



# Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

## The Philippines – Bohol / Panglao

### Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Manila
- ✓ **Language:** Filipino, English
- ✓ **Population:** ± 1,3 mln
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 4.821
- ✓ **Currency:** Piso (₱ PHP)
- ✓ **Country code:** +63 (38)
- ✓ **Visa:** 30-59 days for tourism – [check!](#)
- ✓ **Emergency phone:** 117
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A, Hep-B, Typhoid, Cholera, Japanese Encephalitis, Yellow Fever, Malaria Prevention



### History Recap Over 1 Drink

1380: Muslim Arabs. 1542: Spanish colonialists (Villalobos): named "Filipinos" after King Filip II. 1898: Independence under Aguinaldo. Brief Spanish-US War → Philippines to US → not recognized by Revolutionaries. Proclaim First Philippine Republic. Philippine-American War. 1901: Aguinaldo captured. '02: US Civil Gov. '07: Elected Philippine assembly under US rule. '35: Establishment Commonwealth of Philippines → Quezon 1<sup>st</sup> pres. '41: Japan seizes country. '44: US retakes. '46: Full independence: Republic of the Philippines. '47: US military bases. '51: Peace treaty with Japan → \$800mln in reparations payments. '65: Marcos pres. (*supports US policy in Vietnam*). Muslim separatists in south begin guerilla war. '72: Marcos → martial law: Parliament suspended, politicians arrested, censorship imposed → '81: Lifted, Marcos "wins elections". '83: Opposition leader Aquino shot dead. His widow takes over → mass protests: 'people power'. '92: Aquino's defense minister Ramos pres. '96: Peace Muslims MNLF, but Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) fights on. '98: Estrada pres. → corrupt. '01: Arroyo pres. '02: Bombs on Manila, Islamists blamed. '06: 1000 killed in mudslide Leyte. '08: MILF gets Muslim auton. region → Christians start fighting. '10: Aquino pres. '13: Typhoon Haiyan kills thousands. '14: Peace MILF. Birth control law. '16: Duterte pres. IS (Islamic State).

### Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wet												
Dry												
Budget						Start	Low	Season				

Altitude 232m. Climate: Tropical Climate (Af)

### Bucket List For Free

- ☺ **Sights:** San Jose Cathedral, Baclayon Church, St. Peter's Church, Loboc River, Abatan River, Dimiao Twin Falls, Camuga Falls, Punta Cruz Watch Tower.
- ☺ **Beaches:** Alona, Dumaluan, Doljo, Quinale, Canuba, Arthoghin, Cambilagan, Libaong, Bikini & White Beach.
- ☺ **Free Watersports:** Snorkeling, swimming & surfing.
- ☺ **Free Museum:** Bohol National Museum.
- ☺ **Island Trips:** Lamanoc, Pandanon, Pangangan, Jao, Sandingan, Mahanay, Lapinig, Nocnocan, Balicasag, Cabilao, Basihan, Mantatao, Budlanan, Dumog etc.

### Worth The \$€¥

- 👉 **Sights / Activities:** Chocolate Hills (*has 4WD tours – also walkable*), Hinagdanan Cave, [Danao Adventure Park](#), [Mahogany Forest](#), Bohol Habitat Conservation Center, [Can-Umantad](#) & [Kinahugan](#) & Panga Falls, [Mag-Aso Falls](#), Bamboo Hanging Bridge, Can-Olin Butterfly Sanctuary, Kaligoon Cave Pool, Cambuyo & Candapdapan & Luinab Rice Terraces, [Canawa](#) & [Lonoy](#) & [Logarita Spring](#).
- 👉 Go scubadiving! The best spot is Balicasag Island (*limited amount of divers allowed daily*). **Other Watersports:** Sup, Kayaking, Loboc River Cruise.
- 👉 **Monkey-spotting:** Tarsier Sanctuary (*in Corella*).

## Budget Bites

⌘ **Big supermarkets:** are all to be found in Tagbilaran. Elsewhere you'll find local shops or 7Elevens.

⌘ **Markets:** There are many, usually one in every town.

⌘ **Local food:** Halo-Halo (*cendol in Malaysia*), Chicharon, Ensaymada (*sweet cheese pastry*), Chicken Adobo, Chicken Inasal (*grilled*), Balut (*Warning! Boiled duck embryo in shell*), Kare Kare (*oxtail stew*), Kinalaw (*raw fish salad*), Sinigang (*sour meat stew*), Tapsilog (*beef breakfast*), Lechon (*pig*), Sisig (*pork cheeks, head and liver*), Pata (*pork knuckle*), Taba ng Talangka (*crabs fat*), Pancit Palabok (*noodles*), Arroz Caldo (*rice porridge*), Kamaro (*mole crickets*), Sinigang (*stew*), Dinuguan At Puto (*pig innards in blood*), Betute (*frog stuffed with pork*), Laing (*taro leaves in coco*), Pinakbet (*veggie dish*), Sinugno (*tilapia in coco*), Pancit Habhab (*noodles on banana leaf*), Longaniza (*pork sausage*), Lumpian Ubod (*spring roll*), Kuhol Sa Gata (*snails*), Sinanglay (*tilapia*). [Check extensive list here!](#)

⌘ **Go vegan:** Being vegan is a bit of a challenge in meat-centered Philippines, but not impossible. Supermarkets don't generally have typical vegan products, but fresh produce can be bought cheaply at the markets. Only Alona Beach has some vegan / vegetarian restaurant: [Happy Cow – Bohol](#).

## Mama Said

⚠ The Philippines is *not* a safe place, so be aware at all times. Hide your valuables, get an extra lock and keep an eye on suspicious behavior around you. Tagbilaran is most dangerous.

⚠ Boycott places like Bohol Aquarium Zoo, Bohol Python / Wildlife Park and all Tarsier-zoo's other than the Tarsier Sanctuary in Corella. If you care for animals at all, that is.

⚠ Tap water isn't drinkable.

## Next?

- ➔ In The Philippines: Siquijor, Palawan, Leyte.
- ➔ International destinations close by: Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Taiwan, China, Papua-New-Guinea.

## Sleep Cheap

❖ Hotels and resorts are very cheap in the Philippines and even cheaper if you book via [this Booking.com link](#) and receive a \$15 discount. No need to go into a hostel, especially not if you travel with 2-3 people... in that case a hotel might be the same price or cheaper. [Air BnB](#) is a local alternative.

❖ Camping is possible but not recommended in The Philippines, due to the high risk of theft.

❖ Free! Go [Couchsurfing](#) or Housesitting. Also check [WorkAway](#).

## Nights Best Spent

◆ Nightlife areas: Alona Beach.

## Free-Riding?

■ Bohol is very big. Even within villages the heat makes long-distance walks hard.

■ Cycling is not recommended due to traffic madness and heat. Renting a motorbike is in theory quite handy, but the corrupt police force is a hazard. You most likely will be pulled over for looking like a foreigner, having to bribe your way out of it or dive into the endless bureaucracy and inefficiency of their non-system to get your confiscated drivers license back. Not worth it.

■ Bus travel or per 'jeepney' is an experience. It cost next to nothing, but doesn't run on any schedule and is thus quite unreliable. You sit on wooden benches facing each other, there are no windows and it's common to hang out on the sides. Destinations are displayed up front and buses need to be hailed down. Basically every village has a bus terminal in the center, usually next to the market.

■ The most common way of transport is per tricycle, a rattling vehicle built around a motorbike. Also motorbikes offer rides, charged per person. Be prepared to drive with 3-5 people on 1 motorbike, no safety regulations. Rates should always be negotiated upfront.

■ There's no Grab/Uber and hardly any taxis. You can book private transport at travel agencies.

■ Airport: Tagbilaran Airport (TAG). Cheaper flights leave from Cebu International Airport (CEB).

■ Hitchhiking isn't recommended in The Philippines due to safety issues. If you decide to put up that thumb anyway, know that you're expected to pay for the ride.