

CELESTIAL GARDENS

: located in Banawa Hills, Cebu City



Celestial Gardens is also known as the Good Shepherd or the Garden of God. Built originally as a cemetery and memorial park which is owned by the Tanchan Foundation Inc. Various types of plants and trees can be found all through Celestial Gardens. As you enter, you are greeted with two imposing arches with the statues of two saints on top of either side as you walk into Celestial Gardens. Distinguished life-size statues that depict the passion and death of Jesus Christ can be found inside and are very impressive. The panoramic view of the city is breath-taking and is very famous for this reason and also stands as a reminder for Filipinos' Catholic faith. The gardens found within are a great contrast to the busy city outside and so it is a great sanctuary for guests to escape the hustle and bustle of the city even in only for an hour or two.

VOCABULARY

memorial
arch
distinguished
depict
panoramic

QUESTIONS

1. What was the primary reason that Celestial Gardens was built?
2. What is the place famous for?
3. What does the garden provide for its visitors?

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete the sentences.

memorial arch distinguished depict panoramic

1. He had wished the place to be sold and the returns be devoted to some _____ purposes after his death.
2. The conference was attended by some of the _____ guests in the field of marketing.
3. His art did not _____ any emotion.
4. From the mountains, the _____ scene was breath-taking.
5. An _____ separated the kitchen and the dining room.

METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL

: one of the most iconic and classical religious sites in Metro Cebu



This Spanish colonial church called The Metropolitan Cathedral or Cebu Cathedral was built to seat the Cebu bishop. This holy place was built in wood and nipa palms and is quite sturdy and throughout history, it has stood the test of time. Its structure has been altered to withstand storms and other catastrophes and is now an iconic landmark here in Cebu. As you walk through the main entrance, the Spanish Royal Coat of Arms is set above and reflects the Spanish monarch of the time.

Nowadays, the popularity of the church has been increasing and is more popular with the locals. Couples who seek an elegant, lavish and timeless wedding in the metro dream of wedding there.

VOCABULARY

iconic
colonial
sturdy
stand the test of time
timeless

QUESTIONS

1. Why was the cathedral built?
2. How has the church's infrastructure changed over the years?
3. How do you think the Spaniards affected Cebu's culture?

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete the sentences.

iconic colonial sturdy stood the test of time timeless

1. Our office building is built out of stone, plain but _____.
2. Many admire the couple, for their relationship has _____.
3. I think her beauty is _____.
4. He has an _____ appearance.
5. He dates the custom from the _____ days.

MONASTERY OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

: a Marian shrine locally known to many as “*Birhen sa Simala*” or Simala Shrine



Located in the hilly side of Sibonga, Cebu, can be found a castle-like shrine which is also one of the busiest pilgrimages in the province. Devotees flock to this popular shrine for various reasons but the main reason is for divine intervention and also to extend their gratitude to the Miraculous Mother Mary and to receive graces from her. Exhibited along the hallways, one can see crutches, wigs, wheelchairs, nameplates and heartfelt testimonials which expressed a miracle received by the believers. As a result, devotees continue to proliferate. The simple chapel turned into a pilgrim castle due to many devotees extending their gratitude by giving donations.

VOCABULARY

shrine
flock
intervention
heartfelt
proliferate

QUESTIONS

1. Do you believe in miracles? Why or why not?
2. What are the famous religious places in your country?
3. What religion is known in your country?

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete the sentences.

shrine flock intervention heartfelt proliferate

1. The locals _____ into the newly opened shopping mall.
2. People go to a _____ to pray and find peace.
3. Government _____ in religious event is a bad publicity.
4. The host extended his _____ apology for his mistake.
5. The nation feared that the use of nuclear weapons might _____ in the future.

BASILICA MINORE DE STO. NIÑO

: a century-old church built in the 1600's and commonly known to locals as *Sto. Niño*, which means Holy Child



One of the most visited churches and the holiest in the metro area which also turns into a sea of pilgrims every Friday and Sunday (especially the Novena Mass in its festivity every January). The church is well-adorned with antiquated chandeliers, bamboo organs, fresco paintings and ornate altars filled with devotional sculptures. The major highlight here is the Holy Child Jesus where many tourists and devotees stand in long lines for a glimpse and express one's petition in silence. Next to this famous site stands yet another famous and iconic site which is Magellan's Cross.

VOCABULARY

pilgrim
antiquated
fresco
petition
iconic

QUESTIONS

1. What are the different religions in your country?
2. In what way do people worship in your country?
3. How do you feel when you visit holy places?

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete the sentences.

pilgrims antiquated fresco petition iconic

1. A lot of _____ paintings from different countries hang on the walls of her living room.
2. Different _____ from around the world gather together to celebrate the most holy day.
3. The Statue of Liberty is an _____ landmark in New York City.
4. The house is so _____, the walls are slowly crumbling.
5. The church receives a lot of _____ letters asking for miracles and prayers.

TAOIST TEMPLE

: built in 1972, the Cebu Taoist Temple is located in Beverly Hills Subdivision in Cebu City, Philippines



Taoist temple is another must-see religious site in Cebu which is located in the elevated Beverly Hills, Cebu City. Since Cebu has a large number of Chinese-Filipino communities, they built this place for worship. It is one of the most popular tourist destinations because of its unique design and location. Most devotees who go there perform their traditional ritual so their prayers and wishes will come true. When going there, tourists must pay attention and follow the strict rules that the temple has in place. Inside this sacred place on display there is a religious relic and no one is allowed to take photos of the relic and silence must also be observed at all times.

VOCABULARY

elevated
unique
devotee
ritual
relic

QUESTIONS

1. Which is the most popular and most visited temples in your country?
2. What rituals do you do when you visit a temple?
3. Do you believe in gods and goddesses?

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete the sentences.

elevated unique devotees ritual relic

1. The evening gowns have simple yet _____ designs.
2. A very old _____ is on display at the national museum for 2 days.
3. The palace is located on an _____ hill, making it easier to locate.
4. Many _____ visited the holy place to pray for a prosperous year ahead.
5. Every year they perform the tribe's _____ to honor their gods and goddesses.

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