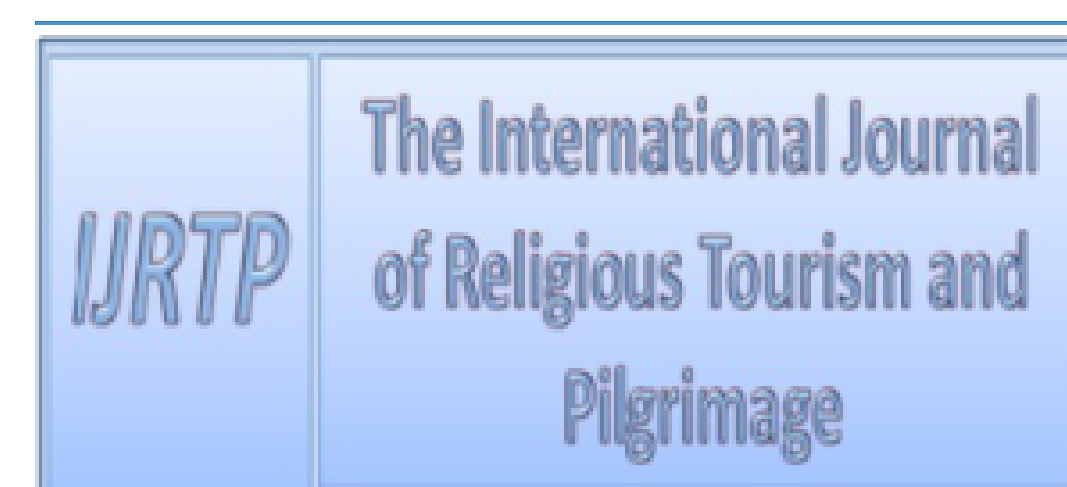




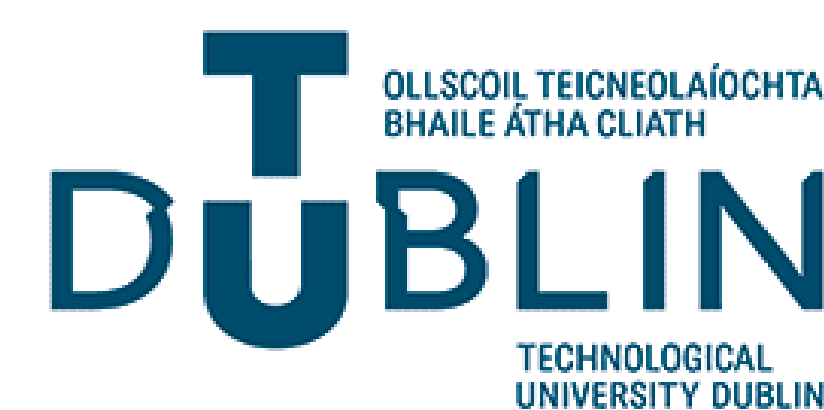
IRTP
Institute for Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage



4th Asia Pacific International Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Conference (APIRTP)

13th – 16th
January 2026

University of the Philippines Cebu, Cebu City, Philippines



ANNOUNCEMENT



The **Asia Pacific International Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Conference** (APIRTP) organised by the Institute for Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IRTP) in conjunction with the International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IJRTP), University of the Philippines invites abstracts for their 4th International Conference to be held from **13th – 16th January 2026**, at University of the Philippines Cebu, Philippines.

The aim of the conference is to provide both empirical and personal insights into the changing nature of religion in society and to further the debate for both policy-makers and academics to consider these evolving challenges within the future development of faith tourism and pilgrimage. The main emphasis for acceptance at this event is based on participants presenting papers, which apply to the main themes of the conference.



ORGANISATION

HOSTED BY:

University of the Philippines Cebu, Philippines <https://www.upcebu.edu.ph/>

Please check the conference website for further information, www.irtp.co.uk

ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

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CONFERENCE THEMES

The key themes of the conference include (but are not limited to) the following:

- 📍 AI and Pilgrims Experience to Religious Sites
- 📍 Crowd Control and Crowd Dynamics for Religious Sites
- 📍 Cultural Heritage
- 📍 Digital and Virtual Religious Tourism
- 📍 Diaspora and Ancestral Religious Tourism
- 📍 Environmental Impacts on Religious Sites
- 📍 Faith and Gastronomy in Religious Tourism
- 📍 Globalisation and Impacts on Religious Sites
- 📍 Healing, Wellness, and Religious Health Tourism
- 📍 Heritage and Religious Architecture
- 📍 Interfaith and Multi-faith Tourism

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- ⦿ Legal, Security and Safety issues for Pilgrims
 - ⦿ Pilgrimage and Religious Tourism Motivations
 - ⦿ Mobilities, Pilgrimage, and Tourism
 - ⦿ Physical Environment and Sacred Tourist Destinations
 - ⦿ Pilgrimage, Spirituality, Religion and Tourism
 - ⦿ Pilgrimage and Sacred Journeys
 - ⦿ Poetics and Politics of Religious Tourism
 - ⦿ Overtourism at Religious Sites
 - ⦿ Religious Commemoration and Remembrance
 - ⦿ Risks and Conflicts at Sacred Sites
 - ⦿ Spiritual Reflection and Cemeteries
 - ⦿ Social Media and Information Technology for Pilgrimage
 - ⦿ Sustainability in Pilgrimage and Religious Tourism
 - ⦿ Terrorism, Migration and Religious Tourism
 - ⦿ Theory, Philosophy and Theology of Religious Tourism

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Honey Libertine Achanzar-Labor – University of the Philippines Manila
- Ahmad Albattat – Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation, Malaysia
- Vitor Ambrósio – Higher Institute for Hotel and Tourism Studies, Portugal
- Silvia Aulet – University de Girona, Spain
- Anne Marie F. Bagadion – Ateneo de Naga University, Philippines
- Pascal von Beuningen – Hiroshima University, Japan
- Celestina P. Boncan, University of the Philippines Manila
- Yasin Bilim – Necmettin Erbakan University, Turkey
- Rodney W Caldicott, Hue University, Vietnam
- Bernard N. Caslib, Jr, University of the Philippines Manila
- Carlos Fernandes – Polytechnic of Viana do Castelo, Portugal
- Carlos Santos – Center of Applied Economics Studies of the Atlantic, Portugal
- Lynn I-Ling Chen – National Pingtung University, Taiwan
- Tina Clemente – University of the Philippines Diliman

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- ⦿ Kevin Griffin – Technological University Dublin, Ireland
 - ⦿ Maureen Griffiths – Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
 - ⦿ Stephen Haller – Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada
 - ⦿ Dian Mohmammad Hakim – Universitas Islam Malang, Indonesia
 - ⦿ Dra Indrawati – Telkom university, Jarkata, Indonesia
 - ⦿ Md Javed Kawsar – University of Salford, UK
 - ⦿ Maximiliano Korstanje – Universidad de Palermo, Argentina
 - ⦿ Isilda Leitao – University Nova de Lisboa, Portugal
 - ⦿ Darius Liutikas – Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences, Lithuania
 - ⦿ Syamsu Madian – Universitas Islam Malang, Indonesia
 - ⦿ Maskuri – Universitas Islam Malang, Indonesia
 - ⦿ Stuart McDonald, Travel Fish, Bali, Indonesia
 - ⦿ Dennis Montera – University of the Philippines Cebu
 - ⦿ Maria Dulce Natividad – University of the Philippines Diliman
 - ⦿ Daniel Olsen, Brigham Young University, USA
 - ⦿ Subhash Kizhakanveatil Bhaskaran Pillai – Goa University, India

- ⦿ Progano Ricardo Nicolas – Wakayama University, Japan
- ⦿ Razaq Raj – Leeds Beckett University, UK
- ⦿ Matthew Santamaria – University of the Philippines Diliman
- ⦿ Mark Tallara – University of the Philippines Diliman
- ⦿ Lien Tran Thi Ngoc – Hue University, Vietnam
- ⦿ Tuan Tran – Hue University, Vietnam
- ⦿ Shin Yasuda – Teikyo University, Japan
- ⦿ Goretti Silva Polytechnic of Viana do Castelo, Portugal





KEYNOTE **SPEAKERS**



🎯 Atty. Christina Garcia Frasco, Tourism Secretary, Philippines

🎯 Dr. Resil B. Mojares, National Artist for Literature, Philippines

🎯 Dr Shin Yasuda – Teikyo University, Japan

IMPORTANT DATES



Abstract submissions:	15th September 2025
Notification of Abstract Acceptance:	22nd September 2025
Conference Registration (Early-Bird) Deadline:	15th October 2025
Conference Registration Deadline:	20th November 2025





FEES



There is no presentation fee for those who are selected to deliver papers. Costs will be kept to a minimum and will be approximately **\$250** for international participants, **Php 5,000** for local professionals and **Php 3,000** for local students (which includes tea and coffee, lunches and Gala Dinner). Accommodation recommendations will be provided, with preferential rates organised in a number of nearby hotels and hostels. For any questions related to the fee, accommodation and transport, please contact the University of the Philippines.

For all payment details, please see: www.irtp.co.uk



PUBLICATIONS

The conference organisers have an impressive track record of successfully publishing papers from their events. Following review, suitable papers that are submitted according to the deadline, will be published in the International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IJRTP) and/or selected for inclusion as chapters in forthcoming books in the organisers' Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Book Series with CABI publishers.

Conference Abstracts (extended abstracts) will be available online at <https://arrow.dit.ie/irtp>

CONFERENCE LOCATION

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES CEBU

The University of the Philippines Cebu (UP Cebu) is strategically located in the central part of the Philippine archipelago, in the Queen City of the South—Cebu City, which lies on the eastern coast of Cebu Island in the Central Visayas region (Region VII). Geographically, Cebu is one of the country's most developed provinces and is considered a key urban center outside Metro Manila.

UP Cebu is situated in Barangay Lahug, in Cebu City, the capital of Cebu Province. The campus lies within the heart of the city's educational and cultural district, near major institutions, commercial hubs, and historical landmarks. Cebu Island itself is elongated, with narrow coastlines and mountainous interiors, and lies between the larger islands of Leyte to the east and Negros to the west.

From the national perspective, UP Cebu is part of the Visayas, the central group of islands in the Philippines and is about 570 kilometers southeast of the country's capital, Manila. The university serves as the academic and research hub for the central Philippine region within the University of the Philippines System, emphasizing public service and regional development.

In the broader Asian region, UP Cebu occupies a geographically advantageous position. Cebu Island lies roughly:

- 📍 2,600 km southeast of China
- 📍 2,300 km northeast of Singapore

- 📍 1,600 km east of Vietnam
- 📍 1,300 km south of Taiwan

ABOUT CEBU

Welcome to Cebu, a vibrant fusion of culture, creativity, and coastal charm. Cebu is the beating heart of a cluster of islands in the Visayas region and one of the Philippines' most captivating destinations. A dynamic island province where history and innovation meet, Cebu is a place where Spanish colonial heritage, pre-colonial roots, and contemporary energy converge in vibrant harmony.

From the bustling metropolitan pulse of Cebu City—home to centuries-old churches, artistic enclaves, and thriving tech industries—to the pristine beaches and coral reefs of Mactan and the lush mountain retreats of Balamban and Busay, Cebu offers a setting as diverse as its people.

Renowned as the “Cradle of Christianity in the Philippines”, Cebu also boasts a rich artistic legacy, celebrated annually through the world-famous “Sinulog Festival”—a colorful explosion of dance, music, and devotion. It is also a creative capital where tradition fuels innovation, and where academic institutions, cultural hubs, and art communities continue to shape the national narrative.

Visitors are often drawn to its heritage landmarks, culinary adventures, and its spirit of resilience and creativity making Cebu more than just a destination—it is an experience. Thus, the conference location is perfect for thought leaders, artists, and changemakers, setting the stage for meaningful dialogue, cultural exchange, and visionary collaboration.



TRAVEL INFORMATION

📍 From Mactan-Cebu International Airport (CEB) to UP Cebu or Hotels in the Vicinity

By Car or Taxi: Available 24/7 outside the arrivals area. The ride to UP Cebu takes approximately 30–45 minutes, depending on traffic, and costs around PHP 400- PHP 500 (US\$ 7-10 / Euro 6-8). You can use GRAB APP to book a cab.

By Bus: MyBus operates daily from 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Fare is PHP 50. The bus stops at SM City Cebu, from where you can take a taxi or jeepney to UP Cebu or to your hotel destination.

📍 From Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), Manila to UP Cebu

By Plane: Multiple daily flights from NAIA to Mactan-Cebu International Airport. Flight duration is about 1.5 hours. Upon arrival in Cebu, follow the directions above to reach UP Cebu.

HOW TO GET TO CEBU?

📍 From Europe to Cebu: Travelers usually transit through major Asian hubs:

1. London, UK

Route: London Heathrow → Singapore / Doha / Dubai → Cebu

Airlines: Singapore Airlines, Qatar Airways, Emirates, Turkish Airlines + Philippine Airlines

Transit Cities: Singapore, Doha, Dubai, Istanbul

2. Paris, France

Route: Paris CDG → Doha / Dubai / Hong Kong → Cebu

Airlines: Qatar Airways, Emirates, Cathay Pacific

3. Frankfurt, Germany

Route: Frankfurt → Singapore / Istanbul / Doha → Cebu

Airlines: Singapore Airlines, Turkish Airlines, Qatar Airways

Note: Some routes may also end in Manila (Ninoy Aquino International Airport), from where you can take a domestic flight to Cebu (Mactan-Cebu International Airport).

📍 **From Major Asian Cities to Cebu:** These are typically more direct, with shorter flight times and more frequent flights.

1. Tokyo, Japan

Direct Flights: Tokyo Narita → Cebu

Airlines: Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific

2. Seoul, South Korea

Direct Flights: Incheon → Cebu

Airlines: Korean Air, Asiana, Cebu Pacific



3. Hong Kong

Direct Flights: Hong Kong → Cebu

Airlines: Cathay Pacific, Cebu Pacific, Philippines Airlines

4. Bangkok, Thailand

Direct and Connecting Flights: Bangkok → Cebu

Airlines: Cebu Pacific, Thai Airways (via Manila)

5. Singapore

Direct Flights: Singapore → Cebu

Airlines: Scoot, Cebu Pacific, Singapore Airlines

6. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Direct Flights: Kuala Lumpur → Cebu

Airlines: AirAsia, Philippine Airlines

- 📍 **Alternatively, fly into Manila, then transfer via Cebu Pacific, PAL Express, or Philippine Airlines to Cebu.**

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DETAILS

FORMAT OF ABSTRACTS

Please provide the following information in your Abstract:

- ⦿ A clear and precise **title** for your paper.
- ⦿ The **name(s)**, institutional **affiliation**, and **email** address for **all** contributing authors.
- ⦿ A list of **five keywords** that describe the research.
- ⦿ A concise abstract – **max. 300 words** – in good English, which provides an overview of your proposed paper.
- ⦿ 3 key **bibliographic references** at the end of the abstract.

Please use 12-point Arial font, single-spaced, making sure to spellcheck and proofread your abstract before submitting.

Abstracts will be subjected to blind review by a minimum of two referees from the Scientific Committee.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Submit your paper via the link on the conference website at: www.irtp.co.uk