

BANTAYAN ISLAND

: The word "Bantayan" in Cebuano means "Keep watch!"



Bantayan is located at the northernmost tip of mainland Cebu. There is not an easy way of getting there, but once you arrive you will be rewarded with the beauty and charm to this welcoming tropical island. Bantayan is known for its picturesque sunsets, centuries old churches and a vast white sand beach which are purely unspoiled by over tourism as in many other parts of the country. Though the sand is not talcum powder-soft, Bantayan still has wonderful sandy beaches. Of course staying in this great location void of excessive tourists, you can have the comfort of warm sandy beaches beneath your feet, a wonderful blue horizon and enjoy some local delicacies.

VOCABULARY

mainland
rewarded
charm
picturesque
horizon

QUESTIONS

1. What are the aspects Bantayan is known for?
2. Are there white sand beaches near where you live?
3. What is your idea of a perfect vacation?

EXERCISE

Choose the correct word from the box and complete the sentences below.

mainland rewarded charm picturesque horizon

1. The crossing to the _____ takes an hour and forty minutes by ferry.
2. I let myself be carried away by the secret _____ of the air I breathed.
3. The town presents a _____ view of the mountains.
4. He was _____ with a beautiful smile.
5. The sun peeked over the _____ to the east.

CAMOTES ISLAND

: known as “The Lost Horizon of the South” because of its unspoiled atmosphere. “Sweet Potatoes”; that’s where this island supposedly gets its name from



Camotes is a group of islands located east of mainland Cebu. It is a paradise that cannot be missed, it offers white sandy beaches where you can find peace and tranquility and truly enjoy a relaxing ambiance. Enjoy a secluded resort cottage built on top of rocks and enjoy the peacefulness. Beaches are yet only one of the many attractions in Camotes. There are also beautiful underground caves worth exploring that offer crystal clear water. One can take a dip in the water in the caves and enjoy a refreshing swim. After spending the day swimming, one can go to the Bay walk to dry off and visit their mini bazaar or market. Feel the soothing breeze and enjoy the fresh air and get ready to explore the undiscovered islands of Camotes.

VOCABULARY

island
 ambiance
 underground
 take a dip
 dry off

QUESTIONS

1. What are the things Camotes can offer to tourists/visitors?
2. How did the island get its name?
3. Do you want to visit Camotes Island? Why or why not?

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

island ambiance underground take dip dry off

1. There was an _____ of excitement at the music festival.
2. The _____ tunnel led through several other chambers.
3. It was a small _____, and there was no one living on it.
4. Let's _____ in the pool.
5. Wash the clothes and leave it to _____.

MALAPASCUA

: The island's name is said to have originated from two Spanish words "mal" and "pascua" translated in English as "bad" and "Easter" because Spaniards arrived in the island on a stormy Easter



Malapascua is an island located in Northern Cebu that features warm tropical waters, palm trees, white sand beaches, and excellent dive sites known by many tourists. It has and continues to attract many foreign tourists especially divers because of its rich marine sanctuary. This site is best known as the only place in the world that Thresher sharks can be seen on a regular basis. Not only can you see Thresher sharks but you can also enjoy lounging on the beach while swimming in an idyllic secluded cove on the island.

VOCABULARY

feature
sanctuary
idyllic
secluded
cove

QUESTIONS

1. How did Malapascua get its name?
2. What do you think about swimming with sharks?
3. Do you think island life is ideal?

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

features sanctuary idyllic secluded cove

1. This place seems like an _____ place for a picnic.
2. The _____ was plain with no luxuries.
3. The place was quiet and _____, ideal for a romantic dinner.
4. This restaurant _____ the most famous chefs in France.
5. We decided to take a rest close to the entrance of the _____.

MOALBOAL

: originated from the word "bukal-bukal" which means "bubbling stream"



Story has it that Moalboal has a spring where many of the locals get their water and one day a foreigner happened to ask a woman with a cleft - lip the name of the spring. She answered back that it was bukal bukal but her speech condition made it sound like "mwal-bwal". Moalboal (pronounced as mwal-bwal) is located in the southern part of Cebu and is a famous diving site. The beauty of Moalboal is not about the beach or historical landmarks, or picturesque landscapes like other destinations in the Philippines but its beauty is actually submerged in its waters. Underwater it is considered a divers paradise, it is filled with a variety of beautiful corals and many species of reef fish. This should be the top of the list for any avid scuba diver.

VOCABULARY

cleft-lip
 historical
 submerge
 underwater
 variety

QUESTIONS

1. Why is Moalboal different from other tourist destinations?
2. Have you tried swimming underwater?
3. What marine animals do you want to see?

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

cleft-lip historical submerge underwater variety

1. Many _____ buildings were damaged by the earthquake.
2. They chatted endlessly about a _____ of things.
3. Doctors helped several children with _____ conditions during the Volunteer Program.
4. There are animals and plants that dwell in the _____ river.
5. Recent earthquakes made some parts of the island _____ in water.

OSLOB

: originated from the word "toslob" which means "soak"



The name Oslob came from a miscommunication from a foreigner and a native couple when they were asked about the name of the place where they were soaking bananas with vinegar and salt. Oslob is located in the Southern part of Cebu. Most people are aware of Oslob and have heard of it, but in case you haven't, here are some of the activities you can enjoy: you can watch, snorkel, or dive with whale sharks in Oslob, Cebu! While the size of the whale shark can be intimidating, they are often gentle enough to swim beside quite safely making them a prime tourist attraction. If you are looking for a breathtaking waterfall to visit, then look no further, this is the place. The waterfall stands at a height of around 300 feet. Tourists and locals keep coming to the beautiful island of Oslob, Cebu to experience the breathtaking views, clear waters and relaxing atmosphere.

VOCABULARY

snorkel
intimidating
prime
waterfall
breathtaking

QUESTIONS

1. Name one special activity you can do in Oslob.
2. What kind of sea adventure would you like to try and why?
3. What do you think about whale sharks?

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

snorkel intimidating prime waterfall breathtaking

1. With each bend of the highway they found _____ views.
2. At the end of the trip, we stopped near a high _____ to take a rest and eat.
3. Our _____ goal is to achieve 100% customer satisfaction.
4. Tourists visit different islets and enjoy _____.
5. We certainly weren't friends with our teachers -- we found them very _____.

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