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The Philippines

Dive highlights

Southern Visayas

Balicasag and Cabilao Islands have some of the best diving in the Philippines. Balicasag has vertical walls over deep water in strong currents. This allows for healthy corals and good fish life with plenty of pelagic visitors. Cabilao is noted for the sightings of hammerhead sharks in deeper waters. Although recent years have seen a decline in the numbers seen here, the strong currents continue to attract other pelagic visitors in abundance. Apo Island is generally considered the most successful marine sanctuary in the Philippines, with good healthy corals and fish numbers. Whitetip reef sharks can be seen on many of the dive sites. Excellent macro photography opportunities can be found near to Dumaguete on Negros.

Southern Leyte

Sogod Bay in Southern Leyte offers wonderful scuba diving with spectacular dive sites in one of the Philippines' most recently discovered dive destinations, which is now becoming recognised worldwide. The prolific marine life ranges from pygmy seahorses through to whale sharks, and there is also an incredible variety of extremely healthy and undamaged hard and soft coral. Sogod Bay offers a plethora of pristine reefs and you will probably be the only one at any given site dived during your stay. Indeed, much of the area is essentially virgin territory and as a result we are still discovering new dive sites. You can experience all this in a beautiful and peaceful tropical setting and truly relax and enjoy your holiday.



Boracay via Apo Reef to the Wrecks of Coron

Apo Reef is a marine sanctuary on a large off-shore reef system offering drop-offs and overhangs where whitetip reef and grey reef sharks, turtles, barracuda and shoals of snapper are common. The World War II wrecks around Busuanga Island, particularly in Coron Bay, are a condensed version of Truk Lagoon in Micronesia. The visibility is variable, but the wrecks are not that deep and the currents not that strong. There are twelve wrecks that are dived most frequently but others are being discovered. Coron has an extinct volcanic lake in which you can dive. Guarded by a large barracuda, the unique feature of this dive is that the deeper you go, the hotter the water temperature gets!

Special extended trips

Tubbataha Reef National Park is strictly a liveaboard destination and is where you'll find the Philippines' best diving. Everything is big, and large animals are guaranteed. Strong currents can be experienced here and the reef consists of vertical walls or near drop-offs rising out of great depths. The shallow reef-tops are teeming with local reef fish; in many places stingrays, spiny lobsters, immature manta rays, turtles and guitar sharks are common. The angelfish, butterfly fish, rainbow runners, Moorish idols and fusiliers are abundant. Snappers and sweetlips seem to follow you around everywhere. You'll see large trevally, tuna and barracuda as well as grey reef sharks patrolling the reef as manta rays and eagle rays fly overhead.



Itineraries and pricing

Southern Visayas

Itinerary:

Southern Visayas starts Mactan Island, Cebu and ends Mactan Island, Cebu

Sailing: All year round

Vessel: SY Philippine Siren

Duration:

10 days/10 nights

Tariff:

€2,400*pp

Average regional air temperature

21°C - 32°C

Average regional water temperature

26°C - 31°C

These temperatures are a guide only. This is an estimation based on previous conditions

Southern Leyte and Bohol

Itinerary:

Southern Leyte and Bohol starts Mactan Island, Cebu and ends Mactan Island, Cebu

Sailing from: January to April

Vessel: SY Philippine Siren

Duration:

10 days/10 nights

Tariff:

€2,400*pp



**Boracay to Coron
via Apo Reef**

Itinerary:

Boracay to Coron starts
on Boracay Island and
ends on Coron
(or in reverse)

Sailing from: November to January

Vessel: SY Philippine Siren

Duration:
10 days/10 nights

Tariff:
€2,400*pp

**Special extended trips
taking in Tubbataha Reef**

Itinerary:

Special extended trips taking in
Tubbataha Reef start in Puerto
Princesa, Palawan and ends
on Mactan Island, Cebu
(or in reverse)

Sailing from: February to March

Vessel: SY Philippine Siren

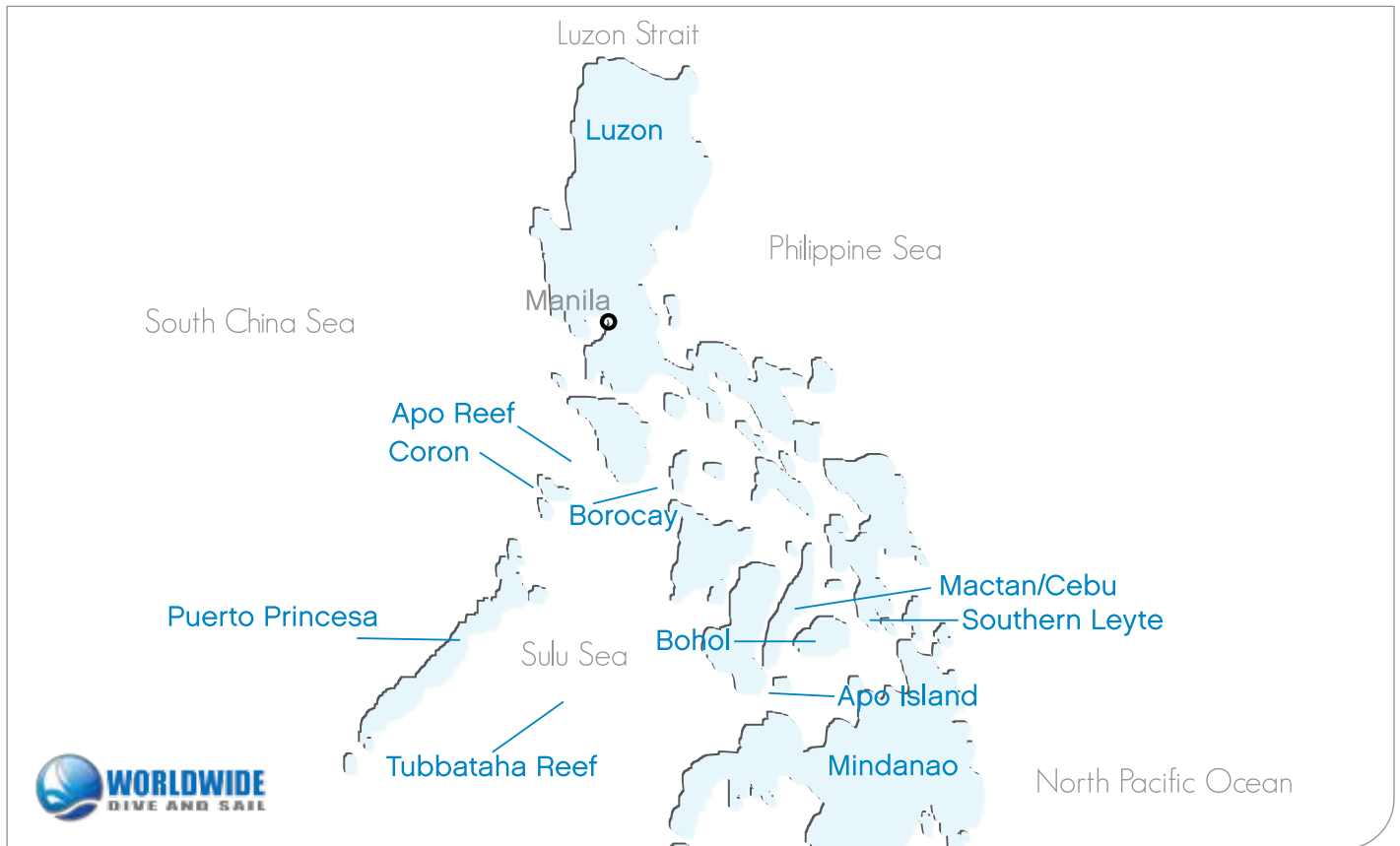
Duration:
14 days/13 nights

Tariff:
€3,500*pp

*All prices are subject to change and availability. Correct at time of going to print October 09



Destination guide: The Philippines



Land ahoy

Before or after your dive trip

Gaze in wonder at the breathtaking UNESCO-listed rice terraces of Banawe, which ring the mountain sides to an impressive altitude of 1,525m (5,000ft), and encompass an area of 10,360 sq km (4,000 sq miles). The terraces were hand carved some 2,000 years ago! See the world's smallest monkey, the tarsier, on Bohol Island, which is also home to fascinating natural wonders that include hundreds of limestone hills resembling oversized chocolate drops, nicknamed the "Chocolate Hills".

