A wall and a bastion at the Eastern side which faces the highway and the coast.

I just got back home from an almost 300-kilometer trip starting from the Eastern side of Southern Cebu going all the way to the Southernmost tip and looping up back north via the Western side. As usual, I made several stopovers to a handful of old stone churches and watchtowers. What stirred up my interest was the sight of what appeared to be a citadel in the municipality of Oslob while we were on our way to another town.

Oslob’s Daanglysod, a Cebuano term which literally means old town, is the site of the fortified former settlement of Oslob before it was transferred to its present-day location two kilometers to the north. The settlement was fortified with defensive walls to protect it from the usual threat of Moro invasions from the south.
Details of the parapet of the Eastern bastion.
A hexagonal bastion at the Southeast with a relief bearing either the year 1785 or 1789 carved above the lintel of the entranceway.
The Southwestern bastion
A bastion at the Northeastern side.

The Daanglungsod citadel is in the form of a square and is quite expansive. There are four bastions positioned at strategic portions of the walls and one free-standing watchtower at the very center of the entire area inside. A portion of the fortified area ascends into an elevated plain towards the west. Although in a state of disrepair, the outline of the walls are still pretty much very intact. Looking at the overgrowth of roots at some of the bastions reminds one of Cambodia’s Angkor Wat. There are four portals to the fortification, two on each of the Southern and Northern walls. A large breech at the Eastern wall from the highway serves as a contemporary entrance for anyone and for vehicles wanting to go inside and park.

There is nothing inside the area now except for a few remnants of what used to be structures or buildings during the former town’s heyday, a basketball court and a chapel of modern construction, some shrubs, a handful of coconut trees and other vegetation. But like in most settlements, this walled former town may have contained religious edifices (i.e. church), government buildings (i.e. town hall), houses for a few residents, and other structures. A bastion located at the Southeast portion where the walls at the East and the South meet bears a relief of a year carved above the lintel of an entranceway. Though quite indiscernible due to corrosion, the year seems to be either 1785 or 1789.
The Western wall.
The Northern wall.
A portal at the Southern wall.
A portal at the Northern wall.
The town was eventually relocated for the simple reason that the present-day location was easier to protect against the Moro raids. The vast terrain was flat too. It should be noted that the church of Oslob in the present-day town was built in 1830 following the plans of then Cebu Bishop Santos Gomes Marañon.

There are many ways to reach Oslob which is around two to three hours south of Cebu City. The most convenient way is to ride a Ceres bus which operates at the Cebu South Bus Terminal. Ceres is a major bus operator in the Visayas. Take the one that goes to Bato and tell the conductor to drop you off at Oslob's Daanglungsod.