

Sinulog – A Cebuano Tradition

festival	tradition	gracefully
costumes	highlights	annual
final	culture	street
image	historical	attracting
lasts	ends	

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the words above.

The Sinulog-Santo Niño Festival is an annual cultural and religious festival held on the third Sunday of January in Cebu City. The festival is one of the most popular festivals in the Philippines, attracting around 1 to 2 million people from all over the Philippines every year. Aside from the religious aspect of the festival, Sinulog is also famous for its street parties, usually happening the night before and the night of the main festival.

The Sinulog celebration lasts for nine days, culminating on the final day with one of the main highlights of the festival the Sinulog Grand Parade. The Sinulog dance groups are dressed in bright colored costumes dancing gracefully to the rhythm of drums, trumpets and native gongs.

The procession ends at the Basilica Minore del Santo Nino de Cebu where a re-enactment of the baptism to the Christian faith of Cebu is performed.

Sinulog is the ritual prayer-dance honoring Señor Santo Niño or the Child Jesus. An image of the Child Jesus is said to be the baptismal gift that Magellan gave in April 1521. The image, believed to be miraculous, is housed at the Basilica Minore del Santo Niño in downtown Cebu City.

According to historical accounts, the Zebu natives already danced the Sinulog in honor of their animist idols long before the arrival of Magellan.

Today the Sinulog Festival is a Cebuano tradition and celebration of Filipino culture!