

# One World Just Go

ASIA PHILIPPINES

## 10 REASONS WHY THE PHILIPPINES IS THE BEST COUNTRY IN S.E ASIA

Posted on January 5, 2016



It's a big claim I know, but the Philippines really is the best country in South East Asia, and what's even better is that most people are yet to realize this. As a former Spanish colony, it's a country that's very unique to the region with a Roman Catholic population. This means if your templed out from the rest of Asia, then the Philippines will be a breath of fresh air. Instead of temples dripping in gold, the Philippines does epic scenery, and lots of it.

So what actually qualifies me to make such a big claim? Well I've been to Thailand (four times), Cambodia, Vietnam (twice), Laos (twice), Myanmar, Singapore (twice) and Indonesia. However I'm yet to go to Malaysia (other than 8 hours at KL airport, does that count??), Brunei or East Timor. So lets hope none of them are actually the best country in S.E Asia, because then this is awkward.

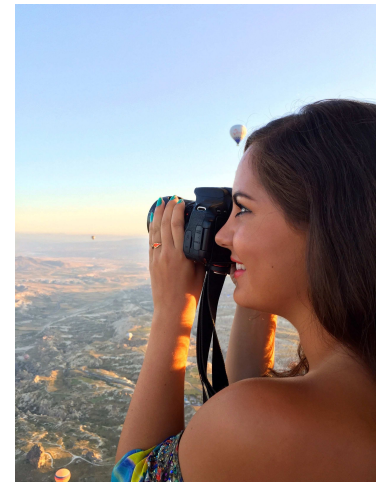
So let me tell you why, as the tourism board keeps saying "it's more fun in the Philippines!"

### 1. PERFECT BEACHES

I'm going to pull a Kanye and say the Philippines have some of the best beaches of all time, and when someone accustomed to Aussie beaches is telling you that, well you had better listen. The beaches here are paradise, and with 7,101 islands there's no shortage of secluded beaches to discover.



#### ABOUT ME



Just an Aussie girl dedicated to capturing the beauty of this world, one adventure at a time. Follow my escapades around the world...but be warned, you may come down with a case of wanderlust. [Read More...](#)

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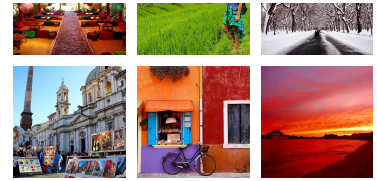
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## 2. EPIC SUNSETS

I have high standards when it comes to sunsets. I need lots of colours; yellow, orange, red, pink, purple the lot, and preferably some mountains or sailboats in the background. Luckily the Philippines obliged with my demands and gave me plenty of unforgettable sunsets. One night in El Nido I literally took over 50 photos because the colours would not stop changing, it was sunset porn of epic proportions.



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January 5, 2016

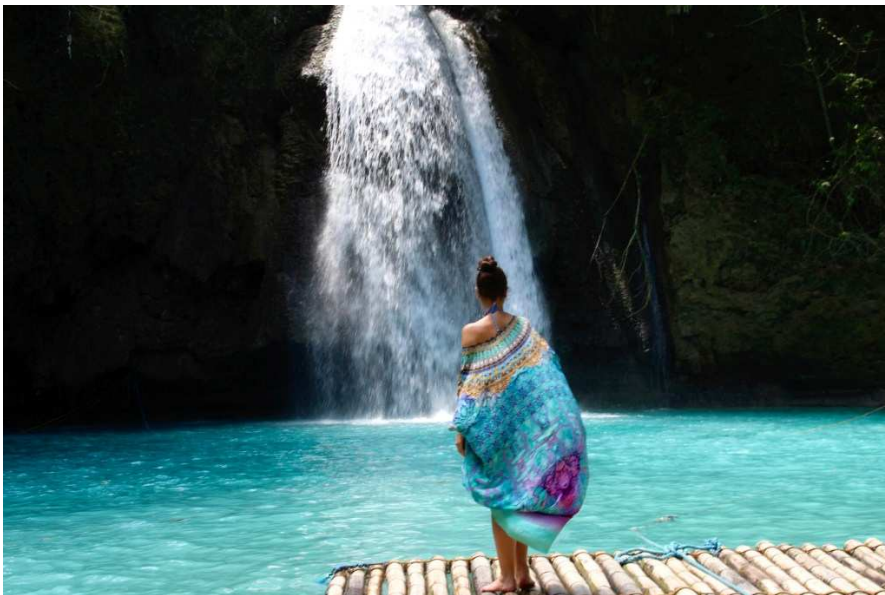


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### 3. TURQOISE WATERFALLS

The Philippines know how to do waterfalls, and boy do they do them well. The best waterfalls I've ever seen were all here.



### 4. ADVENTURE

Scuba diving, snorkeling, cliff jumping, kite surfing, hiking, you can do anything and everything in the Philippines. One of the stand out experiences I had was climbing Taraw Peak in El Nido. Although I felt like I was going to fall to my death numerous times, and remembered why I always faked a sickie when it came to rock climbing for P.E. class, the views and feeling of accomplishment were so worth it.





#### 5. IT HAS THE NUMBER 1 ISLAND IN THE WORLD

If you needed any more confirmation that the Philippines was winning the game when it comes to best islands, they recently nabbed the top honour by Condé Nast Traveler, with Palawan voted **best island in the world** for the second year running. El Nido is top dog on the island, famous for its impressive limestone rock formations, which boast secret beaches and hidden lagoons. One of the islands was even closed for the filming of Survivor (yes that show is still on?!)





#### 6. 2,000 YEAR OLD RICE TERRACES

I've seen rice terraces in Vietnam, China and Bali, but the UNESCO World Heritage listed terraces of Batad win hands down. Getting to this remote village is not for the faint hearted, but that's half the adventure. You'll need to take an overnight bus from Manila, followed by a jeepney that will take you as far as the paved road goes, from there it's a steep hike down to a village that remains relatively unaffected by the outside world. No phone or internet service, just 2,000 year old rice terraces.



## 7. YOU CAN SWIM WITH WHALE SHARKS

The ultimate bucket list item and the highlight of all my travels would be swimming with these gentle giants. The Philippines also happens to be the cheapest place in the world where you can do it.



## 8. THEIR MOUNTAINS LOOK LIKE THIS

The Chocolate Hills, named after the shade of brown they turn during the dry season, is the star attraction on the island of Bohol. There are many local legends as to how these hills came to be, but my favourite is about the two giants who had one epic tantie throwing boulders at each other for three days straight. They eventually made up, but conveniently forgot to clean up their mess, leaving grass to grow on the boulders and create the Chocolate Hills.



## 9. EVERYONE SPEAKS ENGLISH

Over 90% of Filipinos speak English, which makes traveling through the country that much easier. While half the fun of traveling can be finding your way around a language barrier, you'll have a unique travel experience when you can actually engage in conversation with the locals beyond the basics of "where's the toilet?"



## 10. THE PEOPLE

Some of the friendliest people I've met during my travels have been in the Philippines. They are extremely welcoming and friendly; so don't come here if you hate happy people who constantly smile at you. If you like adorable kids who will happily pose for a selfie, then you will be heaven, because the cuteness levels here are oh so very high. You'll also get harassed way less than any other country in S.E Asia. Even in the major tourist zones of White Beach Boracay, where the locals are out hustling to get you into their restaurant or book their tour, a simple 'no thank you' is all that's needed for them to smile and say 'ok'. They even seem to remember your face and won't ask you the same thing the following day. Filipinos also aren't as keen to rip tourists off, so the scams you'll find in Thailand or Vietnam are almost non-existent here. Like I said, Filipinos are awesome, except for those Manila airport taxi drivers, because yes they are trying to rip you off.



Have you been to the Philippines? I would love to know what you thought about my favourite country in South East Asia. Hopefully this has encouraged you to visit!

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Comments (10)

## LEAVE A COMMENT



**LARA NOGUEIRA**

January 5, 2016 at 1:29 pm

Reply

Loved the post.

I cant wait to visit Philippines.



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 5, 2016 at 7:43 pm

Reply

You'll just love it Lara!



**ALI**

January 25, 2016 at 4:06 am

Reply

Thanks to you Ms. One World Just Go. You let the People of the World to capture the beauty of the one and only PHILIPPINES... it has it all.



**CHARISSE R.**

January 5, 2016 at 11:59 pm

Reply

I am a Filipino and bias aside, you just nailed everything. It's funny coz I met some tourists as well here and they always say "Why is it that a lot of Filipinos can speak English?" I take that as a compliment though 😊

It's true you'll never run out of places to go here in the Philippines, I am staying in Cebu so you better visit Bantayan Island (picturesque sun session and white sand) or Malapascua Island (Pascua meaning Christmas so the sand is also white but the diving experience is just unforgettable). Another tip for the Manila taxi drivers, which I also had some bad luck before, you can try downloading Grab Taxi to make sure you get the right fare for the ride.

Bookmarking your site now! Thank you for sharing your travel and more to come 😊

PS: Sorry for the long comment, I got overwhelmed haha



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 6, 2016 at 5:02 pm

Reply

I didn't hear about how awesome Bantayan or Malapascua was until I'd already left the Philippines, I was so sad I missed out. Oh well more for next time. Thanks for the tip about Grab Taxi, good to know! Thanks so much for the comment Charisse xx



**ANTHONY B. CASTRO**

January 21, 2016 at 3:56 am

Reply

You can also take Uber! Word of advice just don't go or should I say forget Mindanao and you will be alright in the Philippines. Try the beach up north of Luzon and they are fantastic too even cheaper and very hospitable people.



**NEIL**

January 21, 2016 at 11:40 am

Reply

She can visit Surigao. It is safe there! 😊



**TAZ**

January 22, 2016 at 1:09 pm

Reply

Have you even been to Mindanao? Bet not yet. People who says don't go to Mindanao, its not safe..blah...blah...are either who haven't been here or just



**FREEDOM**

January 25, 2016 at 4:03 pm

Mindanao has the Enchanted River, Samal Island, Glan in Sarangani Province, Scott Gutsy Tuason's Gutsy's Reef, Davao City, Dahilayan Park in Bukidnon, lots and lots of Tuna in General Santos City and a whole lot more.... You should visit MINDANAO 😊



**EDEN**

January 6, 2016 at 10:05 am

I haven't been to the Philippines before, but I worked with someone from there and she was always telling me about how beautiful it was in the Philippines. I would love to relax and visit the beaches, your photos are amazing! Happy 2016 😊  
<http://www.mintnotation.com>

Reply



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 6, 2016 at 4:47 pm

Thanks Eden! Yes the beaches are just pure heaven.

Reply



**AYING**

January 22, 2016 at 2:50 pm

Visit Siargao, Davao, Bukidnon, etc. All from Mindanao.

Reply



**BENJ**

January 25, 2016 at 11:03 am

Agree with TAZ. If you dont go to Mindanao, you're missing out one third of the Philippines.

Reply



**HANS**

January 7, 2016 at 4:41 pm

Hi, liked your post. consider to visit Davao City also. here you can find Mt. Apo, the highest peak in the Philippines. The Philippine eagle, beaches, the waling waling and many more suited for adventurers like you.

Reply



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 7, 2016 at 4:53 pm

Thanks! I'll have to remember that for next time 😊

Reply



**REYMDAOL**

January 7, 2016 at 6:26 pm

Consider also going to KABAYAN, BENGUET, where you can find the century old mummies, mount pulag-considered to be the playground of the gods by the locals and the four mystical mountain four lakes:-D

Reply



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 7, 2016 at 7:48 pm

The view from Mount Pulag at sunrise looks amazing 😊

Reply

Reply

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A trip to Mt. Pinatubo is highly recommended!



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 7, 2016 at 8:41 pm

Reply

Thanks for the recommendation, the lake there looks beautiful!



**LEXIE**

January 9, 2016 at 12:04 am

Reply

Thank you for visiting our country. I'm glad to know that you had fun here. Thanks again! 😊



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 9, 2016 at 11:26 am

Reply

I had sooo much fun 😊



**KIMKEM**

January 10, 2016 at 3:10 am

Reply

The moment I saw your post on my newsfeed, I didn't hesitate to open it. I love how you say that the Philippines is your favorite in S.E Asia. I'm a traveler/adventurer too, I'm exploring my country (Philippines) little by little. I had a great time reading your blog. Thank you for loving my country! And hoping that someday I will be like you. 😊



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 12, 2016 at 7:57 pm

Reply

Keep exploring, there's so much to see!



**LHEO QUIJANO**

January 11, 2016 at 2:11 am

Reply

Thanks for sharing your best experiences in my country. But Philippines still have lots of beautiful and awesome places that you will really love.

Try Calle Crisologo in Vigan, Wind Turbines in Bangui, Kapurpurawan Rock Formation, Patapat Viaduct, Bantay Cave... all in the ilocos region, Apo Whang Od (Fang Od) in Kalinga for her tattoos, Calatagan beaches in Batangas, Mayon Volcano (the perfect cone) in Albay, Sunken Cemetery & Katibawasan Falls in Camiguin Island, Taal Volcano, Callao Cave... and Batanes also!

Philippines have too many to mention! We have sands in black, white and pink!

God bless you always!!! Be back soon!



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 12, 2016 at 7:58 pm

Reply

I'm going to have to come back for several months next time just to see all of your fantastic recommendations, thank you!!!



**JUANDERER**

January 11, 2016 at 4:08 am

Reply

Those shots and places are beauty!

Hope you get another shot visiting us again.

Safe and happy travels!

**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 12, 2016 at 7:55 pm

Reply



**ARTO**

January 11, 2016 at 1:13 pm

Reply

Wow! Nice article! Thank you for these kind words! Thank you for choosing Philippines! I have this advocacy of promoting my country thru my travel videos and photos. I'm not much of a writer, not even a photographer haha. Hope you visit my fb page too so you can see other places here that you have mentioned! Thank you!



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 12, 2016 at 7:54 pm

Reply

Thanks Arto, but to be honest I didn't choose the Philippines, haha the Philippines chose me 😊



**STEVE CAPALDI**

January 11, 2016 at 2:42 pm

Reply

I am currently on my 2nd trip to the Philippines in as many years, each time for 2 months at a time. I absolutely love it here. The islands, jeepneys, food, beaches, people and yes, even the chaotic driving sights of Manila makes this a must go location on everyone's bucket list. I don't know why more British people have not ventured out to this jewel



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 12, 2016 at 7:45 pm

Reply

I think i'll definitely follow your lead and go for two months next time. It seems everyone is really comfortable sticking with the usual Indochina loop that they can do overland, I think all the flying between the islands discourages people...which works in our favour!



**ZESSA CHIN**

January 12, 2016 at 9:43 am

Reply

Awesome pictures! And thank you for all the kind words about my country 😊 you might also want to consider going to Siargao Island next time you come down here 😊



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 12, 2016 at 7:41 pm

Reply

Siargao island looks BEAUTIFUL! Thanks for the recommendation 😊



**DENIS RODRIGUEZ**

January 12, 2016 at 1:30 pm

Reply

Such a nice blog about our country. It's always flattering to read something nice about the Philippines from a foreign national. Surely there are more places to visit in the Philippines. One month of vacation will not be enough. Most of the tourist destinations are actually very affordable. Hope to read another blog about your experience here in our country.



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 12, 2016 at 7:40 pm

Reply

One month is definitely NOT enough!!! Don't worry there will be lots more to come about the Philippines so stay tuned.



**STUART DEE**

January 12, 2016 at 4:14 pm

Reply

Hope you make it back there!



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 12, 2016 at 7:38 pm

Reply

Lets hope the entire world doesn't listen, because I don't like to share 😞 I still want that secluded beach to myself.



**CHARY BANIQUED**

January 14, 2016 at 12:14 am

Reply

Hi Tanya. I always love your photos – you're my favorite world traveler (I follow you on IG <3). Really good to hear that my country is the best in Southeast Asia coming from you. 😊 Looking forward to more travel photos!



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 14, 2016 at 12:24 pm

Reply

Thanks so much Chary 😊 There will be lots lots more about the Philippines coming very soon!



**STEF**

January 21, 2016 at 12:15 am

Reply

we should be visiting later this year! thanks for the tips, this article just got me excited 😊



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 23, 2016 at 3:48 pm

Reply

You will love it there Stef, I'm so excited for you to check it out. I'll be posting lots more articles on the Philippines so don't forget to check back, you'll probably end up with such a long to-do list.



**RICO RICKS**

January 21, 2016 at 1:06 am

Reply

Hi Tanya,

If I may recommend the following to be put on your bucket list when you get back in the Philippines.

1. Batanes Islands (Basco, Sabtang, Itbayat)
2. Palau Island
3. Marinduque
4. Burias Island
5. Alibijaban Island
6. Taal Town where you can see the Basilica de San Martin de Tours, simply known as Taal Basilica, is Asia's largest church
7. Busay Falls in Basak San Fernando Cebu
8. Mantayupan Falls in Barili Cebu
9. Dao Falls in Samboan Cebu
10. Mantayupan Falls in Barili Cebu
11. More!!!

Thanks thanks. And if you happen to need a companion on your next travel in Philippines I would want to volunteer myself 😊



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 23, 2016 at 3:55 pm

Reply

Thanks for all those FANTASTIC recommendations Rico! Those waterfalls in Cebu look amazing, top of the bucket list for sure.

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Awesomely written! I got even more excited about going in May! Super super excited!!



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 23, 2016 at 3:49 pm

Reply

ahhh I'm super excited for you too, enjoy your trip!



**ELIZABETH R. SIBUG-OZOA**

January 21, 2016 at 2:54 am

Reply

There are so many more places to see, explore and come back, go back to. The beaches of La Union, Luna to be exact--is like a waiting area just like "Borakay of the North"-- Orchid Farms, Pearl Farms in Davao City--oh so many to mention, I am tongue, finger -tied.



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 23, 2016 at 3:50 pm

Reply

I love orchid's, i'll have to remember that for next time, thanks!



**ALESTER**

January 21, 2016 at 5:53 am

Reply

In the bicol region, try visiting Mt. Mayon, Mt Isarog, Mt. Bulusan, Calaguas Island, Caramoan Islands, Subic Beach Sorsogon, CamSur Watersports Complex, Paguriran Island, Pinamuntugan Island and many more. Just visit the tourism offices in the province in Albay and nearby towns. I think they can help you.



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 23, 2016 at 3:46 pm

Reply

So many beaches to see and mountains to climb! Thanks for the recommendations Alester



**RAFIE**

January 21, 2016 at 11:41 am

Reply

When it comes to our history, why don't you try to visit the place of our national hero Dr. Jose Rizal in Calamba Laguna.



**THE TRAVEL DEBUGGER**

January 21, 2016 at 11:58 am

Reply

Thank you for such kind words about my country, the Philippines! Mabuhay Ka! This year, I'm giving more love to the Philippines by traveling more of it. Will be going to Dumaguete, Apo Island, Oslob and Siquijor this Friday! Cheers!



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 23, 2016 at 3:35 pm

Reply

I hope you enjoy your travels!



**JILL JONES**

January 21, 2016 at 1:36 pm

Reply

We spent 3 weeks in the Philippines and just scratched the surface of the beautiful country. It truly was the best vacation we have ever taken. We can't wait to go back and see more.



I feel the exact same Jill, can't wait to go back! I hope you make it back there soon too 😊



**ROBERTO ALANO**

January 21, 2016 at 7:22 pm

[Reply](#)

Dear Tanya, I'm now your no. 1 fan, your post about my country, the Philippines made me proud to be a Filipino, and your 10 reasons why you rated my country as the no.1 destination in S.E. Asia is spot on accurate. Me, being a tour guide for the Tourism Agency in my youth couldn't have advertised my country better than what you just did, your photos are magnificent and the children models you chose were too cute, I am a photography buff myself, my hat's off to you, you have done our country justice and we as a people will ever be thankful...bravo!



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 23, 2016 at 3:34 pm

[Reply](#)

Thank you so much Roberto! Your words are so kind and I'm so appreciative 😊



**LOIDA**

January 21, 2016 at 11:29 pm

[Reply](#)

Hi, please come and visit Sohoton and Dinagat Islands. I'm sure you will love it here.



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 23, 2016 at 3:39 pm

[Reply](#)

OMG thank you thank you thank you for telling me about Sohoton. I just had a look and saw they have jellyfish there! I thought I would have to go to Palau to see a jellyfish lake. This will be top of the list when I come back. Thanks again 😊



**MARC ALIGMAYO**

January 22, 2016 at 3:39 am

[Reply](#)

More thankyou's from us in the North which I'm sure did not complete your wonder on our King's Curtains at Sagada Cave. You would be brought back millions of years in its drapery...



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 23, 2016 at 3:43 pm

[Reply](#)

I really wanted to see the hanging coffins at Sagada but ran out of time, next time though.



**VERONICA HOLMSTRÖM**

January 22, 2016 at 6:01 pm

[Reply](#)

Hi!

I have been in Philippines third times. The last twice times I have been working there at hospital and health center. I really love this country, culture, beaches and people. Your explanation about Philippines are great and I wish more travelers there. The worst is the long flight 😞



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 23, 2016 at 3:42 pm

[Reply](#)

You're right, but luckily once you're there the flight is totally worth it 😊



**ELAINE**

January 22, 2016 at 7:12 pm

[Reply](#)

Spot on! Just back from Philippines. We were impressed by caves as well especially Sagada. One month is definitely not enough... but that means we'll be back 😊

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**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 23, 2016 at 3:31 pm

[Reply](#)

I was so sad I never made it to Sagada, I really wanted to see those hanging coffins, so unusual.



**BENKA**

January 23, 2016 at 3:15 am

[Reply](#)

i have visited almost all the other countries in asia. thailand 5 times the rest of them once. but for me the only one i will visit again will be philippines. but i have few others on my bucketlist before i can name my absolute favorit. and those are new zealand and a bike ride crossing south america



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 23, 2016 at 3:27 pm

[Reply](#)

A bike ride across South America sounds pretty epic!



**ENUT**

January 23, 2016 at 5:00 am

[Reply](#)

visit lucban quezon every may 15(Pahyas festival), bantakay falls(atimonan quezon), Batanes Islands



**ONE WORLD JUST GO**

January 23, 2016 at 3:41 pm

[Reply](#)

I love festivals, thanks for the recommendation, and that waterfall looks amazing.



**ROSE**

January 24, 2016 at 1:16 pm

[Reply](#)

Thanks for courageously putting it out there why the Philippines is the BEST COUNTRY IN S.E ASIA! 😊 As I get older and travel other beautiful countries around the world, the more I appreciate not just our beautiful places to visit, but the PEOPLE. The customer service I take for granted back home is what I sorely miss when traveling abroad, and according to the author of our tag line "It's more fun in the Philippines!" the Filipino hospitality was the very basis of this. The way people treat you will always leave the last taste, the most lasting impression in any encounter because of the emotional tug. To borrow from our current Miss Universe's winning answer, "We are indeed confidently beautiful with a ❤️!" We look forward to having you again, and also your followers who were inspired by your generous write-up. Maraming Salamat!



**DEL B**

January 25, 2016 at 8:46 am

[Reply](#)

Thanks for this beautiful page.....now I'm homesick,  
DEL in Portland, OR  
Mindanao Native



**JOEY BONIFACIO**

January 25, 2016 at 6:47 pm

[Reply](#)

Amid all the bad reports of traffic, incompetence, politics Its refreshing to read this. Thank you for your kind words about our country. It's very encouraging to read them from someone from the outside looking in. Some things are more precious than we think. Much appreciated.



**GENER GENETA**

January 25, 2016 at 9:39 pm

[Reply](#)

Thank you for the beautiful review and kind words you have for my country. It's not perfect but with God's help, our country will be great again!

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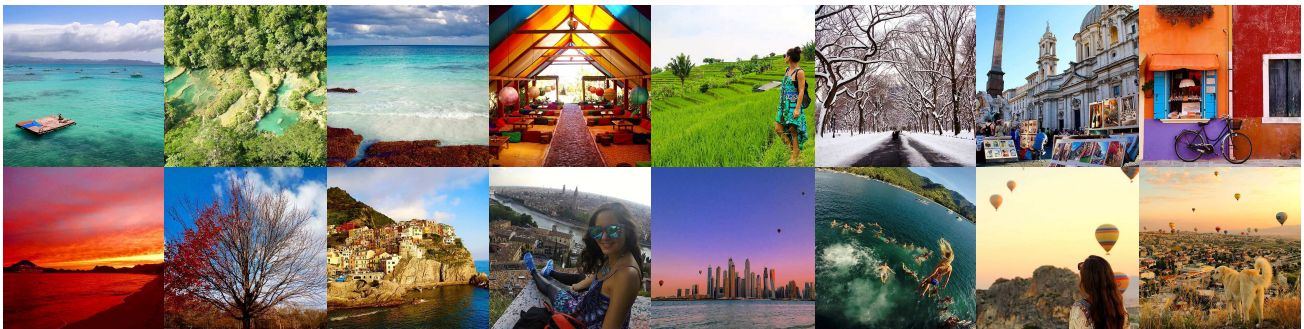
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