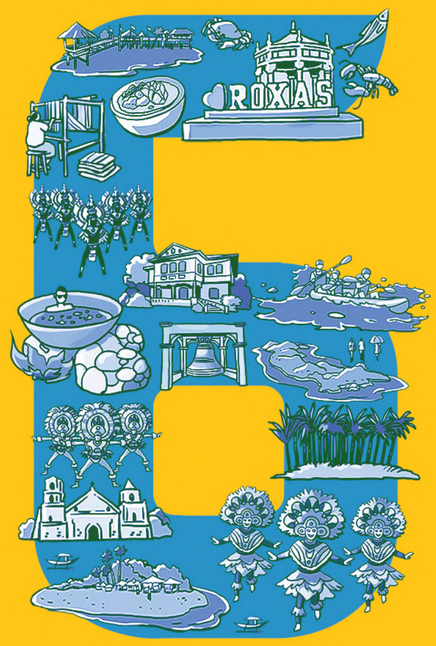
LOVE WESTERN VISAYAS

REGION VI





WESTERN VISAYAS

Western Visayas, composed of 6 provinces, Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo, and Negros Occidental, and two highly urbanized cities, Iloilo City and Bacolod City, offers a lot of leisure activities. From visiting historical structures, bird watching and trekking, to snorkeling, island hopping, and diving, a visit to this region is always exciting.

Western Visayas' land resources are primarily used for agriculture. Apart from abundant and diverse harvests, Western Visayas also takes pride in its beautiful islands and beaches.





BAKHAWAN ECOPARK

Originally a 50-hectare muddy shore, Bakhawan Ecopark in Kalibo, Aklan has transformed into a 220-hectare wildlife sanctuary housing thousands of species of flora and fauna. The best way to see the park is through the one-kilometer elevated wooden plank.



BULABOG-PUTIAN NATURAL PARK

This eco-tourism rainforest area in Dingle, Iloilo boasts an amazing collection of flora and fauna. The Bulabog-Putian Natural Park is also home to over 30 caves lined with limestone. These caves still hold some historical inscriptions believed to have been written by the early Filipino heroes of the Spanish colonial period.



BUGANG RIVER

Known as one of the cleanest rivers in the Philippines, the Bugang River in Pandan, Antique was awarded the Presidential Environment Award and ranked #1 as the region's "Cleanest Inland Body of Water." Go chill out in this relaxing and peaceful place that also serves as the municipality's major source of water.



PALINA GREENBELT ECOPARK

If you love eco-tourism, you'll definitely enjoy the Palina Greenbelt Ecopark in Roxas City, Capiz. This attraction holds over 8 species of mangroves and various species of birds, fish, and shellfish. The park also won the award for Best Urban Sustainable Product at the 1st ASEAN Sustainable Tourism Awards.



ILOILO RIVER ESPLANADE

This is where the locals unwind after a long day or spend time with the family on the weekends. The best thing about this place is its simplicity. Sip your favorite milk tea as you watch the sun set over the Iloilo River.

GUIMARAS MANGOES

The Philippines has one of the tastiest mangoes in the world, and you can find the sweetest ones in Guimaras. Mango lovers will have the time of their lives with all the dishes that feature mangoes. Ever tried mango pizza? How about mango beef bulalo? Your next visit to Guimaras will definitely be a food trip to remember.





BACOLOD CHICKEN INASAL

When you think of Bacolod, the first thing that comes to mind is their famous Chicken Inasal. It's grilled chicken marinated with a special mix of calamansi, annatto, coconut vinegar, and pepper. It's best enjoyed with dipping sauce, rice, and a lot of chicken oil.

SILAY CITY HERITAGE HOUSES

Silay City is one of the lesser known heritage sites of the Philippines. With 29 well-preserved ancestral houses still upright in the city's heritage zone, Silay should be talked about more. Visit the city to see how the houses were converted and reused into cafes, bed & breakfast facilities, lifestyle museums, and events spaces.



FUN THINGS TO DO

Sun and Beach



Boracay Island is not the only great beach in the region. Western Visayas is studded with various beaches and islands like Guimaras Island, Danjugan Island, Hinugtan Beach in Buruanga, Aklan, and Sipalay in Negros Occidental, which is home to the oldest and largest mangrove, Sonneratia Alba. Be sure to visit all the other beautiful beaches of Western Visayas during your trip.

Food and Hospitality

Western Visayas has the best food you can find in the Philippines. Seafood in the province of Capiz, Batchoy (a clear noodle soup with mixed meats and offal) in Iloilo City, and grilled Chicken Inasal in Bacolod City are all well-known and loved by Filipino foodies. The farm-to-table experience has also been emerging, with many restaurants serving dishes that use locally sourced and organic ingredients. So when you visit Western Visayas, leave your diet at home.

Nature



Western Visayas has many island destinations where you can choose activities like snorkeling, spelunking, cruising, bird watching, and kayaking.

Events and Culture



Most of the fun and colorful festivals in the Philippines are found in Western Visayas. Masskara Festival in Bacolod City, Dinagyang Festival in Iloilo City, and Ati-Atihan in Kalibo, Aklan are just a few of the many. The rich culture of Western Visayas can also be seen in the architecture of churches around the region, as well as in its local handicrafts.

TOP 5 FESTIVALS



Iloilo Dinagyang Festival

Why is this known as the "Queen of All Festivals" in the Philippines? Once you experience it, you will know. This high-energy event of incredible sights and even better food was voted the country's Best Tourism Event three years in a row by the Association of Tourism Officers of the Philippines (ATOP)

WHEN: 4th Sunday of January
WHERE: Iloilo City

Masskara Festival

When The City of Smiles throws a festival, it really lives up to its name. Witness thousands celebrate with giant masks of perennially smiling and sunny faces. Come dance along and make more than a few friends among the friendly locals.

WHEN: 4th Sunday of October
WHERE: Bacolod City

Pana-ad sa Negros Festival

"Pana-ad" is the Hiligaynon word for "promise," and this festival promises to wow! Come join a week-long fiesta held in commemoration of a vow between the locals and the heavens. This event showcases the best from 13 cities and 19 towns of Negros Occidental.

WHEN: April
WHERE: Bacolod City

Ati-atihan Festival

Celebrate like a native! The name of this event means "To Be Like Atis," the local name for Panay Island's aboriginal people. It's a festival that consists of religious processions and street parades. Dress up in tribal gear, grab the loudest whistle you can find, and jump in line as the entire island dances along.

WHEN: 3rd weekend of January
WHERE: Kalibo, Aklan

Capiztahan Festival

The Seafood Capital of the Philippines becomes the party capital of the Visayas when this vibrant festival comes around. Celebrate the Capiz government's founding, as well as the incredibly diverse farm and marine products, mouth-watering delicacies, and historic culture of this rustic province.

WHEN: 2nd Week of April
WHERE: Roxas City, Capiz

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