

Getting there and going around

Arrival



Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) in Manila is the main airport to the Philippines. Divided into four terminals, it caters to domestic and international flights from the world's major airlines. It's equipped with tourist help desks, hotel and car rental services, duty-free souvenir shops, and handicap assistance.

Airport Information

Ninoy Aquino International Airport:

Terminal 1	Primary international airport in Manila. Serves majority of international flights.
Terminal 2	Used for both international and domestic flights of Philippine Airlines.
Terminal 3	Carries all flights operated by Cebu Pacific and Air Philippines, and a few international airlines.
Terminal 4	Hosts domestic flights operated by Zest Airways, SEAIR, and other local airlines.

Other Airports:

Mactan-Cebu International Airport (MCIA)	Location: Mactan Island, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu Currently serves commercial airlines and cargo carriers.
Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA)	Location: Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga Currently serves flights to various Asian destinations. Also hosts chartered flights.
Laoag International Airport	Location: Laoag City, Ilocos Norte Services chartered flights from East Asia and other scheduled services of domestic carriers.
Davao International Airport	Location: Davao City, Davao del Sur Takes in domestic flights and a few international flights.

Entry Regulations



Visitors from 156 countries with diplomatic relations to ours may enter without visas and stay for 30 days provided they have tickets for an onward journey outside the Philippines.

When staying for more than 30 days, a Tourist Visa is required and is valid for 59 days. Holders of Hong Kong and Taiwan passports must have special permits. All documents may be obtained from Philippine Embassies and Consulates.

Further inquiries may be addressed to the Visa Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs (Telephone number: +632 556 0000 or visit their website at www.dfa.gov.ph), or any Philippine Embassy or Consulate abroad.

Health Regulation



A certificate of vaccination against yellow fever is required for travelers coming from infected areas.

Safety Tips



Like any other city in the world, tourists should be mindful of their personal safety and belongings wherever they go. Be sure that all valuables are properly protected from loss.

Be wary of unauthorized people who offer their services as guides.

For visitors needing assistance relating to safety, suspicious practices or other matters please call Emergency number: 117

Customs



The following are allowed duty-free: reasonable quantity of clothes, jewelry, and toiletries; 400 sticks of cigarettes or two tins of tobacco; two (2) bottles of alcoholic beverages not more than one liter each; a cash limit of USD 10,000.

Transportation



To reach other parts of the country, you can easily travel by air, land or sea. Commercial carriers have scheduled flights to major destinations and island resorts, while bus terminals have daily rides to the provinces and other cities as early as 6:00 am until 12 midnight.

You can go around the city in jeepneys, metered taxis, buses, rapid transit systems like the Metro Rail Transit (MRT), tricycles, and rent-a-car services.



TAXI

You can hail one from anywhere and almost all drivers speak and understand English. Flag down rates may change so don't forget to ask your hotel what the standard charge is. Be sure the meter is turned on before you go.

Accommodation



You can book a room in any of the country's hotels ranging from 5-star hotels to boutique hotels, and serviced apartments.

For the budget-conscious, there are hostels, B&Bs, and inns that have basic amenities like Wi-Fi, air-conditioning, and hot water.

New accommodation standards are being implemented: hotels, resorts, and apartment hotels will be rated according to the 5-star accreditation system.

Fast facts



Capital

Manila



Currency

Philippine Peso (PHP)



Time Zone

GMT +8.00



Government

Democratic Presidential System



Electricity

220 volts, AC 60 cycles. Some hotels will carry 110 volt outlets.

Language



Filipino is the national language but English is widely spoken. There are also 176 local dialects.

Credit Cards



MasterCard, Visa, Diners Club, American Express, JCB

Most establishments in Metro Manila and other provincial capitals accept most international credit cards. But when travelling around the islands, make sure you carry enough cash as ATMs are less common outside cities.

Climate



Average temperature of 77°F/ 25°C to 90°F/32°C

March to October - Warmest Months

November to February - the winter monsoon brings cooler air

April to May - is the warmest month

January - the coolest month

Seasonality



February to June, September to November – shoulder season, hot and humid July to August - monsoon season December to January - peak season, best to avoid. Christmas, New Year's eve, Easter and Holy week with holiday crowds and high rates.

What to wear



Bring light and breathable clothes. When visiting the mountain regions, use warm and insulated clothing.

For formal occasions, men can wear dinner jackets with ties or the Philippine barong tagalog. Women can use cocktail dresses or long gowns.

When visiting churches, temples, mosques, or other places of worship, use your discretion and do wear the appropriate clothing. Avoid sleeveless shirts, shorts, and slippers.

Business hours



Government offices: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, weekdays

Malls: 10:00 am to 9:00 pm, daily

Banks: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, weekdays

ATM: 24 hours, daily

Communication



The country has international and national direct dial phones, facsimile services, worldwide express delivery, mobile phone coverage, internet facilities, and wireless connectivity.

Water



There's potable tap water in most cities and bottled water is available in hotels, supermarkets, and convenience stores.

Religion



Predominantly Roman Catholic. Smaller populations of Protestants, Muslims and Buddhists.

Tipping



Tips are normally 10% of the bill, but are optional when there's service charge.

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