

Boracay

Boracay is a paradise of plenty, providing everything the traveller could possibly want from a holiday. Dazzling beaches, crystal waters and azure skies supply the backdrop for relaxing or partying, solitude or company. With a seemingly endless list of sports and activities on offer, areas of outstanding beauty to visit and hundreds of places to eat, drink and be merry.



Fast Facts

Time Zone: GMT + 8

Visa: Only required if staying more than 30 days

Climate: November to February – cool and mostly dry; March to June – warm and mostly dry; July to October – warm and mostly wet

Average Temperature Year-round: 24°C – 32°C

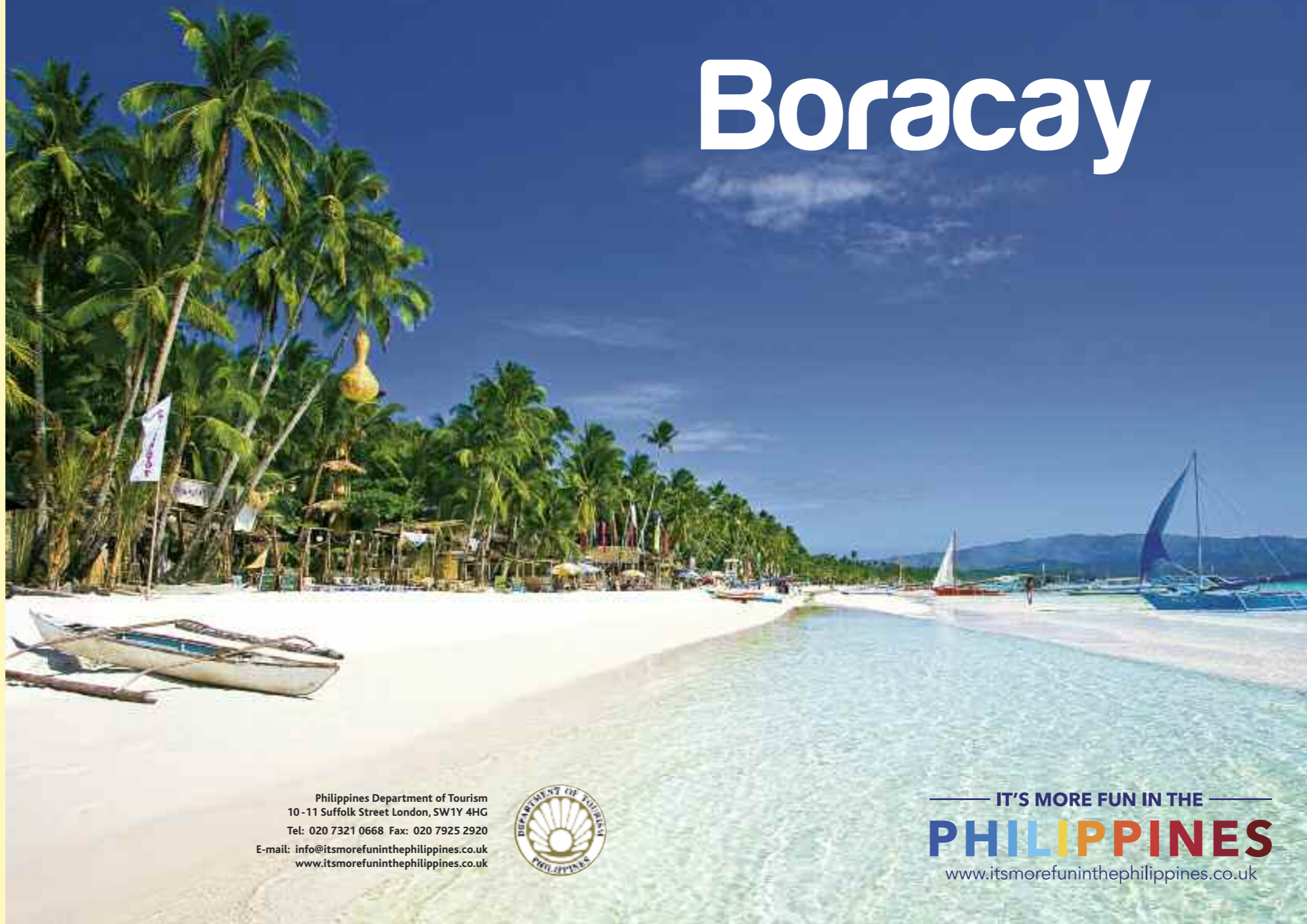
Attire: Light casual clothes all year round

Money: Philippine Pesos. Check with the local banks for current exchange rates. All major credit cards accepted

Water: Bottled water available in resorts, restaurants and convenience stores

Communications: International and direct dial phone and fax. Internet cafes are widely available

What to Bring: Sun block, tanning lotions, insect repellent, personal medication, swimwear and accessories, etc.



Boracay

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Your visit to this stunning island will be one to remember forever!

Getting There

Major Airport Gateways:

Caticlan (MPH) and Kalibo (KLO). Distance between Caticlan and Kalibo is 63 kilometres.

Air Transport:

Various domestic carriers fly to Boracay's major gateways from Manila (20+ flights daily), Cebu (daily flights) or Busuanga (only once a week).

Water Transport:

Regular commuter ferries from Manila or Cebu have scheduled stops in Dumaguít (30 minutes beyond Kalibo) which take around 15 – 17 hours.

Upon arrival in Caticlan:

5-minute tricycle ride to jetty port, 15-minute outrigger boat ride to White Beach (Station 1, 2 and 3).

Upon arrival in Kalibo:

1½ hour bus ride to jetty port, 15-minute outrigger boat ride (Station 1, 2 and 3).

Transfers:

For easy transfers, find out beforehand which boat station along White Beach is nearest your hotel/resort location. Some resorts offer free transfers for guests.

Hotels and Resorts

Boracay Island has accommodations to suit all budgets, from the rustic "nipa hut" (bungalows made of bamboo and nipa palm leaves) to modern luxurious hotels



with conference facilities and gyms through to spas to boutique resorts. Most are located along the four kilometre White Beach in the West. A few more are interspersed along the North and East coasts as well as the island's interior.

Eating Out and Nightlife

There are more than 200 restaurants and eateries on Boracay offering food from around the world and suiting every budget. Pork and chicken are the most popular meats, but fresh seafood is simply delicious and available everywhere.



For local colour, small market-based *ihaw-ihaw* (bar-b-q) restaurants are well worth a visit. For the adventurous and sturdy stomach, try *balot*, a boiled fertilized chicken or duck egg widely believed to be an aphrodisiac! All Filipino dishes are best served with the world-famous San Miguel Beer, ice-chilled!

Many night spots for drinks, dancing and karaoke with numerous bars and discos litter amongst the resorts. Some are open 24/7.

Shops, Markets and Crafts

Boracay's markets will take you to a world of new and exotic sights and impressions where you can buy souvenirs, local delicacies and much more. The largest is the *Talipapa*, a flea market which covers 4,000 square metres between White Beach and the Main Road at the centre of the island.

Another shopper's haven is called D'Mall which houses some 100 stores neatly laid out among coconut trees. White Beach also has a number of shops selling everything from beachwear to art and antiques. Many items are sold at unbelievably-low prices.

Sports Activities and Exploration

There are many attractions on the island to explore, from villages to the stunning white sand beaches to viewpoints such as Naked Rock and Mount Luho 100 metres above the sea. Visit the many caves, and



United Tourist Promotions (UTP) produces a more detailed and accurate map of Boracay. Please visit their website at www.ezmaps.info



The diversity of marine life and corals all around Boracay makes it one of the finest dive locations in the Philippines. There are over 30 dive shops with high quality equipment and good scheduling of dives and instruction. Island and cave exploration tours are also enjoyable and easy to organize. Day trips to uninhabited islands close by offer scenic views and pleasant discoveries.

Other traditional sports available for those who prefer an active holiday are: tennis, badminton, beach volleyball and football, bowling, fishing, golf, horseback riding, hiking, sailing, boating, skimboarding, wind and kite surfing.

Attractions within the Region

Boracay is situated in the Central Visayas Region (Region VI), which as a whole offers a wide array of interesting attractions and events for all to enjoy. Here are some of them:

Festivals: Ati-Atihan (third week of January; Kalibo, Aklan); Dinagyang (fourth week of January; Iloilo City, Iloilo); Paraw Regatta (movable in February; Iloilo City, Iloilo); Binirayan (movable in April; Hamtic, Antique);



Halaran (first week of October; Roxas City, Capiz); **Masskara** (third week of October; Bacolod City, Negros Occidental).

Historical Landmarks: Kalantiaw Shrine (Aklan); Pan-ay Church and Bell Tower (Capiz); Malandog Marker (Antique); Fort San Pedro, Museo Iloilo; Miag-ao Church, Molo Church, Jaro Cathedral (Iloilo); Naurlas Church (Guimaras); Victorias Sugar Plantation, Spanish Ancestral Houses of La Carlota, Silay and Talisay (Negros Occidental).

Natural Attractions: Isla Naburot (Guimaras); Mt. Madias, Kalamasag Falls, Igpasungaw Falls and Natural Pools (Antique); Suhot Cave, Igang Cave (Capiz); Numerous Caves and Waterfalls along the Kalibo-Caticlan Route (Aklan); Bucari Highlands, Nadsadjan Falls (Iloilo).

Best Buys: Guimaras Mangoes; Buri Hats; Capiz Shellcraft; Piña or Sinamay native weaving fabrics; Antiques.

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particularly the Bat Cave, home to the flying foxes of the island.

Be delighted by the many species of butterflies on show at the Butterfly Garden and Butterfly Farm. The Dead Forest where dead mangrove roots reach strangely out of the waters is an impressive and slightly bizarre experience. For stargazers, the negligible light and air pollution mean the night skies are clear and afford spectacular views of the Milky Way, Jupiter and Venus. There is even the odd shooting star on which to make a wish.

Useful Websites for the Region:

Boracay:	http://www.visitboracay.com/
	http://www.boracaytrip.com/
	http://www.boracay.com/
Aklan:	http://touraklan.com/
Antique:	http://www.antique.ph/trav.html
Capiz:	http://corporate.mozcom.com/dot/capiz1.html
Iloilo:	http://www.exploreiloilo.com
Negros Occidental:	http://www.negros-occ.gov.ph/
All Regions:	http://www.visitmyphilippines.com/

Useful Contacts:

Department of Tourism Offices:

London:	(T) +44 (0) 20 7321 0668 info@itsmorefuninthephilippines.co.uk www.itsmorefuninthephilippines.co.uk
Caticlan:	(T) +63 (0) 36 288 7108
Boracay:	(T) +63 (0) 36 288 3689
Manila:	(T) +63 (0) 2 459 5200

Airlines:

Philippine Airlines	+63 (0) 2 855 8888 www.philippineairlines.com
Air Philippines	+63 (0) 2 843 7770 www.airphils.com
Cebu Pacific	+63 (0) 2 636 4938 www.cebupacificair.com
Asian Spirit	+63 (0) 2 840 3811 www.asianspirit.com
Seair	+63 (0) 2 849 0100 www.flyseair.com

Ferries:

WG & A Superferry	+63 (0) 2 894 3211
Negros Navigation	+63 (0) 2 243 5359
Moreta Shipping Lines	+63 (0) 2 721 6480
MBSR Shipping Lines	+63 (0) 2 921 6716

Other useful Contacts:

British Embassy Manila	+63 (0) 2 816 7116
British Consulate Cebu	+63 (0) 32 346 0525
Boracay Island Municipal Hospital	+63 (0) 36 288 3041

Banks:

Allied Bank	+63 (0) 36 288 3412
Landbank	+63 (0) 36 288 6021
Metro Bank	+63 (0) 36 288 5868
Bureau of Immigration	+63 (0) 36 288 5267
Bureau of Fire Protection	+63 (0) 36 288 4198
Police Station	+63 (0) 36 288 3066
Philippine Coast Guard	+63 (0) 36 288 6150
24th Reserve Airlift & Tactical Support	+63 (0) 36 288 6182