

Philippine islands become traveller favourites

Cebu and Visayas islands have been named 'Top Island in Asia', leading three other Philippine islands in the top 10 of Condé Naste Traveller's (CNT) 2020 Readers' Choice Awards. Other islands of the Asian archipelago to make it to the top 10 in Asia list are Palawan, Siargao and Boracay, ranking fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively. This remarkable feat has given the Philippines the most slots in the ranking.



“The Philippines is indeed blessed with the best of nature, as exhibited by the consecutive accolades we are receiving from reputable and prestigious publications for our islands and beaches. This latest citation from CNT gives us in the Department of Tourism (DOT), a boost of confidence as we continuously carry out our strategies to gradually reopen domestic tourism, to once again welcome travellers from other countries when things become better,” Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat said of the latest awards.

In its 33rd Readers' Choice Awards, CNT invited 600,000 travellers to vote online for the Top Islands in six areas — Asia, Australia and the South Pacific, the Caribbean and the Atlantic, Africa and the Indian Ocean, Europe, and North America. In its balloting, Cebu and the Visayas were lumped as one entry, although Boracay, which is in Western Visayas, was a separate entry.



Bernadette Romulo-Puyat,
Tourism Secretary

Even in last year's Condé Nast ranking, the Philippine islands took three places among the top islands in Asia. Boracay was ranked number one, Cebu and Visayas were ranked number two, and Palawan was at number four.

With more island destinations in the Philippines gaining traction worldwide, Puyat said the challenge for the DOT is to continue advocating sustainable and responsible tourism practices that will help preserve these destinations. "With over 7,641 islands in our archipelago, there are still so many left for nature-loving travellers to discover. In our journey towards tourism revival, sustainable and responsible tourism development shall continue to be one of the DOT's core principles, just like how it has always been in the past few years," she said.

It's more fun in the Philippines

Crescent-shaped beaches dusted with talcum powder-like sand; uninhabited tropical islands, lush impenetrable jungles bristling with unique wildlife, the thrusting soaring capital of Manila, historic cities, a diverse local cuisine and culture... the Philippines has all this and more. Visit and some of the 7,107 islands of the vibrant archipelago where English is widely spoken, the people are fun loving and life moves to a lilting beat.