

A LAKE TO LATITUDE PREMIUM GUIDE

Philippines

15 days island-hopping the Philippines —

*White Beach, hidden lagoons, WWII
wrecks & the surf coast.*

Boracay → El Nido → Cebu → Coron → Siargao

☀ **Best seasons: Dec-May (dry season)**

15

DAYS

5

ISLANDS

6

FLIGHTS

\$5–9k

CAD / PERSON

📖 THE JOURNEY

Trip at a Glance

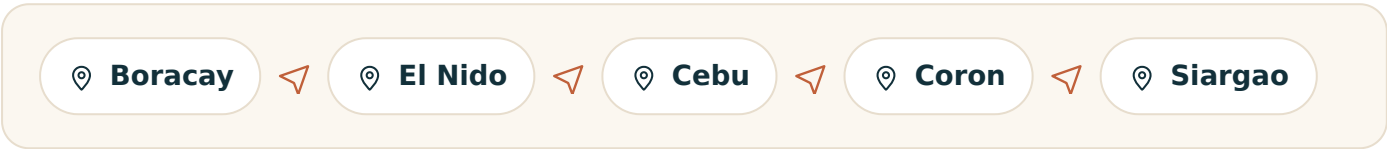
A five-island sweep of the Philippines — Boracay’s powder-white beach, El Nido’s hidden lagoons, Cebu’s waterfalls and sardine run, Coron’s WWII wrecks and lakes, and the surf-and-lagoon life of Siargao — linked by short domestic flights and boat transfers rather than a single road.

DAYS	DESTINATION	HIGHLIGHTS
1–2	Boracay	White Beach, Puka Beach, sunset paraw sailing
3–5	El Nido	Big & Secret Lagoons, Nacpan Beach, Bacuit Bay tours
6–7	Cebu	Kawasan Falls, Moalboal sardine run, historic city
8–10	Coron	Kayangan Lake, Twin Lagoon, WWII wreck diving
11–15	Siargao	Cloud 9 surf, Sugba Lagoon, Magpupungko rock pools

✈ The flight & ferry plan

Fly Vancouver → Manila, then hop island-to-island on **AirSwift** and **Cebu Pacific**. Book the small domestic planes early (checked bags are often capped near ~10–15 kg), and from Caticlan airport reach Boracay’s White Beach by e-trike to the jetty, a short bangka boat across, and a trike to your resort.

📍 THE ROUTE



ESTIMATED TOTAL, PER PERSON

\$5,000–\$9,000 CAD

International & domestic flights, island resorts, boat transfers, food, and island-hopping tours across 15 days.

✈ IN THE AIR & ON THE WATER

Island-Hopping & Flight Logistics

Five islands, linked by short domestic hops on AirSwift and Cebu Pacific plus boat transfers — not one road. Here is how the days between the islands actually work, each leg mapped.

✈ Manila → Caticlan (Boracay)

Cebu Pacific / PAL fly Manila–Caticlan (~1h05m). Then an e-trike to the jetty, a 15-minute bangka boat across, and a short trike to White Beach.

[Open this leg in Google Maps →](#)

✈ Caticlan (Boracay) → El Nido

AirSwift flies Caticlan–El Nido direct (~1h10m), landing minutes from Bacuit Bay and the lagoon tours.

[Open this leg in Google Maps →](#)

✈ El Nido → Cebu

Fly El Nido → Cebu on AirSwift (seasonal direct) or connect via Manila — the gateway to Kawasan Falls and the Moalboal sardine run.

[Open this leg in Google Maps →](#)

✈️ Cebu → Coron (Busuanga)

Cebu Pacific / AirSwift fly Cebu-Busuanga (~1h05m); then a van and boat transfer out to your Coron resort.

[Open this leg in Google Maps →](#)

✈️ Coron → Siargao

Coron → Siargao usually connects through Cebu or Manila to reach the surf coast — build in a buffer for the connection.

[Open this leg in Google Maps →](#)

📍 Transport tips

🕒 **Book AirSwift & Cebu Pacific early**

🕒 **~10-15 kg baggage on small planes**

🕒 **Caticlan: e-trike + boat + trike to White Beach**

🕒 **Carry pesos for terminal & environmental fees**

🕒 **Grab an eSIM at Manila airport**

🕒 **Allow a buffer for island connections**

01 Boracay

📍 **Western Visayas**

Days 1-2

White Beach, sunset paraws & island-hopping off Boracay



☆ Why you'll love Boracay

- ☆ The Philippines' most famous beach — White Beach's powder-soft sand and calm turquoise water stretch a full four kilometres.
- ☆ Sunset paraw sailboats, beach clubs and fresh seafood grills line the shore from Station 1 to Station 3.
- ☆ Beyond the main strip: quiet Puka Shell Beach, kite-and-wind-surf at Bulabog, and an island-hopping loop of snorkel spots and coves.

🕒 Hour-by-hour

🕒 Day 1 • Arrive in Boracay



📍 08:40

Land at Caticlan; e-trike to the jetty, bangka boat across, and a trike to White Beach.



📍 11:00

Check in near Station 1; first walk along the powder-white sand.



☀️ 14:00

Swim and laze on White Beach; paddleboard or SUP the calm shallows.



🍹 16:00

Afternoon at the resort pool — a Boracay foam party if your resort runs one.



🚤 18:00

Sunset paraw sailboat cruise off White Beach.



🍴 20:00

Seafood dinner at D'Talipapa market grills or Los Indios Bravos.

🕒 Day 2 · Island-hopping & helmet diving

🕒 08:45

Meet your island-hopping boat — snorkel stops around Crystal Cove & Magic Island.

🕒 11:00

Buffet lunch on the boat, then a helmet-diving walk on the reef floor.

🕒 14:00

ATV ride on the mainland trails up to the Mount Luho viewpoint.

🕒 16:30

Quiet time on Puka Shell Beach at the north end.

🕒 18:30

Sunset cocktails at a Station 1 beach bar.

🕒 20:30

Dinner at Sunny Side Café or Lemoni Café.

🏠 Where to stay — luxury, boutique & value

🏠 LUXURY

Shangri-La Boracay

🏠 BOUTIQUE

The Lind Boracay

🏠 VALUE

Coast Boracay

🍴 Eat & drink

Restaurants & food

-  Los Indios Bravos — beachfront classics
-  Sunny Side Café — all-day breakfast
-  Lemoni Café — light & healthy
-  D'Talipapa — pick-and-grill seafood market

Drinks & beach bars

-  Fresh buko (young coconut) on the beach
-  Calamansi coolers & ice-cold San Miguel
-  Sunset cocktails at a Station 1 beach bar

Hidden gems

-  Puka Shell Beach — quieter coral-shell sand on the north tip
-  Diniwid Beach and the cliffside Spider House, just around the headland from Station 1

Photography spots

-  Willy's Rock — the shrine-topped rock at Station 1, best at low tide and sunset
-  Paraw sailboats silhouetted on White Beach at golden hour

Island-hopping: Island-hopping tip: the classic loop pairs snorkeling at

-  Crystal Cove with helmet diving and an ATV ride — book the combo a day ahead.

 **Daily budget: \$220-\$480 CAD/day (2 nights)**

02 El Nido

 **Palawan**

Days 3-5

Hidden lagoons, limestone cliffs & the tours of Bacuit Bay



☆ Why you'll love El Nido

- ☆ El Nido is the gateway to Bacuit Bay — a maze of jagged limestone islands, hidden lagoons and white-sand coves reached only by boat.
- ☆ The set island-hopping tours (A-D) deliver the Big Lagoon, Secret Lagoon, Shimizu Island and Seven Commandos Beach.
- ☆ Back on land: golden Nacpan Beach, sunset zip-lines at Las Cabañas, and a laid-back town of wood-fired pizza joints and beach bars.

🕒 Hour-by-hour

🕒 Day 3 • Fly in & Las Cabañas sunset

🕒 15:40

AirSwift lands from Caticlan; transfer into El Nido town and check in.

📍 16:30

First walk along the town beachfront and Bacuit Bay viewpoints.

🌅 17:30

Tricycle to Las Cabañas (Marimegmeg) Beach for the zip-line and sunset.

🍷 20:00

Wood-fired pizza at Trattoria Altrove or a table at Art Café.

🕒 Day 4 • Tour A — lagoons & beaches

🕒 09:00

Board Tour A across Bacuit Bay — the day's signature island-hop.

🕒 10:00

Kayak the Big Lagoon, then the Small & Secret Lagoons.

🕒 12:30

Beach buffet lunch, then snorkel off Shimizu Island.

🕒 15:00

Seven Commandos Beach — palms, white sand and a fresh buko.

🕒 19:30

Sunset drinks at Sava Beach Bar; dinner in town.

🕒 Day 5 • Nacpan Beach & Tour C option

🕒 09:00

Van or scooter ~45 min north to golden, twin-cove Nacpan Beach.

🕒 10:00

Or run Tour C — Hidden Beach, Secret Beach & Helicopter Island.

🕒 14:00

Swim, hammock and a beach lunch away from the crowds.

🕒 17:00

Golden hour over the bay before the last night in town.

🏠 Where to stay — luxury, boutique & value

🏠 LUXURY

Seda Lio

BOUTIQUE

Huni Lio

VALUE

Spin Designer Hostel

Eat & drink

Restaurants & food

-  Trattoria Altrove — wood-fired pizza
-  Art Café — El Nido classic
-  The Alternative — rooftop dining
-  Gusto Gelato & Coffee

Drinks & beach bars

-  Sava Beach Bar at Las Cabañas
-  Republica Sunset Bar
-  Fresh mango & calamansi shakes

Hidden gems

-  Nacpan Beach — a 4 km golden twin-beach ~45 min north, far quieter than town
-  The Taraw Cliff canopy walk (via ferrata) for a vertigo view over Bacuit Bay

Photography spots

-  Big Lagoon from a kayak at low tide — the trip's signature shot
-  Sunset over Bacuit Bay's islands from Las Cabañas Beach

Island-hopping: El Nido runs four set boat tours (A-D). Tour A (Big Lagoon, Secret Lagoon, Shimizu, Seven Commandos) is the classic; add Tour C (Hidden Beach, Secret Beach, Helicopter Island) if you have a third day.

 **Daily budget: \$200-\$440 CAD/day (3 nights)**

Waterfalls, the Moalboal sardine run & the country's oldest city



☆ **Why you'll love Cebu**

- ☆ Cebu blends the Philippines' oldest colonial city with world-class adventure a short drive south.
- ☆ Snorkel the swirling Moalboal sardine run and swim with sea turtles, then canyoneer the turquoise pools of Kawasan Falls.
- ☆ In the city: Magellan's Cross, the Basilica del Santo Niño, and Cebu's legendary lechon.

🕒 Hour-by-hour

🕒 Day 6 · Arrive & historic Cebu

🕒 11:15

Land at Mactan-Cebu; transfer and check in around the city or Mactan.

📍 14:00

Magellan's Cross & the Basilica del Santo Niño; Fort San Pedro.

📷 16:30

The Temple of Leah or Sirao viewpoint above the city.

🍴 19:30

Cebu lechon feast at Zubuchon or Rico's Lechon.

🕒 Day 7 · Moalboal sardines & Kawasan

🕒 05:00

Pre-dawn pickup for the ~3 hr drive south to Moalboal.

🏊 08:30

Snorkel the Moalboal sardine run and swim with sea turtles.

📶 11:30

Kawasan Falls canyoneering — jumps, chutes & turquoise pools.

☀️ 16:00

Dry off and drive back north to the city.

🍴 20:00

Seafood or a Mactan resort beach-bar dinner.

🏠 Where to stay — luxury, boutique & value

🏠 LUXURY

Radisson Blu Cebu

BOUTIQUE

bai Hotel Cebu

VALUE

Quest Hotel Cebu

Eat & drink

Restaurants & food

-  Zubuchon — famed Cebu lechon
-  Rico's Lechon
-  Abaca Baking Company — café
-  La Vie Parisienne — wine & bistro

Drinks & beach bars

-  Mactan resort beach bars (Shangri-La / Mövenpick)
-  Cebu craft beer & rooftop bars
-  Fresh mango shakes & buko

Hidden gems

-  Osmeña Peak — a short climb to Cebu's jagged highest ridge
-  Tumalog Falls near Oslob — a silky curtain of cascades

Photography spots

-  The shimmering sardine swirl underwater at Moalboal
-  Kawasan Falls' turquoise tiers mid-canyoneer

Island-hopping: Day tip: the Moalboal sardine run and Kawasan

-  canyoneering pair into one big south-Cebu day — start before dawn to beat the crowds and the heat.

 **Daily budget: \$170-\$380 CAD/day (2 nights)**

04 Coron

 Palawan

Days 8-10

WWII wrecks, karst lakes & the lagoons of the Calamianes



☆ Why you'll love Coron

- ☆ Coron is the Philippines' wreck-diving capital — a dozen WWII Japanese ships rest in clear, shallow water.
- ☆ Above the surface: Kayangan Lake's karst walls, Twin Lagoon, and the brackish thermoclines of Barracuda Lake.
- ☆ Cap the days with a soak in the saltwater Maquinit Hot Spring and the climb up Mount Tapyas at sunset.

🕒 Hour-by-hour

🕒 Day 8 • Fly in & island resort

🕒 09:25

AirSwift lands from El Nido at Busuanga; shuttle and boat to your resort.

🕒 13:00

Settle in — swim, clear kayak and the house reef off the jetty.

🕒 17:30

Sunset from the deck over the Calamian islands.

🕒 19:30

Set island-restaurant dinner menu.

🕒 Day 9 • Super Ultimate boat tour

🕒 08:00

Kayangan Lake — the climb to the postcard viewpoint, then a swim.

🕒 10:30

Twin Lagoon and the eerie, warm Barracuda Lake.

🕒 12:30

Beach-buffet lunch; snorkel the Skeleton Wreck & Siete Picados.

🕒 15:00

CYC Beach and Sunset Beach on the way back.

🕒 19:30

Dinner on the beach.

🕒 Day 10 • Wreck diving & Coron town

🕒 08:30

WWII wreck dive or snorkel; a run out to Malcapuya Island's sand.

🕒 14:00

Transfer to Coron town; the 700-step climb up Mount Tapyas.

🕒 17:30

Soak in the saltwater Maquinit Hot Spring at dusk.

🕒 20:00

Seafood dinner in town — Coron lobster or a rooftop table.

🏠 Where to stay — luxury, boutique & value

🏠 LUXURY

Two Seasons Coron Bayside

BOUTIQUE

Zuri Resort Coron

VALUE

Bacau Bay Resort

Eat & drink

Restaurants & food

-  Lobster Republic — Coron seafood
-  Kawayanan Grill Station
-  Levantin — rooftop tapas
-  Altrove Coron — wood-fired pizza

Drinks & beach bars

-  A Maquinit Hot Spring evening soak
-  Coron town rooftop bars
-  Fresh calamansi & buko

Hidden gems

-  Maquinit Hot Spring — a saltwater soak after the boat days
-  The 700-step climb up Mount Tapyas for the sunset panorama over Coron Bay

Photography spots

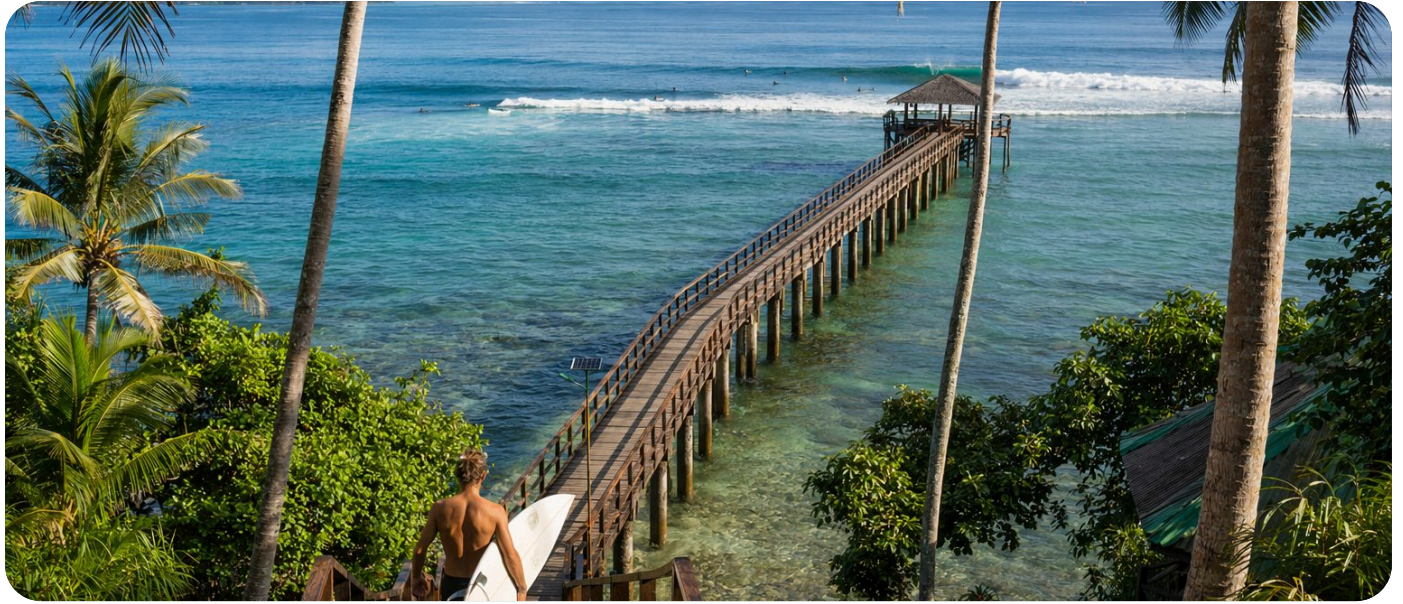
-  The Kayangan Lake viewpoint — the postcard shot of Coron's karst and green water
-  Twin Lagoon's emerald pools between the cliffs

Island-hopping: Boat tip: the “Super Ultimate” loop packs Kayangan Lake,

-  Twin Lagoon, Barracuda Lake and the Skeleton Wreck into one day — go early; Kayangan's viewpoint is packed by mid-morning.

 **Daily budget: \$210–\$460 CAD/day (3 nights)**

Cloud 9 surf, palm-lined roads & three-island boat days



☆ **Why you'll love Siargao**

- ☆ Siargao is the Philippines' surf capital — the Cloud 9 reef break put it on the map, and the island stayed effortlessly cool.
- ☆ Palm-carpeted Coconut Road, three-island boat days (Naked, Daku & Guyam) and the tidal rock pools of Magpupungko.
- ☆ A laid-back finale of surf lessons, lagoon paddleboards, motorbike days and beach-bar sunsets.

🕒 Hour-by-hour

🕒 Day 11 · Arrive & Cloud 9



🕒 12:00

Fly in via Cebu or Manila; transfer to General Luna and check in.



📍 15:00

Walk the Cloud 9 boardwalk and surf tower.



🏄 16:30

First surf lesson or a longboard at a mellow beach break.



🍷 19:30

Wood-fired pizza at Kermit; drinks along Tourism Road.

🕒 Day 12 · Naked, Daku & Guyam islands



🚤 09:00

Three-island boat day across the Siargao sandbars.



☀️ 11:00

Sandbar swims on Naked Island; palms on Guyam.



🍷 12:30

Grilled-seafood beach lunch on Daku Island.



🏄 15:00

Snorkel and hammock time before heading back.

🕒 **Day 13 · Sugba Lagoon & Coconut Road**



🏠 **08:30**

Paddleboard and cliff-jump the jade Sugba Lagoon.



🏠 **13:00**

Motorbike the palm-lined Coconut Road viewpoint.



🌿 **15:30**

The Maasin River rope swing over jade water.



🌅 **18:00**

Sunset drinks back on the General Luna beachfront.

🕒 **Day 14 · Magpupungko & the north**



🌿 **07:30**

Low-tide swim in the Magpupungko rock pools.



🏠 **11:00**

Ride the north coast to Pacifico and Alegria.



📷 **16:00**

Quiet north-shore surf and coconut-road photo stops.



🍷 **20:00**

Tapas at Bravo or a night-market grill.

🕒 **Day 15 · Dawn surf & departure**



🌿 **06:00**

A last dawn surf at Cloud 9.



🌅 **09:00**

Slow breakfast bowl at Shaka; final beach walk.



📍 **12:00**

Transfer to Sayak airport for the flights home.

Where to stay — luxury, boutique & value

LUXURY

Nay Palad Hideaway

BOUTIQUE

Isla Cabana Resort

VALUE

Harana Surf Resort

Eat & drink

Restaurants & food

-  Kermit — wood-fired pizza & surf classic
-  Bravo — beachfront tapas
-  Shaka — açai & smoothie bowls
-  Mama's Grill — night BBQ

Drinks & beach bars

-  Sunset at the Cloud 9 boardwalk
-  General Luna beach bars
-  Fresh buko & kombucha

Hidden gems

-  The Maasin River palm-tree rope swing over jade water
-  Pacifico and the quiet north-coast surf, far from General Luna's crowds

Photography spots

-  The Cloud 9 boardwalk and pier at sunrise
-  Coconut Road — a sea of palms stretching to the horizon

Island-hopping: Timing tip: the Magpupungko rock pools only appear at low

-  tide — check the tide chart and pair it with the north-coast drive. Swells are biggest Sep–Nov, but Cloud 9 breaks year-round.

🕒 **Daily budget: \$170-\$420 CAD/day (5 nights)**

📌 **PLAN LIKE A PRO**

Premium Travel Resources

🕒 Budget breakdown (CAD / person)

CATEGORY	RANGE
Flights (int'l)	\$1,500 - \$2,500
Accommodation	\$1,800 - \$3,500
Domestic flights & boats	\$500 - \$900
Food	\$500 - \$900
Activities & island tours	\$700 - \$1,200
Estimated total	\$5,000 - \$9,000

Signature foods & drinks

Lechon · Whole roast pig — Cebu's specialty

Fresh seafood · Grilled fish, prawns & squid

Kinilaw · Filipino ceviche in vinegar & calamansi

Adobo · Soy-vinegar braised chicken or pork

Sinigang · Sour tamarind soup

Halo-halo · Shaved-ice dessert with ube & beans

Mango · The world's sweetest — fresh or dried

Buko · Young coconut water on the beach

San Miguel · The classic Filipino lager

Calamansi · Tiny citrus in juices & marinades

Packing checklist

Documents	Passport, travel insurance, flight & tour confirmations, pesos in cash
Clothing	Lightweight quick-dry, swimwear, a light layer for flights & evenings, rash guard
Footwear	Flip-flops, reef/water shoes for rocks & canyoneering, light trail shoes
Water gear	Snorkel mask, dry bag, action cam, reef-safe sunscreen
Sun & bugs	Hat, sunglasses, high-SPF sunscreen, insect repellent
Tech	Universal adapter (Type A/C, 220V), power bank, eSIM
Extras	Reusable water bottle, motion-sickness tablets, small first-aid kit

✓ **Planning checklist**

- ✓ **3 months out** — Book island resorts (Boracay, El Nido, Coron) and all AirSwift / Cebu Pacific domestic legs
- ✓ **6-8 weeks** — Reserve El Nido Tour A, the Coron Super Ultimate tour, and the Cebu Moalboal / Kawasan day
- ✓ **1 month** — Book a Boracay island-hopping combo and Siargao surf lessons; confirm airport transfers
- ✓ **2 weeks** — Buy travel insurance; download offline maps; check tide charts for Magpupungko
- ✓ **On arrival** — Grab an eSIM at Manila; withdraw pesos; reconfirm each domestic flight & baggage limit

Cultural etiquette

Currency	The Philippine peso (₱) — carry cash; cards work in cities but rarely on the islands.
Language	English is widely spoken alongside Filipino / Tagalog.
Tipping	~10% is appreciated; round up for boat crews and guides.
Reefs	Use reef-safe sunscreen; don't touch coral or chase the turtles.
Island fees	Carry pesos for terminal, environmental and tour fees at each island.

Island & practical tips

-  **Getting around:** Fly the domestic hops (AirSwift / Cebu Pacific); tricycles, vans and bangka boats on the islands.
-  **Baggage:** Small planes cap checked bags near 10–15 kg — pack light and pre-pay for extra.
-  **Timing:** Dec–May is the dry season; Siargao’s surf peaks Sep–Nov.
-  **Money:** Bring pesos for the islands — ATMs are scarce and often empty on El Nido and Siargao.
-  **Water:** Drink bottled or filtered water; refill where you can to cut plastic.

✓ **TAKE IT WITH YOU**

Printable Planning Pages

Print these pages to plan and track your trip by hand — fill in your own dates and bookings, tick off your packing, and keep the budget on target.

15-Day planner (blank)

DAY	DATE	LOCATION	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING / STAY
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					

Packing checklist

- ☐ Passport, travel insurance, flight & tour confirmations, pesos in cash
- ☐ Lightweight quick-dry, swimwear, a light layer for flights & evenings, rash guard
- ☐ Flip-flops, reef/water shoes for rocks & canyoneering, light trail shoes
- ☐ Snorkel mask, dry bag, action cam, reef-safe sunscreen
- ☐ Hat, sunglasses, high-SPF sunscreen, insect repellent
- ☐ Universal adapter (Type A/C, 220V), power bank, eSIM
- ☐ Reusable water bottle, motion-sickness tablets, small first-aid kit

🕒 Budget tracker (CAD/person)

CATEGORY	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Flights (int'l)	\$1,500 - \$2,500	
Accommodation	\$1,800 - \$3,500	
Domestic flights & boats	\$500 - \$900	
Food	\$500 - \$900	
Activities & island tours	\$700 - \$1,200	
Estimated total	\$5,000 - \$9,000	

Mabúhay — safe travels.

Powder-white beaches, hidden lagoons, WWII wrecks, waterfalls and the surf coast — a balanced 15-day island-hop through the best of the Philippines.