

8 Days/7 Nights

Departs Daily from Manila



Philippine Escapes: Manila & El Nido

It's the perfect combination of cultural and outdoor experiences in exotic Philippines. Enjoy the charms of old world Manila; a thriving metropolis and a true Asian mega-city. Then explore the El Nido region of Palawan Island; home of the stunning Bacuit Archipelago. With its pristine beaches and coves, it provides the perfect setting for romance and relaxation.

ACCOMMODATIONS

• 3 Nights Manila

• 4 Nights El Nido

INCLUSIONS

- Private Arrival & Departure Transfers Per City

- Private Charms of Old Manila Tour
- Private Tagatay Wellness Tour

- All Meals at Miniloc Resort
- Daily Breakfast



ARRIVAL:

Upon arrival at Manila Airport, meet your guide for a private transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is free to explore your surroundings or just relax. Dinner on your own this evening.

(Accommodations, Manila)



MANILA:

After breakfast, meet your guide **half-day tour of Old Manila**. Your first stop will be **Rizal Park**, named after the country's national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal. Across the monument, you will see a marble marker designated as KM 0 for road distances on the island of Luzon and the rest of the Philippines. The tour continues with an overall view of old downtown Manila passing by Planetarium, National Museum, Manila City Hall, Jones Bridge, Filipino-Chinese friendship Arch towards Binondo area referred to as the local China Town.

Our next stop will be at **Old Intramuros**, built by the Spaniards and home of the elite during that long period of Spanish colonization in the Philippines. The battle for liberation of Manila in 1945 World War II left the area in ruins. Stop at **San Agustin Church**, the oldest stone church that withstood heavy bombardment during the World War II. From San Agustin Church, crossover to Casa Manila, colonial lifestyle museum that reflects the culture and traditions during the Spanish era. The tour continues to Fort Santiago, one of the oldest fort in Manila built in 1571. It was here that our national hero Dr. Jose Rizal spent his last days and where he wrote his famous "My Last Farewell". After the tour, you will return to your hotel, and the remainder of the day is free at your leisure.

(Breakfast & Accommodations, Manila)

DAY
3

MANILA:

After an early breakfast, you'll depart with your guide for a full day tour at the **Nurture Spa Village in Tagaytay**. Upon arrival at Tagaytay, you'll begin with a relaxing spa treatment, surrounded by tropical gardens and native Ifugao huts.



Known as the first premier spa in Tagaytay, Nurture proudly offers Filipino-inspired treatments in Ifugao huts and wellness packages infused with indigenous customs to provide the utmost care and to promote one's well-being. Choose from either a Hilot, a 1-hour therapeutic Filipino full body massage that unclogs the imbalances in your body and makes you feel rejuvenated, or Nilaib, a 1.5 hour Filipino version of the stone massage uses steamed hot pouches of traditional Filipino herbs wrapped in banana leaves to leave you rested and rejuvenated. Then you'll enjoy Dagdagay, a 1-hour tribal foot massage using herbal clay to cleanse and purify the feet followed by the usage of bamboo sticks to stimulate the reflex points on the soles.

After a relaxing treatment at Nurture Spa, you'll enjoy a tour providing stunning scenery, and culminates with a trip to the summit. You'll be rewarded with fantastic views of **Taal Volcano**, which sits in the middle of Taal Lake. Taal Volcano is the lowest known volcano in the world and its eruptions have caused water to seep into its crater forming a crater lake. Looking a little closer, you'll see that within the cratered mouth is a whole other lake. And within that lake is another island. Very confusing, but this is a sight (and site) not to be missed. You'll return to your hotel late afternoon, and dinner will be on your own this evening.

(Breakfast, Lunch, & Accommodations, Manila)



MANILA TO EL NIDO:

After breakfast, you'll have a private transfer with your guide to the airport for your short one hour flight to enchanting **El Nido**. This is the primary base for exploring Palawan's star attraction, the stunning Bacuit Archipelago. Tiny swiftlets build edible nests out of saliva in the immense limestone cliffs that surround the town, hence the name, El Nido (nest in Spanish). Lagoons, preserved marine sanctuary, beaches; all make this island even more unique in the northern part of the archipelago. The resort also borders a series of eco-sanctuaries, creating the ideal setting perfect for a trendy honeymoon. After a short boat ride, you'll arrive at the **4 star Miniloc Resort**. Built with local materials, all rooms have thatched roofs, ceiling fans, and are completely powered by solar energy. With only 50 rooms, Miniloc creates a sense of intimacy and seclusion. All rooms offer air-conditioning, mini-bars, as well as a balcony/terrace. There's excellent Wi-Fi to stay connected, and even a karaoke room (karaoke originated in the Philippines). Remainder of the day is free for leisure. You'll enjoy three buffet style meals a day at the relaxed restaurant with open-air dining. For the adventurous diner, an interesting item you will only find on menus in El Nido is "Banana Flower Curry". This intriguing dish is made with the flower of the banana tree chopped up in a curry.

Note: The flight from Manila to El Nido is not included on this itinerary. We do offer this flight, but will need to be booked separately.

(Breakfast, Manila; All Meals & Accommodations, Miniloc Resort)



EL NIDO:

After breakfast, begin to relax and immerse yourself in this tropical paradise with 3 full days to savor all the attractions this magical island has to offer. Tropical El Nido is teeming with flora and fauna, including rare birds, manta rays, whale sharks, dolphins, mangroves and turtles, not to mention more than 100 species of coral and 800 types of fish. With snorkeling, scuba diving, trekking, kayaking stand-up paddleboard—there's no shortage of ways to explore the unspoiled coves and coral reefs.

(All Meals & Accommodations, Miniloc Resort)



EL NIDO:

After breakfast, you still have 2 more days to choose from one of the many activities available at Miniloc Resort, or perhaps explore the town or some of the other nearby islands. Miniloc Island is also a gateway to discover and explore the popular attractions around Bacuit Bay, such as the Big and Small Lagoons and Snake Island. Your resort can make arrangements for many of the tours. Other excursions include the 2 hour round trip to Taraw Peak. It rises 230 meters above sea level, and you're rewarded with a bird's eye view of Bacuit Bay. This bay is home to a wide range of beautiful sea life and interesting structural formations.

Another attraction is the Small Lagoon, which sits on the northern end of Miniloc Island. What makes this a "must do" is the fact that it's an open top cathedral of limestone. Vertical walls of stone form a lagoon of shallow water form a nearly perfect circle. Once inside, staring up at the imposing walls, it starts to look like a very alien landscape. The water, depending on the tides isn't really deep enough for swimming, but it's fun run to splash around a listen to the echoes off the stone. The staff at Miniloc can assist you with directions.

A short boat ride away is Secret Beach on Matinloc Island; a pristine piece of sand hidden from sight by large limestone cliffs on all sides. Once inside, it feels like you are the only people on the planet. Secret beach is one of the best things to see in El Nido hands down. For diving enthusiasts, Hidden Beach is just a few kilometers away, and is home to over 30 dive sites.

Looking for more challenging outdoor adventures? On the mainland of El Nido, you can take a 1-2 hour hike through the lush forest area that brings you to the Nagkalit-Kalit waterfalls. The falls are 10-meters tall with water that slides down the rocks, shifting right and left. There are two falls, and between them is an inviting pool to take a swim. This can be done independently or with a guide.

If you're Interested in mountain biking, there are numerous destinations to visit... even Nacpan beach is possible for the adventurous. In town, "Discover El Nido" offers bikes and provides a map/guide detailing 12 routes. Travelers are rewarded with routes through traditional villages along forest trails, roads and dirt tracks. For

the adventurous; rivers, rice fields, coconut groves, hot springs, waterfalls, caves and off-the-beaten-track beaches await you. The staff at Miniloc resort can arrange transportation by boat and assist you with planning activities on the mainland.

But even if you choose to not venture far, just enjoy the serenity of the resort by reading, soaking up the sun, or relaxing on the cabanas sipping cocktails.

(All Meals & Accommodations, Miniloc Resort)



DEPARTURE:

After breakfast, a private transfer will bring you to the airport for your return flight to Manila, and on to your next Avanti Destination!

(Breakfast, Miniloc Resort)

*****Please kindly note that this itinerary is based on inclusions at Miniloc Resort, other properties may have different options. Inclusions at Miniloc Resort are subject to change.***
