

LAKE TO LATITUDE · TRAVEL JOURNAL

PHILIPPINES ISLAND HOPPER

Our 15-Day Second Honeymoon Through Paradise

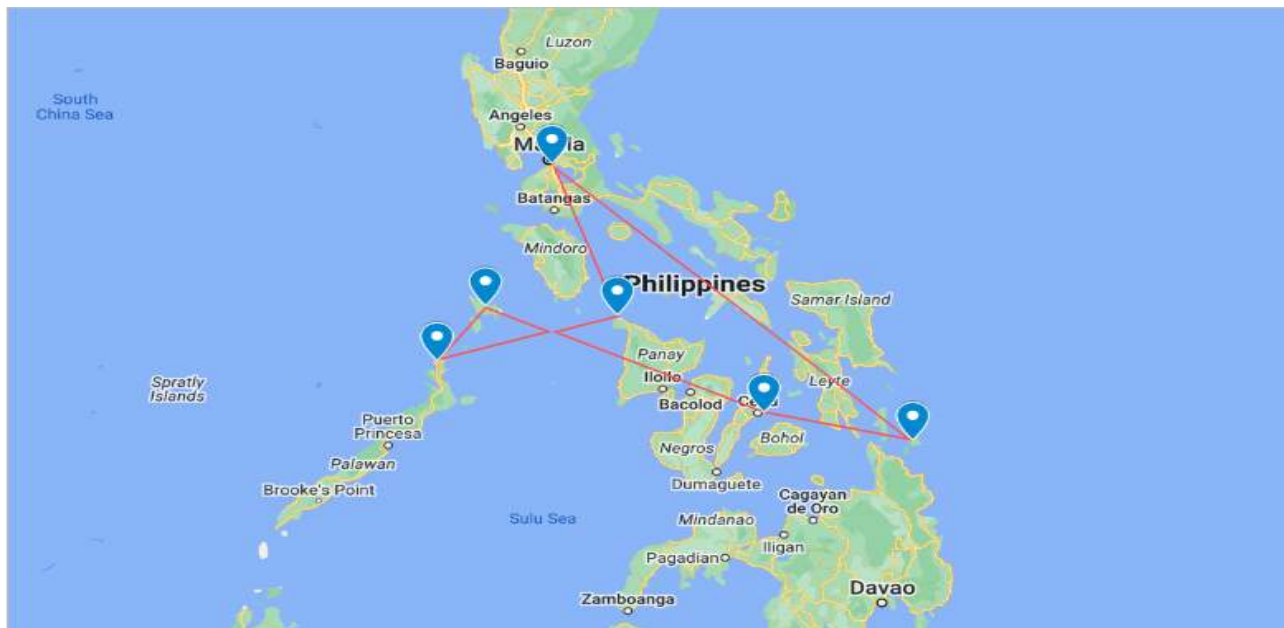


Boracay • El Nido • Coron • Cebu • Siargao

At a Glance

Five years married. Five island stops. One unforgettable return to adventure.

- 15 days of island hopping
- Five very different stops
- Actual cost: CAD \$6,282 per person
- A mix of romance, beach time and adventure



Our route: Vancouver → Manila → Boracay → El Nido → Coron → Cebu → Siargao → Manila → Vancouver.

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Five years of marriage deserved more than a weekend getaway. We wanted an adventure, not just one resort, one beach, or one island.

We wanted to wake up somewhere new every few days. We wanted crystal-clear water, island hopping, incredible food, luxury stays mixed with local experiences, and enough adventure to come home feeling like we had truly lived something together.

The Philippines delivered all of it.

For fifteen unforgettable days, we island-hopped through Boracay, El Nido, Coron, Cebu, and Siargao. We snorkelled through lagoons, rode ATVs, swam near massive schools of sardines, explored beaches accessible by boat, watched sunsets from resort pools, and spent our anniversary on a private island.

Looking back, this was not just another vacation. It became one of our most memorable travel experiences.

The Philippines delivered the mix of beaches, movement and adventure we were looking for.

The Route We Took

Vancouver → Manila → Boracay → El Nido → Coron → Cebu → Siargao → Manila → Vancouver

The Philippines is larger and more complex to move through than many first-time visitors expect. Flying between islands helped us protect valuable trip time and fit five distinct destinations into one itinerary.

Our 15-day route: Vancouver → Manila → Boracay → El Nido → Coron → Cebu → Siargao → Manila → Vancouver

INTERACTIVE GOOGLE MAP [Open the live Google Map →](#)

“The trip worked because every stop offered something different: resort time, lagoons, adventure, culture, and room to slow down.”

Stop 1: Boracay



Boracay's white-sand shoreline and turquoise water.



A Boracay arrival moment with the island sign.



Out on the water around Boracay.



A relaxed Boracay beachfront setting.

White sand, resort life, and an easy introduction to the islands

Boracay's famous beach atmosphere made for an easy first chapter.

Traditional paraw sailboats gliding through shallow turquoise water.

A Boracay sunset — the kind of evening that makes you wish you had one more day.

Highlight: Island Hopping, Helmet Diving, and ATV

Our first full adventure day combined island hopping, snorkelling, lunch, helmet diving, and an ATV ride. It was a packed introduction to the water and landscape around Boracay.

- Island-hopping and snorkelling stops
- Helmet diving on the ocean floor
- ATV trails and mainland scenery

What We Would Do Differently

We would give Boracay more breathing room. The resort day and activity day worked well, but another unplanned beach day would have made the opening stop feel less compressed.

Stop 2: El Nido



A local seafood spread — one of the pleasures of island travel.



El Nido's dramatic coastline and clear water.



Kayaking through El Nido's limestone scenery.



A quiet El Nido moment between adventure days.



A wide stretch of beach and tropical coastline.



A panoramic view of the coast around El Nido.

The most dramatic scenery of the trip

El Nido: paddling into Bacuit Bay beneath towering limestone cliffs.

Highlight: Tour A

Tour A was the essential El Nido day. We moved between lagoons, beaches, and snorkelling areas, with kayaking as the best way to enter and appreciate Big Lagoon.

- Big Lagoon

- Secret Lagoon
- Shimizu Island
- Seven Commandos Beach
- Snorkelling in Bacuit Bay

Why the Free Days Mattered

We kept time open for local beaches, a massage, bike rental, island exploration, and the possibility of a sunset cruise. Those unscheduled blocks stopped the itinerary from becoming a checklist and gave us time to enjoy El Nido at our own pace.

Stop 3: Coron



A peaceful beach setting in the Coron portion of the trip.



A hillside viewpoint during the island-hopping journey.



An evening water scene during the Cebu leg.

The anniversary centrepiece

Our anniversary dinner on the beach at Two Seasons Coron Island Resort.

Highlight: Coron Super Ultimate Tour

The tour brought together lakes, lagoons, coral, beaches, and a wreck stop in one long day on the water. Coron delivered some of the most varied scenery and swimming experiences of the itinerary.

- Kayangan Lake
- Twin Lagoon
- Barracuda Lake
- Skeleton Wreck
- Siete Pecados
- Beach and coral stops

Our Anniversary Dinner

The anniversary dinner on the beach was simple and memorable: water nearby, dinner together, and nowhere else we needed to be. The following day stayed intentionally light with snorkelling, water activities, a massage, and

dinner in the room at sunset.

Stop 4: Cebu



Badian Canyoneering Adventure — the start of a big Cebu day.



Canyoneering and waterfall country in Cebu.

The adventure-heavy stop

Cebu canyoneering turned the adventure level all the way up.

Water, rock and jungle made Cebu one of the trip's most physical days.

Highlight: Moalboal Sardine Run and Kawasan Canyoneering

This was one of the biggest days of the trip. The itinerary paired snorkelling in Moalboal, where the sardine run creates a huge moving underwater formation, with canyoneering through Kawasan's pools, chutes, jumps, and waterfalls.

- Early hotel pickup
- Sardine-run snorkelling in Moalboal
- Chance to see sea turtles
- Lunch and ground transfer
- Guided Kawasan canyoneering

Field Note for Future Travellers

Treat this as a long, physical day. Pack light, wear secure water footwear, confirm pickup logistics the night before, and leave the evening free for recovery.

Stop 5: Siargao



Arriving in Siargao.



Walking the beach in Siargao.



A laid-back Siargao day with surf culture all around.



A colourful Siargao meal.



Siargao's surf breaks and open Pacific coastline.



A beach message in the sand on Siargao.



Clear water and swimming in Siargao.

The laid-back finish we did not want to rush

Siargao: the freedom of a scooter day and nowhere to rush.

Highlight: Trio Island Tour

The day linked three very different island stops and included the kind of open-water, white-sand scenery that makes Siargao easy to photograph and hard to leave.

- Naked Island
- Guyam Island
- Daku Island
- Island lunch and beach time

Exploring by Scooter

Renting a scooter gave us a flexible day away from the tour schedule. We could follow the roads, stop when something looked interesting, and build the day around exploration and a surf lesson.

What We Loved Most

The variety

Luxury resort time, boat days, lagoons, snorkelling, canyoneering, scooter exploration, and surfing all fit inside one trip.

The freedom to mix booked and unbooked days

The tours gave us access to the signature places, while the free days gave the trip personality.

The water-based experiences

Each destination offered a different water experience, from helmet diving and lagoons to lakes, wrecks, sardines, and waterfalls.

The anniversary pacing

Placing Coron near the middle gave us a natural point to slow down and celebrate before the more physical Cebu stop.

Trip Cost Breakdown

All trip costs below are our actual costs per person, shown in Canadian dollars (CAD). Travel insurance was not included in the supplied trip-cost figures.

Total: CAD \$6,282 per person · CAD \$12,564 for two travelers.

Final Thoughts

If you are looking for a trip that combines romance, movement, beach time, and genuine adventure, the Philippines works beautifully as an island-hopping destination.

Our route was ambitious, but each stop had a clear purpose. Boracay eased us in. El Nido delivered the iconic lagoons. Coron became the anniversary centrepiece. Cebu pushed the adventure level. Siargao let us finish with freedom and a slower pace.

Our second honeymoon gave us exactly what we hoped for: time together, stories we will keep retelling, and a reminder that the best trips are not only about where you go. They are about how the experience fits together.

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Trip Cost Breakdown

Category	Per Person
Flights	CAD \$2,377
Interflights	CAD \$265
Activities	CAD \$390
Food	CAD \$400
Transportation	CAD \$150
Nightlife	CAD \$500
Hotels	CAD \$2,200
Total	CAD \$6,282

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