

# PLACES TO VISIT IN CEBU

# MAGELLAN'S CROSS

Magellan's cross is the cross which is believed to be the cross Magellan built on the shores of Cebu to commemorate the islanders' conversion to Christianity. Encased in hollow Tindalo wood in 1835 to preserve it, the cross is located in downtown Cebu in front of the Cebu City Hall and a few steps away from the Santo Niño Basilica.



# BASILICA MINORE DEL STO. NIÑO

In 1565, Spanish explorer Miguel Lopez de Legaspi burnt down a whole village of hostile natives upon his arrival in Cebu. A wooden box containing the untouched statue of the Santo Niño was found in the ashes of one of the houses. This image is believed to be the same statue given to Queen Juana by Ferdinand Magellan in 1521. A church, now known as the Santo Niño Basilica, was supposedly established in the 16<sup>th</sup> century on the spot where the image was found, making this church the oldest Roman Catholic Church established in the Philippines. This church is supposed to house the same Santo Niño statue, which was found in the ashes of the burnt village, making this the oldest religious relic in the country. The October 15, 2013 Bohol earthquake toppled the church's belfry and part of its façade while some walls and frescoes exhibited cracks after the earthquake.



# MUSEO SUGBO

The Museo Sugbo was established in 2004 in the old “Carcel de Cebu” (Jail of Cebu) building which was built in 1871 and used as the main prison for the Visayas during the Spanish occupation to incarcerate not only criminals but Katipuneros (Filipino rebel forces) as well during the revolution. With the transfer of the provincial jail to a new facility, this old jail was converted into a museum, which now houses antiquities from the American, Japanese and Spanish occupations as well as beautiful pre-colonial artifacts found in the province of Cebu.



# FORT SAN PEDRO

This old military fort, now found beside Plaza Independencia in downtown Cebu, was built by the Spanish and Cebuano laborers in 1738 to protect the island from Muslim raiders. This fort now houses its own museum with Spanish artifacts, artwork and documents.





# FORT SAN PEDRO

The Lapu-lapu shrine is found in a park on the Island of Mactan at the purported site of the Battle of Mactan in which Datu Lapu-lapu and his warriors defeated Magellan and his soldiers, making Lapu-lapu the first Filipino hero. A large statue of Lapu-lapu with his “Kris” (sword) and “taming” (shield) stands watch over the waters of the Mactan channel.



# JUMALON BUTTERFLY SANCTUARY

The Jumalon Butterfly Sanctuary is a butterfly breeding farm and museum found in the Southern part of Cebu City. It houses beautifully-preserved moths and butterflies and offers a guided tour of its breeding farm. Its most famous exhibit though are the paintings and the beautiful lepidomosaics (mosaics made entirely of butterfly wings) of the late Cebuano lepidopterist, Professor Julian Jumalon. As this sanctuary is a bit out of the way and not that known to tourists yet, some taxi drivers might not even know about it so before taking the cab, ask the driver if he knows the way to this hidden gem.



# TEMPLES AND CHURCHES

Owing to its Spanish colonization, Metro Cebu is filled with Roman Catholic churches such as the Cebu Cathedral, the St. Joseph national shrine in Mandaue City, the Our Lady of the Rule national shrine in Lapu-lapu City and the newly-established church dedicated to Cebuano Catholic Saint, Pedro Calungsod. The Pedro Calungsod church is found in the SM Mall complex in the South Road Properties (SRP) Reclamation Area.

Several Chinese temples, which have also become tourist destinations themselves, may also be found within Metro Cebu, highlighting the area's Chinese heritage. Other places of interest would be the *Heritage of Cebu monument* and the *San Diego Ancestral Home*, both of which are found in the Parian Area of Cebu City, and the *guitar stores and factories* in Lapu-Lapu city.