

CEBU • BOHOL • NEGROS • SIQUIJOR • CAMIGUIN

Weekend Escapes *from Cebu*

Ten short trips by bus, boat and plane, each with the route, the costs to expect and a two-day plan.

Two days is enough to go somewhere *new*.

Cebu City is a good place to start a weekend away. Within a few hours you can be under a sardine shoal, on a limestone ridge at sunrise, or on a sandbar with dolphins nearby.

This planner collects ten trips you can do on a normal weekend or a long one. Each page gives you the route out of the city, the costs that tend to surprise people, a simple two-day plan, and the one thing worth knowing before you book.

Read this first

- Prices are estimates gathered for our full guides, checked as of October 2026. Fares and fees change, so confirm them on the day.
- Ferries and boats get cancelled in bad weather. Keep one flexible day before any fixed flight home.
- Carry cash in small notes. Ports, boatmen and entrance gates rarely take cards.

INSIDE

•	The routes at a glance	03
•	Quick pick	04
01	Moalboal	05
02	Oslob	06
03	Osmeña Peak to Kawasan	07
04	Bantayan Island	08
05	Malapascua	09
06	Panglao, Bohol	10
07	Siquijor	11
08	Dumaguete & Apo Island	12
09	Bais & the Twin Lakes	13
10	Camiguin	14
•	Weekend toolkit	15



Under the sardines



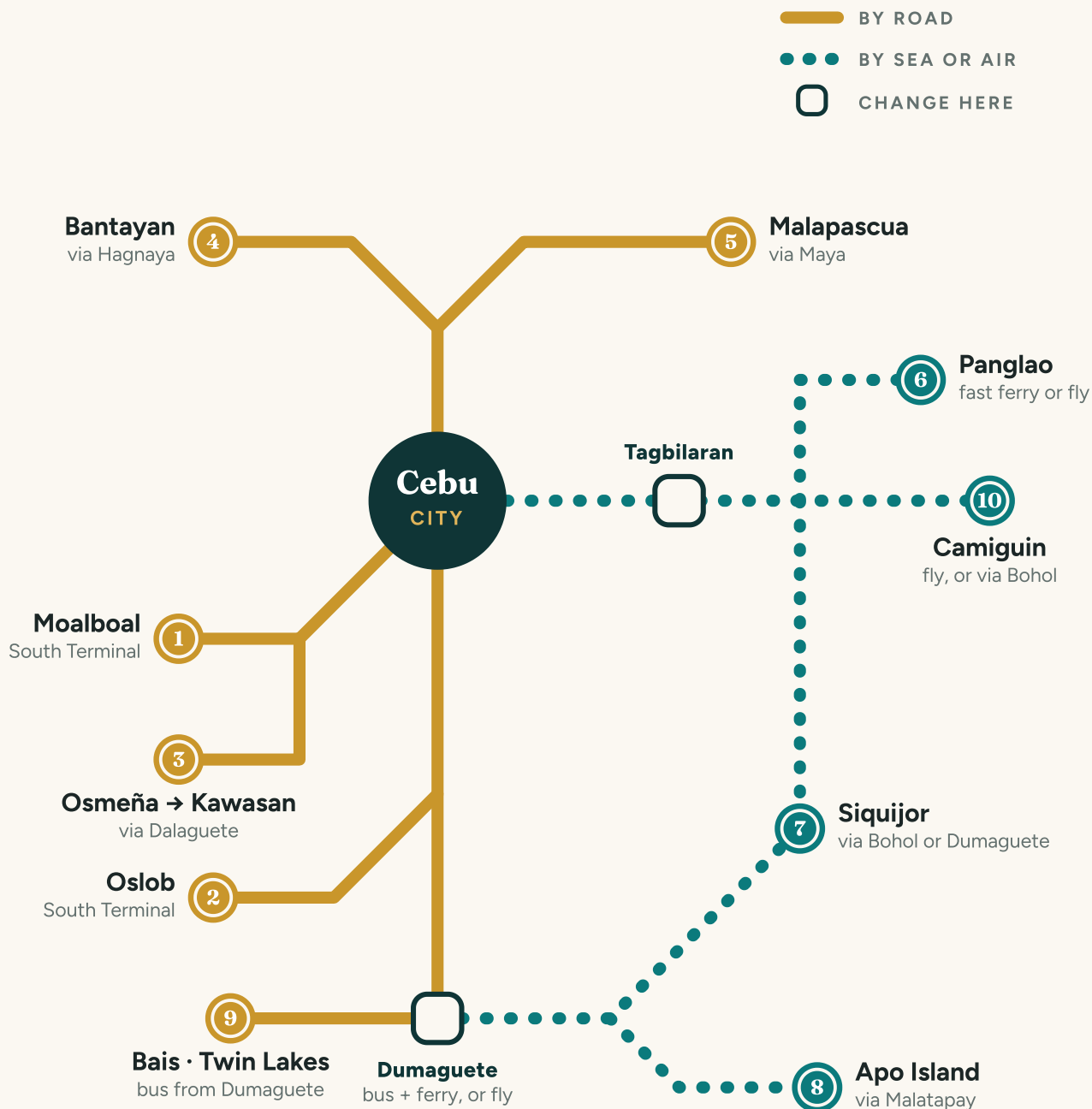
Up in the hills



Lechon for the road

Ten ways out of the city

Every escape starts from Cebu City, by bus, boat or a short flight. This diagram shows how the trips connect and where you change. It is a schematic, not a scale map.



Which escape fits this weekend?

	ESCAPE	FROM CEBU CITY	EFFORT	BEST MONTHS	BEST FOR
01	Moalboal Sardines, turtles and Pescador Island	About 3 hrs by bus	●○○	Nov to May	Snorkellers & first-timers
02	Oslob Tumalog Falls and Sumilon Island	About 4 hrs by bus	●●○	Jan to Apr	Families & slow travellers
03	Osmeña Peak to Kawasan Cross Cebu on foot, summit to waterfall	2½–3½ hrs to Dalaguete	●●●	Dec to May	Hikers
04	Bantayan Island Long sand, slow days and tide-set hours	4–6½ hrs by bus + ferry	●●●	Jan to Jun	Beach lovers & couples
05	Malapascua Dawn dives with thresher sharks	4½–6 hrs by bus + boat	●●●	Year-round	Certified divers
06	Panglao, Bohol Chocolate Hills on Saturday, reefs on Sunday	About 2 hrs by fast ferry	●○○	Nov to May	First-timers & families
07	Siquijor Waterfalls, old churches and a cliff jump	4–5 hrs by fast craft	●●○	Jan to Apr	Couples & road-trippers
08	Dumaguete & Apo Island Silvanas on the boulevard, turtles by the shore	1 hr flight · 6–8 hrs overland	●●○	Dry months	Food lovers & snorkellers
09	Bais & the Twin Lakes Dolphins, a 7-km sandbar and forest lakes	From Dumaguete: under 1 hr	●●○	Nov to May	Groups & nature lovers
10	Camiguin Volcanoes, hot springs and White Island	Under 1 hr by plane	●●○	Feb to May	Explorers

Travel effort ●○○ easy on a normal weekend ●●○ worth an early start ●●● best as a long weekend

SHORT ON TIME?

Moalboal and Panglao have the shortest door-to-door trips from the city.

HAVE A LONG WEEKEND?

Bantayan, Malapascua and the Camiguin ferry route all reward a third day.

TRAVELLING IN A GROUP?

Bais, Apo and Sumilon boats are priced per boat, so sharing cuts the cost a lot.

Moalboal

Sardines, turtles and Pescador Island

FROM CEBU CITY

About 3 hrs by bus

BEST MONTHS

Nov to May

BEST FOR

Snorkellers & first-timers

TRAVEL EFFORT



GETTING THERE

- Ceres bus from the **Cebu South Bus Terminal**. Take one marked **"Bato via Barili"** (about every 30 min). A bus marked "via Oslob" goes the wrong way.
- Roughly ₱150–200 ordinary or ₱200–250 aircon. Get off at the Poblacion market.
- Habal-habal to Panagsama: 10–15 min, about ₱50–150.

COSTS TO EXPECT

Environmental fee (to swim)	₱100
Beach fee, some spots	₱25
Mask / fins rental	₱100 / ₱100–150
Pescador snorkel trip	₱200–550 pp

YOUR TWO DAYS

SAT

Leave Cebu early, check in at Panagsama and walk the shore at sunset.

SUN

Swim out at first light for the sardine run, take a Pescador boat mid-morning, then catch an afternoon bus home.

Know before you go

The sardines are wild fish, so a sighting isn't guaranteed. Under Ordinance No. 165, touching turtles or standing on coral can cost you at least ₱2,500.

[Read the full guide](#) →

My notes Dates · who's coming · where we'll stay



Oslob

Tumalog Falls and Sumilon Island

FROM CEBU CITY

About 4 hrs by bus

BEST MONTHS

Jan to Apr

BEST FOR

Families & slow travellers

TRAVEL EFFORT



GETTING THERE

- Buses from the **Cebu South Bus Terminal** run about hourly to Oslob, roughly 130 km south.
- Fares quoted range from about ₱150 to ₱330 depending on the bus, so check at the terminal.
- Scooters rent along the main road for around ₱400 a day with fuel.

COSTS TO EXPECT

Tumalog Falls entrance	₱50
Habal-habal down to the falls	~₱50 return
Sumilon boat (per boat)	₱1,500
Sumilon environmental fee	₱50 pp

YOUR TWO DAYS

SAT

Bus down in the morning. Tumalog Falls in the afternoon (open 7 AM–4 PM).

SUN

A 20-minute boat to Sumilon's sandbar, a swim and snorkel, then the bus back north.

Know before you go

Tumalog closes for clean-up on the third Wednesday of each month. A Mainit Port (Oslob) to Larena (Siquijor) ferry was reported back in service in 2026, so this trip can lead into Escape 07. Confirm it first.

[Read the full guide](#) →

My notes Dates · who's coming · where we'll stay

Osmeña Peak to Kawasan

Cross Cebu on foot, summit to waterfall

FROM CEBU CITY

2½–3½ hrs to Dalaguete

BEST MONTHS

Dec to May

BEST FOR

Hikers

TRAVEL EFFORT



GETTING THERE

- Bus for Oslob or Santander from the **Cebu South Bus Terminal**. Get off at Dalaguete town (about ₱150–200).
- Habal-habal up to Mantalongon jump-off: 30–40 min, about ₱100–150 one way. Agree on the price first.
- Finish at Matutinao, Badian, and ride a west-coast bus back to Cebu City.

COSTS TO EXPECT

Entrance (higher if it includes a guide)	₱50–150
Camping near the summit	~₱50
Summit climb	15–30 min
Traverse to Kawasan	4–6 hrs

YOUR TWO DAYS

SAT

Afternoon arrival, short climb to the summit for late light, then camp. Nights get cold and foggy.

SUN

Sunrise on the ridges, then the full-day traverse west, ending with a swim at Kawasan Falls.

Know before you go

Water sources on the trail can be hours apart, so carry more than you think you need. August and September are the muddiest months.

[Read the full guide](#) →

My notes Dates · who's coming · where we'll stay



Bantayan Island

Long sand, slow days and tide-set hours

FROM CEBU CITY

4–6½ hrs by bus + ferry

BEST MONTHS

Jan to Jun

BEST FOR

Beach lovers & couples

TRAVEL EFFORT



GETTING THERE

- Bus from the **Cebu North Bus Terminal** to Hagnaya Port, San Remigio: 3–5 hrs (a Ceres fare of about ₱165 has been quoted).
- Ferry Hagnaya to Santa Fe: about 1–1½ hrs including loading. For planning only, roughly ₱300–450 for an adult.
- Tricycle or resort shuttle from Santa Fe Port.

COSTS TO EXPECT

Santa Fe tourism fee (older figure)	~₱30
Motorbike rental / day	~₱350
Bicycle rental / day	~₱150
4-hr tricycle tour, 3 people	~₱1,000

YOUR TWO DAYS

SAT

Leave Cebu early so you reach Hagnaya by early afternoon. Beach and sunset at Santa Fe.

SUN

Rent a bike or motorbike for the morning loop, then take the midday ferry back.

Know before you go

Ferry fares were rolled back on 11 May 2026, so older price posts may be wrong. Weather can close both Hagnaya and Maya. This trip is happiest as a three-day weekend.

[Read the full guide](#) →

My notes Dates · who's coming · where we'll stay

Malapascua

Dawn dives with thresher sharks

FROM CEBU CITY

4½–6 hrs by bus + boat

BEST MONTHS

Year-round

BEST FOR

Certified divers

TRAVEL EFFORT



GETTING THERE

- Bus from the **Cebu North Bus Terminal** to Maya Port, Daanbantayan: 4–5 hrs, longer on weekends.
- Public boat to the island: 30–45 min, recently around ₱240. Boats leave when full and stop by late afternoon.
- Aim to reach Maya by mid-afternoon at the latest.

COSTS TO EXPECT

Environmental fee: local / foreign	₱75 / ₱120
Thresher dive (each)	US\$30–40
Three-dive thresher package	~₱6,000
Regular fun dive	from ~₱1,800

YOUR TWO DAYS

SAT

Travel day. Settle in, then sunset on the beach and an early night.

SUN

Pre-dawn boat to the thresher site, a second reef dive, then lunch and a long rest.

Know before you go

Most shops recommend 18–24 hrs before flying after diving. Bring cash, since cards and ATMs aren't reliable on the island. December to April books up fast.

[Read the full guide →](#)

My notes Dates · who's coming · where we'll stay

Panglao, Bohol

Chocolate Hills on Saturday, reefs on Sunday

FROM CEBU CITY

About 2 hrs by fast ferry

BEST MONTHS

Nov to May

BEST FOR

First-timers & families

TRAVEL EFFORT



GETTING THERE

- Fast ferry from **Cebu Port (Pier 1)** to Tagbilaran: about 2 hrs. OceanJet listed at ₱800 tourist and ₱1,200 business; Lite Ferries from ~₱450 (about 3½ hrs).
- Tagbilaran to Alona by bus or jeepney: 45–60 min, ₱70–100.
- Or fly under an hour from Mactan to Bohol-Panglao airport.

COSTS TO EXPECT

Countryside van, ~8 hrs	₱2,500–3,500
Loboc cruise with lunch	₱850–1,200
Chocolate Hills (quoted)	₱150
Napaling Reef fees	up to ~₱300

YOUR TWO DAYS

SAT

The 6 AM ferry, then the countryside loop: Chocolate Hills, tarsiers in Corella, the mahogany forest and Loboc.

SUN

Early boat to Balicasag and the Virgin Island sandbar, then an afternoon ferry back to Cebu.

Know before you go

March, April and Holy Week fill up weeks ahead. From June to September the monsoon can cancel boat trips, so keep slack before a fixed flight.

[Read the full guide](#) →

My notes Dates · who's coming · where we'll stay

Siquijor

Waterfalls, old churches and a cliff jump

FROM CEBU CITY

4–5 hrs by fast craft

BEST MONTHS

Jan to Apr

BEST FOR

Couples & road-trippers

TRAVEL EFFORT



GETTING THERE

- Fast craft from Cebu via Tagbilaran: 4–5 hrs in total.
- A short flight of about 55 min runs a few times a week.
- Or go through Dumaguete (about 1 hr by ferry), or try the reported Oslob–Larena ferry.

COSTS TO EXPECT

Scooter / day (+ petrol)	₱250–500
Tricycle with driver / day	₱1,000–1,500
Cambugahay Falls	~₱20
Most sights	₱10–50 each

YOUR TWO DAYS

SAT

South side: the Lazi balete tree, San Isidro Labrador Church, Cambugahay Falls, then sunset at Paliton.

SUN

Snorkel Tubod Marine Sanctuary, then cliff jumps at Salagdoong (at high tide) before your boat.

Know before you go

Two days covers one side of the island well, and three days is more relaxed. Holy Week brings the healing festival and higher prices. Wear a helmet and don't ride after dark.

[Read the full guide →](#)

My notes Dates · who's coming · where we'll stay

Dumaguete @ Apo Island

Silvanas on the boulevard, turtles by the shore

FROM CEBU CITY

1 hr flight · 6–8 hrs
overland

BEST MONTHS

Dry months

BEST FOR

Food lovers & snorkellers

TRAVEL EFFORT



GETTING THERE

- **Fly:** about 1 hr, roughly ₱2,000–4,000 one way.
- **Bus + ferry:** bus to Liloan, then about 30 min across to Sibulan. Allow 6–8 hrs in daylight.
- **Overnight RORO:** Cokaliong, about 6 hrs. Economy from about ₱480, 8 PM on Mon, Wed and Sat.

COSTS TO EXPECT

Bus to Malatipay (30–40 min)	₱25–50
Apo boat, up to 4 people	₱3,000–3,500 return
Apo boat, 6–8 people	~₱5,000
Licensed guide at Turtle Point	required

YOUR TWO DAYS

SAT

Puto maya and sikwate for breakfast, sans rival and silvanas, then sunset on Rizal Boulevard.

SUN

Early ride south to Malatipay and a morning boat to Apo. Mornings have the clearest water.

Know before you go

Boats to Apo have no fixed timetable, and they stay ashore when the sea is unsafe. November to February can bring rougher crossings, so keep a spare day.

[Read the full guide](#) →

My notes Dates · who's coming · where we'll stay



Bais @ the Twin Lakes

Dolphins, a 7-km sandbar and forest lakes

FROM CEBU CITY

From Dumaguete: under 1 hr

BEST MONTHS

Nov to May

BEST FOR

Groups & nature lovers

TRAVEL EFFORT



GETTING THERE

- Get to Dumaguete first (see Escape 08).
- **Bais:** Ceres buses leave Dumaguete about every 30 min, and the ride takes under an hour.
- **Twin Lakes:** about 1 hr from Dumaguete. There's no direct public transport, but a chartered habal-habal costs about ₱600–800.

COSTS TO EXPECT

Shared boat, Bais (by group size)	₱2,000–5,000
Stilt house on the sandbar	~₱1,500
Twin Lakes entrance	~₱50
Lake boat / kayak per hr	~₱250 / ₱150

YOUR TWO DAYS

SAT

Leave early for Bais. Dolphin watching from the boat, then the Manjuyod sandbar around 7–10 AM at low tide.

SUN

Ride up to Balinsasayao Twin Lakes for the forest walk and a boat on the water. Back for dinner.

Know before you go

The boat is shared, so the per-person cost drops sharply in a bigger group. Expect to wait for the dolphins, about an hour in one account. Ask what the boat price includes.

[Read the full guide →](#)

My notes Dates · who's coming · where we'll stay

Camiguin

Volcanoes, hot springs and White Island

FROM CEBU CITY

Under 1 hr by plane

BEST MONTHS

Feb to May

BEST FOR

Explorers

TRAVEL EFFORT



GETTING THERE

- **Fly:** Cebgo from Cebu in under an hour. Seat sales from about ₱1,200–1,900, regular fares ₱3,000 or more.
- **Overland:** fast craft to Tagbilaran (2 hrs), bus to Jagna (2 hrs), then a RORO to Balbagon (about 4½ hrs).
- The Jagna ferry sails only on **Mon, Wed and Fri**, so the ferry weekend runs Friday to Monday.

COSTS TO EXPECT

Scooter / day	₱350–450
Ardent Hot Springs	~₱50
Katibawasan Falls	~₱75
White Island boat (up to 6)	~₱550 + fee

YOUR TWO DAYS

SAT

Sunset at the Sunken Cemetery, then an evening soak at Ardent Hot Springs.

SUN

Katibawasan Falls in the morning, and White Island at low tide. There's no shade on the sandbar.

Know before you go

The ring road is only about 64 km, so two days covers the main sights. Typhoons in October and November can disrupt flights and ferries, so book changeable tickets.

[Read the full guide](#) →

My notes Dates · who's coming · where we'll stay

Pack it, check it, cost it

PACK LIST

- ☐ Reef-safe sunscreen and a hat
- ☐ Your own mask (rental ones often fog)
- ☐ Dry bag for phone and cash
- ☐ Water shoes with grip
- ☐ Light rain jacket
- ☐ Refillable water bottle
- ☐ Small notes for fees and fares
- ☐ Valid ID (needed at ports)
- ☐ Power bank
- ☐ A warm layer for mountain nights

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

- ☐ Check the ferry or bus schedule the day before
- ☐ Check the weather forecast and any storm signals
- ☐ Book rooms early for Holy Week, December and festivals
- ☐ Leave a spare day before a fixed flight
- ☐ Agree on habal-habal and boat prices before you ride
- ☐ Ask what a boat price includes

MY WEEKEND BUDGET

Escape: _____ Dates: _____

ITEM	ESTIMATE	ACTUAL
Transport there and back	₱	₱
Boats and island hopping	₱	₱
Entrance and environmental fees	₱	₱
Room (per night)	₱	₱
Food and drinks	₱	₱
Scooter or tricycle hire	₱	₱
Extras and pasalubong	₱	₱
Total	₱	₱

Want the maths done for you? Try the [trip budget calculator](#) on rencalago.com.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ren Calago

Ren Calago Blog is a travel site about Cebu, Dumaguete, Negros Oriental and the islands around them. It covers routes, budgets, food and the places past the usual tourist stops, all written to help you plan a real trip.

Best time to visit Cebu, month by month →

Island-hopping safety: what to bring →

Cebu to Dumaguete by sea or road →

Ferry vs flight: Philippines travel budget →

Plan more trips at rencalago.com →

Figures in this planner are estimates drawn from Ren Calago Blog guides and the sources they cite, checked October 2026. Prices, schedules and rules change without notice. Confirm with operators, ports and local tourism offices before you travel. © 2026 Ren Calago Blog. Free to share, not for resale.