

Manila

The Philippines is a country of 7,107 vibrant and colourful islands, all pulsating with life and teeming with flavour. Yet, it is in Manila where you can hear its heart beating the loudest! Manila is a sophisticated capital - the seat of power, centre of trade and industry, commerce, education, entertainment and the arts. It is an invigorating blend of some of the country's oldest and richest heritage treasures, and the most modern metropolitan features of the Philippine landscape. Its people have acquired an urban cosmopolitan air about them, but have managed to retain their warm and friendly smiles that have made Filipino hospitality renowned throughout the world.

Manila started as a small tribal settlement along the Pasig River before it became the seat of Spanish colonial rule in Asia during the 16th century. For more than 300 years, Manila served as the center of Spanish military might in the region, and an important port in the trans-Pacific galleon trade. When the Philippines was ceded to the United States by the late 19th century, Manila transformed into a cosmopolitan city, patterned after the styles of American post-colonial designs. Today, surrounded by ultra-modern skyscrapers, one can still catch glimpses of this Spanish-American past. Manila has thrived and survived it all, a bustling megalopolis of 17 cities and municipalities and over 12 million inhabitants.



Fast Facts

Time Zone: GMT + 8

Visa: Only required if staying more than 30 days

Climate: November to February – cool and mostly dry; March to June – warm and mostly dry; July to October – warm and mostly wet

Average Temperature Year-round: 24°C – 32°C

Attire: Light casual clothes all year round

Money: Philippine Pesos. Check with the local banks for current exchange rates. All major credit cards accepted

Water: Bottled water available in resorts, restaurants and convenience stores

Communications: International and direct dial phone and fax. Internet cafes are widely available

Manila



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The Entertainment Capital of Southeast Asia

Getting there

Major Airport Gateways:
Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA)
Airport Code MNL

Air Transport:

Aside from being a major international gateway city, Manila is also a jump off point for intra-regional air travel. The Ninoy Aquino International Airport services over 40 airlines providing daily services to more than 26 cities and 19 countries worldwide. Duty-free centres, tourist information counters, hotel and travel agency representatives, banks, postal services, a medical clinic, and a baggage deposit area support airport operations. NAIA is also a series of domestic airport terminals that act as hubs to various regional and provincial airports in the country.

Water Transport:

Manila has always been an important port of call for trade, but lately has become an increasingly-popular destination for cruise ships and leisure vessels. Situated within a tranquil harbor, Manila is the chief seaport of the Philippines, serving the city's commercial needs and is also considered as one of Asia's major ports. Scheduled trips to other Philippine ports leave on a regular basis, which provide travelers with a different mode for exploring the country.

Hotels and Resorts

The country is known worldwide for its charming brand of hospitality. Not surprisingly, you can find the best chains of hotels in the metropolis, all providing top-rate services and amenities at reasonable prices. Accommodation facilities may be found in the city's numerous districts, from Manila's famed Roxas Boulevard to the Ayala Commercial District in Makati, and from the Ortigas Centre in Mandaluyong to the nightlife districts of Tomas Morato in Quezon City. Budget-conscious travelers can also avail of the city's myriad of inns, apartelles and pension houses.

Manila Musts

Transportation within the Metropolis

Getting around the city can be quite an adventure, and one does not truly experience Manila's way of life without a ride in a kaleidoscopic jeepney. Originally converted from left-over US Army jeeps, the jeepney has become an icon of Filipino ingenuity and creativity and is the backbone of the Philippine transportation system. Passengers may get on and off just about anywhere. It is the preferred mode of public transport for short distances.

Taxicabs and buses also ply the main routes of the city. For inner city roads, one can always take a tricycle (motorbike with a side car) or a pedicab (bicycle with a side car). Some



areas like Binondo and Intramuros still have those quaint little kalesas or horse-drawn carriages.

There are presently three elevated railway systems that ply the entire width and breadth of Metro Manila. Stops are strategically positioned to make traveling very convenient and comfortable. The system is a faster option to visiting the city's various sights and attractions.

Eating out and Nightlife

Dining in Manila is such a delight, and one will be absolutely thrilled by the exciting blend of Philippine, Spanish, Malay, Chinese and American influences. Filipinos love to eat, and so restaurants are simply all over the place. The , should appeal to the most discriminating palates.

Manila is the perfect place to go for daring culinary adventures. Look out for balut, taho, fishballs and dirty ice cream. Try San Miguel Beer with everything you eat, but for the more adventurous, there's tuba, gin bulag and Tanduay Rhum. Street vendors are everywhere, and you can even buy peanuts and all sorts of goodies while riding in taxis, jeepneys and buses.

Five-star hotels and luxuriously-appointed restaurants make perfect dinner venues for top-quality events. And if it's partying you're after, then it's partying you get! The nightlife offers everything from dazzling cultural shows to futuristic discotheques, karaoke bars, lively casinos, sensational entertainment lounges, and fashionable cafes. Manila, after all, is the Entertainment Capital of Southeast Asia!

Shops Markets and Crafts

Manila is a shopping dreamland, and the city has the largest concentration of malls and shopping complexes in the entire Philippines. Some of them, like Shoe Mart's (SM) Mall of Asia, are listed as among the world's largest. All of them provide quality local and foreign merchandise at very affordable prices. Other than the posh fashion emporiums and endless rows of high-end retail boutiques, there are also the small bazaars, trade fairs, shops, sidewalk stalls and markets that sprout all over the metropolis. Shop for South Sea Pearls, fashion accessories, ready-to-wear clothing, shoes and bags, housewares and home decoration items and be pleasantly surprised at the amount of savings made. And forget not to haggle, for haggling is not just acceptable but a protocol when shopping in Manila's frenzied, frantic flea markets.

Manila Attractions and Landmarks

Historical Landmarks and Monuments

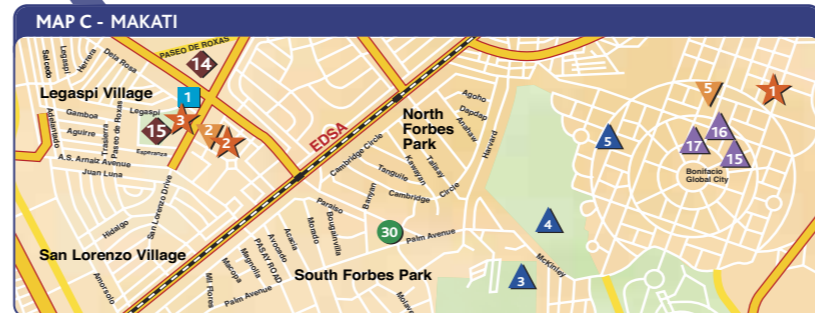
- Intramuros (the "Walled City") - located along the southern bank of the Pasig River, was built by the Spanish in the 16th century and is the oldest district of the city of Manila - **B3**
- Manila Cathedral - **Map A**
- San Agustin Church - **Map A**
- Fort Santiago - heralded as one of the world's best-preserved medieval cities, dungeons and old churches share space with art galleries, theatres, and a nature park; one of the oldest fortifications of Intramuros started in 1571 and completed nearly 150 years later by Filipino forced labor - **Map A**
- Rizal Monument (in Rizal Park) - it is a tribute to the country's national hero Jose Rizal, who was executed in the same spot in 1896. It is considered the symbol of Filipino Nationhood - **Map A**
- Paco Park - **B3**
- Malacañang Palace - official residence of the highest chief executive of the country, the President of the Republic of the Philippines - **B3**
- Binondo/Chinatown area - **Map A**
- Jones Bridge - links Binondo to Ermita - **Map A**
- MacArthur Bridge - connects Santa Cruz to Ermita - **Map A**
- Quezon Bridge - built in the 1930s with an art deco design similar to the Sydney Harbor Bridge, the bridge spans the Pasig River, Manila's main waterway. It links Quiapo to Ermita district. - **Map A**
- Escolta area - site of several old, art deco buildings - **Map A**
- Ayala Bridge - links San Miguel to Ermita - **B3**
- Manila Post Office Building - **Map A**
- Liwasang Bonifacio - **Map A**
- Metropolitan Theatre - an art deco building built in 1935, it was Manila's main venue for performances (vaudeville to opera) - **Map A**
- Quiapo area (Plaza Miranda, Carriedo, etc) - **Map A**
- Basilica Minor of the Black Nazarene (Quiapo Church) - **Map A**
- Juan Nakpil-Bautista House - **Map A**
- Far Eastern University (FEU) - declared a heritage site by UNESCO Asia-Pacific, it has the largest ensemble of art deco structures in the country - **B2**
- EDSA Shrine - **D3**
- People Power Monument - dedicated to the Filipino people who trooped to the streets of EDSA to topple the Marcos dictatorship during the bloodless People Power revolution in 1986 - **D3**
- Quezon Memorial Circle and Shrine - **D1**
- Andres Bonifacio Monument - memorial to Andres Bonifacio, founder of the Katipunan, it marks the very first encounter between the revolutionary group Katipunan and the Spanish soldiers on August 3, 1896. - **B1**
- Pinaglabanan Shrine - memorial to the first battle of the Filipinos against the Spanish on August 30, 1896 - **C3**
- Manila American Cemetery and Memorial - **D4**
- Libingan ng mga Bayani (Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers) - final resting place of the more than 33,000 Filipinos who fought and died during World War II - **D4**

Cultural/Religious Buildings

- Manila Cathedral - seat of the Catholic Archdiocese of Manila, presently the 6th cathedral to rise on the site since 1581 - **Map A**
- San Agustin Church - oldest stone church in Metro Manila and one of the four (4) Philippine Baroque Churches inscribed in UNESCO's World Heritage List - **Map A**
- Minor Basilica de San Lorenzo Ruiz (Binondo Church) - **Map A**
- Rizal Park Open-Air Theatre - **Map A**
- Metropolitan Theatre - **Map A**
- Ermita Church - **Map B**
- Malate Church - **Map B**
- Paco Church - **Map B**
- United Methodist Church (Philippines Central Conference) - **Map B**
- Santa Ana Church - **C3**
- Cultural Centre of the Philippines (CCP) - **Map B**
- Folk Arts Theatre - **Map B**
- Coconut Palace - **Map B**
- Philippine International Convention Centre (PICC) - **Map B**
- Aliv Theatre - **Map B**
- World Trade Centre - **Map B**
- Baclaran Redemptorist Church (National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help) - **Map B**
- Basilica Minore de San Sebastian - only neo-gothic steel church in the Philippines and in Asia - **B3**
- Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene (Quiapo Church) - **Map A**
- Santo Domingo Church - **C2**
- Iglesia ni Kristo (Church of Christ) - **D1**
- UP Theatre - **D1**
- Henry Lee Irwin Theatre - **D1**
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Manila Temple) - **D2**
- Araneta Coliseum - **D2**
- Teatro Aguinaldo - **D2**
- Meralco Theatre - **D3**
- Santuario de San Antonio Parish - **Map C**
- Shrine of Jesus Christ **B5**

Sports, Leisure and Recreation

- Makati Sports Club - **C4**
- Metropolitan Club - **C3**
- Manila Polo Club - **Map C**
- Manila Golf and Country Club - **Map C**
- Manila Speed Zone - **Map C**
- Philippine Navy Golf Club - **C4**
- Villamor Air Base Golf Course - **C5**
- Airport Casino - **B5**
- Alabang Country Club - **B5**
- Casino Filipino Heritage - **B4**
- Cuneta Astrodome - **B4**
- Manila Yacht Club - **Map B**
- Rizal Memorial Sports Complex - **Map B**
- Manila Zoological and Botanical Gardens - **Map B**
- Casino Filipino Hyatt - **B3**
- Casino Filipino Pavilion - **B3**
- Club Intramuros Golf Course - **Map C**
- Santa Ana Racing Track - **C3**
- Philsports Arena - **D3**
- Wack Wack Golf and Country Club - **D3**
- Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club - **D2**
- Marikina Sports Centre - **D2**
- Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club - **D1**
- Celebrity Sports Club - **D1**
- La Mesa Ecopark - **D1**
- Veterans Golf Course - **C1**
- Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Nature Centre - **C1**



Shopping

- Market! Market! - **Map C**
- Glorietta - **Map C**
- Greenbelt - **Map C**
- Makati Cinema Square - **C4**
- Power Plant - **C4**
- Starmall - **D3**
- SM Megamalls A & B - **D3**
- The Podium - **D3**
- Shangri-La Plaza - **D3**
- Robinson's Galleria - **D3**
- Greenhills Shopping Centre - showcases various stalls selling every kind of merchandise, from exotic South Sea pearls to cheap garments, mobile phones and electronic accessories; trinket stores are all side by side making for extremely competitive prices - **D2**
- Eastwood City - **D2**
- Araneta Centre - Quezon City's central commercial area that hosts 5 malls, including the Gateway Mall - **D2**
- Tienditas - a tiange-style shopping centre - **D3**
- Riverbanks Centre - **D2**
- SM North EDSA/The BLOCK - **C1**
- TriNoma - **C1**
- Robinson's Place - **Map B**
- Harrison Plaza - **Map B**
- Quiapo - **B2**
- Divisoria (Tutuban Centre/168 Shopping Mall) - **B2**
- Chinatown - **Map A**
- Baclaran - **B4**
- Alabang Town Centre - **B5**
- Duty Free Shopping Mall - **B5**
- Mall of Asia - **B5**

Eating Out and Nightlife

- Mile Long Compound - **C4**
- Ayala Centre Makati - (Glorietta 1-4, Park Square 1 & 2, Greenbelt, Ayala OnStage) - **Map C**
- Rockwell Centre - **C3**
- Jupiter Street in Makati - **C3**
- Bonifacio Global City - (The Fort, Serendra, Market! Market!) - **Map C**
- Shangri-La Plaza - **D3**
- SM Megamalls A & B - **D3**
- The Podium - **D3**
- Ortigas Commercial Centre - (El Pueblo, St. Francis Square) - **D3**
- Metrowalk Commercial Complex - **D3**
- Robinson's Galleria - **D3**
- Greenhills Commercial Complex - (Greenhills Shopping Centre, Theatre Mall, The Promenade, Music Museum) - **D2**
- Araneta Centre - (Araneta Coliseum Circle, Gateway Mall, Ali Mall, Farmers Plaza) - **D2**
- Eastwood City - its City Walk is a pedestrian friendly streetscape with trendy restaurants & cafes, with al fresco dining and a regular offering of outdoor concerts and shows - **D2**
- Tomas Morato Street in Quezon City - **C2**
- Timog Avenue in Quezon City - **C2**
- West Avenue in Quezon City - **C1**
- ABS-CBN Building in Quezon City - **C1**
- Robinson's Place - **Map B**
- Harrison Plaza - **Map B**
- Quiapo - offers everything from party hopping, clubbing, lounging to theme festivals and parades, or quietly chilling at art and fashion cafes - **Map B**
- Malate - wild variety of restaurants, clubs, bars, cafes, art and antique shops, and shopping complexes - **Map B**
- Alabang Town Centre - **B5**

Health and Wellness

- Manila Medical Centre - **Map B**
- Manila Doctors Hospital - **Map A**
- Philippine General Hospital - **Map B**
- Ospital ng Maynila - **B4**
- University of Santo Tomas Hospital - **B2**
- St. Luke's Medical Centre - **C2**
- UERMMMC - **C3**
- Capitol Medical Centre - **C2**
- East Avenue Medical Centre - **D2**
- Philippine Heart Centre - **C1**
- National Kidney and Transplant Institute - **D1**
- Lung Centre of the Philippines - **D1**
- Lungsod ng Kabataan (Children's) Hospital - **C1**
- The Medical City - **D3**
- Cardinal Santos Memorial Hospital - **D3**

Parks and Plazas

- Rizal Park (Luneta Park) one of the largest parks in Southeast Asia used by Spaniards as an execution ground for Filipino rebels and mutineers - **Map A**
- The Orchidarium - **Map A**
- Plaza San Luis - a cultural-cum-commercial complex currently composed of five houses: Casa Manila, Casa Blanca, Casa Urdaneta, Los Hidalgo, and El Hogar Filipino - **Map A**
- Puerta Real Gardens - **Map A**
- Plaza Rajah Sulayman - **Map A**
- Paco Park - where the Philippine national hero Dr. Jose P. Rizal was interred by Spanish soldiers following his dawn execution at Bagumbayan (now Rizal Park), presently serves as a regular venue for intimate musical and cultural concerts featuring local and international artists bringing art to the masses - **Map B**
- Manila Zoological and Botanical Gardens - **Map B**
- Plaza Miranda - **B2**
- Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Nature Centre - **C1**
- Zoological and Botanical Garden with Aquarium - **C1**
- La Mesa Ecopark - **D1**
- Marikina River Park - **D2**
- Makati Park and Gardens - **D4**
- Ugarte Field - **Map C**
- Greenbelt Park - an oasis in the urban jungle with an open-air plaza, a lush park, and a manmade lake - **Map C**

Schools and Universities

- University of the Philippines - **D1**
- Ateneo de Manila University - **D1**
- University of Santo Tomas - **B2**
- Far Eastern University - **B2**
- University of the East - **B2**
- San Sebastian College - **B3**
- San Beda College - **B3**
- Centro Escolar University - **B3**
- Colegio de San Juan de Letran - **Map A**
- Mapua Institute of Technology (Manila Campus) - **Map A**
- Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila - **Map A**
- Philippine Normal College - **B3**
- Philippine Women's University - **Map B**
- De La Salle University - **Map B**
- International School - **Map C**

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Useful Websites for the Region:

All Regions:	http://www.visitmyphilippines.com
Manila:	en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manila www.manilaguide.com en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metro_Manila www.manila.gov.ph
Makati:	www.makati.gov.ph en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Makati www.world66.com/asia/southeastasia/philippines/makati www.makati.com
Mandaluyong:	www.mandaluyong.gov.ph/ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandaluyong_City
Pasay City:	www.pasay.gov.ph/ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pasay_City
Pasig City:	en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pasig_City www.pasigcity.gov.ph
Quezon City:	en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quezon_City www.quezoncity.gov.ph
Taguig City:	www.fbdcorp.com www.fort-bonifacio.com

Useful Contacts:

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Taxi Operators:	(T) +63 (0) 2 642 3525
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Alkotby:	(T) +63 (0) 2 432 2406
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Avis:	(T) +63 (0) 2 831 2701
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Basic Taxi:	(T) +63 (0) 2 900 1447
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Nolgaze:	(T) +63 (0) 2 695 6529
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Pioneer:	(T) +63 (0) 2 252 9566
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Trends:	(T) +63 (0) 2 822 9345
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Xavierville:	(T) +63 (0) 2 788 0204
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Other useful Contacts:

British Embassy Manila	+63 (0) 2 816 7116
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Banks:	
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Philippine National Bank	+63 (0) 2 891 6040
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Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.	+63 (0) 2 898-8000
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Land Bank of the Philippines	+63 (0) 2 551-2200
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Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation	+63 (0) 2 894-9000
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Equitable PCI Bank	+63 (0) 2 840-7000
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Police:	
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Philippine National Police:	+63 (0) 2 722-2353
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Manila Emergency Number:	117
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