

PALAWAN

I. General Information

Palawan is an elongated island in the Philippine situated between the islands of Mindoro and Borneo. Its geographical location makes it seem remote from the rest of the country, and in fact, some of its southern islands are closer to Malaysia than to other provinces. It is approximately 240 km or a 55-minute air travel southwest of Manila and approximately one (1) hour air travel Northeast of Cebu.

The Philippines last ecological frontier, Palawan harbors vast tract of tropical rainforests and a huge expanse of marine wilderness. Proclaimed as Fish and Wildlife Sanctuary and Habitat of 232 endemic species. The province is named as World Heritage Site for its highly diverse collection of fishes & other marine life by the UNESCO.

Sprawled beneath the seas of Palawan are nearly 11,000 sq km of coral reefs, representing more than 35% of the Philippines coral reefs. Palawan is also noted for its growth forest, cathedral caves, white sand beaches, limestone cliffs and unique flora and fauna.

a. Climate

Except for northern towns, which are occasionally visited by storms, Palawan is generally typhoon – free and is away from any major earthquake lines. The province experiences 2 types of climate – a distinct dry (during November to April) and wet seasons each for 6 months. In Puerto Princesa, the average annual extreme temperatures range from 23.4⁰C- 31.3⁰C with an average mean temperature of 27.4⁰C. Average annual rainfall is 1,475mm.

b. Land Resources

Total land area	: 1,789,655 hectares
Alienable & Disposable	: 447,776 has. (30% of the total land area)
Forested	: 1,041,850 has. (70% of total land area)
Agricultural Area	: 454,405 has. (31% of total land area) (uncultivated = 45%; low productivity = 55%)

The most suitable areas of the province for both cultivation and settlement are the coastal plans of southeast, while the north and the west coasts have virtually no flat land except for narrow valleys. Many of the smaller islands consist of narrow coastal plains with mountainous interiors and often relatively little area for development.

c. Boundaries and Topography

Tall mountain ranges run through the entire central length bisecting the province into two areas the east and the west coast. Mountainous & hilly throughout the entire length of the entire axis of the main island particularly on the north western coast. Narrow strips of coastal plains are found along the southeastern coast.

Palawan has the largest forest cover in the country with 789,296 has. or 55.84% of the total land area of the province. Mangrove forest accounted to 51,346 has.

d. Slope and Soil

The Palawan soils are classified into three major groups:

- Lowlands soil which are usually alluvial
- Upland soils
- Beach Sand

e. **Land Area** : 16,456 sq m.

f. Size and Distribution by province

The province is subdivided into one chartered city, 23 municipalities and 432 barangays. Twelve (12) municipalities are located in the mainland and 11* are island municipalities.

Provincial Capital

- Puerto Princesa City

First District (North)

Second District (South)

Linapacan*
Agutaya*
Araceli*
Busuanga*
Cagayancillo*
Coron*
Culion*
Cuyo*
Dumaran
El Nido
Kalayaan*
Magsaysay*
San Vicente

Aborlan
Balabac*
Bataraza
Brooke's Point
Narra
Quezon
Sofronio Española
Rizal
Puerto Princesa City

Roxas
Taytay

No. of barangays: 430

Political Subdivision

Governor : Hon. Mario Joel T. Reyes
Vice Governor : Hon. David A. Ponce de Leon

Congressmen : Hon. Antonio C. Alvarez (1st District)
Hon. Abraham Kahlil B. Mitra (2nd District)

- II. Agricultural and Market Information
 - a. Principal market Centers
 - b. Trading Post

- III. **Support Services**
 - a. **Infrastructures:**

Palawan has become more accessible today than it was many years back. The main entry points are the Puerto Princesa City airport and seaport, but visitors may also fly directly to selected northern tourism destinations. Small commercial aircrafts from Manila and Puerto Princesa can ferry tourists, traders, businessmen to northern tourism destinations using Busuanga and El Nido airstrips. There are also direct flights from Manila to Taytay landing in the Judge Cesar Lim Rodriguez airport. With the plans of national government to upgrade the capital city's airport to conform with international standards as well as the expansion and improvement of airstrips in major tourist towns like Coron, and El Nido, travel to Palawan will definitely become easier and faster.

The concreting of the Puerto Princesa-Langongan-Roxas road in northern Palawan has tremendously shortened travel time from the city proper to the northern City barangays and the Roxas municipality. The rehabilitation of the 60 km national road between Taytay and El Nido is being a boost to the tourism industry as well as business and trade. Accessibility has also improved tremendously within the municipalities with the increased farm to market road network. The provincial government fast tracked the opening of 314.024 kms. Of farm to market roads linking about 90,000 hectares of farmlands to centers of trade and benefiting 21,000 farmers. Existing provincial road length is 1,428.193 kms. And there are 2,366.86 linear meters of provincial bridges.

b. Communication

There are twenty three (23) municipalities with mobile phone services provided by SMART & Globe telecommunications, and Sun Cellular. There are landline services at Puerto Princesa City. National and International Direct Dialing Services provided by PILTEL, GLOBE, SMART and Bayan Tel in major growth centers

c. Transport

Air : There are 15 airports and airstrips in the province three of which categorized as national, one as provincial, one as military and 10 as private airports/airstrips.

Only Puerto Princesa Airport can accommodate medium-range international jet planes. The rest are classified as fader airports and process sub-standard landing aides or 14 airports are classified as feeder airport & could accommodate light to medium aircrafts.

Three Commercial planes provide daily flights between Manila and Puerto princesa City namely Philippine Airlines, air Philippines and Cebu Pacific. Smaller airlines such as SEAir, Inter-Island Trans Voyager and Asian Spirit provide chartered and commuter flights to Cuyo, Coron, El Nido, Taytay and Culion from Manila or Puerto Princesa City.

The following airlines serve passengers to and from Manila and various Palawan destinations:

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES (PAL)

Manila Puerto Princesa City Manila – Daily

AIR PHILIPPINES

Manila-Puerto Princesa City – Manila – Daily

Puerto Princesa-Cebu-Iloilo – Monday, Wednesday-Friday and Saturday

Cebu Pacific

Manila-Puerto Princesa City- Manila - Daily

SeaAir

Manila-Busuanga – Manila - Daily

Manila-Taytay-Manila - Daily

Manila-El Nido - Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

Puerto Princesa City – Cuyo – Tuesday and Saturday

Puerto Princesa City – Cuyo - Tuesday and Saturday

Asian Spirit

Manila – Busuanga – Manila - Twice Daily

*Inter-Island Trans Voyager
(Soriano Aviation)*

Sempadan Aerospace

Kota Kinabalu – Puerto Princesa City – Kota Kinabalu

Land

Tricycles and multi-cabs are the main modes of transport in Puerto Princesa City. Several buses and shuttle vans provide regular trips to municipalities. Car Rental services are also available at the travel agencies.

Sea

Two major domestic shipping lines ferry passengers and cargo regularly from Manila to Puerto Princesa City and vice-versa. Both also ply the Manila-Coron-Puerto Princesa City route and vice-versa. Sea travels takes approximately 24 hours, and passengers may choose from economy to luxury accommodations. Another cargo commercial vessel operates in the province, responding to the cargo requirements of business traders from Puerto Princesa City to Manila and vice versa. An inter-island vessel plies the Puerto Princesa City-Cuyo-Iloilo route twice a week while another vessel provides a once a week trip to Manila-Coron-Liminangcong and back and weekly trips from Manila to Cuyo and vice-versa.

There are 39 functional ports in the province:

- Two (2) are classified as national
- One (1) as base port and

- Four (4) are terminal ports.

Only the ports of Puerto Princesa, Brooke's Point, Balabac, Coron and Cuyo are capable of berthing small inter-island vessels. The rest can only accommodate motor-powered bancas, launches and small fishing boats.

Puerto Princesa Port is classified as base port utilized for berthing passenger vessels, RORO/containerized and other general cargo vessels. Four (4) terminal ports utilized as embarking, disembarking, loading and unloading general cargoes. Ten (10) municipal, two (2) national and 11 other government ports can only accommodate small vessels. Eleven (11) private/commercial ports utilized for loading and unloading goods and commodities.

Palawan is linked to Luzon by seas transportation plying the following routes:

- Manila –Puerto Princesa & vice-versa (1 boat passing through Coron)
- Manila-Coron-Liminangcong & vice-versa
- Manila-Coron-Culion & vice-versa
- Puerto princesa City –cuyo-Iloilo and vice-versa
- Coron-Romblon-Aklan
- Linkage to Malaysia is being established

Major vessel plying the Manila (MNL) – Puerto Princesa City (PPC) – MNL and other routes are as follows:

WG and A Superferry

MNL- Coron-PPC - once a week, Friday
PPC-Coron-MNL –once a week, Sunday

Negros Navigation

MNL –Coro-PPC –Once a week, Thursday
PPC-Coron-MNL – Once a week, Saturday

M/V Milagrosa

Iloilo-Cuyo-PPC- Cuyo-Iloilo –Twice a week, Monday and Thursday

M/V Romblon Bay

MNL- Coron-Liminangcong-Coron- MNL – once a week

MNL-Cuyo-MNL – once a week

M/V Josille II

MNL – Coron – Liminangcong-Coron-MNL. Once a week, Thursday

San Nicolas Lines

MNL.- Coron-Culion-Coron-MNL- Twice a week, Wednesday and Saturday

d. Education

Enrollment in Public elementary schools is steadily increasing. From 146,114 in 2003, the number of students in the public elementary schools went up to 147,013 in the year 2004 while enrollees in public secondary schools reached 55,887.

Public schools in the province consist of

- a. elementary schools - 626
- b. secondary schools -127

Private schools:

- a. elementary schools -26
- b. secondary schools -19

Vocational schools -10

Tertiary:

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS	PRIVATE SCHOOLS
Palawan State University, Pto Princesa City	Holy Trinity College, Pto. Princesa City
Western Philippines University, Aborlan, Palawan and Pto. Princesa City	FullBright College, Pto Princesa City
Coron College of Fisheries, Coron, Palawan	Polytechnic College Inc.
Puerto Princesa School of Arts and Trade	Palawan Technological College, Inc. in Roxas, San Vicente & Pto Princesa City
Palawan College of Arts and Trade, Cuyo, Palawan	Systems Technonology Institute (STI)
	AMA Computer Learning Center (ACLC),

	Pto Princesa City
	San Francisco Javier College, Narra, Palawan
	St Joseph Academy, Cuyo, Palawan
	St. Augustine Academy, Coron, Palawan
	Coron, Technical School, Coron, Palawan

e. Research Institutions:

Department of Agriculture – Palawan Experimental Station, Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City; Sub station - Palawan Agricultural Center, Irawan Puerto Princesa City;

Department of Agriculture - Livestock Resource Center, Irawan, Puerto Princesa City

Department of Agriculture –Carabao Breeding Center, San Vicente, Palawan

Department of Agriculture – Dairy Pilot Demo Farm, Irawan, Puerto Princesa City

Department of Science and Technology, Puerto Princesa City

f. Banking/credit

The banking community in Palawan is steadily growing, an indication of increasing economic activity. Most banks are located in the City of Puerto Princesa while others are found in nearby municipalities

Universal Banks (Private)

- Equitable PCI-Bank
- Metro Bank
- Bank of Philippine Islands
- Philippine National Bank
- Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation
- Allied Bank

Thrift Banks

- Banco Filipino
- Palawan Bank
- First Consolidated Bank

Rural Banks

- Rural Banks of Narra
- United Coconut Planters Bank
- Cooperative Bank of Palawan
- Marikina Valley Rural Bank

Universal Bank (Government)

- Land Bank of the Philippines
- Development Bank of the Philippines

Commercial bank

- Philippine Veterans Bank

g. Agribusiness Investment Opportunities

- a. Costs and Returns of Priority Commodities
- b. Geographical Flow of Commodity
- c. List of technical Experts
- d. Directory of Suppliers/ Buyers
- e. Other related information