

Balabac to Dugong

Ultimate Palawan boat tour

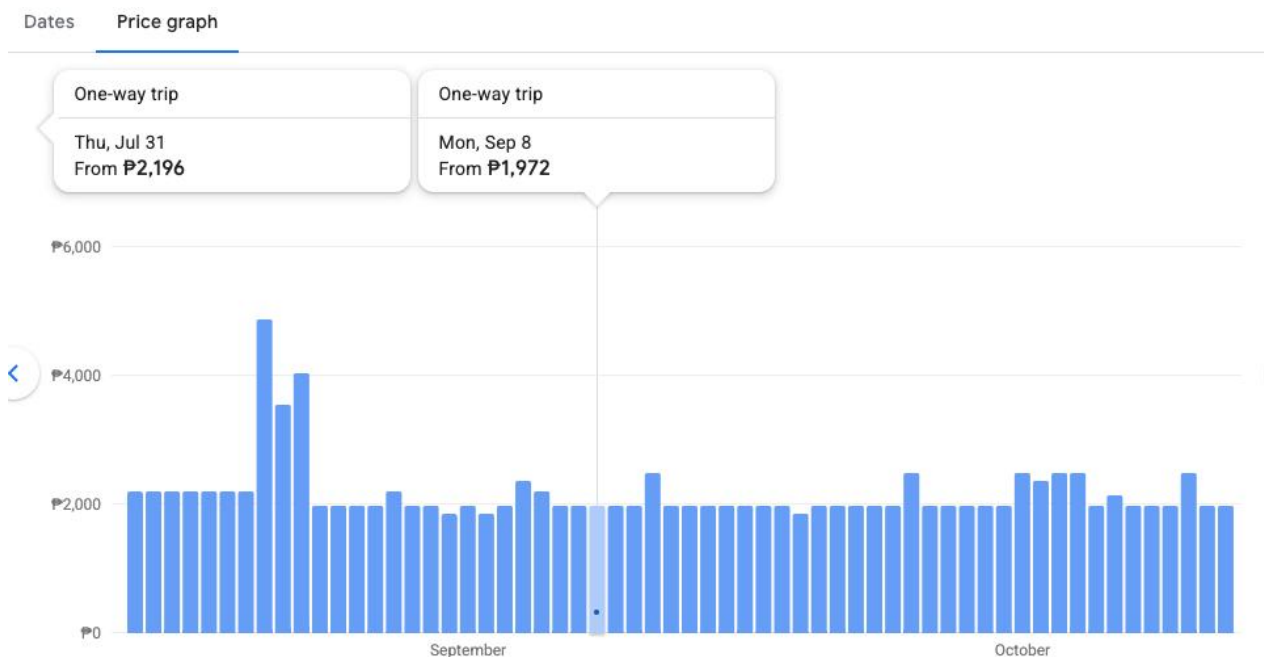
If you have **at least two weeks** to travel through the beautiful Palawan area, considered the [jewel of the country](#), you have the opportunity to see all the best sites. Which is better than trying to see the most popular sites in the Philippines during the same period, as we [explained](#) to one of our customers (or you can check here for [suggested options](#) if you really do want to see it all in one go).

Here's a map to put it into perspective for you, followed by a description of each site and an approximate price to help you decide what is the best option for you:



In summation: Fly into [Puerto Princesa](#) (PP), departure at 2am 5-6 hour transfer to 4 day [Balabac tour](#) start, arrive back to PP 2-3pm after another 5-6 hour transfer on day 4, option to continue to [El Nido](#) 6 hour transfer, on the way can see Sabang (and [private underground river tour](#)), then [Port Barton](#), after El Nido to [Sibaltan](#) start of [multiday boat tour to Coron](#) (can also do in opposite direction), option for [more tours around Coron](#), options for [diving](#), end with [Dugong tour](#), details following (**estimated prices for two people**).

Flight from Manila to Puerto Princesa ~ 4,000p



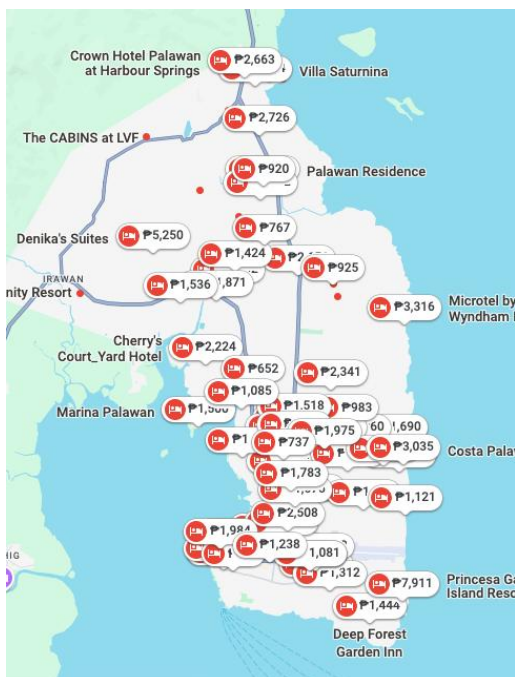
Searching “flights manila coron” in google we can get the above graph to give an idea, minimum roughly

4,000p (all prices will be shown for 2 people)

Note that, depending on your flight times, you may have to spend at least one night in [Manila](#).

Overnight stay in Princesa

Since the **5-6 hour transfer** to the start of the Balabac tour departs at 2:00am, we assume you will want to overnight in Princesa (restricted airport access between 1-4:30am).



Using [google maps and clicking on Hotels](#) gives you an idea of prices, or you can try roughing it in the airport, depending on your arrival time. I stayed in Princesa for a few months and do not consider it worthwhile exploring.

If you are a family you might consider a [nice loft space](#) to relax while you wait for your departure (they have space in Puerto Princesa and El Nido):



Balabac 3 day tour for 2 people - 98,500p



A beautiful and pristine group of islands off the southern tip of [Palawan Island](#), [Balabac](#) is truly a destination for those who like to get off the beaten path.

The fourth day is consumed by bringing you back to Puerto Princesa, which includes the same 5-6 hour van transfer and gets you back to Princesa at around 2-3:00pm. From there you can take another 5-6 hour transfer (**we can organize private vans** for you) to El Nido, or you may have had enough of traveling that day already. But since Princesa really doesn't have anything interesting to offer, perhaps you could consider a mere **2.5 hour transfer to...**

Sabang Beach - private underground river tour 13,600p+



As you can see, if you want to see the underground river tour, considered one of the seven wonders of the world, it is smarter to continue to Sabang Beach, which is very close to it, instead of staying overnight in Princesa. It is only a 2.5 hour drive and you are back to the glorious beach. But be warned that the official underground river tour is very commercial, packed with tourists and excruciatingly long waits, in which case you should consider the [private tour and jungle hike up the river](#), time permitting. There are several other interesting things you can do there as well.

From approx. 13,600p, including transport

Port Barton - 9,000 plus accommodation



Including your flight arrival in Manila, if you were to choose all options above your arrival in [Port Barton](#) could be your

7th day of travels. Next day for a boat tour, with the option for a day of rest, could make **Day 9 or 10** your arrival to El Nido.

Port Barton is another location off the beaten path, a bit out of the way and hence away from the tourist mayhem. It is a beach lover's paradise with excellent snorkeling and boat tours.

El Nido - 15,000p plus accommodation



Lots of [island beaches to explore](#) in [El Nido](#), and we can customize your private tour to cherry pick which sites you want to visit, but we found them not so exhilarating and furthermore inundated with tourists. But if you're up for a bit of adventure, we found the zipline to neighbouring island fun, walking back ankle deep along a sandbar to a beautiful beach restaurant watching the sun go down. They have lots of **live bands playing in beach pubs** and it could be a worthy overnight rest stop along your journey,

otherwise only one more hour by van can take you to...

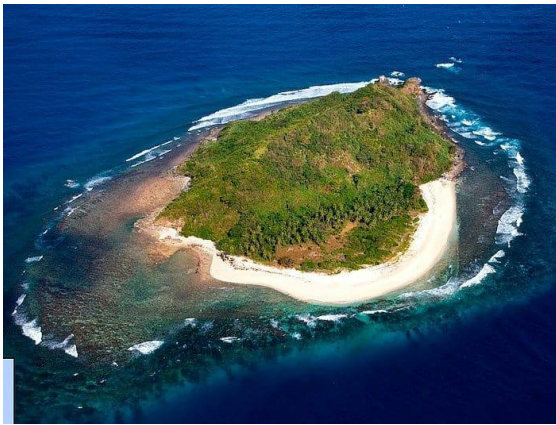
Sibaltan



[Sibaltan](#) is a quaint archeological village on the other side of the peninsula from El Nido and where our multiday boat tours start or end, depending on which direction you are going. The village also offers [land tours](#), such as kayaking up a mangrove river. Accommodation is not five star, but if you'd like to get away from the busy crowds, this long quiet stretch of beach is a nice escape.

Assuming you stayed one night in El Nido or Sibaltan plus all above that, it would put you at **Day 11** of your tour. Of course you can adjust things according to your time limitations, which now brings us to another highlight of your tour...

Multiday expedition between Sibaltan and Coron - \$2,600



There are 82 islands along this remote area, off the beaten path, where you can even camp out on your own [deserted island or beach](#), or upgrade to [fancier accommodation](#), partake in cliff jumping, enjoy [fantastic snorkeling](#) in [crystal clear waters](#), be pulled on a [wakeboard](#) for extra fun, and enjoy beautiful, pristine nature away from the tourist crowds.

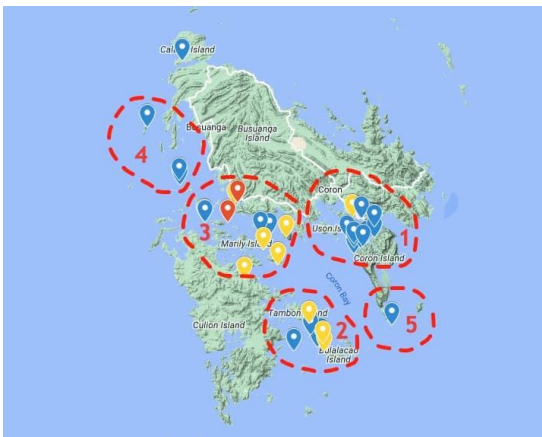
You can customize your tour to include [scuba diving](#), adjust your route to hop only from one fancy island resort to another, or [choose your boat](#) (for example a

larger banca boat if you are afraid of waves or a faster boat if you need to make the journey in a shorter time).

Price depends on the [number of days and people](#), but generally the most popular selection is

4 days for 2 people at \$2,600usd

Coron



Once you get to the Coron area there are a whole bunch of [other sites](#) and [fancy resorts](#) you can explore, or you can just end your tour here to fly back to Manila, possibly after checking out the most popular sites of [Twin Lagoons](#), [Kayangan Lake](#) and [Barracuda Lake](#) on the last day of your tour.

Alternatively, time and budget permitting, you can continue exploring the Coron area in a northwest direction and where the best diving is, to end your Ultimate Palawan tour with a [Dugong tour](#) on the north

end of Busuanga island (island on which [Coron town](#) is located). Synopsis following...



Synopsis

If you were to choose all options as mentioned above, that would bring your total number of days to **17 days** including a two hour private van transfer from the Dugong tour back to Coron, where perhaps that same day you will be able to fly back to Manila, making your total trip roughly 18 days, but since this could be out of your budget or time allocation, the following is a rough breakdown of total costs for various combinations, **excluding flights, accommodation* and diving costs** (with the exception of the underground river tour in Sabang, assuming you must stay at the resort to avail of their tours). Of course the number of days for each location can be changed and the following is meant merely as an approximate guideline (calculated at 56 pesos to the dollar).

** Basic accommodation and food is included in the Balabac and Multiday tours, with the option to upgrade accommodation.*

| Tour combo (two people) - either direction is possible | Duration (days) | Total price (usd) |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|
| Full tour | 18 | \$5,950 |
| Balabac-El Nido-M-Coron (plus)-Dugong | 15-16 | \$5,550 |
| El Nido-M-Coron (plus)-Dugong | 8-9 | \$3,800 |
| El Nido-M-Coron (plus) | 7 | \$3,535 |
| El Nido-M-Coron (basic) | 6 | \$2,900 |

M = 4 day Multiday tour between El Nido and Coron (for two people) - price subject to number of people and days

*Coron (plus) = extended by one day to include other sites around Coron***

Coron (basic) = multiday tour ends in Coron town

*** Note that the multiday between El Nido (Sibaltan) and Coron is highly variable, such as fewer days between El Nido and Coron and more days around Coron etc. Any customization will require an exact quote ([sample correspondence](#)) and this table serves only as a guiding approximation. Table assumes one day of tours in El Nido.*

Scuba diving charges:

Scuba diving fun dives are 1500 pesos each plus gear 650p per day, tanks are each 400p, and 2,000p/day for dive master.

Diving tours require a [different boat](#) (larger boat will be available after September, 2025) which costs generally 3,000p/day extra, or 7,000p/day extra for the larger boat (32 feet long, two engines, glass-protected in front), but which does not include cooking facilities, which therefore must be purchased from the various resorts.

