



**Ecoconut
Tours Inc.**

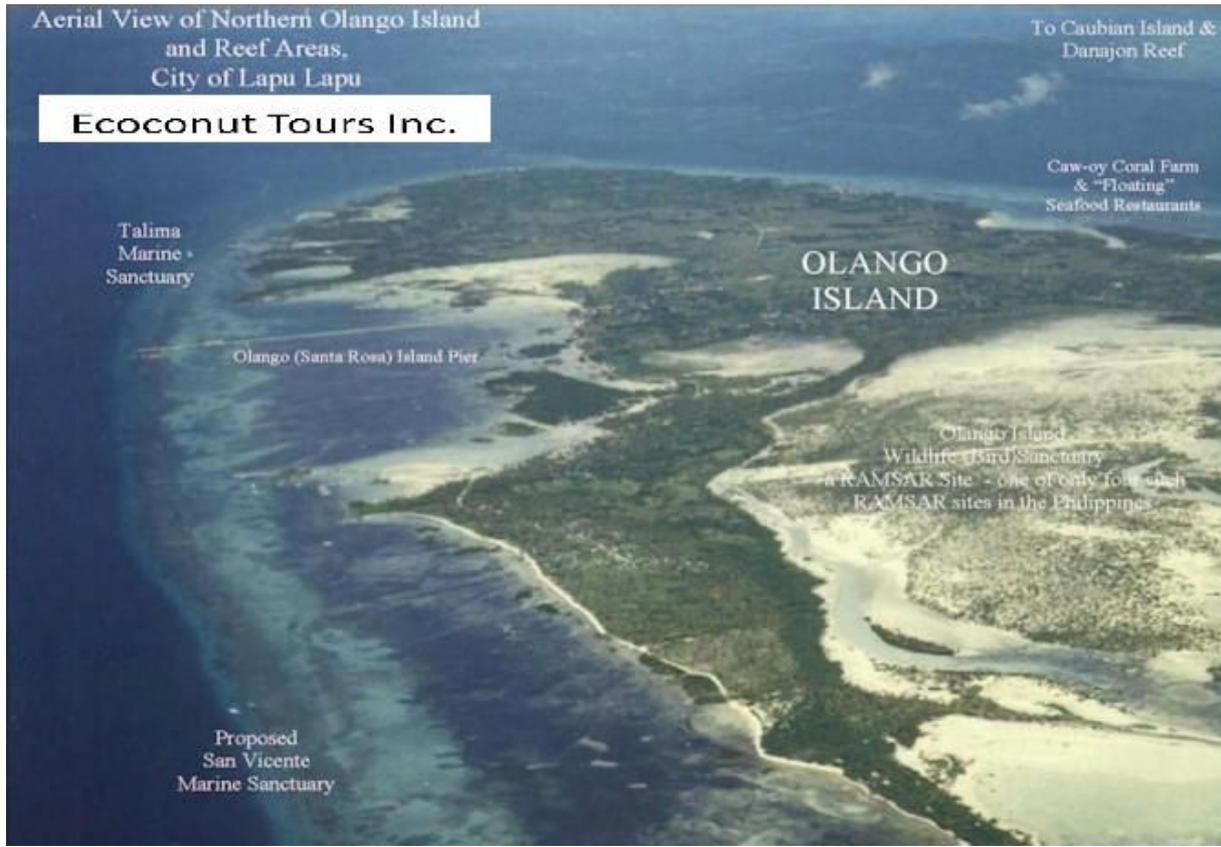


www.ecoconut.org

Ecoconut Tours Inc.



The Tours



1. Various kinds of activities.

The Ecoconut Tours enable you to discover the island of Olango and its multiple facets, through exploration and many activities, such as:

- **From one Island to another:** You will board an Ecoconut boat for a water tour of the various small islands which comprise the island of Olango, such as Pangan-year, Coahagan, Sulpa, Camungi, Hilutungan, Nalusuan... This maritime exploration also constitutes a unique opportunity to discover the marine sanctuaries, protected marine zone (Marine Protected Area), where the marine fauna and flora are completely preserved.



- **Snorkeling and fish-watching in the Marine Sanctuaries of Olango Island:** There is also a protected marine sanctuary on the small island of Hilutungan (the Hilutungan Marine Sanctuary), which is among the most known in the Philippines. Since 2000 and world recognition of the importance of preservation and protection of these submarine tropical paradises around the island of Olango, other marine zones have become protected like the marine sanctuary of Talima. During various excursions, you will be able to go swimming, do tropical fish-watching while snorkeling (mask and tuba) in these marine sanctuaries observing closely the incredible richness of their fauna and flora.



- **Discovery of OIWS and migratory birds observation:**

The island of Olango is a fragile and unique ecosystem. In recognition of its exceptional character, 920 ha were declared “Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary” (OIWS) by an agreement signed by the President Corazon Aquino on May 14, 1992. This area is geologically mainly made up of limestone sands scattered with shells and some soil supporting mangrove trees.

On November 8, 1994, the OIWS was designated the first “Ramsar” site in the Philippines, which is to say the first wetland of international importance, particularly as a protected zone for migratory birds. Indeed, due to its geographical position, the island of Olango is right along the migratory path connecting the northern hemisphere (China) to the southern hemisphere (Australia).

One can count 97 species of birds on OIWS including some species on the verge of extinction such as the Chinese egret (*Egretta eulophotes*). The Ecoconut tours will thus enable you to penetrate this exceptional territory accompanied by a scientific guide.



- **The « Coconut Village »** of Olango Island: Coconut Village means the site of artisanal production of coconut alcohol, called “Tuba”. Its name is a traditional drink in the Philippines.

The site, managed by a group of local workmen, ensures an essential source of revenue. Nevertheless it is today threatened by international competition leading to the closing of the local commercial activities.

Ecoconut Tours Inc. decided to help safeguard this local tradition. Thus a visit to “Coconut Village” will give you the chance to discover the local method of coconut harvest, seeing the production process of the coconut alcohol, talking to the local workers, but especially tasting the coconut alcohol or quite simply the fresh coconut juice, called *Buko juice*.



- **A tropical shell shop:** A cottage is managed by a local organization of women who produce artisanal objects like collars, bracelets, earrings, but also lanterns or glasses, all made from tropical shells. These artisanal objects are then exported and sold internationally. This organization gives the local artisans an additional income to provide for the needs of their family. You will observe the work of these artisans, talk with them, and have a chance of making your own tropical shell accessories.



- **The discovery of local fishing techniques:** Fishing constitutes the primary and fundamental source of revenue for the population living on Olango Island. It is an activity impossible to miss on this island and, in a more general way, in the Philippines. We highly recommend that you take the opportunity to discover the techniques of local fishing through demonstrations and discussions with local fishermen.



- **A night with a Filipino family in a traditional house made of bamboo:** Depending on your choice of housing on Olango Island, whether you decide to spend the night wherever you are, you will have the possibility of dining and having a night with a Filipino family, in one of their traditional and comfortable cottage, made of bamboo. This experience will allow you to become friends with the family you are with. This will be a memorable time of a special evening sharing Filipino culture in an authentic way.



It should be noted that the activities listed here above vary according to the choice of your circuit.

2. The Ecoconut Tours organization.

These activities are proposals implemented within the framework of the Ecoconut Tours in which improvisation always has its place. The circuits are always flexible depending on your choices and decisions of the moment, in the middle of an authentic Filipino culture.

We propose 8 types of Tours, for all budgets, depending of your tastes and availability:

- 1 - Eco-Tour of Olango Island: Adventures & Discovery from one small island to another; All included (Total time: Approximately 9 hours);
- 2 – Express Eco-Tour of Olango Island (Total time: Approximately 5 hours);
- 3 – From one small island to another; Snorkeling (Total time: Approximately 4 to 6 hours);
- 4 – Two-day Eco-Tour of Olango Island: Full adventure and discovery from one small island to another (2 days and 1 night);
- 5 – Educational Eco-tour (for Cebu's school students);
- 6 – Personal Charter Boat – A cruise “à la carte”;
- 7 - Eco-tour "à la carte" - Bohol;
- 8 - Eco-tour "à la carte" - Banaue.

3. Contact

A question about Olango; A question about Ecoconut Tours Inc.; A question about your next social tourism trip, please, do not hesitate to contact us

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Eco-tours « à la carte »

Bohol Island, the Rajah Sikatuna National Park and more...

The islands surrounding Cebu, in the center of the Visayas, are greatly appreciated by people who especially like to trek and like to dive.

Bohol is an oval shaped island located in the South East part of Cebu city, accessible by boat. It is famous for its churches, old typical houses, natural beauty such as the Chocolate hills, the Loboc River, several preserved National Parks, and, of course, the Tarsier, a tiny primate with huge eyes.

Bohol is also famous for its beautiful beaches, especially the very nice beaches of Panglao Island, and its diving sites.

Note worthy, the provincial government of Bohol has defined a policy to foster the development of sustainable tourism (*The Quality Standard for Sustainable Tourism of Bohol*).

The Rajah Sikatuna National Park (in the center of the island) is a heaven for nature lovers, trekkers, and a bird-watcher's paradise. It is the wildest remaining forest in Bohol. These forested limestone areas were recognized and declared a National Park under Proclamation in July 10, 1987. The park is now known as the Rajah Sikatuna Protected Landscape (RSPL) or Magsaysay Park as renamed by the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources). Wildlife is undisturbed to roam free. With a total land area of 9,023 hectares, it is mainly composed of forests. The development of the RSPL is directed towards three objectives: Potable water sources and irrigation; Biodiversity reserves; Eco-tourism.

We propose several exceptional activities such as the exploration of the Park with a scientific guide to discover and observe various species of rare birds, the butterfly sanctuary, monkeys, bats, plants, trees and the famous tarsiers.

The trip to Carmen offers many scenic views including the forest and the rice fields bordering the reserve.

Next to RSPL, the Chocolate Hills, numbering more than 1200, are located in the center of Bohol. They are of various heights, the highest being 120 meters high. Their name comes from the color of the foliage during the dry season (from January to May). Moreover around RSPL, there is the amazing untouched tropical paradise of the Loboc River where you can swim in the waterfalls or see springs.

You can go from Cebu to Bohol in 2 hours by the "fast boat".

➤ About our prices (**per Eco-Tour**) :

Itinerary: Fully customized Eco-tour, adjusted to your needs, from half-a-day tour to a two-day-tour including the possibility of staying with a Filipino family for the night. Please ask for a quotation.