



# Philippines

## The fiesta islands

The Philippines, a cluster of more than 7,000 islands lying between the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean, offers the holidaymaker a kaleidoscopic diversity of entertainment, scenery, experiences and cultural activities. Here Spanish, American and Asian influences have met and mingled, resulting in a way of life that is uniquely Filipino. The cultural confluence can be found everywhere. Variety can be found in landscapes too; rice terraces climbing up mountain sides, islands rimmed by sandy beaches and sapphire seas and a perfectly symmetrical volcano rising above the encircling forest.

The Philippines has a variety to offer. Here you will find lively cities with entertainment to suit all tastes; remote islands with vast, empty beaches and mountainous interiors, secluded coves where giant sea turtles come ashore to lay their eggs; Taal Lake, formed in the caldera of a volcano with another volcano set on an island in its midst; rapids to be shot at Pagsanjan; and offshore waters abounding with game fish.

With the Filipinos' love for festivals, fiestas and enjoyment of life in general, visitors will find a wealth of diversions throughout the islands. In Manila there are regular performances of classical concerts and ballet. Shoppers will find the Philippines to be one of Asia's most inexpensive destinations.

### Sightseeing

Monuments, museums, churches, art galleries, parks, traditional villages and palm-fringed beaches. Manila – Ayala Museum; Casa Manila; Fort Santiago; the Light and Sound Sculptural Show.

### Accommodation

Modern city hotels located in the heart of the shopping/entertainment areas and tranquil island resorts.

### Shopping

What you can buy – Handicrafts from various regions of the Philippines are popular souvenirs – good buys include jade, porcelain, brassware, wood carvings, silver jewellery and rattan furniture.

Where you can buy – Malls, department stores, boutiques, flea markets and antique shops. In Manila the big malls in Makati area, EDSA and Divisoria.




### Entertainment

Speciality Filipino restaurants and international cuisine, nightclubs, karaoke bars, cultural folkdance, classical concerts and ballet.

### Sports and leisure

Golf, scuba diving, fishing, snorkelling, kayaking and paintball.



Average climate in Philippines													
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
	MAX °C	30	31	33	34	34	32	31	32	31	31	31	30
	MIN °C	21	21	23	24	25	24	24	24	24	24	23	21
	HRS	6	7	7	9	7	5	4	4	4	5	5	5
	MM	6	3	7	9	113	273	341	398	326	230	120	49
Daily maximum and minimum averages are guides only and may vary.													



# Palawan Castaway

5 days/4 nights • Air, boat and chauffeur-driven private car or van tour



## Manila • Puerto Princesa

- Manila, a teeming metropolis
- Puerto Princesa, capital of Palawan

This five-day tour takes you on a tropical getaway to Puerto Princesa, a city in the centre of Palawan Island. Puerto Princesa is bordered by two seas – on the east coast by the Sulu Sea and on the west by the South China Sea. A highlight of your stay is the amazing Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, reputedly the longest navigable and most beautiful underground river in the world.

### Day 1: Manila

After arrival in Manila, the day is at leisure. Overnight in Manila.

### Day 2: Manila – Puerto Princesa

In the morning, fly to Puerto Princesa and transfer to your hotel. In the afternoon, during our city tour, you will see the State College Museum, the crocodile farm, pineapple-fibre weavers, the city market and Iwahig Penal Colony, a financially self-supporting low security prison where over a thousand inmates live and work, farming and making craft items. Overnight in Puerto Princesa.

### Day 3: Puerto Princesa

After breakfast, depart for an exciting visit to Saint Paul Subterranean Park on an eight-kilometre paddle boat journey along the underground river past huge stalactites, walls with fluted columns and through a vast bat-filled cavern. Enjoy a picnic lunch in the shade of tall mahogany trees at the seaside park just outside the cave, where monkeys and large (but harmless and friendly) monitor lizards roam freely. Overnight in Puerto Princesa.



### Day 4: Puerto Princesa

After breakfast, transfer to Honda Bay for a day of island-hopping, including Bat Island, home to thousands of bats; Snake

Island, named because of its shape; and Pandan, Starfish and Luli Islands, where there are ample opportunities for snorkelling, swimming and sunbathing. Enjoy a picnic lunch on one of the islands before returning. Overnight in Puerto Princesa.

### Day 5: Puerto Princesa – Manila

Full-day at leisure before your transfer to the airport for your onward flight back to Manila.



### Tour available as:

- Three nights – Includes accommodation with breakfast, lunches on days three and four, transfers and tours, service charges and taxes on rooms and meals, entrance fees and services of an English-speaking guide.
- Also available extended tour to El Nido.





# Manila

## The exciting city

Manila, as a result of the Philippines' long association with Spain and America, is today one of the most westernised of Asian cities. The city's modern history begins with the arrival of the Spanish, who in search of spices, colonised the islands in the 16th century. Their legacy can be seen throughout the old town, where forts and churches, street names and municipal buildings recall the Iberian influence. Overlaid on this is the effect of American involvement in the first half of the 20th century most obviously seen in the jeepney. Today, Manila is pure Filipino from its nightlife, to its fabulous fiestas.

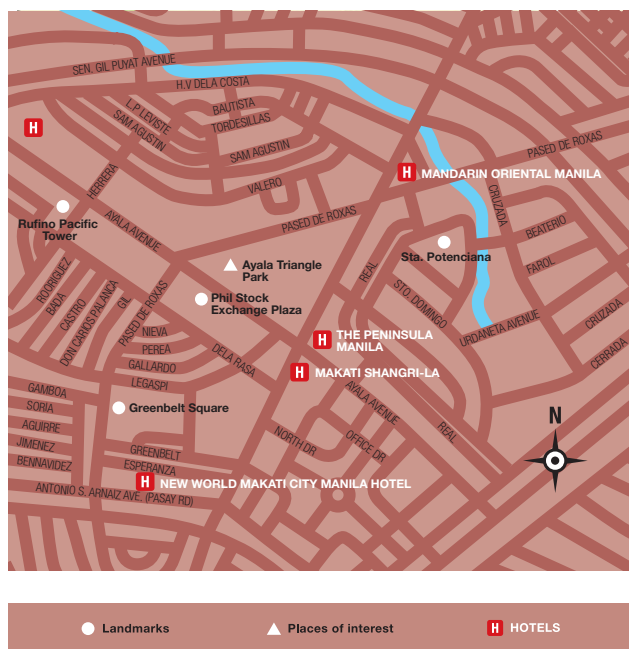
**Places of interest:** Intramuros, the original Spanish settlement; Casa Manila Museum; San Agustin Church and Museum; Malacañang

**Palace**, former residence of Spanish generals; **Las Pinas City**; **Roxas Boulevard**; **Rizal Park**, the largest park in Manila.

**For the family:** **Glorietta Mall**; The Enchanted Kingdom; **Makati Avenue**, Jupiter Street and Rockwell Center; Forbes Park.

**Best buys:** Everything from handicrafts to high fashion. Available at malls in **Makati** and flea markets in **Divisoria**.

**Out and about:** Nayong Pilipino Cultural Park; Tagaytay and Taal Volcano and Lake; Laguna's hot springs and Pagsanjan rapids.



## Makati Shangri-La ✓✓✓✓✓

**Location:** Makati Avenue.

The hotel is located at the centre of Manila's most prestigious business, shopping and entertainment district of Makati Avenue. This award-winning hotel offers exquisite comfort and world-class luxury just minutes away from the excitement and bargains of some of the largest shopping malls in the region. From its exceptionally spacious and beautifully appointed rooms to its lavish restaurants and exciting bars, its high-speed internet access to its full-service spa and fitness centre, Makati Shangri-La lives up to its reputation as Manila's leading hotel. Ninoy Aquino International Airport is nine kilometres away.

Each of the hotel's spacious guest rooms and suites are elegantly designed to provide maximum comfort, privacy and relaxation. The hotel's international restaurants and private lounges are known throughout the Philippines for their quality. For recreation, a fully-equipped gymnasium and spa are available.

**Facilities:** 699 rooms and suites. Seven restaurants, bar, 24-hour room service, shopping arcade, hairdresser, beauty salon, safety deposit boxes, business centre, babysitting, interconnecting and non-smoking rooms.



Deluxe Room

**Deluxe Rooms:** Air-conditioning, hairdryer, TV, fax machine, data ports, minibar, tea and coffee, iron and safe.

**Sports and leisure:** Outdoor pool and children's pool, 24-hour fully-equipped gymnasium, aerobics, spa, sauna, jacuzzi, steam bath, massage and tennis court.

**Check-in:** 1400 hours

**Check-out:** 1200 hours.



## The Peninsula Manila

**Location:** Makati Avenue.

Centrally located in Makati, Manila's premier commercial and financial district, and opposite the city's main shopping centre, the hotel is ideal for both business and leisure travellers. Its timeless design and elegantly furnished guest rooms are enhanced with artwork that showcases aspects of local culture. Ninoy Aquino International Airport is nine kilometres away.

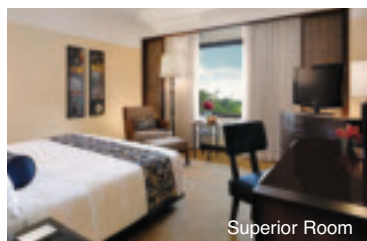
**Facilities:** 479 rooms and suites. Four restaurants, bar, 24-hour room service, hairdresser, beauty salon, safety deposit boxes, business centre, babysitting, interconnecting and non-smoking rooms.

**Superior Rooms:** Air-conditioning, hairdryer, bathrobe, TV, fax machine, data ports, high-speed internet access, minibar, tea and coffee and safe.

**Sports and leisure:** Outdoor pool, fitness centre, spa, sauna, jacuzzi and massage.

**Check-in:** 1400 hours

**Check-out:** 1200 hours.



Superior Room



Lobby

## Mandarin Oriental Manila

**Location:** City centre.

Located in the heart of Manila's business and financial district, this hotel is renowned for its sheer comfort, where the country's traditional hospitality is combined with the highest standards of service. With its many restaurants and bars this hotel is ideal for the business and leisure traveller. Ninoy Aquino International Airport is 28 kilometres away.

**Facilities:** 442 rooms and suites. Four restaurants, three bars, 24-hour room service, shops, beauty salon, safety deposit boxes and business centre.

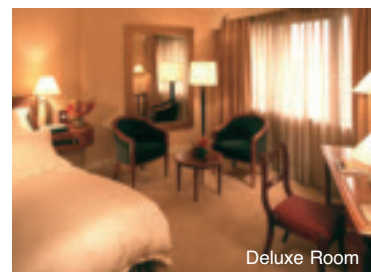
**Superior Rooms:** Air-conditioning, hairdryer, bathrobe, TV, data ports minibar and safe.

**Deluxe Rooms:** Additionally these rooms offer a spacious marble bathroom.

**Sports and leisure:** Outdoor swimming pool, 24-hour fitness centre and spa.

**Check-in:** 1400 hours

**Check-out:** 1200 hours.



Deluxe Room

## New World Makati City Manila Hotel



**Location:** Makati.

This hotel is a luxury retreat in the heart of the city and The Wall Street of the Philippines – the financial district of Manila. It is close to the smart and fashionable Greenbelt area of Ayala Centre and Glorietta shopping complexes is just a short walk away. Guest rooms are modern, luxuriously and stylishly appointed and fully-equipped. Ninoy Aquino International Airport is 10 kilometres away.

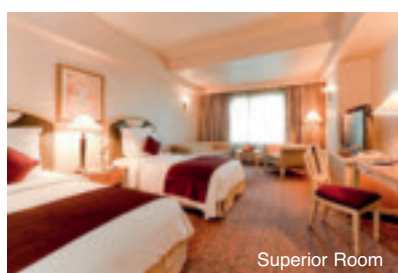
**Facilities:** 598 rooms and suites. Two restaurants, bar, 24-hour room service, safety deposit boxes, business centre, interconnecting and non-smoking rooms.

**Superior Rooms:** Air-conditioning, hairdryer, bathrobe, TV, data ports, minibar, tea and coffee, iron and safe.

**Sports and leisure:** Outdoor pool, fitness centre and spa.

**Check-in:** 1400 hours

**Check-out:** 1200 hours.



Superior Room





# Cebu

## Queen city of the south



Cebu, the bustling capital of the eponymous island province, is the oldest city in the Philippines – and Cebuanos are justly proud of their intellectual and historical heritage. Today the city, clustered around its natural harbour, is second only to Manila in commercial and cultural importance and is a focal point of growth and development in Southern Philippines.

Cebu, a fusion of traditional and modern, presents a kaleidoscope of varying cultures and lifestyles. The nightlife is amongst the most vibrant in the Philippines – bars, cafés, discos and nightclubs abound, especially around Colon Street and Osmeña Boulevard; there is a wide choice of excellent restaurants, particularly in the Ayala district, many specialising in the region's superb seafood; and there are two casinos.

In contrast to the lively metropolis, the province's 167 peaceful islets and islands are fringed with pristine white sandy beaches washed by the crystalline waters of the Cebu and Tanon Straits, where coral reefs harbour a colourful world of tropical marine life. Cebu has gained wide popularity for its excellent resorts, luxurious accommodation, world-class golf courses, and superb diving areas and diving facilities.

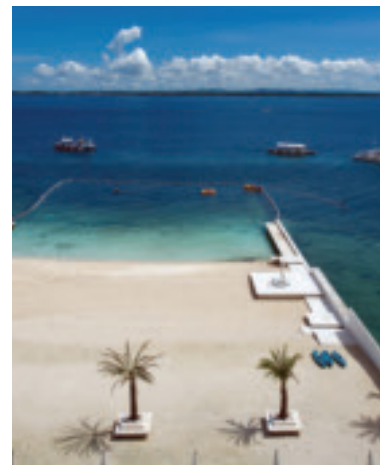
**Places of interest:** Magellan's Cross and Lapu Lapu Shrine; **Colon Street**, the oldest street in the country and part of Cebu's original Chinatown; **Fort San Pedro**, near the waterfront, dating back more than 500 years;

**San Agustin Church**, now known as the Basilica of Santo Niño, housing the country's oldest religious relic – the image of the Holy Child presented to Queen Juana by Magellan; **University of San Carlos Museum**.

**For the family:** **Jumalon Butterfly Sanctuary & Art Gallery**; Moalboal Orchid Display.

**Best buys:** Hand-made craft products, traditional wood carvings and sculptures; antiques; **hand-crafted guitars** and ukuleles made of jackfruit wood.

**Out and about:** **Mactan's beaches**; **Bohol**, just across the Tanon Strait, renowned for its curious geological formations, lush forests and rare species of flora and fauna.



Hand-crafted guitars





## Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa



**Location:** Mactan Island.

Situated on the tropical island of Cebu, this resort is a lush garden retreat ideal for leisure travellers. This contemporary resort has its own private beach cove and beautiful views of the sea. It is a haven for families with children as there are plenty of activities to keep them busy. Mactan-Cebu International Airport is 15 kilometres away.



**Facilities:** 547 rooms and suites. Four restaurants, two bars, 24-hour room service, business centre, children's activities and children's playground.



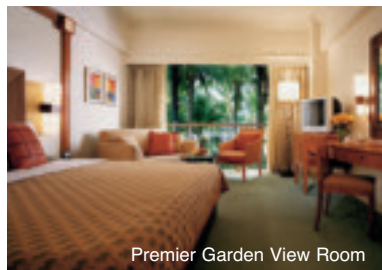
### Premier Garden View Rooms:

Air-conditioning, hairdryer, TV, data port, minibar and safe.

**Sports and leisure:** Outdoor pool and children's pool, fitness centre, spa, sauna, steam bath, tennis court, jet-skiing, parasailing, windsurfing, scuba diving and snorkelling.

**Check-in:** 1400 hours

**Check-out:** 1200 hours.



Premier Garden View Room



## Hilton Cebu Resort & Spa

**Location:** Mactan Island.

Set within tropical gardens overlooking Mactan Island, this resort is ideal for leisure travellers. You can unwind on the private beach or infinity pool and indulge in the spa. Cebu City with its International Convention Center, shops, 24-hour casinos and nightlife are a short drive away. Mactan-Cebu International Airport is 15 kilometres away.

**Facilities:** 320 rooms and suites. Three restaurants, three bars, 24-hour room service, shop, safety deposit boxes, business centre, children's club, children's play area and babysitting.

**Deluxe Rooms:** Air-conditioning, hairdryer, bathrobe, TV, DVD, data port, minibar, tea and coffee and safe.

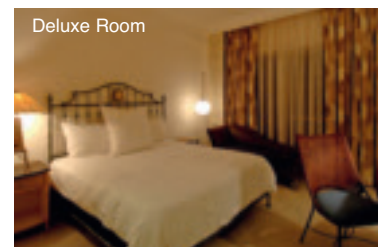
**Sports and leisure:** Outdoor pool and children's pool, fitness centre, spa, tennis court, jet-skiing, scuba diving and snorkelling.

**Check-in:** 1400 hours

**Check-out:** 1200 hours.



Deluxe Room



## Maribago Bluewater Beach Resort



**Location:** Mactan Island.

Set in five hectares of impeccably groomed and beautifully landscaped grounds, this resort is ideal for travellers on a budget.



The beautiful island of Mactan is called the 'Pearl of the South'. The shopping, fine dining and gambling attractions of Cebu City are a 40-minute drive away. Mactan-Cebu International Airport is 20 kilometres away.

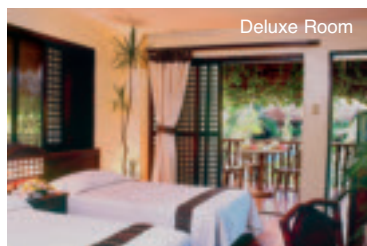
**Facilities:** 104 rooms and suites. Two restaurants, two bars, limited hours of room service, shop, beauty salon, safety deposit boxes, business centre, children's activities and children's play area.

**Deluxe Rooms:** Air-conditioning, TV and minibar.

**Sports and leisure:** Outdoor pool and children's pool, massage, table tennis, tennis court, volleyball court, beach volleyball, boating, scuba diving and snorkelling.

**Check-in:** 1400 hours

**Check-out:** 1200 hours.



Deluxe Room





# Boracay/Marinduque/Lagen Islands

## Havens of serenity



Boracay Island

## Boracay Island

### Much more than just a great place to relax

Most visitors agree that Boracay, only seven kilometres long and one kilometre wide at its narrowest point, is all that a tropical Pacific island should be – combining clear warm waters, white sand beaches shaded by palms, a profusion of plants and flowers, extensive marine life and pretty villages linked by winding paths. White Beach is one of the most famous stretches of beach in the country and is about four kilometres long lined with resorts, hotels, houses and restaurants. It features bright, fine sand and clear shallow waters.

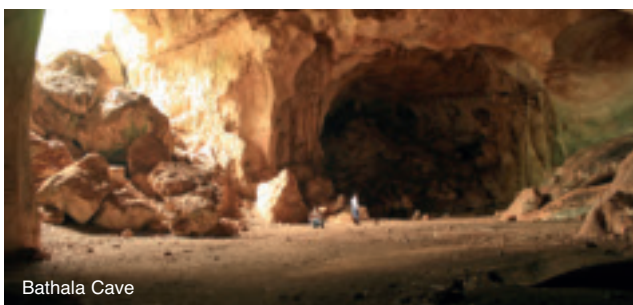
But there is much more to the island than just natural beauty. With accommodation ranging from modern resorts to casual dive lodges, a vast range of sporting activities, a challenging 18-hole, par-72 world-class golf course, intriguing shops and markets, a host of bars and restaurants, and its warm, friendly people, Boracay is much more than merely a great place in which to relax.

## Marinduque Island

### Tranquil island of beaches

Marinduque is a treasure trove of exquisite natural beauty. This island of 370 square miles is dotted with various white sand beaches, well-preserved diving sites, enchanting caves, rejuvenating hot springs and tranquil islets that provide for the perfect gateway.

Being an island of volcanic origin, hot springs are a common feature in the island. Caves are also natural feature of the island. For diving enthusiasts, the best dive sites in the island can be found in Buena Vista town in the vicinity of the Tres Reyes Islands.



Bathala Cave

## Lagen Island

### Caves, coves, cliffs and lagoons

Situated in Bacuit Bay in Palawan's remote northern province of El Nido, Lagen must be amongst the loveliest of the more than 7,000 islands that make up the Philippines archipelago. Washed by the crystal-clear waters of the South China Sea, the shoreline of sandy coves is towered over by sheer limestone cliffs set against dense forests.

Lagen is situated within the El Nido Marine Reserve Park with its immense diversity of marine life – over 200 species of fish, more than 100 corals and giant clam gardens. It is the nesting ground of three types of sea turtles and dolphins, whale sharks and dugongs feed here. On land, there are more than 70 species of birds.

**Places of interest:** **Boracay Island** – Kar-Tir Shell Museum; Caves of the Flying Dogs, home to giant fruit bats; Mount Luho; the Dead Forest.

**Marinduque Island** – Paadyao Cascades; Bathala Caves; Red Mountain; Boac's exuberantly Gothic cathedral.

**Lagen Island** – See Bacuit Bay and its spectacular scenery on an island hopping boat. Miniloc Island's lagoons, ringed by vertical cliffs, are exceptionally lovely.

**For the family:** **Boracay Island** – Outrigger or motor boat cruises; Kingfisher's Fish Farm; Balabag, Diniwid, White and Punta beaches.

**Marinduque Island** – WHS Butterfly Farm; Marinduque Museum; take part in the Moriones, a spectacularly colourful religious festival preceding Easter.

**Lagen Island** – Walk through the island's evergreen rainforest, where monkeys and Palawan Hornbills may be seen.

**Best buys:** **Boracay Island** – Beach wear and T-shirts; Talipapa market for fashion and specialty shops; open-air markets feature antique furniture, lamps and native woodcarvings; puka shells.

**Marinduque Island** – Handicrafts, including Moriones Festival masks.

**Lagen Island** – Handicrafts, T-shirts, beachwear and sarongs.

**Out and about:** **Boracay Island** – Resorts, restaurants and bars feature music, dancing and cultural shows.

**Marinduque Island** – White Beach at Barangay Pootoy is a social centre of the island.

**Lagen Island** – El Nido town has a good selection of restaurants and bars, many with views across the bay.

**Sporting attractions:** **Boracay Island** – Diving and snorkelling; sailing; windsurfing; kite boarding; banana-boat riding; golf; horseriding; tennis; mountain biking; hiking; motor biking and wall climbing.

**Marinduque Island** – Golf (nine-hole course), diving and cock fighting.

**Lagen Island** – Diving, snorkelling, kayaking, fishing and cliff climbing.



## Shangri-La's Boracay Resort and Spa ✓✓✓✓✓



**Location:** Boracay Island.

This spectacular resort situated on a lush hillside within an eco-reserve offers sensational luxury accommodation and impressive variety of restaurants and leisure facilities to its discerning guests. Guest rooms are luxuriously designed in a classic yet contemporary style infused with local cultural influences. Caticlan's Godofredo Ramos Domestic Airport is 20 kilometres away.

**Facilities:** 219 rooms and suites. Four restaurants, three bars, 24-hour room service, shopping arcade, safety deposit boxes, business centre, children's activities, babysitting, interconnecting and non-smoking rooms.

**Premier Beachfront Rooms:** These rooms offer a sea view. Balcony, air-conditioning, hairdryer, bathrobe, TV, DVD, iPod docking station, data ports, minibar, tea and coffee, iron and safe.

**Sports and leisure:** Outdoor pool, fitness centre, spa, sauna, jacuzzi, steam bath, massage and tennis courts.

**Check-in:** 1400 hours

**Check-out:** 1200 hours.



Premier Beachfront Room



## Bellarocca Island Resort &amp; Spa ✓✓✓✓✓

**Location:** Marinduque Island.

This unique resort, the only resort on the island, is located off the south-west coast of Marinduque Island, characterised by seaside cliffs, valleys, hills, hot springs, waterfalls and underwater flora and fauna. The rooms are comfortably arranged to offer elegance and luxurious comfort with a touch of home-like essence. Marinduque's Gasan Airport is 30 kilometres away.

**Facilities:** 69 rooms and suites. Three restaurants, three bars, limited hours of room service, business centre, children's activities, babysitting and non-smoking rooms.

**Deluxe Rooms:** Balcony, air-conditioning, hairdryer, bathrobe, TV, DVD, iPod docking station, data ports, minibar, tea and coffee and safe.

**Sports and leisure:** Windsurfing, jet-skiing, outdoor pool, children's pool, fitness centre, massage, golf course and jogging track.

**Check-in:** 0900 hours

**Check-out:** 0600 hours.



Deluxe Room

## El Nido Lagen Island Resort ✓✓✓✓✓



**Location:** Lagen Island.

This resort offers a scenic landscape, crystal clear waters, relative isolation that attracts and fascinates its guests, as well as endless opportunities for adventure, nature appreciation or even just simple pleasures. Guest rooms are traditionally designed with antique wood floors, old wood furnishing from Filipino houses and private veranda with views of the tropical forest, the cove, the cliffs, the bay and the sunset. El Nido's Lio Airport is 15 kilometres away.

**Facilities:** 50 rooms and suites. Restaurant, two bars, limited hours of room service, safety deposit boxes, business centre and non-smoking rooms.

**Forest Rooms:** Balcony, air-conditioning, hairdryer, bathrobe, TV, CD and minibar.

**Sports and leisure:** Scuba-diving, sailing, kayaking, snorkelling, outdoor pool, spa and massage.

**Check-in:** 1400 hours

**Check-out:** 1200 hours.



Forest Room

