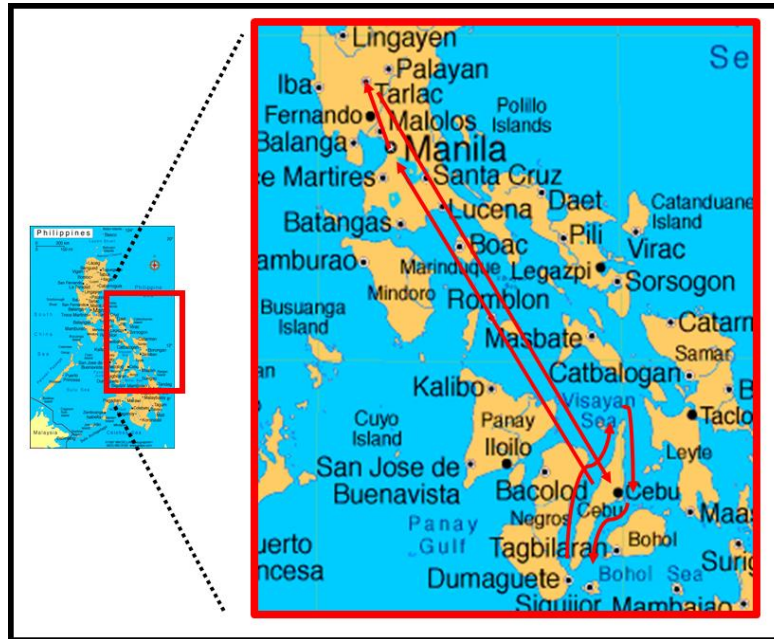


My trip to the Philippines

One perk of being an ALT is the long summer holiday that we receive. This year, I went to the Philippines with my wife. First, we flew from Kansai to Manilla, then travelled to Tarlac in the north. There we ate some delicious food, such as *lechon*, *sisig*, *dinuguan* and *halo halo*.



Lechon is spit roasted pork. The meat was juicy and the skin crispy and delicious.

Sisig is a dish made from pig ear served with rice. It's a little spicy and the texture is very different to anything I've tried in Japan or the UK.

Dinuguan is a soup made from pig blood. It's thick, rich and has a strong taste, but I enjoyed it very much.

Halo halo is the Filipino version of *kakigori*. It's shaved ice with ice cream, condensed milk, crème caramel, tapioca, jelly, sweet beans and fruits. It's very delicious and I recommend you try it if you get the chance. Children will especially like it.



Next, we flew to the island of Cebu. There we travelled around the island by local bus and enjoyed scuba diving in various places. I was very surprised to see chickens on some of the buses! Our first stop was *Oslob* where we saw whale sharks and sea turtles at a depth of 10-20m. Both are very beautiful and graceful. We were so happy to get the chance to see them.



Our second stop was *Moalboal*. We went there to see the sardine run. We only dived to about 10-15m depth but it was amazing. We saw an uncountable number of sardines all moving as one like a cloud. In the photos it looks beautiful, BUT the water was full of hundreds of thousands of sardine poo! It was everywhere. Perhaps some went in my ear. Gross!



Last, we headed to the north and took a boat to a small nearby island called *Malapascua*. The food on the island wasn't very good, but the scuba diving more than made up for it. We dived to a depth of 20-30m and saw many thresher sharks. They can be up to 6m long and are scary to look at, but they can't eat humans because their mouths are too small. We also saw an octopus, a white-tip shark and some sea horses.



Overall, the trip was great. Next time, maybe we will go to a different island in the Philippines like *Bohol*.

Word bank

perk 得点	spit roast 丸焼き	served with~ ○○と一緒に食べる
rich 濃い	blood 血	texture 素材
crème caramel プリン	condensed milk 練乳	whale shark ジンベイザメ
depth 深さ	sardine run イワシの大移動	uncountable number of~ 数え切れないほどの
poo うんち	gross キモイ	~made up for it ○○を補った
thresher shark オナガザメ	white-tip shark ネムリブカ	seahorse タツノオトシゴ