# PARADISE ENGLISH (PE) STUDENT HANDBOOK

# **WELCOME TO PARADISE ENGLISH!**

Our mission is to enhance your language skills and prepare you for an exciting, adventurous life by attaining fluency in English. We are ready to assist you in achieving your goals and reaching your full potential.

# **SCHOOL DETAILS**

# **Address & Contact Information**

Cagban, Manocmanoc, Boracay Island

Malay, Aklan, 5608 Philippines

Website: <a href="www.paradiseenglish.com">www.paradiseenglish.com</a> Email: <a href="mailto:admin@ParadiseEnglish.com">admin@ParadiseEnglish.com</a> Admin Contact: Andrie Ceballos Office Landline: +63 36 288 4544 Mobile (Andrie): +639155065903

### **Campus Location**

We share the same campus with the Boracay European International School. Paradise English is nestled atop a hill on the southern part of the island. A short boat ride from the Caticlan or Tambisaan Jetty Port takes you to the island's jetty port. From there, it's just a few minutes by tricycle or multicab to the school.

### **Location Map**



### **School Hours and Days**

Paradise English is open from 8:30AM until 5:30PM, from Monday to Friday.

### First Day School Orientation

New students may start their courses on their first day, depending on their assigned class schedule. All 1:1 classes start on the second day. Please arrive at 8:45AM to attend the following:

- 1. Welcome, Registration and Campus Tour at 9:00AM
- 2. Entry Level Assessment This helps us determine your entry English language level and which classes you may enroll in. The assessment, which includes writing and speaking, takes 30 to 90 minutes to complete.
- 3. Release of Assessment Results, Class Schedule & Course Materials
- 4. First class or free time (depending on schedule)

# **SCHOOL POLICIES**

### Speak English Only Policy

All students are encouraged to speak only English within the campus area.

#### Level Test

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month.

#### **Dress Code**

On campus, all students are expected to be in decent casual clothes. Bikinis and/or see-through clothes are not allowed. Men are not allowed to be topless.

#### Tardiness (Being Late)

If you are late for class by more than 10 minutes, your teacher has the right to refuse you entry, close the door on you and mark you absent.

### **Absences**

You are expected to report to class daily. We monitor student's attendance. In the case you cannot attend your classes, please inform your teachers the day before or call our office number indicated above. We will not issue a certificate of completion to students with excessive absences in their classes.

You may be dropped/removed from your class on the following conditions:

- 1. 2 consecutive absences without advance notice
- 2. 3 absences within the week
- 3. 6 absences within 4 weeks

If you are removed from your 1:1 class schedule, you must request the schedule officer to reschedule you.

### Smoking, Drinking, Weapons & Drugs

PE is a drug, alcohol, weapon and smoke free zone. The Smoking Hut, located below the cafeteria, is the only designated area for smoking.

#### Littering

Students are responsible for depositing their garbage in trashcans provided in classrooms and around the campus.

# **OTHER SCHOOL SERVICES**

#### Immigration Assistance on Visa Extension and Special Study Permit

The PE Office schedules Visa assistance every Monday and Tuesday. The Tourist Visa is given for free at arrival and is valid for 30 days. It then needs to be renewed to 2 months and every 60 days thereafter up to 1 year. The cost of the Visa Extension is approximately US\$85. All students are REQUIRED to secure a SPECIAL STUDY PERMIT (SSP). This Costs about 145 USD. This permit allows students to study short-term courses in the Philippines. Our office will provide you with all the required documents and assist you in the process. There is an Immigration office on Boracay and visitors do not need to leave Boracay. Visitors who stay longer than 60 days also need to get an I-Card, which is valid for a year and costs approximately US\$ 175.

#### Internet

The whole campus has WI-FI and students are provided free access. Visit your preferred Paradise English website:

English: <a href="http://paradiseenglish.com/">http://paradiseenglish.com/</a>

### Cafeteria

The cafeteria is a school-operated facility that caters pre-arranged meals (lunch and/or dinner) to students enrolled at Paradise English. A plus feature of this service is the practice of daily marketing, assuring its students that only fresh meat, fish, poultry, fruit and vegetables are served. Meals are optional and the student may sign up prior to or upon arrival. Paradise English offers free lunch on the student's first day!

#### Snack Shack

The snack shack is a well-ventilated lounge with ample desks and chairs, where students can hang out in between classes. Snacks are available at reasonable cost.

# THE FUN AND LEARNING EXPERIENCE

### Learning English at Paradise English

Paradise English believes that the best way to learn English is to be in an environment where the language is used in your daily interaction. Boracay Island is the perfect place for you to interact with people of various nationalities and cultures, while learning through a study program designed to quickly improve your spoken and written English language skills. Meet and communicate with people from various parts of the globe in one of the most beautiful places in the world.

We focus on oral and written expression as well as your ability to listen and read with understanding. Your conversation skills will improve; your vocabulary will increase and your fluency in proper pronunciation will be enhanced. Our multi-level program stimulates your learning through exciting challenges and motivates you to gain quick results in your English language abilities.

#### Free Time

There are many things to experience on the island. We organize weekend activities, usually on a Saturday. Outdoor events let you practice your English with locals and tourists while enjoying island adventures.

Activities include visiting major tourist attractions on Boracay and its surrounding islands. Aside from simply enjoying a day at the beach, consider options like sea kayaking, hiking, beach volleyball, sailing, beach soccer, horseback riding, snorkeling, island touring, glass bottom boat, tennis, fishing,

badminton, shuffleboard, bat caves, zip lines, zorbing, golfing, rock climbing, parasailing, jet skiing, diving, partying and more.

#### **Online Interaction**

Join us at <u>Facebook</u> and interact with our teachers, students and alumni! <a href="https://www.facebook.com/boracay.paradiseenglish">https://www.facebook.com/boracay.paradiseenglish</a>

# **USEFUL ISLAND TIPS**

**Boracay** is a tropical island with its most popular beach stretching 4-kilometers of powdery white sand and is among the top ten best beaches in the world. The island is a 100% English speaking environment and very safe!

For the certified sun-worshipper, paradise is synonymous to Boracay. Many visitors return to Boracay year after year. Boracay has managed to pack its thousand or so hectare area with all the elements of a tropical paradise--crystal blue waters, powdery white sand, liberal doses of tropical palms and a healthy marine life underneath the seas. Not surprisingly, the culinary fare on Boracay is as diverse as the nationalities of its visitors.

# **Boracay's Beaches**

The island has 12 beaches. These three are the most popular:

- 1. White Beach is also known as the front beach. It is a long stretch of white sand lined with a variety of restaurants, bars, resorts and hotels. It is sectioned in 3: Stations 1, 2 & 3. Station 3 is closest to Paradise English.
- 2. <u>Bulabog Beach</u> is referred to as the back beach. This is where most water sports centers like kite boarding and wind surfing, are located.
- 3. <u>Puka Shell Beach</u> is the second longest beach on the island. It is less crowded and is favorite destination for picnics and group gatherings. Be warned though that the water depth is abrupt and the current is strong.

#### Weather

<u>November to March</u> is cool at night and warm during the day, with moderate rainfall. Northeasterly to easterly winds account for clean and calm beach waters and temperature ranging from 25-32°C (77-90°F).

<u>April to June</u> is hot and mostly dry with easterly to southeasterly trade winds and temperature ranging from 28-38°C (82-100°F).

<u>May/June to September/October</u> winds come from the southwest, bringing moderate to heavy rainfall and temperature ranging from 25-32°C (77-90°F).

#### **Getting to Boracay**

With several daily flights coming from Manila, it is fairly easy to fly to Boracay via Kalibo or Caticlan airports. Caticlan is 2 kilometers from Boracay while Kalibo is a 90-minute bus ride away. Upon arrival in Caticlan, take a 5-minute tricycle ride to the jetty port then be off to Boracay via a short outrigger boat ride.

### **Getting Around Boracay**

The tricycle (motorcycle with side car) is the most popular means of transportation. It accommodates approximately 5 passengers. Minimum fare is 10 pesos and increases, depending on distance. The

rates are usually posted inside the tricycle. Chartered tricycles (you rent all the seats for your exclusive use) charge 100 pesos and more, depending on distance.

#### **What To Bring**

You need very few clothes. Beach clothes/towels can be bought on the island. Sweatshirts and sweatpants may be useful during the cooler months as temperatures slightly drop at night. **Remember to have** your sunglasses, a hat, a flashlight, a good pair of beach sandals and your camera.

#### Money

The currency in the Philippines is the Peso (PhP or P) and the Centavo ( $\phi$ ). 100 centavos = P1. Coin denominations are: 1 $\phi$ , 5 $\phi$ , 10 $\phi$ , 25 $\phi$ , P1, P5 and P10. Bill denominations are: 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000 pesos. Change some foreign currency at the Manila Ninoy Aquino International Airport where the rates are better. Credit cards are accepted in some establishments on Boracay. There are many ATM machines on the island, which accept foreign bank debit and credit cards.

#### **ATM Machines**

- 1. Bank of Philippine Islands (Main Road, D'Mall and Boracay Beach Chalet along White Beach)
- 2. Metrobank (Main Road, Station 1)
- 3. Allied Bank (beside Crafts of Boracay across Tilapia & Chips)

Prior to your arrival, recommend checking with your local bank if and where you may use your ATM cards in the Philippines.

### **Shopping**

- D' Mall Area
- 2. E-Mall at Station 3
- 3. D' Talipapa at Station 2
- 4. A variety of Boutiques along Main Road

### **Business Hours**

Most offices are open from 8AM to 5PM on weekdays and from 8AM till noon on Saturdays. Banks are open from 9AM till 4PM on weekdays. When transacting with banks, bring your passport for identification. Commercial establishments, especially restaurants, bars and spas are open everyday.

**Language** English is one of the country's official languages. Most locals understand and speak English, assuring you of almost no communication problems in English.

#### **Health Concerns**

There are a number of medical clinics on the island.

Tap water on Boracay is not suitable for drinking. Nearly every store carries drinking water in plastic bottles, which are 100% safe.

# **Prepaid Mobile Phone Lines**

If your phone is unlocked and is compatible with the local system, you may use it by purchasing a local prepaid sim card as well as prepaid loads that will allow you to call or text. The 2 major carriers are <a href="Smart Communications">Smart Communications</a> and <a href="Globe Telecom">Globe Telecom</a>.

### **Emergency Numbers**

Ambulance/Fire/Police Land Line: 288-3066or 166 Paradise English Mobile: +63 915 5065903 or 288-4544

# **Safety Deposit Boxes**

Safety deposit boxes are available at the Tourist Center located along White Beach at Station 2. PE is not responsible for any lost valuables.

# **Boracay Restrictions**

- 1. No smoking at the beach front
- 2. No littering
- 3. No fishing
- 4. No urinating or defecating anywhere on the beach
- 5. No pets on the beach front
- 6. No extraction of sand and pebbles

# Boracay Online News

# **Boracay Map**

