

## **Atlantis Dive Resorts – Puerto Galera and Dumaguete**

Congratulations on your decision to join us at Atlantis. We look forward to personally welcoming you soon. We would like to take this opportunity to make your pre-trip planning a little easier by answering some of the questions you may have.

**Arrival:** Please check for details of what is included in your package. Typically all domestic land, air and sea transfers are included as well as “meet and greet” at the airport. Please confirm that transfers are included on your confirmation. If you are not traveling with a group or tour leader please ensure you have the resort contact details with you. Airport maps and details of how and where to contact our service providers are available from our reservations team.

**Travel to Puerto Galera:** This is approximately a 2½ hour private van/bus ride followed by a one hour bangka ride. Bangkas are large outrigger boat with inboard diesel and seats approximately 20-24 persons comfortably. At the airport, once you meet your driver upon exiting baggage area and customs, our staff will load your luggage. The driver will usually have a sign with guest or group name. The private van or bus will usually stop at a service station for refreshment. Please note that neither the beach where you meet the boat or the boat have toilets.

**Travel to Dumaguete:** Is usually a domestic flight from Manila. Free Baggage allowance for both PAL flights and Cebu Pacific is 15 kgs. **Excess Baggage – Sports Plus Card:** If you are flying with Philippines Airlines domestically or internationally you can apply for a “Sports Plus Card” to reduce excess baggage payments. For domestic flights the “Sports Plus Card” is US\$40.00 and that covers all excess baggage charges (up to a total weight of 40kg or 88lbs) for a period of one year. For details and applications please contact our reservations team. We require at least two weeks notice. There is a terminal fee of PhP200 per person. Porters are available to assist with luggage (PhP20 per piece is about the norm). In Dumaguete please walk through the arrival building to the Atlantis representative and give him your luggage tickets. You do not need to retrieve your own luggage – we will handle that. The domestic flight is approximately 60 minutes and the drive to the resort is about 30 minutes. If you are traveling directly to Dumaguete please check with our reservation staff as to where you will pick up your domestic flight tickets. If you are arriving via Cebu or are making other travel plans please contact us.

**What’s included in your package:** Please email us for details if they are not shown here.

**Unlimited Scheduled Boat Diving and Diving rules:** We offer scheduled boat dives between 8am and 6pm. Your dive guide will discuss sites and preferences with you and ensure you get the most from every dive. Currents, conditions and logistics require that all dive groups stay together at all time. Typical dive time is approximately 50-60 minutes with a maximum depth of 100 feet (30m). As general policy Open Water Divers will only be allowed on dives below 60feet (18m) or night dives if they can show proof of previous experience and exhibit adequate in-water skills, adventure training dives are available. For divers with a desire to dive beyond 60 minutes, please contact your group leader or agent for options and prices. Both locations require divers to exhibit good buoyancy control at all times, to respect the underwater environment and not wear gloves.

Brewed coffee, tea, filtered water and juice or ice tea are complimentary from 6am to 6pm. Italian and Specialty coffees are also included with breakfast. Breakfast drinks, Italian and specialty coffees are included at breakfast. Coffee, tea and filtered water are available from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm. Italian and specialty coffees are not included after breakfast.

Wireless Internet service is available in each room and in most common areas of the resort and is included in your package. Some upgraded rooms at Puerto Galera also have wired Internet service.

**What's NOT included in your package:** Airport departure tax of PhP750 collected at the airport in Peso cash or USD (equivalent). For guests traveling to Dumaguete domestic terminal fees of PhP200 in Manila and PhP30 in Dumaguete.

There are charges for equipment rental, Nitrox fills (please ask about unlimited Nitrox packages) and certain day trips. In Dumaguete still camera fees are included, however, there are additional fees for underwater video use (imposed by local sanctuaries not Atlantis).

**For technical divers:** Please clarify your equipment requirements and dive plans with the resort prior to arrival.

**Travel Documents:** Please ensure your passport is valid for at least six months and that you have an onward or return ticket with you. U.S. and European nationals automatically receive a 21-day tourist visa on arrival. For guests staying longer or with other passports please either contact the resort or see [www.immigration.gov.ph](http://www.immigration.gov.ph). For a speedy check in we also request all guests to fill in our check in form prior to arrival. Please see your group leader/agent or email us for a copy. Please also bring copies of your diving and travel health insurance with you.

**Diving Documents:** Please bring your certification card and log book. If you require Nitrox, please bring a Nitrox certification card. If you plan to do technical dives please bring appropriate documentation with you. All divers are asked to sign a waiver on arrival. Please ensure that any diving medical concerns are addressed before you travel.

**Front desk services available:** At the front desk you can arrange to have laundry done, book massages and other spa services, wake up calls or arrange excursions. You can also change money or request cash advances.

**Room amenities:** All Atlantis rooms have climate controlled air conditioning, four-speed fans, fully stocked minibars including emergency toiletries (prices are very reasonable), cable TV with free movie, sports and news channels, digital safety box for your valuables and solar heated water. Internet access is also available via LAN cable (upgraded rooms only) as well as wireless connection. Tap water in the room is not drinkable. Most upgraded rooms in Puerto Galera (except Seaview and Coconut) have king size beds, big screen TV sets, coffee & tea making facilities and your own DVD player.

**Towels:** Bath towels are provided in rooms along with a token for one additional beach towel each day. There is a charge for extra beach towels.

**Internet Access and Phone Calls:** Our rooms do not have phones but you make phone calls (local or international) from the front desk during open hours for a fee. Wireless and LAN Internet connections are available at both resorts from either our desktop computers or your own laptop. Internet connection is complimentary with your package. Please ask for details and rates for making a phone call.

**Clothing and what to bring:** Dress is very casual and traveling light is recommended – swimsuits, shorts, t-shirts, sandals and possibly a sweatshirt or light jacket for the evenings. Neither resort has specific dress codes. Hat, sunglasses and sun screen/protection are of course highly recommended, as the sun is very intense even on partially cloudy or cooler days.

**Temperature (approximate averages):**

	Dec - March	Late March – May	June - August	Sept - Nov
Air (average day)	74-86 (24-30)	86-95 (30-35)	86-92 (28-33)	81-90 (27-32)
Water	74-79 (24-26)	82-86 (28-30)	80-84 (27-29)	77-82 (25-28)

Dumaguete tends to be a little warmer than Puerto Galera on average. If you plan to dive a lot we recommend bringing extra layers, a hooded vest or thicker suit as during the week you will lose body heat despite the warm water. Full wet suits, shorties and vests are available for sale in Puerto Galera.

**Electricity:** Power at both resorts is 220V. Transformers to 110V are available for camera/battery charging and so forth. Sockets are flat two pin - American style.

**Cameras and Film:** You will also find plenty of dedicated rinse areas and matted surfaces to work on. Puerto Galera and Dumaguete have dedicated photo rooms with additional facilities including air gun, lighted workbench, storage facilities and more. Both resorts have in-house Photo Instructors and offer novice, intermediate and pro programs. Digital Cameras and Strobes are also available for rent.

**Dive Courses:** Most PADI courses from kids programs to professional training are available at both resorts. If you would like to use your time to improve your skills such a Nitrox or Naturalist Course please contact your tour organizer for details. It is possible to exchange dives for dive courses. If you haven't dove for a while both locations offer scuba tune-ups and in Puerto Galera you can try tech diving, take tech courses or a tech dive package.

**Currency and Money:** The local currency is the Philippines Peso (PhP). You may change USD, UK Pounds and other major currencies for PhP at the front desk. USD cash may be accepted at some local establishments. You may settle your bill at the resort for incidentals such as minibar, souvenir items, drinks etc with USD cash, Peso Cash, (other major currencies in cash), USD travelers cheques (please bring the receipt of proof of purchase, VISA, MASTERCARD or AMERICAN EXPRESS. There are no charges for using credit cards for purchases. You may withdraw peso cash from the front desk and there is a 10% processing and credit card charge for doing so. There is an ATM in the town of Puerto Galera and in Dumaguete City.

**Medical:** Both resorts have contingency medical plans for diving and non-diving emergencies and have first aid kits, oxygen and defibrillators. The closest recompression chamber to Puerto Galera is Batangas and the closest to Dumaguete is Cebu. Full DAN oxygen kits and first aid kits are included on day trip boats to Verde Island, Apo Island and other island trips but not local dives (travel times are around two to fifteen minutes maximum on these). However we do have a pony bottle with oxygen and regulator on all local dive trip. Guests are required to have both medical and diving health insurance.

Neither location is considered a risk for Malaria but inoculations for Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Polio and Tetanus are recommended. As always, your physician should be consulted on these and other questions you may have about traveling to the tropics. We strongly recommend drinking plenty of water and other non-alcoholic fluids during your stay.

**Food/beverages:** If you have special dietary requirements please contact us or your group leader ahead of your arrival. We offer a wide range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages throughout the day. Diving is prohibited after drinking alcohol.

**Water and Food Safety:** Atlantis prides itself on being the top resort in both markets it services. Water served in the resort restaurants is safe to drink. Tap water is not. We recommend you brush your teeth with and drink only bottled water that is available in the minibar. Both dive shops also have a bottled water dispenser for after dives free of charge however we kindly ask that bottles not be filled from these dispensers. Bottled water is available for a reasonable in your minibar or purchased locally. We highly recommend that you eat all your meals in the resort. While many will tell you it is ok to eat food from local establishments and street vendors, please be advised this is a developing country and refrigeration is many times non existent. Items the locals or even expats living there have no problem consuming can make those unaccustomed quite sick.

**Trip Insurance:** In addition to medical and diving health insurance we also highly recommend each guest purchases trip cancellation and interruption insurance. This could protect you from financial disappointment in case unforeseen circumstances prevent you from making your trip.

**Gratuities:** Gratuities are not included in your package and are not mandatory. If you feel the Atlantis Team helped make your trip enjoyable and you received a superior level of service may we suggest a gratuity of approximately 10% of your package price. Envelopes are provided at the resort where you may

choose individual team members, departments or the whole staff with whom to share your tip. You may charge your gratuity to your credit card but we would prefer cash, if possible.

On day trips to Verde Island from Puerto Galera, the ladies preparing lunch on the island are not included in the tip pool. We recommend of \$2 to \$3 USD tip per person during the day trip.

**Shopping:** Atlantis stocks a large range of scuba equipment, T-shirts and souvenir items including some of the best local handicrafts available in the Philippines. Batteries, film, toiletries and so forth are also all available either at Atlantis or locally.

**Entertainment:** Both resorts have friendly beach bars where the dive staff members gather in the early evening - please join them for a drink or to catch up filling in your logbook, or just to watch the sun go down. Marine Life and video presentations are also arranged on selected evenings. Both resorts have exchange paperback book libraries.

**Environmental Users Fee (Puerto Galera Only):** A PhP 110.00 'Environmental Users Fee' is added to all personal bills for those aged between twelve and sixty. This fee is a local government imposed tax to raise money for projects to help sustain the local environment (for example a water treatment plant).

Please ask for a pre-check in form from our reservations team so we have full details to make your check in process easier and faster and your dive vacation as enjoyable as possible. Once again we look forward to having you with us soon!

If you have other questions feel free to visit our web site, [www.atlantishotel.com](http://www.atlantishotel.com), email us at [reservations@atlantishotel.com](mailto:reservations@atlantishotel.com) or talk to your group leader.

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