



Photo: Thita Lerdsiwanon/Shutterstock.com



Refereed to locally as "queen of the south," Cebu, the country's oldest city, has now become its favourite tourist destination. With a keen choice of historical sights, long stretches of white sand beaches, excellent year-round scuba and water sport action, choice of dining, exciting nightlife and, of course, the famous warm hospitality, it's no surprise that visitor numbers, new hotels and tourist attractions are increasing.

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TAKE THE QUIZ



Top 5

Magellan's Cross

Fort San Pedro

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Olango

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THE CITY



SimonHS/Shutterstock.com

In the heart of the Philippine archipelago, Cebu is at once the island, metropolitan area and provincial capital. The seat of Christianity in the Philippines since Ferdinand Magellan first planted a cross on the shoreline, the city has played host to a number of mixed foreign settlers who left a lasting impression on the landscape and culture.

Spain, particularly, has had a strong colonial presence and Catholic legacy. As a centre for trade, commerce, arts and education the city is a mishmash of the old and new, and offers a real flavor of Philippine life in all its guises. The lust for life is apparent 24 hours a day, the common usage of English makes everything quite simple and the welcoming smiles of the locals seem to greet you wherever you go.

DO & SEE



Dudarev Mikhail/Shutterstock.com

Since Cebu was the first Spanish settlement in the Philippines, the city has a lot of historical attractions to offer its visitors. The large sea port and air hub has also contributed to the modernisation of the city and the urban culture mix with the old heritage. Cebu offers its visitors a unique experience.

Magellan's Cross



Housed in a kiosk, this iconic and much prized monument marks the spot where the explorer Ferdinand Magellan planted a cross after

baptising the first Filippinos, so creating Cebu as the cradle of Christianity in the Philippines. Look skywards to admire the ceiling paintings depicting the historical event.

Photo: Ron Frank/Shutterstock.com Address: P. Burgos Street, Cebu City Opening hours: Every day 8am - 6pm Phone: +63 32 416 4579

Basilica Minore del Santo Niño



Basilica Minore del Santo Niño was the first Asian basilica, built in 1740. It teems with devotees clambering to catch a glimpse of the oldest and

most celebrated religious icon in the Philippines, the Santo Niño statue, presented to Queen Juana of Cebu by Magellan.

Photo: shankar s. (image cropped) Address: Osmeña Boulevard, Cebu City Phone: +63 32 255 6697 Internet: www.basilicasantonino.org.ph

Fort San Pedro



Built in 1740 as a nucleus for Spanish settlers, this is the smallest and oldest tri-bastion fort in the country. The green setting makes this fine

little fort a good place to take a breather from Cebu City's chaotic streets. Within the bastion is the Regional National Museum, which from Wednesday to Sunday, exhibits artifacts from the San Diego ship wreck.

Photo: Kuz'min Pavel/Shutterstock.com Address: A. Pigafetta Street, Cebu City Opening hours: Every day 8am - 7pm Phone: +63 32 256 2284

Jumalon Butterfly Sanctuary



Jumalon Butterfly Sanctuary is a large collection of moth and butterfly species, kept in a lush botanical garden. The artist J.N. Jumalon

uses the discarded wings and other everyday objects to create the eye-catching mosaics on

display in the attached gallery.

Photo: unmillonedeelefantes/Shutterstock.com Address: J. N. Jumalon St., Basak, Pardo, Cebu City Opening hours: Every day 9am - 5pm Phone: +63 32 261 6884 Internet: www.jumalonbutterflysanctuary.com Email: humaidajumalon@yahoo.com.ph

Olango



Twice a year during winter and spring, on one of the most important migratory flyways in the world, tens of thousands of birds touch down on

this small island to rest their weary bodies. Plovers, red shanks, egrets and sandpipers are just some of the winged visitors that can be seen here.

Photo: Kristina Vackova/Shutterstock.com Address: Olango Island, Lapu-Lapu City

Crocolandia



This is a nature park and a smallish zoo hosting crocodiles, birds, lizards and other such creatures that will make the children squeal. In

addition on display are some protected plant species. There is also a gift shop and café.

Photo: Ammit Jack/Shutterstock.com Address: Biasong, Talisay City Opening hours: Every day 9am - 5pm Phone: +63 32 273 1842 Internet: www.crocolandia.weebly.com Email: crocolandia foundation@yahoo.com

Cebu Country Club



Cebu Country Club is a tranquil oasis and popular golf course situated just a few minutes from the heart of the city. It is spread over

an area of 52 hectares of former sugar plantations.

Photo: Mikael Damkier/Shutterstock.com Address: M. J. Cuenco Avenue, Cebu City Phone: +63 32 231 0345 Internet: www.golfingphilippines.com

Cebu Taoist Temple



Your city tour would not be complete without visiting this beautiful temple. Cebu Taoist Temple was built in 1972 and is located in the

upscale area of Beverly Hills Subdivision in Cebu. The place is extremely peaceful and offers amazing photo opportunities since it is approx. 300 meter above sea level.

Photo: Curioso/Shutterstock.com Address: Beverly Hills, Cebu City Phone: +63 32 948 574 2549

Colon Street



The oldest street in Cebu was constructed by the Spanish and named after Christopher Columbus, marked by an obelisk at its northern end. Today,

it's the heart of the city's downtown district and teems with shopping and entertainment discoveries. The street is glittering during the evening. Photo: Razvan Iosif/Shutterstock.com Address: Colon Street, Cebu City

Rizal Memorial Library & Museum



At the Rizal Memorial Library & Museum, the first floor showcases a collection of antiques donated by the local, famous and rich Cebuano

families. Also on display is a collection of classical and contemporary artworks by Cebuano painters and artists. The upper floor is used as a performing arts hall.

Photo: Iakov Filimonov/Shutterstock.com Address: Osmeña Boulevard, Cebu City Opening hours: Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm Phone: +63 32 416 4579 Internet: www.jose-rizal-memorial-library-museum-building.b usiness.site

Casa Gorordo



A tour inside this residence is a brief journey into a Filipino lifestyle from 1860-1920. The historic former bishop's home features

noted paintings, museum relics, a courtyard, antique household items and furniture.

Photo: wavebreakmedia/Shutterstock.com Address: 35 Eduardo Aboitiz Street, Cebu City Opening hours: Every day 10am - 6pm Phone: +63 32 411 1767 Email: casagorordomuseum@rafi.org.ph

University of San Carlos Museum



Housed in the country's oldest school, the museum divides its artefacts into four sections, each offering a fascinating insight into

life before, during and after the Spanish conquests. You find the museum just right of the main entrance to the University.

Photo: Caftor/Shutterstock.com Address: Pelaez Street, Cebu City Phone: +63 32 253 1000 Internet: www.usc.edu.ph Email: uscmuseum@yahoo.com

EXCURSIONS



leelook/Shutterstock.com

With its location in the heart of the Philippine archipelago it is easy to go for an excursion outside the city. Visit another island or discover the nearby surroundings of the main island of Cebu.

Busay



Situated 2,000 feet above sea level, this excellent sight-seeing spot offers breathtaking views of Cebu and islands. Arbours are available for

daytime picnics and instant evening parties, and

arriving in time for sunset is worthwhile for romantics. To reveal your intentions with a partner, ring the legendary iron bell. Once for a firm partnership, twice for lasting friendship or three times for love that never ends. It is located 10 minute walk from the car park.

Photo: Akhenaton Images/Shutterstock.com Address: Busay, Cebu

Bantayan Island



Located in the northwestern tip of Cebu, Bantayan is just one of many serene and tranquil locations that boast fine white sandy beaches. The

island is a favourite local holiday hangout, particularly during the Lenten (Easter) season with celebrations that boast one of the most elaborate processions in the country.

Photo: And-One/Shutterstock.com Address: Bantayan Island

Kawasan Falls



Despite the three hour drive and 25 minute walk along rocky paths, the panoramic waterfalls steeped in lush greenery on Cebu island's south

western coastline is well worth the journey; it's a place where the heat, dust and grime of the city can be washed away beneath the cascading water. Bamboo rafts, swings and calm pools are also available for those wanting to stay dry. A great place to have a picnic but try to avoid the weekends.

Photo: Litvinova Olga/Shutterstock.com Address: Matutinao, Badian Internet: www.kawasanfalls.net

Mactan Island



Necessities of trade, industry and the airport, unfortunately, take up some of the space on Mactan. However, much of its coastline it is left to

the abundant beauty of nature, and its dazzling white sandy beaches and resorts are a serious draw to tourists. The crystal clear waters attract snorkelling and diving enthusiasts.

Photo: SimonHS/Shutterstock.com Address: Mactan Island

DINING



Ekaterina Pokrovsky/Shutterstock.com

Eating in Cebu is an experience with a multinational choice of restaurants, particularly around the Ayala district. The undecided should try a Filipino turo-turo—literally 'point-point' restaurant, where patrons point at whatever they fancy from a spread of dishes. Street-food abounds in Cebu and is amazingly cheap, sugba or sinugba (barbecue) is particularly popular and include marinated sweet pork, chicken and seafood on sticks. For dessert, "Halo-Halo," is a refreshing mix of grated ice, sweet beans, tropical fruits and ice cream.

Anzani



Anzani is a lovely place, where you can see the beautiful sunset and have a drink on the balcony while you are waiting for your meal. The ambiance

and the food are great here. Their focus is Mediterranean cuisine.

Photo: AlessandroBiascioli/Shutterstock.com Address: Lahug Nivel Hills Panorama Height, Cebu City Opening hours: Mon - Fri 11.30am - 2.30, 5.30pm - 12am Phone: +63 32 2327375 Internet: www.anzani.com.ph Email: info@anzani.com.ph

Yakski Barbecue



What's in a name? Everything, in this case. Yakski Barbecue is a must-do for any meat-lover travelling to Cebu, and don't forget

the "must" number two - the signature Yakski sauce.

Photo: Suphachai Sinsuebphon/Shutterstock.com Address: 268 Don Mariano Cui St, Cebu City Opening hours: Mon - Sat 11am - 2.30pm, 5pm - 12am, Sun 5pm - 12am Phone: +63 32 254 3977 Internet: www.yakskibarbecue.com Email: mail@yakskibarbecue.com

Maya Mexican Restaurant & Tequila Lounge



Combining the dedication to serving restaurant-quality food and the relaxing ambiance of a lounge, Maya is an enticing

establishment for an evening drink as well as a full meal.

Destination: Cebu Publishing date: 2019-12-17

Photo: Xan/Shutterstock.com Address: Crossroads, Cebu City Phone: +63 32 238 9552 Internet: www.theabacagroup.com Email: maya@theabacagroup.com

Wakamatsu Yakiniku



This Japanese/Korean inspired restaurant is always packed with customers enjoying its delicious Yakiniku and extensive buffet, so make

sure to book a table at Wakamatsu Yakiniku in advance. The all-you-can-eat option is great value for money and you will certainly leave happy and stuffed.

Photo: Sittipong Sirichamnan/Shutterstock.com Address: Pacific Square Building, F. Cabahug Street, Cebu City Opening hours: Every day 11.30am - 2.30pm, 5.30pm -

10.30pm

Phone: +63 32 232 5897

Casa Verde



Casa Verde is a family run restaurant chain and they are not hard to find since there are several around Cebu. The menu is affordable priced and

you really get good quality food for the price. They are famous for their baby back ribs, cooked to perfection. You will find one of the restaurants on:

Photo: Tatiana Volgutova/Shutterstock.com Address: Lim Tian Teng Street 69, Cebu City Phone: +63 32 253 64 72 Internet: www.casaverdecebu.com Email: info@casaverdecebu.com

Port Seafood



This restaurant is located in a 4-star hotel. They offer both catering and buffet. Port Seafood even features a midnight buffet where you got 40

different dishes to choose from and they also have a pasta and a crepe bar.

Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com Address: Waterfront Cebu City Hotel, Salinas Drive, Cebu City Opening hours: Every day 11am - 10pm Phone: +63 32 516 6018 Email: port.catering@yahoo.com More Info: Located at Waterfront Cebu City Hotel

CAFES



Efetova Anna/Shutterstock.com

The big city can sometimes be a bit overwhelming and a quick energising break can be wished for. Sit down at one of the many cafes and enjoy a cup of coffee or a refreshing drink, and maybe a small snack or cake. Some of the cafes also provide WiFi for their customers.

Destination: Cebu Publishing date: 2019-12-17

Bloom Cakes & Coffee



Bloom Cakes & Coffee serves an incredible selection of cakes, coffees and milkshakes. They are as beautiful to look at as they are delicious to eat.

If you have a sweet tooth this is the place for you to indulge in chocolaty treats, cupcakes and comforting hot drinks.

Photo: Inna Taran/Shutterstock.com Address: 1 Paseo Saturnino, Cebu City Opening hours: Mon - Sat 10am - 10pm Phone: +63 956 076 8238 Internet: www.bloomcakes.org Email: cebu@bloomcakes.org

Abaca Baking Company



Head over to the Abaca Baking Company for some artisan crafted breads, from-scratch baked goods and classic American food. They also

have quality desserts and pastries on offer that you can enjoy with a hot cup of aromatic coffee or tea.

Photo: BlueOrange Studio/Shutterstock.com Address: Crossroads Banilad Road, Cebu City Opening hours: Every day 7am - 10pm Phone: +63 32 262 0969 Internet: www.theabacagroup.com Email: promotions@theabacagroup.com

Crate Cafe



Crate Cafe is a true hidden gem a bit further outside the city. Here you will be able to enjoy your cup of coffee sourrounded by nature and with a great view of Cebu City. This is the perfect place to unwind and relax in a unique and magical atmosphere.

Photo: Sujittra Panatoop/Shutterstock.com Address: Cebu Transcentral Highway, Cebu City Opening hours: Mon 12am - 12am, Tue - Fri 11am - 10pm, Sat & Sun 7am - 10pm Phone: +63 995 128 7466 Email: cratecafeph@gmail.com

Yolk



Head over to Yolk cafe if you are looking for some delicious early morning breakfast. This coffee shop is exceptionally cozy and serves the perfect

houseblend coffee to make sure you have a great start to the day. Their Chorizo and eggs in a pan are a favourite you will want to come back for.

Photo: Tono Balaguer/Shutterstock.com Address: Tan Kim Building, 80 Tres Borces Padres Street, Cebu City Opening hours: Every day 7am - 7pm Phone: +63 32 231 0411 Email: yolkcafeph@gmail.com

Bintana Coffee House



Alongside some must try dishes and an excellent selection of coffee, you will be able to enjoy smooth music and a rustic atmosphere

created by the unique interior design and the art displayed on the walls. If you have a sweet tooth, try their delicious cheescake with a hot beverage of your choice.

Photo: Nitr/Shutterstock.com Address: 81K Elizabeth Pond Street, Cebu City Opening hours: Mon - Sat 11am - 9pm Phone: +63 32 416 1335 Email: bintanasacebu@gmail.com

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



joyfull/Shutterstock.com

Cebu is a haven for partyphiles, particularly along Colon Street and Osmena Boulevard, with clubs pounding until day light at weekends and until 3.00 during the week. The concept of bars here is somewhat different and there are few places to go that offer a simple place to have a drink and quiet conversation. Cebu also has two 24-hour casinos located in both of the Waterfront Hotels.

Jazz'n Bluz



Jazz'n Bluz is a slick and sophisticated nightclub showcasing live quality entertainment. Contemporary continental, Filipino,

Japanese and Creole cuisine is served and it's not unusual to find the politicians and wealthy business types escaping the often crowded nightclubs to enjoy the laid back soulful sounds.

Photo: melis/Shutterstock.com Address: 1 Paseo Saturnino, Cebu City Opening hours: Every day 6pm - 1am Phone: +63 32 517 6175 Internet: www.jazznbluz.com Email: info@jazznbluzcebu.com

Marshall's Irish Pub Bar & Restaurant



This Irish bar offers live music every night of the week and serves not only a great selection of beers but also a wide array of food. Come here for

breakfast, lunch, dinner or just a drink or a snack. They have Happy Hour between 16.00-19.00.

Photo: Joshua Resnick/Shutterstock.com Address: Mango Square Mall, General Maxilom Avenue, Cebu City Opening hours: Mon - Sun 10am - 3am Phone: +63 32 412 6418 Internet: www.marshallsirishpub.com More Info: Cebu City Century Plaza Commercial Complex

The Distillery



The Distillery is a popular bar and evening hang out spot that draws a young, rowdy crowd on a regular basis. The bar offers an extensive collection of

whiskies, international beers and other premium spirits.

Photo: Jag_cz/Shutterstock.com Address: Crossroads, Cebu City Phone: +63 32 266 9064 Email: thedistilleryteam@gmail.com

Oqtagon



Oqtagon nightclub is located a 25 minute drive outside Cebu City and is known as the place to be for the most vibrant nightlife in the

surrounding area. The best live DJs provide diverse and energetic music to have a fun night out and party until the early morning.

Photo: Vladimir Hodac/Shutterstock.com Address: Meerea High Street, Ouano Avenue, Mandaue City Opening hours: Every day 9pm - 7am Phone: +63 917 638 4777 Internet: www.oqtagonph.com

SHOPPING



Yein Jeon/Shutterstock.com

Shop till you drop or until the money runs out, which in a city with so many fantastic bargains isn't a stretch to imagine. Cebu is the country's leading producer of hand-crafted products such as shell crafts, baskets and woven cloth fashion, accessories, silver and various gifts.

Highlights of mall shopping include the downtown Ayala Centre, SM-Cebu and Gaissano Country Mall in Baniland; Colon Street has both small and large department stores.

For some haggling adventure, the vibrant public market of Carbon on Briones and Calderon Streets sells just about everything over an area of seven blocks.

For that something a little different and authentic, Lapu-lapu city on Mactan Island has a long heritage of guitar making and a number of factories are open to the public for purchases.

Ayala Center Cebu



The ultimate shopping mall experience when in Cebu, Ayala Center is where many local and international boutiques are concentrated all

under one roof. Besides shops, the mall offers a cinema, restaurants and bars including a children play area. Esprit, Guess, Levi's, Marks & Spencer, Topshop and Lacoste are some of the stores located here.

Photo: dbgg1979/Flickr.com (image cropped) Address: Cardinal Rosales Avenue, Cebu City Opening hours: Sun - Thu 10am - 9pm, Fri - Sat 10am - 10pm Phone: +63 32 516 3025 Internet: www.ayalamallcebu.com

SM City Cebu



This giant mega mall is currently the largest in the Philippines and the 4th largest in the world, and you will surely find no shortage of shopping

and entertainment options here. Shops like Claires, Adidas, Crocs, Esprit, Guess, Mango, Levi´s, Nike, Sands and Quiksilver are all located here.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com Address: North Reclamation Area, Cebu City Opening hours: Mon - Sun 10am - 9pm Phone: +63 32 2310557

Taboan Public Market



When heading to this market, be ready to endure - the smell of dried fish (the market's specialty) fills the air, but the reward is getting a taste of favorite local seafood snacks, such as danggit and lechon.

Photo: Sunti/Shutterstock.com Address: Pahina Central, Cebu City Opening hours: Every day 4am - 8pm

Islands Souvenirs



Islands Souvenirs is local gift and souvenir shop chain, that can be found in several shopping hot spots around town. There is no shortage of any kind

of Cebu memorabilia here.

Photo: lkpro/Shutterstock.com Address: Ayala Centre, Cebu City Opening hours: Sun - Thu 10am - 9pm, Fri - Sat 10am - 10pm Phone: +63 32 231 2581 Internet: www.theislandsgroup.com Email: info@theislandsgroup.com

Colon Street



Colon Street is a bustling, lively, busy street in the heart of Cebu City. There are plenty of shopping options left and right, so you won't find yourself at

a loss whatever it might be that you're after.

Photo: bikeriderlondon/Shutterstock.com Address: Colon Street, Cebu City

Gaissano Country Mall



A large shopping mall with affordable fashion boutiques, as well as stores selling all sorts of merchandise. There is a supermarket inside, and

entertainment includes a cinema with below

average ticket prices.

Photo: gpointstudio/Shutterstock.com Address: Banilad Road Apas, Cebu City Opening hours: Every day 8am - 9pm Phone: +63 32 231 1481 Email: gaisanocountrymall@gaisanobrothers.com

Carbon Market



An authentic, busy market for those looking to experience a true Asian marketplace. With its low prices and a wide array of fresh produce, it

is hard to find a place with better deals and quality-price ratio than here.

Photo: Karen H. Ilagan/Shutterstock.com Address: MC Briones Street, Cebu Opening hours: Every day 24 hours Phone: +63 916 420 8559

Carcar Public Market



This public market is the place to be if succulent lechon (suckling pig) is what you're after. The selection of foods extends well beyond this local

specialty, of course.

Photo: Anna ART/Shutterstock.com Address: Carcar City, Cebu Opening hours: Every day 24 hours Phone: +63 942 971 5507

TOURIST INFORMATION



And-One/Shutterstock.com

Mactan-Cebu International Airport



Mactan-Cebu International Airport (CEB) is located on Mactan island, 9 km from the centre of Cebu city. Complaints about taxi

fares are plentiful, so do consult information on standard fares at your time of travel. The white taxis are reportedly cheaper than the yellow ones and the journey from the airport to Cebu City takes approx. 20-30 minutes.

Photo: Juan Garces Address: Mactan-Cebu International Airport Phone: +63 32 340 2486 Internet: www.mactancebuairport.com

Passport/Visa



The Philippines can be visited visa-free for up to 30 days by citizens of Schengen countries, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South

Korea, South Africa, Malaysia, Israel, UAE and most countries in America. A valid return or onward ticket and a passport that is valid upon entry and for at least six months beyond the period of stay are required to enter the Philippines. If you are unsure whether or not you need to apply for a visa, we recommend contacting the embassy or consulate in your country.

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com

Best Time To Visit



The best time to visit Cebu is during the winter months, since the temperatures are pleasant and the weather is not as humid as during

the summer. You will also be able to enjoy the colorful Sinulog Festival in January and discover more about Cebu's fascinating culture.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

Public Transport



Do as the locals and catch a colourful Jeepney (routes are posted on the front). These are available 24-hours a day, cover most of the nooks

and crannies and are the cheapest transport option.

Buses are also available, but these tend to ply exclusively along the north-south routes and can be quite baffling and arduous, particularly in the rural areas. Tricycles are common in towns and villages and with a bit of haggling they provide a convenient and cheap method of transport.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair Address: Cebu

ArrivalGuides

Destination: Cebu Publishing date: 2019-12-17

Taxi



The simplest but not always the fastest way to get around is by taxi. Always check the meter has been set or a price has been fixed. Some

The central Post Office is

taxi's are unlicensed and in a bad state of repair and these should be avoided.

at:

Holiday Tel: +63 3 2345 1621

Spider/Scorpion Tel: +63 3 2254 6250

Photo: Taxi Address: Cebu

Post



Photo: Andy Fuchs Address: A. Pigafetta Street, Cebu City Opening hours: Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm Phone: +63 32 416 3989 Internet: www.phlpost.gov.ph

Pharmacy



There are several pharmacies, both small and big, across Cebu City and you are never far from one. One of the larger chains is Rose

Pharmacy and you find one of their outlets at:

Address: Fooda Saversmart, F. Cabahug, Kasambagan, Cebu City Opening hours: Every day 9am - 9pm Phone: +63 32 260 7310 Internet: www.rosepharmacy.com

Telephone

Country code: +63 Area code: 032



Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity



220 volts, 60Hz AC current. Plugs have two flat-sided prongs.

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population 3,000,000 (Cebu province)

Currency Philippine peso (PHP) 10 ~ US\$0,19

Opening hours Banks 9am - 3pm Mon - Fri, shops open from 10am - 8pm Mon - Sat, malls can stay open later and on Sundays and public holidays.

Newspapers The Cebu Daily News The Manila Times Philippine Daily Enquirer

Emergency numbers
117