

standards - the gorgeous view there is thrown in for nothing.

Miscellaneous

Festivals: Town Fiesta and Pasinggatan Festival 3-4 May.

Getting There & Away

By Air: The little Sandoval Airport Cesar Lim Rodriguez at the northern end of Taytay Bay is not operational at the moment (2016).

By Boat: A new RoRo harbour was built in Bantulan, 10 km south-east of Taytay, that will provide car ferry services in the near future.

From El Nido

Bus/Van: Buses and vans with the destination Puerto Princesa or Port Barton go via Taytay (2 hrs, van 1½ hrs).

From Puerto Princesa

Bus/Van: Departures hourly from the San Jose Terminal from 4am to 10pm (4½ hrs, van 4 hrs).

Apulit Island

In the middle of Taytay Bay, 18 km north-east of Taytay itself, lies the idyllic Apulit Island. This island deserves the description of enchanting, it's like something out of the backdrop of an overly romantic South Pacific film. Only 1½ km long, Apulit is very narrow and not very high at the southern end, while a jagged 175m-high ridge runs along the middle of the wider, northern end of the **Dragon Island**. Enticed by its exclusive resort, white beaches, house reef and the Royalist Reef only half a nautical mile east, the island is a favourite with upmarket holidaymakers and divers.

Places to Stay

Apulit Island Resort. From P20,000. Very comfortable cottages standing on piles in the sea, with veranda. Restaurant, spa, swimming pool, kayaks, diving. The hotel boat goes from Taytay to the island 3x daily when needed. Reservations in Manila: Tel (02) 9025994.

Flower Island

Flower Island, all of 0.15 km², is a dream of a small island, around 50 km north-east of Taytay, with a white sandy beach and a largely intact reef.

Places to Stay

Flower Island Resort, Cel 0917-5045567. P6850-10,900 per person; inkl. 3 meals and use of the amenities. Very attractive cottages built using natural materials, and cosily furnished. Good restaurant. Guests with reservations will be picked up with a speedboat from Taytay.

Liminangcong

Pop 5500 / Postcode 5312

During the north-east monsoons, Liminangcong becomes a fishing centre. The place itself is clean and surprisingly peaceful as there are practically no cars. Even after the 22 km-long access road has been opened there is little likelihood of there being much traffic, apart from a few jeepneys. From Liminangcong you can go to the small offshore **Saddle and Camago islands**. You can also get boats to islands farther north. In addition, there are shipping connections to Coron/Busuanga and Manila.

Places to Stay

Puerto Paraiso Inn. P400. Basic, small rooms, but all in all a pleasant place on the water with a gorgeous view of the offshore islands. Restaurant.

Getting There & Away

Jeepney: During the dry season there's a jeepney at least once a day between Taytay and Liminangcong (2 hrs).

El Nido & Bacuit Archipelago

Pop 9000 / Postcode 5313 / Tel (048)

El Nido is framed picturesquely by rugged, steep limestone cliffs all round. Since the roads and transport here were improved, more and more travellers have been attracted to this enchanting stretch of coast in the north of the 'Last Frontier' (as Palawan is often called). Most people stay in the place itself, but the resorts are also popular on **Corong-Corong Bay** (gorgeous sunsets) 2 km further south.

The white **Marimegmeg Beach** in the south of Corong-Corong Bay is the most beautiful beach near the town that can be reached without a boat (tricycle P100, then a short walk from the road). You can walk over to the little Depeldet Island offshore at low tide or glide over at any time on a zipline (P500; at the Orange Pearl Beach Resort).

With the exception of the luxurious El Nido Cove Resort, north of the airport is the start of a touristic no-man's-land - practically empty of people, wild and fascinatingly beautiful. However the end is in sight for its Sleeping Beauty slumber. The excellent **Nacpan Beach** together with its neighbouring **Calitang Beach** - 'Twin Beaches' - is enticing more and more visitors; hardly surprising, because there's no doubt that this 3 km-long bay roughly 22 km north of El Nido is world class. (Pity about the pesky sand-flies that usually get active by the late afternoon and can give you an unpleasant bite; don't forget your insect repellent.) Lying beautifully offshore are the little Bury Islands in the centre, the Bolog Islands at the southern end, as well as the larger Lalutaya Island farther out. For the moment, electricity is still being provided by generators (6pm-10pm). It's even more remote further north at **Duli Beach** and **Dagmay Beach**, both with one resort each, as well as on the north coast in **San Fernando** (Qi Palawan, Cel 0939-9259433, from P8800) and **Sibaltan** (Floresita's Beach Resort, Cel 0917-5079700, P1500-2500; Tapik Beach Park, Cel 0921-5093637, P1000-2500).

El Nido Via Ferrata

Now, with the help of this daring construction made of iron grating and pipes, even novice climbers can master the rugged rocky environment of the Taraw Cliff and marvel at the spectacular view of El Nido and the sea below. A high point while conquering the audacious walkways and steps is courageously crossing an airy hanging bridge, although climbers are secured by a steel rope.

Access to the entrance area from Rizal St. Tours with guide 8am-5pm (P400, 1 hr).

Island Hopping

When in El Nido you can take a trip to the fascinating, rock grey islands of the Bacuit archipelago just offshore, most of which rise steeply out of the crystal-clear water and have small, sandy bays.

● You can choose from Tour A, B, C and D (9am-4pm, P1200-1400 per person; incl. barbecue lunch). On booking, P200 **Eco-Tourism Development Fee** (ETDF) is payable (valid for 10 days); this can also be paid in the Tourist Office.

● The Austrian, Wolfgang, from Pura Vida, Serena St, Cel 0939-9202894, @, offers tours with a speedboat which allow people to visit less popular, remote islands of the Bacuit Archipelago in a short time: 12.30-4pm, P1200 per person

(from 4 participants), and 9.30am-4pm, P1800 per person; incl. lunch.

● Judith from Switzerland in the Travel Center of the El Nido Boutique & Artcafé, Serena St, Cel 0920-9026317, @, organises kayak tours that are accompanied by an outrigger and a guide (P1900 per person). She also rents out double kayaks (fibreglass P150/hr, P700/day; transparent P250/hr, P1000/day) and stand-up paddle boards (P250/hr, P900/day).

● Various resorts on Corong-Corong Beach rent out kayaks for P500-700/day, including Island-front, Stunning Vistas and Telesfora. Ideal for short trips to the beaches at Lapus-Lapus, Papaya and Seven Commando (great for snorkelling).

● Tao Philippines, Corong-Corong, Cel 0998-5761129, @, organises more unconventional expeditions, including with a big paraw (native sailing boat) from El Nido to Coron with stops on various islands, 5 days/4 nights, P27,000; incl. camping and catering. Timely reservations recommended. taophilippines.com

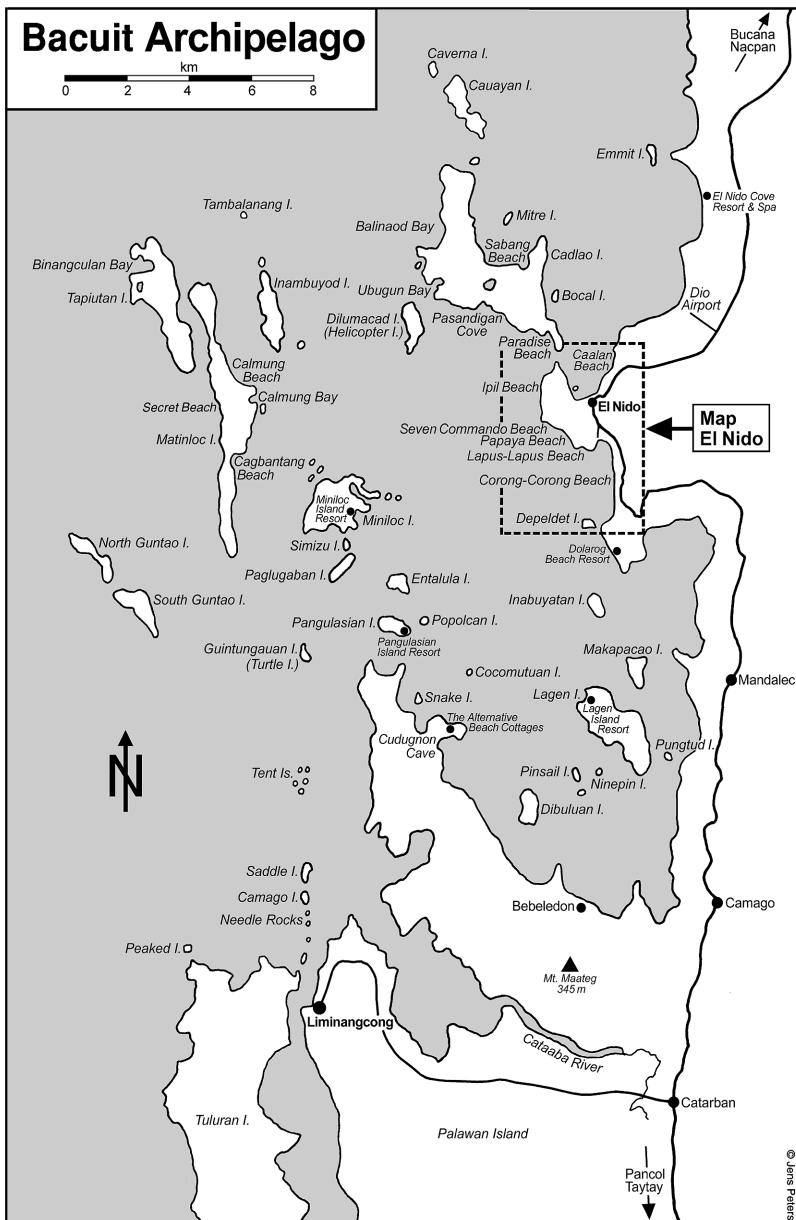
A Few Islands of the Bacuit Archipelago

Cadlao Island is the biggest, and at almost 600m, also the highest island in the Bacuit archipelago. Its massive cliff face, covered in places with thick green vegetation, is riddled with caves and fissures. Cadlao is also known as Bird Island.

Miniloc Island, south-west of El Nido, is where the well-known Miniloc Island Resort is located (only open to residents). The deeply indented coast a little to the north of this establishment leads to the beautiful **Big Lagoon** in the island's interior, which is only accessible by boat. Turtles have been occasionally sighted in the deeper, centre part of the lagoon. Just to the north is the **Small Lagoon**, from where you can swim to the adjoining **Secret Lagoon**. South of Miniloc, off the little Simizu Island, there's an outstanding area for snorkelling.

Entalula Island has a picture perfect bay framed by washed away cliffs, with a white sand palm beach. This belongs to the Miniloc Island Resort, whose guests are served food and drink there in the open air and can take part in rock climbing. Visitors are not allowed to land there without prior arrangement, but the small sandy bays next to it are open to the public.

Matinloc Island has numerous little bays along its long coast, with sandy beaches and corals



well worth seeing. **Calmung Bay** on the east side of the island is worth a mention, as well as the **Secret Beach** on the west coast.

Tapiutan Island runs for half of its length almost parallel and fairly closely to Matinloc Island. On this stretch of the shore there's an attractive beach with a reef well suited for snorkelling. The extremely picturesque **Binangculan Bay** in the north-west of the island has a beach with some vegetation. Occasionally, sailboats drop anchor here. The cliffs sticking out to the south of the bay signal one of the best diving areas in the waters around El Nido. There are several tunnels, archways and fissures that can be swum through; turtles, groupers and barracudas are quite common.

North Guntao Island is the most westerly one in the archipelago. The climb to the top is rewarded by a breathtaking panorama. The little beaches on the west coast and at the southern tip of the island are suitable for snorkelling breaks.

Pangulasian Island has a 700m-long, white sand beach and is, unlike most of the islands in the archipelago, flat in places and overgrown with thick vegetation. The luxurious Pangulasian Resort takes up the entire southeast side.

Malapacao Island lies just off the coast of Palawan in the south-east of the Bacuit archipelago and surely counts as one of the Gardens of Eden of this group of islands. Coming from the north, Malapacao can be recognised by its 2 striking giant rock-faces standing sentry at both ends of a flat section of the island, overgrown with palms and other tropical plants on a beautiful beach. Here you'll find the Malapacao Island Retreat & Spa. To round it off, the east coast of the island sports a wonderful palm-lined, white sand beach.

Inabuyan Island is another one of the South Seas dream islands in the archipelago. There's no mistaking its steep cliffs rising straight out of the water; the southern tip is graced with a palm-fringed, white sandy beach.

Pinsail Island. From a distance, Pinsail Island looks like a modest lump of rock until you come to an opening in the cliffs leading to a cathedral-like cave, impressively illuminated from above by shafts of sunlight.

Lagen Island is the largest island in the south-east of the archipelago and boasts the exclusive Lagen Island Resort. And exclusive is meant literally: non-residents are barred from entering the premises.

Snake Island is officially called Vigan Island, but there's a reason for its folk name. A long, narrow sandbank snakes away from the little, palm-covered island in the direction of the mainland, nearly blocking the through passage - best seen from the hill on the island.

Places to Stay

There are nearly 100 places to stay in **El Nido Town**, many of them in Hama St (Calle Hama) right on the beach. Another dozen or so can be found 1 km further north on **Caalan Beach** (shallow and stony in the water - not suitable for bathing; 15 mins on foot along the beach and past the cemetery). There's a choice from over 30 resorts with a view of Bacuit Bay on **Corong-Corong Beach**, 2 km south of El Nido (tricycle P20-50). In contrast, the infrastructure for tourists on **Napan Beach** 22 km north of El Nido is still very modest (tricycle P700-1000; unpaved road).

El Nido Town

Anang Balay Turista, Serena St, Cel 0917-3151900, @. P600 (fan, shared bath) and P1200-2500. Friendly, family-style accommodation near the pier, at the western end of the narrow Serena St, El Nido's sort of pedestrian precinct. The rooms are clean, cosy and big enough.

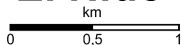
Marygold Beachfront Inn, Hama St, Cel 0908-8843711, @. P1050-1350 (fan) and P2150-3150. Basic, conventional cottages and good aircon rooms in the so-called Country Villa, the latter with veranda on the beach and incl. breakfast.

Bulskamp Inn, Osmeña St, Cel 0921-7575044, @. P1400-2000 (fan) and P1800-2400. OK rooms, utilitarian furniture, the more expensive ones with hot water and TV. Communal balcony. 80m from the beach.

Arkitel, Amboy St, Cel 0910-0820897, @. P1500-2500 (4 people); incl. breakfast. 11 no-frill rooms, only furnished with the bare necessities (bed, table, chair), but clean. Relatively new (2014); one of several bed & breakfast places in this part of town.

Inngo Tourist Inn, Hama St, Cel 0930-7143748, @. P1800-2100 (3 people); incl. breakfast. Clean, practically furnished. On the road, not directly on the water.

El Nido



Getting There & Away

- 8 Lio Airport (4 km)
- 13 Bus Terminal

Places to Stay

- 1 The Last Beach Cottages
- 2 Caalan Beach Resort
- 3 El Nido Reef Strand Resort
- 4 La Salangane Beach Villa
- 4 Antonio Village Pension
- Golden Monkey Cottages
- 5 Angel Nido Resort
- Hadafe's Cottages
- 6 Kalinga Beach Resort
- Cadlao Resort
- 7 Makulay Lodge
- 8 El Nido Cove Resort (8 km)
- 9 Vellago Resort
- 10 El Nido Viewdeck Cottages
- Swiftlets Inn
- 11 Jurias Pension
- 12 Hotel Deo
- 14 Magos Cottage
- 15 Lorenzo Beach Resort
- Sheryl May Inn
- Tres Verdes Resort
- 16 Mina Grade Beach Cottages
- 17 Overcomer Lodge
- 18 Last Frontier Beach Resort
- Mahogany Beach Resort
- 19 Teleflora Beach Cottage
- 20 El Nido Overlooking Resort
- 21 Greenviews Resort
- 22 Novie's Tourist Inn
- 23 Pa-Lao-Yu Dive Resort
- Tay Joe Cottages
- Tilandak Beach Cottages
- 24 Buena's Haven Travelodge
- 25 Coral Bay Resort
- Islandfront Cottages
- Leodines Budget Hotel
- Yolida's Tourist Inn
- 26 Doublegem Beach Resort
- 27 Stunning Vistas Beach Resort
- Zion's Welcome Inn

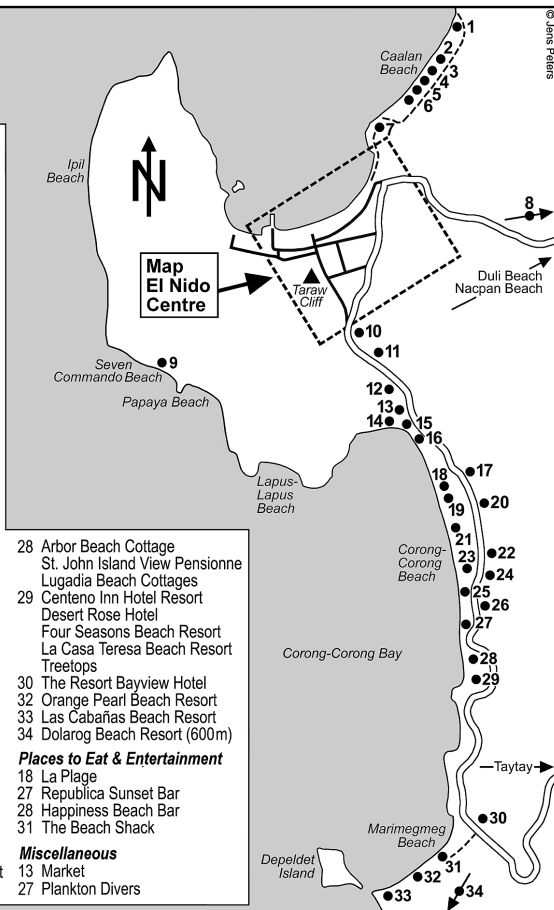
- 28 Arbor Beach Cottage
- St. John Island View Pensionne
- Lugadia Beach Cottages
- 29 Centeno Inn Hotel Resort
- Desert Rose Hotel
- Four Seasons Beach Resort
- La Casa Teresa Beach Resort
- Treetops
- 30 The Resort Bayview Hotel
- 32 Orange Pearl Beach Resort
- 33 Las Cabañas Beach Resort
- 34 Dolarog Beach Resort (600m)

Places to Eat & Entertainment

- 18 La Plage
- 27 Republica Sunset Bar
- 28 Happiness Beach Bar
- 31 The Beach Shack

Miscellaneous

- 13 Market
- 27 Plankton Divers



Rosanna's Pension, Hama St, Cel 0920-6054631, @. P2500-3500 (beachfront); incl. breakfast. Pleasant rooms in one old and one new building, the nicest ones on the upper floor with balcony to the beach and super view of the bay and Cadlao Island.

Pura Vida, Serena St, Cel 0939-9202894, @. P2500-4000; incl. breakfast. Snug, contemporary rooms, the expensive ones with balcony and sea-view. Restaurant, motorbikes.

El Nido Beach Hotel, Hama St, Cel 0920-8673777. P3600-5500 (5 people); incl. breakfast. Comfortably furnished and spacious rooms, most

with veranda and view of the bay. Rooms at the back cost 20% less. Korean owner.

Sea Cocoon Hotel, Real St, Cel 0917-6741024, @. P3700-5500 (4 people); incl. breakfast. Opened in 2015, this hotel with modern styling has 27 generous, light rooms with balcony, all with contemporary furnishings. Restaurant, swimming pool. The best address in the town; 100m from the beach.

Caalang Beach

Hadafe's Cottages, Cel 0920-9523280. P1000-1800 (4 people); incl. breakfast. Friendly, family-

style resort with practically furnished, simplex and duplex cottage on the beach as well as rooms set a bit at the back of the property.

Caalan Beach Resort, Cel 0928-4265127, @. P2000-3200 (refrigerator); incl. breakfast. Various one- and two-storey buildings with 14 utilitarian rooms in all, for 2, 4 and 6 people, most with veranda.

La Salangane Beach Villa, Cel 0905-6632447. P2250 (fan). Attractive, 2-storey building with 4 nice, homely apartments with kitchen and communal veranda.

Golden Monkey Cottages, Cel 0929-2064352, @. P2400-5600, suites P5800; incl. breakfast. Cosy cottages on the beach (aircon) and in the garden (fan) as well as spacious suites in a separate building, all with veranda.

Corong-Corong Beach

Greenviews Resort, Corong-Corong, Cel 0905-3156333, @. P1200-2700. Well-kept rooms and cottages built in traditional Philippine style, some with fan. Nice atmosphere. Restaurant and bar on the first floor with gorgeous view of the bay.

Abor Beach Cottage, Cel 0998-9747627. P1500; incl. breakfast. Basic cottage with 2 clean, comfortably decorated rooms with fan, each with a veranda. Top location directly on the beach.

La Casa Teresa Beach Resort, Cel 0918-3861974, @. P1500-1800 (hot water, TV); incl. breakfast. Clean rooms, furnished to do the job. Family resort at the southern end of the beach. Car rental.

Mahogany Beach Resort, Cel 0919-9517930. P6750. The best accommodation on the beach by a long chalk, opened in 2015. Beautifully designed cottages - a successful mixture of Philippine tradition and modern comfort - and generously built villas. The latter with a stylish atmosphere, elegantly and tastefully furnished; the veranda belonging to them, with its own mini-pool, doubles as an extra room. No restaurant, but they serve breakfast. Swimming pool.

Nacpan Beach

Jack's Place, Cel 0995-2374811, @. P1000; incl. breakfast. Nice, basic bamboo cottages with bath and generous veranda, pleasantly set apart from each other. They also rent big tents (P500); putting up your own tent costs P150. Restaurant (great view). Extensive grounds with lawn at the south end of the beach.

Calitang Pearl, Cel 0916-5723098. P900-1000. Solidly built stone cottages with 2 rooms each

(bath, veranda). On Nacpan Beach near Kyla's Cocina Restaurant (same owners, 2 rooms) and on Calitang Beach, Nacpan's twin beach only a short walk away (4 rooms).

Bacuit Archipelago

The company El Nido Resorts runs the luxurious beach hotels **Lagen Island Resort** (50 rooms, swimming pool, in the south-west of the Bacuit archipelago), **Miniloc Island Resort** (50 rooms, in an attractive bay with a steep cliff wall behind it) and **Pangulasian Island Resort** (42 rooms, long beach, swimming pool). From P22,000. Reservations in Manila: Tel (02) 9025951.

The Alternative Beach Cottages, Cudugnon Point, Cel 0917-8955952, @. P3000-5500; incl. breakfast and transfer. Also bookable as a package (full board, island tours, kayaks). Stylish cottages (fan), the most beautiful being octagonal on high stilts and with a wide glass front. Secluded spot on a little white beach on a peninsula near Snake Island and Cudugnon Cave.

Places to Eat

El Nido surprises visitors by having lots of excellent restaurants, even if they don't always look too impressive from the outside. In many places guests are entertained in the evenings with live music.

Artcafé, Serena St (directly over the El Nido Boutique, one stair up, take your shoes off). 6.30am-11pm. An institution in the meantime, with lots of space, beautiful wall decoration, big balcony and for years now constant high quality food and drink. The terrace on the beach across from it also belongs to the Artcafé. There's a copious selection of international dishes - prepared with vegetables from their own organic garden - including beef steak (P680), seafood curry (P300), pizzas (P280) and salads (P200-250). But that's not all: also available are home baked bread, fresh yoghurt and local beer from the Palawefio Brewery (micro brewery in Puerto Princesa).

Marber's, Rizal St. Rustic restobar in a top location on the beach with German and Philippine cooking. Wurstsalat (cold meats salad, P250), stuffed squid (P230).

Sea Slugs Bar & Restaurant, Hama St (a short walk from the street, right on the water). Ideal for a romantic candlelight dinner on the beach. On the menu are a number of culinary delicacies at moderate prices (pasta, seafood, pork, chicken; P150-350).

Squidos Restaurant, Hama St corner Abdulla St. This cosy little restaurant belongs to the pioneers of the local gastronomic scene, serving Filipino food with a hint of French to it for around P200. One speciality of the house is mixed seafood curry (*fruits de mer*, generous portion, P450).

Trattoria Altrovà, Hama St corner Osmeña St. From 5pm. In this cosy restaurant they'll bring you wonderful stone baked pizzas (P310-450) and excellent Italian pasta (P240-580).

Lonesome Carabao Lounge, Hama St. They do have a few Philippine standards such as adobo (P230) and sinigang (P250), but the real culinary highlights are their burritos (P220-240), quesadillas (P220-240) and tacos (P180-220).

Bars, Beach Bars & Sunset Bars

Angle Bar, Rizal St corner Balinsasayao Rd. They show sports events and feed you burgers (P280-360) and skewers (barbecued kebabs, P300-420).

The Bazaar, Rizal St. A verdant courtyard with loungers, surrounded by the **Kala Bar** (cocktails P150-200), **Lolo Banana Bar & Shop** (seafood P200), **Yama** (Chinese, Japanese and Thai cuisine, small selection, eg tom kha gai P220) and **Massage Beauty Salon** (foot massage P250). Guests can also pass their time with darts, table tennis and pétanque. An entertainment concept with lots of flair that's obviously doing it right.

Pukka Bar, El Nido Beach. Popular evening rendezvous with restobars all round (between **Atmosphere** and **Spider**), a blaze of colour and with live reggae music till well after midnight.

La Plage, Corong-Corong Beach. Laidback beach bar under the palms. The super atmosphere is topped off with a swimming pool. Daily changing specials (P200-350), but also kinilaw (P220) and seafood pasta (P320).

Republika Sunset Bar, Corong-Corong Beach. Spanish owners, so it's no wonder their paella (P800) and tapas (P100-220) are top quality. Cocktails cost P180-250. Great for sunset, but also for their Mad Monday Party (Happy Hour 3-5pm).

Happiness Beach Bar, Corong-Corong Beach. Till 10pm. Israeli owners. Relaxed atmosphere and vegetarian friendly Mediterranean cooking with tasty Middle-East specialities like hummus, falafel and shakshuka (P290-350). Also kayak rental (transparent P250/h or P1000/day).

The Beach Shack, Marimegmeg Beach. Ideal for a sundowner garnished with a spectacular display of colour in the sky above. Choose from calamares and sizzling squid (P250) or typical

global snacks such as hamburgers and sandwiches. A highlight here is the Full Moon Party.

Miscellaneous

Diving: Diving trip P3400 (8am-3.30pm; incl. boat, 2 dives, equipment, food and drink). Diving course P23,000 (2-3 days).

Aquanaut Dive Center, Hama St, Cel 0919-4160897, @; Deep Blue Seafari, Hama St, Cel 0917-6799955, @; El Nido Adventure Scuba, Serena St, Cel 0949-9108460, @; Palawan Divers, Hama St, Cel 0917-5423552, @; Sea Dog Diving, Rizal St, Cel 0936-9387660, @; Submariner Diving Center & Freediving Academy, Hama St, Cel 0905-4841764, @.

Festivals: Town Fiesta 15-18 March. Kalugtan Arts Festival in April. Mosquito Net Day 5 December (unique fiesta involving a procession of people in costumes made of mosquito nets).

Hiking & Climbing: The El Nido Tour Guide Organisation has a programme of short hikes to various places that can be booked through travel agents, eg to the lake on Cadlao Island, the Bulalacao Waterfall and the Nagkalit-Kalit Waterfall. Get there by boat or motorbike.

You have to be fit to make the climb up the Taraw Cliff in El Nido, but you'll be rewarded with a fantastic view from the top.

All tours are with a guide and some also include a barbecue lunch. Prices per person for 2 participants: Bulalacao Waterfall P800, Cadlao Island P1400, El Nido Cliff P350, Nagkalit-Kalit Waterfall P750.

Medical Services: First aid at Palawan Medical City and Rural Health Center. Better hospitals only in Puerto Princesa.

Money: ATM (Mastercard, Visa) in the Town Hall, Abdullah St. The ATM at the First Consolidated Bank on Amboy St will only work for customers with the bank's own PitaKard. Best bring plenty pesos with you in case of any shortages.

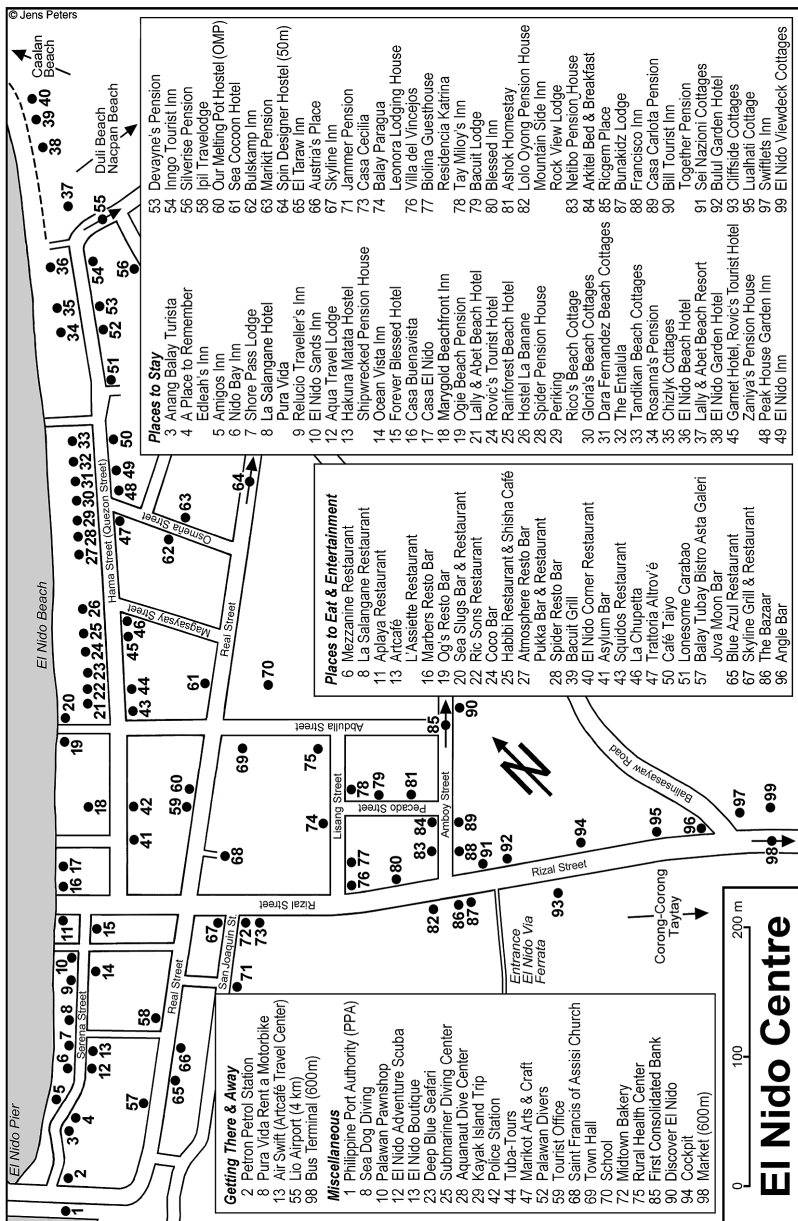
The Palawan Pawnshop, Serena St, will change cash in common currencies.

You might also try to get a cash advance on one of the widely accepted credit cards at the El Nido Boutique, the Petron station, and in various restaurants on the beach, eg Marber's and Sea Slugs. Mind you, they charge 6-10% fees for their trouble.

Tourist Office: Real St, Cel 0926-9938803, @. Mo-Sa 8am-5pm, Su 1-8pm.

Getting Around

Car: Queen Angel Transport Service, La Casa Teresa Beach Resort, Corong-Corong Beach, Cel



Linapacan & Decabaitot Islands

A good dozen, mostly unpopulated little islands lying off to the side between Culion and Linapacan are still in the very early stages of tourism although slowly but surely waking up to the idea. All have beautiful beaches and crystal clear water, and are ideal for island hopping, snorkelling and dropping out in splendid isolation.

The first resorts are available on Ariara and Dimancal: **Ariara Island Resort** (exclusively for groups, US\$475 per person per day, 7-day minimum stay) and **Patoyo Kitesurfing Eco Nature Camp** (overnight stays in tents P300-600, kite- and windsurfing P1000/day, kayaks, island tours).

First stop should be San Miguel the main town (population: 4000) on Linapacan Island. You can stay overnight there in two immaculate guest-houses on the water:

Dory's Store & Lodging House, Cel 0921-5511476. P500 (fan) and P1200 (3 people). Shared bath, the rooms on the sea have a balcony. Restaurant.

M-Liao Guesthouse, Cel 0999-9035288. P1400 (shared bath) and P1600. Restaurant. Airy terrace. Also frequented by Tao Philippines. Good alternatives are the **BRC Pension House** and **DJM Restaurant & Inn**.

Getting there: Tu, Th and Su at 8-9am with a big outrigger from San Fernando (25 km north-east of El Nido) to San Miguel (3 hrs). The boat carries on to Coron in the afternoon (4 hrs). Departure from Coron to San Miguel Mo, We and Fr at 8am; carries on from there at 1-2pm to San Fernando. Reservations (passenger list): Cel 0910-3105878.

0918-3861974, Tel (048) 4332078, rents a Toyota Strada to self-drivers.

Motorcycle: Pura Vida Rent a Motorbike, Serena St, P700-1000/day.

Bicycle: Discover El Nido, Amboy St, Cel 0910-2020494; mountainbike P400/day.

Getting There & Away

By Air: Dio Airport 4 km north of the centre right on the coast. Tricycle P200 (2 passengers).

Air Swift, Artcafé, Serena St, Cel 0920-9026317, 0917-5604020, Manila Tel (02) 3185941, 8515674.

Destinations: Cebu City, Manila.

By Boat: The MV *May Lillies* belonging to Atienza Shipping Lines might be an old ship and the departures a bit flexible, but it gives self-drivers the chance to take motorbikes and cars to El Nido and Manila.

Atienza Shipping Lines, Pier, near Philippine Port Authority (PPA), Cel 0998-8817226, Manila Cel 0999-8817266.

Destinations: Coron/Busuanga, Manila.

By Bus: Bus terminal at the market in Corong-Corong, 1 km south of the centre. Tricycle P20.

From Coron

Boat: Daily at 8-9am 2-3 big outriggers (P1500; 8 hrs), the biggest on Tu and Sa: *MB Island Commander* (120 passengers, benches, Cel 0920-2208764). Depends on weather.

Mo at 7am with Atienza Shipping Lines (car ferry, P1000; 8 hrs).

Planned: Daily at noon mit Montenegro Shipping Lines (fast ferry, P1760; 4 hrs).

From Port Barton

Van: Daily at 8am and 1pm, 2-4 departures with Nature Island and Recaro (P500, 4 hrs).

From Puerto Princesa

Bus: From the San Jose Terminal hourly departures 4am-10pm with Cherry and RoRo Bus (more legroom); only every second one has air-con (P350, 6½ hrs).

Van: From the San Jose Terminal hourly departures between 5am and 6pm with Daytripper, Fortwally, Lexxus, Nature Island and Recaro (P600, 5 hrs).

From Sabang

Van: With Lexxus Shuttle to the turn-off in Salvation, wait there for a Lexxus-Van from Puerto Princesa to El Nido (P800, 7 hrs).

You have to book a seat for this trip, so that a place is left unoccupied for those joining the El Nido van later. Cel 0920-9571025, 0917-5859613.

From Taytay

Bus/Van: All buses and vans from Puerto Princesa to El Nido go via Taytay (1½ hrs).