

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
PHILIPPINE COMMISSION ON SPORTS SCUBA DIVING
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FAST FACTS

Capital Manila

Language Filipino is the national language but English is widely spoken. There are also 176 other local dialects.

Currency Philippine Peso (PHP)
Banks: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, weekdays
Malls: 10:00 am to 9:00 pm, weekdays
Government offices: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, weekdays

Credit Cards MasterCard, Visa, Diners Club, American Express, JCB

Business Hours

Communication The country has international and national direct dial phones, facsimile services and mobile phone coverage. Internet or e-mail facilities, and wireless connectivity are also available.

Climate Average temperature of 78°F / 26°C to 90°F / 32°C
March to May - Hot and dry
June to October - Wet season
November to February - Cool and windy.

What to wear Bring light and breathable clothes. When visiting the mountain regions, use warm and insulated clothing.

Religion Predominantly Roman Catholic. With Christians, Protestants, Muslims and Buddhists.

Government Tagalog. Women can wear cocktail dresses or long gowns.

When visiting churches, temples, mosques, or other places of worship, use your discretion and do wear appropriate clothing. Avoid sleeveless shirts, shorts, and slippers.

Electricity 220 volts, AC 60 cycles. Some hotels will carry 110 volt outlets.

Tippling Tips are normally 10% of the bill, but optional when there's service charge.



Photo Credit: Jerome Kim



Photo Credit: Ryan Almala



Photo Credit: Bo Manciao



Photo Credit: Alex Sloyda



Photo Credit: Boaz Samorai / Atlantis

SOGOD BAY, SOUTHERN LEYTE
Located in Southern Leyte, Sogod Bay is composed of 22 dive spots replete with rich marine life from multicolored corals to pygmy seahorses and the occasional whale shark. Its most famous dive site is Napantao, where unspoiled coral gardens and caves dot the seabed. It welcomes all levels of divers for its marine diversity and varied underwater topography.

APD ISLAND, NEGROS ORIENTAL
Apo Island in Negros Oriental may be a tiny volcanic island, but it is considered to be one of the finest dive destinations in the Philippines for its protected marine sanctuary. Beyond witnessing manta rays and colorful coral gardens, divers will find delight swimming with giant sea turtles and over 550 species of fish.

MALAPASCUA, CEBU
Manta rays, blue-ringed octopuses, shipwrecks, rare marine species and multi-colored corals make Malapascua one of the best dive sites not only in the Philippines but also the world. Its top dive spot is Monad Shoal or Shark Point where thresher sharks can be spotted throughout the year. The small island, located north of Cebu, can be reached via public boat.

MOALBOAL, CEBU
Moalboal is a diving paradise on the west coast of Cebu Island. It offers numerous diving spots including Pescador Island, where coralline walls support a variety of marine life such as sea fans and ferns, anemonefish, sponges, barracudas, and sharks including thresher and whitetip. Turtle Bay is another underwater hotspot that offers a respite for sea turtles while Pangasama Reef's steep underwater slopes feature gigantic sea whips and a massive school of sardines.

DAUIN, NEGROS ORIENTAL
Dauin in Negros Oriental comprises numerous dive areas gifted with amazing underwater kingdoms. Diving in sites like Sahara or San Miguel Tires will get you up close with nudibranchs, zebra lionfishes, frogfishes, and many more. For most divers, Dauin is a muck diving paradise, but it's also a treasure trove of rare and wonderful sea critters.



Photo Credit: Marcello Di Francesco



Photo Credit: Nij Pampong

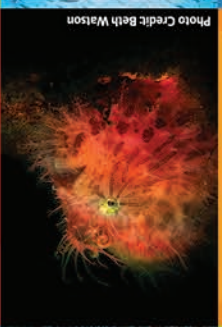


Photo Credit: Beth Watson



Photo Credit: Jonathan Ternoy



Photo Credit: Jerome Kim

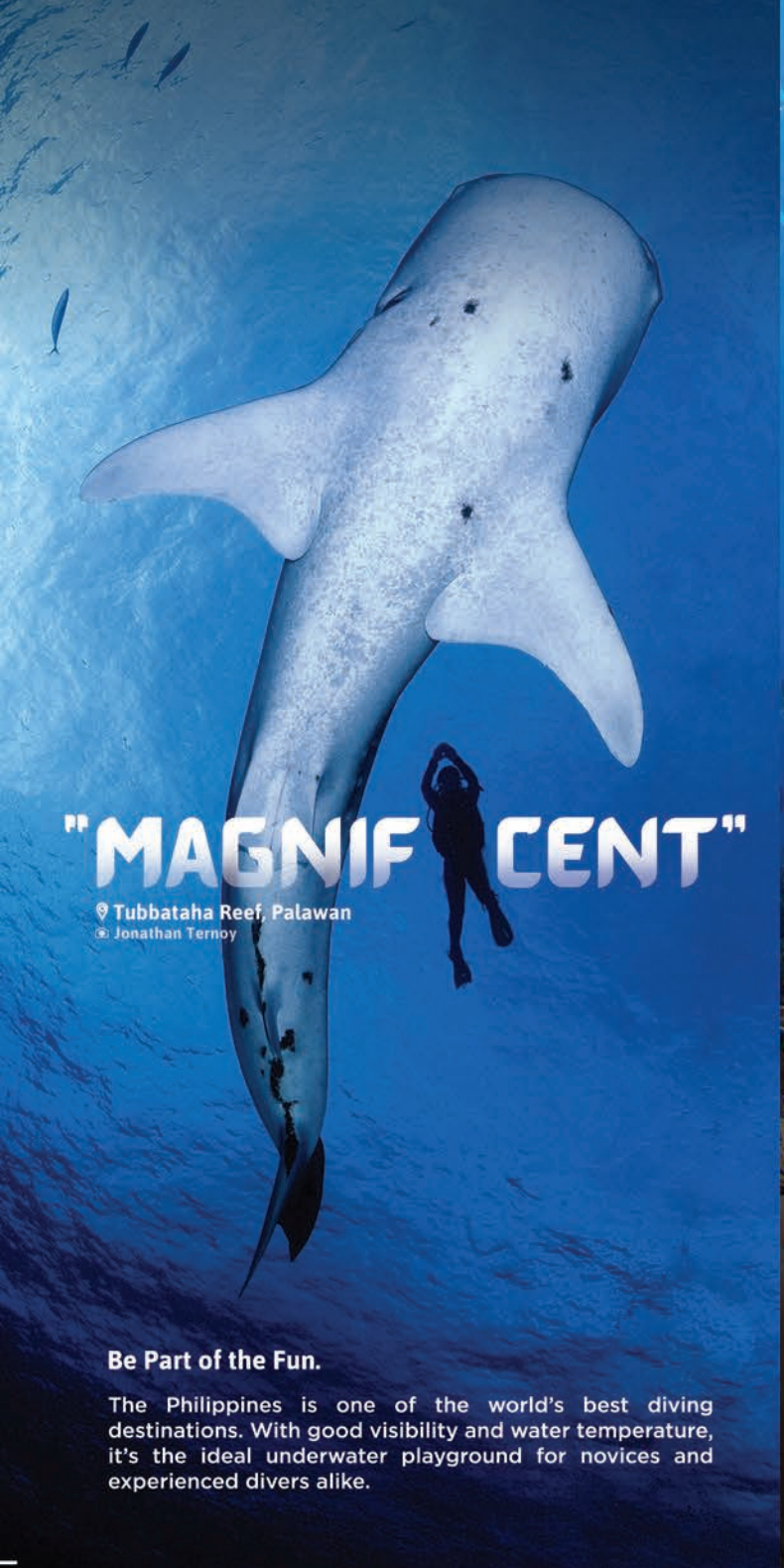
CORON BAY, PALAWAN
It's not just one of the world's best islands; Palawan offers an unmatched underwater experience for all types of divers from novices to professionals. Coron Bay, found in the northern area, is a hotspot for preserved shipwrecks. Below the clear waters, divers can explore WWII Japanese vessels or army ships that house turtles, eels and other colorful marine species.

PUERTO GALERA, MINDORO
Aside from its amazing sunset views and long stretch of white sand beach, Puerto Galera is also an ideal place for diving and snorkeling. A plethora of aquatic creatures such as white and black tip sharks, pelagic fishes, moray eels, and octopuses can be found living in the coral gardens of its dive areas.

ANILAO, BATANGAS
Anilao is known as the birthplace of scuba diving in the Philippines. A paradise for underwater photographers, especially macro photography, its marine landscape makes up for its mostly rocky shores. Boasting of more than 50 dive sites, Anilao is one of the best places to get up close with hundreds of species of corals, pelagic fishes, and tiny nudibranchs.

TUBBATANA REEF, PALAWAN
The Tubbataha Reef Marine Park is a protected area and a UNESCO World Heritage Site found in Sulu Sea near the island of Palawan. Teeming with aquatic life, it's a diver's paradise that can only be accessed using liveaboards. The best time to dive Tubbataha is during the summer season from mid-March to late May.

BALICASAG, BOHOL
Home to an abundance of aquatic flora and fauna, Balicasag is a small tropical marine sanctuary where novice snorkelers and veteran scuba divers alike can swim with sea turtles, dolphins and silvery jack fishes. Its impressive submarine cliffs are studded with corals, sponges, and anemones that house a variety of fishes, mollusks and crustaceans.



"MAGNIFICENT"
Tubbataha Reef, Palawan
Jonathan Ternoy

Be Part of the Fun.

The Philippines is one of the world's best diving destinations. With good visibility and water temperature, it's the ideal underwater playground for novices and experienced divers alike.



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ASEAN

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