

HOT NEWS FLASH

DESTINATION NEWS

BE THE FIRST TO KNOW!

HOTEL NEWS

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

GETTING TO KNOW US



# TOUR PHILIPPINES

## HOT NEWS FLASH

### TRADESHOWS

- **World Bazaar Festival**  
World Trade Center, Metro Manila  
2 - 18 December 2011  
Approximately 500 exhibitors are participating in this leading international event wherein thousands of domestic and international buyers will exhibit a wide assortment of household consumable goods.

- **Mega Balik-Bayan Expo**  
Megatrade Hall, Manila, Philippines  
9 - 11 December 2011

This is an entrepreneurship and business event dedicated to Overseas Filipino Workers looking to invest and start a business in the Philippines. A congress will be held during the exhibition at same venue in the Megatrade Hall, Philippines.



Welcome to Metro Manila, Philippines!

## DESTINATION NEWS

### AIRLINE PROMOTIONS

- **Cebu Pacific Promos**  
1 October 2011 - 31 December 2011

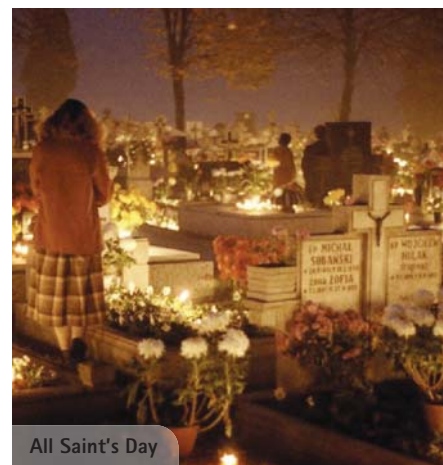


Cebu Pacific Air brings you the PanaLOW ito! promo fare. Travel period is from 1 October 2011 to 31 December 2011.

Check out these airfares. All prices are in Philippine Peso (PHP):

- Davao to Cagayan de Oro: PHP 288
- Cagayan de Oro to Iloilo: PHP 288
- Zamboanga to Tawi-Tawi (Flight starts on 14 October 2011): PHP 288
- Manila to Cauayan (Isabela), Cebu, Laoag, Legazpi: PHP 488
- Naga, San Jose (Mindoro), Tuguegarao or Virac Cebu to Bacolod, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Clark, Davao: PHP 488
- Dipolog, Dumaguete, General Santos, Iloilo, Ozamiz, Pagadian, Siargao, Surigao, Tacloban or Zamboanga, Manila to Cagayan de Oro, Ozamiz or Zamboanga: PHP 688
- Davao to Iloilo or Zamboanga: PHP 688
- Manila to Davao, Dipolog, Pagadian or Surigao: PHP 888
- Cebu to Boracay (Caticlan), Legazpi or Puerto Princesa: PHP 888
- Manila to Butuan, Cotabato or General Santos: PHP 1,288

Cebu Pacific Air Promo 2011 proudly brings back their 50% off promo to both Domestic and International Flight Destinations. The travel period starts on 1 November 2011 to 31 December 2011.



All Saint's Day

### SPECIAL AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

- **All Saint's Day**  
1 November 2011  
On the 1st of November, majority of the Filipino population observe All Saint's Day (Araw ng mga Patay). During the Araw ng mga Patay, Filipinos remember their dead, clean the graves, and decorate them with flowers and candles.
- **Bonifacio Day**  
30 November 2011  
Bonifacio Day is celebrated on every 30th of November to commemorate the birth of Andres Bonifacio.



Andres Bonifacio was born to the couple Santiago Bonifacio and Catalina de Castro on 30 November 1863. Considered a Filipino nationalist and revolutionary, he was the founder as well as leader of the Katipunan movement, the first anti-colonial revolution in Asia. He was also the first Filipino national government which sought the independence of the Philippines from Spanish colonial rule, and started the Philippine Revolution.

- **Christmas Day**  
**25 December 2011**

Christmas Day in the Philippines is primarily a family affair. The Misa de Aguinaldo is celebrated on 25 December and is usually attended by the whole family. In the Roman Catholic and Philippine Independent Churches, it is the main means of celebrating Jesus Christ's birth.

In the morning, Filipino families visit members of their extended family, notably the elders in order to pay their respects. This custom of giving respect has been an age-old tradition in the Philippines called "Pagmamáno". There is also the customary exchange of gifts for all the family members.

- **Rizal Day**  
**30 December 2011**

Dr José Protasio Rizal was a Filipino patriot and the most prominent advocate for reforms in the Philippines during the Spanish colonial era. He is considered a national hero of the Philippines.



Rizal's advocacy of institutional reforms by peaceful means rather than by violent revolution makes him Asia's first modern non-violent proponent of political reforms.

Rizal Day is celebrated throughout the Philippines, but the major celebration is held at Rizal Park, more popularly known as the Luneta in Manila. The event is highlighted by flag-raising and wreath-laying ceremonies at the Jose Rizal Monument. Similar ceremonies are held at the Rizal shrines in Calamba, Laguna and Dapitan in Zamboanga, and the Rizal monument in Baguio City.

**BE THE FIRST TO KNOW!**

- **NEW TOUR**

- **Enchanting Hidden Valley**

Your 8-hour tour starts with a scenic countryside drive to the town of Alaminos, Laguna (48 miles south of Manila) to the Hidden Valley.



Hidden Valley is situated between two mystical mountains - Mt Makiling and Mt Banahaw. The landscape encompasses a 110 acres wide


**Zamboanga Hermosa Festival**

and 300 feet deep crater that is believed to have been formed by a violent volcanic upheaval thousands of years ago.

Natural vegetation flourishes in the valley and boasts an impressive collection of rare orchids and other exotic flora. Several naturally-heated, volcanic water pools are also available for those wanting to take a refreshing dip!

- Rate per person: USD 138 (min. 2 adults and above)

**WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

- **LOCAL EVENTS**

- **Zamboanga Hermosa Festival**  
**12 October 2011**

The Hermosa Festival, also known as Zamboanga La Hermosa Festival, or even more popularly known as Fiesta Pilar, is a month-long festival held each year in the city of Zamboanga, Philippines. It is one of the oldest festival and most awaited event in the region.

The festival is held in honour of the miraculous image of Our Lady of the Pillar, patroness of Zamboanga. It is also the patroness of Zaragoza, Spain, a sister city of Zamboanga.

The festival features many different activities such as street dance competition, Regatta De Zamboanga with the famous Vintas of Zamboanga race, Cosechas De Zamboanga, sports events, musical concerts, agriculture-trade fairs, fashion shows and song festival.

- **Masskara Festival**  
**15 - 16 October 2011**

Bacolod City is known for the popular Masskara Festival which takes place every October. Local and foreign visitors get a chance to enjoy several days of merry making, beer drinking, dining and street dancing.



The term Masskara is created from two words: mass - meaning crowd; and the Spanish word cara - for face, thus the double meaning for "mask" and "many faces".

- **Lanzones Festival**  
**15 - 16 October 2011**

Lanzones Festival in Mambadjao Camiguin is celebrated with a weekend street dancing competition and parties, cultural shows, parade and beauty pageant (coronation of Mutya sa Buhanan) as well as a trade fair that features local handicraft and products.



Houses, street poles and even people are ornamented with lanzones during the Lanzones Festival. The festival is also celebrated by the people in Camiguin, who contributed to the making of Mindanao as a cultural tourism destination, to give thanks for a bountiful harvest for all the agricultural products.



Paper-mache giants at the Higantes Parade

• **Higantes Parade**

22 – 23 November 2011

Adding colour and gaiety to Angono, Rizal's town fiesta, are the "Higantes" - paper-mache giants measuring 4 to 5 feet in diameter and 10 to 12 feet in height.

This joyous major festival is held in honour of San Clemente, patron saint of fishermen, whose image is clothed in papal vestment and carried by male devotees during a procession. Usually accompanied by "pahadores" devotees dressed in colourful local costumes or fishermen's clothes complete with wooden shoes, boat paddles, fishnets and traps.

The street event finishes in a fluvial procession in Laguna de Bay amidst revelry that continues until the image is brought back to its sanctuary.

• **Giant Lantern Festival**

18 December 2011

pampangadirectory.net



The Giant Lantern Festival is an annual festival held in December (Saturday before Christmas Eve) in the City of San Fernando, Philippines.

This famous Giant Lantern Festival features a competition of 6-metre tall giant lanterns, known as Parols. The Parols, decorated with a kaleidoscope of blinking lights, are paraded through the streets of San Fernando. These giant star-shaped lanterns are placed on trucks and are accompanied by marching bands, capturing the attention of the entire city.

After the midnight mass, a presentation ceremony to the maker of the most beautiful Parol at the event will be held.

For Filipinos, the Parol represents the star of Bethlehem that guided the Three Wise Men to the newly born Jesus Christ. The tradition

of lighting one signifies shared hope and joy for people all over the country. Thanks to the festival's popularity, the city of San Fernando has been nicknamed the "Christmas Capital of the Philippines".

• **Pastores Bicol**

18 December 2011

Long before Christmas trees and Santa Claus became a part of our holiday celebrations, the Pastores Bicol was the Bicolanos' beautiful commemoration of Christmas.

The Pastores is a musical re-enactment of the age-old nativity story. Singers adorn colourful costumes to honour the biblical shepherds who sang the first Christmas carols. The performance is done with an entourage of traditional musikers, lots of dancing to the tune of Pastores a Belen, and a generous dose of Christmas cheer. This is carolling, Bicol style.

Taken from the Spanish word, Pastoras means shepheress which in this case, refers to both male and female individuals. Pastoras are formed by groups of four to 12 girls, with an occasional male or two present within the group. All-male groups are normally be found in Tabaco, Albay.

In Camarines Sur, these "dancing girls of Christmas", dressed in colourful festive costumes, appear on Christmas Day up to the Epiphany - 13 days of house to house singing and dancing - commemorating the shepherds proclaiming glad tidings. This is the follow up to Kagharong, the re-enactment of Saint Joseph and the Virgin Mary's plight as they looked for a place to stay in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve.



Christmas tree made from Parols



Catch the celebrations during the Pastores Bicol