

Factsheet for Participants

4th Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC4) to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks (Sharks MOU)
25-29 November, Puerto Princesa, Philippines

Palawan, often called the Philippines' "Last Ecological Frontier," is renowned for its stunning natural landscapes and rich biodiversity. It is home to a variety of ecosystems, including tropical rainforests, mangroves, coral reefs, and limestone cliffs.



Natural Attractions

- **Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park:** A UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring an 8.2-kilometer underground river that flows through a series of limestone caves.
- **Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park:** Another UNESCO World Heritage Site, this marine sanctuary spans over 97,030 hectares and is part of the Coral Triangle, known for its high marine biodiversity.
- **El Nido:** Famous for its dramatic limestone cliffs, clear waters, and hidden lagoons.
- **Coron** Known for its pristine lakes, hot springs, and World War II shipwrecks.
- **Mount Cleopatra's Needle Forest Reserve:** A lush tropical rainforest that is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna, including many endemic species.

Flora and Fauna

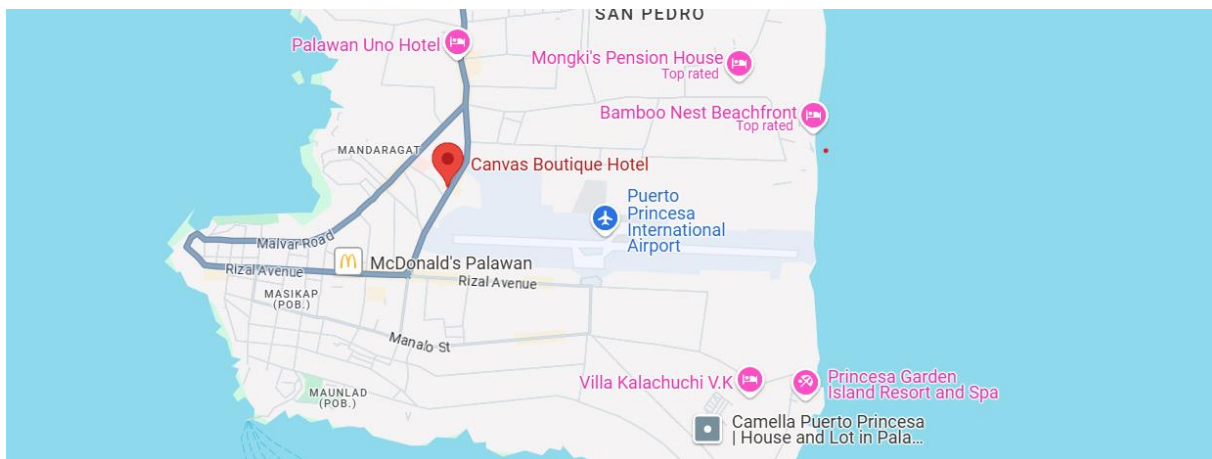
- **Terrestrial Biodiversity:** Palawan boasts 690,000 hectares of terrestrial forest, home to 232 species of wildlife, including the Palawan peacock-pheasant, Philippine mouse-deer, and Palawan bearcat.
- **Marine Biodiversity:** The waters around Palawan are teeming with life, including dugongs, sea turtles, and a variety of coral and fish species.

Conservation Efforts

Palawan is committed to preserving its natural beauty through various conservation programs and sustainable tourism practices. Palawan offers a unique blend of adventure and tranquillity, making it a paradise for nature lovers.

Meeting Venue: Canvas Boutique Hotel

- 3 North Highway, Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Philippines
- website: <https://canvasboutiquehotel.com>
- Email: info@canvasboutiquehotel.com
- 8 mins walk from the airport



Time Zone: UTC+8 (Asia, Manila)

Local transportation

- **Jeepneys:** These are the most common and affordable means of transportation within the city. They follow fixed routes and the fare is typically around ₱10 per person.
- **Tricycles:** Widely available for short distances and can be hailed almost anywhere. They are convenient for getting around the city but may not be suitable for long distances.
- **Vans and Buses:** Ideal for traveling to nearby attractions such as the Underground River and Honda Bay. Private and shared vans are available at the airport and can be booked for trips to other towns like Sabang and El Nido.
- **Taxis:** Available at the airport and around the city. They offer a more comfortable and private mode of transportation.

Weather conditions

- **Forecast:** Expect temperatures ranging from 25°C to 30°C. The weather will be mostly cloudy with occasional rain showers.
- **Sunrise/Sunset:** Approximately 5:55 AM / 5:39 PM

Emergency Contacts

- **Local Police:** Dial 117
- **Fire Department:** Dial 160
- **Ambulance Services:** Dial 911

Currency and Banking

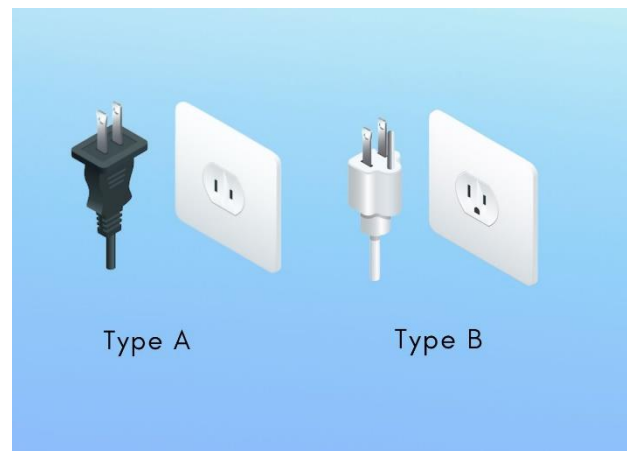
- **Currency:** Philippine Peso (PHP). As of the latest exchange rate, 1 USD is approximately 57.10 PHP.
- **ATMs:** Widely available in the city. Major banks include BPI, BDO, and Metrobank.
- **Credit Cards:** Accepted in most hotels, restaurants, and shops. However, it's advisable to carry some cash for smaller establishments.

Communication

- **Mobile Networks:** Major providers are Globe and Smart. SIM cards are available at the airport and local shops.
- **Internet:** Wi-Fi is available at the hotel and most cafes and restaurants.

Power Plugs in Palawan

- **Plug Types:** Type A (two flat parallel pins) and Type B (two flat parallel pins and a grounding pin).
- **Voltage:** 220V
- **Frequency:** 60Hz



Visitors from countries with different plug types or voltage standards should bring a suitable adapter and voltage converter.

Health

- **Vaccinations:** Ensure you are up-to-date with routine vaccinations. Consider additional vaccines for hepatitis A, typhoid, and rabies if you plan to visit rural areas.
- **Water Safety:** Drink bottled or purified water to avoid waterborne diseases.
- **Mosquito Protection:** Use insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants to protect against mosquito bites, especially in rural areas where malaria is a concern.
- **Travel Insurance:** Highly recommended to cover any medical emergencies or health-related issues during your stay.

Hospitals and Clinics

- **Palawan Adventist Hospital:** A well-equipped private hospital offering a range of medical services including emergency care, surgery, and specialized treatments.
- **Ospital ng Palawan:** The main government hospital providing comprehensive healthcare services, including emergency and inpatient care.

Safety

Palawan is generally safe for tourists, with lower crime rates compared to many other destinations. Petty crimes like pickpocketing can occur, so keep your belongings secure and be vigilant in crowded areas.

- **Wildlife:** Palawan is home to various wildlife, including scorpions and centipedes. Avoid touching unknown creatures and wear appropriate footwear when hiking.
- **Stay Informed:** Keep up-to-date with local news and weather forecasts, especially during the typhoon season (June to December) to avoid any natural disasters.
- **Personal Belongings:** Keep valuables secure and be cautious in crowded areas.