

# CEBU PHILIPPINES

## ATTRACTIONS

### Cultural Attractions

#### Argao

One of the most interesting places in the province, Argao has prominent traces of Spanish and early-American influences. It is also blessed with its share of natural attractions from pristine white-sand beaches to intricate cave systems.

#### Basilica Minore del Santo Nino

This church was built by Miguel Lopez de Legaspi on the site where the image of Santo Nino was found in 1565. Conferred the status of Basilica in 1965, this church is a famous pilgrimage site for devotees of the Child Jesus.

#### Capitol Building

The seat of the Provincial government is of pre-war vintage and has the undulating mountains of Cebu for its background. Majestic and imposing, it is considered as one of the most beautiful buildings in the country.

#### Carcar

Approximately 40 kilometres south of Cebu City, Carcar is a junction town where one still finds strong traces of Spanish influence, evidenced by large antique residences, quaint houses, decorated with intricate lacy woodwork, an imposing town plaza and the Church of St. Catherine of Alexandria.

#### Colon Street

The oldest street in the Philippines was named after Christopher Columbus. It is the heart of downtown Cebu, a glittering area by night lined with moviehouses, restaurants, department stores, and other business establishments.

#### Danao

Danao City is a major seaport which links the Camotes group of island with the Cebu mainland. As such, the fishing industry is very much alive in Danao. Here one finds colourful fishing boats line up along the shore's in the daytime, when the fishermen are at rest.

## **Fort San Pedro**

The smallest and oldest tri-bastion fort in the country, which served as the nucleus of the early Spanish settlement in the Philippines.

## **Image of Santo Nino**

Considered as the oldest Philippine relic in the Philippines, the image was a baptismal gift presented by Magellan to Queen Juana. A replica is housed in a side altar inside the Basilica Minore del Santo Nino.

## **Lapu Lapu Memorial**

Commemorates the bravery of chieftain of Mactan island, who on April 27, 1521 defied and defeated the Spanish conquistador in a battle for supremacy and strength.

## **Magellan 's Cross**

Planted on April 21, 1521 by Ferdinand Magellan, this is the place where Christianity was symbolically introduced in the Philippines. The original cross still stands today in the exact spot where it was erected.

## **Magellan Marker**

Marks the spot where Ferdinand Magellan was killed by Lapu Lapu, chieftain of the island of Mactan, when the former attempted to subjugate the native tribes and convert them to Christianity.

## **University of San Carlos**

The oldest Jesuit-run school in the country, formerly known as Colegio de San Ildefonso, was established in 1565.

## **Natural Attractions**

### **Badian Island**

The island is 3 hours away from Cebu City and boasts of white sand beach, resort activities, spa treatments, azure lagoon famous for its beautiful corals, reefs, and other points of breathtaking natural beauty.

## **Bantayan Island**

Bantayan is a magnificent small island off the northwest coast of Cebu, widely considered as one of the best attractive destinations in the country. It is famed for its serenity and cleanliness along with its fine white sand beaches and crystal blue waters while entirely avoiding large commercialization and development.

## **Camotes Island**

The Camotes is a group of four islands that are a part of the province of Cebu. Its people emerged from a cocktail of civilization and history borne by the sea. Camotes still reveals archeological finds dating back to the Spanish era. Attractions include supremely beautiful beaches, natural pools, waterfalls and a lake.

## **Mactan Island**

Mactan Island is a coral island 15 minutes away from Cebu City. It is a famous resort island equipped with numerous beach resorts of international standards, each offering easy access to a wide array of underwater adventures.

## **Moalboal**

This island offers short stretches of white sandy beaches and rich marine life for scuba diving. Located just 2.5km from Moalboal, is an excellent diving area where one can dive straight off Panagsama beach to an extraordinary view of corals, anemones, sponges and swarms of brightly coloured reef fish.

## **Olango Wildlife Sanctuary**

Olango Island supports the largest concentration of migratory birds found so far in the country. Migration starts from the birds' breeding places in Siberia, Northern China and Japan. Olango island is used as a major refueling station and over-wintering ground, making it a perfect bird-watchers paradise.

## **Sumilon**

Dubbed as the country's first marine reserve, Sumilon island is a treasure trove of hundreds of marine flora and fauna species, guaranteed to give a truly unique diving experience. Large coral formations blossom under its sparkling clear blue waters making it a breeding foreground to one of the region's most magnificent aquatic life.