



Philippines



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Geography

Being an archipelago, much of the Philippines is surrounded by bodies of water. The north is bordered by the Babuyan Channel, the west by the West Philippines Sea, and the south by the Celebes Sea. The Philippines' eastern coast faces the Pacific Ocean. With approximately 7,641 islands, its coastline of 36,289 kilometers is almost twice that of the United States and its land area is a little larger than Arizona. Of the 7,641 islands, only about 2,000 are inhabited. They are clustered into the three major island groups of Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. There are 81 provinces in the Philippines and its capital city is Manila.

The Philippines is a republic with a presidential form of government wherein power is equally divided among its three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial.



Demographic Data

Population: Almost 110,000,000
Languages: Filipino and English are the official languages but there are about 170 distinct indigenous Philippine languages
Religion: 80.58% Filipino population are Roman Catholics
10.8% are Protestants and 5.5% are Islamic.
Total area: 300,000 Sq Km | 115,831 Sq Mi
Monetary Unit: Piso (Peso)
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (psa.gov.ph)



Philippine Flag and Anthem

The Philippine national flag has a rectangular design that consists of a white equilateral triangle symbolizing liberty, equality and fraternity; a horizontal blue stripe for peace, truth and justice; and a horizontal red stripe for patriotism and valor.

The sun stands for the gigantic strides that have been made by the Sons of the land on the road to progress and civilization. The eight rays of the sun in the triangle represent the first 8 united provinces that revolted for independence - Batangas, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Manila, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, and Tarlac. The three stars in the triangle stands for the 3 major geographical divisions of the country - Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao (3 main islands).

The country's national anthem is Lupang Hinirang. To listen, scan this code:



History and Culture

Historians believe the presence of humans in the Philippines dates back to the Paleolithic age. Based on the archeological artifacts recovered, Filipino society and culture were fairly developed prior to contacts with other countries. Filipinos had commercial relations early on with China, Indo-China, Malaysia, India, and the Arab countries.

On March 16, 1521, Ferdinand Magellan came to the Philippines and claimed the country for the Spanish Crown. A colonial government was established in Manila in 1571. In 1896, the Filipinos staged the first nationalistic revolution in Asia against the Spaniards. The 1896 Revolution was the culmination of a succession of revolts against Spanish oppression. The death by musketry of Dr. Jose Rizal, who led the reform movement, fueled the fires of revolution. On June 12, 1898, leaders of the revolution declared the country's sovereign state and proclaimed the first Republic of the Philippines, the first constitutional democracy in Asia.

Because of its history and relations with various nations, the culture of the Philippines comprises a blend of traditional Filipino and Spanish Catholic traditions, with influences from America and other parts of Asia.

The learn more about PH history, scan this code:



Trade and Economy

The Philippines has been one of the most dynamic economies in the East-Asia Pacific region. Average annual growth increased to 6.4% between 2010-2019 from an average of 4.5% between 2000-2009. However, the pandemic and community quarantine measures imposed in the country have severely impacted economic growth and poverty reduction.

By enhancing Covid-19 pandemic response, the country is getting back on track to become an upper middle-income country in the next few years. The economy has started to recover with a 3.7% year-on-year expansion in the first half of 2021. With continued recovery and reform efforts, the country is getting back on track on its way from a lower middle-income country with a gross national income per capita of US\$3,430 in 2020 to an upper middle-income country (per capita income range of US\$4,096-\$12,695) in the short term.

Source: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/philippines/overview#1>

PHILIPPINE TOURISM

WHERE TO JUAN-DER IN THE PHILIPPINES?

DIVE



OSLOB, CEBU

Swim with the gentle giants or opt for just whale shark watching in the town of Oslob, Cebu in Barangay Tan-awan.

SAMAL ISLAND

Samal or "Island Garden City of Samal" in the province of Davao del Norte is a quick go-to destination of the locals looking for beach time. The island offers from simple and raw beach lines to high-end luxurious beach resorts.



ADVENTURE



ULTRA LIGHT FLYING AT MATI CITY

See Dahican Beach and the whole of Mati City in a stunning perspective through the ultra light flying experience offered by Mindanao Flying Saga at Mati airport.

MT. TIMPOONG AND MT. HIBOK-HIBOK RANGE NATURAL MONUMENT

Mt. Timpoong stands at 1,580 meters while Mt. Hibok-Hibok, is an active volcano that rises at 1,200 meters. These two mountains make up the Natural Monument which was declared as an ASEAN Heritage Park in 2015 for being home to a wide range of flora and fauna that is endemic to the island-province.



FOOD AND HOSPITALITY



KAMPOJUAN HERITAGE HOUSE

The KampoJuan Heritage House is the famous Bahay na Bato mansion of Manolo Fortich which is home to an astonishing collection of antiques bearing age-old narratives from various points of Filipino history. The house itself is a preserved relic as it was built in the colonial Philippines in Pangasinan.

LUCBAN'S PANCIT HABHAB

Lucban's signature dish Pancit Habhab is usually served on a piece of banana leaf and is meant to be eaten without the use of any utensils. Your visit in the Quezon province won't be complete without trying this dish.



EVENTS AND CULTURE

BANAUE RICE TERRACES

Banaue Rice Terraces is one of the top tourist destination in the country and dubbed as the "Eight Wonder of the World" and now listed as a World Heritage Site with a distinct name of its own as the "Living Cultural Landscape" by the UNESCO.



MAGELLAN'S ANCHORAGE

The fleet of Ferdinand Magellan anchored near an island called Mazaua (it is derived from the native word Masao). In Mazaua, the two Butuanon brother kings attended the first Mass in the Philippines and the Magellan crew planted a cross on a hill. A memorial was built in Masao near the site where it represents the site that Magellan's fleet have made an anchorage.



To know more about the exciting destinations in the Philippines, scan these:



7641islands.ph



philippines.travel



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



The Embassy is the principal representative of the Philippine Government in the conduct of its relations with the Government of the United States of America. In this capacity, the Embassy promotes the foreign policy thrusts of the Philippines.

Sentro Rizal Washington DC is the 30th branch of the Sentro Rizal and Its main purpose is the promotion of Philippine arts, culture and language throughout the world. It is the primary vehicle through which the Embassy will conduct its cultural diplomacy programs.

The present Ambassador of the Philippines to the United States of America is Ambassador Jose Manuel G. Romualdez.

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