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1. Geographical location

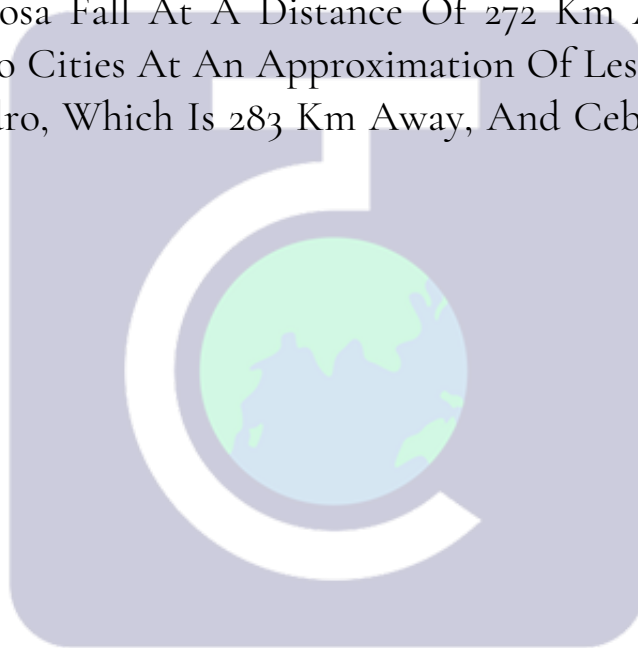
Boracay is a tiny island in the Philippines. It is located approximately 2 km off the northwest peak of Panay Island in the group of islands, which is called Western Visayas, region of the country and about 315 km south of Manila. The island spreads across to a length of approximately 7 km. The shape of the island quite resembles to a dog's bone. The narrowest spot of the entire island is even less than a kilometer wide. The city of Boracay covers a total area of 10.32 sq. km. in the country Philippines. Boracay belongs to the Province of Aklan, and the municipality of Malay.



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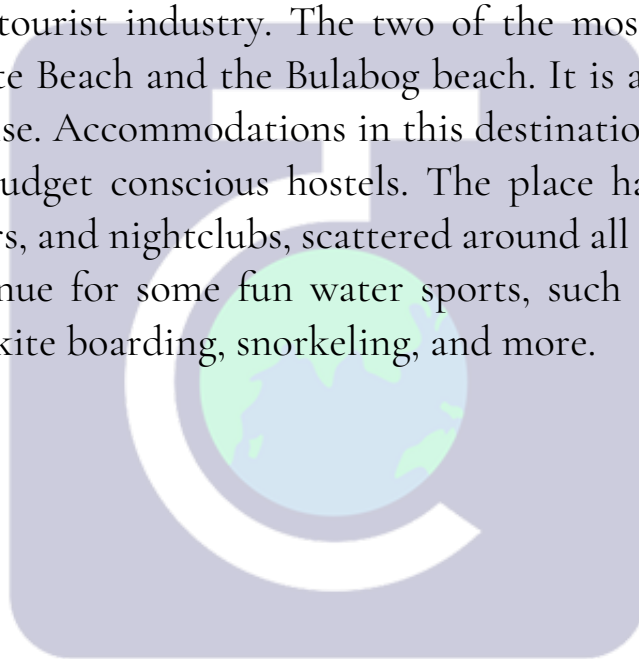
2. Neighbouring cities/countries

Boracay Is Surrounded By A Lot Of Cities At A Close Distance Of About 150 To 300 Km. Iloila Is The Nearest City From Boracay, It Is Located At A Distance Of 158 Km From The City. Batangas Is About 220 Km Away, And So Is Lucena. Lipa Is About 234 Km Away From Boracay, While San Pablo Is Situated At A Distance Of About 242 Km From It. Fro,M Boracay, Calamba Is About 261 Km Far. Both, Silang And Santa Rosa Fall At A Distance Of 272 Km Away From Boracay. Finally, The Last Two Cities At An Approximation Of Less Than 300 Km From Boracay Are San Pedro, Which Is 283 Km Away, And Cebu City, Which Is 282 Km Far.



3. Significance

The island of Boracay is famous for being one of the top destinations in the world for relaxation. The words like relaxation and tranquility are synonymous with Boracay. In the year 2012, it was awarded by the international Travel Magazine Travel Plus Leisure as the best island on planet earth. The island is divided into three major sectors. The first one is agriculture, another is for forest lands, and the third is for the tourist industry. The two of the most popular beaches of Boracay are the White Beach and the Bulabog beach. It is a fast becoming lesser known tourist paradise. Accommodations in this destination range from the five star resorts to the budget conscious hostels. The place has an array of shops, restaurants, pubs, bars, and nightclubs, scattered around all across the town. Each beach serves as a venue for some fun water sports, such as scuba diving, cliff diving, windsurfing, kite boarding, snorkeling, and more.



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4. History

At the time when the Spaniards stepped into this land, it was already inhabited by the Ati people. The Iberians who conquered this island called it as Buracay. During the age where Europeans visited this part of the world, the population was at a total of 100 people. This handful of people earned their daily earnings by raising goats and cultivating rice. This was all in the pre-colonial period. With the beginning of the contemporary period Boracay became a part of the Aklan Province in the country. Lamberto Hontiveros Tirol, who was the Judge of the town, and his wife Sofia Gonzales Tirol took a substantial number of properties under their ownership across the island in the year 1900 and sew fruit trees, coconut trees, and a lot greenery all over the land. The development of the island spread when others started following the Tirols. In the year 1970, the island saw the rise of tourism. The major reason behind this new development was the movie Too Late the Hero. This movie was filmed in several locations in Caticlan and Boracay. As tourism was new, it appealed to the tourists as a cheap vacation destination, especially for the backpackers. By the time of 1990s, Boracay's beaches were being known as the best in the planet.

5. Cultural identity

The island of Boracay has an extensive life, community-wise. Civic organizations like the Rotary Club and the Kiwanis meet once a week, which is followed by undertaking many activities publicly. Many activities are also organized by the Boracay Foundation Inc. One of the official languages of this place is English. There are no persistent communication problems regarding English, even so that they are the best English speakers in all of Asia. The newspapers of this country have been termed as the freest in the world. There are about 24 different papers that too only in English. A wide selection of journals and magazines are also printed in English here, including Newsweek, Time, and Asiaweek. Even the likes of Asian Wall Street Journal and USA Today are available in this island. Telecasting media showcases both American and local programs from morning to midnight. The major hotels keep cable TV so they can bring up any TV programme from anywhere around the world. There is also 24 hours availability of AM and FM channels in English and Filipino language.

Index**6. Natural resources**

Boracay's natural resources include an extensive treasury of shells and wildlife, natural sand banks, clear water, beachscapes, marshlands, and swamps.



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7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)

7.1. Paid

7.1.1. Crystal Cove Island

It is a small island spread over two hectares of area and is an ideal for picnicking, walking, and relaxing. The turquoise water around the island contains grey-brown rocks, along with deep green vegetation. This island caters to all those people who enjoy a little bit of isolation. It also has an inland vegetation that serves as the perfect spot to explore the rainforest lined by a rocky coastal beach.

Address : Boracay IS, Aklan, 5608, Philippines

Zipcode : 5608

Location : 11.9449103, 121.9585419

Contact : +63 918 911 8134

Website : <http://www.boracaycrystalcove.com/>

Entry Fee : 200 PHP

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.2. Ariel'S Point

Ariel'S Point is an eco-adventure destination which is the perfect daytime venue for the travelers who seek the natural beauty of Philippines. The trip includes a boat ride, a barbecue buffet, beverages, Filipino merienda, and a full use of the place's amenities. Indulge in some adventurous water sports or relax with chugging down a beer by the beach. This place serves a beautiful spot for some howling fun as well as immense serenity.

Address : Station 1, Tambisaan Jetty Port Road, Balabag, Boracay, Aklan, Malay, 5608, Philippines

Zipcode : 5608

Location : 11.970794, 121.91807799999992

Contact : +63 36 288 4853

Website : <http://www.arielspoint.com/>

Entry Fee : 2500 PHP, 2000 PHP for Boracay Beach Club Residents

Open & Close Timing : Daily 11:15hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 5

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.3. Motag Living Museum

The museum offers a fun and interactive experience for the entire family, with something intriguing for every age group here. See the Philippines exactly like it was before the visitors and tourists stepped onto the land. It serves as the perfect place to get acquainted with this island's historical and cultural timeline.

Address : Barangay Motag, Malay, Aklan, 5608, Philippines

Zipcode : 5608

Location : 11.9017619, 121.9238616

Contact : +63 921 556 3111

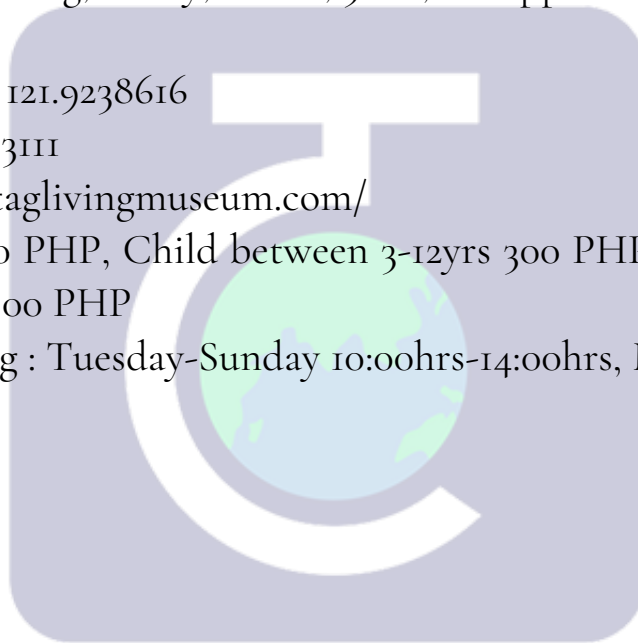
Website : <https://motaglivingmuseum.com/>

Entry Fee : Adult 700 PHP, Child between 3-12yrs 300 PHP, Family Ticket 1600 PHP, Student w/ID 500 PHP

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday-Sunday 10:00hrs-14:00hrs, Monday Closed

Time Required : 3

Buy Ticket : No



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7.2. Free

7.2.1. D'mall de Boracay

D' Mall is a partially open-air shopping center in the city with a decent food court, along with a couple of ATMs, a supermarket and shops that sell towels, beach clothes, and so on.

Address : Malay, Aklan, Philippines

Location : 11.9630086, 121.92496010000002

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.2. White Beach

Spread over 4 kilometers in length, the White Beach is filled with fine white sand and crystal clean water. The seabed gently slopes, making it an ideal place for swimming and snorkelling. As it is the go-to beach in the island, it is surrounded by a lot of other amenities and attractions which include small shops and eateries.

Address : White Beach Boracay, Aklan, Philippines

Zipcode : 5203

Location : 11.9648828, 121.9226251

Contact : +63 910 754 7943

Website : <http://www.whitebeachboracay.com/>

Open & Close Timing : Daily Open 24 hours

Time Required : 3

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.3. Bulabog Beach

Zipcode : 0

Location : 11.9692679, 121.92731140000001

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.4. City Mall

Zipcode : 0

Location : 11.9793065, 121.92048929999999

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.5. Talipapa Market

Zipcode : 0

Location : 11.9585719, 121.92850820000001

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.6. Mount Luho

The only way to get to the beautiful Mount Luho is by climbing the 100-meter-high steep. The mountain is along the Bolabog Beach of the island. With a stunning backdrop, the mountain-top gives a panoramic view of the entire island. It is the best spot in town for hikers, and also offers zip line for adrenaline junkies.

Address : Near Bolabog Beach, Malay, Aklan Province, Philippines

Location : 11.9789796, 121.9279861

Open & Close Timing : Daily Open 24 hours

Time Required : 3

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.7. D*talipapa Market

D*talipapa Market is a famous seafood market of the island. Here you can choose from a variety of things like clothes, accessories, souvenirs and a lot more. Deemed to have a spectacular spread of seafood, the common saying of this place is that if you can't find a particular type of seafood here, it probably doesn't exist or is extinct. The best part of this market is that after you have bought the raw seafood, you can get it cooked exactly how you want by one of the local vendors.

Address : Between Boracay Main Road and White Beach, Station 2, Aklan Province, Philippines

Zipcode : 5203

Location : 11.9584144, 121.92858960000001

Open & Close Timing : Daily 07:00hours-21:00hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.8. Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary

It is a very intricate church with intimate décor and furnishings. For tourists, this place resonates with a sense of spiritual bliss. It is popular as a beautiful wedding location. Since this church has been long-standing here, it serves the beauty of the ages it instils.

Address : Balabag Plaza Station 1, Boracay Highway Central, Boracay, Aklan, 5608, Philippines

Zipcode : 5608

Location : 11.9684524, 121.92035499999997

Contact : +63 36 288 3219

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.9. Puka Beach

Situated on the northern side of the island, Puka Beach is also known as the Puka Shell Beach. It is the best choice on the island amongst its other counterparts if you want to spend a peaceful time with your loved one or your family or do some shopping in the different souvenir and refreshments shops that line up on your path. It doesn't cater to any water sports and has only one bar and café, making it a sparsely visited by people.

Address : Yapak, Malay, Aklan Province, 5608, Philippines

Zipcode : 5608

Location : 11.9923131, 121.90854650000006

Contact : +63 92 258 7960

Open & Close Timing : Daily Open 24 hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.10. Balinghai Beach

About 300 meters in length, the isolated Balinghai Beach is located in the north-western corner of the island, away from the usual tourist uproar. There is a small beach bar, catered by the Balinghai Beach Resort, who serves beverages, meals, and snacks. Since only a little side-path leads to it, the place is slightly difficult to find.

Address : Baling Hai Rd, Malay, Philippines

Location : 11.9810264, 121.90869029999999

Open & Close Timing : Daily Open 24 hours

Time Required : 5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.11. Crocodile Island

Despite being a tiny landmass, this island adjacent to Boracay offers a lot of activities like private boating, snorkelling, and so on. The beach which is frequented for a relaxed holiday, with a beautiful setting for a picnic underneath the coconut trees that outline the coast.

Address : Aklan Province, Philippines

Location : 11.9497801, 121.95148829999994

Open & Close Timing : Daily Open 24 hours

Time Required : 5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.12. Willy's Rock Formation

It is one of the prime attractions of the Boracay Island. The place is a volcanic formation, over which a statue of the Virgin Mary is situated. It is a quintessential place to click photographs and it also serves a great story of how its formation took place. The statue of Virgin Mary caters to the religious kind, who find peace at this spot's aura and pour out their prayers in front of the Holiness.

Address : Balabag, Off White Beach, Aklan Province, Philippines

Zipcode : 5608

Location : 11.9681923, 121.9186492

Website : <http://liveinphilippinesnow.com/willys-rock/>

Open & Close Timing : Daily 24 hours

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.13. Buruanga Beach

This beach is located within the municipality of Buruanga and is a shore to Cuyo Sea, admired for its beautiful mangroves along with enchanting rock formations. Since the beach is not tapped by a lot of tourists, it makes the perfect spot for a quick getaway from the local humdrum. Quiet, romantic and serene, this beach falls in line with the taste of people seeking isolation and peace.

Address : Alegria, Buruanga, Aklan, Philippines, Aklan West Road, Buruanga, 5609 Aklan, Philippines

Zipcode : 5609

Location : 11.8719008, 121.888305199999

Open & Close Timing : Daily 24 hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.14. Bat caves

Bat cave is the place where thousands of bats take shelter during the daytime. Right at the time of twilight every day, these bats, in the number of thousands fly over to the White Beach. This place is visited by a lot of tourists who come in search to sight the bats nesting inside the cave.

Address : East of Yapak, Malay, Aklan Province, 5608, Philippines

Zipcode : 5608

Location : 11.9904536, 121.918865999999

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

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8. Key sites sports & adventure

The island is famous for a lot of adventure tours and activities. During its peak seasons, a lot of people visit the place to get dug into diving, snorkeling, cliff diving, kitesurfing, and so on.

- **Diving -**

Address : Station 1, Barangay Balabag, Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan, 5608, Philippines

Location : 11.95541,121.929344

Contact No : +1 770 377 2954, +63 916 423 5552

Website : <http://www.newwavedivers.com/>

Entry Fees : Courses start from 1800 php

Open / Close Time : Daily 07:00hrs–21:00hrs

Time Required : 4

- **Windsurfing -**

Address : Boracay Bulabog Road, Malay, Aklan, 5608 Aklan, Philippines

Location : 11.968893,121.927169999999

Contact No : +63 36 288 3876

Website : <http://www.windsurfasia.com/>

Entry Fees : Depends on the sport

Open / Close Time : Daily 07:30hrs–18:00hrs

Time Required : 3

- **Kiteboarding -**

Address : Boracay Hwy Central, Malay, Aklan, Philippines

Location : 11.962699,121.926891

Contact No : +63 36 288 2032

Website : <http://www.boracayadventures.com/>

Entry Fees : Packages starts from 5950 php

Time Required : 3

- **Zipline -**

Address : Fairways and Bluewater Resort, Newcoast, Boracay, Malay, Aklan, 5608, Philippines

Location : 11.981477, 121.92674099999999

Contact No : + 63 929 703 7599

Website : <http://www.fairwaysandbluewater.com.ph/>

Entry Fees : Depends on the sport

Time Required : 2.5



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9. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

Boracay has no constructed stadiums for international sports. The only sports arena that exists on the island is a cockpit.



10. Spas and relaxation

Boracay is known to house some of the best spas in the world. Visiting the spas is also accounted in the tourist attractions, as relaxation of the soothing massage and other treatments form quite an alluring factor for the tourists coming to this city.

- **Bella Isa Salon & Spa:**

Address : Boat Station 3, Angol, White Beach Path, Boracay, Aklan, 5608, Philippines

Location : 11.949266,121.93126860000007

Contact No : +63 929 512 5624

Website : <http://www.bellaisaboracay.com/>

- **Tirta Spa:**

Address : Tambisaan Boracay Jetty Port Road, Malay, Aklan, Philippines

Location : 11.9491404,121.94359659999998

Contact No : +63 36 288 6481

Website : <http://www.tirtaspa.com/>

- **Mandala Day Spa:**

Address : Barangay Station 3, Manoc-Manoc, Boracay, Malay, Aklan, 5608, Philippines

Location : 11.9502597,121.93374449999999

Contact No : +63 36 288 5858

Website : <http://www.mandalaspa.com/>

- **Yasuragi:**

Address : White Beach, Station 3, Boracay Island, Angol Road, Malay, Aklan, Philippines

Location : 11.9488895,121.93125439999994

Contact No : +63 36 288 5049

Website : <http://www.boracaysurfside.com/>



11. Events calendar

Month

Events

Ati-atihan Festival

This is an annual festival celebrated in the honor of Santo Nino. This festival is highlighted with a dance in tribal groups and parade along the White Beach.

Boracay International Funboard Cup

This tournament is for the windsurfing enthusiasts. Boracay has been hosting this in South Asia since the year 1989.

Malay Municipal Fiesta

It is the second fiesta of the year, which is also the most popular fiesta in town. It is the time when the town is painted red with celebration. All the local people dress up in various traditional attires and come out for the parade.

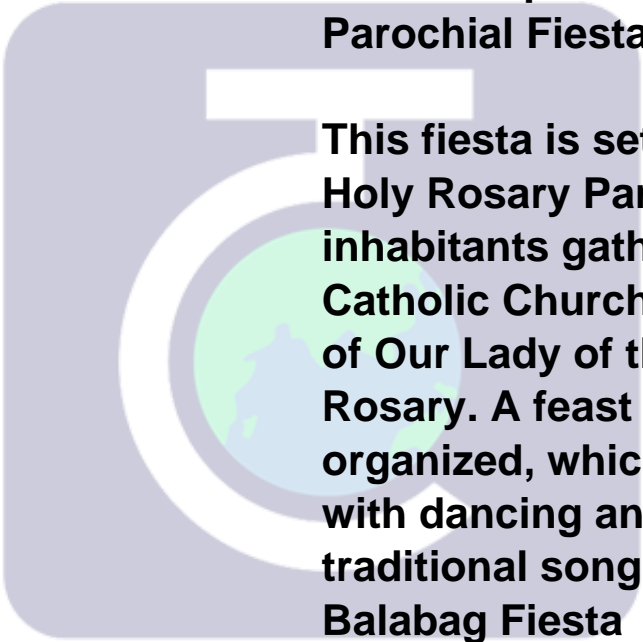
International Beach Volleyball Tournament

Every year, the city hosts this international event. As of 2005, a total number of 72 teams have

**taken part in this tournament.
Dragon Boat Race**

The race is organized every year at the water boundary of White Beach. The sport is of a human-powered warcraft called the dragon boat. It is traditionally a Chinese sport.

Parochial Fiesta



This fiesta is set in honor of the Holy Rosary Parish. All the local inhabitants gather at the town's Catholic Church in remembrance of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary. A feast is also organized, which is contoured with dancing and singing traditional songs.

Balabag Fiesta

This is the last fiesta of the year and it is organized at the Barangay Balabag. A parade follows this festival with people dressed in their traditional attires and celebrating to the music of the days of yore.

New Year's Eve

Many highlights of the day, including fireworks and sandcastle building

**competitions, are held along the
White Beach.**



12. Key local guides and tours

Experience the true indigenous Eco tour of the Philippines with the Tribal Adventure Tours. They offer daily kayaking trips and water rafting down the coast line at which pint the hilly jungles meet the ocean. With this tour you get to witness the ecosystems of the forests, river systems, and be a part of the daily life styles followed by the local population of the island. Experience the magic of the island of Boracay through many Island Hoping tours which are usually paired with a lunch comprising sea food. These trips goes about the home island of Boracay and as well as the neighboring islands in the iridescent sea. Some tours also offer the adventure of water sports along with the usual touring itinerary. The lunch section of these tours are almost a gastronomical tour on their own as a wide variety of Filipino cuisine and other sea food choices are presented to the visitors. The city also has quite a few tours accompanied by helicopters for the beaches or the neighboring islands, as well. Two of the most well-known tours in the island are the Red Pirates' one hour Paraw Tour and the Glass Bottom Boat Tour.

Index**13. Transportation hubs**

The two major airports situated near to Boracay are the Godofredo P. Ramos Airport, also known as Caticlan, and Kalibo International Airport. In the island only tricycles or motorized pedicabs are the common form of public transportation. So, there are no train stations or bus stations throughout the length and breath of this island. Personal scooters and mountain bikes can also be hired for rent at several locations in the city.



14. Transportation cost

The local transportation scenario in this island is very controlled. There are no busses and trains. The public modes of transportations are motorized pedicabs and tricycles. From the Caticlan Airport to the Caticlan Jetty Port a tricycle with a side car would cost up to 40 PHP. A valid alternative to this is a van, but it is only for large groups of people. The charges are 100 to 200 PHP. The hiring cost of tricycles inside of Boracay is 100 PHP, while it is not shared with other passengers. A multivan is also available for in city transportation. It is a small eight seater van, and the price for this is totally negotiable on the basis of the amount of time it is being hired for and the distance it may travel. A boat from the Caticlan port to the Cagban port would charge a terminal fee of 100 PHP and an Environmental Fee of 75 PHP, both of which are paid at the counter at the terminal. Along with that there is an addition payment for pump boat and fast boat, which are 25 PHP and 30 PHP, respectively. Non-motorized pedicabs are also available on the beach pathways, and their costs vary with the choice of destination.

Index**15. Baggage allowance**

All the transportations including the motorized pedicabs and tricycles have usually a free baggage allowance up till 10 Kg. Beyond that the prices have to be negotiated as there is no fixed standardized price. The pedicabs usually have their rates printed on their vehicles, and they can be negotiated for extra baggage or luggage accordingly.



Index**16. Must try food and local savouries**

As far as its own expertise is considered, Boracay makes you famished for its sea food. Sea food forms the key element in the local dishes of this city. From prawns to crab along with other fishes, sea food is abundant here, however certain mouthwatering dishes are made with pork or chicken, as well. So as you visit this paradise of an island, do treat yourself with the below mentioned local gustatory pleasures.



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17. Restaurant & Nightlife

The city of Boracay serves many popular cuisines through its major restaurants in various hotels and resorts. Apart from eating, the city also caters to a lot of party lovers through its several spots featuring a vibrant nightlife. The major area where all the good restaurants and discos are situated is along the White beach.

Food -

The city of Boracay serves many popular cuisines through its major restaurants in various hotels and resorts. Apart from eating, the city also caters to a lot of party lovers through its several spots featuring a vibrant nightlife. The major area where all the good restaurants and discos are situated is along the White beach.

- **D' Talipapa:**

Address : Station 2, Boracay, Malay, Aklan, Philippines

Location : 11.9584144,121.92858960

Open / Close Time : Daily 07:00hours-21:00hours

- **Lemoni Cafe & Restaurant:**

Address : Aklan D' Mall D' Boracay, Malay, Aklan, Philippines

Location : 11.9619466,121.92507699999999

Contact No : +63 36 288 6781

Website : <http://www.lemonicafeboracay.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 07:00hrs-23:00hrs

- **Plato D' Boracay:**

Address : 28 & 29, D' Talipapa, Boracay, Malay, Philippines

Location : 11.9581612,121.92870829999993
Contact No : +63 28 83864
Open / Close Time : Daily 07:00hrs-03:00hrs

- **TITOS Boracay:**

Address : 0255, Station 2, Boracay, Malay, 5608, Philippines
Location : 11.962779,121.92370900000003
Contact No : +63 36 288 2369
Open / Close Time : Daily 10:00hrs-01:00hrs

- **Dos Mestizos:**

Address : Remedios street, Boracay Island, Sunset Road, Malay, Aklan, 5608, Philippines
Location : 11.9561827,121.92930350000006
Contact No : +63 36 288 5786
Website : <http://dosmestizos.com/>

- **Cyma Greek Taverna:**

Address : D' Mall, Boracay, Malay, Aklan, 5600, Philippines
Location : 11.963569,121.92620699
Contact No : +63 36 288 4283
Website : <http://www.cymarestaurants.com/>

- **Kasbah Boracay:**

Address : Station 1, Balabag, Boracay, Malay, Aklan, 5608, Philippines
Location : 11.9721317,121.91620050000006

Contact No : +63 36 288 4790

Website : <http://www.kasbahrestaurantboracay.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 09:00hrs–22:00hrs

- **Tilapia 'N Chips:**

Address : Kamayan Bldg., G/F, Station 2, Balabag, Boracay, Malay, Aklan, Philippines

Location : 11.9624314,121.92674290000002

Contact No : +63 36 288 2283

Open / Close Time : Daily 12:00hrs–22:00hrs

- **Halowich:**

Address : 81, D' Mall, Balabag, Boracay, Malay, Aklan, Philippines

Location : 11.9628319,121.92603919999999

Contact No : +63 36 288 6752

Open / Close Time : Daily 09:30hrs–23:30hrs

- **BarLO Resto Lounge:**

Address : Station 1, Boracay, Aklan Province, Philippines

Location : 11.971417,121.9170636

Contact No : +63 36 288 4384

Website : <http://twoseasonsresorts.com/>

- **Smoke Resto:**

Address : Back of the D' mall, Wet Market Section, Boracay, 5608, Philippines

Location : 11.9621139,121.9265666
Contact No : +63 36 288 6014
Open / Close Time : Daily Open 24 hours

- **Red Pirates Pub:**

Address : Aklan Angol, Station 3, Boracay, Banga, Aklan, Philippines
Location : 11.6266921,122.31075169999997
Contact No : +63 36 288 5767
Open / Close Time : Daily 10:00hrs–02:00hrs

- **Exit Bar:**

Address : White Beach, Balabag, Aklan Province, 5608, Philippines
Location : 11.9804331,121.91886599999998
Open / Close Time : Monday-Sunday 17:00hrs–02:00hrs

- **Epic Boracay:**

Address : D' Mall, Brgy. Balabag, Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan, Philippines
Location : 11.9616488,121.92464440000003
Contact No : +63 36 288 1477
Website : <http://www.epicboracay.com/>

- **Club Paraw:**

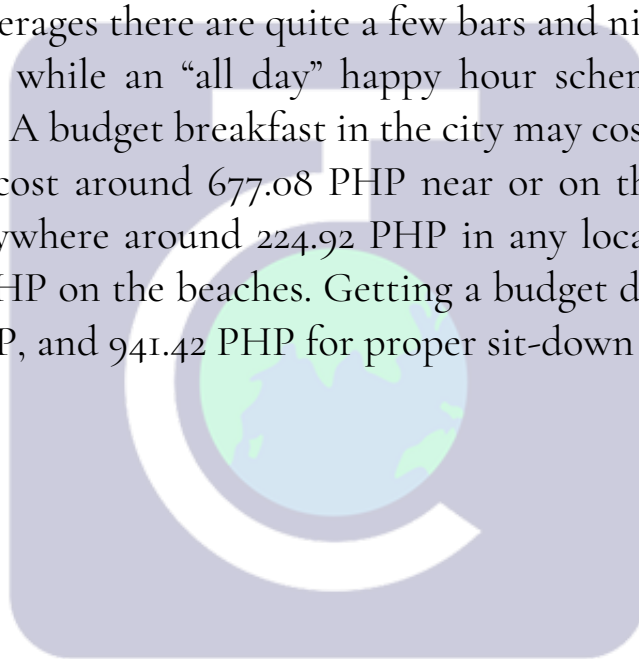
Address : Boracay Hwy Central, Malay, Aklan, Philippines
Location : 11.967063,121.92042600000002
Contact No : +63 36 288 6151

Open / Close Time : Monday-Thursday 10:00hrs-03:00hrs, Friday-Saturday 11:00hrs-04:00hrs, Sunday 10:00hrs-03:00hrs



Index**18. Average meal cost**

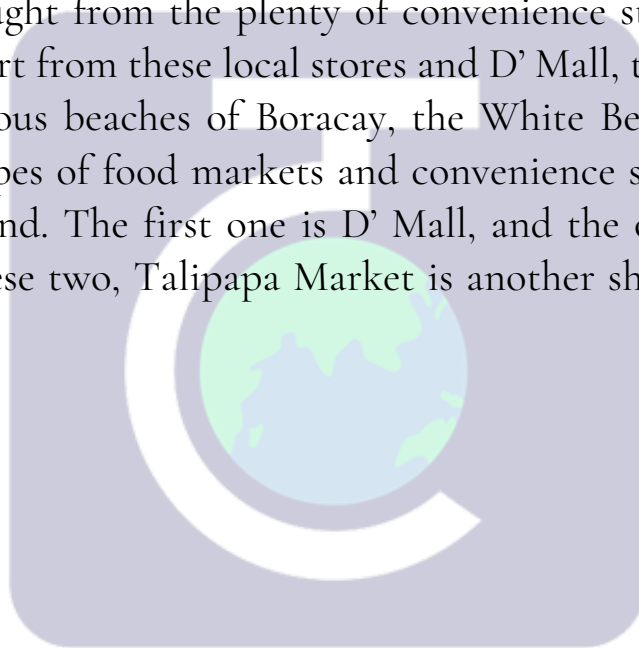
There are many Filipino places, usually where the locals eat, and fast food restaurants, that are quite cheap. Once you move to a proper sit-down restaurant near or on the beach the costs goes up significantly. Although because of the high competition there are plenty of places which offer “all you can eat” buffet, especially on the beach, that too with a pretty modest cost if you hawk around a bit. For alcoholic beverages there are quite a few bars and nightclubs in the town, who serve once in a while an “all day” happy hour scheme, which makes the beverages very cheap. A budget breakfast in the city may cost around 149.79 PHP, while the same will cost around 677.08 PHP near or on the beaches. A budget lunch would cost anywhere around 224.92 PHP in any local place, while it may cost around 738.76 PHP on the beaches. Getting a budget dinner in the tow may cost about 319.99 PHP, and 941.42 PHP for proper sit-down restaurants.



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19. Shopping

D' Mall is one shopping in the city which is partially open air and has a decent food court inside it, along with a couple of ATMs. There is an air-conditioned supermarket along with it as well. A few shops are also present here which sell towels, beach clothes, and so on. The area surrounding the Caticlan Ferry has a lot of stores which caters to the tourists. Everything from bottled water to souvenirs can be bought from the plenty of convenience stores lining the main road of Boracay. Apart from these local stores and D' Mall, the location and areas around the two famous beaches of Boracay, the White Beach and the Bulabog beach, contain all types of food markets and convenience stores. There are only two malls in the island. The first one is D' Mall, and the other one is the City Mall. Apart from these two, Talipapa Market is another shopping area which is famous in this city.



20. Tourist benefits

The Sales Tax Rate of the country is set at a hefty 12%. Although it was in discussion, but till now the country hasn't implemented any kind of VAT refund benefit for the tourists.



Index**21. Essential local apps**

Hyperlap and WalkJogRun are lifestyle apps that can help tourists who plan to stay more than a week in this city. Foodspotting is a great app that recommends options on culinary treats basing it on experts and other food lovers.



22. Driving

Having an International Driving Permit allows one to drive a vehicle in the island. Your home country's license would not be accepted by the authorities in Boracay.



Index**23. Travel essentials**

The electric sockets in Boracay accept only two kinds of plugs. These are the American or Japanese Type A standard, which is 2 flat parallel pins with no ground pin, and the Korean or European Type C standard, which is 2 rounded pins. Any appliance which uses a power of 100/110 V will break as the current here is 220 V at 60 Hz. Power chords that are rated at 125 V with type C or A plugs should not be used as well.



Index**24. Essential clothes**

The electric sockets in Boracay accept only two kinds of plugs. These are the American or Japanese Type A standard, which is 2 flat parallel pins with no ground pin, and the Korean or European Type C standard, which is 2 rounded pins. Any appliance which uses a power of 100/110 V will break as the current here is 220 V at 60 Hz. Power chords that are rated at 125 V with type C or A plugs should not be used as well.



25. Local currency

The local currency of Philippines, and thus the city of Boracay, is Philippine Peso.
1 US Dollar [USD] = 46.35 Philippines Peso [PHP]



26. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges

In the hotels they charge about 5% surcharge for credit card usage. The ATMs allow only a maximum amount of 10,000 PHP per withdrawal, and each one costs about 200 PHP on top of the Card Issuers' Charges. In the recent time, BoraPay was introduced. It is a cashless payment system. This facility is offered by many hotels in the city. Here the tourists are offered an NFC technology built bracelet, which can be loaded with an international credit or debit card and the hassle of going to the ATM is not required then and after. The account can be funded prior to the visit from the home country, so the travel can be more stringent on the budget, as well. In the island of boracay cash exchanges can be obtained at any of the foreign exchange booths without any fees whatsoever. As the Filipino currency isn't that stable, so to avoid taking a hit on your bank balance, so only change as much as you require for the next few moments and not for the entire trip at the same time.



27. Staying connected

The major telecommunications in the country are SMART and Globe. SMART is modern and it provides a limited LTE service all across the islands. It is more reliable and has a slightly higher price tag. SMART Bro is highly recommended for tourists for both internet and telephonic purposes. The service gets activated right away, and the card costs about 50 PHP for a one-day package, 299 PHP for a seven-day package, and 995 PHP for a thirty-day package. To purchase the card, you only need an ID proof and your passport.



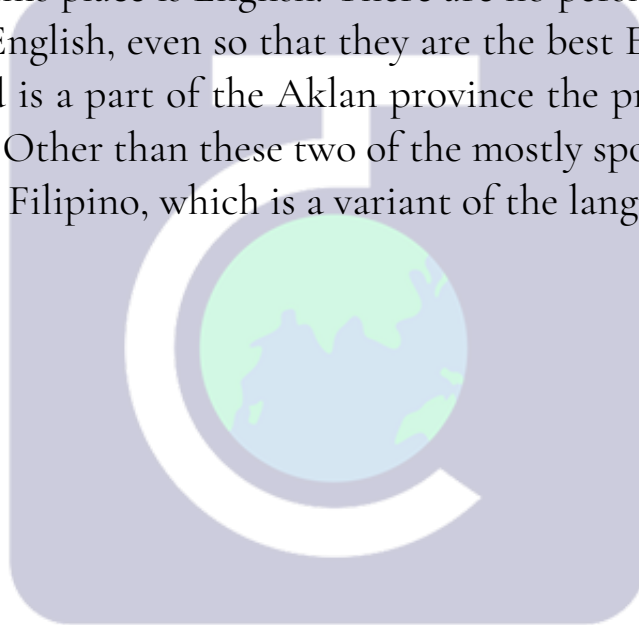
28. Time Zone

The Philippine time zone of the city of Boracay is UTC +08:00.



29. Languages

Negrito people were the first settlers in Boracay, and they were called the Ati. The Atis spoke a language called Inati, which was a Visayan language. Later on as time passed more and more people migrated to settle down in this island and they brought various different languages to the island. Some of these include Kinaraya, Hiligaynon, Tagalog, other Visayan languages, and a few more. One of the official languages of this place is English. There are no persistent communication problems regarding English, even so that they are the best English speakers in all of Asia. As the island is a part of the Aklan province the presence of Aklanon is also there in the city. Other than these two of the mostly spoken languages of this place are English and Filipino, which is a variant of the language Tagalog.



Index**30. Political Scenario**

The island of Boracay is administered under an organized framework of a representative presidential democratic republic. It follows a multi-party system and the president is both the head of the government and the state. The entire administration of the country and hence, the city, is divided into three divisions, namely judicial, executive, and legislative division.

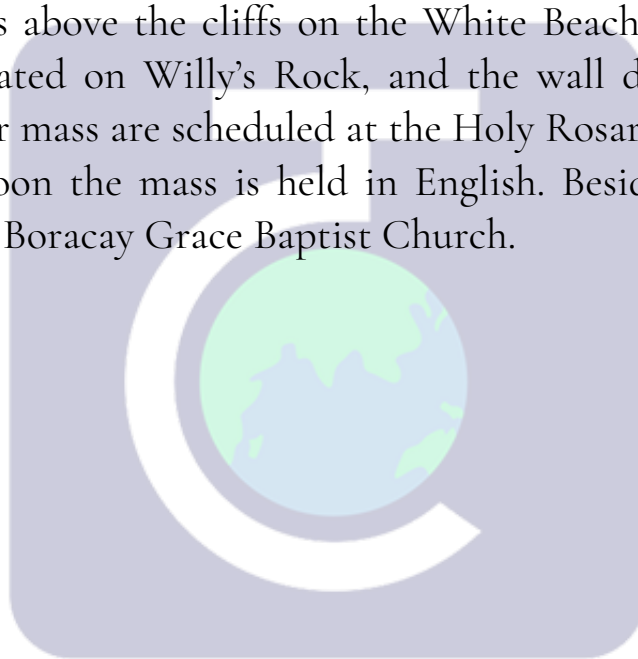


31. Economic Scenario

The economy of Boracay is overall based only one thing which is Tourism. In the past there were several fishing villages which used to sell their catch to the nearby local we markets. However, Boracays economy would have been non-existent without the continuous flux of more and more visitors and tourists. In 1949 it was established as a part of agriculture as well, with abundance of aquatic resources. With the rise of tourism levels to 1.15 million visitors during the initial years the revenues amounted up to 1.67 billion USD. By the end of 1996, the revenues reached at a whopping level of 2.7 billion USD. It was measured that only 11.87 million visitors were local and they contributed about 40 PHP to the total revenue, whereas the rest was generated through the 2 million foreign tourists visiting Boracay. Steady economic progress, better political climate, and increasing awareness about this island, are the main pillars of development in the economy of Boracay, which is directly spearheaded by its government.

Index**32. Religious belief**

82% of the entire population of the country is Roman Catholic. So, nationwide there persists a pre-dominance of Roman Catholics, including Boracay. Islam is followed by another 5% of the population, and smaller percentages are captured by other Christian factions, such as Iglesias in Cristo and Evangelicals. The pre-dominance of the Roman Catholicism is quite evident as it declares itself through a giant wooden cross above the cliffs on the White Beach Station 1. There are statues of Mary situated on Willy's Rock, and the wall dividing Diniwid and White Beach. Regular mass are scheduled at the Holy Rosary Parish Church, and every Sunday afternoon the mass is held in English. Beside the Crown Prince Regency, there is the Boracay Grace Baptist Church.



33. Visa requirements

157 countries are allowed free access without a visa to the Philippines. Most of the countries from Europe, North America, Africa, and South America, along with New Zealand, Japan, Australia, South Korea, Russia, and ASEAN countries, are offered a 30-day stay. Meanwhile Israel and Brazil are offered a 59-day stay. Both Macau and Hong Kong are offered a 14-day stay. Some of the notable countries which require tourist visas are Ukraine, Taiwan, India, and China. Stay can be extended for most passports at any local immigration office for the purpose of tourism with a small fee. For more information visit the official visa site of Philippines: <https://philippines.visahq.com/> It is advisable to keep 2 pages free in your passport for arrival and departure stamps. In certain cases, it has been observed that applying and receiving a visa can be a process of 20-30 days. Hence, it is essential that you check the timeline with the relevant authority in the country where you intend to make the visa application.

Index**34. Essential vaccination**

The city requires no particular vaccination for the entry of tourists. Although it is not a must, some routine shots could be taken for vaccination such as diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, DPT, mumps, rubella, measles, MMR, and poliovirus. For some travellers, even vaccinations for Rabies, Hepatitis B, Malaria, Japanese Encephalitis, Typhoid, Yellow Fever, and Hepatitis A, may be recommended.



Index**35. Theft and Safety**

The city has a very low crime rate and the visitors must not be concerned regarding being victims of any sort of violence. Pickpockets like everywhere are present here as well, and so the tourists need to a bit careful and cautious. Buyers beware of flashy deals and offerings by persuading street vendors. If driving, do not leave valuable things alone in the car. Avoid walking in isolated and dark areas to avoid mugging, although it is very rare.



Index**36. Embassy/Consulate**

Many embassies are situated in this city. Follow this link for any embassy related queries: <http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-in/philippines>



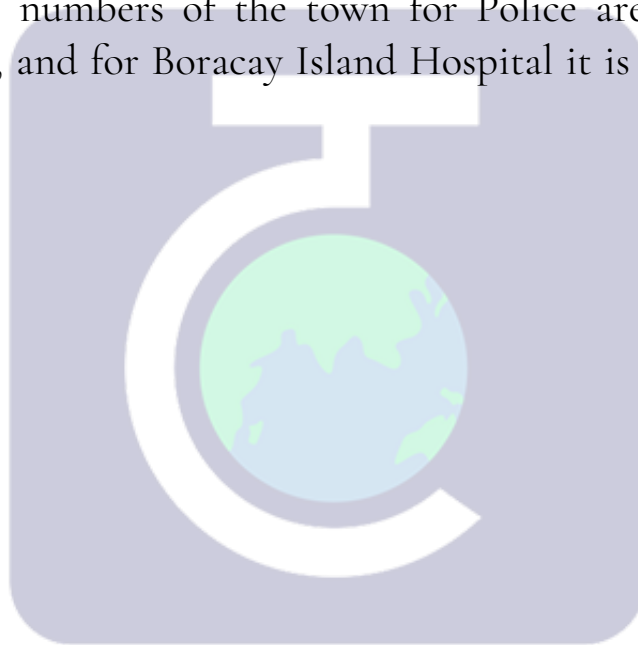
Index**37. Accessibility**

Boracay is not wheelchair accessible, although the hotels and local Filipinos do cater to the needs of the people with restricted movements, and are very helpful. Almost all the places are on the ground level, so it is easy to get in. The bathrooms are not wheelchair accessible and small. All terrain wheelchairs are available on the island but they cost about 1000 PHP per day.



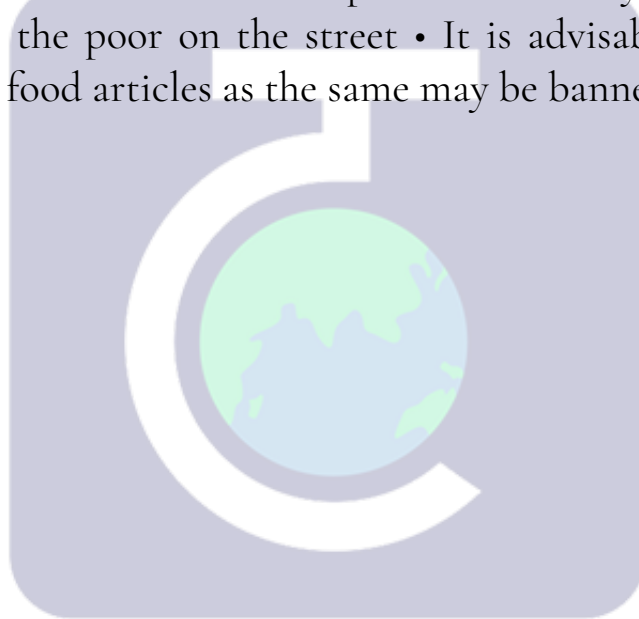
38. Emergencies

Public health care institutions which also provide emergency services are the Metropolitan Doctor's Medical Clinic, Boracay Island Hospital, and the Island Clinic Boracay and Diagnostic Center. All the hospitals mentioned above are public hospitals so they offer free consultations and some medicines. They are all equipped with modern equipment and devices for sound treatment of any disease. The emergency SOS numbers of the town for Police are 135 & 166, for Fire Department it is 198, and for Boracay Island Hospital it is 141, which is open 24 hours a day.



Index**39. Do's and Don'ts**

Dos: • Learn basic Filipino phrases • Always carry some cash with you • Have patience while trying to communicate with local people • Keep a hard copy of important phone numbers • Use “thumbs up” sign to convey “all right” or “okay” • It is advisable to carry a certified doctor's prescription along with the medicines to ensure hassle free import clearance. Don'ts: • Litter on the beaches, the streets, or the sidewalks • Be rude to the service providers • Carry expensive objects or items • Give alms to the poor on the street • It is advisable that do not carry unsealed/ unbranded food articles as the same may be banned for import.



Index**40.Tipping basics**

Although a total of 12% is levied as Service Tax, it is not included in the tip, as it is for the government. At usual times, a 10% tip could be found to be appropriate. If some places charge Service Charge then just deduct the amount from the 10% and pay the rest, or refrain as they have already charged you for service.



Index**41.Pet info**

All pets must be accompanied by a veterinarian good health certificate. This must be issued at the point of origin, and it must state that the pet hasn't been exposed to any communicable disease. Along with this, an import permit will be required, which must be obtained prior to the visit, from the Bureau of Animal Industry. Dogs and cats have to have an additional certification of inoculation against rabies.



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Conclusion – Why to select this destination

Boracay is regarded as one of the best islands in the world, especially for its beaches. The island is famous for being one of the top destinations in the world for relaxation. The words like relaxation and tranquility are synonymous with Boracay. In the year 2012, it was awarded by the international Travel Magazine Travel Plus Leisure as the best island on planet Earth. The two of the most popular beaches of Boracay are the White Beach and the Bulabog beach. It is a fast becoming lesser known tourist paradise. Accommodations in this destination range from the five star resorts to the budget conscious hostels. The place has an array of shops, restaurants, pubs, bars, and nightclubs, scattered around all across the town. Each beach serves as a venue for some fun water sports, such as scuba diving, cliff diving, windsurfing, kite boarding, snorkeling, and more.



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