



Palawan Island Explorer

Philippines

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



Itinerary	Palawan Island Explorer • Philippines
13 Days • 12 Nights	Manila – Busuanga – Coron Bay – North Cay – South Cay – Coron – Uson Island – El Nido – Caccipa Island – Sabang – Tarabanan – Tagnaya Forest Camp – San Rafael

HIGHLIGHTS

-  Guided canoe trip along the longest underground river in the world
-  Trek through tropical rainforests
-  Dive and snorkel wrecks and pristine dive sites and search for the rare and elusive dugong
-  Experience truly beautiful and uninhabited islands

TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Exploring and Island Explorer
Tour Start	Manila
Tour End	Manila
Accommodation	Hotel, Camp, Chalet
Included Meals	11 Breakfasts, 10 lunches, 10 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Medium

The itinerary will leave even the most experienced traveller inspired by this unspoiled and spectacular territory. 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. This is a truly unique expedition to a stunning destination.

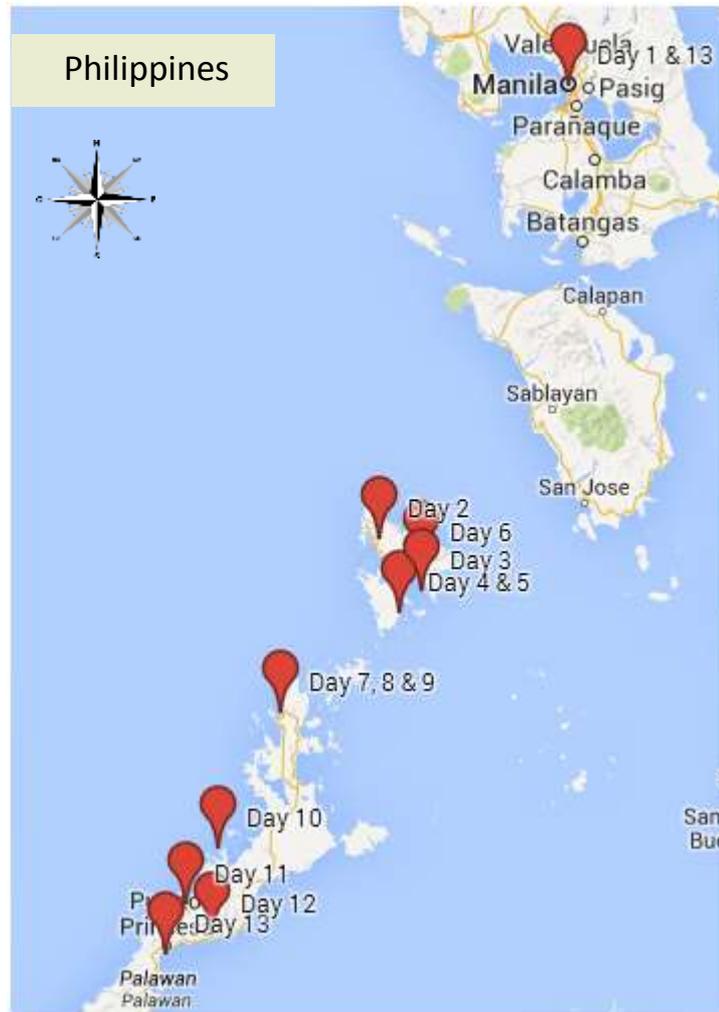
Overview

These unique islands in the Philippine archipelago are a treasure trove of natural wonders: Pristine primary rainforest, deserted tropical islands and underground rivers. Unsurpassed coral reefs and abundant marine life thrive in its crystal clear waters.

We explore part of what is known as the “Last Frontier” of the Philippines, the group of 1768 islands that make up the Palawan Province. Pioneer Expeditions is delighted to offer what promises to be an in-depth exploration into an unimaginably vibrant, colourful and addictive island.

During our action packed time in Palawan we will trek through tropical rainforest, canoe the longest underground river in the world, visit magical islands, encounter local tribes, relax at a luxurious eco resort. There’s also time for snorkelling and diving wrecks while searching for the rare dugong. Participants will require no more than a basic level of fitness.

Itinerary



DAY 1: ARRIVAL MANILA

Upon arrival in Manila, you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel – New World Hotel or similar.

Overnight hotel

DAY 2: MANILA TO BUSUANGA / CORON (B)



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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 we will meet our guide who will accompany us for the entire trip around Coron.

Overnight hotel – Club Paradise, Beachfront Cottage or similar

DAY 3: CORON BAY (B,L,D)

Today we will head to Coron Bay - After a 1hr bumpy ride by jeepney to Coron town we will board our private motorised outrigger boat and set off on our exploration around Coron Bay. The Bay is surrounded by majestic limestone cliffs with rich natural beauty to discover such as: Kayangan and Barakuda Lakes, Siete Pecados shallow reefs and Maquinit Seawater Hot Spring.

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. Over the next few days, when not on the water, we will be able to hike to hidden mountain lakes with their warm geothermal waters & relax in natural hot springs. There is also rock climbing, bird watching and trails to explore into the thick jungle.

Today, we will have lunch on board the boat, before we discover Coron's secrets including a twin lagoon accessible through underwater cliff opening and pocket of hidden coves and beaches. Tonight we will set up our tents on one of the hidden beaches before preparing dinner at the camp and enjoying the amazing sunsets sitting by a roaring fire – a truly magical experience.

Overnight camp

DAY 4: NORTH CAY (B,L,D)

After waking up at sunrise, we will enjoy breakfast on the beach overlooking the cliff island of Coron. We will be able to watch the change of color hues of the mountains as the sun awakens nature and take a short dip in the water before packing up. Today we will spend the full day visiting the numerous islands of the Calamianes on board our motor boat as we set off to North Cay Island. We will snorkel 'skeleton wreck' before heading to Malcapuya, one of the favorite islands in Coron, with its long white sand beach. We will spend several hours here which allow us to trek to the hilltop overlooking the neighboring islands. After lunch we will then continue on to North Cay – arriving there in the late afternoon, where we will once again set up our tents, before enjoying a BBQ on the beach.

Overnight camp

DAY 5: SOUTH CAY (B,L,D)

There are numerous islands with breathtaking beach shores and seascapes around. This morning after breakfast and strolling along the beach, with sand pipers and family of grey mangrove herons, we are free to explore the neighbouring islands (including South cay, Maltatayok and Pamilacan) by small fishing boat or kayak. A simple hook and line will be provided to those of us who want to have a



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chance to catch the fish for our own lunch - but don't worry, we've got a backup plan if fishing isn't successful.

Overnight camp

DAY 6: CORON & USON ISLAND (B,L,D)

We board our boat after breakfast and cruise the eastside of the bay to return to Coron town. We can take some time here to enjoy snorkeling on the shallow world war-II wrecks and Coral Garden of Sangat. We will have lunch on board the boat before saying goodbye to our guide and setting off at 4pm to Uson Island.

Overnight hotel – Club Paradise, Beachfront Cottage or similar

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

This morning we transfer by boat to El Nido and Miniloc. 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 – Lagen Resort, making the most of its existing natural beauty and excellent facilities, including free use of sea kayaks.

Overnight Resort – beachfront

DAY 8 & 9: EL NIDO (B,L,D)

We have a day of leisure today to enjoy all that El Nido has to offer. We can take advantage of a mid morning trip to explore El Nido Bay by kayak.

Overnight Resort

DAY 10: EL NIDO / CACNIPA ISLAND (B,L,D)

Today we set off to Cacnipa Island. This densely vegetated, natural tropical island has a beautiful palm fringed white sand beach with crystal clear waters supporting abundant marine life over mature coral gardens. Within 20 meters of the beach, in just a few meters of water it is possible to see turtles, reef sharks and a huge array of colorful tropical fish. We will sleep in traditional native accommodation made of bamboo and palm materials.

Overnight chalets



DAY 11: CACNIPA ISLAND / SABANG



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This morning we head (on a 3 hour outrigger cruise) to Sabang. This afternoon we will set out on a short trek 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

DAY 12:

Today we will drive to Tarabanan where we will have to register before setting off on our trek to visit the Batak tribe settlement. After an hour, our guide and porters will set up our tents and prepare dinner in our riverside setting.

Overnight camp

DAY 13: FLIGHT TO MANILA & TO HOME

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

What our clients have said

"I had the most amazing time, the itinerary was great"

-P. O'Grady



Important Information

INCLUDED

 All meals as described (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)

NOT INCLUDED

 Meals other than mentioned

Additional Information

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.

