



APO REEF AND CORON

The Apo Reef – Coron Route is an adventurer's dream cruise, mixing world class scuba diving in a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for crystal clear visibility and healthy marine life with excellent wreck diving opportunities in one of the most ruggedly picturesque places in the world. The Apo Reef-Coron Adventure Cruise also includes unforgettable land excursions around limestone islands and offers our guests a unique chance to encounter the critically endangered Dugong or Sea Cow, a rare sea mammal specifically found in the waters of Busuanga.

Apo Reef

Crystal blue waters, dramatic drop-offs, and memorable pelagic encounters are best used to describe Apo Reef, an underwater lagoon located in the West Philippine Sea off the west coast of Mindoro. Rated as one of the best but least known diving destinations in the world, Apo Reef is the **second largest contiguous reef system in the world**, next to the Great Barrier Reef.

The Apo Reef Natural Park consists of the three islands; Apo Island, Binangaan, and Cayos del Bajo. The largest of the three, Apo Island, has a shallow lagoon with a depth of 2 meters to 10 meters and is surrounded by **mangrove forests** which serve as source of food, nursery and spawning ground of several coastal and marine species of fauna and sanctuary of birds. Its expansive coral reef system, approximately 34 sq. km. wide, is home to different species of fish, marine mammals and invertebrates.

Its stature as a marine sanctuary has helped maintain its reefs' pristine condition, with all sorts of tropical fish calling it home. **Crystal clear waters** allow divers to peer out to the blue for pelagics such as **mantas and whale sharks**, while **reef sharks and eagle rays** regularly coast along the reef. **Dolphins and pilot whales** are also regularly sighted cruising around the marine protected area. A full day of diving is dedicated to this special marine protected area before embarking on to the Busuanga group of Islands in Palawan, more commonly known as Coron.

Coron

Spectacular limestone karsts and hidden lagoons make Coron one of the most picturesque places in the world. Underneath its natural beauty lies **dozens of WWII wrecks** undisturbed for decades, aptly rewarding Coron the title **Wreck Diving Capital of the World**. Coron's giant wrecks are excellently intact, and most lie shallower than any other wreck in the world. Due to the sheer size of these well-preserved wartime artifacts, some would choose to do more than one dive to satisfy one's inquisitiveness. Unique marine life such as **crocodile fish and seahorses** have called some of these wrecks home. Schooling fish such

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as snappers, fusiliers, and batfish, are also commonly found, while [sea turtles](#) have also claimed permanent residency in many. [Whale sharks and mantas](#) are also known to grace the blue.

There is however definitely a lot more to Coron than just wreck diving. If you are looking for one of the [world's most unique dive sites](#), the stunningly beautiful [Barracuda Lake](#) is ready to leave you bewildered and enchanted. The dive site presents the curious with a unique opportunity to dive in a harmonious thermocline mix of fresh and salt water set against a backdrop of imposing jagged limestone walls. If you are really lucky you may even have a chance encounter with the one resident barracuda for which the lake was named, who is said to lurk in the shadows of the lake's 30-meter cave. [Scuba diving in Barracuda Lake is a sensory experience one will surely never forget.](#)

The very rare opportunity to encounter the critically endangered [Dugong or Sea Cow](#) in their natural habitat is also offered in Coron. Once believed to be mermaids, these shy and gentle creatures graze on sea grass and grow up to [three meters long and weigh up to 400 kilograms](#). Due to their docile nature, these animals make an easy target for coastal hunters and are sought for their meat oil, skin, bones, and teeth. Through steadfast conservation efforts, the dugongs are now legally protected within their range of habitat and are slowly fighting their way against extinction.

A special full day excursion is also included in our Apo Reef-Coron itinerary for our guests to experience and truly appreciate the amazing beauty of Coron. The trip includes visits to the bewildering [Twin Lagoons](#) and [Kayangan Lake](#), a festive [barbeque lunch by the beach](#), a relaxing afternoon session in picturesque [Siete Pecados](#), and finishes the day with an invigorating dip in [Maquinit Hot Springs](#).

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The Cruise Director will be arranging up to 4 dives per day, except for the last diving day, which will only have 2 to 3 dives depending on guests' flight schedules the following day. A total of 5 meals will be served each full day on board.

A typical diving day will be scheduled as follows:

0600: Light Breakfast followed by dive briefing
0700: Dive 1
0830: Full Breakfast, followed by relaxation and dive briefing
1000: Dive 2
1200: Lunch, followed by relaxation and dive briefing
1430: Dive 3, followed by relaxation and afternoon merienda (snacks)
1700: Dive briefing followed by Dive 4 (sunset dive)
1900: Dinner

Sample Itinerary

Apo Reef - Coron Adventure (7d/6n)

Embarkation Port: Anilao Pier
Disembarkation Port: Anilao Pier

Anilao → Apo Reef → Coron Island → Sangat Island → Apo Reef →
Pandan Island → Anilao

Day 1: Embarkation in Anilao Pier between 2PM to 6PM. Service starts with a welcome drink and a boat briefing followed by dinner before departure to Apo Reef approximately at 8PM.

Day 2: Apo Reef 4 dives

Day 3: Coron 3-4 dives

Day 4: Coron 3-4 dives

Day 5: Coron Island full day excursion

Day 6: Apo Reef – Pandan Island 3-4 dives

Day 7: Arrive Anilao approximately 8AM. Disembark between 8AM and 10AM. Breakfast will be served before disembarkation and transfer to Anilao.



Apo Reef – PG Encounter (6d/5n)

Embarkation Point: Anilao, Batangas
Disembarkation Point: Anilao, Batangas

Anilao → Apo Reef → Pandan Island → Puerto Galera → Verde Island
→ Anilao

Day 1: Embarkation in Anilao pier between 2PM to 6PM. Service starts with a welcome drink and a boat briefing followed by dinner before departure to Apo Reef approximately at 8PM.

Day 2: Apo Reef 3-4 dives

Day 3: Apo Reef 3-4 dives

Day 4: Apo Reef – Pandan Island 3-4 dives

Day 5: Puerto Galera – Verde Island 3-4 dives

Day 6: Arrive Anilao approximately 8AM. Disembark between 8AM and 10AM. Breakfast will be served before disembarkation and transfer to Anilao.

Additional Information

INCLUSIONS

- Full board accommodation in a twin or quad sharing cabin. Single occupancy rates available.
- Five (5) meals a day (including light breakfast and afternoon snacks).
- Unlimited coffee, tea, juice and drinking water.
- Diving (3-4 non-deco dives a day), service of a dive master, full dive tanks and weights belts.
- FREE UNLIMITED NITROX (for fully paid bookings 6 months or more prior to the scheduled trip).
- Two-way transfer between M/V Big Sky Explorer and Anilao.

EXCLUSIONS

- International and domestic air transportation (if required).
- Hotels and meals before and after the cruise.
- Dive, travel, and medical insurances.
- Soft drinks, beer, wine or spirits (minimal corkage fees apply).
- Extra services such as laundry, massage, etc.
- Diving equipment rental.
- Nitrox diving (for bookings fully paid less than 6 months prior to scheduled trip).
- Park entrance fees and dive permit.
- Crew gratuities.