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Cebu

Photo: Naaman Abreu/shutterstock



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Zany Jadraque/unsplash



Jordan Tan/shutterstock

Referred to locally as the 'Queen of the South', Cebu, the country's oldest city, has now become its favourite tourist destination. With a wide choice of historical sights, long stretches of white sand beaches, excellent year-round scuba and water sport activities, diverse dining options, exciting nightlife, and, of course, the famous warm hospitality, it's no surprise that visitor numbers, new hotels, and tourist attractions are on the rise.

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THE CITY



SimonHS/shutterstock

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 in particular had a strong colonial presence and left a 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 flavour 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

Since Cebu was the first Spanish settlement in the Philippines, the city offers many historical attractions for visitors. The large seaport and air hub have also contributed to the modernisation of the city, blending urban culture with historical heritage.

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: Christian Paul Del Rosario/pexels
Address: Pilgrim's Center, Osmeña Boulevard, Cebu City
Opening hours: Daily 6am–7pm
Phone: +63 32 255 6697
Internet: santoninodecebubasilica.org
Email: bmsn.decebu@gmail.com

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 Street, 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

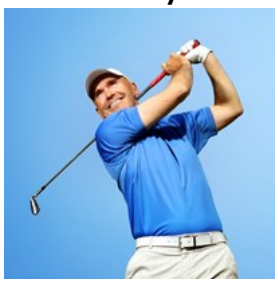
Crocolandia



Crocolandia is a nature park and small zoo hosting crocodiles, birds, lizards, and other creatures that will make the children squeal. The park also displays some protected plant species. Additionally, there is a gift shop and café.

Photo: Ammit Jack/shutterstock
Address: Burgos Street, Talisay, Cebu
Opening hours: Daily 8am–5pm
Phone: +63 32 273 1842
Internet: crocolandia.areafish.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

Esoy Hot Springs



If your looking for relaxation, the hot springs in Catmon are a fantastic place to go. Moreover, does the area provide river trekking possibilities, viewing of rock formations, fish feeding and more. The place is a mix of recreation and adventure, a 2 hours drive north of Cebu City. Please not that the location is privately owned and follows a strict 'No booking, no entry' policy, so make sure to book your visit 1-2 days in advance.

Photo: Charlie_Palmares/Shutterstock.com
Address: Brgy. Duyan, Catmon
Phone: +63 921 813 3296

Cebu Safari & Adventure Park



At the Cebu Safari & Adventure Park, you can explore diverse plant life, enjoy bird shows, and participate in animal feeding events. The park features reptiles, lions, tigers, and more. You can also stay overnight in the safari camp, with cabins available for rent. The park is about 2 hours north of Cebu City.

Photo: reek_world/shutterstock
Address: Barangay Corte, Toril, Carmen, Cebu
Opening hours: Daily 8am–5pm
Phone: +63 32 520 4787
Internet: www.cebusafari.ph
Email: sales@cebusafari.ph

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: Richie Chan/shutterstock
Address: Osmeña Boulevard, Cebu City
Phone: +63 32 416 4579

Casa Gorordo



Casa Gorordo offers a tour inside a historic residence, providing a glimpse into Filipino lifestyle from 1860 to 1920. The former bishop's home features noted paintings, museum relics, a courtyard, and antique household items and furniture.

Photo: wavebreakmedia/shutterstock
Address: 35 Eduardo Aboitiz Street, Cebu City
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 9am–5pm, Sun closed
Phone: +63 32 511 2663
Internet: casagorordomuseum.org
Email: casagorordomuseum@rafi.ph

University of San Carlos Museum



Housed in the country's oldest school, the museum divides its artefacts into four sections, each offering insight into life before, during, and after the Spanish conquests. You can find the museum just to the right of the main entrance to the University.

Photo: Caftor/shutterstock
Address: University of San Carlos Main, Downtown Campus, Pelaez Street, Cebu City
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 8:30am–5:30pm, Sat 8am–noon, Sun closed
Phone: +63 32 253 1000
Internet: www.usc.edu.ph/academics/museums

EXCURSIONS



leelook/shutterstock

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.

Tops Observation Spot in Busay



Situated over 600 metres above sea level, Tops in Busay neighbourhood is an excellent sightseeing spot that offers breathtaking views of Cebu and the nearby islands. Blissfully shady 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 a 10-minute

walk from the car park.

Photo: Akhenaton Images/shutterstock
Address: Cebu Tops Road, Busay, Cebu City
Internet: www.topscebu.ph

Bantayan Island



Located at the northwestern tip of Cebu Region, Bantayan is 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 feature one of the most elaborate processions in the country.

Photo: And-One/shutterstock
Internet: blurangetours.com

Kawasan Falls



Despite the 3-hour drive and 25-minute walk along rocky paths, the panoramic waterfalls steeped in lush greenery on Cebu island's southwestern coastline are 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. It's a great place to have a picnic, but try to avoid the weekends.

Photo: Magnus D'Great M/pexels
Address: Alegría, Cebu
Internet: www.badian.info/kawasan-falls

Mactan Island



Necessities of trade, industry, and the airport unfortunately take up some space on Mactan. Nevertheless, much of its coastline is left to the abundant beauty of nature, with its dazzling white sandy beaches and resorts being a major draw for tourists. The crystal-clear waters attract snorkelling and diving enthusiasts.

Photo: SimonHS/shutterstock

Osmeña Peak

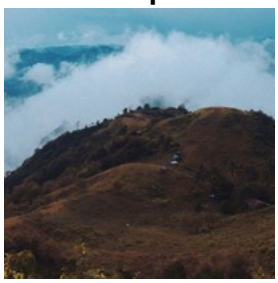


Osmeña Peak is the highest point on the island of Cebu, standing at 1,013 metres above sea level. The hike to the peak takes about 20-30 minutes, making it suitable for beginners while still offering breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape, including rugged hills and the sea.

The trek to Osmeña Peak can start from various points, such as Badian, which is close to Kawasan Falls, or from Mantalongon. These starting points offer different scenic routes and experiences. Along the trail, you might encounter small shops selling snacks or chai, adding to the charm of the journey.

Photo: Nikolay Karasev/shutterstock
Public Transport: Take a bus from south bus terminal to Oslob or Santander/Li-Loan and jump off in Dalaguete.
More Info: The bus ride from Cebu City to Dalaguete takes about 3 hours.

Mount Naupa



Mount Naupa is a nearby option if you feel like going on a short but beautiful trekking trip close to the city. The trail takes approximately an hour and offers magnificent scenery and little shops selling snacks or chai along the hilly paths. The hike starts from Naga, a city that is itself a destination worth exploring before heading to the peak of Mount Naupa.

Photo: Abigail Lepaopao/unsplash
Public Transport: A bus ride from south bus terminal to Naga City.

DINING



Ekaterina Pokrovsky/shutterstock

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.

Streetfood 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 the perfect choice — 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: Panorama Heights Nivel Hills, Cebu City
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 11:30am–2:30pm / 5:30pm–midnight
Phone: +63 32 2327375
Internet: 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 Street, Cebu City
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 11am–2:30pm / 5pm–midnight, Sun 5pm–midnight
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 Mall, Cebu City
Phone: +63 32 238 9552
Internet: www.instagram.com/mayacebu
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: Daily 11:30am–2:30pm / 5:30pm–midnight
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 affordably 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: 69 Lim Tian Teng, Cebu City
Opening hours: Daily 10am–10pm
Phone: +63 32 253 64 72
Internet: www.instagram.com/casaverdeph
Email: info@casaverdecebu.com

Uno at Waterfront Cebu City



This restaurant is located in a 4-star hotel that features several cafes, restaurants, and bars under one roof. They offer both catering and buffet options. Uno even features a daily buffet with 40 different dishes to choose from, as well as a pasta and a crepe bar.

Photo: Africa Studio/shutterstock
Address: Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino, Salinas Drive, Cebu City
Opening hours: Daily 6am–10am / noon–2:30pm / 6pm–10pm
Phone: +63 32 516 6018
Internet: www.waterfronthotels.com.ph/wcchc-dining/uno-cebu-city

CAFES



Efetova Anna/shutterstock

The big city can sometimes be a bit overwhelming, making a quick, energising break much needed. Sit down at one of the many cafes and enjoy a cup of coffee or a refreshing drink, and maybe a small snack or a piece of cake.

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 Mall, Banilad Road, Cebu City
Opening hours: Every day 7am - 10pm
Phone: +63 32 262 0969
Internet: www.instagram.com/abacabakingco
Email: promotions@theabacagroup.com

Crate Cafe



Crate Cafe is a true hidden gem a bit further outside the city. Here you can enjoy your cup of coffee surrounded 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
Address: Veteran's Drive (before Maria Luisa Busay exit), Lower Busay, Cebu City
Opening hours: Tue–Sun 1pm–8pm, Mon closed
Phone: +63 905 353 4041
Internet: www.instagram.com/cratecafeph
Email: cratecafeph@gmail.com

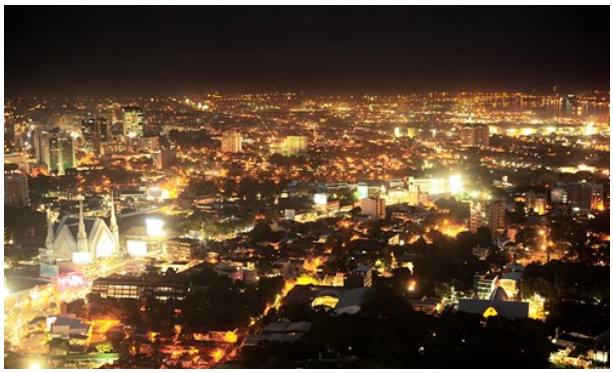
Bintana Coffee House



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–8pm, Sun closed
Phone: +63 32 416 1335
Internet: www.instagram.com/bintanacebu
Email: bintanasacebu@gmail.com

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



joyfull/shutterstock

Cebu is a haven for party enthusiasts, particularly along Colon Street and Osmeña Boulevard, with clubs pounding until daylight on weekends and until 3 am during the week. The concept of bars here is somewhat different, with few places offering a simple spot for a drink and a quiet conversation.

The Distillery



The Distillery is a popular bar and evening hangout 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
Address: Crossroads Mall, Gov. M. Cuenco Avenue, Cebu City
Opening hours: Sun–Thu 6pm–3an, Fri & Sat 6pm–5am
Phone: +63 32 266 9064
Internet: www.instagram.com/thedistillerycebu

Verified Rooftop Bar & Lounge



Discover Cebu City's skyline from Verified Rooftop Bar & Lounge. Enjoy a wide variety of drinks in an open-air setting with stunning views, especially at night. Courteous staff and a relaxed weekend atmosphere make it a top spot.

Photo: Cory Bjork/unsplash
Address: Avenir Cebu City, 22nd floor, Archbishop Reyes Avenue, Cebu City
Opening hours: Sun–Thu 5pm–2am, Fri & Sat 5pm–3am
Phone: +63 956 504 4253
Internet: www.instagram.com/verified.ph
Email: verifiedlounge@gmail.com

Billy's Sports Bar



Billy's Sports Bar is the ideal spot for watching football, cricket, and more. With ample seating, numerous TVs, and a friendly atmosphere, it's a haven for sports enthusiasts. The food is good, the drink selection is wide, and the staff are attentive.

Photo: Saint Rambo/unsplash
Address: Arellano Square Building, Ground floor, North Escario Street, Cebu City
Phone: +63 960 314 3490
Internet: billyssportsbar.ph

Cubana



Cubana offers a lively atmosphere with live music and a welcoming vibe. Enjoy a variety of drinks, including popular cocktails, and tasty food like their recommended pizza. The vibrant setting and reasonable prices make it an ideal venue for an enjoyable night out.

Photo: cottonbro studio/pexels
Address: 516 General Maxilom Avenue, Cebu City
Phone: +63 32 266 9957
Internet: restaurantguru.com/Cubana-Cebu-City

The Social Cebu



The Social Cebu is a vibrant cafe, bar, and music hub, perfect for any occasion. Enjoy an all-day menu with tasty salads, pizzas, comfort food, and rich desserts. The venue features an open kitchen, indoor and outdoor bars, and a stylish al fresco area. In the evenings, it transforms into a lounge with top local and international DJs, creating a lively nightlife scene.

Photo: Rachel Claire/pexels
Address: Ayala Center Cebu, 4th floor, Garden Area Wing, Archbishop Reyes Avenue, Cebu City
Opening hours: Daily 10am–2am
Phone: +63 32 231 0679
Internet: thesocialcebu.squarespace.com

SHOPPING



Yein Jeon/shutterstock

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 & Ayala Terraces



For the ultimate shopping mall experience in Cebu, visit Ayala Center, where numerous local and international boutiques are concentrated under one roof. Besides shops, the mall offers a cinema, restaurants, bars, and a children's play area. Some of the stores located here include Esprit, Guess, Levi's, Marks & Spencer, Topshop and Lacoste.

Photo: Brian Kairuz/unsplash
Address: Cardinal Rosales Avenue, Cebu City
Opening hours: Sun–Thu 10am–9pm, Fri & Sat 10am–10pm
Phone: +63 32 888 3777
Internet: www.ayalamalls.com/explore/ayala-center-cebu

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: Sun–Thu 10am–9pm, Fri & Sat 10am–10pm
Phone: +63 32 2310557
Internet: www.smsupermalls.com/mall-directory/sm-city-cebu/information

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: Daily 4am–7pm

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 Center Cebu, Cebu City
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
Internet: guidetothephilippines.ph/destinations-and-attractions/colon-street

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: Daily 10am–8pm
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: M. C. Briones Street, Cebu City
Phone: +63 916 420 8559

New Carcar City Public Market



This public market is the place to be if you're craving succulent lechon — a suckling pig. The selection of foods extends well beyond this local specialty, of course. So do yourself a favour, make the journey, and dive headfirst into the heart and soul of Cebu's culinary scene.

Photo: Anna ART/shutterstock
Address: Carcar City, Cebu
Opening hours: Daily 5am–10pm
Phone: +63 942 971 5507

TOURIST INFORMATION



And-One/shutterstock

Mactan-Cebu International Airport (CEB)



Mactan-Cebu International Airport (CEB) is located on Mactan Island, 9 kilometres 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 around 20-30 minutes.

Photo: Jae Tabuada/unsplash
Address: Lapu-Lapu Airport Road, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu
Internet: www.mactancebuairport.com

Passport/Visa



The Philippines can be visited visa-free for up to 30 days by citizens of all European Union member states, all ASEAN member states, the UK, the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, South Africa, Malaysia, Israel, the UAE and most countries in Latin 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, contact the embassy or consulate in your country.

Photo: ConvertKit/unsplash
Internet: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visa_policy_of_the_Philippines

Best Time To Visit



The best time to visit Cebu is during the winter months (December–February), since the temperatures are pleasant and the weather is not as humid as during the summer. You will also be able to enjoy the colourful Sinulog Festival in January and discover more about Cebu's fascinating culture.

Photo: thea a./unsplash

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 travel 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: Orbital 101 Studio/unsplash

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.

The best app for summoning a taxi in the Philippines is Grab.

Photo: Orbital 101 Studio/unsplash

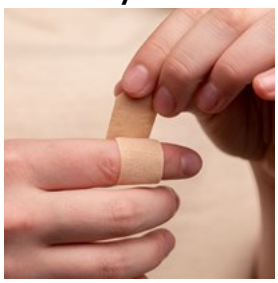
Post



In the Philippines, the postal system operates through PHLPost, which manages mail delivery and services across the archipelago. For travellers in Cebu, postal services are easily accessible at post offices and postal kiosks, ideal for sending postcards and parcels. Rates are reasonable, and services are reliable, though delivery times can vary, especially for international mail.

Photo: Diana Light/unsplash
Address: Cebu Central Post Office, A. Pigafetta Street, Cebu City
Opening hours: Mon & Tue 8am–6pm, Wed–Fri 8am–5pm, Sat & Sun closed
Phone: +63 32 416 3989
Internet: www.phlpost.gov.ph
Email: info@philpost.gov.ph

Pharmacy



Drug stores abound in Cebu, many operated by market leader Mercury Drug. Another of the larger chains is Rose Pharmacy, and you find one of their outlets at Robinsons Easymart Cabahug.

Photo: Diana Polekhina/unsplash
Address: Robinsons Easymart Cabahug, Fooda Saversmart, F. Cabahug Street, Cebu City
Opening hours: Daily 9am–9pm
Phone: +63 32 260 7310
Internet: www.rosepharmacy.com

Telephone



Country code: +63 Area code: (0)32

Photo: Wesley Hilario/unsplash

Electricity



The Philippines uses American-style power sockets with two flat prongs as well as European-style sockets with two round prongs. Expect 220 volts at 60Hz.

Photo: ergonofis/unsplash

Population
Cebu City: 964,169
Cebu Province: 3.3 million

Currency
Philippine peso (PHP or)

Opening hours
Shops usually open from 10am to 8pm, but shopping malls

close at 9pm or 10pm. Smaller shops close for lunch between noon and 2pm. There are many 24-hour convenience stores and drugstores. Malls are open on Sundays and public holidays.

Internet
www.cebucity.gov.ph

Newspapers
The Cebu Daily News: cebudailynews.inquirer.net
Philippine Daily Inquirer: www.inquirer.net
The Manila Times: www.manilatimes.net
The Philippine Star: www.philstar.com
Daily Tribune: tribune.net.ph

Emergency numbers
911