, the church has undergone a total of eight reconstructions, from the ground up, retrofits, or improvements.

Unlike Manila Cathedral’s fate, San Agustin Church eluded devastations, both man-made and natural, since the current structure was completed in 1607. It endured numerous destructive earthquakes, bombardment, and major looting. The only damage the church suffered was a big crack on its bell tower. The crack was then repaired but with the tower permanently removed. The severed bell is now displayed at San Agustin Museum adjacent to the church. Aside from the bell, this museum also houses a collection of antiquities that ranges from religious artifacts, to paintings and statues, and miniature galleons.

Across the street, you’ll find another museum that reflects the way of living in colonial period, the Casa Manila. Literally means Manila House, this aptly named repository is the epitome of middle-class residence during the Spanish era. As you enter the premises, from the corridor to the courtyard, notice the quaint granite pavement and ornate fountain that seem to shift the environment back to the days of horse-drawn carriage and pipe smoking.
Inside the house, the mark of illustrious Spanish-era lifestyle is carved at every turn. From floors to fixtures, staircases to foyer, most sections are made of expensive hardwood, material that is considered as the symbol of affluent families in the olden days. There are also antique chinawares, marble sculptures, and other home effects that complete the colonial-style home.

Two blocks away, another house exhibits a different side of Manila. Bahay Tsinoy is culturally themed museum portraying the history and industry of Chinese-Filipino citizens. Highlights of this museum are the life-size dioramas, important Chinese-Filipino figures and their contributions, antique collections, and replica of Xian terracotta warrior at the entrance.

And finally, do not forget the premiere repository of the country, the National Museum of the Philippines. Cornering Padre Burgos St. and Finance Road, the old legislative building turned national museum is home to some of the greatest works of Philippine heroes and national artists. Among them are the masterpieces of Juan Luna, Jose Rizal, Fernando Amorsolo, Guillermo Tolentino and the likes. The museum also exhibits numerous historical, archeological, and anthropological pieces that are equally arresting and significant.

**For Kids and Kids at Heart**

Metro Manila is not only a place for history junkies but also for kids of all ages.

At Museo Pambata, kids can explore eighth themed-rooms, each focusing on a specific concept that stimulates learning and creativity such as nature, Philippine history, human body, and children rights among others. All rooms have hands-on displays that allow children to play and discover.

Behind Quirino Grandstand is where you will find the only aquatic theme park in the country. Covering a floor area of 8,000 square feet, the Manila Ocean Park is an oceanarium that features a 25-meter underwater observation duct; hundreds of species of fishes, rays, sharks, and corals; sea lion aquatic shows; and other water-themed attractions.

If you prefer dry and mind tickling activities, come over to Science Discovery Center at Mall of Asia Compound in Pasay. This science centrum boasts its being first-of-its-kind technology-based museum in the country. The galleries and exhibits feature out-of-the-box concepts including 360-degree monitor, email server that sends message to your future self, 3D movement sensor games, virtual reefs, earthquake simulator, and many more.

**Greater Manila Area**

To get more out of your visit to Manila, drive to any of nearby provinces and see how these destinations helped mold the nation’s capital that it is today.

Accessible via outrigger boats, Corregidor Island in the province of Cavite, south-southwest of Manila, is a fortified harbor defense site that guards the entrance to Manila Bay from eventual attacks. The island is equipped with coastal siege arms and heavy artillery.

Now, the island of Corregidor has turned into a tourist spot filled with moving stories marked all over silenced barrels, ruins, and galleries.

In Tagaytay City, a different side of Cavite will greet the tourists. Located in higher altitude, Tagaytay is one of the Metro Manila’s escape from hot and congested environment. The city’s main draw is its fair weather and outstanding overlooking sceneries. From the Picnic Grove side, get a panoramic view of Taal Volcano, the smallest active volcano on earth.

But if you still insist to get your history fix then drive to the highest point of Tagaytay, to the People’s Park in the Sky, an unfinished, dilapidated mansion of late President Ferdinand Marcos. This lavish residence was built to welcome former US President Ronald Reagan who later on cancelled the trip.

Aside from being the birthplace of the country’s national hero, Jose Rizal, Laguna is also famous for its cascading white water at Pagsanjan Falls. Visitors can rent boats together with two seasoned boatmen for a shot at the rapids.

If you are heading north, Subic poses a challenge to faint-hearted tourists. Imagine being surrounded by flesh eating tigers at Zoobic Safari. Even inside the covered 4x4, seeing the teeth and claws of tigers fetching their food through the iron-grill protector could send shivers to your spine. After the morning trip, slowly exit the day with a dip at crystalline waters of Subic Bay.
**TRY**

**Gallop Around**
Climb up a horse-drawn carriage or *kalesa* and relive the glorious years of old Manila in style. The *kalesa* tour will take you to different historical sites in Intramuros, the Rizal Park, and nearby museums. All kutseros or jockeys are well-versed tour guides so getting lost in path and in history is the least of your concern.

**Shop ’Til You Drop**
Metro Manila offers a shopping experience like no other. From bargain hunters to chronic shoppers to luxury piece collectors, anyone can surely find his item in the city. Two of 10 biggest malls in the world, the SM North EDSA or SM Mall of Asia, each give more than enough choices to satisfy your guilty pleasure. Luxury brands are aplenty in *Shangri-La Mall* in Pasig and Greenbelt in Makati. For some authentic souvenirs, you can visit *Market! Market!* at The Fort. But if real run-for-your-money is what you are looking for, drop by *Greenhills Shopping Center* for knock-offs of your favorite brands.

**Museum Hopping**
Explore Philippines’ rich past and its path to the future in different museums scattered all over the metro. In Intramuros, visit the prison cell of the country’s national hero at *Rizal Shrine* or feel-at-home at either Spanish-era house *Casa Manila* or the Chinese-Filipino themed *Bahay Tsinoy*.

Going south, stop at *National Museum of the Philippines* for some of greatest Filipino works before proceeding to *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Museum* to check out the history of Philippine tender.

Upon reaching Makati, be mesmerized with the opulent lifestyle of early Philippine settlers with gold exhibit at *Ayala Museum* then drive eastward to Buendia to see contemporary art displayed at *Yuchengco Museum*.

If you have the luxury of time, visit the one-of-a-kind *Shoe Museum* in Marikina City that showcases the lavish shoe collection of the former first lady Imelda Marcos and other crafty and magnanimous works of local shoemakers.

Other noteworthy museums are *Armed Forces of the Philippines Museum* along Roxas Boulevard, *San Agustin Museum* in Intramuros, and *Lopez Museum* in Ortigas.

**The Night Scene**
Night scene in Metro Manila is full of fun and surprises. Rows of bars and restaurants dominates the alleys of *Malate, Makati*, and at *The Fort Global City*. Live bands, good food, and the best beers are all waiting to comfort you through the night.

Stage performances and concerts offer a competitive proposition to steal you out of the taverns. *Cultural Center of the Philippines* in Pasay City showcases sheer world-class Filipino talent. You can also check out nightly acrobatic spectacles at *Resorts World Manila* in Parañaque City that promises to blow your mind.

Local and international acts also grace the Philippine stage. Catch these music celebrities at premiere concert venues in the country, *SM Mall of Asia Arena* and *Smart Araneta Coliseum*.

**Street Kings**
A trip to a South East Asian nation will never be complete without a taste of exotic street foods. In Manila, street food is virtually sold at every corner of every block.

Like the old saying goes, nothing is wasted in Filipino kitchen. Now that saying has gone far, out of homes, and to the streets. Grilled chicken and pork innards called *isaw* are considered as best sellers. Usually served with spiced vinegar or ketchup. Other grilled delicacies are (which, by the way, come in fancy names) *betamax* or pork blood, *adidas* or chicken feet, *helmet* or chicken head, and *walkman* or pig’s ears. Fried varieties are also available. Among the favorites are the *kwek-kwek*, deep-fried chicken or duck eggs in flour batter. These are also served drenched in spiced vinegar or sweet and sour sauce. Its bite size version is called *tukneng* made from quail eggs. For adventurous type, muster your courage and try *balut*, duck egg with developed embryo. And to cap off your food trip, have some refreshments like *iskrambol*, sweetened shaved ice with milk powder and chocolate swirls; *samalamig*, sugar-sweet drink with local jelly and tapioca; and *buko juice*, as the name suggest coconut juice often with milk and coconut strips.

**Seafood Delight**
Manila has one of the busiest fish ports in the country, befitting its geography as a coastal community. Shortly past midnight, fish brokers, restaurants owners, fish vendors, and anyone related to this fishy business crowd to Malabon fishport, locally known as *Consignacion*, to catch the best price of fresh marine harvests.

*Consignacion* sells wide variety of marine produce coming from different parts of the country. Taste the flavors of the Philippine waters like the milkfishes from Pangasianan, tunas and marlins from General Santos, tiger shrimps from Davao, and so much more. But if you don’t want the hassle, visit *Dampa* to buy fresh seafood at wet market and cook it right away at the restaurant next block. *Dampa* wet market-cum-restaurants are found in Libis, Ortigas, Parañaque, Roxas Boulevard, and Macapagal Avenue.

**Rice-ing Above**
Sample the sweet and chewy rice cakes found in specialty bakeshops and sidewalks. Some of the bestsellers are *sapin-sapin*, a multi-colored, multi-layered, and multi-flavored rice cake topped with latik (roasted coconut curds); *suman*, rice or cassava steam-wrapped in banana or palm leaves, and *puto-bumbong*, glutinous rice steamed in bamboo tubings topped with sugar and grated coconut.
MANILA
3 days and 2 nights

DAY 1
Travel back in time by visiting Manila's important sights, from the Spanish period central district Intramuros to the oldest fortification in Manila, Fort Santiago. Take a few moments of silence and photos of centuries old San Agustin Church and the Manila Cathedral. Take a lunch break and fill up with authentic Filipino cuisines at one of the local restaurants in the area before feasting your eyes at Philippine treasures at National Museum of the Philippines and Ayala Museum.

DAY 2
Cross Manila Bay in the morning to the historic island of Corregidor and relive the final stand of Philippine-Allied Forces' defense during World War II. The airstrike-wounded batteries in the island, along with its ruins, tell thousands of stories of the war veterans' bravery and valor. In barracks-turned-museums, audio-supplied dioramas are setup for a closer feel of the war. Cruising back, catch the romantic sunset view at Manila Bay before heading back to your hotel.

DAY 3
The bedazzling view of Taal Volcano, the smallest active volcano in the world, is a compelling sight to see. For this, drive south to the beautiful hamlet of Tagaytay. Best seats are found in the meadows of Picnic Grove or atop the highest point of Tagaytay, the historic People's Park in the Sky.

Head back to Manila after lunch and end the day away shopping at one of the biggest malls in the world, SM Mall of Asia. Optional tours to Pagsanjan or Villa Escudero may also be arranged.

Uni-Orient Travel, Inc.
www.uniorient.com
tours@uniorient.com
uni-orient travel, inc.
Along its coast is where you will find the beach town dubbed as “Boracay of the North.” Although peddled through its radiant powdery white sand and unobstructed sea gazing, to more familiar tourists, Pagudpud is well-described as beauty and brawn. Adventure seekers romp and ride the waves at Maira-ira in Pagudpud during surf break. In the months of August to October, you can easily spot high and powerful waves one after the other making it very attractive to both beginners and seasoned surfers. Windsurfing and kite surfing are also picking up speed in this side of town. The consistently strong and gusty wind over the South China Sea won the nod of world's extreme watersports superstar Pete Cabrinha. In 2011, his team of talented professional windsurfers and kite surfers tried the conditions in Bangui and Pagudpud and deemed very ideal. But if you want to try something new, then surfing on sand might appeal to you. Over at La Paz, sand boarding has reached new heights. The downhill slopes on fine grainy sand offer a snowboarding-like experience, only without the frost and snow. If maneuvering over a strip of wood is a problem, how about maneuvering a full-scale mechanical 4x4 sand buggy instead and race like a pro on this stretch of granular material (that's simply sand in case you’re wondering). After all the sweating and dusting, engage in a calmer yet meaningful activity. Amble through the cobblestone alleys of Vigan and explore the heritage of Ilocano ancestry as you step in to well preserved ancestral houses and museums. Rows of time frozen Spanish-era houses are lined up along Crisologo Street reflecting life of mestizos in 15th to 18th century. There are also repositories that store relics and memorabilia of both common and prominent people in Ilocos. Some of the museums that you must visit in Vigan are Padre Burgos National Museum, Syquia Mansion, and Crisologo Museum. Outside Vigan, one compelling destination is the Marcos Museum and Mausoleum in Batac whose most precious piece is the preserved body of the late President Ferdinand Marcos. And while in the area, take a quiet moment and some pictures at the grandest church in Ilocos Norte, the Paoay Church or spectacular backdrop of Paoay Lake. There are still so much more to do and discover in Ilocos, you only have to find out which side you’re on, the loco or lie-low.
Your home in the north!

PLAZA DEL NORTE HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTER
Barangay 41, Balacad, Laoag City Ilocos Norte

Manila Sales Office
The Peninsula Manila
Shop 1 Corner of Ayala & Makati Avenues Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 8123456 loc 3529 / (632) 8043140
Fax No.: (632) 5501311
http://www.plazadelnortehotel.com/
Museo Ilocos Norte
The rich Ilocano heritage is just one of the highlights of Ilocos Tour. Up north, in the heart of Laoag City, is where you’ll find the sorts aplenty at Museo Ilocos Norte. The displays are housed in Tabacalera warehouse, an old Spanish-run tobacco factory. Some of the exhibited pieces are farm implements, antique furnishings, articles of clothing, Ilocos products, and many more.

Malacañang of the North
The Malacañang of the North was intently built as the official residence of late President Ferdinand Marcos and his family in the north. Much like other prominent families in Ilocos, this address is now a museum that holds a fraction of the Marcos-regime's story. Since the mansion was meant to welcome important visitors, every corner of this building was designed with luxury and local pride in mind. Marble on the first floor, polished slabs of wood on the second, chandeliers and sconces, local yet expensive furniture, all speak of the late President’s love for high-life.

At the balcony, you can see the panoramic view of Paoay Lake, a worthy complement to the grand façade of the mansion.

Marcos Museum and Mausoleum
The museum and mausoleum was built of wood and brick, embellished by capiz windows and precious wood fixtures. The interior has a homey ambience but still reflects lavishness and opulent lifestyle of the former first-family.

From small rooms to foyer, the entire house displays various memorabilia of the late president. But the highlight of the museum is not displayed on pedestal or shelf but sealed in a refrigerated glass coffin, the embalmed body of President Marcos.

Paoay Church
This 1993 inscribed UNESCO World Heritage Site, built of coral bloc and stucco-plastered brick, took 190 years to complete which started in 1704. The church echoes a mix of gothic, baroque, and oriental architecture. To its left is a coral-stone bell tower that during its early years served as an observation post for Katipuneros in the height of Philippine Revolution and for Guerillas against Japanese forces.

Pagudpud Beach
Pagudpud is slowly climbing up the best beach charts in the Philippines. Fashioning its spanking new moniker “Boracay of the North,” the long shoreline of Ilocos lives up to tourists expectations — and some more. Aside from crystalline waters and pearly white sands, Pagudpud is also loved for its surfing spots. Twice a year, wave riders drive north to catch

WHEN TO GO

WEATHER
November to March greet tourists with the fairest weather. A chilly northeast monsoon or amihan coming from China and little to no rainfall calls for a day of sightseeing and nature tripping.

WATERS
August to October is the peak of rainy season in the Philippines but it is also the time to catch big waves that surfers around the world chase for. April to June offers consistent and calm sea breeze, perfect for swimming, snorkeling, diving, and even wind surfing.

WANDERERS
Revelers crowd the streets in May during Vigan Town Fiesta. Expect festive atmosphere filled with street dancing, parade, and myriads of authentic Ilocano dishes. Skip on Holy Week if you want to avoid the droves of tourists.
ideal waves of the season, August to October for surfers and April to June for windsurfers.

**Bangui Windmill Farm**
The first wind farm in the Philippines, Bangui Wind Farm is a 33 megawatts power generation plant consisting of 20 wind turbines rated at 1.65 megawatts each. All 20 turbines are connected to Luzon Grid that delivers power to Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, powering the province.

**Mestizo District**
A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Vigan’s Calle Crisologo is a rare gem crafted by the hands of time. A leisurely walk through the cobblestone pavement allows you to connect with centuries old ancestral homes that stretch back to 18th century. That tawny shade of old wood and the distinctive Spanish colonial-era architecture plot a venerable classic ambience to take your senses to a different kind of stroll.

**St. Paul Cathedral**
Churches and cathedrals are compelling sights to see when in provinces of Ilocos. Visit the Cathedral of Vigan, also known as St. Paul Cathedral, a two-decade old building with sophisticated earthquake-baroque architecture that helps minimize effects of tectonic movements. Few strides from the cathedral lies a 25-meter high bell tower, both with creamy-white finish and Chinese influence evident in their designs. Craftsmen debossed the main house’s communion handrails with Chinese scripture while the bell tower was said to have been built with prudence to Feng Shui.

**Crisologo Museum**
Crisologo Museum is a converted residential house of prominent Vigan clan, the Crisologos. In the aftermath of the assassination of Floro Crisologo, the family patriarch and congressman, members of his family decided to turn their home into a memento that even include the blood stained shirt of the late Ilocos representative. There are also a Spanish era kalesa, vintage car, book collection, ornate furniture, and antiquities on display for your viewing pleasure.

**Syquia Mansion**
Another distinguished address in Ilocos, Syquia Mansion used to be the residence of Philippines’ sixth commander-in-chief, President Elpidio Quirino. Now, the mansion holds a collection of the former president’s memorabilia and other artifacts that include portraits, personal effects, carriage, and delicate furniture pieces.

**St. William’s Cathedral**
This is a restored 18th century church founded by Agustinian friars. The façade is bedecked by the image of San Guillermo or Saint William, thus the name. Local materials are used in the current Italian Rennaisance architecture such as capiz, bamboo, and cogon. Few meters away is the aptly named Sinking Bell Tower literally bores into the ground an inch per year.

**Pottery and Weaving**
Pottery and weaving are venerated traditions in Ilocos. Even before colonial era, people of Ilocos are known for molding earthenwares. Pottery skill came from Chinese migrants and traders who taught them how to fire clays and turn them into jars, cups, ornaments, and the likes.

For less perishable souvenirs, abel cloth is as authentic as Ilocos can get. It is made from cotton or sagat that are harvested from the northern regions of Luzon. Ilocanos also weave baskets, hats, bags, and mats from straws and other local materials.
ILOCOS TOUR
3 days itinerary

DAY 1
History unfolds in Ilocos Norte. Commence the day with the intriguing case of Sinking Bell Tower and the magnificent St. William Cathedral. Appreciate the heritage and craftsmanship of Ilocanos at Museo Ilocos Norte and see what their life used to be.

Get an inside look at the personal life of a former president at Marcos Museum and Mausoleum where you will not only see the head-of-the-state’s memorabilia but also his preserved body sealed in a glass coffin. End the day tour with a presidential treatment at Malacanang of the North punctuated with a solemn moment at the grand visage of Paoay Church.

After the tour, spend a relaxing sojourn at Plaza del Norte.

DAY 2
Rise and shine! Drive along the coastline of Ilocos for a stop at the dazzling white beaches of Pagudpud. Appreciate the humble life in the province and enjoy its natural beauty. Take a dive, surf, or simply frolic in the afternoon sun. Before the darkness sets in, head back to Plaza del Norte for another day of fun tour.

DAY 3
Expect a time-warp kind of feeling as you stroll around Ilocos Sur. The well-preserved 15th to 18th century ancestral houses in Vigan gives you a taste olden day lifestyle. Bantay Church and St. Paul Cathedral were also built in the same period and both holds historical and aesthetic appeal. Lastly, take a museum hopping expedition at various repositories in the province such as Syquia Mansion, Burgos Museum, and Crisologo Museum.

Before heading back to the airport, drop by souvenir shops and pick up some items to take back home.

Uni-Orient Travel, Inc.

www.uniorient.com
tours@uniorient.com
uni-orient travel, inc.

TRY

Heritage Tour
Ilocos is like an outdoor museum wherein hundred-years specimens are displayed all over the province including World Heritage Sites: Paoay Church in Paoay, Ilocos Norte, Sta. Maria Church in Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur, and Mestizo District in Vigan, also in Ilocos Sur. There are also numerous museums and residences of influential families such as Museo Ilocos Norte, Marcos Museum and Mausoleum, Malacañang of the North, Crisologo Museum, and Syquia Mansion. If that seems to be a colossal task, hail at one of the kalesas to take you around nearby areas.

Wind, Wave, or Sand
Pagudpud’s beaches can compete as the best in the north. Stretches of palm-fringed white sand lined with crystal-blue water is said to be at par with Boracay without the maddening tourist congestion. Blue Lagoon offers a private moment to its visitors. Leisurely spend their day in this unspoiled cove without a second of distraction. Saud Beach is the sporty side of Pagudpud wherein windsurfers and surfers can be spotted in action.

Inland, a different kind of surfing is going on over at La Paz. Adventure seekers get their dose of adrenaline rush in sand surfing or test your driving skills as you maneuver through the vast sand dunes of Ilocos via 4x4.

See the Sights
From the tallest lighthouse in the country at Cape Borjeador, to unique formation of Kapurpurawan Rock, the magnificent churches of Paoay and Sta. Maria, sandscape of La Paz, to the panorama of the vast seaboard of Ilocos, all these natural and manmade wonders are truly sights to behold. Throw in the view up aboard hot air balloon for good measure and you have a crazy yet unequivocally amusing sightseeing tour.
As early as 16th century, Ilocanos are already proud of their cuisine and leading the table is the indispensable crispy yet juicy fried pork belly locally known as bagnet. When Spanish colonizer Capt. Juan de Salcedo arrived in Narvacan in 1576, natives welcomed him with a buffet and one of them is their prized bagnet.

**Vigan Longganisa**

The small flavorful native sausage of Ilocos took the spotlight during President Benigno Aquino’s inaugural dinner in 2010. But even before the presidential treatment, Filipinos already love Vigan longganisa because of its very rich garlic taste. Most Filipinos nowadays have it for breakfast together with fried rice and fried egg or salted egg.

**Miki ti Ilocos**

Arguably the second most popular food in the Philippines, next to rice, is pancit or noodles. Different regions in the country have different version of pancit and Ilocos is not an exception. Miki ti Ilocos is a simple egg noodle soup with healthy chunks of stir-fried pork belly garnished with egg and tinapa flakes. In olden days, this comfort food is served during pamisa, a prayer offering for departed loved ones.

**Ilocos taste**

Ilocanos love cooking and whenever they do, expect a bagoong (fish paste) and vinegar to season their dishes. Some of the local taste you should not miss are pinakbet (stir fried veggies with bagoong), igado (pork liver dish), dinakdakan (grilled pork’s ear, nape, tongue, liver, and intestines), and poqui-poqui (an eggplant dish).
The standard jump-off point to tracing the European roots is more intriguing than the skyline when in Cebu City. The first Westerner to land in the Philippine soil had a futile attempt at persuading the local chieftain. When Ferdinand Magellan arrived in the Philippines in 1521, he wanted Datu Lapu-Lapu to bow to Christian cross and acknowledge Spanish rule like the rest of the chiefs in the province but the latter refused. Magellan with his 60 strongmen landed in the island of Mactan to enforce his bidding but to no avail. The conquistador found himself at the losing end and had to flee back to his boat, fatally wounded.

This event is commemorated at Mactan Shrine where Lapu-Lapu’s statue is erected to honor his heroism. On the other hand, the Spain’s contribution is also perpetuated in Magellan’s Cross, a replica of original wooden cross brought by Magellan in 1521 in Cebu.

In 1565, another Western fleet came to the Philippines to ultimately win the country for the Spain. The mission was led by Miguel Lopez de Legazpi and the first settlement he founded still exists to this day, the Fort San Pedro. During the Spanish-era and Philippine revolution, Fort San Pedro was the core of the military operations and supplies in the south. Now, it is a highly visited park with manicured lawn, hedges, and old canon barrels.

And since Cebu records the first Christian expedition in the Philippines, it is no wonder that some of the oldest surviving churches are found here like the Basilica del Santo Niño. This church houses one of the most venerated religious relics in the country, the image of Sto. Niño, one that Ferdinand Magellan left as a goodwill gesture to Rajah Humabon when he arrived in 1521.

If you come to Cebu to enjoy the nature, this province will not disappoint you. From Cebu City, the nearby Mactan Island, where your plane will actually land by the way, gives you a warm up for your diving expedition. Nalusuan and Hilutungan islands will keep you preoccupied for a while before heading to a major destination.

For serious divers, Malapascua and Bantayan in the north will satisfy your craving for delicious sights of marine ecosystem. On land, the view is as spectacular. The near tri-toned of blue, white, and green landscape of these islands are almost wallpaper perfect sights.

In the south, Moalboal is the place to go. A slow-paced town asks you to let your hair down and relax with its warm cozy breeze blowing to a blanket of white sandy shore. If you have the time, take a trip into the jungle to meet the Kawasan Falls in Badian, 20 kilometers south of Moalboal.

Cebu is really a nature meets city destination. See for yourself how the two environments live in harmony.
WEATHER
Weather in Cebu is relatively fair all year round although scattered rain showers may stir up any time of the day and any day of the year. Typhoons hardly hit this island but be cautious as typhoons that fall on other parts of the country may affect the weather conditions in Cebu.

WATERS
From January to May, the waters around Cebu are usually calm and shallow with clear visibility down to the seafloor, ideal for snorkeling and diving. If you are lucky, you can also get a chance to see the gentle giant whale shark at Oslob.

WANDERERS
Summer season along with Holy Week, from March to June, always bring sell-out crowds to the resorts and hotels, lots of tourists and happenings. Sinulog Festival also draws masses, celebrated every January. Plan a trip beyond that and you could have a resort for yourself.

WHEN TO GO

TOUR

Basilica Minore del Santo Niño
Basilica Minore del Sto. Niño is a 16th century church located in Cebu City. The church was built at the same place where the image of Santo Niño de Cebú was found in burned wooden encasement left by explorer Ferdinand Magellan in 1521 as a gift to Rajah Humabon and his wife Juana.

Magellan’s Cross
When Spanish explorer Ferdinand Magellan landed in Cebu, he ordered planting of a wooden Christian Cross to pronounce the arrival of Christianity in the country.

Situated across the Basilica Minore del Sto. Niño along Magallanes St., Magellan’s Cross is Cebu’s most identifiable landmark. The cross displayed in basilica’s chapel is only a replica of the one brought by the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan.

Lapu-Lapu Shrine
This shrine was built to pay tribute to Datu Lapu-Lapu’s heroism when he defeated the Spanish army led by Ferdinand Magellan. The bronze statue stands 66-foot depicting the chief wielding a native sword called tabak and a big shield generally called kalasag.

Fort San Pedro
Fort San Pedro is a military defense structure built during the Spanish colonial era. It served as the center of the first Spanish settlement in the Philippines and later on became a stronghold for Filipino revolutionaries near the end of 19th century.

Bantayan Island
If you had enough dosage of cosmopolitan living, heading on to a secluded island is the wisest thing to do. Bantayan Island is located northwest off mainland Cebu. Have a peaceful confrontation with clear cerulean sky as you eke out your day lounging and lazing around at fine sand-covered shore overlooking endless Visayan Sea.

Malapascua Island
Malapascua Island presents divers a colorful underwater display of corals and fishes in harmony with occasional encounter with thresher shark and manta rays. Nestled 15 km off northeast tip of Cebu, the bucolic laid-back charm of this island is not diminished by intermittent power outage but please be prepared in case you need to do something at night. Else, enjoy a momentary outdoor candle-lit evening with the nature and heavenly bodies until generator brings the power back to your room.
(Left) Bantayan Island on lowtide.
(Below) Cebu’s pride delicacy, lechon
TRY

City Trotting
Cebu City is past and future mold into one. The tour around the metro takes you to various destinations that shaped the country from the cornerstone of Philippine Catholicism to first military camp, centuries old churches, first heroes and villains of the nation, busy business districts, and so much more.

Diving and Snorkeling
Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned pro, waters of Cebu provides an ideal spot to explore that caters to various levels of diving difficulties. Over at Malapascua, immerse in shark and ray inhabited environment in Monad Shoal. While in Moalboal, the spotlight is trained at the school of sardines doing their synchronized swimming routine. But if you don’t want to go far from the city, the waters of Mactan can serve the underwater life to you at Nalusuan and Hilutungan Islands.

For those who are not brave enough to go deep, the house reef of White Beach in Moalboal is a good option. Beautiful corals and teeming marine life is out there to welcome you. Moalboal also offers free diving as well that allows you to go to certain depths without heavy scuba equipment, being one with the nature I would say.

Boat Tour
With clear waters and idyllic remote islands, boat tour is a compelling proposition while in Cebu. From the nearby Olango Island to the northern stars Malapascua and Bantayan, to scattered secluded islets that are less known but no less than breathtaking; Cebu promises a maritime journey like no other.

TASTE

Cebu Lechon
Cebu lechon is the main attraction of Cebuano cuisine. The entire pig is skewered in bamboo pole then spit in charcoal until the skin turns to gold-amber brown. Its meat is tender and juicy but it’s the thin, crispy, and flavorful skin is what makes people come back for more.

Danggit
As a popular tradition, Filipinos preserve their food by sun-drying. In Cebu, one famous dried delicacy is the danggit. Fresh harvested fish are deboned and cut open then left in the sun out to dry for three days. The finish product is usually fried and served with spiced vinegar dip.

Dried Mango
And did we say Filipinos love to dry their food? Cebu’s dried mango is another testament to this tradition. Freshly picked sweet mangoes are processed the same day to ensure best quality and flavor. Dried mangoes are now being exported in Europe and North America for those who can’t get enough of this fruity treat.

CEBU
3 days and 2 nights

DAY 1
Malipayong pag-abot! Welcome to the Queen City of the South, Cebu! This first-class province is home to many “first” things starting with Fort San Pedro, the first Spanish settlement in the country. Then off to the cross erected by the first European to arrive in the Philippines, Magellan’s Cross, found next to Basilica Minore del Santo Niño in Cebu City. You will also visit the former residence of first bishop of Cebu, the Casa Gorordo Museum. Other points of interests to tour are the Heritage Monument, Taoist Temple, and upscale Beverly Hills Subdivision. Drop by the local handicraft store before heading to Crimson Resort and Spa to relax.

If you want to go deeper into the sea, request for a diving package instead and head south side to Moalboal where you can explore rich marine diversity.

DAY 2
Get closer to nature as you let your hair down in some of the most beautiful places in the region. Take a boat ride north to Bantayan Island, a paradise offering exclusivity and peaceful revelry in stunning white sand beach backdrop. Enjoy its fine weather by engaging in fun activities like kayaking, island hopping, or snorkeling.

Today, head to Mactan and find the beautiful mix of quaint rustic atmosphere and industrialized village packed in a small island. Visit the monument of the first Philippine hero, Lapu-lapu, then to Magellan’s Shrine, and Virgen de la Regla Church. Cap the day off at the local market, guitar factory, and novelty shops to get your hands on one of these souvenirs. Head back to Crimson Resort and Spa and prepare for departure.

Uni-Orient Travel, Inc.
www.uniorient.com
tours@uniorient.com
uni-orient travel, inc.
In the past years, Boracay Island has been setting global standards to the next level, making luxurious living, fun-filled getaway, and beautiful sceneries as archetype for a memorable holiday. May it be a trip for couples, with the family, with friends, or lone backpacker, this little island delivers a unique experience that caters to all tourist groups.

Let alone the powdery white sand and turquoise blue waters known the world over, Boracay serves as a host to various outdoor activities and lively night escapades. For a quiet retreat, enjoy wellness and relaxation at one of the spas found in almost every corner of the island.

The multi-faceted offerings of Boracay made it one of the highly recommend destinations by experts and industry leaders. It garners honors that surpass mainstays in the top 10 listings of the world’s best destinations.

Chinese citizens are rising among the ranks of world’s well-travelled people. And being able to travel to various destinations equips one with a better view on what and where is “the best place” to visit at a certain time. And that’s just what turned out when the Association of Travel Agencies in China hailed Boracay as “The Best Short Haul Destination in the World” in 2011.

Likewise, Boracay is perfect for honeymooners. Its romantic background of seemingly endless clear blue sky over an equally picturesque clear blue sea, accented by green and white shade of palm trees and sandy shore serves as a perfect spot for ultimate relaxation and intimate time for newlyweds.
This unparalleled beauty is coupled with world-class services and amenities from the string of establishments dedicated to give you the perfect honeymoon experience. From lux accommodations to sumptuous dishes, down to authentic massages, every detail is arranged to fulfill each couple’s dream getaway.

Boracay is not all about romance or for couples tying the knots. All year round, sunworshippers, extreme sports enthusiasts, party goers, and even families swarm to this little island off the coast of Kalibo, Aklan to experience a unique beach holiday.

With its wide range of offerings catering to different kinds of tourists, Boracay is named as “The Best Beach in Asia” by TripAdvisor and “The Best Island Beach in the World” by Travel + Leisure, both in 2012.

Feel like idling? At White Beach, rows of first-class resorts and hotels lined up along the shore to propel your contemplating to blissful heights. Or how about something adventurous? Go wet and wild at Bulabog Beach at the opposite side of the island.

The favorable wind and calm waves makes Bulabog Beach the perfect spot for windsurfing and kitesurfing. Since 2010, many international events were held here such as Asian Windsurfing Tour and Boracay International Funboard.

Whether chilling by the sea or ramping at the waves, Boracay Island gives nothing but the best experience all the time.
WEATHER
March to June marks the summertime in Boracay. Expect hot and humid throughout the day with occasional thunderstorms from mid afternoon to evening. On the other hand, July to October brings heavy rain and strong winds.

WATERS
There are two season of good water conditions in Boracay, first is between February and June and second is on latter part of October till December.

WANDERERS
As one of the best beach destinations in the world, if not the best, Boracay can become really crowded in super peak seasons. If you prefer festive atmosphere with plenty of like-minded people, plunge into the beach in March to May and October to December for days filled of parties and nights filled of more parties.

TOUR

**White Beach**
Long strip of white soft-sand beach studded with hotels, resorts, shops, bars, and restaurants, White Beach of Boracay is a paradise and metro in one. It is the primary tourist area in the island where most of the social and commercial events are held. White Beach is located at the west side of the island fronting Sulu Sea and divided into three sections, Stations 1-3. North section of the beach is the Station 1 where most of the lux hotels and resorts are found. Next to it is the Station 2, a commercial hub where you will find rows of restaurants, shops, entertainment establishments, and the D’Mall. Lastly, the Station 3 is the most recent part of the beach to be developed. Most of the budget resorts are found here but there are also some posh accommodations to cater high-end clienteles.

**Bulabog Beach**
Bulabog Beach is located across the White Beach and regarded as the adventure side of Boracay. It faces towards Sibuyan Sea, a small body of water in Visayas region known to blow sustainable strong wind and calm water surface perfect for windsurfing and kite surfing.

**Puka Beach**
Believe it or not, Puka Beach’s claim to fame did not come from its idyllic view nor from any among its white sand beach, clear blue water, or a celebrity endorsement but from a small inanimate object – puka shells. A misnomer of Yapak Beach, Puka is quite different compared to populous centro of Boracay. This area is a quieter place with shorter beach line and only a handful of establishments. But make no mistake, it still is Boracay minus the crowd. Here, you can toggle between a quiet afternoons and raved up evenings or action packed days to peaceful slumber.

**Mt. Luho**
Boracay may well be the most popular beach in the Philippines but it’s not as monotonous as it seems. At the northern part of the island is an elevated terrain wrapped not by sand but by rich soil. Rising around 100 meters above sea level, Mt. Luho is the highest point in Boracay where, from its peak, you can catch the spectacular 360 degree view of the island.

---

**WHEN TO GO**

WEATHER
March to June marks the summertime in Boracay. Expect hot and humid throughout the day with occasional thunderstorms from mid afternoon to evening. On the other hand, July to October brings heavy rain and strong winds.

WATERS
There are two season of good water conditions in Boracay, first is between February and June and second is on latter part of October till December.

WANDERERS
As one of the best beach destinations in the world, if not the best, Boracay can become really crowded in super peak seasons. If you prefer festive atmosphere with plenty of like-minded people, plunge into the beach in March to May and October to December for days filled of parties and nights filled of more parties.
NEVER SETTLE FOR SECOND BEST

At Boracay Regency, we believe good service isn’t good enough, only great service will do. From the moment you arrive until you say goodbye, our first class service is with you every step of the way. Because great service speaks for itself.
TRY

Island Tour
The star of Boracay, the White Beach is where most commercial establishments and high-end resorts are found. Behind it is Bulabog Beach, which is considered as the extreme side of the island. Extreme water sports enthusiasts come here to have a shot at kite surfing and windsurfing. Lesser-known beaches are Diniwid, Balinghai, Puka, and Punta Bunga Beaches. There are around 10 beaches in Boracay.

You can either walk or hire an ATV to roam around the island. Other places of interests in Boracay are the D’Mall, Mt. Luho, 18-hole golf course at Fairways, and the Holy Rosary Church Boracay among others.

Paraw Sailing
A holiday in Boracay is not complete without savoring the splendid beauty of the island. Aboard paraw boat, you get the best seat to catch the gracious entrance of the sun rising across the horizon or its spectacle of colors as it descends into the vastness of the sea. In between dawn and dusk, you can sail around the coastline of Boracay, stop by for some drink and snack, or simply bewilder on different shapes and colors that fringe the island.

Under the Sea
Have an extraordinary adventure into the depths of the sea by reef walking and helmet diving. See the life underwater up close and personal as you leisurely walk on the seafloor on your air helmet.

Wet and Wild
Water adventures sell like pancakes in Boracay. Ride the flying fish or banana boat and watch yourself fly over every wave you come across. Make sure to hang-on tight because you will surely be the laughing stock of the group when you swing up in the air then splash to the sea.

Sporty types must try windsurfing, kite surfing, and parasailing over at Bulabog Beach while the less-adventurous types can paddle their way to nearby spots in kayak.

All Terrain Covered
No terrain is unchartered with an all-terrain vehicle. Drive around the beautiful island of Boracay in style on a 4x4 ATV. It is also the fastest and most convenient way to reach the highest point of the island for a beautiful 360 degree view the island or a silent show of sun rising and sun setting.

Be in the In-Crowd
The legendary white sand beach of Boracay is known the world over so when these globetrotting sun-worshippers converge to this little paradise you know it’s going to be a night of sand, sight, and sultry sexiness. Nightlife and revelries in Boracay are so popular, it is considered as the 3rd Best Party Beach in the World for 2012 according to US based website Cheapflights.com.

Bring your Club
Tucked within beautiful landscape, swing around the fairways and test your drive at the world-class 18-hole golf course at Fairways.

Nightlife and revelries in Boracay are so popular, it is considered as the 3rd Best Party Beach in the World for 2012 according to US based website Cheapflights.com.
BORACAY
3 days and 2 nights

DAY 1
Welcome to Boracay, the world’s best island beach for 2012!
Spend your day at luxury addresses of Hennan Resorts: Regency Lagoon, Boracay Regency and Boracay Garden. Feel free to enjoy the resort’s amenities or loosen up with a relaxing massage.

DAY 2
For a small area, surprisingly, there are plenty of things to do and enjoy in Boracay. Swim with the fishes in the crystal clear blue waters of the island. Gear up with helmet diving or do snorkeling to truly appreciate the underwater scape.
Smoothly sail around the beach aboard colorful paraw boats and discover hidden sanctuaries tucked within the lush canopies or paddle around via kayaks instead.
For intrepid travellers, have a crack at banana boat, parasailing, kite surfing, and windsurfing for doses of adrenaline rush.
Nightlife is even brighter in Boracay. Fire pois dancers illuminate the beach side with their sexy and fiery routines. Add music, booze, and bods to the mix and you have one party to remember.

DAY 3
This day is all yours to take but before you pack your stuff, skim through different stalls located at D’Mall where you can find great souvenirs for you and your family. Everything here is negotiable so make sure you sharpen your bargaining skills, who knows you might get a lucky tawad.

Uni-Orient Travel, Inc.
www.uniorient.com
tours@uniorient.com
uni-orient travel, inc.

Which is why we’ve completely redesigned Boracay Garden Resort, developing a first class resort within everyone’s reach.
No heavy downpour can be so gloomy nor a heart broken so hopeless with a delectable and heavenly cup of hot chocolate.
It is amazing how a small dose of this tasty treat starts every morning right or turns a bad one into an its-not-so-bad-after-all day. But imagine waking up to a place where chocolate is more than a pleasure to your palette, rather a feast to your senses.

As one of the nature’s surreal concoction, a trip to Chocolate Hills in Bohol is like a child’s sweet dream where he finds mounds of chocolate at every turn and to as far as his eyes can reach. Sorry to disappoint though, these chocolates are not for oral consumption but a geological wonder.

In summer, as the grass covering the hills wilt, the green shade of the leaves changes to dark brown chocolate-like complexion. More than a thousand of these individual mound-shape hills are found in Bohol with concentration in towns of Carmen, Batuan, and Sagbayan.

Chocolate Hills serves as a home to several species of plants and animals. One of which is the world’s smallest primate, a rare kind that can only be found in the country, the Philippine tarsier. It is around 150 millimeters in length and weighs around 142 grams, fits perfectly on your palm. But in recent years, these lovely creatures are already in protected list and now in safeguard at Tarsier Sanctuary.

Aside from Chocolate Hills, there are a lot more awe-striking views to spot in this island province in Central Visayas region.

As dreamy as its landscape, Bohol’s seascape is equally enchanting and captivating. Frolic in the afternoon sun and fine white sands in any of the beaches around the island or perhaps you prefer to get some quiet and private time at one of its surrounding islets.

At the southwest section of the province sits an entirely new world of luxury living, a place called Panglao Island. From crystalline sands to underwater wonders to exotic wildlife, this island is a tropical sanctuary overflowing with beauty.

This island is divided into two municipalities, Dauis and Panglao. The former is a quiet, sleepy town with a scenic townscape wherein you’ll find the century-old Lady of Assumption Cathedral while the latter is where you’ll locate high-end ostentatious resorts and commercial establishment.

But no matter how beautiful the resorts are in Panglao, it is its bountiful biodiversity that lures tourists to come here. Hundreds of species of crustaceans, thousands of species of mollusks, and thousands more species of fishes are to be found in this island; so plenty, it will singlehandedly beat Japan and Mediterranean Sea in specie variety according to the findings of Panglao Marine Biodiversity Project.

Another must see island beach in the southwest is the Balicasag Island. Accessible via motorized boat, this postcard worthy island is most noted for its pristine white beaches, world-class resorts, and beautiful underwater ecosystem.

Truly, Bohol is a brand-new recipe for a perfect escape. Grab a slice of paradise and experience the island of unparalleled sights.
Like Boracay and Cebu, Bohol barely experiences typhoons, making it an ideal destination regardless of the season. Although harsh weather condition is a rare sight, downpours may occur from time to time. Rainfall is more common from July to October while sunny days prevail from December to March up to July before switching back to rainy season.

Most aquatic activities are best enjoyed during calm and clear waters of March till June. Avoid rainy seasons of July to September as underwater visibility is dramatically reduced during this time of the year.

July to October is considered as low season in Bohol, meaning less people at the beach or at the streets and more time to relax. Hordes of tourists come around March to June and around Christmas-New Year season.

The idyllic view of gigantic chocolate-kisses-like land formation that expands across the horizon is the most photographed landmark in Bohol. The identical individual mound-shape of Chocolate Hills is one-of-a-kind sight that not only attracted the locals but also foreign tourists. Its unique landscape earned it a spot at Most Dramatic Landscapes in the World (Trip Advisor).

Hunting for a great diving spot in Bohol will lead you to Panglao Island, a small island located off south west corner of the Island. Rows of resorts along Alona Beach offers a variety of diving services and packages but little privacy may be a downside to you. If you want a place with lesser crowd but with great diving opportunities, head to Cabilao Island or Anda instead.

Don’t be deceived by its size because this speck is one of the premiere diving destinations in the Philippines. Despite being tiny, Balicasag Island harbors hundreds of species of corals and sea creatures like barracudas and wrasse to name a few. If you are lucky, you might chance upon a whale shark prancing in the deep.

Tarsiers are the smallest primates in the world with only four to five inches in length, these gentle creatures fit perfectly in the palm of your hand. Nowadays, the best way to get a close encounter with tarsiers is to travel to Barangay Canapnapan at the Philippine Tarsier Sanctuary. These cute and cuddly primates are now being protected because of heedless hunting and faux pet lovers.

Baclayon Church is considered as one of the oldest surviving churches today. The current structure is dated 1727 and made out of coral stone, the oldest of its kind in the country. It also has a museum that houses an array of religious artifacts.

Located at the capital city Tagbilaran, Bohol Blood Compact Site is a landmark built to commemorate the friendship forged between the Spanish explorer Miguel Lopez de Legazpi and chieftain of Bohol Datu Sikatuna. Every July, this momentous event is celebrated at Sandugo Festival.
**Island Hopping**
Hop-on in any bangka readily available at the resort and visit the interiors of exiled lands near Bohol. Some worth looking are Cabilao Island and its surrounding islets, Panglao Island where you can also explore Hinagdanan Cave, the white and blue shade dominated Balicasag Island, and Pamilacan Island.

**Loboc River Cruise**
Feast your eyes to the marvelous scenery along Loboc River while you fill up with delectable Filipino cuisine at one of the floating restaurants sailing downstream.

**Adventure Tour**
Push the pedal to the metal as you grit it out to various extreme playgrounds set up in Danao Adventure Park. Try rappelling, rock climbing, kayaking, caving, or their signature rides called ‘Suislide’ and ‘Plunge.’ Suislide lets you zipline your way through the canopies and gorges while the Plunge is a heart pumping 185-meter canyon swing, the highest in the world.

**Dolphin and Whale Watching**
Spotting dolphins in the open sea is not a rare sight in Bohol. The boatmen’s experienced eyes will maneuver the boat to any sightings of these cute creatures for an up close encounter. If you happen to be in Bohol around February to July, you might have a rare encounter with whale shark or butanding as a bonus.

**Diving and Snorkeling**
Bohol has a vast protected underwater sanctuary thus making it divers’ playground. The west to south waters are teeming with marine wildlife that harbor various endemic species of fishes and corals. Many PADI courses are available in resorts and hotels around Bohol. After the course, waste no time to try shallow waters of Balicasag and Panglao or for professionals, go deep at Balicasag and Pamilacan Islands respectively. For those who are contented snorkeling near the seaboard, Alona house reef in Panglao is definitely worth the bill.

**Peanut Kisses**
Looking for something to take home or to nibble on your trips, peanut kisses are not so hard to find in grocery stores around Bohol. These bite-size sweet treats are made from native peanut and molded into mound just like the famous landmark of the province.

**Seafood**
Just like any coastal community in the Philippines, seafood is a staple in the mess halls of Boholanos. Try it grilled, in tamarind soup, fried, baked, or in full-flair Filipino style cooking, anyway you take will definitely be a healthy and sumptuous meal with fresh harvested seafood.
BOHOL
3 days and 2 nights

DAY 1
Welcome to Bohol! Start your day with a rest after a long trip or savor the beautiful surroundings as you enjoy light meal and drinks at the hotel. Expect awe-striking sceneries and sights on your tour the next day.

DAY 2
Marvel at the blessed landscape of Bohol countryside. See the world’s smallest primate, the endemic tarsier then escape to the jungle at Bilar’s man-made forest. Take a break for sumptuous lunch at the floating restaurants as you cruise along the Loboc River. And past afternoon, taste the view of the dramatic landscape of Chocolate Hills.

Before the day ends, take a glimpse at Bohol’s history and culture as you visit the Blood Compact Shrine, the site where Spanish explorer Miguel Lopez de Legazpi and Datu Sikatuna forged their friendship, and the oldest coral stone church in Bohol, the Baclayon Church & Museum.

DAY 3
Cap off your tour with a cool dip at the waters of Balicasag Island, a hidden gem off southwest coast of Bohol. En route to the paradise, friendly dolphins welcome you as they dance and prance to your pleasure. Your skilled boatmen will help you spot these cute creatures of the sea.

Balicasag Island boasts a healthy underwater sight so put on your goggles and snorkeling equipment to explore Bohol’s beautiful marine habitat.

In the afternoon, prepare for your departure back to Manila.
Ati-Atihan Festival
JANUARY
The fiesta starts from the 16th and usually ends on the 22nd of January in Kalibo, Aklan. Revelers masquerading as Negritos in colorful costumes dance to the beat of drums while chanting “Hala Bira!” in preparation to the Sunday procession in honor of the Santo Niño.

Panagbenga Festival
FEBRUARY
A month-long celebration of this flower festival is held every February in Baguio City. The festival is celebrated with floats decorated with different kinds of flowers. Street dancers are donned in their flower-inspired costumes.

Moriones Festival
MARCH
Moriones festival is a reenactment play during the Holy Week in Boac, Marinduque. This Philippine fiesta is based on a play about Longinus, the centurion whose blind eye is cured by a drop of Jesus Christ’s blood. Actors wear colorful wooden mask and dressed as Roman soldiers.

Panaad Festival
APRIL
Held every month of April in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, Panaad is a thanksgiving celebration and a fulfillment of a promise and vow to the Divine Providence in exchange of good life.

Flores De Mayo
MAY
Translated as “Flowers of May,” this event commemorates the search for the Holy Cross by Reyna Elena and her son, Emperor Constantine. Now, it is an entertaining parade where maidens are escorted by young men under floral arches. The main participant represents Reyna Elena and the emperor.

Pintados Festival
JUNE
This Festival is held every 29th of June in Tacloban, Leyte. Town people parade through municipality with colorful body paint to recall their ancient warrior tradition, when tattoos represent bravery and prestige.

Sandugo Festival
JULY
Sandugo which means “one blood,” celebrates the blood compact between local chieftain Datu Sikatuna and Captain General Miguel Lopez de Legazpi. The festival is celebrated with street dancing, shows, trade fairs, beauty contest and other activities. Sandugo Festival is a month long celebration culminating at Tagbilaran City, Bohol every 3rd week of July.

Kadayawan Sa Dabaw
AUGUST
Kadayawan Sa Dabaw Festival is held every 3rd week of August in Davao City. This celebration is a thanksgiving event for the good harvest season. Colorful floats are bedecked with beautiful orchids and other flowers during the grand parade.

Feast of Nuestra Señora de Peñafrancia
SEPTEMBER
The Feast of Nuestra Señora de Peñafrancia is celebrated every 3rd Saturday of September in Naga, Camarines Sur, Bicol Region. The highlight of this festival is the grand fluvial parade where the image of the Lady of Peñafrancia is carried through the river aglow with floating candles.

Maskara Festival
OCTOBER
This exceptional festival is celebrated every 3rd week of October in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental. Mask-making puts a quaint accent on the festivities to mark Bacolod City’s charter day. Brass bands, beauty contests and parades are held before the evening’s highlight of street dance where folks wear their beautiful masks.

Higantes Festival
NOVEMBER
The Higantes Festival is from November 22 to 23 in Angono, Rizal, male devotees carry the image of San Clemente in a procession that features pahadores, clad in colorful garb and wooden shoes, and carrying boat paddles and higantes (giants), a 10-feet tall paper mache puppets.

Giant Lantern Festival
DECEMBER
This lantern festival is celebrated the whole month of December in San Fernando, Pampanga. The festival culminates in a judging contest of the best, biggest, and most beautiful Christmas lantern made by the local craftsmen in San Fernando.
Festivals

13

Calendar of '13
Sun is high and the weather is fine, waves of Puraran Beach is calling your attention hoping that your soul is weak enough to give in for a nice and cool dip at the Pacific Ocean. But your brain is already torn between an extreme adventure at Cam Sur Water Sports Complex and marveling at perfectness of the Mount Mayon.

You also heard of the tranquil beauty of Calaguas Island in Camarines Norte and a once in a lifetime opportunity to swim side by side with a whale shark, the largest fish in the world. Now, your squandered thoughts are slipping out of your consciousness and you are at the edge of sanity.

With so much to offer, Bicol Region, or loosely called Bicol, is the second fastest growing tourist spot in the Philippines. In 2010, Bicol recorded around 15% growth in domestic and international arrivals, surpassing Manila and Cebu in the ranking of most visited places, and making it one of the hottest destinations in the country.
Planning a trip to Bicol is a mix of understanding who you are and knowing how far you can go. Do you feel like lazing around at the shore of a luxurious Misibis Bay or go deep for an encounter with the gentle giant of the sea, it is really the “You” in you who will create your perfect holiday.

The fastest way to Bicol is by plane to Legazpi Airport in Albay. Upon arrival, you will notice the silhouette of a huge symmetric cone basking in the clear blue horizon. This handmade-like land mass is the world’s most perfect cone and serves as the icon of the province of Albay, the Mount Mayon.

Adventure seekers can try conquering this sleeping lava breathing mountain that promises to test your trekking skills. Traverse through different terrains that vary from sand to rock, forest to grassland, and big boulders to steep assaults.

But if you prefer a thrilling snorkeling adventure (who says snorkeling can’t be thrilling?), drive south side to Donsol, Sorsogon and plunge in to the open waters of the Pacific Ocean. From January to May every year, this town in Bicol Region becomes a busy community as the biggest fish on earth finds its way to the calm and clear waters of Donsol. Swim along at the shallow ocean’s surface or watch them comfortably from the glass bottom boats, either way, an encounter with whale shark is no less than a memorable one.

Drive northbound instead? No problem! Camarines Sur will welcome you with open arms, and sporty arms at that. Since 2006, Camarines Sur have played host to numerous local and international sporting events, much of it is thanks to the construction of world-class venues and facilities around the province. To note, Camarines Sur have hosted international tournaments such as IronMan (triathlon), Stand-Up Paddle World Series, World Wakeboarding Championship, and the hit reality TV show Survivor.

There are still a lot left for you to discover in the beautiful region of Bicol. Exotic food, rich culture, picturesque sceneries, luxurious lifestyle, name it, they’ll serve it.
WEATHER
February to April arguably is the best season to visit Bicol. This time of the year still has that cold wind lingering from northeast with sun striking high for a great day of touring. Expect hotter days in April to June as the summer heat peaks, put on your lotion and sunglasses and head on to beach to cool down.

WATERS
Between July to October witness the blooming underwater of the Pacific while November to January gives you a good chance to swim with the whale sharks in Donsol. Surfers can ride waves at Puraran Beach around October to November. But if you are not into extreme activities, chilling out by the beach in Misibis Bay can be summed up to “anytime with sun up.”

WANDERERS
High tourist arrival is expected during summertine from April to June and on big festivals like Peñafrancia Festival in September. For lesser crowd, plan your trip around November to January.

WHEN TO GO

Peñafrancia Museum
The Feast of Our Lady of Peñafrancia is probably the most celebrated occasion in the whole wide Bicolandia. But this festivity only last nine days every September so if you are ill time for the festival, settle for the second best at Peñafrancia Museum where you can find dioramas depicting the events revolving around the miraculous image. There are also religious antiques and 3d presentation of the early devotees.

Cam Sur Watersports Complex
Brace yourself for an extreme-action filled day at the Cam Sur Watersports Complex. This day-in day-out watersports park is the center of cabled wakeboarding, wake skating, and waterskiing in the Philippines. Its world-class facilities have attracted numerous international events and championship tournaments. There are also facilities for other activities at nearby Lago del Ray like volleyball, waterpolo, paddle surfing, and kayaking among others.

Mayon Volcano
Those who get to witness the awe-striking perfectness of the Mayon Volcano count themselves fortunate. The profile of a lone near-perfect cone of the volcano on the horizon looks no less than God’s handwork, a beauty at every angle. Various websites consider this natural landscape as the world’s most perfect cone.

Cagsawa Ruins
The bell tower of Cagsawa Ruins is what remains from the devastation of Mayon Volcano in 1814, its most destructive explosion ever recorded. The volcanic event brought havoc to the town of Cagsawa as projectile tephra and lava devoured anything in its path including crops, houses, and the entire town church.

Caramoan
American-based hit reality-TV series “Survivor” fell in love with its land and seascape that they already brought in Israel, France, India, and U.S.A. players to outwit, outplay, and outlast each other. Located in the province of Camarines Sur, Caramoan peninsula is an outdoor playground for nature lovers and adventure seekers. Grainy to powder-soft sands, limestone karsts, folklore-filled lagoon, glass flat waters, and lush green islets all conspire to give you endless fun and back-to-basic type of luxury.
Deep Sea Encounter
Every year, between February and May, tourists flock to the town of Donsol to experience interacting with the biggest fish in the world, the whale shark. Locals are aware of whale shark visits for more than 100 years but not until 1998 when a group of scuba divers proved its docile nature that put the spotlight in this little town. Donsol is the capital of whale shark viewing of the world according to Wikipedia.

If you are ill-timed for a whale shark encounter, might as well take the opportunity to witness the equally beautiful other side of Bicol underwater scene. In the waters of Bulan is a dive site known as the Manta Bowl where a large group of manta rays, marine creatures, and corals are to greet you on your deep dive.

Extreme Waters
In just a short period of time, Bicol has earned its reputation as the center of watersports in the Philippines. With its ideal topography, weather, waters, and facilities, various local and international championship rounds are held in Bicol. But Bicol is not only for competitors. Anyone can try wakeboarding in Cam Sur Watersports Complex, stand-up paddling in Caramoan, kayaking in Misibis, and surfing in Puraran without being on the spotlight.

Mountain Climbing
Whether it’s Mt. Mayon or Mt. Isarog you’re eyeing, these national parks can give you competitive trails that will surely test your endurance and trekking skills. Expect various terrains from grassy to rocky, steady path to steep assault, and plenty of boulders so make sure you are all prepped-up.

Spelunking
Brace forth to the depths of various caverns scattered around Bicol Region. In Camalig Albay, you can choose between a bat cave and a party cave.

The Calabidongan Cave derived its name to hundreds of thousands of bats that inhabit the cavern, hanging above and out of its mouth like a scene from a horror film. Hoyop-hoyopan Cave, on the other hand, got its sonorous name from the soft breeze blowing in to the cave. But the cool wind is not the highlight of this cave, nor the stalactites and stalagmite, and no, it doesn’t have any wild creature lurking inside. It is quirky 11-kilometer deep abyss with lighted passages and a dance floor for less than ordinary kind of creatures — party animals.

Another noteworthy cave in Bicol is Pototan Cave in Rapu-Rapu. This cave is a perfect litmus test for those who want to try spelunking. It has big chambers and openings and lots of trek friendly passages. A complete course could only last for four hours.

Other caves great for spelunking are the seabirds and swallow sanctuary Minaroso Cave in Batan, Kulapnit Cave in Caramoan, and del Rosario Cave near Jovellar.
Bicol Express
If the sight of the devastating Mayon Volcano doesn’t sweat you out, then try this local cuisine for a shot of fire and a belch of smoke, at least in your mouth -- the Bicol Express. Used to be the title for a passenger train service that starts in Manila all the way to Bicol and vice versa, Bicol Express is now awarded to a popular pork dish cooked in coconut milk and seasoned, mixed, and topped with generous amount of labuyo, a variety of chili pepper five times hotter than Tabasco.

Pili Nut
Looking for nibbles to bring home from your trip? A stop over to souvenir or pasalubong shop in Bicol only means one thing, or one delicacy for that matter, the pili nut. A species of nut that can only be found in South East Asia, pili comes in different form when processed such as pili nut brittle, pili candy, caramel coated pili, and also a popular toppings for cakes and tarts.

Laing
Filipinos usually have a recipe each part of an edible plant, from roots to leaves. A genuinely Bicolano kitchen invention, Laing is an example to a dish primarily made from leaves. This viand is cooked by simmering all ingredients in a casserole led by taro (gabi) leaves, coconut milk, chilis, thinly sliced pork, and seasoned with shrimp paste, garlic, onion, and ginger.

Bicol’s best-seller pasalubong, caramel coated and crispy pili nut

Bicol Tour
3 days itinerary

DAY 1
Marhay na Adlaw! Good day! Welcome to Bicol!
A mesmerizing beauty, Misibis Bay Resort is your luxury playground by the beach. Accented by the picturesque view of the Albay Gulf, take a rest and enjoy the amenities of the resort. Explore the island via ATV or buggies; go snorkeling, kayaking, or windsurfing; or dare to hang loose at the zipline.

DAY 2
Explore the city brimming with class and beauty, Legazpi. Some of the highlights of this tour are volcano-devastated town of Cagsawa and the Cagsawa Ruins; the mossy yet grandeur façade and interior of Hispanic-era Daraga Church; the Lignon Hill where you can see the stunning perfectness of Mayon Volcano; the Magayon Art Gallery and Legazpi Museum; and the majestic vastness of Pacific Ocean, the surrounding town, and the four famous peaks of Bicol Region.

Before you head back to Misibis Bay Resort, drop by abaca-pili shop for souvenirs.

DAY 3
Go south to the famed town of Donsol in Sorsogon. This quiet area becomes a hot tourist spot upon arrival of its most celebrated visitors, the butanding or whale sharks. But don’t freak out yet, this sea giants are as gentle and harmless. Highly skilled spotter will accompany your trip, and serve as guide while looking for the majestic creatures in their natural habitat. Swim along or watch them on the boat, either way, your whale shark encounter is an experience you’ll never forget.
An optional Mayon Volcano trekking will take you challenging trails from lush viridian to hardened lava. From the higher ground, see the

Uni-Orient Travel, Inc.

www.uniorient.com
tours@uniorient.com
uni-orient travel, inc.
Misibis Bay, your luxury island playground!

Misibis Bay is a luxurious and exclusive hideaway in the lush province of Albay in the Bicol region. Built on a private, pristine stretch of beach along the southern tip of Cagraray Island, this breathtaking, 6-hectare island resort may be reached via a 55-minute flight from Manila to Legazpi, then a scenic 45-minute land travel, or 15-minute exhilarating private chopper ride to the island.

Offering only the most exclusive and privileged getaway, Misibis Bay’s architecture and interiors display a quintessence of style that allows guests to completely wallow in royal delight. Its 37 luxurious, Asian-inspired villas are designed with high, airy ceilings, expansive terraces with direct access to the pool or a secret path to the beach. Its 53 Garden View rooms, situated on a private and beautifully manicured greenery, boasts of chic interiors perfect for budget conscious travellers who wish to experience luxury.

While it would be perfectly nice to just relax within the comforts of the resort’s luxurious villas, guests are encouraged to spend time outdoors. Guests can take a barefoot stroll in the exclusive 1-kilometer beach front, made more unique with exotic shells and volcanic pebbles.

For an ultimate land and water adventure, Segway, ATV, dune buggy, Avalon Fun Ship, Jet Ski, kayak, hobie cat, wind surf and a lot more are available for guests to enjoy. Outside the resort, guests have the option to explore the wonders of the legendary province by marvelling at the perfect symmetry of the Mayon Volcano, the rolling hills of Camalig and Daraga, and the boiling waters of Nags-Aso Lake, or take a plunge in the waters of Danasan and swim with the whale sharks. The world’s biggest fish.

As vast as the terrains surrounding the resort are various breathtaking venues for an intimate feast or a sumptuous banquet. From a refreshing breakfast on top of a hill overlooking the majestic Mayon Volcano, to a private dinner set-up in a white sand beach illuminated by a thousand stars, or in a candle-lit amphitheater that offers scenic view of Albay Gulf, guests are ensured of a truly memorable dining experience. One may also satisfy their gustatory desires by indulging in a buffet of culinary delights at The Spice Market for lunch and DeltaPlaya beach grill at night for a most fantastic dinner. The resort serves Asian cuisine fused with Bicol’s native spices.

More than its world-class facilities, exhilarating adventures and culinary treats, Misibis Bay is accredited by the Small Luxury Hotels of the World and takes pride with the unspoilt beauty surrounding the area and the distinguished service it provides to its guests. Within a span of 3 short years, Misibis Bay has won the heart of local travelers and the prestige of being named as one of the country’s top luxe destinations, and Asia’s luxury island playground.

Truly, Misibis Bay has found its place in Bicol’s list of finest treasures, a paradise where you can embrace nature and luxury at once.

For inquiries, call (63 2) 661.6888 / (63 917) 599.1590 or email reservations@misibisbay.com
Follow us on @Misibis Bay / facebook.com/misibisbayofficialfacebook
www.misibisbay.com
The island of Palawan is a playground for many, a sanctuary, and to some extent, a home. It is dubbed as the Philippine’s Final Frontier because the majority of the province’s area remains untouched. Photographs do not give justice to its picturesque sceneries that one has to take that compelling travel to experience its enchanting beauty.

Nestled between China Sea and Sulu Sea, the province of Palawan is a group of islands composed of the main island called Palawan, hence its name, with thousands of islets surrounding it. Up to now, huge portion of the this province are still covered by primeval forests and coral reefs. Some of these strictly preserved and protected natural habitats are now inscribed in UNESCO World Heritage Sites list: the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park and Tubbataha Reefs respectively.

In its capital, one can enjoy paddling through the second longest navigable underground river in the world, the Puerto Princesa Underground River. This waterway features grand formations of stalactites and stalagmites, several large chambers, waterfalls, and water channels. In 2012, it was hailed as the New 7 Wonders of Nature by the New 7 Wonders foundation.

At approximately 180 kilometers southeast of Puerto Princesa, in Sulu Sea, you will find one of the most diverse underwater communities in the world, harboring more than 1000 species of corals and marine creatures, the Tubbataha Reef.

Aside from its rich biodiversity, this province also boasts its first-class beaches. With sparkling gin-clear waters and pearly white sands, fronting beautiful land and seascape, Palawan rivals top beach destinations in the world.

Some of the highly rated beaches in Palawan are El Nido and Coron. According to CNNGo, El Nido is the Best Beach and Island destination in the Philippines noting its "extraordinary natural splendor and ecosystem." This accolade says a lot about the beauty and richness this beach holds. You can get a slice of this paradise at El Nido Resorts.

Coron, on the other hand, has her international recognition as well. Forbes Traveler Magazine named this island at the northern tip of Palawan province as part of its top 10 best scuba diving sites in the world list.

The list of wonderful places to visit in Palawan is still far from ending but description alone for the above-mentioned destination is way far from what a real experience can give you. So, don’t simply let your imagination fly, fly now to Palawan!
Starting the year with a blast, El Nido Resorts’ newest eco-luxury resort, Pangulasian Island, captures international accolades as one of the must visit destinations in 2013, according to Conde Nast Traveller, Travel+Leisure, and The New York Times.

Following these international mentions, The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) includes El Nido Resorts as one of the 12 finalists in the 2013 Tourism for Tomorrow Awards, an award giving body which recognizes best practices in sustainable tourism. The Awards are one of the highest accolades in the global Travel & Tourism industry. Out of the 133 applications from more than 46 countries on six continents, El Nido Resorts emerged as the only finalist from the Philippines.

Experience the “Last Frontier.”

Miniloc Island · Lagen Island · Apulit Island · Pangulasian Island
WEATHER
Weather in Palawan is greatly dictated by the trade winds and amount of precipitation. Wet season is rather extended in this island that starts in June and lingers until early part of November. Dry season takes the short hand that begins in March to early June.

WATERS
Enjoy Palawan’s beautiful beaches on bright sunny days in February, little to no rain, hot and humid, but not to the extreme. March to early June marks the highpoint of summer so don’t forget to put on sunblock.

WANDERERS
Palawan significantly gained popularity since the enshrinement to 7 New Wonders of Nature of the Puerto Princesa Underground River. Expect tourists flock the capital in the months of March to June but you can have a considerably private time in earlier months of January, after New Year, and February.

TOUR
Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park
The Puerto Princesa Underground River is one of the longest navigable subterranean rivers in the world. Recently, this underground waterway was hailed as one of the New 7 Wonders of Nature, elevating its stature as one of the must-see places in the world.

Shipwreck Divesite
During the Second World War, several Japanese ships were sunk by American warplanes at Coron waters as they retreated from Manila Bay. To this day, 12 of these World War II Japanese shipwrecks make-up what is considered as one of the best dive sites in the world.

Tubbataha Reef
Declared as National Marine Park and UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Tubbataha Reef National Park is real underwater sanctuary. Rising from the volcanic depths of the Sulu Sea in the western region of the Philippines, these magnificent atolls encompass an astonishing diversity of marine life.
Postcard Views
With sights plucked out of postcards, Palawan boasts some of the picturesque panoramas around. The shape shifting sandbars of Snake Island, limestone karsts and blue mirror beaches of El Nido, the nature-built escarpments and ridges decorated with lush greenery of Coron, and the untouched ecosystem of Bacuit Archipelago, all deserve a shot of your camera and more than a day of your life.

White Sand Beaches
Pristine, powder-soft white sand beaches are found in almost every shore of Palawan. From Puerto Princesa, to Coron, to El Nido, their respective scenic contrast of viridian surroundings and cerulean waters plus the fair weather promise a beach holiday to remember. Don’t forget the legendary Ariara Island which just made it to the best beach circle.

Palawan Butterfly Garden
Palawan conserves just about anything, primarily the rich natural resources including the beautiful order of Lepidoptera or more commonly known as butterflies and moths. After few minutes drive south of Puerto Princesa, you can reach the privately owned Palawan Butterfly Garden that hosts a collection of beautiful butterflies and other insects like scorpions and walking sticks.

Plaza Cuartel
During the Second World War, many members Allied Forces in the Philippines were brought to execution by Japanese Imperial Army. One of the silent witnesses of these horrifying events was the ruin of Plaza Cuartel, once a military garrison, wherein about 150 American prisoners of war were burned alive. Now, this historical landmark was turned into a park which is just located near Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Puerto Princesa.

Palawan Heritage Center
The newest repository of Palawan’s heritage, culture, and centuries of history brings the past to life in a more modern approach. Palawan Heritage Center, located inside the Provincial Legislative Building in Puerto Princesa, showcases interactive exhibits of Palawan’s origins and their way of living presented in holograms and touchscreen platforms. They also have scores of antiquities and artifacts, old photos, life-size diorama, and maps.

Immaculate Conception Cathedral
Palawan’s grandest religious structure is not only for spiritual healing but also for historical appreciation. The church exhibits Gothic-inspired architectural design, religious antiquities, and walls that speak of history and reverence.
Nature Tripping
Living a simple life is deemed as a big letdown from the high-life in metro. But if you have miles of untouched forest blooming with floras and faunas, powdery white sand beach, shimmering clear blue waters that stretches to as far as your eyes can see, in an isolated island created only for your indulgence, then who wouldn’t want to get a big downgrade. Early morning is ideal for slow amble along trekking path tucked-in the lush foliage so make sure you have that in your list.

Hot Springs
After days of island hopping, swimming, and fun activities in Palawan, cap off your trip than having a warm and soothing dip at Maquinit Hot Spring in Coron.

Diving
Palawan’s landscapes and seascapes are among the finest in Philippines. But if you think you have seen all the beauty of the place dubbed as the “Final Frontier,” wait until you see the magnificent underwaterscape of Palawan. The tragic ending or triumphant sinking of Japanese ships in waters of Palawan, depending on which side you are on, during the WWII are now teeming with color and life with fishes turning the sheets of metal into man-made marine playground.

Snorkeling
Even on the shallow part, Palawan doesn’t cease to please marine life enthusiasts. With its healthy atolls and glass clear waters, one need not to go far to see the underwater life unfold. There are around 500 species of corals, more than 800 species of fish, and around 50 of which are endemic thriving in the waters of Palawan, just imagine wealth of life near the shoreline. El Nido Resorts offers that same thrill in their house reefs, all that beauty right under your private villa.

Beach and Island Hopping
Philippines have more than 7,000 islands and to name a mere 1% of that could fill-out an entire page, that’s easier task than naming all the islands in Palawan which is approximately around 1,700. That’s more than a thousand different sunrises and sunsets, more than a thousand seascapes and landscapes, more than a thousand beaches, cliffs, karsts, cays, and more than a thousand reasons to visit the province. Have a sample of these island sanctuaries at Bacuit Archipelago, Coron, El Nido, and Calamianes.

Spelunking
Spelunking in Palawan is more than exploring its cave but discovering the life and diversity within. St. Paul Cave is among the most unique in the world because of the underground river that flows in its depths. This water system meanders through the passages and chambers before meeting the vastness of South China Sea. Its entire ecosystem includes a mountain to sea and freshwater to saltwater diversity. The cave has submarine karsts spring, huge domes, bat habitat, water holes, river channels, and different species of flora and fauna among many other features. In case you wonder, this cave’s river is also known as the Puerto Princesa Underground River.

Trekking
A jungle trek seems to be a prerequisite when you voluntarily get stranded in a remote unspoiled island like Palawan. Choose from a range of trekking opportunities such as Mt. Tapyas in Coron, St. Paul Mountain in Puerto Princesa, Mt. Mantalingajan in the south, or to any trail tucked within its lush forest to give you a dose of afternoon trotting. Do not forget the music played by softly whispering wind, humming birds, and water meeting the shore thrown in for good measure.

Water Vessels
Boat tours, kayaking, and hobie cat sailing are just some of the water activities you can add-on to further enjoy the beauty of this long strip of land, its scattered islets, and their respective coasts. These water vessels are readily available at any resort in Palawan so there is no reason to miss out the fun.

Island Picnic
Experience the joy of simple life with a healthy lunch at one of the remote islands of Palawan. Fill your stomach with great food while treating your eyes to a feast of colors, resplendent white sand and sea, and loveable creatures freely roaming around you.
PALAWAN TOUR
3 days itinerary

DAY 1
Welcome to Puerto Princesa!
Today, get to know the city a bit more with stroll around town and historical sights. The tour starts along the Baywalk going to Immaculate Conception Cathedral and Plaza Cuartel followed by Mitra’s Ranch and Baker’s Hill. Immerse into Palawan’s culture by visiting Binuatan Weaving Center to see indigenous handwoven products. End the day on a high note; scream your lungs at the sight of frightening crocs at Crocodile Farm.

DAY 2
Marvel at natural wonders of nature. Puerto Princesa is the home of UNESCO World Heritage Site St. Paul Subterranean River National Park. Its mountain-to-sea ecology brings it to the forefront of the richest diversities in the planet. Within the national park is the Puerto Princesa Underground River, a long navigable underground water way and one of the destinations enshrined in the 7 New Wonders of Nature.

DAY 3
Prepare for island hopping today with a filling breakfast at the hotel.
Hop on to your designated boat and start the fun! First on list is the secluded palm-fringed ivory white sand of Pandan Island then trespass to the lair of the world’s largest in Bat Island. Explore the environment, on land and underwater, of the Meara Marina, then proceed to Starfish Island where you can find, what else, starfishes.
Finally, head to Snake Island, a long strip of sand cay that changes face like a creeping serpent depending on the tide (sorry if you are expecting snakes). After a long boat trip and fun time at the beaches, have lunch in this island while being serenaded by cool breeze, water meeting to the shore, and sounds of the surroundings.

Uni-Orient Travel, Inc.
www.uniorient.com
tours@uniorient.com

TASTE

Fresh Grilled Seafood
Going back to nature is going back to simplicity. In terms of food, there is no better way to enjoy fresh marine harvest than to cook it right away and in simplest way – grilling; no-frills, no drama, no seasoning, just pure blissful freshness of seafood.

Halabos na Lobster
Seafood lovers will do anything to get their hands on this crustacean. The sweet and delicious flesh of lobster simmered in soda, butter, and calamansi is like a bomb of flavors exploding in your mouth at each bite.
DAY 1: MANILA - CORREGIDOR
Arrive in Manila and get the first hand experience of world-renowned Filipino warmth hospitality at your distinguished hotel then sample local cuisine at a local restaurant.

Cross Manila Bay to the historic island of Corregidor and relive the final stand of Philippine-Allied Forces’ defense during World War II. The airstrike-wounded batteries in the island, along with its ruins, tell thousands of stories of the war veterans’ bravery and valor. In barracks-turned-museums, audio-supplied dioramas are setup for a closer feel of the war. Cruising back, catch the romantic sunset view at Manila Bay before heading back to hotel.

DAY 2: MANILA - TAGAYTAY
Travel back in time by visiting Manila’s important sights, from the Spanish-period central district Intramuros to the oldest fortification in Manila, Fort Santiago. Take few moments of silence and photos of UNESCO Heritage Site San Agustin Church and the centuries-old Manila Cathedral. Get a deeper appreciation of Philippine treasures at National Museum of the Philippines and Ayala Museum.

In the afternoon, bewildered at Taal Volcano, the smallest active volcano in the world. For this, drive south to the beautiful hamlet of Tagaytay. Best seats are found in the meadows of Picnic Grove or atop the highest point of Tagaytay, the historic People’s Park in the Sky then enjoy a sumptuous meal at a local restaurant before heading back to Manila.

DAY 3 - 5: ILOCOS
History unfolds in Ilocos Norte. Commence the day with the intriguing case of Sinking Bell Tower and the magnificent St. William Cathedral. Appreciate the heritage and craftsmanship of Ilocanos at Museo Ilocos Norte. Get an inside look at personal life of a former president at Marcos Museum and Mausoleum where you will not only see the head-of-the-state’s memorabilia but also his preserved body sealed in a glass coffin. End the day tour with a presidential treatment at Malacañang of the North and a solemn moment at the grand Paoay Church.

Before taking relaxing sojourn at Plaza del Norte, try sandboarding or driving 4x4 through the sand dunes at La Paz.

Drive along the coastline of Ilocos for a stop at the dazzling white beaches of Pagudpud. Appreciate the humble life in the province and enjoy its natural beauty. Take a dive, surf, or simply frolic in the afternoon sun. Before the darkness sets in, head back to Plaza del Norte for another day of fun tour.

Travel back in time as you stroll around Ilocos Sur. The well-preserved 15th to 18th century ancestral houses in Vigan gives you a taste olden day lifestyle. Bantay Church and St. Paul Cathedral were also built in the same period and both holds historical and aesthetic appeal. Lastly, go museum hopping at various repositories in the province such as Syquia Mansion, Burgos Museum, and Crisologo Museum.

DAY 6: MANILA
Back in Manila, end the trip with a spree at the first-class shopping center, Mall of Asia, to look for items to take back home then prepare to depart.
**DAY 1: MANILA**
Maligayang pagdating! Welcome to Manila. Spend the day at the hotel while enjoying a drink and light meal. Get acclimatize with the tropical weather of the country.

**Day 2 - 4: BORACAY**
Transfer to the airport and fly the world-renowned island of Boracay. See why it is called “The Best Island Beach” the world.
Enjoy world-class accommodation at Hennan Resorts. Do optional activities like island hopping, kayaking, beach volleyball, snorkeling, and other water sports at your own expense. Experience Boracay nightlife and party by the beach or at any of the local bars.

**Day 5 - 6: CEBU**
Transfer to the airport and fly to the Queen City of the South, Cebu! Check-in at your new address, Crimson Resort.
Later, discover the earliest accounts of European in the Philippines and see how these people and their influences molded the country that it is today.
Visit Magellan’s Cross, the country’s first colonizer; Fort San Pedro, Spain’s first fortress in the Philippines; and Lapu-Lapu Shrine, the country’s first national hero.
Frolic in the beautiful Bantayan Beach, feel the luxury of simple life in the middle of the white grainy sand and palm trees strewn along the shore.

**Day 7: BOHOL**
Welcome to Bohol! Bedazzled at the blessed landscape of Bohol countryside, the Chocolate Hills. See the world’s smallest primate, the endemic tarsier then escape to the jungle at Bilar’s man-made forest. Take a break for sumptuous lunch at the floating restaurants as you cruise along the Loboc River.
As an option, dare to plunge down the highest canyon swing in the world at Danao Adventure Park in Danao.
Back to Cebu to rest the day off.

**Day 8 - 11: BICOL**
Leave Cebu and head to Legazpi City by plane. A few minutes ferry ride northward to Cagragay takes you to a private sanctuary at Misibis Bay, your luxury island playground. Enjoy the resort’s amenities or explore its beautiful surroundings. Go on land via ATV or buggies while on water, you can go kayaking, sailing, or windsurfing to see beyond its wonderful seascape.
In Albay, your eyes will definitely trail the picturesque view of Mayon Volcano. Its seemingly perfect symmetrical shape holds various challenges for trekkers. Try conquering it and you will be rewarded with majestic views of the surrounding towns including the majestic vastness of Pacific Ocean. Underwater adventures can be found in Donsol where you can get a chance to swim side by side with the whale shark, the biggest fish in the world.

**Day 12: MANILA**
Arrive back in Manila. Wander at the historic past and vibrant present of the nation’s capital region. In the morning, relive the Spanish-era life within the walls of Intramuros. Visit the fort where Jose Rizal, the Philippine national hero, spent his final days before being executed. Spend a quiet moment at one of the UNESCO World Heritage inscribed churches, the San Agustin Church. In the afternoon, stop at the world’s third largest mall, the Mall of Asia, to get some items as memento to your wonderful tour.
Transfer to the airport. Maligayang paglalakbay!
DAY 1: MANILA
Mabuhay! Welcome to Manila, the Philippine’s capital. Check in to your hotel and enjoy a drink and light meal.

DAY 2 - 6: PALAWAN
Board the plane to El Nido to experience the humbleness of island living and reconnect with the nature. Check out the house reef at El Nido Resorts or hop on to different water crafts to make the most of your time in this paradise.

Continue your island adventure to the city of Puerto Princesa. The next day, see one of the New 7 Wonders of Nature, the Puerto Princesa Underground River, the longest navigable river in the world.

DAY 7 - 8: CEBU
Transfer to the airport and fly to the Queen City of the South, Cebu!

Time travel to the beginning of Spanish era as you visit Magellan’s Cross, the country’s first colonizer; Fort San Pedro, Spain’s first fortress in the Philippines; and Lapu-Lapu Shrine, the country’s first national hero.

Hop on to a boat for a trip to the island of Mactan and visit the rich history of first Philippine-Spain battleground. Before heading back to Crimson Resorts, have a BBQ by the beach in one of the islets around the area.

DAY 9 - 10: BOHOL
Embark on an inter-island trip to Bohol. Upon check in to your hotel, you may choose to loosen up your tired muscle with a signature massage.

Marvel at the blessed landscape of Bohol countryside. See the world’s smallest primate, tarsier. Then enjoy a sumptuous lunch at one of the floating restaurants as you cruise along the Loboc River.

And past afternoon, taste the view of Chocolate Hills.

DAY 11 - 13: BORACAY
Board the ferry back to Cebu fly to the world-renowned island of Boracay. See why it is called “The Best Island Beach” the world. Spend your days and nights at luxurious Hennan Resorts. Do optional activities like island hopping, parasailing, beach volleyball, snorkeling, helmet diving, and other water sports at your own expense. Experience Boracay nightlife and soak in the party vibe at any of the local bars.

DAY 14: MANILA
Arrive back in Manila. Wander at the historic past and vibrant present of the nation’s capital region. In the morning, relive the Spanish era life within the walls of Intramuros. Visit the fort where Jose Rizal, the Philippine national hero, spent his final days before being executed. Spend a quiet moment at one of the UNESCO World Heritage inscribed churches, the San Agustin Church.

In the afternoon, get a bigger picture of the Philippines history at the National Museum. Take a mid-afternoon cruise over Manila Bay for to catch the spectacular sunset then stop at the world’s third largest mall, the Mall of Asia.

DAY 15: DEPARTURE
Transfer to the airport. Maligayang paglalakbay!

SUN, SEA, SAND
15 DAYS - Manila - Palawan - Cebu - Bohol - Boracay

Sink your senses to an unforgettable escapade to the rich, vast, and beautiful coasts of the Philippine islands.

Adventure Highlights
- Puerto Princesa Underground River cruise
- Diving/snorkeling at Palawan waters
- Aquatic adventures at Boracay

Culture Highlights
- Palawan City Tour
- Magellan’s Cross
- Lapu-Lapu Shrine, Philippine’s first hero
- San Agustin Church (UNESCO Site)
- Philippine National Museum

Nature Highlights
- St. Paul Subterranean National Park (UNESCO Site)
- Palawan island hopping
- Chocolate Hills
- Loboc River cruise
- White shores of Boracay Island
Crimson Resort & Spa Mactan, Cebu's sprawling landscape allows you to savor the intimacy you seek in an environment of pure serenity. From the laid-back to the active, we offer lifestyle experiences so you can make the most of your holiday at your leisure.
fun
Philippines
with
Uni-Orient
Your business and travel concierge
www.uniorient.com