

# DIVE PHILIPPINES

Experience the Philippines, a land of 7,107 beautiful islands, stunning beaches, pristine reefs and a diverse marine eco-system, home to some of the finest dive sites in the world.

Dive with the Dugongs at Dimakya Island, Thresher Sharks at Malapascua or snorkel with Whale Sharks at Donsol. Wreck enthusiasts head to Sangat Island Reserve

and Coron Bay where the WWII Japanese Fleet can be found. Alternatively try the tiny island of Cabilao where the reefs are home to barracuda, sharks and large rays or Balicasag Island, with its marine sanctuary, walls and schooling jacks.

The Philippines has diving suitable for everyone with islands, beaches and reefs waiting to be explored.



## Donsol is the Whale Shark Capital of the Philippines!

11 days London to London [B]

Swimming with a Whale Shark, locally known as Butanding (scientific name: *Rhincodon typus*) is the epitome of wildlife encounters – an experience of a lifetime, an experience not to be missed! The sheer size of the largest fish in the ocean will start your adrenalin pumping.

In Sorsogon Province near Donsol there is a rare opportunity to interact with anything up to 20 Whale Sharks at any one time. For this, Donsol is now being dubbed by many as the “Whale Shark Capital of the World”.

These gentle giants of the sea – considered the largest fish in the world, measuring from 15 ft. to as long as 40 ft. in length, have been found to converge in the waters off Donsol starting sometime during the months of October and November, and peaking in the months of February to May. These harmless, gentle, friendly and playful filter feeders allow humans to swim, play and interact with them, as they ponderously glide along close to the surface of the ocean. Donsol, a small coastal town, is reached by a short 55 minute flight from Manila to Legaspi City and then a 45 to 60 minute road transfer.

### Vitton Beach Resort

Stay at the Vitton Beach Resort located adjacent to the Butanding Interaction Visitor Center, ideal for those Whale

Shark excursions. Brand new beachfront cottages are surrounded by spacious, coconut-lined gardens. All cottages are large and airy with private bathroom and air-conditioning. Relax at the restaurant with a sea breeze and views of the sea, ideal for watching those wonderful sunsets.

|                           |                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Cost per person:</b>   | From £1569                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>What is included:</b>  | Flights, transfers & meals as indicated, 5-days snorkelling with Whale Sharks including picnic lunch, spotter and guide, souvenir shopping on last day. |
| <b>Accommodation:</b>     | 3-star hotel Manila 1 night & resort 7 nights                                                                                                           |
| <b>Departure details:</b> | October through May                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Diving package:</b>    | Diving is not allowed with the Whale Sharks. However, a two-hour boat ride takes you to “Manta Bowl” where diving is possible.                          |



Coral reef scene



Dense school of bigeye jacks or trevally

## Cosmopolitan Manila

Manila is blessed with fine hotels, restaurants and shopping opportunities making it an ideal spot to take a break in your travels. Gregarious, friendly and frantic Manila is a crowded capital that contrasts modern skyscrapers and broad boulevards with mysterious alleyways. Highlights not to miss include a ride on a *jeepney*; Manila's historic fort; a sunset cruise, European-style café society; shopping for fashions, trinkets and hand rolled cigars.

## Atlantis Beach Resorts

Experience some of Asia's best diving from two beautiful boutique resorts that aim to meet your every need. You will be met at the airport and transferred to the resort, where rooms feature air-conditioning, TV with free movie channels, minibars and en-suite facilities as standard, restaurants offer international and local cuisine and the dive set up is unrivalled. Both resorts offer swimming pools and an on-site PADI 5-star dive centre, from where five boat dives are offered each day, to small groups by knowledgeable guides. Nitrox and technical diving are also available. Non-divers and children are catered for with local excursions, to waterfalls or hidden paradises, jungle trips and hiking, local markets, kayaking or simply by relaxing on the beach. The two Atlantis Resorts can be combined as a twin centre or with other islands to suit your requirements.



Atlantis Resort Puerto Galera

## Atlantis Puerto Galera

10 days London to London [HB]

Atlantis Puerto Galera is located on the island of Mindoro, about 112 kilometres from Manila, and is an easy two hours road transfer followed by a one hour boat ride. Situated on Sabang Beach. Just a stone's throw from lively restaurants and bars, the resort is ideal for groups or individual travellers. Accommodation is in 38 en-suite deluxe rooms/suites, there is a fresh water swimming pool and a PADI 5-Star Instructor Development Centre, with Trimix and special project diving.

The area is home to some amazing macro life including Pygmy Seahorses, Harlequin Ghost Pipe Fish, Frog Fish, Leaf Fish and Flamboyant Cuttlefish, and with ten kilometres of unspoiled reefs, just in front of the resort, and more than 30 dive sites, within 15 minutes travel, the resort offers diving for everyone - from high voltage drift dives to an hour ambling along the reef.

|                           |                                                  |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Cost per person:</b>   | From £1,336 - in a Superior Room, deluxe package |
| <b>What is included:</b>  | Flights, transfers & meals as indicated          |
| <b>Accommodation:</b>     | Resort - 7 nights                                |
| <b>Departure details:</b> | Daily, throughout the year                       |
| <b>Diving package:</b>    | 6 days unlimited diving, guide, tanks & weights  |

## Atlantis Dumaguete

11 days London to London [B]

Atlantis Dumaguete is a boutique resort situated in a 5,000 square metre tropical garden, comprising 36 deluxe rooms and suites. Furnished in native style, with balcony or patio with woven hammocks, rooms have sea views, surround the stunning swimming pool area or nestle in the tropical gardens. The first class restaurant runs right onto the beach for those romantic meals. The house reef is ideal for macro photographers, home to Harlequin Fish and other rare finds. Probably the most sought after dive though is at Apo Island an hour's boat ride from the resort - a world-class drop-off with fabulous pristine hard corals and home to schools of jacks. Balicasag and Siquijor islands are two more excellent day trips available from Dumaguete.

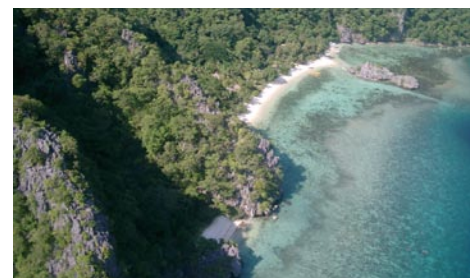
|                           |                                                 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Cost per person:</b>   | From £1,389                                     |
| <b>What is included:</b>  | Flights, transfers & meals as indicated         |
| <b>Accommodation:</b>     | 3-star hotel - 1 night & resort - 7 nights      |
| <b>Departure details:</b> | Daily, throughout the year                      |
| <b>Diving package:</b>    | 6 days unlimited diving, guide, tanks & weights |

## Sangat Island Reserve & Coron Bay

11 days London to London  
[FB (Sangat Island Reserve only)]

Situated in the north of the Philippines' most westerly islands, the Calamian Islands, is Sangat Island Reserve. The Calamians are renowned for their white beaches, pristine beauty, natural attractions and mystic appeal, whilst Coron Bay is fast becoming one of the world's best dive destinations, due to a unique combination of fantastic wreck diving opportunities, coral reefs and the warm, geothermal lakes of Coron Island. Two large, local outriggers convey up to ten divers each to the sites, returning to shore between dives for meals and surface intervals, with regular full day excursions to sites and islands that are further afield. An intriguing insight into the WWII battle of the Sulu Sea, is afforded by the wrecks of Japanese naval support ships sunk here by US carrier-based aircraft. Lying at an average depth of 25 metres, with a maximum of 40 metres, the wrecks make excellent diving for all levels, almost all are in good condition and penetrations are possible for experienced wreck divers. Most technical facilities are available on the island, with a filling station providing 100% oxygen, and complete O2 clean tanks and equipment available for rental.

Accommodation is in ten exclusive, individual cottages, constructed in local architectural style and using local materials. All offer exquisite views over the beach and Bay of Coron and you can choose from Beachfront Cottages, where you are lulled to sleep by the sound of the sea or Cliffside Cottages, where you wake to the sounds of the island's bird life.



Aerial view Sangat Island Reserve

|                           |                                            |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>Cost per person:</b>   | From £1,310                                |
| <b>What is included:</b>  | Flights, transfers & meals as indicated    |
| <b>Accommodation:</b>     | 3-star hotel - 1 night & resort - 7 nights |
| <b>Departure details:</b> | Daily, throughout the year                 |
| <b>Diving package:</b>    | 12 boat dives, guide, tanks & weights      |



Colourful reef



Thresher Shark

## Bohol and Surrounding Islands

Bohol lies southeast of Cebu, in central Philippines, and just under two hours flight from Manila. A tropical haven of natural beauty, Bohol's main attraction, apart from its world-famous Chocolate Hills (1,268 perfectly cone-shaped hills), is as the home of the Tarsier, the big-eyed insect-eating monkey regarded to be the oldest mammal living today. However, Bohol is also known for its pristine sandy beaches and great diving attractions.

Panglao Island and Alona Beach have peaceful beaches and varied diving. With good coral gardens near the surface ideal for snorkelling, and steep walls complete with caves, overhangs and crevices harbouring teeming fish and invertebrate life. Around the small offshore islands are strong currents where you can see large schools of fish and big pelagic species such as Manta Rays, Hammerhead Sharks and even Whale Sharks.

Balicasag Island is southwest of Duljo Point, offers great diving areas and beaches and is a microcosm of some of the best diving the Philippines has to offer. On the south side of the island there is a marine sanctuary, with vertical walls and strong currents that host healthy marine life and plenty of pelagic visitors. Hammerhead Sharks and Whale Sharks can be seen here in December and January.

## Cabilao Island Extension

5 days from Bohol [B]

To the west of Bohol, Cabilao is a small island, perfect for divers who want to get away from it all. Only eight minutes by boat from the Sea Explorers Dive Centre this small eco-resort has four double bungalows with ocean view. All rooms are equipped with hot shower, tiled bathroom, an electric fan and a terrace. At the top of a wooden stairway is Cabilao Beach Club's restaurant, which offers panoramic views of the ocean. Truly an eat, sleep and dive tropical paradise with fabulous diving from native bancas on steep drop-offs; why not combine a stay at the Cabilao Beach Club with a stay on Bohol, or surrounding islands?

|                           |                                                                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Cost per person:</b>   | £269                                                                      |
| <b>What is included:</b>  | Transfers from Tagbilaran ( Bohol) or Cebu & meals as indicated           |
| <b>Accommodation:</b>     | Small Eco Resort - 4 nights                                               |
| <b>Departure details:</b> | By boat daily from other islands after an overnight stay on Bohol or Cebu |
| <b>Diving package:</b>    | 8 dives, guide, tanks and weights                                         |

## Alona Palm Beach Resort

10 days London to London [B]

Alona Palm Beach Resort is situated in the middle of a tropical garden with twelve luxury villas divided from a sandy beach by a 60-metre wide coconut palm grove. The villas are elegantly furnished, either with a king size bed or two double beds, and most offer pool, coconut palm grove and sea view. The open air poolside restaurant overlooks the sea and offers excellent Filipino and International cuisine. The resort boasts a large swimming pool, with pool bar, and various recreation facilities, including outdoor chess, table tennis, kayaking, mountain bike rental and massage services. The Sea Explorers dive centre, based at the Alona Tropical Beach Resort, just five minutes walk along the beach, offers full dive services and will store your equipment during your stay.

|                           |                                              |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Cost per person:</b>   | From £1,470                                  |
| <b>What is included:</b>  | Flights, transfers & meals as indicated.     |
| <b>Accommodation:</b>     | Hotel - 7 nights                             |
| <b>Departure details:</b> | Daily, throughout the year                   |
| <b>Diving package:</b>    | 6 days of 2 tanks dives with tanks & weights |

## The Ananyana Beach Resort & Spa

10 days London to London [B]

Located on beautiful Doljo Beach on Panglao Island, Ananyana Beach Resort consists of ten spacious and tastefully decorated native style suites. Each suite is fitted with a bamboo-framed king size bed, whilst the family suites are on two levels. All are air-conditioned, with minibar, en-suite and beach views, from either a terrace or balcony. Ten minutes away is Alona Beach, with bars and restaurants. Other facilities include: kayaking, children's playground and on-site dive centre with a house reef accessible from shore.

|                           |                                               |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Cost per person:</b>   | From £1,523                                   |
| <b>What is included:</b>  | Flights, transfers & meals as indicated       |
| <b>Accommodation:</b>     | Resort                                        |
| <b>Departure details:</b> | Daily, throughout the year                    |
| <b>Diving package:</b>    | 6 days of 2 tank dives with tanks and weights |



For more details on our holidays and for special offers visit our website: [diveworldwide.com](http://diveworldwide.com)

## Thresher Sharks of Malapascua

11 days London to London [B]

No dive trip to the Philippines is complete without a visit to the small island of Malapascua located about seven kilometres north-east of Cebu. Surrounded by bright white sand beaches and broken up by small rocky outcrops, tourism is relatively new and there are only a handful of resorts and a couple of dive operators.

Exotic Island Resort is located within easy walking distance of the islands main, tourist beach, but far enough away to give it a secluded and relaxed island atmosphere. This friendly resort offers rooms and cottages, built in local style and from natural materials, catering for all pockets; from backpacker budget to deluxe air-conditioned accommodation, with hot water, minibar and satellite TV. All cottages feature a large veranda with views of the turquoise-blue, clear Visayan sea.

Malapascua is known as one of the best shark diving locations in the Philippines. Sharks seen here include White Tips, Black Tips, Bamboo, Nurse, Cat, Hammerheads, and the magnificent Thresher Shark. Malapascua's Monad Shoal is known as the only place in the world where Threshers can be closely observed on a daily basis. Other large pelagics seen on Monad include Manta, and Devil Rays, whilst an impressive array of Nudibranch, Pipefish and Frogfish will keep macro photographers happy.

The resort's own in-house PADI 5-Star Gold Palm dive centre operates a diving fleet of four comfortable dive bancas, with two or three tank boat dives each day and optional night diving. Also offered are three or four day dive safaris and snorkel tours. Experience exciting wall diving, admiring the beauty of sharks and other big pelagic species, explore shipwrecks and dive the famous Gato Island.

|                           |                                         |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Cost per person:</b>   | From £1,086                             |
| <b>What is included:</b>  | Flights, transfers & meals as indicated |
| <b>Accommodation:</b>     | Resort - 7 nights & hotel - 1 night     |
| <b>Departure details:</b> | Daily, throughout the year              |
| <b>Diving package:</b>    | 12 dives, tanks & weights               |



Dive Philippines is the sponsor of the BSAC Try-Dive and Go-Dive Campaigns.



Dugong



Coleman Shrimp © Yvette Lee

## Club Noah

13 days London to London [FB]  
(Club Noah only)]

Located within a marine sanctuary on the island of Apulit, in the far west of the Philippines, this luxury resort consists of 50 cabanas, situated over the waters of a beautiful cove, surrounded by a large reef, where fish use the shallow water as nurseries and the waters teem with life. Relax on your private balcony, enjoying the luxury of room service.

The onsite dive centre offers house reef and boat dives, typically between 3 to 30 minutes from the resort where you will be able to see pelagics, countless reef fish and corals of every imaginable shape. For those searching for the big fish encounters, there are sharks, stingrays, sea turtles, tuna, jacks, groupers and countless more. If you're a non diver Club Noah offers a free introductory dive.

## Club Paradise and the Dugong Dive Centre Dimakya Island

11 days London - London [FB]

Club Paradise and the Dugong Dive Centre, Dimakya Island consists of 52 rooms and suites all with air-conditioning and full amenities.

The seas around Dimakya present an abundance of giant clams, sea sponges, huge coral beds and a multitude of fish and other marine creatures. The seabed provides a vast sea grass ground, making an ideal feeding area for the Dugong. Dimakya is one of the few areas in the world where Dugongs can be observed underwater and Dugong watching excursions are available for non divers.

Divers can investigate the nearby wreck of the World War II Japanese Kyokuzan Maru or take full day and overnight trips to the famous Apo Reef Marine Park or the Coron shipwrecks at Sangat. Activities range from windsurfing to kayaking plus island hopping and excursions to the Calauit Wildlife Sanctuary or the awe-inspiring Cayangan Lake.

|                           |                                                                                   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Cost per person:</b>   | Club Noah from £1,995<br>Club Paradise from £1,385                                |
| <b>What is included:</b>  | Flights, transfers & meals as indicated                                           |
| <b>Accommodation:</b>     | 1 Hotel & 7 resort nights                                                         |
| <b>Departure details:</b> | Daily, throughout the year                                                        |
| <b>Diving package:</b>    | 6 days unlimited shore diving including tanks and weights (boat dives on request) |

## Philippine Liveaboards

Three large, comfortable and modern liveaboards operate scheduled trips to the Tubbataha Reefs, Apo Reef, Coron, Panagatan Cays and Visayas. All are full service dive cruisers fully equipped with the latest navigation, safety and dive equipment, air-conditioned cabins, open-rinse showers on deck, entertainment centres, well-stocked bar, library and satellite phone.

M.V. Oceanic Explorer has twelve twin, en-suite cabins and seven twin cabins with shared facilities. The vessel carries fifteen experienced crew and Nitrox is available.

M.V. Apo Explorer has eight twin, sharing cabins for up to sixteen guests, with private facilities and eleven experienced service crew.

M.V. Stella Maris Explorer has ten twin, sharing cabins for up to twenty guests, with private facilities and fourteen experienced service crew.

### Tubbataha Reef National Park

In the centre of the Sulu Sea lies the Tubbataha Reef National Park, the best diving in the Philippines, offering an amazing variety of marine life, such as turtles, mantas, Reef Sharks and Eagle Rays. Other shark species, such as Shovelnose, Leopard, and Hammerhead are also common. The terrain ranges from gentle slopes to sheer walls in excess of 900 metres, with schools of jacks and snappers congregating on the wall, while sleek Barracudas patrol nearby. The spectacular explosion of life and colour makes this an experience never to be forgotten.

The M.V. Oceanic Explorer, M.V. Stella Maris Explorer and M.V. Apo Explorer visit the magnificent Tubbataha reefs between the months of March and June.



M.V. Oceanic Explorer

## Apo Reef

5 days Batangas to Batangas [FB]

Apo Reef was once considered the prime diving area in the Philippines, prior to discovery of Tubbataha. The Northern edge of the lagoon has magnificent drop-offs, with gorgonians and sea fans dominating an underwater landscape literally awash with impressive coral formations. On the east side, White Tip, and Black Tip Sharks, as well as Manta Rays are not uncommon. There are also three wrecks amongst the marine inhabitants of this reef.

|                           |                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Cost per person:</b>   | Deluxe from £547, Standard from £488                                                                           |
| <b>Single supplement:</b> | None in single cabin                                                                                           |
| <b>What is included:</b>  | Meals as indicated, marine park conservation fee<br>Longer trips are available or combine with and island stay |
| <b>Accommodation:</b>     | Liveaboard - 4 nights                                                                                          |
| <b>Departure details:</b> | Jul to Feb. First, second and third Thurs of each month from Batangas                                          |
| <b>Diving package:</b>    | Unlimited diving including tanks and weights                                                                   |

## Coron itinerary

8 days Coron to Coron (alternatively called Busuanga) [FB]

The World War II wrecks around Busuanga Island, particularly Coron Bay, have been one of the Philippines best kept diving secrets. A condensed version of Truk Lagoon, the area is home to a huge concentration of World War II Japanese wrecks.

With so much to see and at such good value you will want to add an extension to your Philippines liveaboard adventure. Please do give us a call to discuss an island or city stay from a huge variety of options.

|                           |                                              |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Cost per person:</b>   | Deluxe from £800, Standard from £742         |
| <b>Single supplement:</b> | None in share cabin                          |
| <b>What is included:</b>  | Meals as indicated, conservation fee         |
| <b>Accommodation:</b>     | Liveaboard - 6 nights                        |
| <b>Departure details:</b> | Jul to Feb. Every fourth Thurs of the month. |
| <b>Diving package:</b>    | Unlimited diving including tanks and weights |



Embassy of the Philippines  
Department of Tourism

146 Cromwell Road, London SW7 4EF

Tel: (020) 7835 1100

Fax: (020) 7835 1926

E-mail: [infotourism@wowphilippines.co.uk](mailto:infotourism@wowphilippines.co.uk)

Website: [www.wowphilippines.co.uk](http://www.wowphilippines.co.uk)