



SOLID SEAVENTURES
LIVEABOARDS

**M/V BIG SKY
EXPLORER**

CEBU AND THE VISAYAS: VISAYAN EXTENSION AND VISAYAN ODYSSEY TRIP EXTENSIONS

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.

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 pelagic such as mantas, white tips, and hammerheads also turn up for an appearance from time to time.

SOLID SEAVENTURES INC.

299 P.Guevarra St., San Juan, Metro Manila, Philippines | Tel. +63 920 9133166
bookings@solidseaventures.com | www.solidseaventures.com



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

After an unforgettable experience in Oslob, the vessel 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.

Trip Extension

For those who wish to have an extended vacation with us, we also offer liveaboard cruises beyond Cebu for up to 8 or 12 days. Included in the extension are pristine [Apo Island and Dauin](#) in the Negros, the volcanic island paradise of [Camiguin](#), remote [Anda](#) in Eastern Bohol, and the lush and rugged [Southern Leyte](#).

The incomparable comfort and convenience of a liveaboard gives you the opportunity to experience variety and dive the most interesting sites, especially the remote ones, all within your dedicated period of time.

Apo Island and Dauin

Located a few nautical miles away from the southern coastline the Negros island is one of the Philippines [most successful marine conservation projects](#), [Apo Island](#). Regarded by many as the [most pristine dive site in the world](#), its exhilarating drift dives will bring divers over sloping reefs where schools of barracudas, jacks, parrotfish, and trevallies are seen by the huge numbers. Coral formations are amazingly intact, giving the place a very prehistoric feel. [Dauin](#) on the other hand is a [muck diver's paradise](#), where one can spend hours in one site exploring and interacting with weird and wonderful sea creatures that may have yet to be identified. For those whose ambition is to discover and name a sea creature after oneself, this place is your best chance to do so.

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Camiguin

Excellent diving awaits you in this remote volcanic island known as Camiguin. Rarely included in any Visayan liveaboard cruise, the distant island is already at the northernmost part of Mindanao. Its natural beauty both above and underwater merits a visit from any ardent traveler. Being a volcanic island, Camiguin is blessed with rich fertile soil, giving way to **lush rainforests, misty jungles, and invigorating waterfalls**, making it truly a tropical paradise worth visiting.

Anda, Bohol

At the eastern part of Bohol is the remote and peaceful coastal town of Anda, where undisturbed waters make it an excellent place for underwater photography. **Pygmy Seahorses** sitting on giant Gorgonian Sea Fans are not uncommon, while other rare creatures including the **wonderpuss, flamboyant cuttlefish**, and a **plethora of nudibranchs, shrimps and crabs** grace Anda's sandy patches.

Southern Leyte

Only in recent years has Leyte started to flourish as a dive destination, with **colorful walls, excellent macro life**, and regular pelagic visitors such as **whale sharks** gracing the area, being some of its top draw. Aside from it being abound by underwater treasure, Southern Leyte is also gifted with tropical waterfalls, rugged mountains, and an abundance of virgin rainforests.

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

Visayan Extension (8d/7n)

Embarkation Port: Cebu Yacht Club, Mactan

Disembarkation Port: Cebu Yacht Club, Mactan

Mactan → Malapascua → Moalboal → Apo Island → 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: Apo Island – Dauin 3-4 dives

Day 7: Oslob – Balicasag 3-4 dives

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



Visayan Odyssey (12d/11n)

Embarkation Port: Cebu Yacht Club, Mactan

Disembarkation Port: Cebu Yacht Club, Mactan

Mactan → Malapascua → Moalboal → Apo Island → Oslob → Balicasag
→ Camiguin → Anda → Southern Leyte → Mactan

Day 1: Embarkation in Mactan between 1400h to 1800h. Service starts with a welcome drink and a boat briefing followed by dinner before departure to Malapascua approximately at 2000h.

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: Apo Island – Dauin 3-4 dives

Day 7: Oslob – Balicasag 3-4 dives

Day 8: Camiguin 3-4 dives

Day 9: Camiguin 3-4 dives + Camiguin island tour

Day 10: Anda 3-4 dives

Day 11: Southern Leyte 3-4 dives

Day 12: Arrive Mactan approximately 8AM. Disembark between 9AM and 11AM. 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.