

# Philippine Tour: Manila & Middle Islands



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# Tour Summary

When in Manila, the "Intramuros" is a top sight to see. Head to the countryside of Bohol, home to two of the most famous tourist attractions in the Philippines, the Chocolate Hills that resemble perfect mounds of chocolate, and the Philippine tarsiers, primates so small they're about the size of your fist. Swim or snorkel in the secluded waters of Balicasag, off Panglao, one of the country's best dive sites. Next, we will explore the Queen City of the South, known as Cebu City, and visit its historical landmarks such as the Magellan Cross on Mactan. We will also visit scenic Camiguin Island.

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# Philippine Middle Islands







If the saying "when in Rome, do as the Romans do" holds true in the Philippine capital Manila, then there is no better place to begin this tour than the old Spanish walled City called the "Intramuros," or "inside the walls."



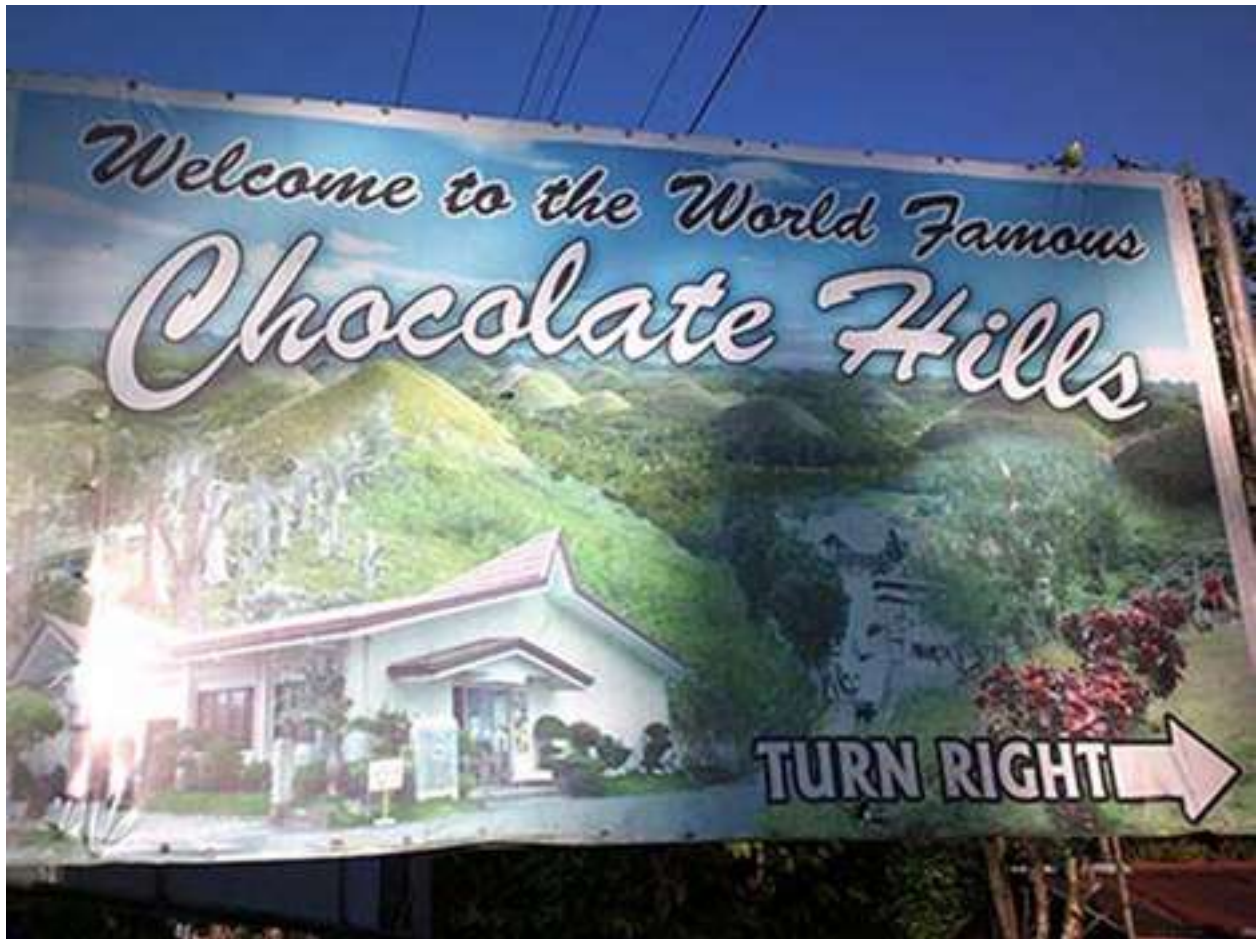
The San Agustin Church and Convent of Manila, like so many other locations within the Intramuros, are cited on the UNESCO World Heritage List.



Bohol is the tenth largest island in the Philippines. It is one of the bigger islands in "the Visayas," the group of islands in the center of the Philippines. Bohol is, together with 72 small islands around the main island, an island province of 4,117 square kilometers. The region of the Chocolate Hills is spread over an area of about 50 square kilometers. Agriculture, together with tourism, are the two dominating

economic sectors of the main island of Bohol.





About two million years ago, most of the island of Bohol was below a shallow sea. Coral reefs, similar to those now found around the reefs off shore of northern Bohol, thrived and extensively covered the sea floor. Geological uprisings exposed the relatively thin layer of coral and shells, and erosion did the rest. The debate is over

what kind of erosion, and why did only the near perfect conical-shaped "Chocolate Hills" remain? What created the Chocolate Hills on the Philippine Island of Bohol? We'll examine all the theories!



As we see, one of the most breathtaking landscapes in the Philippines is formed by the Chocolate Hills on the island Bohol. But first, enjoy a feast of Bohol delicacies on a boat trip down the Loboc River.





Don't miss the Philippine Tarsier and Wildlife Sanctuary in Bohol, one of the few locations in the world where the smallest primate on Earth can be viewed in the wild.





The Philippines is a tropical paradise with some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. The outstanding natural beauty of these beaches, the fine white powder sands, and the warm crystal clear water are enjoyed by visitors and locals alike.



Next we will travel to the Balicasag Island Dive Resort, and explore some of the rich wildlife the Philippines has to offer.



As we cross over the Bohol Sea to the island of Cebu, we'll first travel down the coast and take in some alternative adventures. Let's start by taking a cold pool plunge in the famous fresh water springs, near Dalaguete, Cebu.





How about a day of adventure hiking into the cloud forest to the highest summit on Cebu island? This tour will provide directions to the top of Osmeña Peak at 1,072 meters above sea level.





This tour will also examine the historical events that changed the world. We'll visit the Magellan's Cross in Cebu City where explorer Ferdinand Magellan established the first Spanish colony with friendly

natives, and Mactan Island, a short distance away, where Magellan was killed in a battle with hostile natives.



Lastly, we'll round out the Middle Islands of our Philippines tour with a visit to the volcanic island of Camiguin. A little-known gem in the Visayas, but well worth the effort to discover this funky little island.

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