

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

A gateway to spectacular diving spots and dazzling-white beaches including **Bohol's, Cebu** merits discovering in its own right – for its landmarks, place in history, and street food and other fantastic cuisine.

GETTING TO AND AROUND

Cebu has the Philippines' second-busiest airport and benefits from direct international flights from **major Asian gateways**. Flights from Manila to Cebu take 90mins. You're most likely to take taxis around Cebu City, but other means of getting around include the locals' favourite jeepneys, small, kitsch buses that allow you to truly experience the local culture. Cebu Airport to **Mactan Beach** takes only about 15mins.

The islands of **Bantayan, Sumilon and Malapascua** are accessible through buses from Cebu City (4-5hrs including ferry transfer). **Moalboal** and **Badian** are closer, with a 3hr travel time from the city.

Going to **Bohol** is quite easy – fast ferries cross the Cebu-Bohol route almost every hour, with a journey time of 2hrs.

WHERE TO STAY

Cebu and Bohol both have a wide array of accommodation, including luxury options perfect for beach retreats – **Mactan Island**, next to Cebu City, is especially popular, as is **Panglao Island**, which is linked by a causeway to mainland Bohol. In Cebu City, most accommodations are located in areas such as **Lahug, Gorordo Avenue, Escario and Banilad**. **Crossroads, Ayala, Citi Times Square** and **Salinas Drive** are popular spots for dining and nightlife.

Most scuba divers stay in **Mactan, Moalboal and Malapascua** in Cebu, and **Panglao, Anda and Balicasag Island** in Bohol.

CEBU & BOHOL



CLIMATE

Tropical, with dry and wet seasons – March to May and June to February – and an average high temperature of 30°C.

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CEBU & BOHOL



Philippine Tarsier, Bohol



WELCOME TO CEBU & BOHOL

Neighbouring island-provinces **Cebu** and **Bohol** are the most accessible destinations in the glorious **Central Visayas** region, with the greatest choice of things to see and do. But they also serve as hopping points to thousands of spectacular smaller islands within their provinces and the rest of the region.

Cebu City – a smaller, more relaxed version of Manila – has the benefit of direct international flights. The Philippines' oldest city and first capital, it's also chock-a-block with 16th-century Spanish colonial relics. Ferries from Cebu City take you to Bohol Island in two hours.

"Panglao Island has miles of dazzling white sand to offer beach-lovers who prefer drinking in their shoreline without chasers of frenetic hawkers and hustlers. Often cited as one of the world's best diving spots, it's also an ideal place to learn your marine matters."

– The Telegraph

Sinulog Festival, Cebu City
Erwin Lim



Hanging bamboo bridge, Sevilla, Bohol



WHY IT'S MORE FUN IN CEBU & BOHOL

Both **Cebu** and **Bohol** – and the smaller islands – appeal to those who love adventurous activities, with everything from water sports including diving and canyoneering to skydiving and zip-lining are on the offer. On a more sedate level, there's also the likes of yoga and cycling, wildlife encounters including whale and thresher sharks, dolphins and sea turtles, plus those pristine beaches for when you want to totally kick back and relax.

CULTURE AND FOOD

Despite being a tropical-island paradise, Cebu and Bohol have a rich history – this is where Portuguese explorer **Ferdinand Magellan** planted the **Cross of Christianity** in 1521, which paved the way for Spanish colonization. This historical wealth manifests itself everywhere from the colonial architecture and museums of Cebu City to the ancestral homes and centuries-old churches of Bohol.

Cebu is also famous for its sweet mangoes – locals loves to pair them with a steamed rice cake called *puto* and a cup of locally made hot chocolate called *sikwate*. But there's plenty of other incredible local fare to be sampled – not least in Cebu City with its fantastic choice of restaurants and street-food stalls. Don't miss local dishes *ngohiong* (a deep-fried appetizer filled with julienned vegetables), *sutukil*, which stands for *sugba* (grill), *tula* or *tuwa* (soup) and *kilaw* (ceviche), *lechon de Cebu* (stuffed roasted pig) and *puso* or 'hanging' rice wrapped in coconut leaves.

TOP EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

- **Sinulog, January, 3rd Sunday** – Cebu's biggest festival, when devotees flock to Cebu City to pay homage to Señor Sto. Niño while revelers enjoy the many activities and the Mardi Gras type grand parade where colourful costumes amidst exciting drum beats are displayed.
- **Saulog Festival, 22 April-1 May** – celebrates the spirit of Tagbilaran City with a slew of activities such as bazaars, food festivals, cooking contests and cultural shows.
- **Kadaugan sa Mactan, 27 April**, Lapu-Lapu City – a week-long commemoration of the historic battle of Mactan between the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan and Mactan chieftain Datu Lapu-Lapu.

- **Fiesta Month, May** – it's fiesta every day in Bohol. Boholanos come home to Bohol to celebrate local feast days in different localities in the province.
- **Sandugo Festival, July** – Bohol's spectacular annual festival, with historical shows, sports events, pageants, street-dancing and the re-enactment of the blood compact between Rajah Sikatuna and Spanish explorer Miguel Lopez de Legaspi.
- **Iron Man 70.3 Championship, 1st Sunday of August**, Cebu – a test of will and strength where only the strong and determined can prevail. See the world's toughest athletes as they battle it out in one of the world's most popular triathlon franchises.

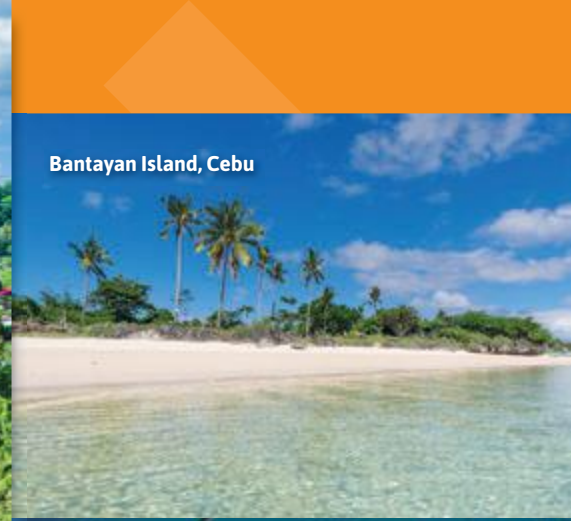
Panglao Island, Bohol



Loboc River, Bohol



Bantayan Island, Cebu



Coral Reef, Moalboal, Cebu



TOP 10 ACTIVITIES

- Scuba dive and explore the underwater gardens of **Moalboal, Malapascua Island** and **Balicasag Island**.
- Go cliff diving, canyoneering or swimming at **Kawasan Falls**, 40mins from Moalboal.
- Soak in the iconic sight of Bohol Island's cone-shaped **Chocolate Hills**.
- See conservation in action at Bohol's **Philippine Tarsier Sanctuary** – one of the few places where these nocturnal creatures thrive in a natural habitat.
- Take a relaxing cruise amidst the scenic and rustic tableau of the **Loboc River**.
- Go island-hopping – whether along the **Olango** channel or in the **Bohol Sea** where playful dolphins live.
- Discover smaller islands such as **Siquijor** with its rustic charm attracting mainly Europeans looking for a relaxing island life, **Apo**, **Cabilao**, **Camotes** and **Bantayan**. Enjoy the thrill of a skydive at Bantayan Island.
- Explore **Cebu City** and retrace history at **Fort San Pedro**, **Plaza Sugbu** and the **Parian District**.
- Discover the small coastal town of **Dauin**, known for its snorkelling, its macro-diving in the **Masaplod Norte** marine reserve, and its boat-trips to nearby **Apo**.
- Don't miss the **City of Dumaguete** with its waterfront bars and restaurants and fascinating anthropology museum.



Cebu is known for its sweet mango



Kawasan Falls, Cebu