

BOHOL PHILIPPINES

ATTRACTIONS

NATURAL ATTRACTIONS

Chocolate Hills

Located in the town of Carmen, 55 kilometers from Tagbilaran City, the Chocolate Hills are undoubtedly the most famous tourist attraction in Bohol. Among the 1,268 perfectly cone-shaped hills, which abound in Central Bohol, two have been developed into a resort. On top of these hills is a complex that offers accommodation, conference rooms, restaurants, and a view deck.

Loboc River Cruise

Enjoy a refreshing boat ride in the serene waters of Loboc River, starting from Loay Bridge, which is the outlet of the river and along the palm-fringed banks inland. The ride via motorized pump boat ends near the Tontonan waterfalls, which provides a pleasant bathing session. Some tours offer a lunch menu of local delicacies with serenaders en route.

Hinagdanan Cave

It has clean, fresh water gushing from rocky sides. An eerie underworld of stalactites and stalagmites with a bathing pool underneath, this cave is about 2 ½ kilometers away from the poblacion of Dauis.

Busay Falls

Busay Falls is 12 meters wide and 4 meters deep. It caters to swimmers and sightseers who would be enthralled to commune with nature. The Floating Restaurants had been anchored there as venue for meetings and conferences.

Philippine Tarsier

This is one of the rarest faunas found in the Philippine archipelago and considered the smallest primate in the world. Measuring four to five inches, a few of these tiny creatures are housed in Loboc for viewing by tourists. However, if you're really interested to see them in their natural habitat, there is a 15-kilometre pathway through the rolling terrain of the interior towns of Corella, Sikatuna, and Loboc where the tarsiers thrive.

Rajah Sikatuna National Park

The park is largest remaining natural forest in Bohol, located near the town of Bilar with a hostel in its centre. It is one of the favorite bird-watching sites in the Philippines, with a number of trails already set out. Numerous species including the rare and endangered Philippine Eagle Owl, can be spotted coming out of their hiding places.

BEACHES

Alejawan Beach

Though its sand and pebbles are brown, the water does not get murky. The sea bottom very gently slopes to the deep making it a child-friendly beach. The beach has a wide level ground, which can hold expansion and development. The area is about two hundred meters from the highway.

Alona Beach

Located at the southwest of the island, Alona beach is arguably the most beautiful and definitely the most developed beach on Panglao. It is about one and a half kilometers long and lined with premier resorts, restaurants and top diving establishments.

The edge of the 'house' reef, is reached just a few meters off shore at between three and five meters deep, and can be easily surveyed even without scuba equipment. There are a couple of dive sites here featuring moray eels and lion fish to name a few.

Anda Beach

A beach along the poblacion covered with white sand. It is noted for its cleanliness. The townfolk enjoy the unpolluted sea.

Balbalan Beach

Dimiao has a stretch of white sandy beaches facing the Mindanao Sea. Colorful coral reefs dot its shorelines, offering an alternative diving haven in the province. The most famous of these beaches is the Balbalan Beach Resort, which is a 5-minute drive from the poblacion, whose crystal-clear blue waters is ideal for swimming, sailing and diving.

Bay Watch

Famous for scuba diving, especially noted for the presence of famous white sharks.

Bikini Beach

It is about eight kilometers from Tagbilaran, and makes for a popular location for local picnickers.

Canuba Beach

It is an ideal place for bathing with clean water and white sand along the highway shaded by palm trees and a cliff in the eastern part of the beach.

Clarín Beach

A long stretch of white sand beach, it was developed during the time of late Senator Jose Clarín. It is complete with recreational facilities and a bathhouse. This beach is only one kilometer away from the Poblacion to Loay.

Dumaluan Beach

Located on the south of the island, Dumaluan beach is another snow-white beach about two and half kilometers east of Alona Beach.

Doljo Beach

Located on the Northwest of the island, is another nice beach, mostly free from sea-grasses. This beach is known for the beautiful seashells that can be found here and the deep calm water, undisturbed coral reefs and diversity of fish making it ideal for diving.

Kaingit Beach

A popular beach resort in Tagbilaran which is jam-packed by bathers during weekends. It is situated in a cove, which leaves the bathers undisturbed even during stormy weather. It is located at the end of a side street from Graham Avenue. It is being developed and maintained by the city government. Seafood and drinks are also sold.

Momo Beach

Located on the north side of Panglao is another shallow and white sand beach.

Sta. Fe Beach

One of the favorite beaches covered by white sand. Fronting the open sea of Mindanao. This beach is visited by big numbers of picnickers during holidays. It is located in about one and one half kilometers from the Poblacion of Alburquerque.

CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS

Dauis Church

Dauis Church is one of Bohol's beautiful churches that has retained its Spanish architecture despite a semi-modern façade. The interior has life-like murals painted on the ceiling. Legend has it that when the town was invaded by pirates, the townfolk locked themselves inside the church until they ran out of water and provisions. Then suddenly a well appeared at the foot of the altar where people started drawing water. It is still the main source of water for the people living in the church vicinity.

Baclayon Church

One of the oldest stone churches in the Philippines is Baclayon Church, located in the town of Baclayon, six kilometers from Tagbilaran City. This ancient massive edifice still retains its century-old architectural design. Both in the external and internal portions of the church are various interesting relics and artifacts dating back to the early 16th.

Blood Compact / Sandugo

Datu Sikatuna, a native Boholano chieftain, forged a Blood Compact with Don Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, representing the King of Spain, for the purpose of fostering friendly relations between the two countries. The Blood Compact that took place on March 16, 1565 is considered as the first "Treaty of Friendship" between the brown and white races. A marker of this historic event can be found in Barangay Bool at Tagbilaran City.

Dagohoy Revolt

Francisco Dagohoy led the longest revolt in the country against the Spaniards, which lasted for 84 years. There now stands a marker in Magtangtang at the town of Danao, installed by the Philippine Historical Commission to honor the heroic deeds of Dagohoy. Hundreds of Dagohoy's followers preferred death inside the cave than surrender. Their skeletons still remain in the site located in Danao, 92 kilometers from Tagbilaran City.

Punta Cruz Watch Tower

The triangular watchtower, located 14 kilometers west of Tagbilaran City, oversees the southern seas of Bohol. From its windows at the top, one can see the islands of Cebu, Siquijor and Mindanao. The Spanish built the tower in 1796 as a lookout post against pirates and Muslim marauders.

FESTIVALS

Sandugo Festival

The festival celebrated from July 1 to 31 has been inspired by the blood compact, or Sandugo, a friendship treaty between the Philippines and Spain that took place in 1565. The annual spectacle of the province features an agro-industrial fair, cultural and historical showcase, sports events, a beauty pageant, balls and dances, entertainment shows, and streetdancing which culminates with the re-enactment of the blood compact between Datu Sikatuna and Don Miguel Lopez de Legazpi.

Bolibong Kingking Festival

Celebrated from May 23 to 24, it is a music and dance festivity depicting the history, folklore, and traditions of the Lobocanons. Bolibong Kingking is a term applied to the drums and gongs, and their rhythm, used to accompany the supplication dance ritual performed before the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the second patron of Loboc.