

Philippines Relocation Guide



By Appointment To
Her Majesty The Queen
Removals and Storage Contractor Abels

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ISO 9001 - ISO 14001
OHSAS 18001



TELEPHONE:	Country code (0063) + Area code.
STANDARD TIME:	GMT +8 hours.
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric.
ELECTRICITY:	220 volts, 60Hz Two pin plugs.
INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:	Recommended Hepatitis A and B, Japanese Encephalitis, Typhoid, Cholera, Rabies.
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	1st January – New Year’s Day, Chinese New Year 1st day of 1st Lunar month, Maundy Thursday (Easter Thursday), Good Friday, Black Saturday (Easter/Holy Saturday), 9th April – Day of Valor Marks the fall of Bataan In WW11, 1st May – Labour Day, 12th June - Independence Day, Eid’l Fitr – End of Ramadam, 21st August – Ninoy Aquino Day – Commemorates the Assassination of Benigno Ninoy Aquino Jr in 1983, Eidul Ahha – Sacrifice Feast / End of Hajj, Last Monday in August – National Heroes Day, 1st November – All Saints Day, 2nd November – additional holiday, 30th November – Bonifacio Day – the birth of Andres, Bonifacio 1863, 8th December – Immaculate Conception Day, 24th December – Christmas Eve, 25th December – Christmas Day, 30th December Rizal Day – commemorates the execution of Jose Rizel, 31st December – New Year’s Eve.
OFFICE HOURS:	Normally either 08.00 hours to 17.00 hours or 09.00 hours to 18.00 with some companies working Saturday for four hours. Maximum working week 48 hours.
BANK HOURS:	Usually 09.00 hours to 15.00 hours Monday to Friday with some Banks open on Saturday.
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	Fire, Ambulance, Police 911
BRITISH EMBASSY:	120 Upper McKinley Road Taguig, 1630 Metro Manila Tel: +63 2858 2200
PHILIPPINES EMBASSY LONDON:	6-11 Suffolk Street London SW1Y 4HG Tel: 0207 451 1780

Part 1 – Background Information on Philippines

Background

The Philippine Islands became a Spanish colony during the 16th century; they were ceded to the US in 1898 following the Spanish-American War. In 1935 the Philippines became a self-governing commonwealth. Manuel Quezon was elected president and was tasked with preparing the country for independence after a 10-year transition. In 1942 the islands fell under Japanese occupation during World War II, and US forces and Filipinos fought together during 1944-45 to regain control. On 4 July 1946 the Republic of the Philippines attained its independence. A 20-year rule by Ferdinand Marcos ended in 1986, when a “people power” movement in Manila (“EDSA 1”) forced him into exile and installed Corazon Aquino as president. Her presidency was hampered by several coup attempts that prevented a return to full political stability and economic development. Fidel Ramos was elected president in 1992. His administration was marked by increased stability and by progress on economic reforms. In 1992, the US closed its last military bases on the islands. Joseph Estrada was elected president in 1998. He was succeeded by his vice-president, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in January 2001 after Estrada’s stormy impeachment trial on corruption charges broke down and another “people power” movement (“EDSA 2”) demanded his resignation. Macapagal-Arroyo was elected to a six-year term as president in May 2004. Her presidency was marred by several corruption allegations but the Philippine economy was one of the few to avoid contraction following the 2008 global financial crisis, expanding each year of her administration. Benigno Aquino III was elected to a six-year term as president in May 2010 and was succeeded by Rodrigo Duterte in May 2016.

Geography and Climate

The Philippines are in the south eastern Asia archipelago between the Philippine sea and the south china sea, east of Vietnam. the climate is tropical with north east monsoons (November to April) and south west monsoons (May to October). the terrain is mostly mountains with narrow to extensive coastal lowlands. The lowest point being the Philippine sea with the highest point Mount Apo 2954 metres. The natural resources are timber, petroleum, nickel, cobalt, silver, gold, salt, copper. The population is concentrated where good farmlands lie; highest concentrations are northwest and south-central Luzon, the southeastern extension of Luzon, and the islands of the Visayan sea, particularly Cebu and Negros; Manila is home to one-eighth of the entire national population. For decades, the Philippine archipelago was reported as having 7,107 islands; in 2016, the national mapping authority reported that hundreds of new islands had been discovered and increased the number of islands to 7,641 - though not all of the new islands have been verified.

Population

As at February 2019 the population was estimated to be about 107,483,225.

Currency

The currency of the Philippines is the Peso (PHP) divided into Sentimos and in current circulation:-

Coins: 1, 5, 10, and 25 Sentimos and 1, 5, 10 Pesos

Notes: 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1000 Pesos

Healthcare

The healthcare standards in the Philippines are considered to be good, especially due to reforms undergone in the public health sector over the last 25 years, and the popular private fee-for-service system.

All citizens are entitled to free healthcare under the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation. The Philippines has a public medical system with the option to either choose free, government-provided healthcare or purchase private healthcare from your own pocket.

The public healthcare system is delivered through public health and primary healthcare centres linked to peripheral barangay (local town) health centres. Around 40% of the hospitals in the Philippines are public.

The private health sector caters to 30% of the population and is based on North American medical models, and the majority of hospitals in the Philippines are privately run.

Economy

The economy has been relatively resilient to global economic shocks due to less exposure to troubled international securities, lower dependence on exports, relatively resilient domestic consumption, large remittances from about 10 million overseas Filipino workers and migrants, and a rapidly expanding outsourcing industry.

Economic growth has accelerated, averaging 6.1% per year from 2011 to 2016, compared with 4.5% under the Macapagal-Arroyo government; and competitiveness rankings have improved. Although the economy grew at a faster pace under the Aquino government, challenges to achieving more inclusive growth remain. The unemployment rate declined from 7.3% to 5.5% between 2010 and 2016 but the jobs are low paying and tedious. Underemployment hovers at around 18% to 19% of the employed. At least 40% of the employed work in the informal sector. Poverty afflicts more than a fifth of the population. More than 60% of the poor reside in rural areas, where the incidence of poverty (about 30%) is more severe - a challenge to raising rural farm and non-farm incomes.

Religion

The major religion in the Philippines is Roman Catholic Christianity, followed by Islam and other Christian minorities. In the Philippines, all religions are protected by the law, and no one religious belief is given priority over any other.

Language

There are many languages spoken in the Philippines, but the only official languages are Filipino and English.

Education

Primary school in the Philippines begins when children are five to six, and lasts for six years. This stage is mandatory for all Filipino children. The youngest students are typically taught in the local dialect. There are more than 170 languages spoken across the country. Students are introduced to English and Filipino as a foreign language during that time. Older children, from grade three onward, are typically taught in a mix of Filipino and English. The divide in language is usually by subject. Math and science are often taught in English, while the humanities are mostly taught in Filipino.

Public secondary schools do not pick their students; they're open to all students in the direct region. Private secondary schools, however, are completely different; they're often highly competitive and students must do well on their entrance examination score in order to be offered a place. Science High School admission is also based on placement in entrance exams.

Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.

Part 2 – Philippines Import Customs Regulations

To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household and personal effects into the Philippines.

Household goods and personal effects

Please note only five free days is given at the port of entry to enable customs clearance, after which charges occur. We ask that all documentation is obtained by yourself and furnished to ourselves/and or our partner company in the Philippines, without delay.

Returning Residents

A returning resident is one who is a holder of a Philippine passport and has been away from the Country for work. Your effects must arrive in the Philippines within 60 days from your own arrival.

Tax exemption is given provided you have stayed abroad for a period of at least 5 years, but not more than 10 years, and have not availed of the tax privilege within 5 years prior to your arrival. The allowed tax exemption is based on PhP 250,000.00. In addition to this privilege you can import tax and duty free, home appliances and other durables limited to one of each kind. Any amount in excess of the privileges will be subject to tax and duties. Duty and Tax Free Exemption Indorsement (TEI) must be filed at the Revenue Office of the Department of Finance (DOF)

Documents Required:

- An Affidavit of Ownership and End Use witnessed by a Notary (our partner company have a format for this)
- Authorisation Letter (our partner company have a format for this)
- Original Packing List supplied by us
- Original Passport for the duration of customs clearance
- Tax Identification Number (possibly required)
- Copy of your Contract of Employment whilst employed within the UK
- Certification that you have been employed in the UK

Non Residents with a 13A, 13D, 13E or 13G visa

With one of the above Visas your household and personal effects can be imported duty and tax free. You are entitled to tax exemption secured from the Department of Finance (DOF) upon presentation of your original passport with stamped visa plus copies of your shipping documentation. Tax exemption must be secured within 90 days from your last arrival date.

Documents Required:

- Original passport with a stamped Visa for the duration of customs clearance
- Original Packing list supplied by us
- Alien Certificate of Registration Card
- Copy of Proof of Residency- Purchase of land or house etc.
- Copy of Marriage Contract (Certificate)
- For former Filipino – Copy of Birth Certificate
- Visa Application – with stamp of “RECEIVED” by the Bureau of Immigration

Officials/Employees of Regional Offices or holders of an Executive Order No 226 (EO226), 9G Visa and 47 (A) 2 Visa

With the above Visa your household and personal effects can be imported duty and tax free. You are entitled to tax exemption secured from the Department of Finance (DOF) upon presentation of your original passport with stamped visa plus copies of your shipping documentation. Tax exemption must be secured within 60 days from your last arrival date.

Documents Required:

- Original passport, with a stamped visa, for the duration of customs clearance
- Original Packing list supplied by us
- Original Certificate of Employment – stating position and period of employment – for the duration of customs clearance
- Original Employment Contract – or certified true copy – for the duration of customs clearance

Diplomats Removals

Diplomats (holders of a 9(E) visa, must be in the Philippines to submit credentials to the Embassy in order to secure Diplomatic ID before a Request for Tax Exemption can be applied. Your diplomatic agency must make a request for tax exemption through a note verbale addressed to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) who will endorse the request to the Department of Finance (DOF)

Documents Required:

- Note verbale approved
- Original Packing list supplied by us

Temporary Visitors, Tourists

All effects will be subject to taxes and duties without Visa status as mentioned in the categories above. You can import effects under bond, which is based on 150% of the amount of taxes/duties assessed, plus administration costs. The bond has to be good for 3 months and can be extended for a further 3 months, to enable a Visa to be obtained.

Documents Required

- Original Packing list supplied by us
- Copy of Passport

Motor Vehicles

Diplomats can import a car duty and tax free.

Returning residents, Dual Citizens and holders of 13G and 13A Visa are allowed to import cars, but they are subject to taxes and duties at about 200% of book value of the vehicle. Only cars not exceeding 1500 kgs weight and 2800 cc engine can be imported. The car must have been registered under consignees name for at least 12 months prior to exporting. Returning residents must have stayed abroad continuously for at least one year.

Documents Required

- Prior authority to import secured from the Bureau of Import Services (BIS)
- Original car registration document

Fumigation of imported and exported wooden crates

The Filipino Government adopted ISPM-15 (International standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication 15) Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade (aka NIFM-15) to standardise the treatment of wood packing materials used for the transport of goods.

Prohibited Items

- Firearms, ammunition and explosives
- Obscene literature, photographs or films and politically “undesirable” literature
- Prohibited drugs, misbranded and adulterated drugs and foodstuffs
- Gambling machines and paraphernalia
- Transceivers and Satellite Equipment
- Any foodstuffs or drinks (including alcohol)

Pets (dogs, cats, etc.)

We work with a number of Pet Relocation Companies who can help you Import your pet to the Philippines.

Please contact us if you wish to be put in contact with our partners.

Endangered Species

A CITES certificate is normally required. There is a worldwide ban on the movement of Ivory without a CITES Certificate. **Please note old pianos usually have ivory keys and a CITES certification will be required.**

For information on obtaining a CITES certificate please visit:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/endangered-species-application-for-import-and-export-permit>

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