

# Malapascua and The Visayas, Philippines

## Itinerary - 10 Nights

- **Meeting point for embarkation: Marina Seaview Restaurant, Cebu Yacht Club**
- **Cebu embarkation: 13:00**
- **Disembarkation: Marina Seaview Restaurant, Cebu Yacht Club at 10:00**

Transfers between Cebu Airport & local hotels and Marina Seaview Restaurant are provided free of charge on embarkation and disembarkation day.

Transfers to hotels and resorts outside of the local area can be arranged for an additional charge.

### **Marine & Port Fees:**

- 155 USD per person

Marine park fees can be paid in advance, or on board.

There is an additional charge of 30 USD per person, payable on board for diving with whale sharks at Oslob should you choose to join.

### **Minimum dive certification and experience:**

Diving conditions in and around the Visayas are suitable for all levels of divers.

Divers wishing to join this itinerary are advised to have Advanced Open Water certification\*, or equivalent, with a minimum of 10 logged dives and experience in strong currents.

\*Advanced Open Water course can be completed on board

Guests who do not fulfil the minimum certification and experience requirements may be denied participation in some or all dives.

It is a mandatory requirement for all divers to have insurance which covers scuba diving activities, including emergency evacuation and recompression chamber costs.

Participation in this liveaboard itinerary is subject to acceptance of our Terms & Conditions as outlined here: [www.masterliveboards.com/terms-conditions](http://www.masterliveboards.com/terms-conditions).

### **Number of scheduled dives:**

- Up to 33

This itinerary involves some long distance travel and, whilst we attempt to ensure the number of planned dives is fulfilled, bad weather and sea conditions can affect the boat's ability to reach a specific dive site in good time and may impact on the number of dives that are possible.

**Safety and dive briefings are conducted in English. If you, or any of your group, do not speak or understand English, please contact us.**

The following is an example of the day-to-day itinerary.

Day 1: Embarkation at 13:00 followed by lunch and briefings. If time allows there may be a check dive scheduled but diving on embarkation day is not guaranteed.

Day 2-9: Your Cruise Director will schedule up to 4 dives per day; 3 day dives and a sunset or night dive. A typical diving day is scheduled as follows:

- Light Breakfast followed by a briefing & Dive 1
- Full Breakfast, relaxation followed by briefing & Dive 2
- Lunch, relaxation followed by briefing & Dive 3
- Snack
- Briefing for Dive
- Dinner

Day 10: Usually 2 morning\* dives before Philippine Siren commences the cruise to port.

Day 11: Following breakfast on board, disembarkation is scheduled for between 09:30am and 10:00am.

\*We kindly request that guests check their flight departure times to ensure that they leave a minimum of 24 hours between their final dive and the departure of their flight.

## Malapascua Island

### Monad Shoal

One of the few dive spots in the world where the shy pelagic thresher sharks may be seen on a daily basis. Divers rest at approximately 25m (90ft) on the sandy bottom to watch the sharks approach and be cleaned. Diving with Nitrox is recommended to enjoy extended bottom time. Please be advised it is not allowed to use strobes and/or flash lights here.

## Chocolate Island

This little island has the typical topography around Malapascua area. The shallow tops full of soft corals and algae are home for different kinds of nudibranchs. The shallow bottom of maximum 16 m (50ft) around this island is the perfect spot for odd shaped bottom dwellers like bearded scorpionfish, devil scorpionfish and dwarf cuttlefish but also many different kinds of sea stars, sea urchins with their urchin clingfish inside, black velvetina and ringed pipefish can be found.

## Gato Island

The island of Gato located less than 2 hours away from Malapascua provides a diverse range of marine life; cuttlefish can be seen performing their mating rituals when it is the right season. White tip reef sharks seek shelter under bommies and a plethora of macro critters command the sea floor. There are several sites around the small island and we choose from the following:

### White Tip Alley

As the name suggests provides an almost guaranteed sighting of white tip reef sharks that enjoy their rest on the sand tucked under rocks and coral bommies. Other species found here include scorpion fish and seahorses. Whip coral shrimps which cling to the colourful whip corals adorn the overhangs of this Alley.

### Nudibranch City

Rubble, rocks, sponges and corals provide a perfect habitat and create an "Undersea City" for a wide variety of nudibranchs and flatworms. Blue dragons, chromodoris, hypselodoris, and flabellinas.

### The Tunnel

running through Gato Island, divers can take a journey to the other side! Keep a lookout for resting white tip sharks or use your light to search for lobsters and crabs that like to dwell within the cavern.

## Moalboal, Cebu

The main attraction of Moalboal is the millions of sardines hanging out in the shallow waters. Other than that the beautiful diving around Pescador Island is just 30 minutes away.

### Panagsama Beach

Along with the millions of sardines, performing an underwater ballet, giant frogfish might be found together with reeftop pipefish and ringed pipefish.

## Tongo Point

Schools of razorfish, crocodile needlefish, purple and threadfin anthias are to be found while reef squids and spade fish are making their way home. Green sea turtles and hawksbill turtles are also commonly seen here.

## Turtle Bay

This site is often dived during the night dives where we can spot sleeping turtles along with different kinds of crabs and shrimps.

## Dolphin House

Crocodile needlefish, drummers, milkfish and yellowtail barracudas are living just under the surface while zillions of damsels and anthias are darting around the coral reef top.

## Pescador Island

Just 30 minutes away from Moalboal this island is a perfect place to explore the dramatic steep walls and the colorful and lively reeftop.

Zillions of damsels, anthias and chromis are darting around while schools of fusiliers, red tooth triggerfish, surgeonfish, long jawed mackerel, juvenile convict fish and big eyed trevallies are filling the blue. Pescador Island is also home for a couple of giant frogfish. The big cave on the northwest side of the island is a nice gimmick to the dives.

## Oslob

The optional whale shark encounter, where the whale sharks are hand fed, can be done by diving or snorkeling, subject to additional fees payable at destination. Please be advised it is not allowed to use strobes and/or flash lights here.

## Apo Island

Apo Island Marine Reserve is one of most successful marine sanctuaries established in the Philippines. Reef hooks and gloves are not allowed and night diving is unfortunately not permitted. The order of dives will be based on the currents and conditions of the day choosing from:

## Coconut Point

An often fast paced drift brings divers over the sloping coral reef wall. Along the way giant trevally, blackfin barracuda, big school of big-eyed trevally and plenty of sea snakes can be encountered.

## Rocky Point West

Just beyond the chapel opposite the marine park warden's office, Rocky Point West offers some of the most stunning hard corals to be found in the region with endless patches of leather corals on the top. The steep reef walls support numerous colourful reef species – pyramid butterflyfish and red-toothed triggerfish are here in their hundreds, frogfish, cuttlefish, banded sea snakes and hawksbill turtles are amongst the common sightings.

## Cogon

The colourful bottom divided by sand channels is the place to find a big school of big-eyed trevally, huge brown marbled groupers and sea snakes.

## Dauin, Negros

Dauin, with its black volcanic sand, is famous for muck diving. Depending on the season different types and sizes of octopuses, sea horses, (baby) frogfish, different kinds of ghost pipefish and flamboyant cuttlefish can be found.

## The Cars

Between 25-30m (80-100ft), car parts as an artificial reef are attracting porcelain crabs and different kinds of shrimps amongst the many weird and wonderful creatures found at this site.

## Secret Corner

This dive site contains sand and pebbles only and is the perfect habitat for the smallest, weird and unexpected creatures as cockatoo waspfish, short-fin lionfish and snake and garden eels.

## Ceres

This dive site was named after the local bus company that donated its tyres to create an artificial reef, which attracts schools of reef fish. Different kinds of shrimps like to live on this reef together with juvenile reef fish.

## Mainit

A mix of coral boulders with soft corals and black volcanic sand. Probably due to the current, all fish are very active which makes this dive very lively and exciting ending in an area with hot sand at the bottom, hence the name Mainit meaning 'hot'.

## San Miguel

Another critter wonderland! When it is the right season, this is the place to find all your favorites.

## Balicasag Island

The small island of Balicasag, just off the tip of Panglao, is characterised by its many turtles, coral gardens and steep walls which provide overhangs, cracks & crevices in which to search for a variety of marine species. This area has become a marine protected area since July 2017 and allows two dives per day only with valid permits.

### Divers Heaven

The main attraction of this beautiful dive site is the green sea and hawksbill turtles in the shallow waters. The reeftop edge is a nice habitat for schools of colorful damsels and anthias and when lucky also for giant frogfish.

### Black Forest

Once famed for its black coral is where we encounter schools of jacks, long-jawed mackerels, red tooth triggerfish and different kinds of fusiliers.

## Cabilao Island

There are several interesting wall and coral garden dives around the island of Cabilao and we choose from the following:

### Gorgonian Wall

Provides a gentle drift along a fantastic coral reef with schooling fish and plenty of macro life in the shallow water, including the possibility of spotting a Denise's pygmy seahorse.

### Lighthouse

Sloping walls full of sponges and gorgonian fans. This is a great place to dive with large green turtles. Also being seen are giant frogfish which can be spotted resting on sponges and numerous cowries hiding amidst the stunning hard coral garden.

### Talisay Tree

Beautiful wall with gorgonians where bubble coral shrimps and orangutan crabs can be found in the bubble corals. The shallow grassy garden with its elephant ear sponges and barrel sponges is a perfect spot for wide angle photography.

### Cambaquiz

A fantastic spot where we often make night dives. A gently sloping reef and sandy bottom to 20m – soft corals and sea pens can be found dotted over the sand; also a great site for sightings of bottom dwellers. The grassy top is a favourite crab hideout.

Should you have any questions or queries concerning the dive sites or whether this itinerary is suitable for your experience level, please contact our reservations team [dive@masterliveboards.com](mailto:dive@masterliveboards.com) who will be pleased to assist and advise you.