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CEBU | No. 04 JANUARY 2023
Mactan Cebu International Airport
CIT CONFIDENCE

Happy New Year!

Destination News

100 days countdown to 500 years commemoration of the Battle of Mactan

PHOTO BY: CALOY RAMIREZ

January 17, 2023 is the start of the 100 days countdown to 500 years quincentennial commemorations of the Philippines. To mark this event, a simple program was held at the Liberty Shrine in Brgy. Mactan, Lapu-Lapu City.

In attendance were local and national government officials headed by Lapu-Lapu City Mayor Junard Chan and members of the Lapu-Lapu City Tourism, Cultural and Historical Affairs Commission (TCHAC). Among the highlights of the program were the hoisting of the Philippine Flag and the singing of the Philippine National Anthem. The National Historical Commission of the Philippines issued Resolution No. 10 which declared the Liberty Shrine, or what is more popularly known as the Lapu-lapu Shrine among the Philippine landmarks where the Philippine flag shall be permanently hoisted.

Visit this link to know more about Lapu-Lapu City, the historic resort city.

Annual Feast of the Sto. Niño de Cebu

PHOTO BY: ALLAN JAY QUEZADA

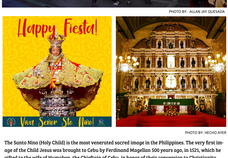

PHOTO BY: MICHO AYER

The Santo Nino (Holy Child) is the most venerated sacred image in the Philippines. The very first image of the Child Jesus was brought to Cebu by Ferdinand Magellan 500 years ago, in 1521, which he gifted to the wife of Humabon, the Chieftain of Cebu, in honor of their conversion to Christianity.

After Magellan died in the hands of Lapu-lapu and his men, the sacred image was thought to be lost. It was rediscovered in 1565 at the very spot where the Basilica Minore del Santo Nino, the oldest church in the country now stands. The image miraculously sustained two fires which gutted the Basilica and the bombings during World War II.

Every year, millions go to Cebu specially during the Feast of the Santo Nino which is celebrated every third Sunday of January. Throngs of devotees visit the Basilica to venerate the Holy Child. This is preceded by a nine-day novena which culminates with the grand baby mass and the Sinulog Festival celebrating the conversion of the entire country to Christianity.

The Feast of the Santo Nino is also celebrated in many ports of the country.

This year, the nine-day novena masses which started on January 8 until January16 and the Fiesta on January 17 were celebrated without physical attendance of churchgoers. Devotees were advised to attend the religious activities online due to the pandemic.

Sinulog Festival

PHOTO BY: RALPH LLANZA

PHOTO BY: JOHN RAY ALISATO

"Sinulog" literally means "to move like flowing water." It is a religious and cultural festival held annually in Cebu every third Sunday of January in honor of the Santo Nino. When Ferdinand Magellan presented the image of the Holy Child as a gift to Queen Juana, the wife of Rajah Humabon, Chieftain of Cebu, she danced with joy holding the sacred image. Her dance steps were said to be the basis of the Sinulog dance which is widely performed to this day.

PHOTO BY: JUNIE MENDOZA

The festival's main event is the grand parade. Locals participated in colorful costumes dance the Homosa Sinulog dance (two steps forward, one step backward movement). There are pre-festival activities including street parties, food fests, free concerts featuring local live bands and a florial parade along the Mactan Channel. The festival culminates with pyro-musical shows where winners in the street dancing competition are also announced.

Mactan Cebu International Airport (MCIA) also celebrates "Sinulog sa Airport."

Every year passengers are treated to this unique entertainment from students from nearby schools who participate in the parade and the Sinulog dance competition within the airport premises.

The Sinulog Festival is among the grandest and most colorful event in the country which locals and tourists look forward to every year. This year, the local government decided to suspend the ground parade and street dancing. The colors, sounds, noise and laughter from the revelers will be sorely missed but the spirit of the Sinulog will continue to beat in the hearts of many.

What Guests Say About Cebu

Dusit Thani

"Guter experience at a reasonable price in Dusit Thani Mactan Resort."

"Very friendly staff, very fast convenience were my utmost priority during our stay, sandiland rooms were a plus."

Friendly staff, good food, ambiance, Olympic size infinity pool "amazing" It's our third visit and we're very pleased with our seaview rooms by the pool. My family and friends celebrated my birthday, it was a big celebration of Dusit was a "bang" kudos to the team everyone had fun and we forgot our problems for a while. Thank you for the accommodation, all of us felt safe. Till next time, will surely come back.

Thank you Dusit! - Jenen Quiñones

Savoy Hotel

"Beverage Team (TIGAS LOBO) Would like to thank Savoy for a wonderful experience we had during our staycation. Your hotel is very accommodating to guests. Your hotel is LGBTQ friendly a perfect 5 Star! Keep it up!" - Percy Pattarea

Cebu White Sands

PHOTO BY: AGODA

"I really appreciate the staff on how consistent they were in following the health protocols to keep us all safe. They were very courteous, professional, and helpful. My family felt safe and we were able to relax and enjoy." - Rochelle

"It won't wonder why the resort stayed for more than 2 decades i.e very clean and well-maintained resort. Stayed there with my family & enjoyed our stay for 2 nights . kudos to your team" - Melissa

"Relaxation without going far. Cebu White Sands Resort and Spa is the best place to that when you want to relax and be at peace. My kids and I enjoyed our stay very much. The staff was so accommodating and approachable. I am definitely recommend staying here." - Claude

Network Updates

as of 20 January

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

GASTAR	Cebu Pacific Cebgo Tigerair	Ongoing	16 weekly frequencies	
Emirates	Cebu Pacific Cebgo Tigerair	Ongoing	21 weekly frequencies	
Scoot	Cebu Pacific Cebgo Tigerair	Ongoing	21 weekly frequencies	
Cebgo Tigerair	Cebu Pacific Cebgo Tigerair	Ongoing	14 weekly frequencies	

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

Cebu Pacific Cebgo Tigerair	42 daily	Cebgo Tigerair	14 daily	Cebu Pacific Cebgo Tigerair	42 daily
Cebu Pacific Cebgo Tigerair	28 daily frequencies	Cebgo Tigerair	14 daily frequencies	Cebu Pacific Cebgo Tigerair	28 daily frequencies
Cebu Pacific Cebgo Tigerair	14 daily	Cebgo Tigerair	14 daily frequencies	Cebgo Tigerair	14 daily frequencies
Cebgo Tigerair	14 daily frequencies	Cebu Pacific Cebgo Tigerair	28 daily frequencies	Cebu Pacific Cebgo Tigerair	28