



# Palawan

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## Best Beaches

- ➔ North Cay Island (p412)
- ➔ Nacpan & Calitang Beaches (p398)
- ➔ Secret Beach (p405)
- ➔ Malcapuya Island (p412)
- ➔ Sabang (p389)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Sangat Island Reserve (p409)
- ➔ Flower Island Beach Resort (p395)
- ➔ El Nido Overlooking (p400)
- ➔ Al Faro Cosmio Hotel (p409)

## Why Go?

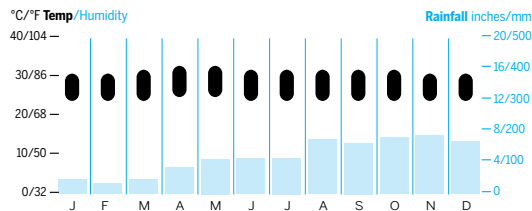
Nothing defines Palawan more than the water around it. With seascapes the equal of any in Southeast Asia, and wild-life terrestrial and aquatic, the Philippines' most sparsely populated region is also the most beguiling. Because of its silhouette – a long sliver stretching 650km all the way to Borneo – 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 ocean-front tranquillity. The majority of travellers go north to El Nido or Coron town, base camps for island-hopping, snorkelling and diving adventures in the Bacuit Archipelago and Calamianes group.

The coastline serves as an alternative highway ferrying travellers in bangkas between fishing villages, tourist-friendly towns and a maze of uninhabited islands. In the south where the topography is more rugged it's possible to explore jungle-clad mountains, though facilities are decidedly rustic.

## When to Go

### Puerto Princesa



**Mar–early May**  
The best time for sea travel.

**June–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** (p403).
- 2 Wriggle through the portheoles of WWII-era wrecks while diving around **Busuanga Island** (p405).
- 3 Move to the slow village pace, from hammock to beach and back again, in **Port Barton** (p392).
- 4 Make the most of a day in **Sabang** (p389), 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** (p380) on a motorcycle.