



people and the sea



MALAPASCUA HOMESTAY PROGRAMME

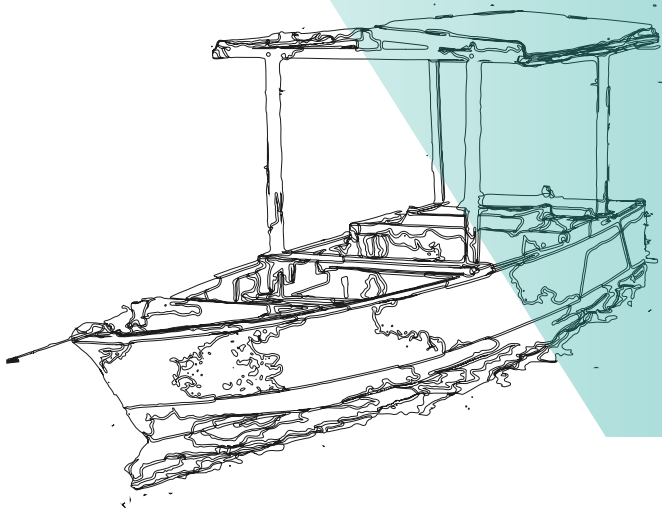




WELCOME

Thank you for volunteering with People and the Sea. It may be your first time in the Philippines, and we want to do everything we can to make this a memorable experience for you.

These guidelines have been prepared to help you understand what to expect while living with your host family in Malapascua.



MALAPASCUA

Malapascua lies approximately 7 kilometres north of Cebu, in the Visayan Sea. Despite being a small island (2.5km²), it is still home to approximately 6000 inhabitants. The main language is Visaya, followed by Tagalog, although you will find that a large number of the locals have a solid grasp of English.

Arguably the main driving factor behind Malapascua's recent growth is that of nearby 'Monad Shoal'. Monad Shoal, a seamount rising 250m from the sea floor, is one of the rare places in the world where Thresher Sharks (*Alopias pelagicus*) can be regularly sighted. The island is also known for its excellent local dive spots, as well as other sites further afield such as Gato Island and Kemud Shoal.

COMMUNITY

The main resource of the local community is the sea. This either takes the form of income from fishing or from the growth of the island as a world famous diving location and the tourist activity that accompanies this.

Despite its growth as a tourist destination, part of the charm of Malapascua is that as a visitor, you will find yourself close to the local community.

The Filipinos are well known for their warmth and hospitality and Malapascua is no exception to this. Within no time people will know you by name and will greet you wherever you go.





WHAT IS A HOMESTAY PROGRAMME ?

A homestay programme gives visitors the opportunity to stay with a local family, interact and experience the daily life of their hosts and learn the culture and way of life of the community. A homestay cannot be classified as a lodging facility, it focuses more on lifestyle and experience.

PEOPLE AND THE SEA'S VISION

The objective of People and the Sea is to support the local community of Malapascua Island in identifying innovative ways to protect their marine environment whilst having a positive economic impact.

One of our core projects is to support the creation of a Malapascua Homestay Association. The goals of this project are to engage one of the Filipino's greatest skills, their hospitality, to bring an additional income and to support the adoption of an environmental code of conduct. Moreover, it's also an opportunity for volunteers to have an intimate insight into the life of the Filipino family.



HOMESTAY FACILITIES

Every homestay is different. We always ensure the houses we've chosen, while basic, are clean and well maintained. All houses have electricity.

YOUR BEDROOM

You will have your own private bedroom, with the following:

- A standard size bed
- An electric fan (most families don't have air-conditioning).
- Beddings, blankets, pillows, and a towel.
- The bedroom also has a lock so that you can keep your things safe while you're away from the house.



- All the members of the Homestay Programme have been initiated and attended workshops on hosting guests.
- While we assure you will find your hosts keen to accommodate you, please don't expect them to provide a "hotel-style" service.



COMMUNAL AREAS

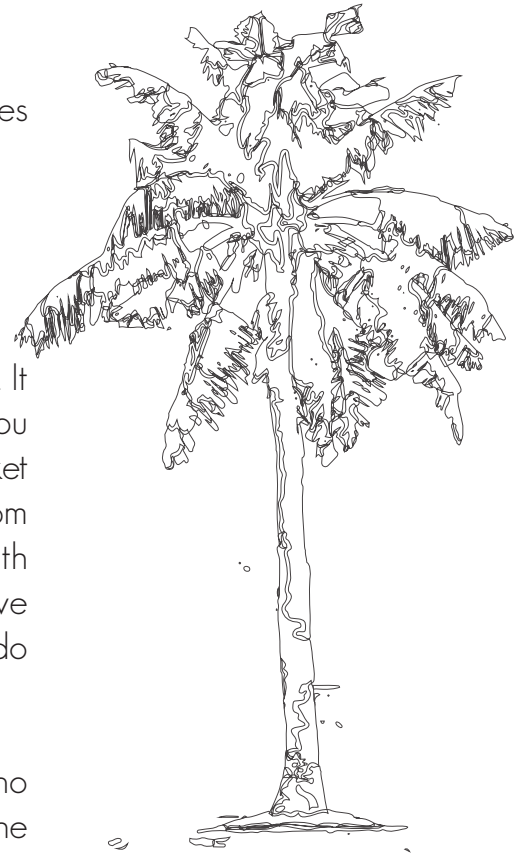
You will have access to the main communal areas of the houses including the living room, kitchen and bathroom.

BATHROOM

A Filipino bathroom will be different from what you are used to. It has a toilet, a large bucket filled with water, and a dipper that you use for flushing the toilet and for showering. We call it the 'bucket shower'! Some homestays have running water to the bathroom while others don't. In this case, the host will fill the bucket with water from the well. Also, most Filipino bathrooms do not have sinks for washing your face or brushing your teeth. They usually do this in the kitchen sink or outside.

There is often be a large number of people living in a Filipino household. Please bear in mind that you will have to share the facilities with everyone.

In the Philippines, toilet paper is not flushable. All sanitary items/ products should be wrapped and placed in the bin provided.



HOMESTAY OPTIONS

Malapascua is an island where you will see first hand a wide range of living standards amongst the local community. From the outset, the aim of the homestay programme was to provide additional income to those families that needed it most. However, we recognise that not every volunteer has the same expectations. With this in mind, we created the Amihan and Habagat categories of homestays. For us, they are not so much a reflexion of living standards but more to do with the depth of the cultural experience you want to have.



AMIHAN

- Possibly outside bathroom.
- Bucket shower (no running water).
- Houses often of wooden construction or bare, unpainted walls.
- Basic, locally made furniture.



*Amihan and Habagat are the two seasonal weather patterns: Amihan is the cool northwest wind and Habagat the southwest wind.



HABAGAT

- Bucket shower, mostly with running water to the bathroom.
- Tiled floors
- Fully furnished



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- Water is a scarce resource on Malapascua. Please be mindful of your water consumption.
- Electricity is expensive on the island. Switch off all appliances and lights when no in use.
- Waste is a major issue on Malapascua. Please refuse single use plastics, try to reduce the packaging you bring to the island and bring your waste back to the mainland at the end of your stay (batteries, hygiene bottles, disposable items, etc).

DON'T FORGET...

- A mosquito net
- A water bottle
- Ear plugs
- Flipflops
- Diva cup - woman only

Thank you for choosing to stay with and support the families of Malapascua. The Malapascua Homestay Programme aims to benefit not just the host families themselves, but also the wider community. To achieve this, part of the accommodation fees you contribute are paid into a 'seed fund' that will allow other families to improve their homes, both for their own comfort and to meet the standards required to join the programme themselves.

See You Soon...

