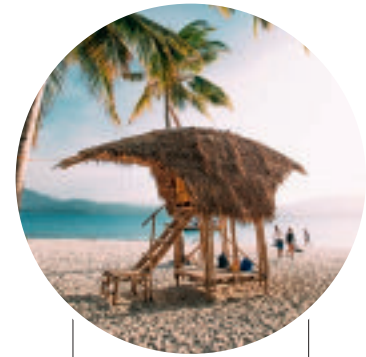


📍 Philippines

# Earthy delights

**HOSPITALITY** Looking for an eco-friendly accommodation option where you can surround yourself with nature? These places across the Philippine archipelago have you covered



**HIJO RESORTS**

DAVAO

Beach, river, forest, farm – whatever you're looking for, Hijo Resorts has it. The sprawling estate is located over 700 hectares of green space that includes a fully operational banana and coconut plantation. In 2012, Hijo Resorts established itself as the first ecogritourism destination in the country and is committed to promoting sustainability and conservation. Book one of their 23 guest rooms and spend your days getting lost amid the stunning natural surroundings. [hijoresortsdavao.com](http://hijoresortsdavao.com)

**SECRET PARADISE RESORT**

PALAWAN

Nestled in a private cove in Palawan, Secret Paradise is known for its marine conservation efforts. The resort is located in a 77-hectare reserve and includes the only local turtle sanctuary that's currently endorsed by the Philippine government and WWF Philippines. More than 7,000 baby turtles have been protected and released into the sea here over the past decade. Tear yourself away from your rustic, amenity-filled cottage and take a walk to try and spot some. [secretparadiseresort.com](http://secretparadiseresort.com)

**RAPHA VALLEY**

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

Located in the highlands of Don Salvador Benedicto, Rapha Valley is a self-proclaimed wellness retreat that includes homey accommodations and amazing views of the countryside – think lush greenery and emerald hills as far as the eye can see. But the star of the show is undoubtedly the restaurant, which features an array of dishes made with fresh ingredients sourced directly from their organic farm. It's not the most stylish place, but the food and panoramic views make up for it. [raphavalley.com](http://raphavalley.com)

**MORAY LAGOON CAMP**

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

Before booking your digs on Danjugan Island – a marine reserve and wildlife sanctuary – you should know that there's no electricity or running water there. There is solar power, though, and what Danjugan Island lacks in creature comforts, it more than makes up for in atmosphere. A project by the Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation, Inc., Danjugan Island is celebrated for its rich wildlife and biodiversity. It may be challenging getting back to the basics, but it's worth it. [danjuganisland.ph](http://danjuganisland.ph)

📍 Busuanga

**HUT STUFF**

**DESIGN**

When Jack Footit, the co-founder and creative director of Palawan-based tour group Tao Philippines, wanted a nipa hut where guests could sleep overnight during island cruise tours, he asked the group's resident builder to create something with an overarching roof as protection from the elements. It ended up looking like a beak, or "tuka" in Filipino, so it was called the Tuka hut. Made of *bayog*, a bamboo variety that has a thick inner wall, the poles are bound by the same nylon thread that's used by local fishermen, while the thatched roof is made of dried nipa palm leaves. Conceived in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, the Tuka hut was made to weather tropical cyclones. "The hut will wobble when it is hit by strong winds, but it will not break," says Footit. There are now over 100 Tuka huts scattered all over northern Palawan – but if you want to stay for more than a night, you can skip the cruise tour and book a spot at Camp Ngey! Ngey! – the group's newly acquired private island in Busuanga. Guests can stay there for a minimum of three days and enjoy food freshly harvested from the Tao farm in El Nido. [taophilippines.com](http://taophilippines.com)



TEXT: NINA UNLAY (EARTHY DELIGHTS) | IMAGE: SCOTT SPORLEDER (TUKA HUT)