



CEBU AND THE VISAYAS

Cebu and the Visayas are home to pristine white sand beaches, friendly locals, and some of the best diving in the Philippines. It is here where you get a chance to encounter rare marine life such as the elusive thresher shark, congregations of friendly whale sharks, massive balls of sardines, and tons of weird and wonderful macro critters.

Ultimate Cebu

Popularly known as the Queen City of the South, the sun-soaked island of Cebu boasts miles and miles of sandy beaches, giving opportunity to a number of eco-centered tourism activities of which diving is the number one in most travelers' list. Our Ultimate Cebu cruise takes our guests around the whole island of Cebu, offering the incomparable comfort and convenience of experiencing all the highlights and underwater glory the region has to offer.

Starting off in Mactan Island, the Big Sky Explorer cruises its way to the northern tip of Cebu where divers are treated with the [rare chance](#) to encounter the [graceful and elusive thresher sharks of Monad Shoal, Malapascua](#). Here and only here in Malapascua, [thresher sharks are seen on a regular basis](#) and sightings are almost guaranteed every day. To get the best action, the dive is done at the break of dawn; with Monad Shoal being 45 minutes away from Malapascua Island, diving off a liveaboard gives our guests the great convenience and valuable advantage of being the first to reach the site.

An hour or so away from Malapascua is [Gato Island](#), a remote marine sanctuary, complete with an abundance of pelagic and macro subjects. [White tip reef sharks](#) patrol in and around the island's underwater tunnels, while a plethora of macro subjects including [pygmy seahorses and ornate ghost pipefish](#), show themselves to the patient photographer.

After exploring the northern tip of Cebu for a couple of days, we then proceed down to the western side of Cebu island to experience [Moalboal](#) and its [massive resident ball of sardines numbering by the millions](#), often being hunted by jacks, tunas, and even threshers. The jewel in the crown of Moalboal's diving is [Pescador Island](#), where drop offs, overhangs, and crevices along its magnificent wall will keep one busy looking for all sorts of things. Out in the blue, usual pelagics such as barracudas and tunas frequent the place. Bigger pelagics such as mantas, white tips, and hammerheads also turn up for an appearance from time to time.

Further down south the cruise moves on to the whale shark destination [Oslob](#), where divers are given the unique opportunity to dive, swim or snorkel with [dozens of whale sharks](#) all at once! What was once a sleepy fishing town, Oslob

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has recently transformed itself into an eco-tourist destination capitalizing on the regular whale sharks that abound in their bay.

The vessel then moves eastward to the nearby island of fun-filled [Bohol](#) exploring the underwater treasures of [Balicasag Island](#), known for its [amazing visibility, huge population of green sea turtles, and expansive coral reef system](#). The cruise may also take divers to [Cabilao Island](#), famous for majestic walls covered in plentiful soft corals and gorgonian sea fans. Many have attested encountering [shoals of hammerhead sharks off Cabilao's walls](#) during colder months.

Giving our guests the full Cebu experience, our itinerary also includes a full day opportunity to trek the lush tropical interior of Cebu which will reward guests with an [exhilarating canyoneering activity](#) along the enchanted Kanla-ob River, eventually finding its way to the pristine [Kawasan Falls for an invigorating dip](#). After lunch, the activity is then followed by a relaxing afternoon session along one of Moalboal's white sand beaches, before ending the day with a [barbeque feast under the stars](#) for dinner.

The Cruise Director will be arranging up to 4 dives per day, except for the last diving day, which will only have 2 to 3 dives depending on guests' flight schedules the following day. A total of 5 meals will be served each full day on board.

A typical diving day will be scheduled as follows:

0600:	Light Breakfast followed by dive briefing
0700:	Dive 1
0830:	Full Breakfast, followed by relaxation and dive briefing
1000:	Dive 2
1200:	Lunch, followed by relaxation and dive briefing
1430:	Dive 3, followed by relaxation and afternoon merienda (snacks)
1700:	Dive briefing followed by Dive 4 (sunset dive)
1900:	Dinner



Sample Itinerary

Ultimate Cebu (7d/6n)

Embarkation Port: Cebu Yacht Club, Mactan

Disembarkation Port: Cebu Yacht Club, Mactan

Mactan → Malapascua → Moalboal → Oslob → Balicasag → Mactan

Day 1: Embarkation in Mactan between 2PM to 6PM. Service starts with a welcome drink and a boat briefing followed by dinner before departure to Malapascua approximately at 8PM.

Day 2: Malapascua 3-4 dives

Day 3: Malapascua 3-4 dives

Day 4: Moalboal – Pescador Island 3-4 dives

Day 5: Moalboal 3-4 dives / land excursion

Day 6: Oslob – Balicasag 3-4 dives

Day 7: Arrive Mactan approximately 5AM. Disembark between 8AM and 10AM. Breakfast will be served before disembarkation and transfer to Mactan.

Additional Information

<u>INCLUSIONS</u>	<u>EXCLUSIONS</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full board accommodation in a twin or quad sharing cabin. Single occupancy rates available. • Five (5) meals a day (including light breakfast and afternoon snacks). • Unlimited coffee, tea, juice and drinking water. • Diving (3-4 non-deco dives a day), service of a dive master, full dive tanks and weight belts. • FREE UNLIMITED NITROX (for fully paid bookings 6 months or more prior to the scheduled trip). • Two-way transfer between M/V Big Sky Explorer and Mactan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International and domestic air transportation (if required). • Hotels and meals before and after the cruise. • Dive, travel, and medical insurances. • Soft drinks, beer, wine or spirits (minimal corkage fees apply). • Extra services such as laundry, massage, etc. • Diving equipment rental. • Nitrox diving (for bookings fully paid less than 6 months prior to scheduled trip). • Park entrance fees and dive permits. • Crew gratuities.