



Photo: Jordan Tan/Shutterstock.com



outcast85/Shutterstock.com

Often called the “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.



Naaman Abreu/Shutterstock.com



shskycn/Shutterstock.com

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5 Off the Beaten Track
Destinations in Asia

ArrivalGuides

Foto: WhitefoxChen / Shutterstock

Top 5



Magellan's Cross

Housed in a kiosk, this iconic and much prized monument marks the spot where...



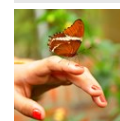
Basilica Minore del Santo Niño

Basilica Minore del Santo Niño was the first Asian basilica, built in 1740. ...



Fort San Pedro

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Jumalon Butterfly Sanctuary

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Olango

Twice a year during winter and spring, on one of the most important migrator...



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 Filipinos, 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: Magallanes Street, Cebu City

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

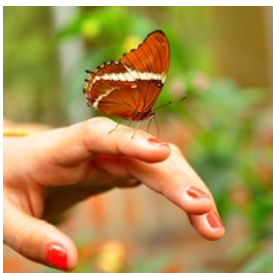
little fort a good place to take a breather from Cebu City's chaotic streets. Within the bastion is the Regional National Museum, which from Wednesday to Sunday, exhibits artifacts from the San Diego ship wreck.

Photo: Kuz'min Pavel/Shutterstock.com

Address: A. Pigafetta Street, Cebu City

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

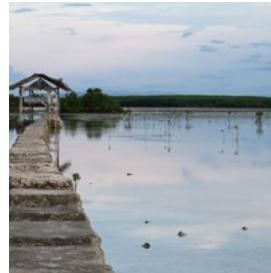
Address: J. N. Jumalon St., Basak, Pardo, Cebu City

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

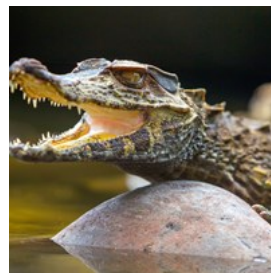
this small island to rest their weary bodies.

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

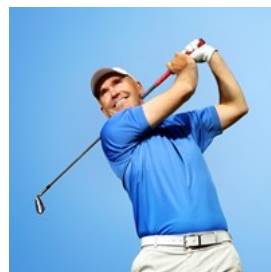
Address: Biasong, Talisay City

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: Banilad, 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 Blvd, Cebu City

Opening hours: Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm

Phone: +63 32 416 4579

Internet: www.jose-rizal-memorial-library-museum-building.business.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 Lopez Jaena Street, Cebu City

Phone: +63 32 255 5645

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: Del Rosario Street, Cebu City

Opening hours: Mon - Fri 8am - 12pm, 1.30pm - 5pm

Phone: +63 32 253 1000

Email: uscmuseum@yahoo.com

Southwestern University Museum



This museum contains an extensive collection of pre-historic items found in the local area.

Remarkable finds include gold teeth, Ming pottery, coins, beads and coffins together with some unique church carvings and accessories.

Photo: Iakov Filimonov/Shutterstock.com

Address: Urgello Road, Cebu City

Phone: +62 32 253 6500

Internet: www.cebup-online.com/swum/

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



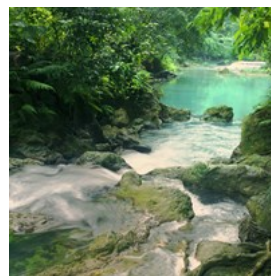
Located in the northwestern tip of Cebu, Bantayan is just one of many serene and tranquil locations that boast fine white sandy beaches. The

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 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 Barbeque & Eatery



What's in a name? Everything, in this case. Yakski barbeque 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.

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

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 St 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: Mon - Fri 11am - 10pm
 Phone: +63 32 917 707 7678
 Internet: www.port.ph/portrestaurant
 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.

Cafe de France



Cafe de France is as the name reveals Parisian inspired and is very popular. The freshly baked pastries, croquet monsieur's, pig-in-a-blanket, and the assortments of waist-expanding desserts are all washed down with copious amounts of quality coffee.

Photo: PHILIPIMAGE/Shutterstock.com
 Address: 1, Brgy. Ibo, Lapu-lapu City
 Opening hours: Mon - Sun 6am - 10pm
 Phone: +63 32 340 6938
 Internet: www.cafedefrance.com.ph
 Email: info@cafedefrance.com.ph
 More Info: Marina Mall

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



joyfull/Shutterstock.com

Cebu is a haven for partyphiles, particularly along Colon Street and Osmeña 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.

Vudu



Über fashionable nightspot that hosts alternative nights Wednesday, rock nights Thursdays and R&B/house night parties

over the weekend. It is located within an architect designed industrial warehouse with interior of concrete and steel.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com

Address: Crossroads Mall, Banilad, Cebu City

Phone: +63 32 917 7100 400

More Info: Unit 816, Crossroads Mall

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: 27 F Cabahug St, Ayala Access Rd., Mabolo, Cebu City

Phone: +63 32 232 2698

Internet: www.jazznbluzcebu.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: Juana Osmeña St., Unit 41, Cebu City

Opening hours: Mon - Sun 10am - 3am

Phone: +63 32 412 6418

Internet: www.marshallsirishpub.com

Email: info@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 whiskeys, international beers and other premium spirits.

Photo: Jag_cz/Shutterstock.com

Address: Crossroads, Cebu City

Opening hours: Mon - Thur 6pm - 3am, Fri - Sat 6pm - 4am, Sun 6pm - 3am

Phone: +63 32 266 9064

Internet: www.thedistillery.com.ph/cebu.php

Email: thedistilleryteam@gmail.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 (image cropped)

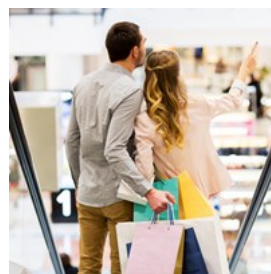
Address: Cebu Business Park, Archbishop Reyes Avenue, Cebu City

Opening hours: Sun - Thur 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
Internet: www.smsupermalls.com
Email: smccpr@smsupermalls.com

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](https://www.shutterstock.com)
Address: Pahina Central, Cebu City

Island Souvenirs



Island 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](https://www.shutterstock.com)
Address: Ayala Centre, Cebu City
Phone: +63 32 236 5062
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](https://www.shutterstock.com)

Address: Colon St, Cebu City

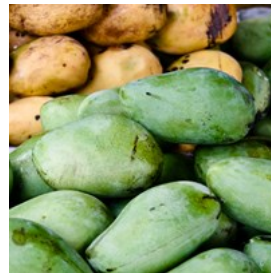
Gaisano Country Mall



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](https://www.shutterstock.com)
Address: Banilad road, Cebu City
Opening hours: Mon - Sun 10am - 8.30pm
Phone: +63 32 231 1481
Internet: www.gaisanocountrymall.com
Email: gaisano_countrymall@yahoo.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](https://www.shutterstock.com)
Address: MC Briones St, Cebu
Phone: +63 32 916 420 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](https://www.shutterstock.com)

Address: Cebu South Road Carcar, Cebu

ESSENTIAL 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

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

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

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

Holiday

Tel: +63 3 2345 1621

Spider/Scorpion

Tel: +63 3 2254 6250

Address: Cebu

Post



The central Post Office is at:

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Plaza Independencia, Cebu City

Opening hours: Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm

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:

Photo: Gemma Garner

Address: Fooda Saversmart, F. Cabahug, Kasambagan, Cebu City

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

2,648,000 (Cebu province)

Currency

Philippine peso (PHP)

10 ~ US\$0,19

Opening hours

Banks 9.00-15.00 Mon-Fri, shops open from 10.00-20.00 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

Tourist information

Cebu City Tourism Commission
2nd Floor, CHAC Bldg.
Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City
Cebu

+63 3 2412 4355