

Leyte Island

October 1, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

LEYTE ISLAND

Leyte Island Latest News

A 6.7 magnitude earthquake has hit Leyte Island in the Philippines recently.

About Leyte Island

- It is a **large island** in the **Visayas group** of islands in the **Philippines**.
- It is the eighth-largest island in the Philippines and the sixth most populated.
- It spans 7056 sq.km. with a coastline of 969 km.
- **In the north it nearly joins the island of Samar, separated by the San Juanico Strait**, which becomes as narrow as 2 kilometres (1.2 mi) in some places.
 - The **San Juanico Bridge** (2.16 kilometers) **connects** the islands of **Leyte and Samar**.
- Most of Leyte is covered in **thick forests and mountains**. However, the **Leyte Valley** in the northeast is a **major farming area**.
- The two **biggest cities** on Leyte are **Tacloban**, located on the eastern coast, and **Ormoc**, on the west coast, with the **latter hosting geothermal power plants**.

- **History:**

- The island was **known to 16th-century Spanish explorers as Tandaya.**
- Its population grew rapidly after 1900, especially in the Leyte and Ormoc valleys.
- **In World War II, U.S. forces landed** on Leyte (October 20, 1944), and, **after the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the Japanese were expelled.**

- **Economy:**

- **Most people** on Leyte are **farmers**, growing crops like rice, corn, coconuts, and bananas.
- **Fishing** is also an important activity.
- The island has some **valuable minerals like manganese**, and people also **quarry sandstone and limestone.**

Source: DEVD

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/leyte-island/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.