

General Information

Visas

Nationals from the following countries require visas to enter the Philippines:

- Afghanistan
- Azerbaijan
- Cambodia
- People's Republic of China
- India
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyz Republic
- Lao People's Democratic Republic (regular passport holders only; diplomatic and official passport holders do not need entry visas)
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan
- Viet Nam (regular and official passport holders only; diplomatic passport holders do not need entry visas)

You must obtain an entry visa in your home country at a Philippine Embassy or Consular Office. Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) does not issue entry visas.

Nationals from countries not listed above can enter the Philippines without a visa for up to 21 days, provided they hold valid tickets for an outward journey to their port of origin or next port of destination. Passports should be valid for at least six months beyond the period of stay.

Please contact the Philippine Embassy in your country for visa requirements.

Disclaimer

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Customs and Immigration

To facilitate your movement through customs, please fill out a Baggage and Currency Declaration Form before disembarking the aircraft. Visitors carrying more than US\$3,000 in cash must declare the amount at the counter of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP – the Central Bank of the Philippines) in the customs area.

Upon departure, foreign currency to be taken out must not exceed the amount brought in. Departing passengers are not allowed to bring out more than 10,000 Philippine Pesos (PhP) in cash without prior authorization from BSP.

Arrival

From Ninoy Aquino International Airport it is about an hour's drive to the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Departure

A passenger terminal fee of PhP550.00 or approximately US\$10.90 is payable upon international departure. You should plan to arrive at the airport two hours before your flight departure. Due to occasional heavy traffic between ADB and the airport, it is advisable to leave for the airport at least 3 hours before your flight departure.

Accommodation

Participants will be booked in local hotel (including those ones living outside of Manila) near ADB. ADB will shoulder the room charges of ADB-sponsored participants only. All other participants not covered by this arrangement are required to look after their own individual accounts. However, all workshop participants can avail of the special group rate for room accommodations being arranged by ADB with the hotel. Details of this arrangement will be posted in the coming week.

Exchange Rate

Philippine's official currency unit is the Peso (P), which was quoted at Peso 50.50 per U.S. dollar as of 4 July 2002. Most major currencies and travelers checks can be exchanged at commercial banks, hotel, and Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Banking hours are from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Major international credit cards are honored in most hotels, restaurants, shops, and department stores. A currency exchange service is available at Metro Bank and Citibank at ADB's ground floor.

Subsidy Program

A small subsidy is available to ensure participation of regional disability organizations. Please contact the ADB for information.

Weather

The temperature in Manila is usually warm and humid, and ranges from 23°C to 31°C. Average temperature is about 30 degrees Celsius. Check Manila's temperature at http://weather.yahoo.com/forecast/Manila_PH_c.html

Electricity

The electric current in the Philippines operates on 220 volts AC. Most hotels provide adapters for electrical appliances requiring 100 volts AC.

In the Philippines, US and European (Continental and U.K.) plugs are both used. It is advisable to carry universal plugs to ensure you will be able to use your electrically powered equipment.