



TRAVEL THE UNKNOWN

TAKE THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED

BEST OF THE ISLANDS

14 days



Countries visited

Philippines • India

Tour Highlights

- Historical tour of Cebu
- Chocolate Hills and tarsiers in Bohol
- The walled city of Intramuros in Manila
- Explore the dramatic underground river in Palawan
- Witness smoking Mount Mayon - the perfect conical volcano
- Kayak on Bulusan crater lake
- Relax, snorkel or go fishing on remote Ticao Island
- Sample delicious Bicolano cuisine

Places visited

Cebu • Bohol • Siquijor • Dumaguete • Palawan • Manila • Legazpi • Ticao Island • San Jacinto

What's included

- Airport transfers
- Domestic flights
- Accommodation
- Most meals (refer to itinerary for meal plan)
- Entrance fees to sites & parks
- Ground transport and driver
- Local guides
- Activities as per itinerary

What's not included

- Meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Drinks
- Visa fees
- Tipping
- Camera / video camera fees
- Personal items (laundry, telephone, etc.)
- Medical expenses
- Any services not mentioned in itinerary

All accommodation subject to availability. Final accommodation choices will be confirmed after booking.

Your Itinerary Map



Your Itinerary Explained

Date	Place visited	Meals
	<p>The first part of the text in each day is the itinerary schedule and will explain what you will normally see/do during this day of your itinerary.</p> <p>---</p> <p><i>The part of the day's text in italics (and comes after the three dashes "---") is background information on the places or sites on that day of your itinerary. It is not part of your itinerary and may mention places that will not be visited on your itinerary. If you have any questions please ask us. Travel times where noted are only meant as a guideline.</i></p>	<p>B: Breakfast</p> <p>L: Lunch</p> <p>D: Dinner</p>

Tour Itinerary

Day 1	Cebu	Meals
 <p>Cebu</p>	<p>Arrive in Cebu where you will be met by a Travel The Unknown representative and transferred to the hotel. The evening is free at your leisure. Overnight in Cebu.</p> <p>---</p> <p><i>Cebu is a significant cultural centre for the Philippines. The Roman Catholic influence is evident in the city's most famous landmark, Magellan's Cross which is now housed in a chapel and was reputed to be planted by Ferdinand Magellan after he landed in the Philippines in 1521. The Basilica Minore del Santo Nino was the first church to be established on the islands and house the country's oldest relic, a figure of the Santo Nino de Cebu.</i></p> <p><i>Overnight in Costabella Tropical Beach Resort, Cebu</i></p>	<p>N/A</p>
Day 2	Cebu - Bohol	Meals
 <p>Bohol</p>	<p>Enjoy a morning city tour of Cebu and see its main sights including Santo Nino Church, San Diego Yap Museum and Fort San Pedro. Later, transfer to Bohol by ferry. The rest of the day is free to relax or explore. Overnight in Bohol.</p> <p>---</p> <p><i>The island of Bohol is famous for its white sandy beaches and being the home of tarsiers, the second smallest primate in the world. It is a hotspot for diving, but it also boasts the dramatic landscape of rice terraces, the Chocolate Hills and thick jungle. The island's towns reveal some of the best examples of Spanish Colonial churches, many of which are made from coral stone.</i></p> <p><i>Overnight in Bohol Beach Club, Bohol</i></p>	<p>B</p>

Day 3	Bohol	Meals
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The Philippine Tarsier

Spend the day touring Bohol and the Chocolate Hills. Enjoy a Loboc River Cruise and visit the Philippines Tarsier and Wildlife Sanctuary to see the tarsiers, the world's smallest primate. The rest of the day is free at your leisure. Overnight in Bohol.

B

*Bohol's main attraction has to be the **Chocolate Hills**. Located in the heart of the island, the rolling terrain consists of hills of limestone covered in grass. During the dry season, the grass turns chocolate brown, giving the hills their name. According to legend, the hills were formed by the tears of a giant who was heartbroken by the death of a mortal he was in love with.*

***The Philippine tarsier** is the world's smallest primate. The nocturnal creatures live on a diet of insects although a lot of folk traditions believe that they eat charcoal. However, this stems from tarsiers being seen retrieving insects from charred wood. They are commonly found on the islands of Bohol, Leyte, Mindanao and Samar. Although tarsiers are a protected species, they are threatened by the destruction of their forest habitat due to years of logging and without conservation efforts could soon become extinct. Tarsiers belong to the prosimian suborder of primates and are closely related to lemurs, lorises and bushbabies.*

Overnight in Bohol Beach Club, Bohol

Day 4	Bohol - Siquijor	Meals
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Siquijor

Transfer to Siquijor via ferry. The rest of the day is free at your leisure. Overnight in Siquijor.

B

*The third smallest province in the Philippines and one of the Visayan Islands, **Siquijor** is commonly known as the 'Island of Fire' for its abundance of fireflies, which light up the night as they swarm the branches of the molave trees. Fishing is the island's main economic source, whilst the land is primarily used for agriculture. Siquijor is often associated with mystic traditions and has gained a reputation of magic and witchcraft, not only as a result of the eerie glow of the fireflies, but also for its healing ritual festivals and mountain-dwelling 'mangkukulam' (healers), who brew 'potions' of traditional ointments for modern ailments.*

Overnight in Coco Grove Beach Resort, Siquijor

Day 5	Siquijor	Meals
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Siquijor

Go on a tour around Siquijor Island. The rest of the day is free to relax or explore. Overnight in Siquijor.

B

Overnight in Coco Grove Beach Resort, Siquijor

Day 6	Siquijor - Dumaguete	Meals
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Dumaguete

After breakfast, take a ferry to Dumaguete where the rest of the day is free at your leisure. Overnight in Dumaguete.

*The centre of the Negros Oriental's 20 municipalities and 5 cities, the busy interisland-shipping port of **Dumaguete City** is a thriving community of peace-loving and hospitable people. A quaint and charming place, Dumaguete is rich in history and culture, as well as in natural resources. Though a lot calmer than the usual metropolitan city, Dumaguete is not completely devoid of urbane life, with its cosmopolitan harbour promenade lined with upmarket bars, restaurants and food stalls thriving off Dumaguete's identity as a university town. While the Philippines in general is famous for its hospitality, tourists and locals all enjoy the laidback and casual Dumaguete lifestyle, earning it the name of 'the City of Gentle People'.*

Overnight in Pura Vida, Dumaguete

B

Day 7	Dumaguete - Manila - Palawan	Meals
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Palawan

Transfer to the airport to catch your flight to Manila. Connect with a flight to Puerto Princesa in Palawan, where the rest of the day is free. Overnight in Palawan.

*The least populated region of the Philippines, **Palawan** is famous for its pristine beaches and cool blue waters. Bursting with flora and fauna, the island is home to 200 species of bird and over 600 species of butterfly. Endemic species such as the Palawan Peacock, Philippine Mouse-deer, Philippine Pangolin and the Palawan Bearded Pig call the forests their home. Endangered sea turtles nest on the island's beaches and the sea surrounding the island shelters the largest population of dugongs in the Philippines.*

Overnight in One Manalo Place, Palawan

B

Day 8	Palawan	Meals
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Puerto Princesa
Underground
River

In the morning, take a tour of the Underground River which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. In the afternoon, visit a mangrove forest. The evening is free at your leisure. Overnight in Palawan.

*In 2012, it was officially confirmed that the **Puerto Princesa Underground River** had been chosen to be one of the New Seven Wonders of Nature. During 2010, environmentalists and geologists discovered that the underground river has a second floor, meaning that there are waterfalls inside the cave. They also found a large domed cave with rock formations and large bats, a deep water hole, and many marine creatures. The subterranean river is part of the **Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park** and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site status for its karst landscape and biodiversity. The river itself is unique because it flows directly to the sea and the lower part of it is subject to ocean tides.*

Overnight in One Manalo Place, Palawan

B

Day 9

Palawan - Manila

Meals



Manila

Transfer to the airport for a flight to Manila and transfer to the hotel. The rest of the day is free at your leisure. Overnight in Manila.

*Intramuros is the oldest district and historic centre of **Manila**. Originally founded in 1571, the city had been invaded many times over the years by Chinese pirates, and Japanese, American, and British forces. At its peak, Intramuros instilled fear into Spain's enemies and was the only city of its kind in Asia. It survived until WWII, where it was destroyed by US bombs during the Battle of Manila.*

Overnight in The Bayleaf Intramuros, Manila

B

Day 10

Manila - Legazpi

Meals



Manila

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Legazpi. Visit the Japanese Tunnel before exploring Daraga Church and the Cagsawa Ruins at the foot of Mount Mayon Volcano. Overnight in Legazpi.

*Also known as 'Our Lady of the Gate Parish Church', **Daraga Church** was built after Mount Mayon destroyed the one in Cagsawa. It is regarded as a crowning glory of religious architecture in the Albay province and stands as a testament of resilience and faith of the Bicolano people. Built from volcanic rock, the details of the facade have been eroded from over 200 years of exposure to the elements. To save it, a lime coating has been applied and it is hoped that the church will stand for years to come.*

*Considered to be one of the Philippines' best tourist attractions, **Mount Mayon** is only 15 kilometers from bustling Legazpi. This mighty volcano is regarded as a 'perfect volcano' due to its almost symmetrical conical shape. The most active one in the Philippines, it has attracted many visitors to its national park. Mount Mayon's most destructive explosion happened in February 1814, when it belched out thick black ash which bombarded the town of Cagsawa and buried it completely. Its longest uninterrupted eruption was on June 23 1897 which lasted for seven days. Fire rained down on the surrounding settlements and the town of Bacacay was buried under the lava.*

*Home to black sand beaches, ancient buildings and beautiful religious architecture, **Legazpi** is known for its volcano Mount Mayon, the most active volcano in the Philippines. It is part of the Pacific Ring of Fire and attracts visitors to its National Park where they get stunning panoramic views of Legazpi. Legazpi is also known as 'the city of fun and adventure' as there are plenty of historical buildings and ruins to explore such as the Cagsawa Ruins.*

Overnight in Siana Hotel, Legazpi

B

Day 11

Legazpi - Lake Bulusan - Ticao Island

Meals



Bulusan Lake

There is an early morning option to visit a local market. After breakfast, visit Lake Bulusan where you can bird watch, trek around the lake and do water activities such as kayaking. Afterwards, visit Balay Buhay Bee Farm for lunch and explore the local communities there. Transfer to the port to catch the boat to Ticao Island. Overnight on Ticao Island.

*Bulusan, which translates as 'where water flows', is truly a sight to behold with its beautiful waterfalls, springs and lakes, not to mention its majestic volcano set at the foot of a crater lake. A boat can be taken across **Lake Bulusan**, so that visitors can see the magnificent volcano in all its glory and explore the bamboo huts, the endemic bird species and hidden grottos.*

Overnight in Ticao Island Resort, Ticao Island

B

Day 12

Ticao Island - San Miguel - Ticao Island

Meals



Ticao Island

In the morning, take a boat to San Miguel (30 mins) where you have the opportunity to kayak, snorkel or dive. The afternoon is free at your leisure. Head back to the hotel where you can watch a cookery demonstration showcasing Bicolano cuisine. Overnight on Ticao Island.

Ticao is an untouched tropical island and the perfect retreat for any traveller. Visitors can take a stroll down the island's one street or visit the mangroves in the evening. They can even take part in the daily life of the island's inhabitants, going fishing with the fishermen and visiting the cattle ranch, the only one of its kind in the area. For the more adventurous, there are many dive spots as well as areas that are perfect for snorkelling and surfing.

Overnight in Ticao Island Resort, Ticao Island

B

Day 13

Ticao Island

Meals



San Jacinto

A day to relax. Options include lazing on the beach, fishing with the local fishermen or visiting cattle farms and the town of San Jacinto. In the evening, take a dug-out canoe to the mangroves to see the fireflies which light up the trees. Overnight in Ticao Island.

*Located on the idyllic Ticao Island with its pristine beaches, **San Jacinto** is a beautiful port on the island. Known for fishing, it became a station for galleon ships in 16th and 17th century, it still has some of the remains of colonial Spanish rule in the architecture of its houses and streets. The island itself is popular with tourists seeking somewhere to relax or some adventure with its firefly-lighted mangroves and numerous diving and surfing hotspots.*

Overnight in Ticao Island Resort, Ticao Island

B

Day 14

Departure

Meals



Flight

Transfer from Ticao Island to Legazpi for your flight to Manila. Connect to your onward flight home.

B