

Diving in Cebu: Why Cebu Divers Have it All

Contributed by Yan Redoble
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Bonita Marie Cabiles, for example, slaves as a Training Officer for the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation all week long. But on weekends, she simply discards her corporate persona, hitches a ride to beautiful Mactan, and immerses herself in the sheer profundity of the underwater world. “It’s very therapeutic,” she says.

“Mactan is a mere 30-minute drive from the city, and I can easily spend my Saturday mornings diving, go home in the afternoon, and then party at night,” says Mark Ladan, drummer of Cebu-based indie band Hastang. “In fact, whenever I feel so stressed in the middle of the work week, I just leave everything and go to Mactan. It’s wonderful how I can dive whenever I want to!”

Visiting divers can well compare their Cebu experience to diving in other parts of the Philippines. In most cases, divers travel to a place simply to dive. When they’ve had their fill, there’s nothing left to do.

In Cebu, however, one can simply hail a cab and visit a diverse range of “gimmick” places – from your average artsy-fartsy coffee shop, to frenzied club parties, to great music hubs, to bustling malls, and to several other wonderful diversions – all within a short driving distance from the ocean.

“Cebu divers have it all,” claims diving enthusiast Rod Arriola. “We work, we dive, we party, and we dive yet again. It’s a way of life.”

