



Mindanao & Sulu

Includes »

Cagayan de Oro.....	331
Malaybalay & Around...	338
Iligan.....	339
Marawi & Lake Lanao...	340
Camiguin.....	341
Butuan.....	346
Surigao.....	347
Siargao.....	349
Davao.....	354
General Santos (Dadiangas).....	362
Zamboanga & Around.....	364
Sulu Islands.....	368

Best Places to Eat

- » Night Café (p335)
- » Kawayan (p353)
- » Claude's Café (p358)
- » Alavar Seafood House (p367)

Best Places to Stay

- » Camiguin Action Geckos Resort (p345)
- » Sagana Beach Resort (p353)
- » Ponce Suites (p355)
- » Chema's by the Sea Resort (p360)

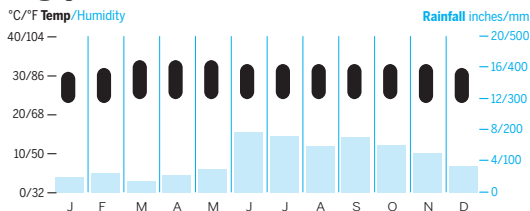
Why Go?

Despite boasting jaw-dropping beaches, killer surf, rugged mountain ranges and indigenous cultures living very much as they have for centuries, Mindanao remains off the tourism industry's radar. Of course, the conflict that has ebbed and flowed now for several generations bears much of the responsibility. That's not to say there isn't urbanisation – much of the northern coastline has been paved over, and the southern city of Davao is cosmopolitan and sophisticated – just that much of what has been lost elsewhere in the Philippines is alive in Mindanao.

Though it's big and bulky, because of its varied ethnographic make-up, competing land claims and highly prized abundant natural resources, Mindanao can seem under-sized. Since the 1950s Muslims have been the minority and are the majority in only four of the 21 provinces, where 14,000 sq km are given over to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), an area that includes islands stretching towards Malaysia and Indonesia.

When to Go

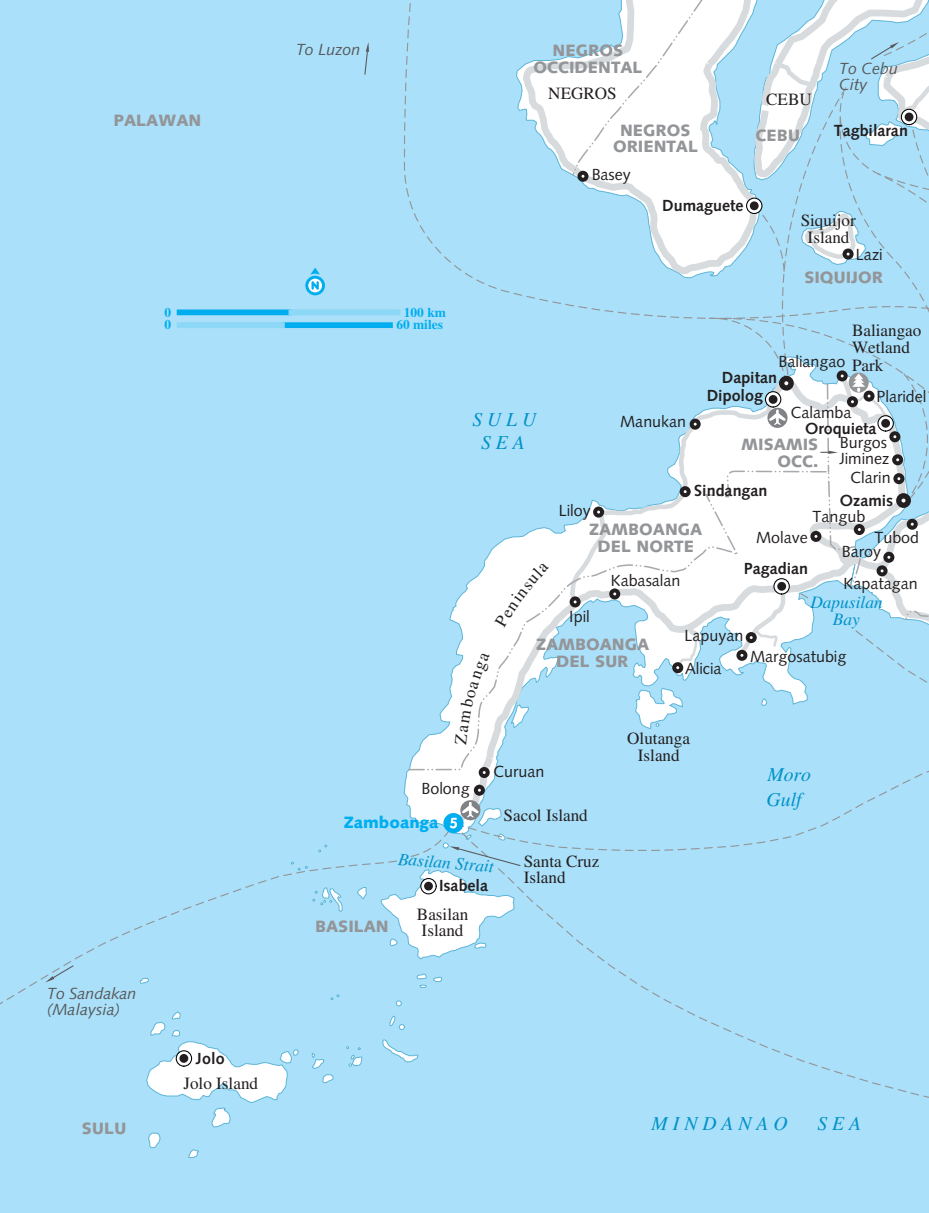
Cagayan De Oro



Jun-Sep The driest season on the eastern seaboard.

Nov-Mar The wettest season on the eastern seaboard.

Nov-Apr The driest season for most of the island.



Mindanao & Sulu Highlights

1 Hop from natural springs to waterfalls around lush **Camiguin** (p341)

2 Catch a wave at **Cloud Nine** (p352), the surf break on Siargao

3 Roll through white water on the **Cagayan de Oro River** (p338)