



Palawan Island Explorer

Philippines

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY...

Itinerary

Palawan Island Explorer • Philippines

13 Days • 12 Nights

Manila – Busuanga – Coron Bay - El Nido – Puerto Princessa – Manila

HIGHLIGHTS

- Guided canoe trip along the longest underground river in the world
- Dive and snorkel wrecks and pristine dive sites
- Experience truly beautiful and uninhabited islands
- Relaxed but active beach holiday in beautiful surroundings.

TOUR ESSENTIALS

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|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Tour Style | Island Explorer |
| Tour Start | Manila |
| Tour End | Manila |
| Accommodation | Hotel |
| Included Meals | 12 Breakfasts, 11 Lunches, 11 Dinners |
| Difficulty Level | Easy |

ISLAND EXPLORER



The itinerary will leave even the most experienced traveller inspired by this stunning destination. A lot of our time is spent island hopping as we enjoy the marvels of the colourful marine life and coral gardens. Spectacular for both the snorkeler and diver, the waters around Palawan are regarded as some of the best in the world.

PHILIPPINES, *an overview*

Consisting of 7107 islands, the Philippines is simply mesmerising and perfect for some exploration in the form of Island Hopping. Situated well off of the stereotypical tourist-infused "Thailand-Laos-Cambodia-Vietnam Route", this outstanding country has often been described as Thailand from 20 years ago (gorgeous, tourist-free beaches, genuinely friendly and hospitable locals, cheap seafood and fantastic diving and snorkelling). Bursting with history, The Philippines also grasps a unique rich stew of cultures – Islamic, Malay, Spanish and American and emits a South American vibe within Asia. The pristine paradise islands themselves are strikingly beautiful. Palm fringed, dream-like beaches, jungle-clad mountains, sparkling azure waters contrasting with the whitest of sand, jungle smothered outcrops of limestone, mazes of uninhabited islands as well as some spectacular marine life. Under the surface you'll find creatures from sharks to the most exotic of tropical fish. Above the surface lies a diverse range of birds, plants, animals; one of the 200 mammal species in the Philippines is The Philippine Tarsier (one of the smallest species of Monkey in the world). Spectacular volcanoes, rice terraces, caves, lakes and waterfalls further establish it as a nature-lovers paradise. In the Philippines you can discover natural beauty at its finest in tropical form.

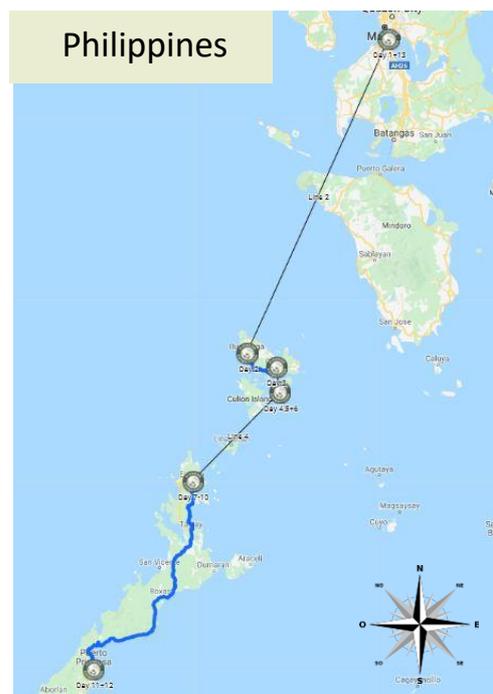
WHY PIONEER EXPEDITIONS?

Pioneer Expeditions are one of the few specialists that really *do* off the beaten track and unique adventures. The team have a real passion for wildlife and adventure travel which we love to share with our clients. We delight in searching the world for new destinations, new experiences and creating the most incredible adventures.

We like to introduce our clients to unique, the different, and the incredible. Whether it is through wildlife tracking, sea kayaking, snorkelling, trekking, rafting, cycling or observing wildlife in its natural environment, we want to give you the real Pioneer experience.

From the moment you choose to travel with Pioneer Expeditions until you return back home, you are supported by our dedicated team. We listen to what you want and can create an itinerary around your specific needs, working with your budget and with a commitment to responsible travel

ITINERARY



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Stable Cottage • Chydyok Road • Chaldon Herring • Dorchester • DT2 8DN
t 01202 798922 • e info@pioneerexpeditions.com

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DAY 1: ARRIVAL MANILA

Upon arrival in Manila, you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel.

Overnight hotel – Golden Phoenix

DAY 2: MANILA TO BUSUANGA / CORON (B, L, D)

You will be collected from your hotel and transferred to Manila Airport where you will have a short flight to the Calamian group landing on the largest island, Busuanga where you will meet your local guide before transferring to your hotel.

Afternoon at leisure

Overnight hotel – Coron Underwater Garden Resort

DAY 3: CORON B,L,D)

Today you will meet the local guide before heading out on your Coron Town tour. You will visit Corong Galeri Arts & Craft, a cashew nut producer, Tapyas Hill viewdeck, Lualhati park and Maquinit hot springs before transferring back to your resort.

Overnight hotel – Coron Underwater Garden Resort

DAY 4: CORON BAY (B,L,D)

We will head out today on a motorised outrigger boat and set off on our exploration around Coron Bay.

The sea in this area is renowned for its first class snorkelling and diving with incredibly clear water, huge coral reefs just below the surface, steep drop offs, a myriad of marine life, big fish and shallow sunken wrecks (from Spanish galleons to Japanese WW2 ships). Coming across a dugong whilst out snorkeling or diving is an unforgettable experience of a lifetime. The next 3 days will be spent exploring this area above and under the water.

Today we will visit Siete Pecados shallow reefs, Hidden Lagoon, Calachuchi Beach, Coral Eden, CYC white beach and Kayangan Lake.

Overnight hotel – Coron Underwater Garden Resort



DAY 5: CORON BAY (B,L,D)

Another day island hopping around the bay – this time on Las Islas Ecotour. The Bay is surrounded by majestic limestone cliffs with rich natural beauty to discover :

Today we will visit Twin Lagoons, Dimanglet Island, Lajala Cultural Village, Coron Coral Triangle and Barracuda Lake.

Overnight hotel – Coron Underwater Garden Resort



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DAY 6: CORON BAY (B,L,D)

Our last day in Coron and today we will head out for your Shipwreck and Reef tour. We will visit Sangat Gunboat (WWII shipwreck), Decalve marine park, Lusong gunboat and Luson coral garden.

Overnight hotel – Coron Underwater Garden Resort

DAY 7: EL NIDO (B,L,D)

This morning we transfer by boat to El Nido and Miniloc. We head here by ferry boat.

El Nido is the gateway to the spectacular Bacuit Archipelago, a muddle of limestone karst islands rising out of crystal clear waters - some are almost 600 meters in height. Bizarre shapes, hidden lagoons, palm-fringed white sand beaches, giant rock faces, snaking sand bars and impressive coral reefs teeming with life are all part of this fabulous marine area. We stay in a superb island resort – Miniloc island, making the most of its existing natural beauty and excellent facilities, including free use of sea kayaks.

Overnight Resort – El Nido Miniloc

DAY 8 – 10 : EL NIDO (B,L,D)

We have a day of leisure today to enjoy all that El Nido has to offer.

Whilst here you can enjoy everything the resort has to offer – from the watersports, island hopping trips, sea kayaking or simply relaxing

Overnight Resort – El Nido Miniloc

DAY 11: EL NIDO – PUERTO PRINCESSA (B,L,D)

Today we leave the idyllic surrounds of El Nido as we head to Puerto Princessa (by land).

Overnight Hotel – Princesa Garden Island Resort and Spa

DAY 12: PUERTO PRINCESSA (B, L, D)

This morning we head to the small cove containing the entrance to St Pauls Cave – the entrance to the underground river. Here we transfer to a paddle boat for a guided trip to penetrate the mountain on the underground river, home to swiftlets and eight species of bats, fantastic rock formations, huge caverns, towering columns and enormous stalactites.

Overnight Hotel – Princesa Garden Island Resort and Spa



DAY 13: FLIGHT TO MANILA & TO HOME (B)

After breakfast we head back to Puerto Princesa (approx. 2 hrs by car) where we will take our flight onwards to Manila and our international flight home.



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

INCLUDED

- Accommodation as described (based on twin sharing)
- Private airport transfers with English speaking guide
- All meals as described (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- Tours and admission costs as per the itinerary

NOT INCLUDED

- Meals other than mentioned
- Drinks
- Driver / guide Tips
- International flights
- Hotel security deposits (where applicable)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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|---------------------|--|
| ACTIVITY DURATION | 13 days, 12 nights |
| SEASON | This expedition is open between November and June. |
| BEST TIME TO GO | December through May |
| GROUP SIZE | 2 or more (NB: a supplement will apply if less than 4 people). So you can tell us when you want to travel, or if you prefer to join one of our small group departures please see our website or email us for scheduled departures. |
| EXPEDITION SCHEDULE | Annual scheduled Group Departure or Tailor made departures from November through June, minimum 2 pax. |
| DIFFICULTY LEVEL | Our grades have been designated based on our perception of the degree of physical activity you are likely to require to enjoy the adventure. These are only a guideline. This itinerary has a 'Medium' level (2-5 hours per day). This means that you will need an average level of fitness. |



THE PIONEER BOOKING PROCESS

Where do you go from here? Well, you can feel free to email us at info@pioneerexpeditions.com if you're interested in this trip, or any of our other expeditions from around the world. Visit our website www.pioneerexpeditions.com to unearth all of our other equally amazing trips and destinations.

1. Contact us -

We will be happy to answer any questions or enquiries you may have. From here we will begin to plan and put together your dream adventure holiday! Alternatively, on our website you will find our booking and enquiry forms; once filled in, we will be notified of your enquiry and will get back to you ASAP.

2. Leave everything to us -

Everything will be arranged and booked by us, but we will make sure to keep you updated every step of the way. In addition, we can arrange your international flights if needed, as we have access to competitive airfares. We can also arrange any additional tours or additional night's accommodation.

3. Wait for your adventure to begin -

Sit back and count down the days until your trip of a lifetime with Pioneer Expeditions. We'll handle all of the last minute preparations and provide you with everything you need. All practical information will be sent out to you, prior to your trip.

If you feel like altering this itinerary to suit your personal preferences, we can arrange all of that and more – just get in contact with us and let us know your requirements and wishes. From here, we can simply tailor-make your dream holiday.

