

Republic of the Philippines



The Flag

The Philippine flag has a white equilateral triangle on the left containing a sunburst of eight rays at the centre. In each corner of the triangle is a gold star, each representing one of the three main island groups — Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. In the centre of the triangle is a large gold sun. The sun stands for liberty with eight rays representing the first eight provinces that revolted for independence against Spain. The white triangle signifies Filipino hope for equality; the upper blue stripe stands for peace, truth and justice; while the lower red strip stands for patriotism and valour.

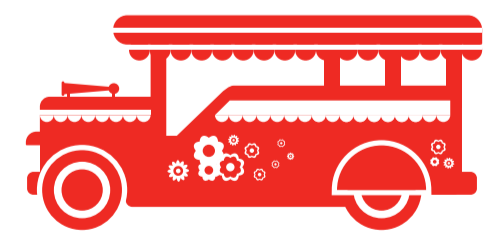


Big Mac Index

(NZ\$) As of March 2019

How much for a Big Mac?

New Zealand	Philippines
\$ 6.20	\$ 3.96



The Jeepney

Jeepneys are colourful decorated vehicles iconic to the Philippines for their flamboyant decoration. They are the most popular form of public transport in the country. Jeepneys were originally made from U.S. military jeeps left over from World War II. Locals converted the jeeps into small buses, decorated the vehicles with bright colours and attached metal roofs. To reduce air pollution, cities have started to use electric jeepneys, known as e-jeepneys.

Greetings

English	Tagalog	Pronunciation
Good morning	Magandang umaga	Ma-gun-dung oo-ma-ga
Good afternoon	Magandang hapon	Ma-gun-dung ha-pon
How are you?	Kumusta	Ku-moos-tah
I'm fine and you?	Mabuti, ikaw?	Ma-boo-tee, ee-cow
Thank you	Salamat	Sa-la-mut
Goodbye	Paalam	Pa-a-lum

Numbers

English	Tagalog	English	Tagalog
1	isa	6	anim
2	dalawa	7	pito
3	tatlo	8	walo
4	apat	9	siyam
5	lima	10	sampu



Economy

The Philippines is the **fifth** largest economy in Southeast Asia and is one of the fastest growing economies in the Asia Pacific region. Electronic products are the country's top export earner. Bananas are another major export of the Philippines. In 2017, the Philippines exported NZ\$150 million of bananas.

Population

There are more than **105 million people** in the Philippines. It is home to the largest Christian population in Asia. Filipinos are the fastest-growing ethnic group in New Zealand. According to the 2013 census, more than 40,347 Filipinos live in New Zealand.

Cuisine

Adobo (meat cooked in vinegar, salt, garlic, pepper, soy sauce and other spices)
Lechon (whole pig spit roasted over coal)
Sisig (sizzling pork's cheeks, head and liver served with hot sauce)
Pancit (stir fried noodle dish)
Halo-halo (popular summer dessert)

Language

Filipino is the national language of the Philippines, although English is widely used in government and business. There are over 171 languages spoken throughout the country. Filipino is mainly based on Tagalog, a language spoken in Manila and the surrounding regions. Tagalog is spoken as a first language by nearly a third of the population and as a second language by the majority of Filipinos.



Geography

The Philippines is the world's second largest archipelago, made of up 7,107 islands totalling approximately 300,000 square kilometres. Much of the land is mountainous and home to 22 active volcanoes. The country is prone to volcanic eruptions and earthquakes because of its location on the Pacific Ring of Fire. There are many active volcanoes and among the most active is Mayon Volcano, which last erupted in 2018.

On the Map

