

Honeymoon

isles of bliss



PHILIPPINES





IN LOVE IN PARADISE

For the holiday that's all about the two of you, the Philippines offers the freedom and seclusion to do as much or as little as you please. Together you can experience a honeymoon made memorable by magical islands, great resorts, a vibrant nightlife, delightful people and a diverse culture rich in history, art, festivals and delectable cuisine.

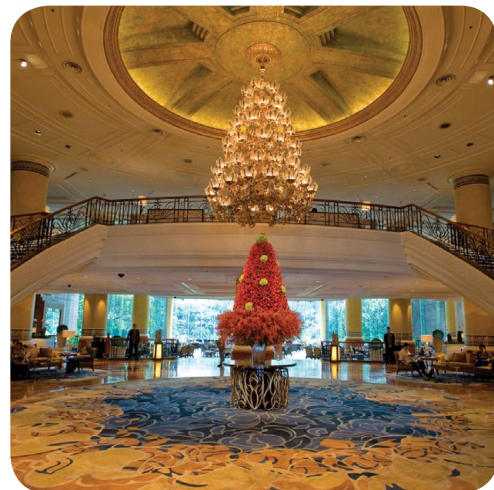
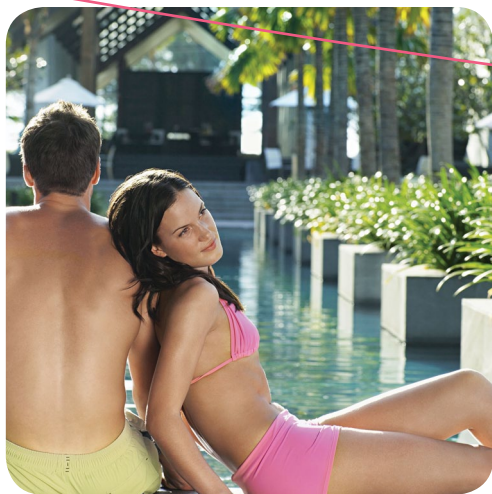
Just seven and a half hours from Australia, your Aussie dollar goes a lot further in the Philippines – and you'll find plenty to indulge in this idyllic archipelago known for the welcoming, English-speaking Filipinos. Thousands of islands provide perfect settings for your honeymoon indulgences, each boasting stunning natural features that'll have you coming back for anniversaries. If natural wonders aren't your only thing, however, Manila's and Cebu's cosmopolitan blend of malls, spas, markets, restaurants and urban spunk will wow the city-slickers within you.

QUICK FACTS

- The Philippines is the third largest English-speaking country in the world
- There are 7,107 islands in the archipelago
- The temperature ranges from 21 to 32°C, averaging 27°C
- Time is 2 hours behind Australia (3 during daylight savings)



LOVE
MANILA





Premier city

Start your Philippine honeymoon on the upbeat with Manila. Or cap your lazy holiday with a complete change of pace in this bustling megapolis. Of course you can simply spend all of your honeymoon here. Whatever you decide, Manila is a “must-do”.

If white sand and sparkling seas are all you can think of after the stress and frenzy of planning and pulling off a wedding, then Manila is your gateway to tropical bliss. Thousands of islands north and south of the Philippines lie within an hour’s flight.

But if you prefer the cosmopolitan vibrancy of a major Asian destination, then Manila has it all. An engaging combination of modern urban life and historical monuments, Manila boasts ancient stone churches and countless medieval relics alongside frenetic business districts and a sophisticated arts and entertainment scene.

For couples looking to start their lives together by travelling back in time, there’s fascinating Intramuros, the walled city built by the conquistadors in the 1500s. Intramuros has over 20 places of interest within. For those more inclined to leisure, Manila has great golf courses, luxury spas, fabulous restaurants and night clubs.

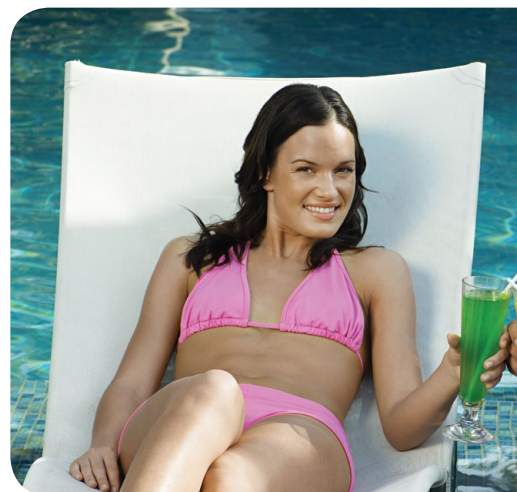
And if sharing a day with your credit cards sounds like newly-wedded bliss to you, Manila has some of the world’s largest malls, lively marketplaces and bargain shops, featuring everything from the latest European couture to funky clothes, contemporary art and handmade local wares.

MUST SEES

- Fort Santiago, San Agustin Church and Calle Real, all in Intramuros
- Sunset over Manila Bay
- Shopping malls in Makati and Ortigas
- Markets of Divisoria, Quiapo and Greenhills
- Restaurants and bars in Greenbelt and The Fort
- Corregidor Island and Tagaytay (day trips)



LOVE
BORACAY





Tropical playground

Newly-wedded bliss begins with a lot of fun in the sun in this tiny, butterfly-shaped island. Boracay is famous for the fine, powdery sand and gorgeous warm waters of White Beach, a four kilometre stretch of lagoon-like tranquility dotted with resorts, restaurants, shops and bars.



Boracay offers a range of fabulous resorts, all giving in to the sublime aqua coastline, where the two of you can grab a massage under a coconut tree, take diving or fishing trips, explore secluded beaches or simply relax together on the nearest patch of paradise.

The more adventurous can walk through jungle paths to visit bat caves sheltering giant flying foxes, trek to Mount Luho, the highest peak on the island, or snorkel through the extraordinary underwater caves of Crystal Cove. You can also paraw-sail around the island with a packed barbeque lunch. The sunset cruise is a must.

Boracay's restaurants include Filipino, Chinese, Greek, Mediterranean, and Western cuisines, with local specialties of charbroiled chicken and raw fish in spicy vinegar to delight your tastebuds. Make sure you also sample a "halo-halo" sandwich, bucket of long island tea, and choi burger.

The fun continues at night when the lively White Beach strip comes alive with bars, featuring music fare ranging from live reggae to funky DJ beats.

THINGS TO DO

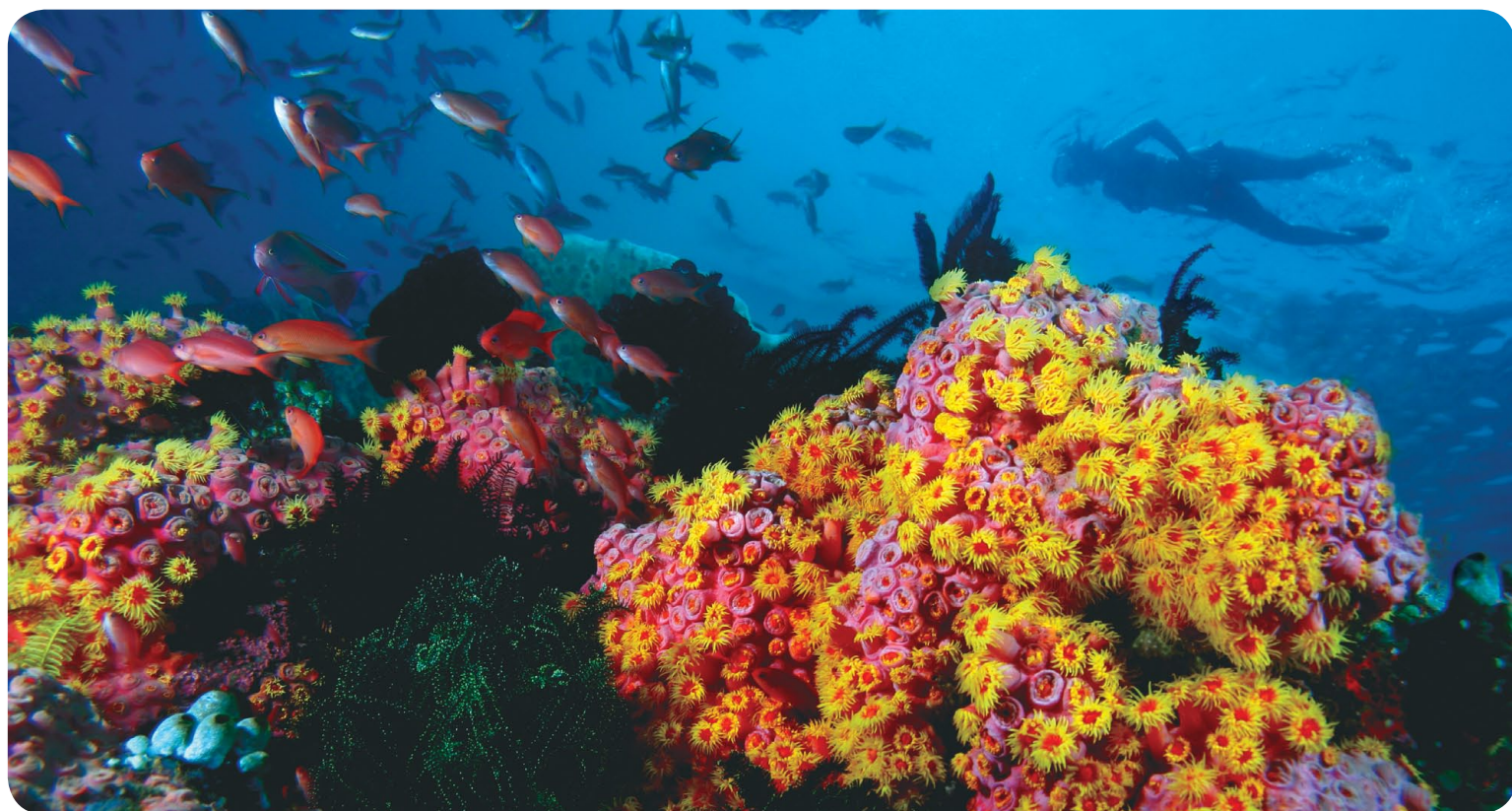
- Massage and spa
- Scuba diving
- Wind- and kite-surfing
- Jet-skiing
- Sailing
- Kayaking/canoeing
- Horse riding
- Ten pin bowling and pool
- Golf and tennis at the local country club
- Mountain biking or trekking to local villages

HOW TO GET THERE

Domestic flights from Manila are 60 minutes to Caticlan, which is a further 20 minutes by boat (there is also a bus option from Kalibo).



LOVE
PALAWAN





Stunning nature reserve

Palawan is a narrow archipelago of over 1,780 islands and islets brimming with mountain and marine vistas. Virgin forests, high limestone cliffs, storied lagoons and lakes, deserted islets ringed by coral reefs and pristine white beaches provide the perfect setting for nature-loving honeymooners.

Home to the mouse deer, scaly anteater, and the world's largest eagle, Palawan is also the stomping ground of exotic African animals which roam the wildlife sanctuary of Calauit.

The most famous island is El Nido which boasts an amazing ecosystem of rainforest, mangroves, sparkling beaches, coral reefs and limestone cliffs, along with an abundance of ocean dwellers including manta rays and the rare sea cow.

Couples can explore the 8.2 kilometre underground river at St Paul National Park and marvel at the stalactites and amphitheatre, or swim, snorkel and dive in the many islets of Honda Bay. The seven enchanting lakes of Coron Reefs as well as the breathtaking UNESCO World Heritage-listed Tubbataha Reefs are also premier attractions.

On the historic front, a trip to the Cuyo Fort will transport you to the 1600s. It also has a church and convent. Further back still, Tabon Caves, the "Cradle of Philippine Civilisation", will take you to the Stone Age.

Offering backpacker through to luxury accommodation off the beaten track, various secluded islands including Cuyo, Curon and Busuanga afford breathtaking views of nature's diversity and beauty.

UNIQUE ATTRACTIONS

- Calauit Game Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary
- El Nido Marine Reserve
- St Paul Subterranean National Park
- Tubbataha Reef, Honda Bay
- The ancient Tabon Caves
- Batak tribal villages
- Cuyo Fort

HOW TO GET THERE

Domestic flights from Manila are 60 minutes to the capital, Puerto Princesa, from which boat trips or charter flights are regularly available to take you to the island of your choice.



LOVE
CEBU





Southern beauty

Already a busy trading port in the 1500s, Cebu is a lively, highly urbanised regional centre. Yet the island province is strewn with beautifully preserved historical and cultural treasures. And not far from the city are islets lined with idyllic resorts and boasting some of the world's best diving sites.

So if your idea of a perfect honeymoon is a heady mix of history, culture, island leisure and city revelry, Cebu is for you.

The coral island of Mactan is famous for its resorts, and is a diving mecca. Other popular island destinations include Malapascua, Moalboal, Pescador and Bantayan. And in case you want to get married all over again just for fun, head for the Alegria Marine Park, famous "venue" for underwater weddings!

For your dose of history, visit Magellan's Cross which marks the origins of Catholicism in the Philippines. Other attractions include Fort San Pedro, the oldest tri-bastion battlement in the country, and Casa Gorordo Museum, a grand residence kept in the splendour of 19th century gentry living.

For twenty-first century living, however, Cebu enjoys a cosmopolitan mix of "restobars", karaoke joints, discos and restaurants, along with fantastic shopping. And if you're honeymooning your way across Asia or around the world, Cebu's international airport flies direct to several capital cities.

CEBU HIGHLIGHTS

- Magellan's Cross
- Lapu Lapu Monument
- Fort San Pedro
- Casa Gorordo Museum
- Basilica del Santo Niño
- Taoist Temple
- Colon Street shopping, dining, and nightlife
- Jumalan Butterfly Sanctuary
- Olango Wildlife Sanctuary
- Over 30 wonderful festivals

HOW TO GET THERE

Domestic flights from Manila are 60 minutes, and boats regularly leave Cebu for the surrounding islands. Cebu international airport connects you with various Asian capitals.



LOVE BOHOL

Quaint and enigmatic

Bohol's breathtaking landscape hosts a wealth of natural wonders sure to afford a unique island honeymoon. Here you can share the first days of your new life amongst verdant hills, waterfalls, caves, picturesque offshore islets and clear blue waters teeming with marine life.





The island is famous for the mysterious Chocolate Hills—1,268 grassy domes carpeting central Bohol. The hills look like chocolate mounds during summer when the grass cover turns dry and brown.

For photos to gush over in years to come apart from the obligatory newlywed poses, capture the tarsier, the smallest primate in the world, with great big eyes and knobbly feet. Native to the hills of Corella, two of these impossibly cute critters will sit comfortably in your hand.

World-famous dive resorts and marine sanctuaries surround Bohol, including Balicasag, Pamilacan and Panglao islands. Gentle coves and endless stretches of white sand beaches skim the coastline. Not to be missed is a Loboc River cruise in a floating restaurant, moving along palm-fringed banks and waterfalls, where you can enjoy your first cascade-bath together.

Other attractions include two charming churches: the Dauis, renowned for its Spanish architecture, and the Baclayon, an ancient and massive stone edifice.

BOHOL'S WONDERS

- The smallest primate in the world, the tarsier
- Dolphin and whale watching off Pamilacan
- The Chocolate Hills
- The tropical Loboc River and waterfalls
- Numerous popular dive sites
- Rare and endangered birds in Rajah Sikatuna National Park
- 1,400 caves and limestone formations

HOW TO GET THERE

Domestic flights from Manila are 60 minutes direct to Bohol, and supercat ferries run regularly to Cebu.



LOVE DAVAO

Nature, culture, adventure

Exotic Davao's expansive landscape is one of the most picturesque in the country. Its virgin forests nurture rare wildlife. It is home to enchanting indigenous tribes. And for those honeymooners who want to get the heart pumping, Davao offers a variety of adventure activities.

You can start with scaling Mt Apo, the country's highest peak, passing through rivers and waterfalls and an amazing panorama of flora and fauna.

Sibulan River hosts a range of activities such as white-water rafting and the more relaxed river tubing.

There's also cliffside rappelling and a long white-water rafting trip on the Davao River involving 30 rapids. And of course there's great snorkelling and diving to be had off stunning white beaches.

DISCOVER

- Rare wildlife – prized orchids and the endangered Philippine eagle
- Mountain-climbing, rappelling, white-water rafting and more
- Exotic tribes: the T'bolis, Manobos, B'laan, and Bagobos
- World-class golfing greens set amidst the panoramic splendour of Mt Apo
- Dive sites in Samal, Talikud, Ligid and Malipano

HOW TO GET THERE

Davao is 95 minutes from Manila and 55 minutes from Cebu by plane.





LOVE

BAGUIO & BANAUE

Highlands experience

Baguio is the summer capital of the Philippines, a mountain getaway blessed with cool, temperate climate. The scent of pines wafting from the hills, the profusion of blooms and the promise of cozy nights by a fireplace in luxurious country inns make the city a popular honeymoon destination among Filipinos and visitors alike.

Within the city, visit Burnham Park, Camp John Hay, the Botanical Gardens, Mines View Park, Tam-Awan artists' village and the Baguio Country Club which is famous for its dining facilities, golf course and vintage American-style cottages.

Baguio is the gateway to all the prime destinations in the Cordillera mountains: the strawberry and flower farms of La Trinidad, Asin hot springs, the mummies of Kabayan and Sagada, Malabisin's lake and underground river, and Banaue to name a few.

Carved out of the mountainsides by the Ifugao tribe folk more than 2,000 years ago, the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Banaue Rice Terraces is an engineering marvel with an ingenious irrigation system of bamboo pipes and canals. The awesome sight is like a green stairway to the sky.

Challenge yourselves with a two-hour uphill hike to the village of Batad and you will be rewarded by the priceless sight of its amphitheatre-shaped rice terraces. Watching the sunrise is a must as well as a picnic and swim at the Tapiya Falls.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Baguio market, famous for its highland produce and flowers, strawberry jams, hand-woven fabrics and woodcraft souvenirs
- Mansion House, official summer residence of the Philippine President
- The art and entertainment scene in Baguio
- Scaling the heights of Mt Pulog or Mt Santo Tomas
- The Baguio-Sagada mountain bike trail, a heart-pounding ride
- Awesome rice terraces of Banaue, Batad, Bangaan and Mayoyao
- Hill tribe villages of Pula and Tam-an in Banaue

HOW TO GET THERE

Baguio is a 50-minute flight or six-hour bus ride from Manila. Banaue can be reached by air with 45-minute chartered flights from Manila to Bagabag, and from there it's 1½ hour by land to Banaue. Tourist coaches go to Banaue directly from Manila and Baguio City.



ESSENTIAL INFO

ENTRY REGULATIONS

Except for stateless persons and those from countries with which the Philippines has no diplomatic relations, all visitors may enter the country without visas and may stay for 21 days provided they have tickets for onward journey.

AIRPORT FEES

PhP 750 for international departure and PhP 200 for local departure (paid in Philippine pesos only).

CUSTOMS

Visitors carrying more than US\$ 10,000 (or its equivalent in other foreign currency) are to declare the amount at the Central Bank of the Philippines counter at the Customs area.

Foreign currency taken out upon departure must not exceed the amount brought in. Visitors are not allowed to bring in and out more than PhP 10,000 in local currency.

CLIMATE

March to May is hot and dry. June to October is rainy. November to February is cool. Average temperatures: 78°F/25°C to 90°F/32°C; humidity: 77%.

TIME ZONE

GMT plus 8 hours.

CURRENCY

The unit of currency is the Philippine peso, divided into 100 centavos.

Most foreign currencies can be easily exchanged at banks, hotels, and authorised foreign exchange dealers. Outside Manila, the use of Philippine pesos for payments is preferred.

Major credit cards are accepted in most hotels, resorts, shops and restaurants.

HEALTH REGULATIONS

A certificate of vaccination against yellow fever is required for travellers coming from infected areas. Children less than one year old are exempted but may be subject to isolation when necessary.

LANGUAGE

Filipino is the national language. English is the business language and spoken widely. Approximately 111 languages and dialects are spoken in the country.

WHAT TO WEAR

Light, casual clothes are recommended. Warmer garments are needed for mountain regions. When visiting churches and temples, propriety dictates that shorts and scanty clothing be avoided.

WATER

Water in Metro Manila and in key cities and towns is potable and safe for drinking.

ELECTRICITY

220 volts, A.C. 60 cycles. Most hotels have 110-volt outlets.

LOCAL TRANSPORT

Metered and fixed rate taxis are widely available in key cities. Car and coach hires are available in major cities. Jeepneys and buses are inexpensive ways of getting around most places.

BUSINESS HOURS

Private and government offices are open either from 8am to 5pm or from 9am to 6pm, Mondays to Fridays. Most shopping hubs are open from 10am to 8pm daily. There are 24-hour convenience stores and chemists. Banks are open from 9am to 3pm, Mondays to Fridays.

TIPPING

Tipping is expected for many services; the standard is 10% of the bill. It's optional on bills that already include a 10% service charge.



For more information contact your travel agent or:

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