

12 Day Philippines Highlight Tour

- **Travel Route:** Cebu - Bohol - El Nido - Manila
- **Tour date:** 29 April 2025 - 11 May 2025
- **Tour Type:** Private Tour
- **Guide & Driver:** English-speaking guide, experienced driver with an air-conditioned coach

Day by Day Itinerary

Day 1 Tue 29/Apr/25

Arrive / Cebu

Transfer via: International flight-arranged by yourself Cebu

Arrival | Pick-up Service & Hotel Check-in Accommodations:

Day 2 Wed 30/Apr/25 (B,) Cebu

Today is an easy day for you, this morning, you will be met at the lobby and then you will have tour to Fort San Pedro- a triangular stone Spanish fortress, dating to 1738; then visit the Magellan's Cross, it is said that the Cross brought by Spanish explorers in 1521, marking the start of Christianity in the Philippines; moving to Minor Basilica of the Holy Child of Cebu, it is a Catholic church dating to the 1500s, rebuilt in the 1700s, known for its statue of Jesus as a child.

After the history sites, you will have time to relaxing in Shopping-Mall till escorted back to your hotel around 5pm.

Accommodations:

Day 3 Thu 01/May/25 (B) Cebu

After breakfast, your guide will pick you up at your hotel and drive (about a 1-hour drive) to Lila town on Panglao Island. And then board a boat for a unique experience of swimming with whale sharks - the largest sharks and fish in the world, typically measuring 9-12 meters in length.

The largest individuals can reach up to 20 meters in length and weigh up to 12,500 kg, making them the largest fish species.

Whale sharks are known for their gentle nature, slow swimming speed, and often sunbathing at the water's surface. When you have the opportunity to get up close and personal with them, play with them and take pictures, you'll add an unforgettable memory to your extraordinary life. After swimming with the whale sharks, you will be transferred back to your hotel. Take note that seeing whale sharks during this tour is NOT GUARANTEED. Whale sharks are migratory animals, and even during the whale shark season, there is a possibility that you may not encounter one during your tour.



Later, you will go to the City of Cebu by ferry boat. Cebu sometimes called the Queen City of the

South, famous for its leisure beaches and natural scenery. Upon your arrival in Cebu, your private guide will meet you and escort you to your hotel and then you will enjoy some free time.

Accommodations:

Day 4 Fri 02/May/25 (B) Cebu

Begin your day bright and early as our guide will collect you from your Cebu hotel. Depart from Cebu City and head towards the town of Moalboal, located on the southwestern coast of Cebu Island. The journey takes approximately 2.5 to 3 hours by road.



Upon reaching Moalboal, your island-hopping adventure begins. During your voyage, experience the globally renowned Sardine Run by snorkeling off the town's coast. This breathtaking spectacle involves thousands of sardines swimming so compactly that they form a shimmering silver wall. On occasion, you may also spot sea turtles in this locale.

Accommodations:

Day 5 Sat 03/May/25 (B,) Cebu / Bohol

Transfer via: Ferry arranged by AOT



After you arrive in Bohol, you will then be transferred to the boat docking area where you will start your island-hopping tour of Balicasag and Virgin Islands.

Your first activity for the day is dolphin watching and searching on the way to Balicasag Island. This area teems with diverse marine wildlife, including at least seven different species of wild whales and countless wild dolphins. Take note that seeing dolphins is not guaranteed. If you are lucky, you might see these creatures jumping up close.

After that, you'll head to Balicasag Island. Balicasag Island is a must-visit destination in the Philippines for all nature and marine life lovers. Its stunning 3000-foot-deep fault, known as the deepest and most beautiful underwater cliff in Asia, is a natural wonder that draws tourists from all over the world. During your visit to Balicasag Island, you will have the opportunity to go snorkeling at the "Rose Coral Garden," an area surrounded by countless colorful coral reefs and tropical fish. Even without diving, you can see a variety of marine creatures, tropical fish, and sea turtles.

Next, head to the natural ecological protected island of Virgin Island (Note: Not accessible during high tide, the tour guide will check the tide time beforehand). As the tide recedes, the beautiful

Virgin Island gradually emerges in front of you, with a pure crescent-shaped white sandbar in the middle of the sea that makes you feel like you are in a dreamland. You can stroll through this natural wonder and pick up various starfish and sea urchins that are scattered on the sand. Some of the starfish are so big that they will leave you amazed! After island-hopping, you will have lunch onboard a board or at an island restaurant.

Lastly, you'll be transferred back to your hotel to rest.

Kindly note that some activities may be subject to change due to weather conditions. Your safety is our top priority, and we may need to reschedule or cancel activities in case of unfavorable weather conditions such as strong winds. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we ensure a safe and enjoyable island-hopping experience.

Accommodations:

Day 6 Sun 04/May/25 (B) Bohol

Today you will watch Dolphin and snorkeling.

Accommodations:

Day 7 Mon 05/May/25 (B,)

Bohol



Bohol Countryside Tour, Corella Tarsier Sanctuary

The sanctuary a property of Philippine Tarsier Foundation which primary mission is to save the Philippine Tarsier, its habitat and other wildlife.

Accommodations:

Day 8 Tue 06/May/25 (B)

Bohol / EI Nido

Transfer via: Domestic flight-arranged by AOT

After you arrive in the airport of EI Nido, your guide will escort you to your hotel, then have a good rest in hotel.

Accommodations:

Day 9 Wed 07/May/25 (B)

EI Nido

EI Nido got its name from the Spanish phrase for "the nest" because of the edible bird nests made



by swiftlets that can be found in the crevices of its limestone cliffs. This destination is renowned as the "Heaven on Earth", and it comprises 45 islands and islets (Bacuit Archipelago), many of which are uninhabited. Enjoy your days in EI Nido is with the crystal clear waters, white sand beaches, stunning lagoons, amazing limestone cliffs, magical marine

life, rocky islets, and perfect weather!

For the first El Nido Island Hopping tour in the Bacuit Bay (El Nido Tour A), you will have fun in the tropical dreamland by hopping to Miniloc Island for lagoons, Shimizu island for snorkeling, and Seven Commando Beach for relaxation.

You will start the world-class island hopping tour in El Nido by a boat ride to Miniloc Island, where you can visit its breathtaking lagoons, including the Big Lagoon and Secret Lagoon. The Big Lagoon is a must-visit destination of El Nido in Bacuit Bay. You can access it by outrigger boat, and during low tide, you can walk or kayak through the channel. Once inside the lagoon, you will be awestruck by the stunning natural swimming hole with emerald green waters, surrounded by towering limestone cliffs. Depending on the tide, you may need to scramble or swim through a small crevice on the rock's surface to reach the Secret Lagoon. Although the Secret Lagoon may not be a secret anymore, it remains one of the most photographed attractions in El Nido, offering a hidden world waiting to be explored. After that, you may have a lunch stop at Payong-Payong Beach, one of the picturesque white sand beaches on Miniloc Island. Here, you can either experience the thrill of swimming amidst the strong waves or savor the chill vibe of splashing around in gentle waves.

Your next stop on Tour A will be Shimizu Island, which is renowned as one of the top snorkeling spots in El Nido. Here, you'll have the opportunity to encounter a diverse range of beautiful corals and other marine life. Thanks to its stunning limestone cliffs covered with vegetation, Shimizu Island is considered a representative of the geological beauty of El Nido. Legend has it that the island was named after a diver whose last name was Shimizu. However, it can get a bit crowded during midday as it is also an alternative stopover spot for lunch. Typically, you will enjoy a delicious grilled lunch on the beach, featuring grilled meat and seafood, vegetables, rice, and fresh fruits for dessert.



Finally, you will move to Seven Commando Beach, which has a fascinating story to tell. According to one account, seven soldiers got stranded here during World War II. The beach features a long stretch of white sand lined with coconut trees, providing the perfect spot to have a sunbath and relax. You can also enjoy refreshing drinks while taking in the beautiful ocean scenery. While snorkeling, you may be lucky enough to encounter a few sea turtles, so keep your eyes peeled. After your El Nido Tour A, head back to overnight in El Nido Town.

Accommodations:

Day 10 Thu 08/May/25 (B)

El Nido

After breakfast, it is time to begin your El Nido Island Hopping Tour (El Nido Tour B) to witness some of Palawan's best islands and caves. This tour would covers the highlights of Snake Island,



Pinagbuyutan Island, Cudugnon Cave, Cathedral Cave, Entalula Island, and Papaya Beach (if time permit). It is an amazing journey that combines sandbars, caves, and uniquely-shaped islands. Furthermore, your El Nido Island Hopping today (tour B) is often less crowded than tour A.

Your first stop on El Nido Island Hopping Tour B will be Snake Island (Vigan Island). Known for its winding sandbar visible only at low tide, Snake Island is one of the most unique spots in El Nido to experience the feeling of walking in the middle of the sea. The island gets its name from its S-shaped sandbar, which connects it to the mainland (Bacuit Archipelago). At low tide, you can walk on the sand stripe between the two islands and admire the crystal-clear waters and white-sand beaches. At high tide, the sandbar is two feet underwater, creating a beautiful sight. Snake Island also offers a quick hike up to a stunning viewing point at the top where you can take in a bird's eye view of the sandbar. Enjoy the views of the white sand stretching out like a long snake, winding its way along the island.

Next, you'll hop to Pinagbuyutan Island (Ellis Island), where you'll marvel at the dramatic towering limestone cliffs that shoot straight up from the sea, topped off with lush jungle vegetation. This gumdrop-shaped island is a favorite destination in El Nido. Pinagbuyutan Island is also known as Survivor Island due to its appearance on the popular reality TV show, *Survivor*, and it is said to be the inspiration for the movie "The Beach", along with other beautiful attractions in El Nido like the Big Lagoon and Secret Lagoon. Pinagbuyutan Island is perfect for swimming and snorkeling, as there are some excellent reefs to explore just offshore. Take in the colorful underwater life beneath the emerald-colored water. It's also the perfect place for a lunch break, where you can relax on the long beach and enjoy the breeze under the coconut trees.

After lunch, you'll head to Cudugnon Cave which offers a unique perspective of El Nido's islands through an enormous cavern hidden behind an inconspicuous hole in the limestone wall. During World War II, locals used the cave as a hiding place from invaders. It is also believed to be a Neolithic burial site for ancient Palawenos and settlers from Borneo. Experts have discovered artifacts such as jewelry, pottery, and human bones dating back to the Chinese Song Dynasty (960-1279 A.D.). To enter Cudugnon Cave, you'll need to squeeze through a small rocky hole before reaching the well-lit cave with a high ceiling. Take your time exploring the beautiful limestone and marble walls inside the cave, and don't forget to search the crevices of the cave's roof where swallows (swiftlets) and bats reside. You know that El Nido got its name from the Spanish phrase "the nest", and the swiftlets are the owners of these nests. After the cave exploration tour, you can relax on the secluded white sand beach near the cave's entrance.

If time permits, you can make a photo stop at the Cathedral Cave on Pinasil Island. As your boat approaches the cave, you'll be amazed by the huge cavern with an opening even higher than the Puerto Princesa Underground River. This stunning shallow cave features towering walls shaped like cathedral spires. It's also an important nesting site for swiftlets, whose nests made of dried saliva

are the main ingredient in the exotic bird's nest soup.

You'll also have the opportunity to visit picturesque Entalula Island, which boasts a pristine beach and perfect snorkeling and swimming opportunities. Take in the beauty of the crystal-clear waters and the amazing rock formations, including the free-standing diamond-shaped rock. Enjoy the serene and peaceful atmosphere of this beautiful island before concluding your El Nido Tour B today.

Accommodations:

Day 11 Fri 09/May/25 (B)

EI Nido

Are you keen to explore the most beautiful beaches in El Nido? If so, you'll absolutely love Island Hopping Tour C, which takes you to the world-famous beaches of El Nido in Bacuit Bay, Palawan. Today's tour is even more popular than Tour A and has captivated the attention of Hollywood blockbuster filmmakers. Exciting stops at Helicopter Island, Matinloc Shrine, Secret Beach, Tapiutan Island, and Hidden Beach cover beautiful islands, beaches, snorkeling spots, and the uncanny Matinloc Shrine.



Departing from El Nido Pier, you'll first arrive at Helicopter Island (Dilumacad Island), named for its rock formations that resemble a helicopter from a distance. Although some visitors may find it challenging to see the similarity, the island's towering limestone cliffs covered in lush vegetation and pristine beaches are a sight to behold. The island boasts excellent snorkeling spots and underwater tunnels that advanced divers will appreciate. Viewing the colorful corals

and small fish in the clear waters is a super enjoyable experience. The island is also one of the nesting grounds for sea turtles living near the province, so if you visit during the right season, you might get the chance to see the release of baby turtles into the waters. With 300 meters of white sand beach, it's an excellent place to swim, relax, and enjoy the beautiful beachscape.

The next stop will be Matinloc Island, home to the unique Matinloc Shrine since 1982. Known as the Shine of Our Lady of Matinloc, this spiritual oasis provides a stunning panoramic view of Tapiutan Island, which lies opposite Matinloc Island. These two neighboring islands form the narrow Tapiutan Strait, home to some of the best snorkeling spots in the area, such as Talisay Beach and Star Beach (with starfish), which are fantastic spots to see the beauty of the coral reefs.



After admiring the clear sea and the limestone landscapes and learning the stories behind the

Matinloc Shrine, you may enjoy a delicious barbecued lunch before heading off to Secret Beach. Accessing Secret Beach can be a bit of a challenge as you need to swim through a cave to enter, but your guide help you enter this little paradise. Once inside, you can relax on the small beach or snorkel and see some pretty fish at the entrance. It is said that Alex Garland, author of the novel-turned-film "The Beach", lived and wrote his bestseller in El Nido, likely inspired by the Secret Beach's beauty.

Meanwhile, Hidden Beach is a popular stop perfect for swimming and resting. This small paradisiac cove concealed by limestone rock and impossible to see from the open sea. Its powdery white sand and crystal-clear waters make it a must-visit spot in El Nido. In fact, Hidden Beach was so beautiful that Survivor Sweden finished their three-month filming at this beach. The Hidden Beach is also a great spot for snorkeling, where you can easily see various species of corals and fish.

After exploring the hidden beaches and shrines on El Nido Tour C, it is time to go back to El Nido town for overnight.

Accommodations:

Day 12 Sat 10/May/25 (B)

EI Nido

Free day.

Accommodations:

Day 13 Sun 11/May/25 (B)

EI Nido / Manila

Transfer via: Domestic flight-arranged by AOT
Manila Departure | Depart Philippines, Airport See-off
Service ends.

*****end of the trip*****