

GENERAL INFORMATION

Getting There

Travel to the Philippines is easy using a number of airline services from Europe, such as Emirates, Cathay Pacific Airways, Gulf Air, Singapore Airlines, Qatar Airways, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Kuwait Airways, Lufthansa, Thai Airways, Korean Air and Etihad. Manila and Cebu are the primary international gateways. Special charter flights can also operate using other international airports situated in Laoag, Subic, Clark and Davao.

Philippine Airlines has the biggest domestic air network, but other carriers also fly to numerous local destinations at regular intervals. Some of these are Cebu Pacific Air, Asian Spirit, Seair, Laoag International Airlines and Air Philippines.

Major cruise liners call on the port of Manila.

Entry Regulation

Valid passport. Except for stateless persons and those from countries with which the Philippines has no diplomatic relations, all visitors may enter the country without visas and may stay for 21 days provided they have tickets for onward journey. Holders of Hongkong and Taiwan passports must have special permits. Visas and special permits may be obtained from Philippine embassies and consulates.

Health Regulations

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

Airport Information

Airports and Facilities: Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) is 7 kms from city centre while the Manila Domestic Airport is 1 km from the NAIA. The international airports have adequate traveller facilities: duty-free and souvenir shops, meet and assist personnel at the tourist information and assistance counters, hotel and travel agency representatives, car rental services, banks and automated teller machines, postal service, national and international direct dial telephone booths, medical clinics and baggage deposit areas.

Customs

Visitors are advised to fill in the Baggage Declaration Form before disembarking to facilitate Customs examination. The following are allowed duty-free: reasonable quantities of clothes, jewelry and toiletries; 400 sticks of cigarettes or two tins of tobacco; two bottles of wine or spirits of not more than one litre each.

Portage

Baggage carts are available free of charge. Porter services are also free. Tipping is optional though traditional.

Airport Transfers

Visitors are advised to avail of accredited fixed rate or metered taxis at the NAIA's Arrived Area. At the Manila Domestic Airport, accredited transfer services are available on pre-paid coupon basis. Other airports are served by metered taxis. All airports have counters for hotel transport and car rental service.

Dining Out

Filipino food is an exotic, tasteful fusion of Oriental, European and American culinary influences with a wide variety of fresh seafood and delectable fruits. First-class restaurants offer gourmet specialties as well as Filipino cuisine.

Entertainment and Culture

Metro Manila is the centre of entertainment and cultural activities. The premier venue for the performing arts, the Cultural Centre of the Philippines, features excellent performances by local and international guest artists. Museums located in Manila and in some parts of the country offer a glimpse of Philippine history and culture. Art galleries exhibit the works of the country's leading and promising visual artists.

Metro Manila's nightlife is one of the most vibrant in Asia, reflective of the Filipinos' inherent musical talent. The hubs of nightlife activities at the Remedios Circle in Malate, Ayala Centre and Fort Bonifacio Global City in Makati, Timog and Tomas Morato Avenues in Quezon City, Ortigas Center in Mandaluyong and Pasig Cities, and Eastwood in Libis, Quezon City, Clubs, music lounges, pubs and sing-along bars feature Filipino bands and singers known for their exceptional musical talent. Deluxe hotels offer a variety of live musical entertainment. Concerts and stage plays form part of the country's entertainment scene.

For visitors who want to try their luck at the gaming tables there are casinos in Metro Manila and in the cities of Angeles, Olongapo, Tagaytay, Cebu, Davao, Bacolod and Laoag.

Airport Fees

P550 for international departure and P100 for local departure (paid in Philippine peso only). Departing passengers for international destinations are advised to check with airport or tourist information counters (tel. 524-1703; 832-2964) for prevailing departure fees that may change without notice.

Duty Free Shopping

Duty-Free Philippines near the NAIA is the country's largest duty-free outlet carrying quality imported items and select Philippine export products.

What to Wear

Light, casual clothes are recommended. Warmer garments are needed for mountain regions. When visiting churches and temples, propriety dictates that shorts and scanty clothes are avoided. Formal occasions require dinner jackets and ties (or the Philippine barong tagalog) for men and cocktail dresses or long gowns for women.

Currency

Unit of currency: Philippine Peso (Php) 1 = 100 centavos. Bank notes: P10, P20, P50, P100, P500, P1000. Coins 5c, 10c, 20c, P1, P5, P10

Tipping

Tipping is expected for many services. The standard is 10% of the total bill. Tipping is optional on bills that already include a 10% service charge.

Local Transport

By air, Philippine Airlines (tel. 855-9999), Air Philippines (tel. 855-9000), Cebu Pacific (tel. 636-4938) provide daily services to major cities and towns. Asian Spirit (851-8888), Laoag International Airlines (tel. 551-9729) and Seair (tel. 891-8708) service the missionary routes. There are also scheduled chartered flights to major domestic destinations serviced by smaller commuter planes.

By sea, inter-island ships connect Manila and Cebu to major ports. Ferry services connect the smaller islands. For the more adventurous, travelling from island to island may be done through negotiations for non-commercial outrigger fisher boats.

By land, regular bus services connect Manila to all major regions of the country. Metered and fixed rate taxis are widely available in city centres nationwide. Jeepneys and buses are inexpensive ways to get around most places. In Metro Manila, the fastest way of commuting is via the Light Rail Transit (the LRT presently operates 2 lines) and the Metro Rail Transport (MRT - 1 line).

Language

Filipino is the national language. English is the business language and widely spoken.

Accommodations

In Metro Manila and in key cities and towns throughout the country, a wide selection of deluxe, first class, standard, economy and pension type accommodations are available. In island destinations, a variety of resorts ranging from deluxe to special interest category are also available.

Shopping

Visitors can choose from an exciting selection of great buys in a country known for export-quality items at reasonable prices: South Sea pearls, hand-woven cloths, embroidered fineries, fashionable ready-to-wear and haute clothes, terracotta, and porcelain, coral and mother-of-pearl home accessories. Artcrafts, pineapple fiber shirts, pre-historic jars, native handicrafts, and footwear are interesting items, too. The Philippine also produces fine furniture, basketry, fresh and processed fruits, exquisitely crafted jewelry and gift items made of shell, wood and stone.

Big Malls are located in major cities of Metro Manila, while handicrafts, antique and curio shops abound at the Ermita District in Manila and in other nearby towns.

Business and Banking

Private and government offices are open either from 8 am to 5 pm or from 9 am to 6 pm. Some private companies hold office on Saturdays from 9 am to 12 noon. Most shopping malls, department stores and supermarkets are open from 10 am to 8 pm. There are 24-hour convenience stores and drugstores.

Banks are open from 9 am to 3 pm, Mondays to Fridays with automated teller machines (ATM) operating 24 hours.

Credit Cards

International credit cards such as Visa, Diners Club, Mastercard and American Express are accepted in major establishments.

Electricity

220 volts, A.C. 60 cycles. Most hotels have 110 volts outlets.

For more information, please contact :

Embassy of the Philippines, Department of Tourism, 146 Cromwell Road, London SW7 4EF

Tel : +44 (0) 20 7835 1100 Fax : +44 (0) 20 7835 1926 Email : infotourism@wowphilippines.co.uk Website : www.wowphilippines.co.uk

WOWPHILIPPINES



Banaua Rice Terraces



Makati Skyline



Philippine White Sandy Beaches



Philippine Diving Heaven

Philippines Department of Tourism Regional Offices

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Room 207 DOT Building, T.M. Kalaw Street
Ermita, 1000 Manila
Tel: (63 2) 524 2345/525 6114/524 6566/
523 8411 local 197
Fax: (63 2) 524 5321
Airport Office Tel: (63 2) 832 2564/551 0698
Airport Office Fax: (63 2) 832 1687
Tourist Security Division: (63 2) 524 1650/524 1729
Tourist Ancillary Services: (63 2) 524 1703/524 2394
Cellular Phone: (63) 0919 854 6310
E-mail: ncr@tourism.gov.ph

COROLLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

DOT Complex, Governor Pack Road
2620 Baguio City
Tel: (63 74) 442 7014/619 1127
Fax: (63 74) 442 8848
Cellular Phone: (63 74) 0918 937 7010
E-mail: corollera@dot.gov.ph
Website: www.visitcorollera.com

REGIONAL OFFICE I

Osteo County Resort, National Highway
Barrangay Sevilla, San Fernando, 2500 La Union
Tel: (63 72) 888 2411/703 5790
Fax: (63 72) 888 2098
Cellular Phone: (63 72) 0920 961 7393
E-mail: oosteo@dot.gov.ph

LAOAG SUB-OFFICE

Room 207, 2/F, Ilocano Heroes Memorial Hall
2500 Laoag City
Tel: (63 77) 771 1473
Fax: (63 77) 772 0467
Cellular Phone: (63 77) 0520 603 1880
E-mail: laoa@dot.gov.ph

REGIONAL OFFICE II

294, Rizal Street, Tuguegarao City, 3502 Cagayan
Tel: (63 78) 844 1621
Fax: (63 78) 846 2436
Cellular Phone: (63 78) 0918 809 2326
E-mail: dot2@dot.gov.ph
Website: www.dotregion2.com

REGIONAL OFFICE III

Hilag Village, City of San Fernando
2000 Pangasinana
Tel: (63 45) 961 2555/963 1372/963 0138
Fax: (63 45) 961 2512
Cellular Phone: (63 45) 0919 427 8361
E-mail: dot3@dot.gov.ph
Website: www.visitcentral.com

REGIONAL OFFICE IV

Room 208 DOT Building, T.M. Kalaw Street
Ermita, 1000 Manila
Tel: (63 2) 524 1969/524 1528/
523 8411 local 193
Fax: (63 2) 526 7895
Cellular Phone: (63 2) 0917 823 6804
E-mail: kfour@dot.gov.ph
Website: www.visitbureauinlaog.com

REGIONAL OFFICE V

Regional Center One, Rawis, 4000 Legaspi City
Tel: (63 52) 462 0712/500 3664/214 3215
Fax: (63 52) 520 5056
Cellular Phone: (63 52) 0917 599 3460
E-mail: dot5@dot.gov.ph
Website: www.visitvco.com

REGIONAL OFFICE VI

Western Visayas Regional Tourism Center
Capitol Grounds, Bonifacio Drive, 5000 Iloilo City
Tel: (63 33) 337 6111/529 3650
Fax: (63 33) 335 0246
Cellular Phone: (63 33) 0917 732 6691
E-mail: westvis@dot.gov.ph
Website: www.visitwvato.com
www.westernvisayas.com.ph

BORACAY FIELD OFFICE

Barabag, Boracay, Masajid, 5908 Aklan
Tel: (63 36) 536 0284
Tel: (63 36) 536 2689
Cellular Phone: (63 36) 0520 920 0518
Website: www.visitboracay.com

REGIONAL OFFICE VII

Ground Floor, LDM Building
Corner Legaspi and M.J. Cuervo Streets
5000 Cebu City
Tel: (63 32) 254 2811/412 1566
Tel: (63 32) 254 2811
Tel: (63 32) 254 2711
Tel: (63 32) 254 2711
Airport Office Tel: (63 32) 340 8229
Airport Office Fax: (63 32) 0918 941 7427
E-mail: dot7@dot.gov.ph, ceborad@dot.gov.ph
Website: www.visitvco.com

REGIONAL OFFICE VIII

Ground Floor, Foundation Plaza Building
Layite Park Resort Compound
Maguway Boulevard
6500 Tacloban City
Tel: (63 53) 321 2048/321 4333/325 3500
Fax: (63 53) 325 5279
Cellular Phone: (63 53) 0918 935 5841
E-mail: dot8@dot.gov.ph

REGIONAL OFFICE IX

Lantana Hotel Building
N.S. Vidalesa Street, 7000 Zamboanga City
Tel: (63 62) 591 0218/592 6242
Fax: (63 62) 599 0030
Cellular Phone: (63 62) 0520 808 0877
E-mail: dot9@dot.gov.ph, dot9@dot.gov.ph

REGIONAL OFFICE X

Gregorio Fielso Sports Center
A. Velez Street, 8000 Cagayan de Oro City
Tel: (63 88 22) 726 394/655 4346 (Philcom)
Fax: (63 88 22) 723 696
Airport Office Tel: (63 88 22) 858 8886
Cellular Phone: (63 88 22) 0520 953 1810
E-mail: dot10@dot.gov.ph

REGION XI

2nd Floor, COMSE Building, Quizon Avenue
9600 Cotabato City
Tel: (63 84) 421 1110
Tel: (63 84) 421 7588
Cellular Phone: (63 84) 0917 726 5308
E-mail: dot11@dot.gov.ph

REGION XII

Grand Ready Corporation Building, PII Drive
8000 Davao City
Tel: (63 85) 241 8413/225 5712
Tel: (63 85) 241 8413/225 5712
Cellular Phone: (63 85) 0917 703 5617
E-mail: dot12@dot.gov.ph

REGION XIII

J.P. Laurel Avenue, Bajada
8000 Davao City
Tel: (63 82) 211 6955
Fax: (63 82) 211 0070/211 1940
Cellular Phone: (63 82) 0917 548 5548
E-mail: dot13@dot.gov.ph
Website: www.visitdavao.com