

In the middle of Visaya land

by Massimo Mazzitelli

Cebu island is in the middle of Visaya archipelago exactly where join Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean, Cebu island is long 225 km, its surface is 5088 km square, inhabitants 3.848.919; Cebu island is surrounded of 167 smaller islands, the principal city is Cebu City.

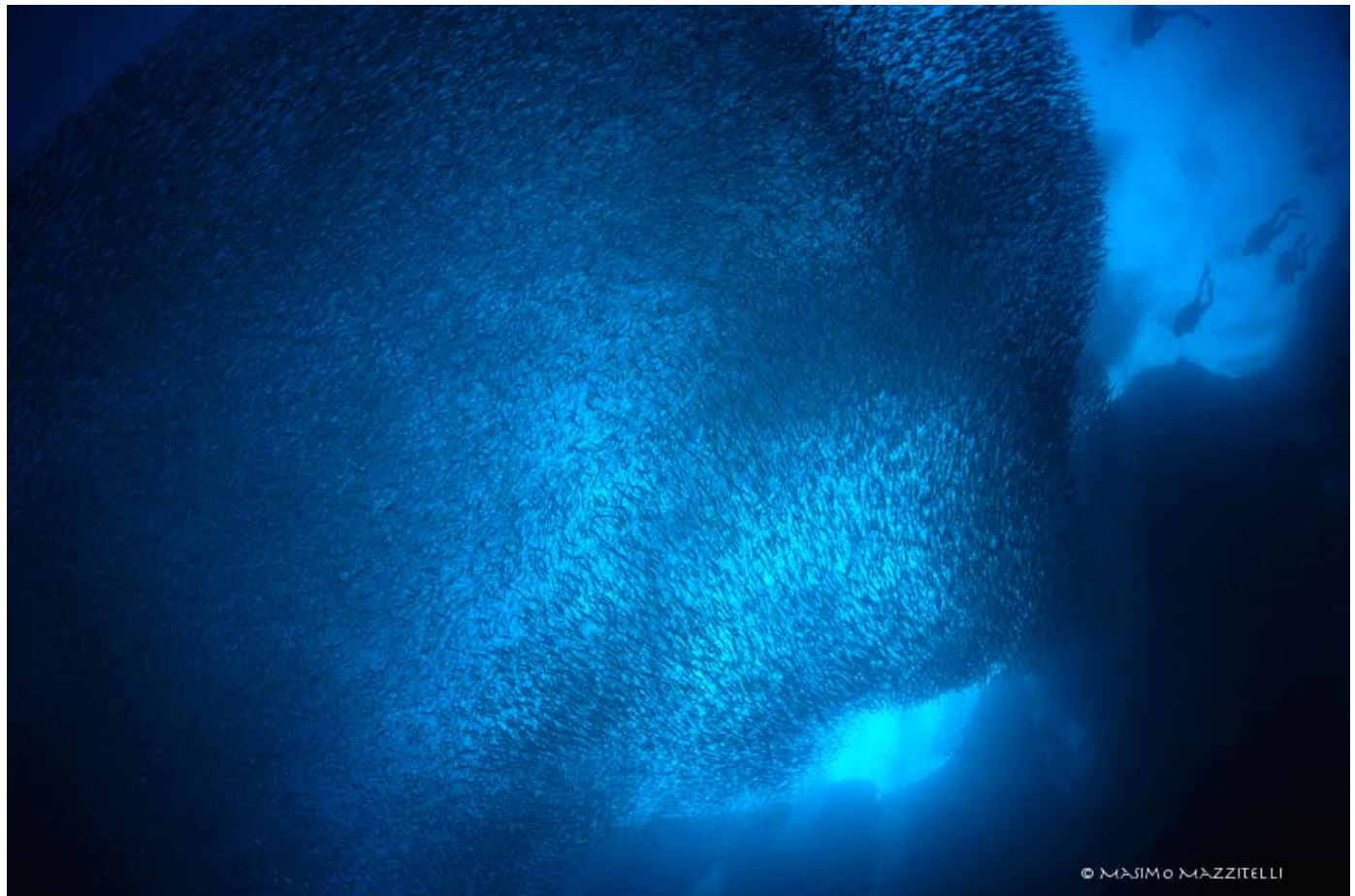
Moalboal town is far 3 hours by car from Cebu City. Moalboal is not frequented by mass tourism but is famous about its coral reefs, there are many dives suitable for every level of experience. Open water can dive in the shallow water and expert divers there is the possibility go down in the depth where admire gorgeous giant gorgonians, crinoids big sponges and many kind of shells.

Dives can be made directly from the beach because the reef is very close otherwise by the boat where can reach many dive sites that are located off the coast.

Dive sites are located about 10 minutes by boat, the most important are Kasai, Gargage, Withe Beach, Plane wreck and Pescador Island.

Small Pescador island is located 2 km off Panagsama Beach, on the island you can make a different dive every 5 metres, You can explore the

Sardines at Pescador Island shooting at a depth of 25 meters Nikon D200, Tokina 10/17 at 10mm, Easydive LEO housing, INON Z-240 strobe ISO100 1 / 60 F10



(Top right) Sardines, taken at a depth of 8 feet, off Pescador Island Nikon D200, Tokina 10/17 at 10mm, Easydive LEO housing, INON Z-240 strobe ISO100 1 / 60 F18



(Right) Taken in midwater, my friend Loren and the background on top is the resort's restaurant Nikon D200, Tokina 10/17 at 10mm, Easydive LEO housing, INON Z-240 strobe ISO100 1 / 60 F11



whole island under water, is a long way, you can see breathtaking drop off while the reef surrounded the whole perimeter of the island. On this island is happening an incredible phenomenon even scientists and biologists can explain it: spring 2009 a small sardines shoal began to populate the island without raising interest but in a few time the sardines shoal became bigger and still growing.

Surely the sardines shoal have found their natural habitat on the island, perhaps for the large abundance of plankton and the reduced presence of predators that can threaten it, even the presence of divers scares it. Despite you can see some fisherman with rod, the coast guard every day check whole area to respect ban on fishing by fishing net or trawl net because this is a protect area.

Millions of sardines are compacted taking very curious shapes, often obscure the sunlight, we can

find them from 2 meters depth to 35 meters if they are disturbed shooting and divided into several smaller clouds forming light effects.

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