

MABUHAY! WELCOME TO MANILA



WHAT TO EXPECT

Time Zone: GMT + 8

Currency: Philippine Peso (PHP)

Peso-dollar conversion rate: US\$1.00 = Php 48.331
(as of September 11, 2009)

WEATHER

Climate in Manila, the Philippines' capital city, tends 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.

To temper the weather, most establishments in Metro Manila are air-conditioned.

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 **traveler'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** whenever possible.

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. There are four major means of transportation:

- Metered **taxis** are plentiful in the city with the initial fee of Php 30.00 (US\$ 0.63) as a flag down rate. Hotels and malls usually have taxi lines that are easily located.
- **Bus transport** is cheap and prevalent in the city. However most bus companies operate only in main highway roads. (Est. Php20.00 or US\$ 0.42)
- **Light Rail Transit (LRT)** and **Metro Rail Transit (MRT)** provide a clean, convenient, and quick alternative to transportation. However, it can get crowded especially during the morning and evening rush hour. (Est. Php14.00 or US\$ 0.29)
- **Jeepney** is the most popular and cheapest form of transportation in Metro Manila. It can be virtually hailed anywhere and its routes are made known through placards placed on the jeepney's dashboard. (Minimum rate is Php7.00 or US\$ 0.15 for shortest distance/trip traveled.)
 - If you feel you want to experience the culture, you can say "para" (pronounced as "pah-rah") -- a word in the local language commonly to signal drivers of your stop.

WHERE TO GO

For an Incomparable Dining Experience

Top three recommended locations to go for the Filipino cuisine experience: The Fort, Taguig City; Greenbelt and Glorietta Malls, Makati City; and Rockwell Center, Makati City.

Types of Food:

Filipino: A blend of Malayo-Polynesian origins influenced by Chinese, Spanish, and American cooking.

Asian: Usually a combination of Chinese, Thai, and Japanese cuisine

Italian: Classic fare pasta, pizza, and bread dishes

American: Traditional American food such as burgers, fish sticks, buffalo wings, and steak.

Filipino

Abé – Serendra, Global City

Masas – Greenbelt 2

Café Havana – Greenbelt 3 (Filipino/Cuban)

Dencio's Bar & Grill – Powerplant Mall, Rockwell

Kulinary Kitchen – Powerplant Mall, Rockwell

To Have Fun and Relax

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

THE SAN MIGUEL – COCA COLA IMAX THEATER
J.W. Diokno Boulevard, Mall of Asia Complex
Pasay City 1300, Philippines

The 8-storey high San Miguel Coca-Cola IMAX Theatre at the SM Mall of Asia is the first and only IMAX Theatre in the Philippines. The theatre features the largest movie screen in Asia, and it is the first to offer the most advanced cinematic 3D in the world, known as the IMAX 3D. Ticket prices range from Php 250 – Php 400 (USD 5.50 – 9), depending on the film.

For ticket inquiries or reservations, please contact: 556-4629 (IMAX) or 556-0242.

THE AYALA MUSEUM

Makati Ave. cor. Dela Rosa St.
Makati City Philippines

The Ayala Museum features the country's rich history and fine arts collection. Entrance fee for non-Makati residents is Php 425 (USD 9.50), while for Makati residents, fee is Php 225 (USD 5). For non-resident students and Senior Citizens, entrance fee is Php 300 (around USD 7).

For bookings and tours, contact (+632) 757-7117 to 21, local 35 or (+632) 757-3589.

THE MANILA OCEAN PARK

Behind the Quirino Grandstand Luneta,
Manila, Philippines

The Manila Ocean Park is the Philippines' first state-of-the-art Oceanarium, open water marine habitat, boutique mall, restaurant row and function facilities all located in one complex. The park is open to the General Public at Php 400.00 (around USD 9) for Adults and Php 350 for kids (4.5 ft & below).

For inquiries, please call (+632) 567-7777 or fax (+632) 5672309.

Asian

Banana Leaf Asian Café – Greenbelt 3

Big Buddha Restaurant – Greenbelt 3

Crustasia – Powerplant Mall, Rockwell (Asian, Thai)

Kai Neo Japanese Restaurant – Greenbelt 5 (Japanese, American)

American / Continental

Fish & Co. – Greenbelt 2

T.G.I. Fridays – Glorietta

Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. Restaurant – Greenbelt 3

Chilli's Grill and Bar - Greenbelt 2

Flap Jacks – Greenbelt 2

Mr. Rockefeller – Greenbelt 3

National Sports Grill – Greenbelt 3

Café Breton – Greenbelt 3

Burgoo – Powerplant Mall, Rockwell

Italliannis – Greenbelt 2

Specialty Restos

Capricciosa – Greenbelt 3 (Italian)

Cibo – Glorietta (Italian)

Brazil! – Powerplant Mall, Rockwell (Grill)

Café Mediterranean – Power Plant Mall, Rockwell (Mediterranean)

Cyma – Greenbelt 2 (Greek)

THE SPA

Greenbelt Branch - Ground Flr. Paseo de Roxas, Greenbelt 1, Makati City

Bel-Air Branch - 50 Jupiter St. near Paseo de Roxas, Bel-Air Village, Makati City

The Spa is one of the Philippines' premier centers for healthy and holistic spa services such as massage therapies, facial, foot and body treatments. The Spa's high standard of excellence has merited a Superbrand status, the first spa center in the Philippines to receive such an award. The Spa is also an accredited member of the International Spa Association (ISPA) and the Spa Association of the Philippines, Inc. (SAPI).

For inquiries, call 840-1325 or 840-1326 (Greenbelt) and 895-5858 or 895-6868 (Bel-Air).

ENCHANTED KINGDOM

Santa Rosa City, Laguna

Enchanted Kingdom, "Where the Magic Happens," is the Philippines' premier theme park featuring a total of 7 park zones. Ticket price for unlimited rides is at Php 400 (USD 9) during weekdays, and Php 500 during weekends and Holidays.

For ticket information, you may visit any Ticketworld outlet, or contact their Makati Sales Office at Unit 1B Ground Floor, The Biltmore Condominium, 102 Aguirre Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City through telephone numbers (+632) 830-2111 to 16 and fax number (+632) 812-7118.

WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Mandaluyong City

Wack Wack Golf & Country Club is an established exclusive championship course in the metropolitan area of Manila. Considered as one of the best golf courses in world, Wack Wack Golf Country Club features the classic East Course and the 18-hole, all-weather championship West Course. Green fee is USD 100 during weekdays and USD 140 during weekends. Golf carts may be rented at USD 15 per, while golf sets at USD 22.50 per set. Caddie fee is around USD 9.

For inquiry and reservation, please send your e-mail to banquets.fandb@wackwack.com or call the F and B Reservation Office at (+632) 723-0665 locals 303-304 and look for Agnes, Michelle or Gemma.

WHAT TO DO

Tips for Manila cultural experience

- English is arguably the second language of Filipinos. Almost everyone can carry an average conversation in English.
- Stay connected throughout your stay. WiFi connection is wide-spread all throughout in the metro, particularly in coffee shops, cafés, and hotels.
- When in the Philippines, haggle. Visit famous flea markets or locally known as *tiangge* in Greenhills, Divisoria, and Tiendesitas.
- Taste the wide variety of Filipino food – a blend of Oriental, European, and American cuisine. From fastfood to first-class restaurants to food stalls, the Filipino dining experience is sure to be enjoyable.
- Visit historical sites around Manila to learn of the Philippines' rich past. Famous tourist spots are the well known "Walled City" in Intramuros, Fort Santiago, and the Luneta Park.
- The malls in the Philippines are diverse. The mall architecture represent Filipino's artistic excellent. Greenbelt Mall in Makati City and Shangri-la Mall are mall hot spots as well as the third largest mall in the world, SM Mall of Asia.

HOTEL OPTIONS

TOP HOTELS

Renaissance Makati City Hotel

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

www.marriott.com

Hotel Inter-Continental Manila

www.ichotelsgroup.com

Makati Shangri-La Hotel

www.shangri-la.com

Executive Accommodations and Serviced Apartments

AIM Conference Center Manila

The lodging facility of the Asian Institute of Management, one of the top graduate schools in Asia, offers international guests accommodations and services tailor-fit for business executives. Easy internet access allows guests to conduct business with convenience and comfort.

www.aim.edu.ph

Prince Plaza II

www.princeplaza-makati.com

Ascott Makati

www.the-ascott.com

To learn more of alternative accommodations in the city, log on to www.makaticityhotels.com/makatihotels.html