

DIVING IN THE PHILIPPINES

MOALBOAL, CEBU FOR 5 DAYS AT USD 355.00 PER PERSON

C. MOALBOAL, CEBU

Cebu, "the Queen City of the South", is the oldest and second largest metropolis in the country. Moalboal is on the southwest coast of Cebu, about 90kms by road from Cebu City.

DIVING

There are numerous diving opportunities in the Moalboal area. Visibility averages 70ft (21meters) and water temperature averages 79°F (26°C).



INCLUSIONS:

Roundtrip land transfers Cebu Airport - Moalboal - Airport (2 hours)

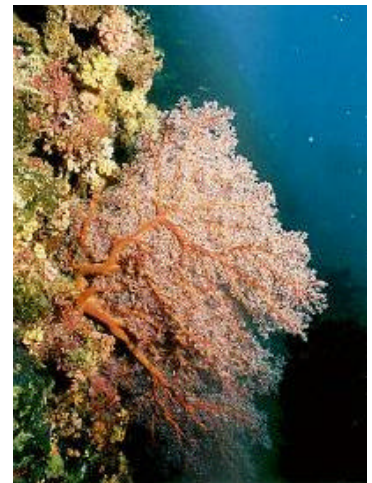
Basic resort accommodation on twin sharing

Daily breakfast

2 dives per day

Use of tanks, weights, weightbelt

Boat and services of a dive-master



EXCLUSION: (RATE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

AIRFARE - MANILA - CEBU - MANILA

USD 120.00pp



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DIVE SPOTS: MOALBOAL, CEBU

1. PESCADOR ISLAND ★★★★★

LOCATION: 3 kms (2 miles) west-southwest of Tongo Point in the Tanon Strait.

ACCESS: 45-50 minutes, depending on sea conditions, by banca southwest from Panagsama Beach.

CONDITIONS/VISIBILITY: Normally a bit choppy with strong currents, but it can get really rough with fierce currents. Visibility can reach 40m (130ft)

AVERAGE DEPTH: Whatever you like

MAXIMUM DEPTH: 50m (165ft)

Pescador has the best diving off Cebu and really does provide almost everything in a very small area. The island is in fact a large pinnacle rising out of 35m (115ft) of open water to 6m (20ft) above the surface. Around the island is a healthy coral ledge, mostly at around 3m (10ft), though at the southern end it slopes to 9m (30ft) Whalesharks have been spotted in open waters south of the island, and one is almost certain to see anywhere from 20 to 30 hammerhead sharks around the northeast edge of the reef at around 33 to 40 meters (10 to 120 ft. Divers can traverse the series of apertures of the Pescador Cathedral, an undersea formation resembling a giant funnel which drops to 115ft. The Lionfish cave on the northern edge of the reef was so named as it is the best place to spot lionfish and scorpion fish. Jacks and pelagic fish as well as schools of sweetlips abound all around the reef.

2. SAAVEDRA (WHITE BEACH) ★★★★★

LOCATION: Off White Beach, just south of Copton Point.

ACCESS: 15 minutes by banca.

CONDITIONS: Normally calm with strong to fierce current. Do not make this journey in bad conditions

VISIBILITY: Can reach 30m (100ft)

AVERAGE DEPTH: 25m (80ft)

MAXIMUM DEPTH: 40m (130ft)

This dive is much the same as at Copton Point but with more slope and less wall. The coral and fish life are equally healthy, with perhaps more nudribanchs, Feather Duster Worms, pipefish, anemones, and clown fish, less of the bigger fish and slightly less current.

3. COPTON POINT ★★★★★

LOCATION: The west point of the northern end of Copton Peninsula.

ACCESS: 20 minutes by banca north to Copton Point.

CONDITIONS: Normally calm with strong to fierce currents.

VISIBILITY: Can reach 30m (100ft)

AVERAGE DEPTH: 25m (80ft)

MAXIMUM DEPTH: 40m (130ft)

You descend a steep sandy slope down to 25m (80ft), then go over the drop-off down to 40m (130ft). The slope is rich in healthy soft leathery and stony corals, whip corals, Tubastrea corals, large gorgonian sea fans and barrel sponges. As the current takes you further north, the wall rises to 4m (13ft) with a level reef top, ideal for snorkeling, with some very good staghorn and table corals. The sandy slope has sponges, sea urchins (including Slate Pencil Urchin), Blue spotted lagoon rays Lizard fish, goatfish, gobies, and various anemones with clown fish.

4. TONGO POINT ★★★

LOCATION: The southern point of Copton Peninsula.

ACCESS: 15 minutes by banca.

CONDITIONS: The site is sheltered during the northeast monsoon, so it is usually dived from October to March when the other sites may be too rough - but you can still find fierce currents here.

VISIBILITY: Can reach 20m (65ft)

AVERAGE DEPTH: 25m (80ft)

MAXIMUM DEPTH: 40m (130ft)

There is a large area here, going north to Tapanan. At the northern end is a series of coral arches in 4m (13ft) to 8m (25ft) of water, and at the southern end there are large buttresses, away from the drop-off, to explore. The site is not very good for fish but has plenty of invertebrates and coral life, with large gorgonian sea fans. The currents can be very difficult here between tides.

- ★★★★★ FIRST CLASS
- ★★★★ HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
- ★★★ GOOD

DIVE SEASON:

Typhoons or storms hardly visit Cebu and it is possible to dive all year round. Peak diving months are November and December, although diving season is from November to May. In July and August, when most of the country endure the monsoon rains, visibility around Moalboal still averages 27 to 33 meters (80 to 100ft). The waters are calmest from April to June.