

SPOTLIGHT ON: THE PHILIPPINES

FIVE REASONS TO DIVE

CEBU AND BOHOL



Now that the Philippines are open, quarantine and test-free, it's a good time to consider a dive trip to the Visayas. Cebu and Bohol are very easy to get to and make for a great combo! Here are five reasons to dive Cebu and Bohol.

1 Sardine Run, Moalboal

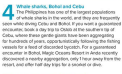
Moalboal is located on the south-west coast of Cebu, and is the closest jump-off point for Pescador Island. The island's surrounding waters are very deep, reaching a depth of more than 800 metres, and this protected marine sanctuary is famous for its abundance of sardines, which surround divers in the thousands. It's amazing to see this many fish all at once in one place and it also attracts whale sharks, with the number of sightings rising considerably over the past year or so.

2 Mandarin Fish, Moalboal

Several Moalboal dive resorts, including Magic Island Resort, boast a resident population of mandarin fish, which make an appearance each night for an elaborate courtship dance. Difficult to photograph as they move so quickly, mandarin fish are so there with the prized fish in the world, a prized addition to any underwater photographer's portfolio, for those lucky enough to capture them.

3 Thresher sharks, Malapascua

Known for their unique tail and interesting hunting habits, threshers are frequent visitors to Malapascua Island, at the northern tip of Cebu. Malapascua's Minard Shoal dive site is one of the best-known sites for consistent sightings and they are more active in the early morning, when they come to a coastal seamount to be cleaned by two species of cleaner wrasses. This is a cleaning station, and here Thresher sharks display a similar behaviour to Manta rays, if you've ever seen those glaucous creatures visiting one of their sun cleaning stations.



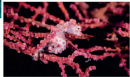
4 **Whale sharks, Bohol and Cebu**
The Philippines has one of the largest populations of whale sharks in the world, and they are frequently seen while diving Cebu and Bohol. If you want a guaranteed encounter, book a day trip to Ombak at the southern tip of Cebu, where these gentle giants have been aggregating for hundreds of years, opportunistically following the fishing vessels for a feed of discarded bycatch. For a guaranteed encounter in Bohol, Magic Oceans Resort in Anda recently discovered a nearby aggregation, only 1 hour away from the resort, and offer half-day trips for a snorkel or dive.

5 **Pygmy seahorses, Anda, Bohol**
One of the most famous critters found in Anda is the Dargabant Pygmy Seahorse. They can be spotted at several dive sites including Abanokovik, Lumang Point, Bacing Wood and Pogyu House where they are common. These charming critters are one of the finest seahorses in the world, reaching a maximum length of up to 2.7cm when they are in the adult stage of life. ■

For the best recommendations for resorts and liveaboards in the Philippines, according to your specific requirements and wish list, contact the team of experts at Diveplanit Travel on 1300 607 993 or email us at enquire@diveplanit.com. For generous group rates for dive clubs, contact Group Manager Jess: jess@diveplanit.com.

DIVE THE PHILIPPINES

WITH MAGIC RESORTS



Fish stars wonders such as pygmy seahorses and mandarin fish, to pelagic action including the famous Sardine Run and frequent whale shark encounters, Magic Island Resort and Magic Oceans Resort offer a wide range of incredible diving experiences. Ask us about our Escape Writer & Beyond Special!



For more information about diving the Philippines, contact the team of experts at Diveplanit Travel diveplanit.com phone: 1300 607 993 email: enquire@diveplanit.com