

MABUHAY! WELCOME TO MANILA

WHAT TO EXPECT

Time Zone: GMT + 8

Currency: Philippine Peso (PHP)

Peso-dollar conversion rate: USD 1.00 : Php 46.45

WEATHER

The climate in Manila, Philippines' Capital City, is inclined to be hot and humid all throughout the year with variable precipitation year round. The coolest and driest months come around November to February while the wet season is between June to October.

Most establishments in Metro Manila are air-conditioned to temper the weather.

WHAT TO BRING IN MANILA

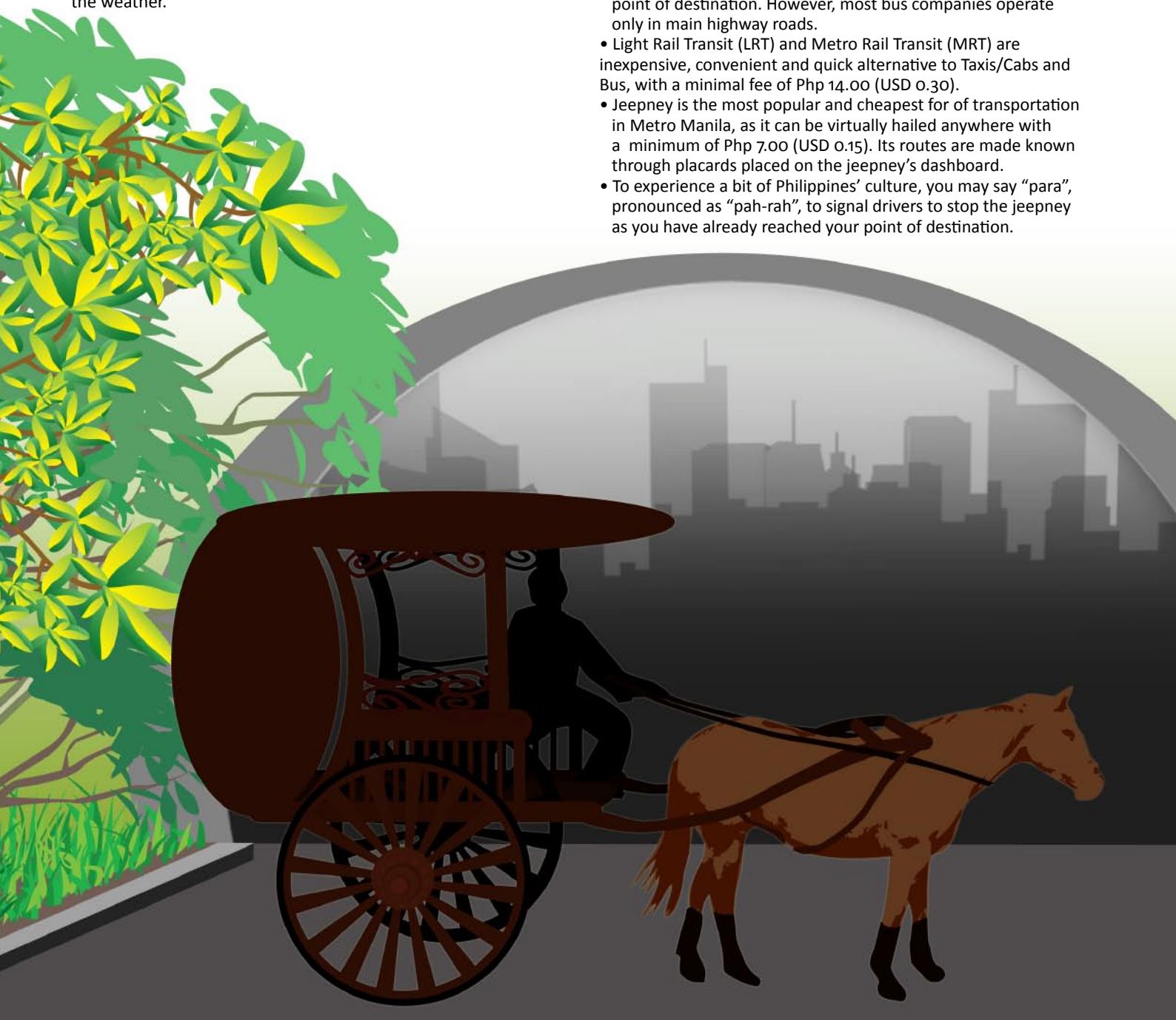
When visiting a diverse and lively place such as Metro Manila, a few choice items should be included in your luggage:

- Pack cool and light clothes for the country's typically hot weather
- Include a traveller's first aid kit in your suitcase. Must haves are hand sanitizers, bug spray, antihistamine for possible allergies and indigestion remedies
- A portable umbrella is handy for Manila weather – rain or shine.
- Don't forget to lather a fair amount of sun block lotion before spending time in the sun
- Have tissue wipes on hand for every situation
- While water in the city is potable, as a precautionary measure, it is best to bring a bottle of mineral or distilled water.

TRANSPORT

As Manila is a typically busy city, heavy traffic is expected during rush hours, which are from 8:00 to 9:00 in the morning and 5:00 to 6:00 in the afternoon. Public transport is highly available and inexpensive. The four major means of transportation are:

- Metered taxis/cabs are plentiful in the city with the initial fee of Php 30.00 (USD 0.65) as a flag down rate. Hotels and Malls usually have Taxi/Cab lines that may be easily located.
- Bus Transport is inexpensive and prevalent in the city, with an estimated fee of Php 20.00 (USD 0.43), depending on the point of destination. However, most bus companies operate only in main highway roads.
- Light Rail Transit (LRT) and Metro Rail Transit (MRT) are inexpensive, convenient and quick alternative to Taxis/Cabs and Bus, with a minimal fee of Php 14.00 (USD 0.30).
- Jeepney is the most popular and cheapest for of transportation in Metro Manila, as it can be virtually hailed anywhere with a minimum of Php 7.00 (USD 0.15). Its routes are made known through placards placed on the jeepney's dashboard.
- To experience a bit of Philippines' culture, you may say "para", pronounced as "pah-rah", to signal drivers to stop the jeepney as you have already reached your point of destination.



WHERE TO GO

Head to these spots for leisure, recreation, and fun in Manila!

TOP MALLS

SM Mall SM Mall of Asia

*J.W. Diokno Boulevard, Mall of Asia Complex
www.smmallofasia.com*

With almost four hectares of floor area, 8,000 parking slots, 5,000 square meters allotted for public utility vehicles, 100 slots for tourist buses, almost one kilometer in length, and a perimeter of almost 2 kilometers, SM Mall of Asia is the country's largest and the world's 3rd largest mall.

The mall has an outdoor esplanade with a perfect view of sunset by the Manila Bay. SM MOA houses a variety of restaurants, cafés, entertainment and leisure hubs, and the first IMAX theatre in the country.

Greenbelt

*Ayala Center, Makati City
www.ayalamalls.com.ph*

A three-hectare park punctuated by cascading landscapes and carefully chosen water features, Greenbelt is an enclave of all things beautiful. With a roster of prominent and world-class retailers, restaurateurs and entertainment operators, it defines a premier mall experience at the heart of the city.

Landmark

*Ayala Center, Makati City
www.landmark.com.ph*

Synonymous to high quality merchandise and chic fashion trends, Landmark offers an affordable shopping experience in the metro.

SM Megamall

*Ortigas, Pasig City
www.sm-megamall.com*

At the heart of one of the busiest cities in the metro is also one of the largest shopping centers in the country, SM Megamall. It houses major local and international fashion brands and restaurants and the best entertainment and tech hubs.

Greenhills Shopping Center

*Ortigas Avenue, San Juan, Metro Manila
www.greenhills.com.ph*

A premier shopping, entertainment and dining destination in the country, Greenhills Shopping Center houses over 2,000 stores in a unique indoor and outdoor environment. It is located just a few minutes away from Ninoy Aquino International Airport and a perfect place for residents and travelers alike.

TOP RESTAURANTS in Makati

Cyma Greek Taverna

Cyma restaurant is an authentic Greek restaurant with recommended specialties such as their scrumptious and very richly flavoured Spinach and artichoke fondue that is always served hot; mouth watering lamb ribs dish which is usually served with baked potatoes and lemon whose juices are squeezed on the ribs; and salads with ingredients like butterfly pasta or farfalla, along with a number of herbs, and a nice mixture of olive oil and vinegar dressing. One of its branches is located at Greenbelt 2 in Makati

Gastoffs Restaurant

Gastoffs restaurant gives their customers a good sized serving of barbecued spare ribs with a selection of salads and rice good enough for two people for as low as five hundred pesos. The restaurant is located on the second floor of the Avenue Mall along Makati Avenue.

Texas Grill Restaurant

The Texas Grill Restaurant with a bar and grill, serves a wide array of American-style cuisine like grilled chicken, spare ribs and burgers. It is located at the second floor of the Avenue Mall, fronting the Great Eastern Hotel.

Barrio Fiesta

Barrio Fiesta is the best place for an authentic Philippine experience as they serve local favourites like Sinigang or Tamarind Soup, Crispy Pata, Bulalo, Lechon, and many others, with prices that are very affordable. The restaurant is located at Makati Avenue corner Valdez Street.

Gerry's Grill

Gerry's Grill's menu includes a choice of affordable grilled seafoods, baked mussels and scallops, calamares, crispy pata, grilled chicken, a choice of various Japanese dishes like sashimi, sizzling steaks and the likes. One of its branches is located at Level 2, Glorietta 5, Ayala Center, Makati City.

SPA and SALONS

The Spa – Makati

*www.thespa.com.ph
(02) 840.1325*

The Spa gives you a sense of serenity the moment you walk into its lobby, with its white washed walkway flanked with Greek pillars and flowing water on the sides. As you enter inside the treatment room, the most relaxing cup of ginger tea ever brewed awaits you. The rooms have just the right lighting and temperature and its shower rooms have rainfall shower heads and smooth stones that give a Zen experience, making people feel comfortable and relaxed. Makati branch is located at Ground Floor, Paseo De Roxas Drop-off Entrance, Greenbelt 1.

Sanctuario Spa – Manila

*www.sanctuariospa.com
(02)450.1127*

Sanctuario Spa, also a Salon and Organic Cafe, provides a Zen feel with its bamboo walls, dim lights and warm hospitality of its staff. It is located at the district of Malate, Manila.

Sei Salon

(02)812.0943

Sei Salon's haircut fee starts at Php 1,700 that entails a mind-blowing shampoo and conditioning treatment, and a comprehensive look by stylist and co-owner Chiyo Tagami. Prior to having a haircut, the head shape, hair type, lifestyle, and facial features are being reviewed. Sei Salon is located at 6/F Republic Glass Building, 196 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

TOP HOTELS

New World Makati City Hotel

*Esperanza Street corner Makati Avenue, Makati City
www.manila.newworldhotels.com*

Located in the heart of Makati City's business and commercial center, New World Makati City Hotel offers first-class accommodations, facilities and services. Museums, shopping malls, and top restaurants are all walking distance from the hotel.

Marriot Hotel Manila

*No. 10 Newport Boulevard, Newport City Complex, Pasay City, Manila
www.marriott.com*

Ideally located in Newport City across the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3, Marriot Hotel Manila also offers splendid views of the 18 holes Villamor Golf Course and an easy access to Manila's premier dining and business hubs Makati business district and the Bonifacio Global

City Taguig. An ultimate destination of travellers, the hotel houses excellent dining options and world class services to its guests.

Waterfront Manila Pavilion Hotel & Casino

*United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila
www.waterfronthotels.com.ph*

Nestled at the heart of Manila, Waterfront Manila Pavilion Hotel & Casino is close to the historic areas of the city such as the walled Intramuros and Rizal National Park. It is also a few minutes away from the city's popular convention and exhibit centers. Elegantly designed, the hotel also offers a blissful relaxation with its contemporary amenities and services.

Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila

*CCP Complex Roxas Boulevard Pasay City, Manila
www.sofitel.com*

With a resort setting, Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila, promises a soothing relaxation at the heart of the city. With pleasantly decorated and well equipped room and amenities, the hotel offers a unique luxury away from home. Its onsite restaurants Spiral, Sunset Bar, 7Pecados and LeBar feature sumptuous variety of dishes with unique cultural shows, live bands, and deluxe services.

Prince Plaza II Condotel

*101 Dela Rosa Street, Legaspi Village
www.princeplaza-makati.com*

A place that mimics the tranquillity of home, Prince Plaza offers a comfortable and affordable stay for travellers and vacationing families. It is strategically located just a few steps away from the premier business and commercial establishments in Makati City.

BSA Suites

*103 Carlos Palanca St., Legaspi Village Makati City
www.bsasuites-makati.com*

BSA Suites, a serviced-apartments property, fosters a stylish and cozy experience for its guests. It offers the home-like atmosphere along its hotel-quality service and amenities.

BSA Tower

*108 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
www.bsatower-makati.com*

Designed to provide business and leisure travellers with a relaxing stay in the country's central business hub, BSA Tower is one of the city's top condotels offering simplicity and functionality of its amenities and services.

The Picasso Boutique Serviced Residence

*119 L.P. Leviste St., Salcedo Village
www.picassomakati.com*

Inspired by the master artist Pablo Picasso, Picasso Boutique Serviced Residences offers chic and comfortable lodgings for its guests. Each room reflects the famous artist's style and palette, furnished with modern and comfortable amenities.

Ascott Serviced Residences

*Glorietta 4 Ayala Center Makati 1224
www.the-ascott.com*

Conveniently located nearest to prime business and leisure hubs in Makati City, Ascott Makati Serviced Residences Manila is surrounded by premier restaurants, entertainment and shopping destinations. It offers luxurious and spacious serviced accommodation, upscale amenities and wonderful blend of style and elegance.