MASTER
LIVEABOARDS

Visayas, Camiguin & Leyte, Philippines

7 nights Itinerary

- **Arrival airport:** Mactan-Cebu International (CEB)
- **Departure airport:** Mactan-Cebu International (CEB)
- **Meeting point for embarkation:** Marina Seaview Restaurant, Mactan Island
- **Embarkation time:** Mactan at 13:00
- **Disembarkation:** Mactan at 10:00

Flights and Transfers

Transfer between Mactan-Cebu Airport or local hotels and the liveaboard on embarkation and disembarkation day is included in the liveaboard price.

Transfers from and to hotels and resorts outside of the Mactan or Cebu City area can be arranged for an additional charge.

Advice on Flights

International flights should be booked into Mactan-Cebu International Airport (CEB), which has direct international connections as well as regular domestic flights from Manila. We recommend arriving in Cebu at least one day before embarkation to allow for flight delays or schedule changes and to make sure you start your trip well rested.

If travelling via Manila with international and domestic connections on the same day, please allow plenty of time for transfer between domestic and international terminals and check-in.

IMPORTANT: Guests who are planning to arrive in Cebu on the day of embarkation are kindly requested to book a flight which arrives in Cebu no later than 12.00, noon. The airport is a short taxi ride from our embarkation meeting point.

Disembarkation in Cebu at the end of the liveaboard will be just before 10:00; we kindly ask guests not to book flights that depart earlier than 13:30 on the day of disembarkation. Earlier departures are logistically problematic and therefore not recommended.

If a morning flight departure is unavoidable, guests can disembark the evening before but will need to arrange a hotel for the night and their own airport transfer. Please note however that doing so may also exclude you from diving on your last day.

Diving Information

This route combines wall diving in Southern Leyte and Anda with the volcanic reefs of Camiguin. Diving conditions are generally suitable for all levels of divers, although some sites can be challenging for those who are inexperienced in currents.

Several of the walls, particularly Napantao and those around Limasawa Island, drop well beyond recreational depths and can have strong currents, so good buoyancy control and close attention to depth are important.

The use of a dive computer is compulsory on all dives.

Gloves, reef hooks, pointers and strobes/flashlights are prohibited at some of the locations we visit on this itinerary.

Minimum dive certification and experience

Divers wishing to join this itinerary must have Open Water certification*, or equivalent, with a ***mandatory minimum of 25 logged dives*** and experience in medium to strong currents.

*PADI Advanced Open Water certification can usually be completed on board if requested and confirmed in advance and requires students to have completed all e-learning beforehand.

Any guests who our crew feel have insufficient skills or experience to dive safely in certain conditions may be denied participation in some or all dives during the liveaboard.

It is a mandatory requirement for all divers to have insurance which covers scuba diving activities and accidents, including emergency evacuation costs. We strongly recommend purchasing diving-specific insurance (e.g. DiveAssure, DAN, etc.) before your trip departure.

Diving Emergencies

There are numerous recompression facilities throughout the Philippines, the most accessible of which are located in Manila, Cebu, Batangas and Subic. There is a hyperbaric chamber at Viscom Station Hospital in Cebu City which would be the closest should an incident occur while diving in the Visayas. However, should it be unavailable to deal with a diving emergency, private emergency air evacuation may be needed to access one of the other facilities.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your insurance will fully cover and reimburse all evacuation costs as well as recompression chamber and hospital treatment.

Diving-specific insurance should be purchased before your trip departure and must cover all costs which may be incurred as a result of a diving-related incident.

Water Temperatures and Exposure Suits

Water temperatures average around 26°-28°C (79°-82°F) year-round.

Most guests find that a 3mm or 5mm wetsuit is suitable for the expected water temperatures. 3 mm shorty wetsuits are available to rent on board. However, we recommend that those who feel the cold easily, especially with repeated diving, bring a full-length wetsuit and/or an extra rashguard, vest or hood with them.

Itinerary Details

Participation in this liveaboard itinerary is subject to acceptance of our Terms & Conditions as outlined here: www.masterliveaboards.com/terms-conditions.

Marine Park & Port Fees: 115 USD per person (payable onboard only)

PLEASE NOTE: ***Marine park fees are subject to change without notice***. The applicable amount at the time of departure will be added to your onboard extras to be paid before disembarkation.

Number of scheduled dives: Up to 22

This itinerary involves some long-distance travel between sites and, whilst we attempt to ensure the number of planned dives is fulfilled, weather and sea conditions can affect the boat's ability to reach a specific dive location in good time and may impact the number of dives that are possible.

Safety and dive briefings are conducted in English. If you, or any of your group, do not speak or understand English, please contact us.

The following is an example of the day-to-day itinerary.

Day 1: Embarkation at 13:00 followed by lunch, briefings, relaxation and dinner. There is *no diving on embarkation day*.

Day 2-6: Your Cruise Director will schedule up to 4 dives per day; 3 day dives and a sunset or night dive. A typical diving day is scheduled as follows:

- Light breakfast
- Briefing and dive 1
- Full Breakfast and relaxation
- Briefing and dive 2
- Lunch and relaxation
- Briefing and dive 3
- Snacks and relaxation
- Briefing for sunset or night dive, where possible
- Dinner

Day 7: Usually 2 morning* dives before we commence the cruise back to the marina.

Day 8: Following breakfast on board, disembarkation is between 09:30 and 10:00.

*We kindly request that guests check their flight departure times to ensure that they leave a minimum of 24 hours between their final dive and the departure of their flight.

The following is a sample of some of the dive sites we usually visit on the Visayas & Camiguin itinerary. *The safety of our guests is paramount, and we always do our best to offer diving at alternative locations should we be unable to visit or remain at any of the locations listed below.*

Diving Areas & Dive Sites

While we wish to show you the best diving possible, various factors determine the exact route the yacht follows and the dive sites we visit. ***Weather, tides, currents, and sea conditions are just some of the considerations that play a part in the Cruise Director's decision of where the vessel is heading, and which sites are chosen to dive***.

Disclaimer: This information is only a general overview of the key areas this itinerary usually covers and some of the diving possibilities at each location. ***The inclusion of specifically named dive sites is not guaranteed,*** and there may be dives at sites that are not listed below.

Limasawa Island

Limasawa is best known as the site of the first Catholic Mass in the Philippines, celebrated in 1521 during Magellan's expedition. Underwater, the island's eastern side is lined with steep walls that lie within a marine protected area where sea snakes and turtles are commonly seen.

Adrian's Cove

Over the edge of the reef, the wall falls away steeply from around 20m to 50m (66ft to 164ft), and as the light fades with depth it takes on a dark, atmospheric feel. Large gorgonian fans reach out from the face, with massive table corals spread among them. Nudibranchs are plentiful and Xeno-crabs can often be found clinging to sea whips, so there is plenty to look at on the slow ascent back up the wall.

Gunter's Wall

Further south along Limasawa's eastern shore, Gunter's Wall takes its name from a German dive centre owner from Southern Leyte. The face is dominated by green tree corals and big barrel sponges, interspersed with bushes of black coral. Search the sponges and coral branches closely for pink squat lobsters and a good variety of nudibranchs.

Sogod Bay

Sogod Bay cuts deep into the southern end of Leyte, with Padre Burgos and the Tangkaan peninsula on its western shore and Panaon Island across the water. Between them, the bay offers steep walls, coral slopes and one of the region's best-known night dives.

Tangkaan Point

Steep, rocky hills plunge straight into the sea at the tip of the Tangkaan peninsula, and the reef carries on in much the same way beneath the surface. Walls and steep slopes are covered with gorgonians, sea whips, barrel sponges and big table and brain corals. Green turtles are a common sight here, often in the company of batfish and groupers, and an eagle ray may glide past. With water on three sides, the point catches whatever current is running, so the dive is often a drift.

Coral Garden

Much of the Tangkaan shoreline is fringed with shallow coral gardens, and this is one of them. Hard and soft corals grow close to the surface, with small reef fish darting in and out of them. Without the depth of the nearby walls, it is an unhurried dive with time to poke around every coral head.

Padre Burgos Pier

After dark, the concrete pilings of the town pier and the shallow, silty seabed beneath them become one of the best critter hunts in the area. Stargazers lie buried in the sand with just their eyes showing, sea moths shuffle across the bottom, and stonefish and spiny devilfish sit motionless, waiting for prey. Seahorses cling to anything they can find, giant flatworms ripple past, and every so often someone finds a blue-ringed octopus.

Napantao

This long-established (since 1996), community-enforced marine protected area hosts a rich selection of marine life along its two wall sections. Above the drop-off, a shallow garden of branching, vase and boulder corals gives way to a wall that falls past 50m (164ft), draped with giant gorgonian fans, soft corals and bushes of black coral, where pygmy seahorses hide. The currents that sweep along the wall keep it lush and bring schools of pelagic fish in close, so keep an eye on the blue.

Son-ok Point, Pintuyan

Soft corals blanket the reef off Son-ok, part of a protected marine sanctuary near the southern end of Panaon. When the tide turns and the water starts to move, the reef comes alive, with fish swarming over the coral. Hawksbill turtles and frogfish are often found along the reef's edge at 12m to 15m (39ft to 49ft), while sharp eyes may pick out pygmy seahorses, mushroom coral pipefish and spearing mantis shrimps.

Santa Paz Sanctuary

This rocky and dark sand muck dive is full of critters. Robust pipefish, ornate ghost pipefish, and hairy frogfish are found here in the dark sandy substrate. Although cephalopods can be seasonal, coconut, mimic and wunderpus octopuses can be found here. The last one is a night predator so keep an eye out for them on a sunset or night dive.

Camiguin

Camiguin is a small volcanic island off the northern coast of Mindanao with seven volcanoes, one of which, Mount Hibok-Hibok, is still active. Much of the diving is over lava rock colonised by coral, which gives the reefs a rugged look quite unlike the rest of the route.

Mantigue Island

A small, uninhabited island off Camiguin's south-east coast, Mantigue is protected as a natural park and marine sanctuary. In places, the reef top slopes gently from the beach to around 5m (16ft) before the reef drops away to around 50m (164ft). Elsewhere, sand channels studded

with large boulders merge into a steep slope covered in hard and soft corals. A large number of green turtles live on the reef and are often found resting between the corals, while a resident school of barracuda, along with batfish, snapper and mackerel, keeps the water column busy. Watch the blue for passing eagle rays.

Old Volcano

Directly beneath Mount Vulcan, lava that once poured down its slopes has set into a long, steep wall and a jumble of huge rock formations, with black sand slopes in between, dropping beyond 40m (131ft). Colourful soft corals have taken hold on the dark rock, mackerel cruise along in the blue, and larger pelagics occasionally pass by. The wall is generally dived as a one-way drift, and frogfish and shrimps among the boulders give macro photographers plenty to look for. Its inclusion depends on sea conditions on the west coast.

Sunken Cemetery

Camiguin's cemetery sank into the sea during the 1871 eruption of Mount Vulcan, and a large white cross on a small, raised island now marks the spot. Underwater, cooled lava has formed a reef of boulders and overhangs, with hard and soft corals growing between 5m and 30m (16ft and 98ft) and the remnants of gravestones encrusted in marine growth. Octopus tuck into the small caves, nudibranchs decorate the coral blocks, and scorpionfish and frogfish sit among the rocks, with batfish, turtles and the occasional cuttlefish passing through.

Anda/ Bohol Island

On the eastern tip of Bohol, around 17km (10 miles) of coastline offers walls, slopes and muck sites, and sees far fewer divers than Panglao on the other side of the island. Pygmy seahorses are found at several sites along this stretch.

Lumayag

The wall at Lumayag is covered in colourful corals and festooned with gorgonian sea fans, each one worth a close look, as this is pygmy seahorse territory. Below 30m (98ft), the wall gives way to a sandy slope where spearing mantis shrimps keep watch from their burrows. Turtles are frequent visitors to the wall, and schools of jacks are often seen out in the blue.

Panorama

An easy-going dive over a fairly shallow slope of hard and soft corals that steepens into a wall in places, reaching around 25m (82ft). The crevices are worth checking for fire clams, their lips flickering with pulses of light, and moray eels peer out from holes in the reef.

Wonder Wall

Wonder Wall drops steeply from around 5m to 26m (16ft to 85ft) and is decorated with corals and anemones, where anemone shrimps, gobies and anthias make their homes. The wreck of a small speedboat lies on the wall, but the real interest is in the small stuff: Bargibant's pygmy seahorses in the sea fans, porcelain crabs, and the brilliantly patterned mandarinfish that live among the coral.

Paradise Gardens

A shallow slope of healthy hard and soft corals, sponges and crinoids, alive with colourful reef fish, leads to a wall that is every bit as rich. Turtles are a common sight on the reef, while schools of Moorish idols, snappers and jacks move along the wall. Seahorses are found at around 20m to 30m (66ft to 98ft), and the nooks and crannies hide nudibranchs, moray eels, shrimps and scorpionfish.

Pogaling

A sandy slope scattered with coral heads, reaching around 25m (82ft), which makes a relaxed dusk dive as the light fades. Cardinalfish, anthias, bannerfish and butterflyfish cluster around the coral, while the sand in between is worth scanning for mantis shrimps, anemone shrimps and, with luck, a finger dragonet.

Should you have any questions concerning the dive sites or whether this itinerary is suitable for your experience level, please contact our reservations team dive@masterliveaboards.com