

Grand Cebu



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ISLAND VIBE

Things To Do In Cebu
Premiere Diving Spots

FOOD TRIPPIN'

Lechon , Must Try Eats

SOUTH OF CEBU FOR A DAY

Sumilon, Oslob and more

CEBU'S BEST

Guitars, Dried Mangoes,
Hablon and more

FEATURE

Cebu Culinary Warrior
Chef Jhun Fernandez



Photo: KOTA Beach, Bantayan Island Cebu



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The Pursuit of the **Grand Life**



NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Life is about experiences. It is about discovery. It is about adventure. It is about appreciating moments, about spaces and places that are unique. It is about making those little instances memorable. The real pleasure that makes life is made in the memory of life's grand experiences.

Cebu is the only island in the entire country where you can get an all-in-one experience: a place where you can bask in the serenity of an island resort lifestyle, and, at the same time, live within the bright lights and experience the culture of a cosmopolitan and highly urbanized city right in the heart of the Philippines.

In this issue, you will discover the real Cebu through local knowledge shared by our fellow Cebuanos and inspired by our contributing writers who find inspiration within the island, in its life, its style and a sense of Cebuano pride and local hospitality.

We have dedicated this guide to bring you inspiring stories and the finest that Cebu and life here has to offer. We hope the features in our premier issue will encourage you to share what you will experience to your family and friends. There is so much to be explored within our shores, and as travellers we are just as responsible for safeguarding the environment and the people who live in it. Here's to the people and places we can all be proud of.

It really is more fun in the Philippines... and definitely more fun in Cebu City!

**About the cover,
Name of the Mag,
About the
publishing, the
Team
page 3**

Geraldine
Geraldine G. Anggala

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Contributors



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Currently the Marketing and Communications specialist in one of the Business Process Outsourcing companies in Cebu. Started writing for the student papers of the University of San Carlos and University of the Visayas in his college days. Wrote in the three dailies of Cebu, as contributor. A proud fellow and alumna of the Faigao Writers Workshop of the University of San Carlos and The Iligan National Writers Workshop of the Mindanao State University. Aside from writing Cebuano poems, he also composes songs, as he was also a finalist of the Cebu Popular Music Festival last 2013. In his pastime, he blogs and write stories and cab be read in www.TravellingInTandem.com



Kingsley Medalla

Member: Amigos de España en Cebu, Filipinas
Member: Arts Council of Cebu Foundation, Inc
Asst. Secretary: Angel Society of Cebu Foundation, Inc, OIC virtual Assistant for the Spanish market in one of the BPO companies here in Cebu I love arts, culture, heritage, history and Catholicism.



Dr. Xavier G. Solis, MPH

A congenial, daring and captivating soul who loves people, places and flavors. Happily crisscrossing between the romance of getting lost and joy of new experiences. A giver of smiles on weekdays and a wide-eyed wanderer on weekends. Everything he does, every moment and each memory captured and frozen in time through his flashbulbs. Get lost and be found over and over again - The Dentist, is out!

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) @dookiexave
www.thedentistisout.com



Jan Salise

Jan was thrilled when she was asked to write on one of her favorite hobbies. Having spent almost a decade working for an international financial firm, she enjoys relaxation through long countryside trips, mountain climbing and scuba diving. She hopes to one day be able to explore all the dive sites in the Visayas. Jan is currently working on her PADI Dive Masters course hoping to one-day help others experience the underwater beauty.



Jeane Louise Mainit

A registered nurse by profession and a Traveler, Writer, Picky Eater, Lady Mountaineer, self proclaimed poet and prose word weaver, singer, and sunrise and sunset chaser by passions. I am the writer/blogger behind *Viajera Cebuana*, a blog about being able to travel, climb peaks and summits, being a reef to ridge trekker, and being an eco warrior. I am also a freelance Social Media Manager and a Content Creator that helps brands and companies build their presence online. I am also a staunch supporter of No Plagiarism Rule and Proper Crediting.

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Margaux Camaya

A corporate Trainer by night and a Blogger by day. Originally from Metro Manila, living in Cebu for the past 14 years. Writes about Food, History, and Culture at www.thevisualtraveler.net



Liv Campo

is a Cebuano blogger (phliv.com) who spends her free time walking around the planet in her cheap sneakers. When she runs out of money, she sits in a coffee shop for the free wifi, and sometimes work to fund for her next trek.

A NOTE FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR PARIS GAUDAN

Maayong Adlaw!

Welcome to the Queen City of the South!

Cebu is one of the fastest growing cities in the Philippines. With its rising infrastructures, economic and tourism industry has been booming nonstop. A great development can be seen in both rural and picturesque urban areas, creating a new landscape of tourism in the central part of the Philippines.

Be it the perfect weather, its friendly locals, the gentle music from a guitar and the generally easy going lifestyle...Cebu is a haven by all standards. And in this issue, we want you to experience its different side by adding new tourist destinations and new establishments, while retaining the old ones. As the central province in the Visayas, we're also showcasing other neighboring provinces. And we're featuring Bohol for this issue, first, because it is the most accessible destination from Cebu. Second, Bohol has so many things to offer even just for a one day trip.

We sincerely hope that while your read this magazine, you'll get to know more about Cebu, understand the culture and enjoy its beautiful tourist destinations as we enjoyed compiling this for you, our dear readers.

Mag lingaw-lingaw! Enjoy!

Paris
Managing Editor



why Invest in Cebu?

Cebu is considered as the second most important metropolitan area in the country because of its booming IT (information technology) and BPO (business process outsourcing) industries. In addition, the province remains one of the most feasible industrial locations outside of Manila due to its strategic location and skilled manpower.

In the residential sector, more condominium developments are being seen in Cebu than houses and lots. Colliers said that the condominium stock in Cebu totals 33,400 units. Though launches for both horizontal and vertical projects in 2017 were down, take-up for condominiums was notably faster at 5,600 units than the take-up for houses and lots, which was at 1,100 units.

Cebu's retail stock is now at 1.06 million square meters (sq.m.); more than double the 2010 level.



EXPANSION OF MACTAN CEBU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

being touted to become the world's first airport resort, and once improvements are completed it will be able to accommodate up to 12.5 million passengers per year (compared from its present capacity of 4.5 million passengers per year).



BRT, RAILWAY, AND SUBWAY SYSTEM

The Bus Rapid Transport (BTS) system is a transport project being considered for Cebu. Projected to be launched in 2019, it is a planned mass transit system that will allow buses to run in segregated bus-ways in the middle of the road wherein bus stations will also be located and accessible either via footbridges or pedestrian crossings.



CEBU PORT PROJECTS

The Cebu Ports Authority recently announced eight medium-term projects that will enhance Cebu Province's seaports and provide a more efficient sea travel. These projects will provide safer and faster means that will surely be more convenient for all sea travelers.





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I LOVE Cebu

By: Kingsley Medalla

Cebu is a Philippine island strategically located near the heart of the archipelago, of which the capital city is Cebu City. It has been a trading center in the fourteenth century, long before the European discovery. **The name "Cebu" came from the old Cebuano word Sibu or Sibo ("trade"), a shortened form of sinibuayng hingpit ("the place for trading").**

It was originally applied to the harbours of the town of Sugbu, the ancient name for Cebu City. Sugbu, in turn, was derived from the Old Cebuano term for "scorched earth" or "great fire".

Before the arrival of the Spaniards, Cebu city was part of the island-rajahnate and trade center of Pulua Kang Dayang or Kangdaya (literally the islands which belong to Daya), now better known as the Rajahnate of Cebu. It was founded by a prince of the Hindu Chola dynasty of Sumatra, the half-Malay and half-Tamil, Sri Lumay.

The name SUGBU refers to the prince's scorched earth tactics against Muslim Moro raiders.

For Grand Living's publisher, Ms. Geraldine Angula, "Life is about experiences", and there's no better place today, outside of Manila, to live this kind of life than Cebu.



1521

Ferdinand Magellan, a Portuguese navigator found Cebu through an expedition in 1521. He rendered his service to the King of Spain Charles V with the possibility of exploring and expanding the Spanish empire and in search of the Spice Islands. Cebu then was ruled by Rajah Humabon. "great fire".



BASILICA MINORE DEL SANTO NIÑO



FORT SAN PEDRO

Cebu City has become a bustling metropolis today, a hodgepodge of different cultures met through time and history. Its history chronicled through the historical structures in Pari-an, the old downtown Colon, the Basilica del Santo Niño, Fort San Pedro, the upscale and modern uptown areas mushrooming with stylish skyscrapers, high-end malls and other business establishments. Cebu offers a relaxed lifestyle where you can reach the beaches or the mountains in 30 to 45 minutes. Metropolitan Cebu, the country's second biggest metropolis, is the political, economic, educational, and cultural center of the Visayas. Hotels, shopping malls, entertainment halls, casinos, and golf fairways are present in the metro to cater everyone's needs. According to a Venezuelan expatriate, Alejandra Macuare Wadskier, "Among all the places I've been to, and actually lived in, Cebu is the best place to enjoy, and relax. And the people, they are marvellous!".

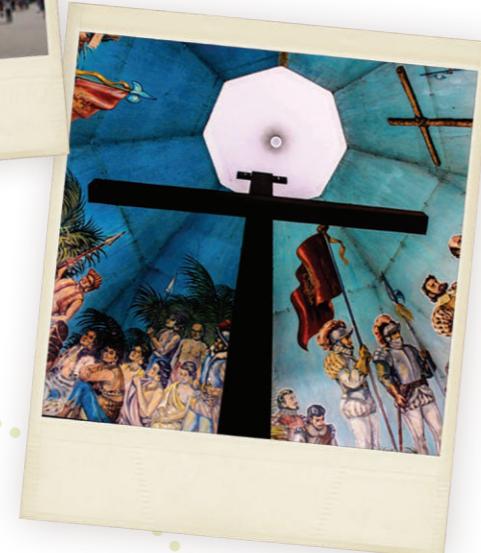
LA TURISTA

There are many favorable and popular tourist spots scattered all around Cebu City. Here are the more popular picks



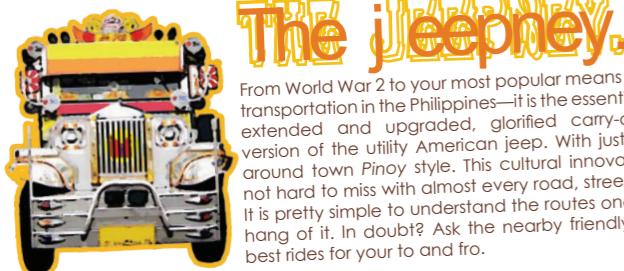
BASILICA MINOR DEL SANTO NIÑO,

The Basilica del Santo Niño was built in 1565 and houses the oldest Christian relic in the Philippine country. This church is also flocked by many devotees especially during the third week of January in commemoration for the Sinulog celebration in Cebu City.



MAGELLAN'S CROSS

The site marks the spot where the first Christian Filipinos, Rajah Humabon and Donya Juana, along with 400 followers were baptized by Father Pedro Valderama and is the site where Ferdinand Magellan planted the wooden cross in April 21, 1521. The original, wooden, hollow cross of Tindalo wood still remains on site today.



see the sights via

THE JEEPNEY.

From World War 2 to your most popular means of public mass transportation in the Philippines—it is the essential horizontally-upgraded, glorified carry-all-you-name-it version of the utility American jeep. With just PHP 8.50, get around town Pinoy style. This cultural innovative wonder is not hard to miss with almost every road, street or alley plied. It is pretty simple to understand the routes once you get the hang of it. In doubt? Ask the nearby friendly locals on the best rides for you to and fro.

DID YOU KNOW? The Plaza Independencia and Colon Street are the oldest tourist attractions in Cebu.



TAOIST TEMPLE

The Taoist Temple is a concrete reminder of the well-established Chinese community in Cebu City and was built in 1964. It is a classic example of Chinese architecture, which houses the teachings of Lao-Tse, the 600 BC Chinese philosopher. Each day, people climb its 81 steps representing the 81 chapters of the Taoist scriptures to light joss sticks and have their fortune read.



CASA GORORDO MUSEUM

Casa Gorordo is the First Filipino Bishop of Cebu, Juan Gorordo (1862-1934) and a tour inside the residence is a journey into a traditional Filipino lifestyle, particularly in between the years of the late 1800s and early 1900s. It features noted paintings, museum relics and beautiful antique relics.



MUSEO SUGBO

The Cebu Provincial Museum is housed in what was once a Spanish prison. Enclosed by a high coral stonewall it also served as a rehabilitation center until its restoration in 2004. The museum has 12 galleries spread in six buildings all made of limestone and coral. Here, you will find the largest collection of Spanish colonial structures ever found on a single site.



Sinulog

sa

CASA GORORDO

*Keeper of the "Sinug"
Dance Steps*

By: Jesson J. Morata

"Sinug"

is a traditional dance prayer that has been considered the predecessor of the more popular Sinulog. The dance narrates the coming of Christianity here in the Philippines and how it started, featuring the conflicts between the Spaniards and the natives as well as the acceptance and renewal of faith of the locals at the intercession of Sto. Niño.

"Sinug" is a day dedicated to the souls. That is why the dance includes citing the names of the dead and other intentions in the dance. Characterized by "two-step-forward-and-one-step-backward" ritual dance that mimic the water current, the Sinug is a way of praying to the miraculous image of Señor Sto. Niño.

One distinctive version of Sinug originated in Barangay Mabolo, popularly espoused by the late Estelita "Nang Titang" Diola. Nang Titang learned to drum the Sinug beat from her father's co-performer Macario "Iklot" Bontilao and the dance steps from her father, Buenaventura "Turang" Diola. The two led the group, including the little Titang then, in performing the dance in different households of Pari-an district, one of them was the home of the first Filipino bishop Juan Gorordo Casa Gorordo, for their departed loved ones before the outbreak of WWII.



She trained some of her family members and neighbors to the traditional dance and beat. Many believe that Nang Titang and her group of dancers are the keepers of the original Sinug or Sinulog dance steps. The dance compared to that of the sinug tinderas of the Basilica del Santo Niño de Cebu, is said to be the "combative" version for it includes the moro-moro/linambay steps narrating the dispute between the native islanders and the Spanish colonizers.

According to Nang Titang, the original Sinug is composed of three principal characters - the Christians, Muslims and the "Batang Hari" or the Holy Child. The performers carry with them swords and shields. The ritual first showed the division between the two camps, the Muslims and the Christians, but eventually through the intercession of the Santo Niño, the two rivals became united. Nang Titang, dubbed as the "keeper of the sinug dance and beat", died in March 2013 at age 88. The tradition has been passed on to her niece Carol Diola, who now leads Nang Titang's Turang Dance Company.

In its commitment to preserve the religious heritage of the family, through the Sinug dancers, Casa Gorordo Museum holds its annual "Sinug sa Casa Gorordo" the Monday after the annual Sinulog grand festival. Attended by the media, friends of the museum and the general public, some of the spectators already consider this as one of the religious vows they follow annually.

Casa Gorordo was acquired by the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. in 1980 and turned into museum. Sinug is one of the living traditions that have been continued by the Culture and Heritage unit of the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. (RAFI), which is committed to the preservation of the house traditions of the Gorordo family. This annual ritual would continue to promote the Cebuano Culture, Heritage and history to the local and international community.





Grand Regal Hotel

J P Laurel Avenue Lanang, 8000 Davao

Property Location Located in Davao, Grand Regal Hotel is close to Mindanao Taoist Temple and Victoria Plaza. This hotel is within the vicinity of People's Park and Crocodile Farm.

Rooms Make yourself at home in one of the 217 air-conditioned rooms featuring refrigerators and minibars. Complimentary wireless Internet access keeps you connected, and satellite programming is available for your entertainment. Conveniences include phones, as well as safes and coffee/tea makers.



Rec, Spa, Premium Amenities Take advantage of recreation opportunities including an outdoor pool and a fitness facility. Additional amenities include complimentary wireless Internet access, concierge services, and babysitting/childcare. Getting to nearby attractions is a breeze with the complimentary area shuttle.



Dining Satisfy your appetite at the hotel's restaurant, which serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner, or grab a snack at a coffee shop/café. Meet other guests and eat at a complimentary reception. Quench your thirst with your favorite drink at a bar/lounge.

Business, Other Amenities Featured amenities include a business center, limo/town car service, and audiovisual equipment. Event facilities at this hotel consist of conference/meeting rooms, small meeting rooms, and a ballroom. A roundtrip airport shuttle and a train station pick-up service are supplied at no charge.



<http://www.grandregalhotels.com>



Island Girl

Outlets: WAGW Ayala Center Cebu | Gaisano Grand Tabunok | Gaisano Grand Mactan | Treasures of Cebu, Metro Gaisano Ayala | District 32, Mactan Airport |



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TOUCH DOWN CEBU



*One blogging traveller's
72 hour
adventure south bound in
the Queen City*

So many places to go, so little time. Such is the predicament of every traveler. I'm sure not all travellers have the luxury of time when travelling. Cebu is an island frequented by locals and foreigners alike and is a popular travel destination. Lined with beaches, luxury resorts, and a thriving urban cityscape it definitely is a charming province and the Queen City of the South has many different adventures in store. And it goes without question that we all want to experience the most we can of each trip. So here is my three-day, two-night Cebu travel adventure:

DAY ONE

09.00am

Arrival at the Mactan Cebu International Airport

Collect luggage - find taxi or wait for the hotel transfer- head for the city

It would be good to note that it is ideal to get an early flight into Cebu and a late flight out so you can get some extra time on your hands and don't end up with a tight schedule. Flying in from Manila takes approximately an hour and travel time from the Mactan Cebu International Airport to Cebu City proper is a thirty-minute drive on average.

QUICK TIP: Most cab drivers in Cebu speak and understand English fluently so rest assured you won't have any serious language barriers here... unless you don't speak English or the local Bisaya dialect of course!



09.30am

Hotel check-in at Quest Hotel and Convention Center Cebu

Make travel arrangements and get rates, plan trip to Oslob

For this trip I booked at the Quest Hotel and Convention Center which is a stone's throw away from the Ayala Center Cebu shopping mall. Booking here gives me a world of convenience because of its prime location and luckily for me the hotel's staff was kind enough to arrange an early check-in so I was able to freshen up and do some light unpacking before heading back out again.

10.00am

DOWNTOWN IN SUGBUTOWN

- Hop into a taxi and hit the streets of downtown Cebu
- Explore the Carbon Market
- Buy authentic Cebuano pasalubong items

Hop into a taxi and get dropped off at the Sto. Niño Basilica. Walk to Magellan's Cross and stroll through Colon Street (the oldest street in the Philippines). Go shopping for danggit and other pasalubong items at the Carbon Market



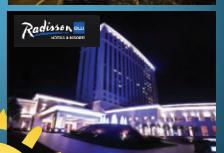
QUICK TIP: Other than Quest, there are many hotels around the Cebu Business Park area that are worth looking into for your Cebu visit. I highly recommend the Marriott Cebu City Hotel, which is connected to the Ayala Terraces, the Parklane International Hotel and Hotel Elizabeth as other viable options to consider. If you have any trips you'd like to plan while visiting the island, I recommend making inquiries with the hotel so that they can put together and arrange an itinerary for you. This way you receive reliable, up-to-date information.

You may also want to check out these top-rated Hotels:

WATERFRONT HOTEL
SALINAS DRIVE LAHUG,
CEBU CITY



RADISSON BLU
SERGING OSMEÑA BOULEVARD,
COR. JUAN LUNA AVE.,
CEBU CITY



QUICK TIP: If you are buying dried fish, dried mangoes and other pasalubong items in bulk or by the kilo, the Carbon Market offers you more value for your money. Just make sure to have these goods packed up tight and nicely sealed so you don't suffer from a stinky suitcase! For those buying in smaller quantities, vacuum-packed danggit and pasalubong products are available at the supermarket and at the airport for your convenience.



11.15am

GET A DOSE OF HISTORY

Plaza Independencia and the Fort San Pedro

It's a quick jeepney ride down to Plaza Independencia to see the Fort San Pedro. Entrance fee to the fort is set at P 30 and you can explore the century old fort solo and go on a DIY tour or ask one of the volunteer guides to take you around for a guided tour.

The guided tour will take approximately one hour.

12.20pm

Take a cab to the hotel and Park your downtown shopping items

12.45pm

Enjoy the local fried chicken at Sunburst Chicken, Ayala Terraces

Steamed Rice + Fried Chicken + Catsup = Great Lunch! Don't forget to try their Famous Crispy Chicken Skin! Prepare to spend around 100-200 pesos for this simple yet super delicious meal.

1.45pm

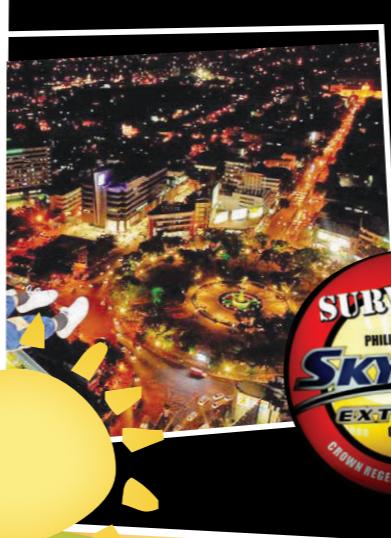
Buy some groceries for tomorrow's road trip

to Oslob | Oslob is approximately 130KM south of Cebu and a 3-4 hour drive from the city center. So you should be prepared for a long drive! Stack up on bottled drinks and light snacks for your road trip adventure the next day.

TIP: If you are travelling in alone or in a small group, I suggest you just ride a bus to Oslob. But if you are on a big group with lots of stuff or travelling with kids, I suggest you book a van to Oslob which costs around P5,000 per way. The bus ride costs around Php100-200 pesos per person per way. You may ask the hotel for car rentals.

2.30pm

Head back to the hotel room for some R&R (rest and relaxation) | You paid for the hotel so you better enjoy it! It is part of your vacation. Lounge by the pool, swim a few laps, order room service, enjoy happy hour at the bar, or just take that much needed nap.



DAY TWO

5.30pm

Sky Adventure at the Crowne Regency Hotel, Cebu

One of the unique and popular tourist destinations in Cebu is the Sky Adventure at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Here you can conquer your fear of heights by walking along the edge of the tallest building in Cebu on a transparent floor, ride the Edge Coaster which tilts to almost 90 degrees on the edge of the tower to give you a nerve wracking 360 degree view of the city and enjoy their Zip Line which allows you to zip your way from one hotel tower to the other. It is one hell of an experience which you can only enjoy in Cebu! There are Sky Adventure packages to choose from, rates start at P300 per ride.



4.00pm

Follow-up on tomorrow's itinerary at the front desk

I Make sure you don't miss that wake-up call! Again, Oslob is 3-4 hours away from your hotel and the whale sharks are only available in the morning so you better not miss the chance. Make sure that you leave the hotel around 6:00am, just in time to catch the butandings of Oslob at around 9-10am and grab breakfast via drive through at McDonald's which is along the way.



7.30pm

Dinner at Puso Restaurant at Quest Hotel

I am sure that after that super packed day you are dying to get an awesome meal. And since you will be starting your day early tomorrow, eating in the hotel is a good idea.



Quest Hotel offers an international dinner buffet daily and would you believe, you get to enjoy this huge buffet spread for only P499 per person!!



TOUCH DOWN CEBU
One sleeping traveler's 72 hour adventure in the Queen City



There's a bar by the pool... need I say more?

3



5.00am

Early wake-up call | Prepare your underwater camera and swimwear! Time to go to Oslob to meet the biggest fish in the world! If you booked a car or van then you just need to wait at the hotel lobby, if you are riding the bus grab a cab and head to Cebu South Bus Terminal. It is approximately 3-4km away from the hotel. Ceres buses to Oslob leaves every 30 minutes.

6.00am

trip down south to Oslob

Whale Watching 101:

- ✓ No Touching! If possible, maintain a 4-feet distance from the *butanding*. If caught, you can be fined P2,500 or be imprisoned for 4-6 months.
- ✓ No Sunblock please. Chemicals on your sunblock may dilute in the water where the sharks feed.
- ✓ Snorkels, towels, underwater cameras, even showers are for rent on site
- ✓ The 30-minute Whale Watching costs P500 for Locals and P1,000 for foreigners.
- ✓ There are several snack bars, restaurants and souvenir shops in the area.
- ✓ The fishermen are more than willing to take photos and videos of you so just enjoy the whales and let them take care of your photos. Just make sure to leave them with a tip!

9.30am

Swim with the whale

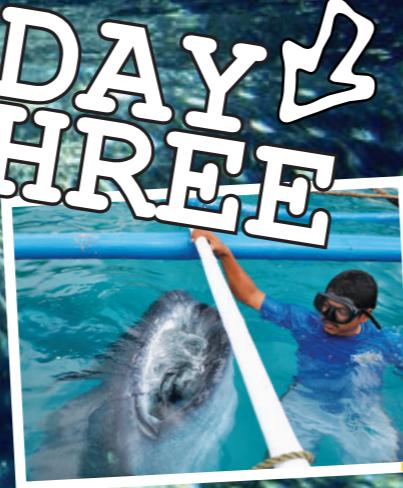
sharks! Upon reaching Oslob's whale watching site, the 4 hour drive will be worth it once you experience the *butanding*! These whale sharks are the biggest fish in the world. But as intimidating as they look, they are actually super gentle creatures; they are filter feeders which means they only feed on planktons, algae and small shrimps in the water.

11.00nn

Enjoy Lunch at Sumilon Island

Resort | Enjoy the island life on a day tour package at BluewaterSumilon Island Resort. For just P1,500 you get to eat Lunch, use the Pool, Jacuzzi, lounge in a hammock by the beach and Enjoy the famous White Sandbar of Sumilon Island. Round Trip Boat transfers are included!

DAY THREE



Enjoy Lunch at Sumilon Island Resort!



check-out, they usually allow free late check-outs until 2PM.

01.30pm Go back to the hotel and wish that you can pack like there's no tomorrow!

02.00pm Check out at the hotel, grab a cab and head over to Imperial Palace in Mactan Island.

02.45pm Check in the Yellow Submarine Counter and attend the Introduction

03.00pm



4.00pm

Travel Back to Cebu City

7.30pm

Arrive at the Hotel and Prepare for Dinner

| After that exhilarating whale experience, a great dinner is in order! After freshening up, grab a cab and head on to Alpa City Suites and enjoy their 3-course stone grill meal for only P888! You can choose from a selection of US Black Angus Beef Tenderloin, US Black Angus Beef Rib Eye or Seabass and Scallops and comes with soup and dessert.

10.30pm

Good music and beer at Maya Mexican Restaurant at the Crossroads

01.30am

Back to the hotel for a good night's sleep

09.00am

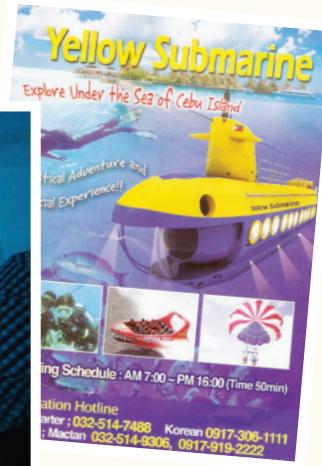
Late Buffet Brunch

No wake up calls today! A Late buffet brunch at the hotel is in order!

10.00am

Reserve a Yellow Submarine and more shopping.

You can ride an actual submarine in Cebu! Just call Imperial Palace Water Park and reserve your slot for the 3PM schedule of the Yellow Submarine. When that is done, time to do some mall hopping and go shop till you drop. Also, ask the hotel for a late



04.30pm

Chill at the Lobby of Imperial Palace, get some drinks and unwind

06.00pm

Grab a cab and head on to the airport. Airport dinner anyone?

09.00pm

Catch the flight back to Manila



TOUCH
DOWN
CEBU

The Shopping
Center's
72 hour
international airport in
the Queen City



Bunzie's Cove

A respite from the urban jungle.

by Liv G. Campo

As I alighted from the van, I noticed a rustic gate with a carved signage that indicated we have arrived. I suddenly felt being transported to an artist's lair. It is captivating yet, there is a certain charm that made it a cut above the rest.

The cool sea breeze and the comfort of the trees gave added to the entire look and feel of the beach villa that greeted me. It was a sanctuary that rests on a garden that seems to say... come and get in!

Bunzie's Cove is located in Maslog Provincial Road, Tabogon, Cebu, Philippines.



How to get there by public transit

From Cebu (via Bus):

- Head to the Cebu North Bus Terminal (ride a cab within the city and ask the driver to take you there).
- Take the bus going to Sogod (ask the driver or the ticket attendant to drop you off at Bunzie's Cove)
- Bunzie's Cove's main entrance is just along the highway.

Fare: Non-air conditioned P75.00, Air-conditioned P115.00 - may have changed from the last time I was there.

Anyway, I was mesmerized by the accommodation. It is termed as The Villa, and it's an embodiment of everything aesthetic and functional. The doorstep had been embedded with smooth rocks and the hardwood door has an angel carved on it. The Villa is the main house of the property and it used to be the vacation house of the Chen Family. When all the kids have grown up, the parents decided to buy the adjacent property and convert the other houses into accommodations for guests. Also, the entire place has a Pool that gives a majestic view of the sunrise.



THEY HAVE THE FOLLOWING ACCOMODATIONS:



The Look Out:

located near the swimming pool with an outdoor kitchen and dining area, it provides panoramic views of the ocean. This house can accommodate 10 people – with two floors (Lookout Up and Lookout Down), each with its own separate entrance and two queen-sized beds. It has an American Indian feel with a touch of the Safari. The art pieces will definitely get you comfortable in an outdoorsy and chill set up.



The Apartment:

located near the main villa on the north side of the cove. It has one queen-sized bed and two single beds, accommodating a maximum of four people. It has its own kitchen, dining area, and lounge area, perfect for a relaxing day away from the city. It has a cozy feel to it, perfect for couples who value adventure and relaxation.



Bunzie's Bar:

accommodates two people, providing a very cozy home in the midst of nature's beauty. It is a good hideaway for couples who love reading and values quiet, serene nights by the beach. The accommodation has more books than can be found at the Villa, allowing guests to venture into a world of imagination, fantasy and being isolated from the rest of the chaotic world. It is also quite vintage and rustic, with bamboo furnitures.



Cliffside Villa:

perfect for honeymooners, or friends who are in the verge of being lovers. It is also a great hideaway from the hustle and bustle of the city. It can be a good retreat for those who wanted to meditate by the crashing waves and the gentle ocean breeze. One of its very unique feature is its toilet is perched on the cliff rocks.

Aside from Bunzie's Cove

Here are some of the attractions that you will find interesting in Tabogon.



Headless Virgin

This is a headless statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. According to the locals - during the Spanish era, Moro invaders tried to seize Tabogon from the friars. Christianity has been starting to flourish and take root in the area. As a way of suppressing Christianity, the invaders beheaded the statue and it was abandoned. One night, a native of the area dreamt about a beautiful maiden, presumably The Virgin Mary asking for her statue to be sheltered in an old cave facing the sea and also, asked for a novena to be said on her behalf. To this very day, the statue is placed in a small cave facing the ocean adorned with stalactites and stalagmites. Below the cliff where it is placed are coral and rock formations that stood the test of time and the changing seasons.



Capitan Silio / Capitancillo Islet:

Accessed by small outrigger boats from the mainland, this island doesn't have any inhabitants sans the caretakers. This islet has a lighthouse that guides sea vessels on their journey. The island itself is a coral island, with sharp edges and crystal blue waters. It is approximately 30 mins to an hour travel by boat and the island is under the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Bogo. The locals narrated that the islet was somehow given to the former Mayor of Bogo by his assistant, a native of Tabogon. Another legend stated that the name Capitan Silio/ Capitancillo was derived from the name of the boat captain whose outrigger boat capsized on the same spot where the island can be found. The surrounding waters are home to abundant marine life and the water has less pollution than the rest of the areas in the province.



Salag Mangrove Park:

The swampy park is known for its clean water. Another interesting feature of the park is the Hanging Bridge. Some people find crossing the bridge to be quite a challenge - but what awaits at the other side is really worth the daring. At both ends of the bridge forests that both look and feel mysterious. The ends of the bridge are covered by a mysterious forest. Coming here will give you a relaxing time to recognize the worth of water and plants to our ecosystem.



Guiwanon Cold Spring

A cold spring, located in the northern part of Cebu. It is a medium-sized pool of clean and clear water. Tall trees surround the natural pool, giving visitors a chill place from the sun.



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(63 32) 231-9188

Site Location:

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Road, Pusok, Lapu-
Lapu City, Cebu

Buahangin-
Cabanfangan-
Indangan Road
Davao City

Showroom:

M.L. Quezon
Highway Pusok,
Lapu-Lapu City,
Mactan Island, Cebu

HLURB LS No. 029509
HLURB CVR AA-2016
Required Date of
Completion:
Dec. 31, 2016

Developed by:



A Member of the Gaisano
Grand Group of Companies



Chika-an offers a dining experience with a homey ambiance. It is proud to serve traditional Filipino dishes that it has perfected since it started serving Cebuano families. Among the best-sellers are *Crispy Pata*, *Mongo Soup*, *Sizzling Squid Ala Pobre*, *Utan Bisaya Soup*, *Baked Scallop* and a whole lot more.

Chika-an is an ideal casual dining restaurant where you can spend special moments with your family and friends. It is also a perfect place where you can hold business meetings or functions.

Chika-an will surely captivate the taste bud of every local and tourist and make them embrace the great-tasting Filipino tradition.

ENJOY SOUTH OF CEBU FOR A DAY!

- Liv G. Campo.

If Cebu is known as a travel destination, it is because of its blue seas and white sandy beaches. For years, Cebu has evolved from just a mere beach stop to a place of adventure, cultural and heritage destination and food!

In this article, I will show you how you can spend a day in the southern side of Cebu and maybe hop to its closer neighbor, Dumaguete City.



1

If you're feeling adventurous and would love to swim with whale sharks, your first stop to the south should be Oslob. From Cebu City, head to the South Bus Terminal and ride a Ceres Bus bound to Bato via Liloan. Tell the driver or 'conductor' to drop you off at Barangay Tan-awan, Oslob which is just along the highway. It is an estimated 3-4 hour ride from the terminal. Bus fare is around P155 per passenger.

If you're renting a private vehicle, by car - one way is about P3,000 and a van - one way is around P4,000. You could also take a Van for hire (more popularly known as V-hire) from the V-Hire Terminal in Junquera Street which costs around P250 per person. It would take you an estimated time of 2-2.5 hours to get to Oslob. It is best to leave Cebu City between 4:00-5:00 am so you'll be in Oslob by 8:00 am - the perfect time to see the whale sharks. Whale shark watching is only up until 12:00 noon, as the whale sharks need to be "released" back to their migratory path to rest and hunt for their food.

Oslob is famous for its whale sharks ("butandings"), which you can see up close for P500 per head (for locals) or P1,000 (for foreigners), that is already inclusive of a boat, a guide and snorkeling gear. The local government has feeders who give the whale sharks krill to keep it at bay while tourists admire them within a few feet away. At noon, the feeders will stop giving them krill, which signals them to leave and move to the open sea. They will, however, come back early in the morning the following day.

Whale shark watching takes only 30 minutes plus 30 minutes of preparation and changing of outfits - that is, if you come there early and the place is not too crowded. During summer, the tourist count can skyrocket to thousands in a day, so yeah, it is best to be there at the earliest time possible to avoid the queues.



2

tumalog falls

After your whale watching, you may want to wear the same outfit and head over to Tumalog Falls. It is about 15 minutes from the whale shark watching point. It's hidden at the foot of a mountain in Barangay Luka, Oslob. The road on the way there is already paved so you can actually bring your car right next to the falls. However, it is discouraged because the road is too steep. If you don't have a private vehicle, there are vans and motorcycles for hire at the whale shark watching area. A 'habal-habal' or the motorcycle costs around P200 per head, roundtrip; while a van's rate depends on the number of passengers. Also, there's a P20 entrance fee at the falls. Walking will do you good, as the place can be a perfect backdrop for a late breakfast, regaining the lost calories from walking. You may also want to take a dip in the cold natural pool there, just make sure to leave nothing but foot prints since littering is strictly prohibited.

So you'll have an idea what Tumalog Falls is: It is not the usual waterfall with rushing waters from above. Tumalog just sprinkles water similar to Cotabato's Asik-Asik Falls. It's like curtains of silky, delicate water silhouetting the green moss and vegetation of the mountain wall. The pool below is cold making it perfect to relax after your swim with the whale sharks.

3



sumilon island

After Tumalog Falls, you can head straight to Sumilon Island, which is located on the southeastern tip of the mainland (Bancogon, Oslob, Cebu). The resorts port for Sumilon is just near the whale shark watching area.

Sumilon Island is run by Bluewater Sumilon Island Resorts, you can choose to have a day tour there for P2000 per head (on weekdays and P2500 on weekends/holidays), and this is inclusive of roundtrip boat transfers, welcome drinks, lunch buffet, use of some of their facilities and Island adventure activities. Although they accept walk-ins for the day tour, it's highly encouraged to book a reservation ahead of time just in case the resort is full. The boat ride to Sumilon is estimated to be 7-10 minutes and follows a regular boat schedule between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Additional P1,500 for boat transfer requests in between the regular boat trip schedules. The place is a rock island surrounded by the blue ocean, and if you get lucky, the white sandbars on both sides will show up for you to spend the early afternoon in. The island also has an in-house reef open for snorkeling, and its belly a lagoon for kayaking and an infinity pool next to the bar and restaurant (all included in the day tour).

The entire half day spent on the island may not be enough, but if you still want to see more of the South you can dry up early and head back to the mainland to see Oslob's Heritage Park and perhaps gun for Dumaguete City, that is, if you want to try food-tripping at the Baywalk.



heritage park

From Barangay Tan-awan, it takes an estimate of 15 minutes by 'habal - habal' to get you to the ruins of Cuartel. The term Cuartel is Spanish for "barracks," which means it was built to house the Spanish army but was not completed following the arrival of the Americans in 1899. It was supposed to be the first line of defense of the naval forces of Spain in the town. In front of Cuartel stands the Nuestra Senora de la Immaculada Concepcion Church, built in 1830. Despite the church's plain yet imposing front it has a rich history while serving the religious needs of Oslob. It's made with coral stones quarried from the seas and paved using lime from seashell ashes featuring a high ceiling and a bell tower. And lastly Calle Aragones, the town's oldest street built in 1879.

If you leave Oslob at 6PM, you will be in Dumaguete City within an hour and a half, assuming the port is not busy with so many passengers. From Oslob, you can hail a Ceres bus going to Bato, tell the driver or the bus conductor to drop you off at the Liloan Port, Santander - bus fare is around P50 and an estimated 25-30 minutes ride. From the port, you will board a fastcraft going to Dumaguete City. Travel time is about 30-45 minutes and the ticket is P70 per head including the terminal fee. Once you arrive at the Sibulan Ferry Terminal, you can take a tricycle (chartered for P150) or multicab (P8 per head) to take you to Dumaguete City. Travel time is around 20-30 minutes.

5

dumaguete bay walk



6



silvanas

After your dinner, you may want to try Dumaguete's Silvanas and other pastries. You can ask any local for directions towards Sans Rival Bistro, which is walking distance from the Baywalk. You can have your fill of the city's well known Silvanas, cakes and other sweets. You can also take-out some for your friends or for yourself in case you crave for more. When you're done eating, you can take a stroll of the entire Baywalk strip or choose a comfy spot and chill out at one of the bars. It's the perfect way to end a day of adventure. If you plan to go back to Cebu, make your way back to Sibulan Ferry Terminal, ride a fast craft back to Liloan Port, Santander and hitch a ride on a Ceres Bus back to the Queen City of the South with an estimated 4 hours travel for P250 one way. I said just a day tour, but when in Cebu, you just can't get enough of the places to see, the food to eat and things to do. Plus, there's Dumaguete which is just a ferry ride away. So, if you can be in two places in one day, why not?

Since it's already night time, you may want to spend the night in Dumaguete City. Don't worry; there are still so many places to explore here. Dumaguete is a perfect place for a food-trip especially at the Baywalk, but first it's best to book a place to stay for the night. There are hotels and budget inns with rates starting at P600 per head (dormitory type) or more depending on the type of accommodation (hotels and etc). If you find it hard to choose where to stay, the locals/motorcycle drivers are friendly enough to suggest the best and affordable place that suits your budget.

Once you have found a hotel, it is time to hunt for dinner. Get yourself a tricycle, it is everywhere, being the main mode of transportation in the area, and ask to be brought to the Baywalk or Rizal Boulevard. The place at night time is filled with street vendors selling balut, tempura, barbecue and other exotic food. It is a long stretch of food stalls; so you can pick a place and dine with the locals and other tourists. If you don't fancy street food, there are restaurants within walking distance from the boulevard.

The Baywalk, is undoubtedly one of the most visited places in the city, nearby is the pride of Dumaguete, Silliman University, a vast 61-hectare land located at the very heart of the city. Built in 1901, is one of the best and biggest university in the Philippines.

Cebu's CULINARY WARRIOR

by Margaux Camaya

When I first visited Cebu in 2004, it was customary for tourists to flock to any of the sutukil restaurants (sinugba, tinuwa, kilaw) located near the Mactan Shrine or taste the barbecue in Larsian's in Fuente Osmena. Lechon (roasted pig) and the famous puso (rice cooked in coconut fronds) were the two other food variants that people associate Cebu with. I, initially, thought that Cebuano cuisine was just about grilling meat, clear fish broths, and raw seafood.

Having lived in Cebu for the past thirteen years had opened my eyes to the numerous heirloom recipes that abound this Visayan island. Traveling in and around the different cities and municipalities of the province will introduce you to an array of robust flavors and taste. Cebu has an eclectic food heritage that is waiting to be discovered and known not just in the Philippines but throughout the world. Proponents of Cebuano cuisines have been vocal about the potential of what the province can offer and that have slowly gained a following among food enthusiasts.

KITCHEN STORIES

My Kapampangan grandfather was hired as a cook by the American Liberation forces during the latter years of World War II. It was at that time that he learned how to prepare American-style pot roast, mashed potatoes, tuna and egg salad, and corned beef hash. He went on to work at the prestigious Manila Hotel until his retirement in the 1970s. I remember that whenever we visited them during holidays, my grandfather would cook these staple dishes. Being one of the younger grandchildren, one thing that I regret was not grasping the importance of acquiring his recipes. The only dish I became proficient with was his version of the corned beef hash.

My dad's cooking story is different. He was the seventh child out of eighth and he spent a lot more time with my grandmother during his childhood. He gained his skills in the kitchen through his mother. Her style was distinctly more Filipino compared to my grandfather's. When I was still living with my parents in Manila, it was quite a treat to watch my dad make his special chicken arroz caldo. He would quietly and masterfully go through cooking this dish without missing a beat. Arroz caldo is a simple and uncomplicated meal but it invokes a sense of comfort because of how it was cooked and who made it.

Most of our culinary experts shared the same experiences growing up. They learned to be passionate with food because of their family members who guided them in the intricacies of the kitchen. Parklane International Executive Chef June Rhoses Fernandez shared that he helped out in his grandparent's cindereria business when he was a young lad.

EAT WHAT THE CEBUANOS EAT

Over the years, we have seen the growth of restaurants specializing in local food. More and more people are clamoring for authentic Cebuano fare. With people becoming more mobile and connected, food tourism has become the new norm. Traveling to a place is not only limited to visiting landmarks or popular attractions, but also tasting the delicacies that's available. The southern town of Argao is known for its torta that uses tuba (coconut liquor) as a leavening agent; Dumanjug has its Bisnok or Bisayang Manok; Sibonga has their own version of Adubaw nga Nokus; Oslob's pride is the masa podrida, a flaky flower-shaped cookie often filled with raisins or grated coconut; Aloquinsan has a fish dish called tinubaang tinunoang kinsan. And you cannot leave Cebu without stuffing yourself with Chinese ngohiong, a type of fried spring roll stuffed with ubod (heart of the coconut) and five spice that we adapted from the Chinese to make it our own.

CULINARY HERITAGE WARRIOR

As the world becomes more dynamic and ever-changing, there's still a few that has stayed true to their heart and continued cooking, continuously bringing joy to those who are lucky to partake of their creations.

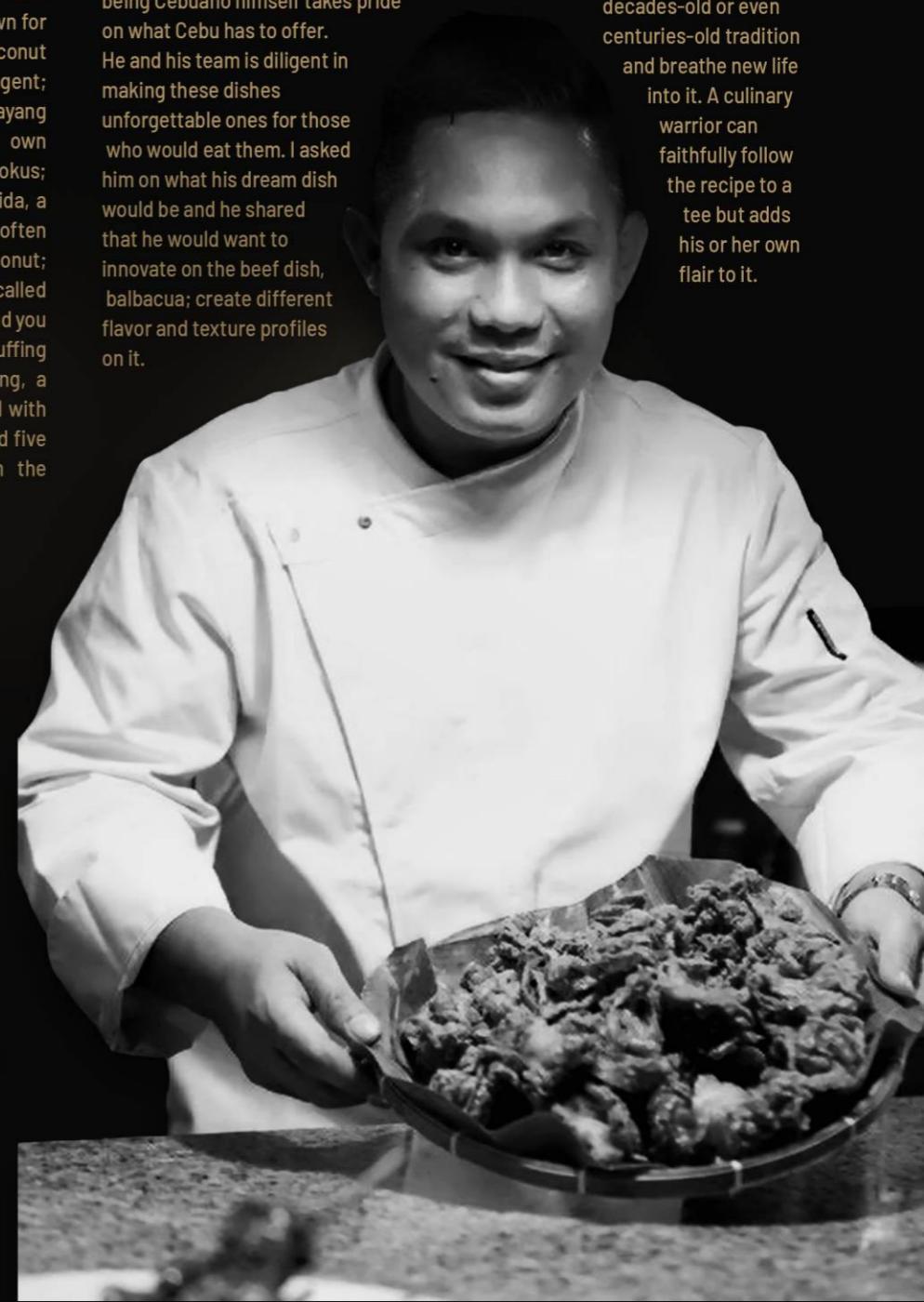
One of them is Cebu Parklane International Hotel's Executive Chef June Rhoses Fernandez, a strong advocate of Cebuano cuisine.

The hotel's Kan-anan restaurant highlights the importance of introducing guests and diners to the numerous food offerings that Cebu has to show. Chef June has also traveled abroad to promote Cebuano cooking.

The hotel's annual Sangka sa Kaha continues the culinary heritage of every town and municipality of Cebu by putting a spotlight on these local dishes and desserts. Chef June being Cebuano himself takes pride on what Cebu has to offer. He and his team is diligent in making these dishes unforgettable ones for those who would eat them. I asked him on what his dream dish would be and he shared that he would want to innovate on the beef dish, balbacua; create different flavor and texture profiles on it.

The balbacua is made of beef trotters, oxtail, and skin which is slow-cooked for hours. It's considered by many Cebuanos as the perfect hangover food with its gelatinous texture and spicy sauce. Chef June is happy that other hotels and local restaurants have started emulating what they are doing. It does mean competition for them but what is important is promoting Cebu as a culinary powerhouse.

Who is a Cebu culinary warrior? It is someone who is not afraid to revive decades-old or even centuries-old tradition and breathe new life into it. A culinary warrior can faithfully follow the recipe to a tee but adds his or her own flair to it.



Girl Meets Eats, Eats Meats

By: Tessa Frances T. Aguilar

*Salads are green.
Yes, they make a girl slim,
But let's not kid ourselves,
All she really wants to eat is a plateful of meat.*

This might not have come from Shakespeare folks but the age old truth speaks volumes when one's eating in a restaurant for the first time and hoping to fall in love with their local and/or foreign dishes.

It is a daunting task to choose ones first meal in this situation, as first orders leave a craving first impression towards the restaurant. Others tend to spend this honeymoon face salivating over salads or deserts but one thing is for sure, you can never go wrong with pork dishes.

And trust Cebu City, with its collection of restaurants and food parks, to satisfy your meaty cravings.

PIG AND PALM

Imagine generous portions of bacon, placed in gaps of pancakes topped with sunny side up egg, what a mouth watering morning treat. The bacon in this favorite western breakfast dish is cut in lean strips with the perfect balance of seasonings. The pig might be the hero but the pancake's soft fluffy texture complements the earthy taste of the bacon. In a word picture, one might peg it as the pig sitting in a cloud of pancakes shone by an egg, this masterpiece comes from the breakfast menu of The Pig and Palm.



The 16th restaurant from Michelin-starred British Chef Jason Altherton's The Social Company and his first in the Philippines, Pig and Palm offers an array of delectable pig-based dishes, featuring ingredients sourced from local farms of Cebu. The choice of location, Cebu City, is a thoughtful romantic gesture from Chef Altherton in honor of his wife's Irha Altherton's hometown. The menu is a modern take of tapas-style sharing dishes that pays homage to the best Filipino produce, truly a success by both Chef Altherton and Chef Jamie Doe who developed the menu. **Dishes like the Goats Cheese Churros, Devilled Whitebait, Charred Lemon, Tartare Sauce, Pumpkin Risotto** dishes are three out of the many artistic savory concoctions that truly inspires the mouth and the spirit to savor. Gorging these plates with the cocktail blends of group bar executive Jay Doy, over the old Spanish colonial aura of the restaurant, designed by Shanghai-based studio Neri & Hu, is a dining experience of gastronomic proportions. The Pig and Palm is nestled deep in the Cebu Business Park, in the MSY Tower at Pescadores Road.





BALAY SA BUSAY

One of life's greatest pleasures is dining with golden crackling Adobo in tow. Cebuanos could trace back some of their best eating experiences with this deep fried pork dish. Imagine it paired with fish sauce mixed with vinegar, diced onions and hints of lemonsito and a plateful of steaming hot rice, surely you'd go hungry. The best Adobos are those that crackle at first bite, made of pork fat and skin that sacrificed its flavor for a



The pop and crack of their Adobong Binisaya ni Bebe are what Balay sa Busay has perfected. Clearly this home away from home nestled on top of the steep hills of Cebu City, has everyone enthralled not only for its food but the gorgeous panoramic view of the city. With meal sets good for 4 Balay sa Busay is a perfect dining spot for groups, hosting a wide dining area in its stretching balconies. Their dishes extend from seafoods like the *Grilled Tuna Belly* and *Filipino flavored soups* like the *Lechon Tinola ni Lolo* and *Larang sa Busay*. Their meat selection holds staple dishes like the *Hamonada sa among Bukid*, *Honey Chili Wings*, and *Chicken Skin Barbecue*. With the price that ranges from 75 to 1,799 pesos, their appetizers, cocktail, juices and drinks selection is worth the trip.

LARSIAN

Meeting in restaurants is like shaking hands with the locals, with a plateful of meat you'll get to know what it's like to eat the dishes of the Cebuanos grew up having. Larsian for one has become a mecca of the classic and unique barbecue style dishes that are staple food at any Filipino feast. A food park that supplies a stretch of barbecue stalls that grill pork, chicken, fish and some other parts of the pig in a skew. The Isaw or grilled meat intestine, for one is a local favorite. Usually drizzled in ketchup, oil and soy sauce, Isaw is a common dish prepared by many grills in Larsian. It's best paired with puso, is rice wrapped and boiled in a triangular casing made of woven coconut leaves.



Larsian also offers other favorite local dishes like Tinola or fish soup and Kinilaw or ceviche, raw fish fillet cut into cubes and cured in a mixture of calamansi juice, fresh ginger, onion, chili, and seasonings. Their food ranges from 7 to 500 pesos and they are situated just a block away from the famous Fuente Osmena Circle.

Eating at new restaurants can sometimes be overwhelming but treat it like a date; with great company, engaging in good conversation and a meaty meal one might just have a good time.

CHIKAAN

The pork belly, there are many ways one can have his/her way with this glorious part of the pig. Stew it or fry it, this tender cut will never disappoint, but grilling is probably the best idea. Chikaan sa Cebu for one has done wonders in their Grilled Pork Belly, the rub hints an incredible balance of sweetness with cues of pepper that tangles perfectly with the meat. The cookery retains the pig's natural juiciness sponged by the tender meat and paired by the tangy flavor of the Achara, pickled vegetable, making sure that each mouthful is a treat to the palate.

Chikaan is one of the restaurants under the Creative Cuisine Group, managed by the Dytian Family. A restaurant that puts the Cebuano cuisine at its core, it offers an authentic Pinoy experience from its array of Filipino dishes. The executive chef, the middle child of the Dytian siblings, is the man behind its proud Pinoy classics like the *Crispy Pata*, *Chorizo*, *Pancit Guisado*, and *Bistek Cebuana*. The warm open dining area that caters to long tables is reminiscent of a Filipino abode, taking one back to its roots, dining with family which only goes to show a very Pinoy trait towards food; it's best shared. You can find one of Chikaan sa Cebu's branches in Ayala Cebu Center.





Cebuano Style Roasted Pig

*Whole Lechon, Spicy Lechon, Lechon belly,
or in any what you want it!*



Best Pig Ever.

— ANTHONY BOURDAIN, 2.16.09

WE HAVE NO RESERVATIONS ABOUT ANTHONY BOURDAIN'S BEST PIG EVER!

**FEATURING TIME MAGAZINE'S BEST OF ASIA:
CEBU LECHON**

For the love of all things porcine, the internationally acclaimed celebrity chef and Travel Living Channel host Anthony Bourdain visited the tropical island of Cebu for his hit TV Series, *No Reservations* and found what he dubbed as "the best pig ever".

Yes indeed. This little piggy is our island tradition much like scones and clotted cream are to the English, this slow-roasted succulent pig better known as *lechon* is one of Cebu's very best. Everyday domestic airlines carry these delicious mouth-watering pieces of cargo from Cebu and to the various neighboring islands that crave this porky delicacy. For visiting tourists and travellers, the convenience of taking home some of Cebu's best and ever-so-famous *lechon* is easy and readily available at the pre-departure area of the Mactan Cebu International Airport for just under Php 500 / kilo.



DIAL-A-CHON

WHERE THE LECHON BASE IS
WHERE TO FIND LECHON WHEN IN CEBU:

RICO'S LECHON

Rico's Lechon Mactan Promenade
AirPort Road, Lapu-Lapu City Cebu
032-383-1498
+63 917 111 3000



Mactan Promenade

The Cebuano's lechon dining experience has gotten even better with Rico's Lechon new menu offering on top of Cebu's best Lechon, which is known for its crispy skin and savoury meat.

Rico's Lechon is pleased to offer our banquet function room with its pride of offering affordable, authentic and da best Cebuano dishes.

A venue with a customized banquet package for all occasion, such as birthday, baptism, corporate functions, wedding rehearsal lunch/dinner, anniversaries, induction, etcetera.

CnT LECHON

Arcade in Banilad

The most popular lechon brand with tourists with branches at SM North Reclamation Area, Consolacion, SM Supermarket and Food Choices at the Ayala Center Cebu. No nonsense lechon, great for feeding big groups.



ZUBUCHON

Gen. Maxilom Ave., Cebu City
Escario Central Mall, Escario St.
Beside USC-TC in Talamban, Cebu City
ML Quezon Ave., Lapu Lapu City
(032) 505.0130 / 511.0005

Zubuchon has evolved from lechon brand to a lechon haven and casual dining restaurant that is a temple to lechon-lovers and Filipino culinary enthusiasts serving everything from kamias shakes to lechon in a number of ways that it can be served.



AYERS

Salinas Drive (near AA's BBQ), Cebu City
(032) 231 7615

Cebu's Ayer Lechon is one of Cebu's emerging as a supplier of nothing less but the best tasting crispy lechon. It is rapidly becoming known to deliver sumptuous, tender juicy native lechon that last longer. For special orders, you can order online at www.ayerlechon.com.



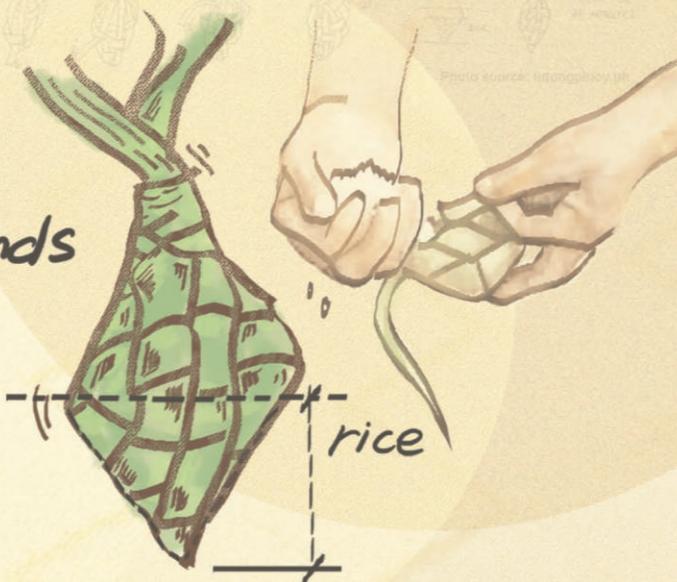
Best Pig Ever.

— ANTHONY BOURDAIN, 2.16.09

ANATOMY OF THE PUSO

Palm
Strands

The lifeblood of all things Cebu, puso (pronounced with a hard accent on the “so”) is a heart or diamond shaped coco palm weave that is an age-old tradition in the island lifestyle that is still practiced today. The hanging rice is very popular in Cebu because in the old days, this was an effective way to transport rice and many fishermen would bring these rice pouches with them at sea. It's mobility has made it practical and convenient and today, the people of Cebu still practice this inexpensive tradition and there is no better way to experience the island's culture than to dine with the many different varieties and styles that this little packet best pairs with! Puso can cost you anywhere between Php 2 to Php 5 pesos and can be weaved in 7 known weaving techniques and vary in size. Take notice of this little treat as you explore the street culture of the Cebu today!



Puso is best paired with:

NGOHIONG

your average oversized spring roll but better, crunchier, and totally satisfying! Go to Ateks Nohiong Train, Pres. Roxas St. Mabolo, Cebu.

ISOL

Otherwise known as the chicken tail, this is another trademark of Philippine street Food Culture. Check out this dish at Sunburst Fried Chicken located in Asiatown IT Park, Lahug.

LECHON

The first thing that comes to mind when anyone mentions the island of Cebu is the famous lechon which is also known to some as the roasted pig. Cebu lechon is sheer perfection – crispy on the outside, flavorful, and delicious. See page 31 for more information on where to get these porky delights!



CHICHARON BULAKLAK

When in Cebu City, pork (is obviously) a Filipino preference and one of the specialties of the island and this crispy, chewy, crunchy treat is prepared in a variety of ways. Try this at the Chika-an, Salinas drive, Lahug Area.



Do you dream of taking a holiday in some exotic tropical island?

If you've never been to Cebu or even heard of the place, then it's time you checked out this little piece of paradise. Picture white sand beaches surrounded by stunning turquoise blue waters – without the crowds! Cebu offers any beach aficionado the perfect piece of sunny tropical paradise from end to end, for everyone.

THE BEACHES OF MACTAN | LAID-BACK BANTAYAN | BREATHTAKING MALAPASCUA |

If your holiday is more about pampering and spoiling yourself then the beaches of Mactan is your go-to destination.

Here, you'll find some of the finest luxury resorts like the Shangri-La Mactan Island Resort, Abaca Boutique Resort & Spa, The Movenpick, Crimson, Imperial Palace and Plantation Bay.

Places like the Changri-la and Imperial Palace in Mactan offer day passes roughly at around P 2,500 per person and fully inclusive of resort amenity use and lunch buffet.

Bantayan Island is blessed with picture perfect white sand beaches (possibly one of the best in the country) and most months in the year, you have the beach all to yourself!

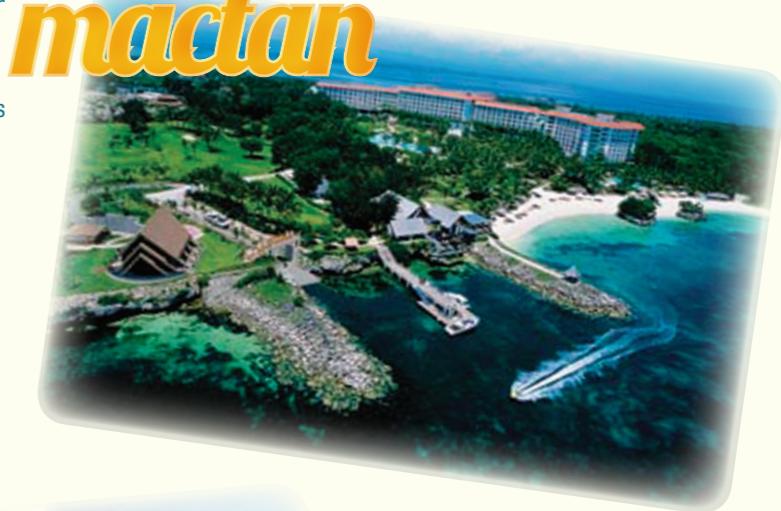


malapascua

Malapascua is a tiny island that packs more than most for any holidaymaker out for adventure in the tropics. The island has become synonymous to thresher sharks offering numerous dive sites, rich coral reefs and beautiful, white sand beaches. Bounty Beach, the island's main tourist destination, a perfect place to relax and chill out in after a long day. Perfect!



mactan



The small town of Sta. Fe Bantayan is a sleepy, laid-back little village so don't expect loud music and barhopping for the wee hours of the evening. For adventure, you must check out the surrounding virgin islands of Kinatarkan and take a dip in the crystal clear waters.

An excellent trip for any traveller looking for a relaxed, lazy holiday inspired by nothing but water.

Island hopping!

Summertime sun and island fun is the epitome of Cebu's island hopping culture. Be refreshed by the cool blue waters, relax to the sweet lulling waves crashing under you and take in the seascape and all that each little island offers you to explore. It is panoramic perfection and one of life's sweetest escapes! Here are some islands you might want to visit while on your island hopping adventure:



THE NORTH SAND BAR

is an hour and thirty minutes away from the banca dock in Mactan. Here, it's easy to imagine what life would be like if you owned your own island. Serene and peaceful, it is an ideal destination to spend a sunny day out swimming and lounging with friends and family.

PANDANON ISLAND

is technically part of Bohol and is almost two hours away from Mactan. You'll know you are close to the island when you see a big white house in the middle of the sea. Pandanon features a long stretch of white sand beach which is ideal for picnics and sun-kissed afternoons best spent tanning on its pristine shores!

WHEN IN A FISH SANCTUARY - YOU CAN'T CATCH THE FISH!

HILUTUNGAN is a marine sanctuary and is roughly thirty to forty-five minutes away from Mactan. This destination is a favorite among divers and snorklers. As the island is home to many types of tropical fish and lush coral gardens, fish feeding is something worthwhile to experience when visiting Hilutungan. These fish do not hesitate to get up close and personal - they're quite friendly.



ISLAND HOPPING 101



REMEMBER TO BRING SUNSCREEN!
Philippine conditions can get hot so make sure you go for SPF30!

- ✓ pack food and drinks for the trip
- ✓ pack sunblock, tanning oil, towel, sunglasses
- ✓ get to the pier early - book the boat - map the route
- ✓ prepare extra cash for entrance fees and docking charges
- ✓ have fun and enjoy your day spent island hopping!



BOOKING YOUR BOAT.

Start your day early and head down to the Punta Engano pier area. There will be many bancas available for charter and you can try to haggle for the best rates the local boatmen can offer you and your group. Remember to choose a boat that you and your group can all fit and sit comfortably.

For a more simplified approach to finding the right boat for your island hopping adventure, we recommend booking with full-service providers like Fun & Sun and Islands Banca Cruise. It is easier to book with these guys because they have preset packages and offer a world of convenience with a full set of service crew, speakers, snorkeling gear and even kayaks for you to use throughout the day. Again, prices are completely dependent on how far it is to your preferred island hopping destination, the boat size as well as the number of people who

are going on the trip. Typically, day rates and banca can range from Php 3,000 – Php 15,000.

MAPPING YOUR ROUTE.

If you plan your trip right you are more likely to get your money's worth. No one knows these islands better than these boatmen and if you tell them what you want to see and give them an idea of where you want to go, they will be able to advise you properly and help you plan your island hopping route. Sometimes, you don't have to go very far to get the perfect experience. These locals know the time of the tide, the weather conditions and make a living off the sea so their input is definitely worth its weight

BE SMART. BRING YOUR OWN FOOD AND DRINKS.

Common sense will tell you that it is not easy to find foodstuff and cold beers out at sea and if you don't bring your own and prepare beforehand this can be a big inconvenience for you. Even if you decide to stop for lunch at Cau-uy (the floating restaurant) you will most definitely need a whole range of supplies like ice, bottles of water, beers, chips, snacks and other things to consume throughout the day. Best be smart and always come prepared. Put that cooler and snack tote to good use!

BE MINDFUL OF THE EXTRA CHARGES.

Take note that some islands charge a docking fee (sometimes, even corkage fees!) and collectors can charge a premium price especially if you are a foreigner. Get the locals to do all of the talking for you or get the boatmen to make the arrangements so that you have all these fees cleared and sorted out before you dock. Don't forget to ask for a receipt!

WHAT'S IN YOUR BEACH BAG?



My Underwater Escape



By: Jan Salise

Kontiki Marina - Maribago, Lapu-Lapu City

Since I had learned how to scuba dive 2 years ago, Kontiki Marina in Maribago, Lapu-Lapu has been a favourite haven for my occasional need for an underwater escape.

Growing up watching my favourite Disney movie, The Little Mermaid, unfolded my fascination about the life underwater and sparked my desire to become a mermaid, like Princess Ariel. As a confused and rebellious kid, her inquisitiveness and desire for belongingness was deeply personal and extremely relatable. A good part of my childhood had been about praying hard for a divine intervention to become a real mermaid and live permanently underwater away from the worries of the world. I'd later realize that becoming a mermaid wasn't possible but continued to hold on to my longing to one day experience life underwater. That day came when I met my dive instructor Wayne 3 years ago. Hearing him talk about his underwater adventures brought back that familiar childhood dream and got me influenced in getting certified as a scuba diver.

I officially became an Open Water Scuba Diver last March, 2016 in Panglao, Bohol and scuba diving has since become one of my steadfast passions. Gliding underwater, flying up and down, and enjoying the sight while feeling weightless is an incomparable experience that got me hooked.

When the need for underwater therapy calls, scuba diving is readily available for me at Kontiki Marina. Located approximately 40 minutes away from Cebu City and about 20 minutes away from the Mactan-Cebu International Airport, this beachfront property has been a popular dive destination for many scuba divers and free divers because of its convenient proximity from the city. It is an accessible and affordable diving place for people working and staying in Cebu and Mactan. They offer nice and clean air-conditioned rooms, and they also have a restaurant that serves both local and international dishes. Instructor Wayne 3 years ago. Hearing him talk about his underwater adventures brought back that familiar childhood dream and got me influenced in getting certified as a scuba diver.

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Gliding underwater, flying up and down, and enjoying the sight while feeling weightless is an incomparable experience that got me hooked.

As a dive site, Kontiki Marina is a 10 meter shore swim from the entry point to the sea wall. A flat, shallow area of the dive site is covered in white sand and sea grass making it an ideal confined water training environment to students and novice divers working on their underwater trim. With only a short swim from the shore, the most interesting part of this dive site is the 60 meter dramatic wall drop covered in beds of endless vibrant corals. An excellent site for night dives, the marina is home to a variety of tiny and colourful nudibranchs, sponges, anemones, soft and hard corals, crabs, shrimps and octopuses.

This mermaid wannabe may not have a happily ever after ending like Ariel did; but diving has always given me a renewed, energized feeling and a more positive disposition after every dive. Being underwater is like being in a candy shop; it is always an exciting feeling leaving me in an adrenaline rush every time I signal to descend. This whole experience without leaving the comforts of home is the best part of my dive experience.

TOP FIVE

Cebu Dive spots

- 2 MOALBOAL REEF
- 3 SUNKEN ISLAND

Is for experienced divers only and is an underwater pinnacle that draws international and local underwater photographers who frequent the area to shoot the big schools of lion fish, barracuda, grouper, snapper, and blue triggerfish. In this area, one must drop through 25m of blue open water and strong currents are usually present because of the underwater mountain that Sunken Island features. Great schools of jack fish and mackerel as well as the occasional manta ray can be found in this dive site.

1 PESCADOR ISLAND

Pescador Island is noted for its encounters with white tips and hammerhead sharks and coral gardens that don't require a deep plunge. Here you will find a spectacular 40m plus drop-off point that is home to an underwater cathedral called the Pescador Cathedral and here you will see some of the most beautiful, untouched marine life, underwater cavers, overhangs and cliffs

4 MALAPASCUA

MALAPASCUA is on the Northern side of the island of Cebu and features a great variety of dive sites. Famous for its coral reefs, wreck dives, sandy muck dives, magnificent wall dives and so much more! It is because the dive life and wild life in this area is so different and its location is subject to so many different influences that give so much variety to this island. From seahorses to frogfish, scorpion fish to thresher sharks, manta rays, eagle rays, sting rays and steep walls dropping off into the deep blue it isn't a wonder why many divers call Malapascua one of the best dive spots in the world.

WRECK DIVING IN MALAPASCUA will show you a 100m long passenger ferry that sank over 20 years ago. Amazingly still in one piece, this is home to a giant moray eel and diving within the wreck is an exciting underwater adventure even for the most seasoned and experienced divers. You can see marble rays, blue-spotted rays and white tip shark



5 HILUTUNGAN

MACTAN ISLAND, HILUTUNGAN AND NALUSUAN offer great and lively reefs perfect for introductory dives and newbie divers. Since these sites are mostly sanctuaries, they are littered with tropical schools of fish and are the easily accessible from the beaches of Mactan. The most conveniently located dive sites in the island.

Discovering Cebu's Finest

By: Liv Ocampo

For most people coming to Cebu means lounging in white-sandy beaches, eating like kings (and queens) and taking home a pack of its popular Dried Mangoes.

You need to bring home this delicacy to satisfy your cravings, 'pasalubong' for your family and friends. But it's not just dried mangoes the Queen City of the South is famous for. Here are the other best Cebu products that tourists, local and foreign, can try whenever they come to the province:



Dried Mango



Danggit

1 Needless to say, it's on top of the list. Cebu, being one of the producers of sweet mangoes all over the world, concocted this delicacy to bring its distinctive taste home here in the Philippines and abroad. Preserving mangoes through drying is one the best and easiest ways to keep its distinctive taste that will surely leave you craving for more without having to worry about shipping or handling and extending its shelf life. There are many local factories who manufacture dried mangoes (7D, Cebu Profood, Cebu Delights etc), and their products are sold almost everywhere in the metro. When in Cebu, you have better chances of finding this delicacy than finding Nemo.

2 If you are in a breakfast buffet in Cebu, Danggit is a breakfast staple. Salted, sun-dried rabbitfish (spinefoot), this delicacy is sourced from the shallow seas of Bantayan, an island in the north. They're readily available in Taboan which is just a few minutes ride within the city. It is best that you hail a cab and ask to be taken to Taboan Market. The place is very popular among Cebuanos so no cab driver can make a mistake of not finding it.

These are just a few of Cebu's many local products that visitors can bring home as pasalubong. Each of Cebu's 50 towns and cities have unique products and delicacies - a project started by the Cebu Provincial Government encourages tourists, especially the balikbayans, to come to these places to explore the rich culture and heritage they have to offer..

3 Cebu is located at the center of the Philippines which is a tropical country, hence it's usually humid. This is why you see people from all walks of life with a fan whenever they go to enclosed public places, especially in Churches. Being convenient and low cost, the Buri Fan is a favorite among Cebuanos. In this day and age of technology where portable rechargeable fans are gaining popularity, these fans do fairly well with no batteries needed. These fans are made using Buri Palm leaves and handwoven by the locals. These are available in Souvenir shops and Pasalubong Centers. They're a lot cheaper if you buy in bulk from Taboan or Carbon Public Market.



Acoustic Guitars



Hablon



Furnitures

4 If you've been to Cebu, you have probably had come across guitars in a variety of shapes and sizes lined up in shelves or hanging in rafters in souvenir shops. Lapu-Lapu City in Mactan is home to a number of guitar manufacturers in Cebu, making it the Guitar Capital of the Philippines. The popular ones are Alegre Guitars, Inday Celia's Guitars, Susing's Guitars, and Ferangeli, known for their guitars, ukuleles, banjos, bandurrias, and mandolins. Before heading to Lapu-Lapu City, make sure you do your homework. Search online for all the shops in the area and compare prices. Also, bring along a knowledgeable friend, guide or a local. When you visit these shops, try to haggle. If you're lucky enough, the shop might give you a big discount.

5 The term hablon comes from the Cebuano word for blanket or habol. The same word also means to cover something with a piece of cloth. While the correct term used to call the product of the process is hinablon, the term hablon is also used for the hand-woven fabric. A local product of Cebu, is a cloth manually woven by the women of Argao. Hablon is a traditional weaving process that makes use of a handloom, and materials such as abaca fibers, polyester, tingkal (cotton strands), and other local materials. The finished products are usually in the form of mats, scarves or blankets. These are now available in some big name stores in Cebu, like Rustans and some parts Metro Manila.

6 If you've been to Cebu, you have probably had come across guitars in a variety of shapes and sizes lined up in shelves or hanging in rafters in souvenir shops. Lapu-Lapu City in Mactan is home to a number of guitar manufacturers in Cebu, making it the Guitar Capital of the Philippines. The popular ones are Alegre Guitars, Inday Celia's Guitars, Susing's Guitars, and Ferangeli, known for their guitars, ukuleles, banjos, bandurrias, and mandolins. Before heading to Lapu-Lapu City, make sure you do your homework. Search online for all the shops in the area and compare prices. Also, bring along a knowledgeable friend, guide or a local. When you visit these shops, try to haggle. If you're lucky enough, the shop might give you a big discount.



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CHIONG HUA HOSPITAL
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ARAGAO
346.9292
LAPU-LAPU DISTRICT HOSPITAL
340.0248
MACTAN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
340.3721
MACTAN DOCTOR'S HOSPITAL
341.0000
MANDAUE CITY HOSPITAL
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NATIONAL RED CROSS
253.4611
NORTH GENERAL HOSPITAL
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PERPETUAL SUCCORS HOSPITAL
233.8620
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SOUTH GENERAL HOSPITAL
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SPIDER TAXI
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166
FIRE DEPARTMENT
160



POLICE STATIONS

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367.7166
CEBU NORTH ROAD PS03
343.9891
CEBU CITY POLICE OFFICE
231.5802
LILAOAN POLICE STATION
564.2200
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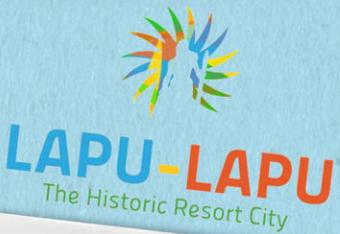
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