



Palawan

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Coron Town & Busuanga Island	396
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Best Places to Eat

- » Fresh grilled fish on a bangka cruising through the Bacuit Archipelago (p394)
- » Kalui (p377)
- » Beachfront restaurants in El Nido (p392)
- » Badjao Seafront Restaurant (p377)

Best Places to Stay

- » Nipa hut in a remote fishing village (p386)
- » Sangat Island Reserve (p399)
- » Flower Island Beach Resort (p388)
- » Daluyon Resort (p382)
- » Krystal Lodge (p397)

Why Go?

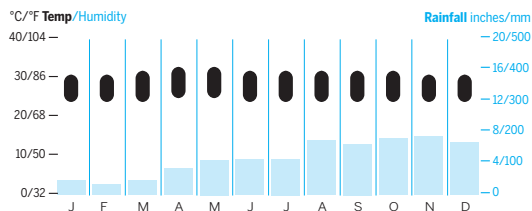
Nothing defines Palawan more than the water around it. With seascapes the equal of any in Southeast Asia, and wild-life terrestrial and aquatic, the Philippines' most sparsely populated region is also the most beguiling. Because of its silhouette – a long sliver stretching 650km all the way to Borneo – there's a certain liberating logic to travel here.

Centrally located Puerto Princesa (Puerto) is the culinary capital and primary gateway to nearby rural and oceanfront tranquillity. The majority of travellers go north, without question the highlight. Skimming along in bangkas around a maze of uninhabited islands feels somewhat post-apocalyptic.

The coastline serves as an alternative highway ferrying travellers between fishing villages and tourist-friendly towns. In the south where the topography is more rugged, it's possible to explore jungle-clad mountains though facilities are decidedly rustic. Diving and island-hopping snorkelling trips in the Bacuit archipelago and Calamianes group manage to captivate both those seeking adventure and those wanting to unwind.

When to Go

Puerto Princesa



Mar-early May
The best time for sea travel.

May-Oct The southwest monsoon, with heavy rain at least in the afternoon.

Nov-Feb Cooler and drier, a popular time to go.



Palawan Highlights

- 1 Snorkel your way in and out of lagoons – nature's aquariums – in the **Bacuit Archipelago** (p394)
- 2 Wriggle through the portholes of WWII-era wrecks while diving around **Busuanga Island** (p396)
- 3 Move to the slow village pace, from hammock to beach and back again, in **Port Barton** (p385)
- 4 Make the most of a day in **Sabang** (p381), from floating through the cavernous darkness of the underground river to chilling on the beach at sunset
- 5 Breeze through the countryside outside **Puerto Princesa** (p373) on a motorcycle