

Cebu City Tours

Overview

Cebu City's reputation as one of the country's top tourist destinations is due to its all year round warm climate and accessibility. Named as the country's second international gateway, Cebu is the oldest city in the Philippines with many landmarks attesting to its rich and varied history and cultural influences. Historically, it is where the initial battle between the Filipinos and Spaniards took place with the city being established immediately after by the Spanish explorer Miguel Lopez de Legazpi's in 1565.

Half Day Cebu City Tour

Tour Details

- Pickup between 08:00 - 08:30 from hotels located within Mactan/Cebu City;
- Private Tour; Daily
- Tour Duration: approx. 5 hours
- Highlights: Taoist Temple; Magellan's Cross; Fort San Pedro; Casa Gorordo
- Inclusions: Entrance Fees, Lunch and Services of a Professional Guide

The city tour starts with a visit to the majestic Taoist Temple. Situated 6 km from the city centre is this impressive and highly ornate temple of the Taoist religious community. Its size and architecture are evidence that a considerable part of Cebu's population is ethnically Chinese.



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Pass by Cebu's Provincial Capital and Carbon Market on the way to visit the Basilica Minore del Santo Niño which houses the revered statue of the Infant Jesus. A short walk from the Basilica is Magellan's Cross, the place where Christianity was first planted in Cebu.

Not far from the Basilica is the Spanish built Fort San Pedro, a tri-bastion fort, which was the first military stronghold in the Philippines.



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The last stop of the tour is Casa Gorordo Museum in the Parian district. Now forming part of Cebu's downtown area, the Parian district was the most prestigious area and home to many prominent families during the Spanish era. Of the remaining four houses, Casa Gorordo was home to 4 generations of the Gorordo family from 1863 - 1979, including the first Filipino Bishop of the Province of Cebu.

The residence's architecture is typical of the colonial era, combining native, Spanish and Chinese influences; a style that is unique to the Philippines. Having been restored and furnished in the style of the period, Casa Gorordo Museum provides a fascinating insight into the lifestyle of a family experiencing the transformation of the Philippines from a colonial to a modern society.

Lunch at a local restaurant before returning to your hotel

Prices from:

1 pax: 146 USD

2 pax: 94 USD per person

3 or more: from 87 USD per person

For more information, or to book a tour, please contact our reservations team at: dive@masterliveaboards.com

Full Day Twin City Discovery Tour

Trace history through the landmarks in Cebu and Mactan – the most historical islands in the Philippines. Mactan Island lies a few kilometres southeast of the Cebu mainland and is divided into the municipality of Cordova and Lapu-Lapu City. Cebu and Mactan Island are connected by two bridges: the Mandaue-Mactan Island Bridge (old) and the Marcelo Fernan Bridge (new).

Tour Details

- Pickup between 08:00 - 08:30 from hotels located within Mactan/Cebu City;
- Private Tour; Daily
- Tour Duration: 7-8 Hours
- Highlights: Lapu-Lapu Monument; Alegre Guitar Factory; Magellan's Cross; Basilica Minore Del Santo Niño; The Heritage of Cebu Monument; Taoist Temple
- Inclusions: Entrance Fees, Lunch and Services of a Professional Guide

Filipinos are known to be musically inclined people and for this full day tour the first stop on Mactan Island will be the Alegre Guitar Factory known for its excellent craftsmanship and world class acoustic guitars, bandurrias, banjos and ukuleles. Witness the artistry and skill involved in guitar making from the use of different wood types, colours and materials used to produce quality guitars that are also exported to other countries around the world.

Next stop is the Lapu-Lapu Monument which highlights events that changed the shape of the history in Cebu and marks one of the defining moments in Philippines' history. It was here that, on 27th April 1521, Ferdinand Magellan was fatally wounded by Chief Lapu-Lapu, after whom the city is named.

Over in Cebu City, Fort San Pedro is a military defence installation built by the Spanish which is the oldest and smallest tri-bastion fort in the country. Not far from the fort are Magellan's Cross and the Basilica Minore Del Santo Niño.



Magellan's Cross is said to have been planted by the Portuguese and Spanish explorers led by Ferdinand Magellan upon their arrival in Cebu on 15th March 1521 and marks the birth of Christianity in the Philippines.

Basilica Minore del Santo Niño, which translates as the Minor Basilica of the Holy Child, is the country's oldest Roman Catholic Church and serves as cradle to the famous Santo Niño de Cebú, a religious image of the Christ Child widely venerated as miraculous by Filipino Catholics.

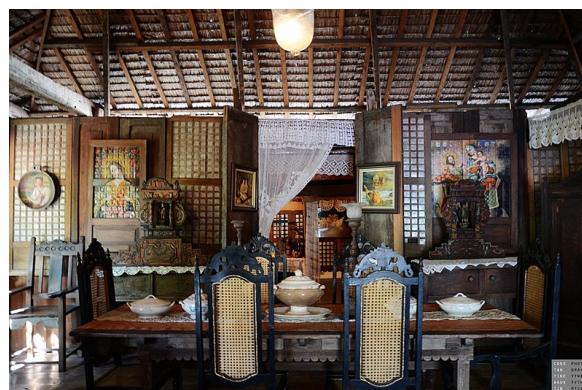
A drive through Colon Street, the oldest street located in the heart of the old downtown area of the Chinese district of Parian, brings you to the Cebu Heritage Monument, a tableau of sculptures made of concrete, bronze, brass and steel depicting scenes, structures and symbolic events related to the history of Cebu.

A short, 2 minute walk from the Heritage Monument is the Yap-SanDiego Ancestral House which was constructed by a family of Chinese merchants sometime in the late 17th century, and is one of the oldest existing residential structures in the Philippines.



Above photo credit: commons.wikimedia.org

Inside you will find a fascinating collection of relics and family heirlooms giving an insight into bygone eras.



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Next stop is Casa Gorordo, another house museum which was once home of Juan Gorodo, the first Filipino Bishop of Cebu. Built in the mid-19th Century, the house was purchased by Juan Isidro de Gorordo, a Spanish merchant, in 1863 and was home to 4 generations of the Gorordo family up until 1979.

Inside the museum are ornamented antique furniture, costumes, paintings, as well as religious images of saints and other figurines. There are also wood carvings, decorative arts and household items, and tools for farming, kitchen and even baking.

The last stop for this tour is the Taoist Temple, a cultural centre of the Chinese minority where you will get to see dragon paintings, altars and statues of the Buddha combined with beautiful pagoda roofs and a pool embellished with lotus flowers right outside of the Temple.

Lunch at a local restaurant before returning to hotel

Prices from:

1 pax: 196 USD

2 pax: 109 USD per person

3 or more: from 95 USD per person