

PHILIPPINES TRIP NOTES

To fall in love with the Philippines, you only have to ride in a jeepney. Yes, a common way to get around in the Philippines, a jeepney is a small bus that seats many more people than it is licensed for, is often wildly painted and decorated, and transcends public transportation to become fellowship and hilarity on wheels. In the Phils, jeepneys are as ubiquitous as tuk-tuks are in India and Indo China. Don't take a taxi; take a jeepney and make a dozen new friends at the same time.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

US nationals are eligible for a 21 day visa on arrival. You will be required to have a passport valid for at least 6 months from date of return, and at least 2 blank visa pages.

MEDICATIONS & INNOCULATIONS

No medication or vaccinations are required for entry to the Philippines. See covid-related information overleaf.

CURRENCY

The official currency of the Philippines is the Peso. Code is P or PHP

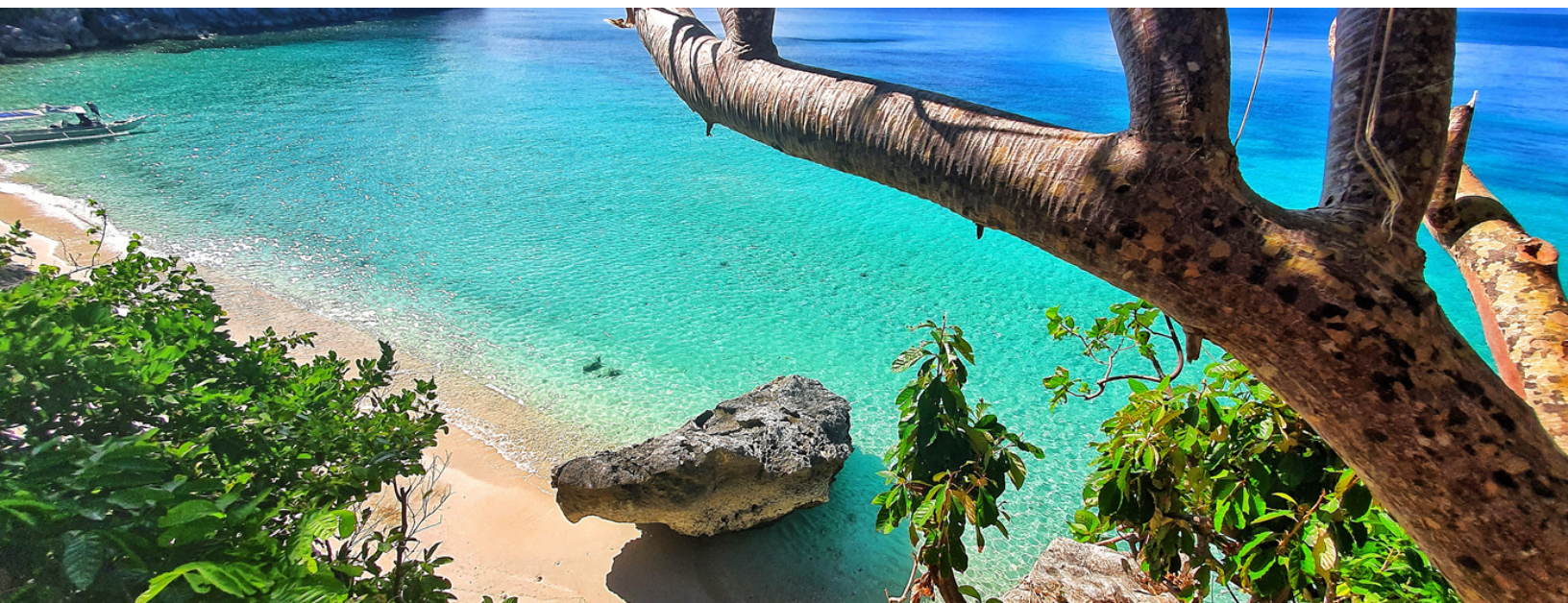
A convenient currency converter can be found at <http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

CREDIT CARDS & CASH

In hotels and major stores, Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted, American Express less so. Cash is needed for shopping at street markets and dining in local eateries. US dollars can be exchanged at airports, banks and foreign exchange concessions. ATMS are only reliably found in cities and towns.

TIME DIFFERENCE

Manila is 12 hours ahead of US Eastern Standard Time and 15 hours ahead of US Pacific Standard Time.



SHOPPING

The Philippines is a great place to buy indigenous art, woodwork, masks and religious artefacts.

ELECTRICITY

The Philippines operates on a 220V supply voltage and 60Hz. Most electrical outlets are non-grounded two-pronged outlets of type A (North-American standard) with two flat parallel pins.

For more information on plugs and voltage, please visit

<http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/>

LANGUAGE

Filipino and English are the official languages taught in schools.

CLIMATE

The best time to visit the Philippines is from December to February, when temperatures are around 75°F to 88°F.

The dry season lasts from November to April, temperatures are high during March and April, with highs of 93°F.

The wet season falls between May and October, but the rain isn't constant and rarely impacts on travel plans.

TIPPING GUIDELINES

There is no custom of, or requirement to, tip in the Philippines, however, some establishments incorporate a "Service Charge" ("SC" on the bill). You may tip independently directly - in cash - to the person who helped you if you want to reward that individual. A tip usually cannot be charged to a credit card.

Some restaurants and bars that do not incorporate a service charge may state on the bill "SC not included". In that case, 10% is a generous gratuity if the service has been satisfactory.

ETIQUETTE

Away from the beach, casual but modest dress is recommended, particularly when visiting temples, churches or museums.

This information is provided as a guideline to the country you will be visiting, and is up to date to the best of our knowledge. Further information is available to you on the official Philippines Tourism Office website - http://www.tourism.gov.ph/general_information.aspx