



M/Y TV IN THE PHILIPPINES

Composed of 7,107 islands, this archipelago nation has long been a crossroads of trade routes, with influences from everywhere from China, Japan, Malaysia, Spain, and the US overlaying the native cultures. After decades of political upheaval, the country has only recently started to become a leisure travel destination, meaning that many of its stunning natural sights are practically untouristed and undeveloped.

From deserted white-sand beaches to one of the world's most unique and vibrant coral reefs, from the island where Magellan died to World War II shipwrecks, from fresh seafood everywhere you go to a rapidly-evolved gourmet street food scene in Manila, the Philippines is a country made for exploration by yacht. Dive with barracudas and whale sharks, hold the world's smallest primate, climb volcanoes, drift along an underground river, and perhaps discover something entirely new amongst these exotic, relaxed islands.



SPECIFICATION

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| BUILDER | Lurssen |
| YEAR / REFIT | 2008 |
| ACCOMMODATION | 12 |
| CABIN CONFIGURATION | 2 Single, 6 Double 1 Twin, 1 Convertible |
| CREW | 25 |

| | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| L.O.A. | 78.33m / 256' 11" |
| BEAM | 13.87m / 45' 6" |
| DRAFT | 3.76m / 12' 4" |
| SPEED | 12 knots cruising 17 knots max |

| |
|---------------------------------|
| ENTERTAINMENT & COMFORT: |
| Jacuzzi |
| Zero Speed Stabilisers |
| Gym Equipment |
| State of the art A/V throughout |

*SOUTH
CHINA
SEA*

*PHILIPPINE
SEA*

MANILA

BUSUANGA
ISLAND

● BORACAY

PANAY

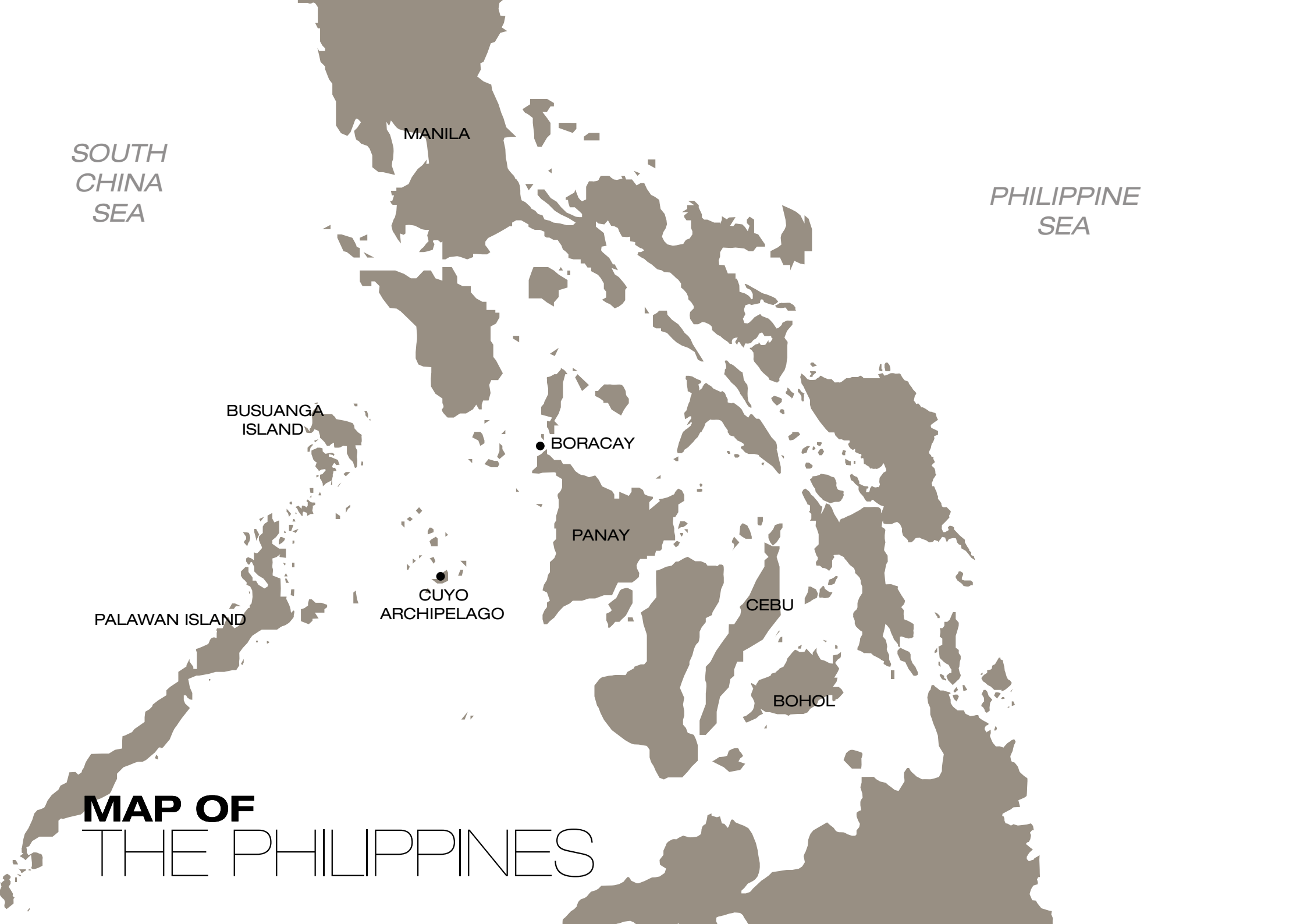
PALAWAN ISLAND

● CUYO
ARCHIPELAGO

CEBU

BOHOL

MAP OF
THE PHILIPPINES



MANILA BAY



Before leaving Manila Bay, be sure to make time for diving in nearby Batangas Bay, where you can swim with giant whale sharks.

Once known as the Pearl of the Orient, the Filipino capital was decimated in World War II, resulting in a somewhat deserved reputation for lawlessness and pollution. Recently, however, the area is on the up-and-up, and the knowledgeable visitor can find things to love in and around this sprawling metropolis.

Like in most cosmopolitan cities, popular foods have been refined into art forms -- try traditional dishes like balut (fermented duck egg), sisig (twice-cooked and fried pig's head), and chicken adobo, the national dish. Explore Chinatown in the Binondo area and taste delicious fusion dishes. For a true gourmet Filipino experience, head two hours north to Angeles City to Bale Dutung, where artist-writer-chef Claude Tayag occasionally cooks lunch for those who call in advance.

What history does remain includes the Spanish Intramuros fort and the city's many historic churches, like UNESCO World Heritage Site San Agustin Church. A wide variety of museums encompasses everything from Manila Contemporary to the Ayala Museum to the Mirikina Shoe Museum, which shows off Imelda Marcos' famous collection.

PALAWAN ISLAND



Considered the country's last frontier -- a Stone Age tribe was discovered living here as recently as 1978 -- this large, western island is paradise for those looking for unique and unspoiled wildlife, vegetation, and natural wonders. Pass through the main town of Puerto Princesa for the delicious local seafood offered on atmospheric Rizal Avenue -- try the small, dried dangitt fish that goes with Filipino breakfasts -- en route to the more interesting sights inland. Visit the sprawling Tabon Caves, in which some of Southeast Asia's oldest human remains were found. Head around to the island's western side to the weird and beautiful St. Paul Subterranean River National Park, a five-mile-long water-filled cave that can only be toured in (strictly limited) outrigger canoes.

If you're in the mood for more traditional island pursuits, spend a day snorkeling and diving amongst Honda Bay's quiet, coral-fringed islets. At the island's northern tip, El Nido and the Bacuit Archipelago have long been a destination for in-the-know Filipinos searching out pristine beaches and exotic natural sights like black marble caves and tabletop corals. No trip to Palawan would be complete, however, without a stint at Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site twelve hours from Puerto Princesa, considered the best diving in the Philippines.

BUSUANGA ISLAND



If Palawan Island is an unexplored frontier, then this small island just to the north is practically off the map. Few foreigners make it here, but those who do are rewarded not just with undisturbed natural scenery -- ideal for hiking, picnicking, island-hopping, and mountain biking -- but also with the Maquinit Hot Springs and some seriously impressive shipwreck diving. During World War II, a number of Japanese ships were sunk by American bombers in the relatively shallow waters around Busuanga -- some are even visible to snorkelers.

Continue your land exploration on the northern tip of the island at "Calaut Island," home to the unique Calaut Game Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary, a sprawling area of grasslands and low hills that houses indigenous animals and African wildlife like giraffes, zebras, and gazelles.

CUYO ISLANDS



Where most collections of pristine, relatively-uninhabited tropical islands have been “discovered” and developed for tourism, the 45-island Cuyo Archipelago has somehow been skipped over, perhaps because of its remote location in the expansive Philippine archipelago. Most of its serene islets are uplifted coral reefs, making it the perfect destination for days of uninterrupted island-hopping, diving and snorkeling in the vibrantly blue-green sea, wandering powdery gold- or white-sand beaches, bird-watching, and clambering around hidden caves.

One of the few volcanic islands, main Cuyo Island features the archipelago's only real town -- home to an impressive Spanish church fort built in 1680 and still in use today -- and is particularly popular destination for windsurfers. Explore the islands yourself to find your favorite beaches (Pandán and Seland Islands are particularly popular), and stop in at Pamalican Island for a luxurious interlude at the world-renowned Amanpulo Resort.

BORACAY

(The North side of Panay)



Touted as the next Southeast Asian hot spot, this rapidly developing, five-miles-by-one-mile slip of an island north of Panay still has another few years before it completely turns into Phuket. For now, that kind of bustling tourism is mostly restricted to the western coast's soft, stunning, and self-descriptive White Beach, where the restaurants and cafes, resorts and spas, bars and clubs, and water sports shacks are spread along three "stations." Station One is home to luxury resorts like Discovery Shores and Friday's, the latter of which offers some of the best dining -- complete with beachfront sunset views -- on the island. In Station Three, celebrate happy hour over beach pig roasts and karaoke.

For a local dining experience, venture into the outdoor D'Mall market in search of Jonah's (super fresh) Fruit Shakes, fresh fish at family-run Smoke, and Lemon Cafe, which doesn't look like anything special but is considered one of the best restaurants in the Philippines.

Get out of White Beach to go in search of quieter coves, luxurious spa treatments at the new Shangri-La Resort & Spa and the award-winning Mandala Spa & Villas, and kite- and wind-surfing on the island's eastern shores. Don't miss the world-class diving on the western side, home to numerous shipwreck sites and colorful reefs.

BOHOL



Natural wonders often seem to come in sets, and it's no different on the island of Bohol. Here, the surreal Chocolate Hills, one of the world's smallest primates, and a spectacular coral shelf all vie for top billing, making for an impressive stay on this laid-back island. And that's still before highlights like the 16th- and 17th-century Jesuit stone churches, and the July-long Sandugo festival celebrating a 1565 blood compact between the Spanish and the Boholanos.

Bizarrely named after the candy they resemble under the brown grasses of summer, the Chocolate Hills consist of at least 1,268 individual conical karst hills covering the center of the island. Spend a day wandering the park and hiking the hills -- each takes less than an hour to scale -- before venturing to the Philippine Tarsier and Wildlife Sanctuary, where you can camp and view the tiny, rather adorable tarsier. One of the oldest land species continuously in existence and ostensibly the world's smallest primate, the tarsier actually inspired the look of Steven Spielberg's E.T.

Dive and snorkel on the aforementioned coral shelf about 45 minutes off of the picturesque and popular Alona Beach, keeping an eye out for clown fish and barracudas as well as the colorful coral. If you're in the area between March and June, watch for dolphins and whales.

CEBU



Once the first Spanish settlement in the Philippines, the city of Cebu is now the country's second largest, a less-polluted alternative to crowded Manila. Its main attractions, however, are primarily historical, including the first cross Magellan planted in 1521 and the first Spanish fort in the Philippines, Fort San Pedro. Nearby Mactan Island, practically part of the city, with its world-class resorts -- like the Shangri-La and Plantation Bay -- offers a quieter alternative. Float between the islets and picturesque beaches on banca cruises, and enjoy fresh seafood cooked to order at the fishermen's stalls in the Mactan Shrine area.

Get away from the crowds by heading to the southwestern side of the island, to Moalboal and Badian, where you can hike to and swim in the impressive Kawasan Falls, go diving along the reefs, and search out quiet beaches.

If you're looking for somewhere even more secluded, head just north of Cebu Island to tiny Malapascua Island, a surprisingly sleepy, low-key destination for being so close to all this action. No real transportation exists, locals offer mopedrides for free, the mangoes are absolutely delicious, and you could spend your whole day between diving, fishing, and wandering the beachfront villages.



THE PHILIPPINES