



“Rent a car for a drive by the beach. You can park along the roadside and jump in for a quick dip whenever!”

— JED SY

Bohol TAGBILARAN

TOUCHDOWN TAGBILARAN AIRPORT

📍 With its contemporary fixtures and turquoise-accented interiors, stepping into **Twin Tides Panglao** will feel like a breath of fresh air. The 23-room boutique hotel has a backyard dipping pool, while popular Alona Beach is only a few minutes’ walk away. Accommodation starts at ₱3,998 for a Queen Executive room for two (with complimentary breakfast). The breakfast ramen is a must-try. *Main Rd, Lower Tawala, Panglao; twintidespanglao.com*

🍴 A tiny food stall that’s big on flavor, **Pilya! Basta Cuisine** (pictured) is a culinary institution on Alona Beach that offers Filipino fusion food. You won’t go wrong with their bestselling savory plates of Pinoy adobo beef ribs, grilled prawns, Bicol Express and spicy noodle soup (inspired by Peranakan laksa). *Unit 4 Uptown In, Alona Beach Rd, Panglao; fb.com/pilyabastacuisine*

Southwestern Mindanao TAWI-TAWI

TOUCHDOWN SANGA-SANGA AIRPORT

📍 For a different experience of Tawi-Tawi, opt for a hike on **Bud Bongao**, a sacred mountain (to Christians and Muslims) in the island province. Legend has it that two preachers who were direct followers of Sheikh Makhdum Karim (the man who brought Islam to the Philippines in 1380) were buried there.

📍 For an offshore adventure, consider a visit to nearby Simunul Island. There, gain insight on local culture at the **Sheikh Karimol Makhdum Mosque**. The original religious structure, built with wood by Sheikh Makhdum Karim and known as the country’s first mosque, burned down in 1651. Its current concrete iteration retains the original pillars, which serve as the building’s foundations. The mosque was declared a national historical landmark in 1998. *Simunul*

Surigao del Sur TANDAG

TOUCHDOWN TANDAG AIRPORT

🍴 A visit to Tandag isn’t complete without the taste of city’s local barbecue offerings. Barbecue stalls are found along the boulevard and the main road between Telaje district and Osmeña Street, in Barangay Bagong Lungsod. Pair your pork or chicken barbecue with *puso* (rice conveniently wrapped in woven banana leaves) and a refreshing cold drink.

📍 From Tandag City, ride a bus to the municipality of Cagwait, where the powdery sands of **Cagwait White Beach** await. Likened to the beaches of paradise island Boracay — but without the party vibe — Cagwait is a water baby’s dream. Take your family or barkada for a quiet picnic, or have a solitary walk along the beach to get back to nature. *Cagwait, Surigao del Sur*