

# Philippines

## Information for applicants

### Philippines

The Philippines' unique topography offers mountainous terrain, dense forests, plains and coastal areas. It is considered one of the most biodiverse countries in the world and enjoys a high percentage of endemic flora and fauna. The tropical paradise is made up of 7,107 islands and has been the independent Republic of the Philippines since 4 July 1946. With a population of 103 million inhabitants, the Southeast Asian archipelagic country ranks 12th among the most populous nations worldwide. The capital city, Manila, is home to 1.8 million people and the official language is English.

### Climate and sights

The climate on the islands is tropical, humid and hot with an average temperature of nearly 27°C. The dry season is from November to May, and rainy season takes place from June to October. Between May and July the thermometer often climbs to 38°C and there is high humidity (up to 81 %), which makes this time of year especially difficult for people without access to air conditioning. From June to October/November there are regular heavy rains and typhoons, which cause varying degrees of damage almost every year and often leave wide-spread devastation in the affected parts of the country. The typhoons that occur in the Pacific Ocean mainly affect the Northern Philippines.

### Medical care

In Manila, like in the other major cities, the outpatient and inpatient medical care provided by private

hospitals is well organised. In rural areas, this is generally not the case – even for emergency services. Most doctors can communicate in English, and a wide range of medicines are available in pharmacies. Coming from Germany, vaccinations are not required. However, the German Federal Foreign Office recommends that travellers be vaccinated against hepatitis A, hepatitis B (if staying for more than six months), tetanus diphtheria, polio, typhoid fever and, if staying for more than six weeks in rural areas, against Japanese encephalitis.

### Accommodation and quality of life

Housing prices vary depending on where you want to live - whether urban or more rural. Rental prices are negotiable. Furnished houses or apartments can sometimes be rented unfurnished or partially furnished and vice versa. Music is very popular in the Philippines. There are many talented bands and singers performing in various bars around Metro Manila. Filipino bands adapt themselves to the mood and preferences of their audiences and are happy to play song requests. There are many shopping malls all over the country and most of them also have cinemas. There is a wide range of sports on offer and numerous sights worth visiting.

### Shops and services

International credit cards such as Visa, MasterCard and American Express are accepted in the major facilities in Manila. However, the prices when using credit cards can be 5% to 10% higher than prices set for cash payments.

Visa and MasterCard are the most commonly accepted credit cards.

Prices vary quite dramatically between Makati and the rest of Manila, Cebu and Iloilo. The food in Makati can

be very expensive if you visit the popular shopping malls (e.g. Glorietta, Greenbelt). In Cebu and Iloilo, however, it is often cheaper to eat out than to cook. In Makati, Pasig, Taguig, Quezon City and Manila, several bars and restaurants offer good food at reasonable prices. Various restaurants serving European, American or Asian food can be found in the Greenbelt.

## Find out more

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/aussenpolitik/laender/philippinen-node>

<https://www.giz.de/de/weltweit/376.html>

<http://www.philippine-embassy.de/>

## Accompanying partners and children

A visa is issued for accompanying married partners but this does not entitle them to work. The potential employer must apply for a work permit for the individual seeking employment.

The German School (Eurocampus) in Manila offers kindergarten as well as classes for grades 1 through 12.

The International School has students from over 50 different countries. It offers Advanced Placement courses and the International Baccalaureate Program, which provides general academic and college preparation from kindergarten to grade 12. The school year begins in mid-August and ends in early June.

## Good to know

To drive in the Philippines, you must obtain a Philippine driver's license issued by the Land Transportation Office (LTO). An international driver's license is only valid for three months. It takes one day for the Philippine driver's license to be issued.

### Impressum

**Herausgeber:**  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Sitz der Gesellschaft  
Bonn und Eschborn

Straße  
PLZ und Ort, Land  
T +49 61 96 79-0  
F +49 61 96 79-11 15  
E [info@giz.de](mailto:info@giz.de)  
I [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)

Eschborn 2017

**Verantwortlich/Redaktion etc.:**  
Ulrich Heise, Eschborn

**URL-Verweise:**  
Für Inhalte externer Seiten, auf die hier verwiesen wird, ist stets der jeweilige Anbieter verantwortlich. Die GIZ distanziert sich ausdrücklich von diesen Inhalten.

Die GIZ ist für den Inhalt der vorliegenden Publikation verantwortlich.