

# The Philippines

The Philippines is an archipelago in Southeast Asia made up of 7641 islands. The country is divided into 3 island groups: Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

## Overview

### Official Name

Republic of the Philippines

### Capital

Manila

### Independence Day

12 June 1898

## The Flag

A horizontal bicolour flag with equal bands of blue and red, with a white equilateral triangle at the hoist. In the centre of the triangle is a golden-yellow sun with 8 rays representing the first 8 provinces that courageously revolted against the Spanish, and at each vertex of the triangle is a 5-pointed star each representing the country’s 3 main island groups. White symbolises purity and peace, blue reflects the high political purpose and ideals, and red symbolises courage and bravery.



## Population, Territory and Currency

### Population & total area

116,434,200 (2023 est.)

300,000 square km

Source: CIA World Factbook

### Currency

Peso (PHP)

Average price per meal: SGD 4.60

## Key Historical Events

### 16th century

The Philippines is established as a Spanish colony.

### 1902

Established as a commonwealth under American rule after the capture of Filipino revolutionary leader, Emilio Aguinaldo.

### 1946

Independence from American rule after World War II. Renamed the Republic of the Philippines.

### 1983

Anti-Marcos lawyer Benigno Aquino is assassinated.

### 1898

Filipino revolutionaries declared the Philippines independent on June 12, following the Spanish defeat by the Americans.

### 1941-1944

Japanese occupation.

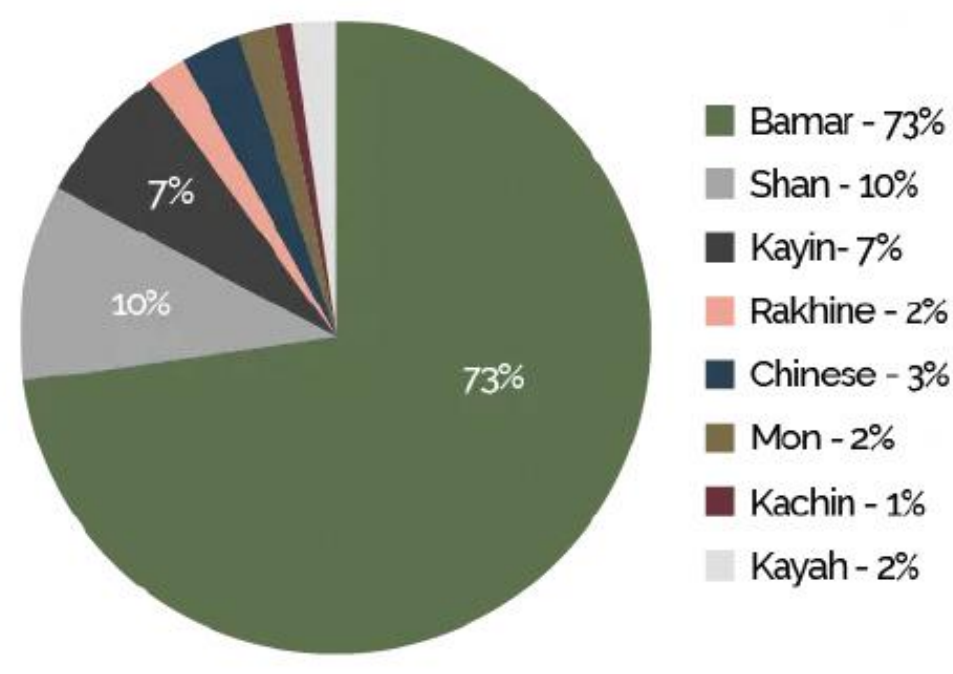
### 1972

Ferdinand Marcos declares martial law.

### 1986

Marcos was ousted in "people power" revolt, Corason Aquino installed as President.

## Demographics



**Male-Female:**  
**50%-50%**

**Urban Population:**  
**48%**

**Youth aged 15-24**  
**years: 19.16%**

*Source: CIA World Factbook (2023)*

## Economic Profile

The Philippines economy recorded a 5.6% full-year growth in 2021, an impressive number reflecting a rapid recovery despite the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. A newly industrialised country, the Philippines’ economy has been transitioning from being agriculturally focused to expanding more to services, manufacturing and industries. However, in the first quarter of 2023, a robust domestic demand fueled 6.4% growth (WorldBank, 2023).

## Key Industries

### Manufacturing

Manufacturing grew at a rate of 8.6% in 2021, with the Philippines focusing on consumer, intermediate and capital goods. The country’s primary exports include electronics, semiconductors and transport equipment.

### Construction and Infrastructure

The construction industry registered an exponentially high growth rate of 9.8%, driven by a rising number of construction projects, implementation of various governmental and infrastructural projects as well as the Philippines’ growing urbanisation and population.

### Lifestyle & Consumer Goods

Supported by a population of more than 110 million that increases by 2 million every year, the Philippines is one of the largest growing consumer markets in Southeast Asia.



## Local Food

### Adobo

Considered by many to be a Filipino national dish, it consists of slowly simmered chicken/pork/seafood marinated in vinegar, soy sauce and garlic.



Adobo



Lechon



Kare Kare

## Places of Interest

### Boracay White Beach

Located in Western Visayas

Apart from its white sand beaches, Boracay is also famous for being one of the world's top destinations for relaxation.



Boracay White Beach





Underground River

## Underground River

### National Park

Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site (1999) and New 7 Wonders of nature (2012). The park has a limestone karst mountain with an underground river cave.

## Major Festivals

### Independence Day

A celebration of independence from the Spanish on 12 June 1898, this day commemorates the sacrifices of the national heroes and appreciates the country's sovereignty. As a national holiday, businesses and schools are closed, allowing families to take part in celebratory activities such as the annual parades.



Independence Day Celebration

### Good Friday and Christmas

With a majority Catholic population, key religious events such as Good Friday and Christmas are observed nationwide.



Christmas Celebration in The Philippines, 2018