

SAINT BERNARD

at a glance



MUNICIPALITY

The Municipality of Saint Bernard is comprised of 30 barangays (villages) and is situated in the Pacific area and southernmost portion of the province of Southern Leyte, Eastern Visayas region, the Philippines.

AREA

10,020 hectares

POPULATION

27,000 people (approximate)

LANGUAGE

The people speak Cebuano and English is generally understood by most of the people.

RELIGION

About 80% of the people are predominantly Catholic and other religious disciplines are practiced freely.

GOVERNMENT

Democracy is the form of government. The head of the municipality is the Mayor while a legislative body is comprised of the Sangguniang Bayan headed by the Vice-Mayor.

WORKING DAYS

Government offices including post office operate on a five-day week from Monday to Friday (8:00AM-5:00PM). Private establishments are usually open the whole week. Health unit staff are on call while police and fire force are on standby 24/7.

CLIMATE

Saint Bernard is endowed with a tropical climate; dry, wet and very wet (December – January) seasons. Temperatures range from 21°C to 32°C.

ECONOMIC PROFILE

Agriculture – mainly farming and fishing - constitutes the largest component of the town's economy while general merchandise, rice milling, concrete hollow block making and copra are major contributors to its economy.

ELECTRICITY

Electricity is powered by the Southern Leyte Electric Cooperative (SOLECO). The voltage used throughout the province is 220 volts. Standard 2-pin square plugs are used.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Saint Bernard is linked nationally and globally by mobile phones using Smart and Globe networks and via the Internet. Broadband is provided by Smart.

FACILITIES

Saint Bernard has one major port, public library, rural health unit, cooperative and savings bank.

GETTING THERE

The main gateways to Saint Bernard are:

By Air: Through Tacloban Airport from Manila and Cebu. Two hours drive from Tacloban to Saint Bernard.

By Sea: Daily ferry and fastcraft services from Cebu to the port of Hilongos. Two hours drive from Hilongos to Saint Bernard. Daily ferry services from Cebu to the port of Bato. About two hours drive from Bato to Saint Bernard.

GETTING AROUND SAINT BERNARD

Bicycle cabs or “potpot” and motorcycle cabs provide transportation to various destinations in the town and nearby municipalities. Motorcycle for hire and van hires are also available upon request.

PLACES TO STAY

Kissbone Resort and Spa provides luxury accommodation and competitive meeting venue. Bigger delegations can be accommodated at the St. Isidore Dormitory during the months of April-May. Homestays provide the experience of life in a traditional home. With open mind, visitors are exposed to urban hospitality and establish bond with the host family.

DINING

Filipino dishes abound throughout the town; however continental and other cuisines may be available upon request. Visitors are also invited to partake of the locally-made wine known as “tuba” which is produced purely from coconuts sans chemical processing.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Saint Bernard is free of most contagious diseases. A special vaccination is necessary for visitors coming from an endemic area. Bottled water can be bought from most of the merchandising establishments.

PEACE & ORDER

Saint Bernard has a solid and strong police force which contributed largely to the town’s zero crime and insurgency rate.