



Philippine Country Guide

Page 1 of 5 Important Information Prior to Travelling to the Philippines Passport and Tourist Visa Conditions

Most Australian ordinary passport holders do not usually require a pre-obtained visa to enter the Philippines provided that they are travelling for business or pleasure for a period of 30 days or less and have a return or onward ticket. Travellers are recommended to ensure that their passports have at least six months validity beyond the date of the expected stay in the Philippines.

Additional conditions may apply to minors. Travellers are recommended to contact a Philippine mission on the details below for further information and to ensure their specific circumstances make them eligible to enter the Philippines without a visa.

Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

Exercise a high degree of caution in the Philippines overall. Seek specific advice for the locations you intend to visit. Reconsider your need to travel to eastern Mindanao. See [Safety and security](#). Do not travel to central and western Mindanao due to the very high threat of kidnapping, terrorist attack, violent crime and violent clashes between armed groups. See [Safety and security](#).

The typhoon season normally runs from late May to December. Tropical storms, flooding and landslides may occur. During a tropical storm, monitor local media reports, follow the instructions of local officials and check the latest typhoon information at the [Joint Typhoon Warning Centre](#) website. See [Natural disasters](#).

There is a high threat of terrorist attack in the Philippines, including Manila. Be alert to possible threats around locations that have a low level of protective security and places that could be terrorist targets. Possible targets for terrorist attacks include commercial and public places frequented by foreigners. There is a very high threat of kidnapping in the southern Philippines, especially along the Zamboanga peninsula and in the Sulu Archipelago. Tourists in southern Palawan, southern Negros or Siquijor could also be targeted. See [Safety and security](#).

Police and other authorities have released strong statements regarding the trafficking and use of drugs in the Philippines. See [Laws](#).

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in the Philippines at www.smarttraveller.gov.au.

Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a traveller's individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to the Philippines. Vaccination against hepatitis B and rabies (particularly if working with animals) should be considered by frequent or long stay travellers. Vaccination against typhoid should be considered particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene. Cholera is reported in the Philippines but vaccination is generally not recommended, care with food and beverage selection is far more important. There is a medium risk of malaria in the Philippines; dengue fever and widespread transmission of the Zika virus also occurs; thus insect avoidance measures and anti-malarial medication may be necessary depending on your itinerary; pregnant women should consider postponing travel to the Philippines. Vaccination against Japanese encephalitis may be recommended depending on your itinerary.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Travellers to the Philippines should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas, the Zika virus and other issues please visit www.smarttraveller.gov.au/tips.

Philippine Representation in Australia

Philippine Embassy, Canberra

Tel: (02) 6273 2535
Fax: (02) 6273 3984

Web: www.philembassy.org.au

Philippine Consulate General, Sydney

Tel: (02) 9262 7377
Fax: (02) 9262 7355

Web: www.philippineconsulate.com.au

Honorary Consulates in other states.

QLD: Tel - 0411 359 182
VIC: Tel - (03) 9869 7182
NT: Tel - (08) 8927 3926
TAS: Tel - (03) 6213 5510
SA: Tel - 0434 911 202



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Page 2 of 5 Important Information while Travelling in the Philippines Time Differences between the Philippines and Australia

The Philippines are Greenwich Mean Time +8 hours. Daylight saving time is not observed. The applicable time zone in the Philippines is called Philippine Time (PHT).

Philippines, 12 noon, June = Perth 12pm; Adelaide, Darwin 1:30pm; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 2pm.
 Philippines, 12 noon, December = Perth 12pm; Darwin 1:30pm; Brisbane 2pm; Adelaide 2:30pm; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 3pm.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for the Philippines: +63
 To Dial Australia Call: 00 61 <City> <Number>
 Australian Reverse Charges Direct:
 PLDT - 101055 6120
 Philcom - 102 661
 Users may need to insert phone cards or coins.
 Travelex Card Services:
 1800 1442 0092
 Visa Global Assistance:
 1800 1441 0015
 MasterCard: 1800 1111 0061
 American Express Travellers Cheques:
 1800 1441 0108
 Emergency Services: 117

The Emergency Services may not always have English speaking staff. In this case, you should have a local call on your behalf or contact the Australian Embassy in Manila.

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: _____ Passport #: _____
 Name: _____ Passport #: _____

Credit Cards

Name: _____ Institution: _____
 Card Number: _____
 Name: _____ Institution: _____
 Card Number: _____

Travel Insurance

Name: _____ Institution: _____
 Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____
 Name: _____ Institution: _____
 Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation in the Philippines

Australian Embassy, Philippines
 Level 23-Tower 2, RCBC Plaza
 6819 Ayala Avenue Makati City
 MANILA
 Tel: (+63 2) 7578 100
 Fax: (+63 2) 7578 268
 Web: www.philippines.embassy.gov.au

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians in the Philippines are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian Embassy in Manila, or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



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Page 3 of 5 General Destination Information for the Philippines

Duty Free Allowances for the Philippines and Australia

Duty Free limits when entering the Philippines:

Alcohol: 2 bottles of alcoholic beverages (not more than 1 L per bottle).
 Tobacco: 400 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250 g of tobacco

Duty Free limits when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 L.
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
 Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting the Philippines and Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For information on Philippine customs please visit www.customs.gov.ph, or for information on Australian customs please visit www.border.gov.au.

Electrical and Telephone Adaptors

Electrical Socket type: Japanese (type A), American (type B) and European (type C) electrical sockets are all used in the Philippines.

Supply: Both 110-120 and 220-240 volts are used.

Travellers are urged to check the electrical info panel on their device. If it says "Input: 100-240V, 50-60 Hz" then a voltage converter should not be required. Otherwise carefully check the supply voltage before plugging in any electrical device.

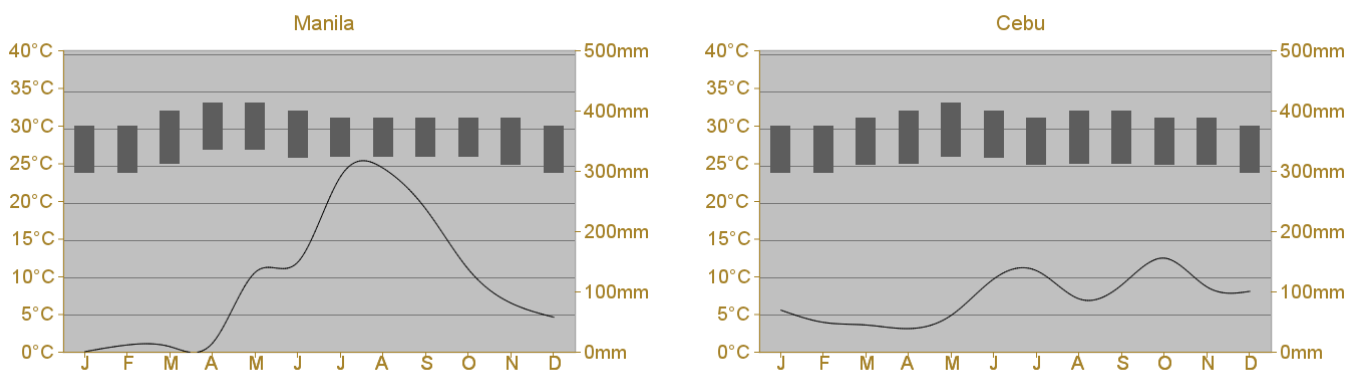


Philippine Public Holidays 2018

Regular Holidays and Special Non-working Days

01 Jan: New Year's Day	21 Aug: Ninoy Aquino Day
16 Feb: Chinese New Year	27 Aug: National Heroes Day
25 Feb: EDSA Revolution	01-02 Nov: All Saints Day
29 Mar: Maundy Thursday	30 Nov: Bonifacio Day
30 Mar: Good Friday	24 Dec: Christmas Eve
09 Apr: Day of Valor	25 Dec: Christmas
01 May: Labor Day	30 Dec: Rizal Day
12 Jun: Independence Day	31 Dec: Bank Holiday

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in the Philippines



For local forecasts please go to the Philippine Atmospheric Services Administration at www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph.

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Page 4 of 5 Philippines Currency Information and Cheat Sheet Exchange Rate Purchasing Power Parity

Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 38.24 Philippine Pesos
 10 Philippine Peso (PHP) = 0.2615 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) will buy 36.77 Philippine Pesos
 10 Philippine Peso (PHP) will cost 0.2719 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin paid when exchanging currencies. These rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

The following is a purchasing-power comparison of the Philippine Peso and the Australian Dollar, using the Big Mac as a common good. While it does not present a faultless comparison, it is a useful indicator of the purchasing power of each currency.

Big Mac Australia: \$5.95 (AUD) = 228 Philippine Pesos
 Big Mac Philippines: 134 (PHP) = 3.50 Australian Dollars

A Big Mac in the Philippines is therefore 41% less expensive than in Australia.

This comparison is based on 2018 prices using current exchange rates. Prices may not include variations by locality or local taxes.

Currency Cheat Sheet

P 5 = \$0.14 AUD	This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.		P 1,000 = \$27.19 AUD
P 10 = \$0.27 AUD	P 100 = \$2.72 AUD		P 2,000 = \$54.39 AUD
P 20 = \$0.54 AUD	P 200 = \$5.44 AUD		P 3,000 = \$81.58 AUD
P 30 = \$0.82 AUD	P 300 = \$8.16 AUD		P 4,000 = \$108.78 AUD
P 40 = \$1.09 AUD	P 400 = \$10.88 AUD		P 5,000 = \$135.97 AUD
P 50 = \$1.36 AUD	P 500 = \$13.60 AUD		P 6,000 = \$163.17 AUD
P 60 = \$1.63 AUD	P 600 = \$16.32 AUD		P 7,000 = \$190.36 AUD
P 70 = \$1.90 AUD	P 700 = \$19.04 AUD		P 8,000 = \$217.56 AUD
P 80 = \$2.18 AUD	P 800 = \$21.76 AUD		P 9,000 = \$244.75 AUD
P 90 = \$2.45 AUD	P 900 = \$24.48 AUD		P 10,000 = \$271.95 AUD

Bank Notes

The legal currency of the Philippines is the Philippine Piso (or Peso in English), which is abbreviated using the symbol ₱, "PHP" or simply "P". The subunit of the peso is the centavo of which there are 100 in every peso. The following units of currency are the most common however other units are also in circulation. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised not to take the below images with them when travelling.





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About the Philippines

Full Name: Republika ng Pilipinas
 (Republic of the Philippines).

Independence: 1898 (from Spain, US
 administration until 1946).

Size: 300,000 km² (130% the size of VIC).

Population: 104 million (4.7 times larger
 than Australia).

Ethnicity: Tagalog 28%, Cebuano 13%,
 Ilocano 9%, Bisaya/Binisaya 8%.

Language: Filipino and English (official),
 other regional dialects are also spoken.

Religion: Catholic 83%, Muslim 5%.

Significant Dates:

- 1521 AD - Magellan explores the islands.
- 1542 - Spain claims the islands and name them after Prince Philip.
- 1898 - Spanish American war, Philippines ceded to US.
- 1899-1902 - Philippine-American War.
- 1902 - US civil government installed.
- 1941 - Japan invades the Philippines.
- 1944 - US retake islands from Japan.
- 1946 - Full independence attained.
- 1965 - Marcos elected President.
- 1972 - Marcos declares martial law
- 1981 - Martial law lifted.
- 1986 - Following popular uprising Marcos flees to Hawaii .

Largest Cities:

- Metro Manila pop - 11.8 million
- Cebu pop - 2.3 million
- Davao pop - 2 million
- Cagayan de Oro pop - 1.1 million
- Angeles pop - 915,000
- Iloilo-Guimaras pop - 790,000

