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#### Population

City: 1,6 million  
Metropolitan area: 11,5 million

#### Currency

Philippine peso (PHP) 1 = 100 centavos

#### Opening hours

Shops open 10 am-8 pm, but shopping malls close at 9 pm or 10 pm. Smaller shops close for lunch 12 pm-2 pm. There are many 24-hour convenience and drug stores. Malls are open on Sundays and public holidays.

#### Internet

[www.manila.gov.ph](http://www.manila.gov.ph)  
[www.visitmyphilippines.com](http://www.visitmyphilippines.com)  
[www.tourism.gov.ph](http://www.tourism.gov.ph)

#### Newspapers

Philippine daily inquirer  
Manila bulletin  
Manila times  
Malaya  
Philippine star  
Manila standard today  
Daily tribune

#### Emergency numbers

116

#### Tourist information

Philippine department of tourism  
Address: T.M. Kalaw Street, Malate.  
Opening hours: 7 am-5 pm Monday-Saturday.  
Tel. +63 2 523 8411  
[www.tourism.gov.ph](http://www.tourism.gov.ph)

# MANILA

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Contents: The City, Do & See, Eating, Cafes, Bars & Nightlife, Shopping, Sleeping, Essential Information, Maps

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The Philippine capital is Asia's best-kept secret. The capital of the Orient's only catholic country seems somehow out of place, vibrant with Latin American or Caribbean undertones. Music and dancing are everywhere, and the smiles and laughter rival Bangkok's in their warmth and enthusiasm. Manila's intense historical influences – Spanish religion and American consumerism – have led to the saying that the capital has spent “400 years in a convent and 50 in Hollywood.” The result is a city of extremes ready to delight the unsuspecting traveller.

## THE CITY



© Jack Newton

Metro Manila is an urban sprawl that has swallowed up 11 cities and five towns in the past two centuries. It's a place of opposites: old and new wealth and poverty grandiosity and decay. Smog, traffic jams and a general air of decay make a less than favourable first impression, but just beneath the surface lies a fascinating and pulsating place to enjoy. Filipinos call it "The City of Our Affections" where the people's love affairs with fashion, music, entertainment and sheer fun are on bright and beautiful display.

By day, the original, medieval walled city of Intramuros delights with its history and elegant Latin architecture. By night - and it can be a very long night - the bright lights of Ermita and Makati beckon with jazz pubs, clubs, karaoke lounges, 24-hour diners and trendy bars. The Filipino people's zest for life, natural friendliness and ease with the English language make them the perfect hosts, always ready to invite you to their daily party. This is a fun city where your shoulders loosen in relaxation and only the muscles you use to smile are seriously stressed.



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## DO & SEE



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Manila's colourful history has bequeathed an interesting range of attractions to keep the energetic sightseer busy for several days.

### Roxas Boulevard

On Manila Bay, 10 km long Roxas has great views of the city's famous sunsets. Landmarks include the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Coconut Palace comprising 70 percent of coconut products and where Imelda Marcos' celebrity friends used to stay.

Address: Roxas Boulevard, Manila 1000

### Fort Santiago

This Spanish fortress, with cannons trained on the sea to deter pirates and invaders, is more than striking medieval architecture. It is also the "Shrine of Freedom," to Filipinos tortured and killed here during the Spanish and Japanese eras. It is now a park with a resident theatre company for traditional and modern plays.

Address: Santa Clara Street, Manila 1002  
Phone: +63 2 527 1572

### Club Intramuros Golf Course

Club Intramuros Golf Course is an amazing, but somewhat short, 18 hole course in the heart of the city and surrounding Fort Santiago, can be completed in less than two hours.

Address: Bonifacio Drive, Corner Aduana Street, Port Area, Intramuros,  
Phone: +63 2 527 6613

Internet: [www.golfph.com](http://www.golfph.com)

### Rizal Park

This oasis of green features the 19th-century national hero, Jose Rizal, as well as gardens and restaurants.

Address: Roxas Boulevard  
Tickets: entrance P50, guided tours P10

### Manila Cathedral

The sixth cathedral on this Intramuros site since 1571, was completed in the 1950s. Outstanding sculpture and artwork from Europe and Asia.

Address: Cabildo, Corner Beaterio, Intramuros  
Phone: +63 2 527 3093  
Internet: [www.manilacathedral.org](http://www.manilacathedral.org)

### San Agustin Church

The oldest surviving church in the Philippines was completed in 1604 and was the only building intact in Intramuros after the battles of World War II. With its Baroque interior, it has artistic as well as historical importance.

Address: Calles Gen Luna and Real  
Phone: +63 2 527 2746 / +63 2 527 4052  
Internet: [www.sanagustinchurch.org](http://www.sanagustinchurch.org)

### The Manila Hotel

One of Asia's great hotels and a Philippine landmark. The Manila Hotel has played a pivotal role in the nation's history and was US General MacArthur's headquarters in World War II.

Address: 1 Rizal Park, Roxas Boulevard  
Phone: +63 2 527 0011  
Internet: [www.manila-hotel.com.ph](http://www.manila-hotel.com.ph)

### National Museum of the Philippines

The Filipino People's cultural and historic treasures from the 17th century onwards, plus "The Story of the Filipino People" movie.

Address: P. Burgos Drive

Phone: +63 2 527 1215  
Internet: [www.nationalmuseum.gov.ph](http://www.nationalmuseum.gov.ph)

## EATING



© Jack Newton

Few would claim Philippine food was among Asia's best. But Filipinos love food, especially a long lunch, eaten with their hands off a banana leaf. (A popular venue for traditional Philippine cuisine is Kamayan at 47 Arnaiz Avenue, Makati.) Manila is one of the most affordable places to enjoy Thai, Chinese, Japanese, French and Italian food to international standard. Excellent service and beautiful settings make Manila a happy place to wine and dine.

### Via Mare

Great views and even better fresh seafood, including an oyster bar, at the top of the Philippine Stock Exchange's East Tower. A must for oyster lovers!

Address: Shop 138, Greenbelt Commercial Complex, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.  
Phone: +63 2 757 4020  
Internet: [www.viamare.com.ph](http://www.viamare.com.ph)

### Sala

Sumptuous modern Italian/European cuisine and excellent wine list. Beef carpaccio with parmesan shavings and capers anointed with white truffle oil is luxurious and duck breast with roast pear in port wine are among the favourites.

Address: 6752 Ayala Avenue  
Phone: +632 750 1555 / +632 893 0242  
Internet: [www.salarestaurant.com](http://www.salarestaurant.com)  
More Info: Podium Level, LV Locsin Building, Corner Makati Avenue

info@salarestaurant.com

### **Kashmir**

Friendly Indian tandoori restaurant in the heart of the Ermita tourist belt with all the familiar curries, tikkas, breads and chutneys. Also offers a menu for Malaysian and Arabian cuisine.

Address: 523 Padre Faura, Ermita.  
Phone: +63 2 524 6851  
Internet: [www.kashmirmanila.com](http://www.kashmirmanila.com)

### **La Cocina de Tita Moning**

La Cocina de Tita Moning offers you some of the best food of the Philippines. It is a family owned restaurant and you can tell that all food is cooked with love.

Address: 315 San Rafael Street  
Phone: +63 2 734 2146  
Internet: [www.lacocinadetitamoning.com](http://www.lacocinadetitamoning.com)  
More Info: San Miguel District  
[lacocina@pldtdsl.net](mailto:lacocina@pldtdsl.net)

### **Aria Cucina Italiana**

Aria serves traditional Italian cuisine and is one of the best restaurants in town. The pizza is to recommend!

Address: 30th St cor 7th St, Bonifacio High Street  
Phone: +63 917 519 5368  
Internet: [www.aria.com.ph](http://www.aria.com.ph)  
More Info: [info@aria.com.ph](mailto:info@aria.com.ph)

## **CAFES**



© Stefan Munder

There are a few cosy places to choose from if you are in the mood for a nice cup of coffee and a sweet bite.

### **Café Adriatico**

Café Adriatico is always busy with a lively crowd in a decidedly Philippine setting. Thick hot chocolate as well as great coffee in a cosy environment.

Address: 1790 M. Adriatico Street, Malate.  
Phone: +63 2 524 1532

### **The Café Mediterranean**

The Café Mediterranean is a cosy café to remind you of a Greek taverna. Kebabs and mint tea feature among other Mediterranean treats. Lovely desserts!

Address: 1347 Agono St. Barangay Poblacion, Makati City  
Phone: +63 2 896 8807  
Internet: [www.thecafemediterranean.com](http://www.thecafemediterranean.com)

### **Coco Bango Café**

This café is located inside the Hotel Intramuros, you enter through a courtyard. The service is excellent and they offer a menu with Filipino, American and Continental influences.

Address: Urdaneta Street  
Phone: +63 2 526 6539  
Internet: [www.whiteknighthotelintramuros.com](http://www.whiteknighthotelintramuros.com)  
More Info: White Knight Hotel Intramuros, Plaza San Luis Complex, Corner Cabildo and Urdaneta Streets

### **Hizon's Cakes & Pastries**

This place is a philipino classic and will provide you

with all the little pastries and sweets your heart may desire.

Address: 1197 J Bocobo cor Arquiza Sts Jorge Bocobo  
Phone: +63 63 525 0066

### Cupcakes by Sonja

This is the perfect place if you have a sweet tooth or want a light dessert. Lovely cupcakes!

Address: Serendra  
Phone: +63 2 856 0308

## BARS & NIGHTLIFE



© Trishhhh

Filipinos take fun seriously and Manila's bars are among Asia's liveliest. Happy hour is everyone's favourite time of day – and lasts long into the night at certain hangouts. Great service, ice cold drinks and music nearly everywhere...cheers! Manila is party central. Venues stay open to 5 am at weekends and 3 am midweek. The action centres are on JM Nakpil Street, Makati Avenue or Pasay Road in Makati, and throughout the Malate and Ermita districts.

### Conways

The Makati Shangri-La's bar has an all-you-can-drink happy hour for PHP250 from 3 pm-9 pm. Live bands, solo singers and a big crowd make this one of Manila's hottest bars.

Address: Shangri-La Makati Hotel, Makati Avenue, Makati.  
Phone: +63 2 840 0884  
Internet: [www.shangri-la.com](http://www.shangri-la.com)

### The Library

Marvel at the vocal skills of the man and woman on the street in Manila at this popular karaoke lounge. Don't even think of singing unless you're exceptionally good. It is also a great comedy bar!

Address: 1779 Ma. Orosa Street, Malate  
Phone: +63 2 522 2484  
Internet: [www.thelibrary.com.ph](http://www.thelibrary.com.ph)

### Café Havana

Echoes of pre-Castro Cuban decadence in the atmosphere and décor. Loud Latin beats, lively dancing and a great place to start the evening.

Address: 1903 M Adriatico Street, Malate.  
Phone: +63 2 521 8097

### Club Government

Gay dance club in a chic industrial setting with dazzling laser lights, great lighting effects, state-of-the-art sound and DJs serving up hard house and acid anthems among a range of dance music sets.

Address: 7840 Makati Avenue, Makati.  
Phone: +63 2 729 1104

### Republiq Club

Republic Club is located on the second level of the Resorts World Manila and is one of Manilas most popular clubs. The club reminds you of Las Vegas.

Address: Newport Mall  
Phone: +63 917 550 8888  
More Info: Unit 8, Second Level

## SHOPPING



© Glen

Manila offers great value for money, even if it lacks the variety of international brands available in Singapore or Hong Kong. However, Manila deserves its place as one of Asia's great shopping cities thanks to excellent service in modern, spectacular malls and centres.

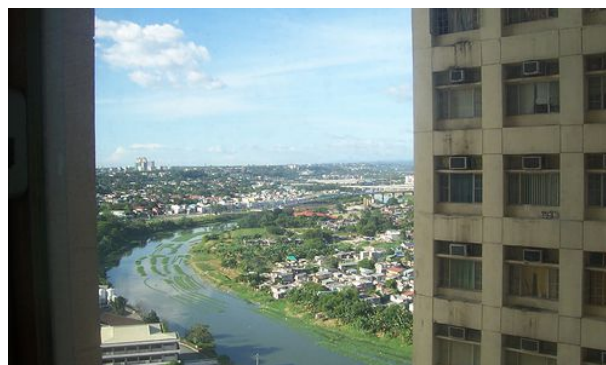
SM Mall of Asia is new (and Asia's biggest) with more than a hundred stores and several restaurants under one gigantic roof. Local brands sit alongside international ones such as Mango and Zara, which have appeared in Manila for the first time thanks to the scale of the mall. In all, a great setting with amazing architecture and commanding views of Manila Bay.

Greenhills is often referred to as a permanent flea market minus the dust. There are plenty of bargains, especially with pearls and other jewellery. Prices are negotiable so start haggling. This famous wholesale market, Divisoria, is a unique shopping experience featuring ready-to-wear clothing, jewellery and house wares. Fight off the fellow shoppers. Everything from high fashion to bargain basement shops in central Makati is to be found at Ayala Center.

Shangri-La Plaza is one of Manila's most upmarket malls with a striking eight-storey atrium and high-end international brands such as Calvin Klein and Polo. Magallanes Centre has bicycle and golf equipment. San Andres Market is famous for fruits and Seaside Market is famous for seafood. La Porcelana and V.M. Antiques in Ermita, Chang Rong Antique Gallery in Intramuros and Tawalisi in Makati are famous for antiques. Handicrafts are on sale at Silahis and Balikbayan

Handicrafts.

## SLEEPING



© UnorthodoxY

In Manila you can find many lovely, expensive hotels but Manila also caters to nice budget hostels.

### **Makati Shangri-la Manila**

Easily Manila's most expensive hotel with huge, luxurious rooms, spectacular restaurants and exciting bars. Highlights include a wonderful spa and there is a lovely park just a cross the hotel.

Address: Ayala Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati  
Phone: +63 2 813 8888  
Internet: [www.shangri-la.com](http://www.shangri-la.com)

### **The Manila Hotel**

The award-winning Manila Hotel is a landmark in the Far East and regarded as one of the great hotels of the world. The spacious reception area with grand columns and chandeliers sets the tone for affordable but spectacular luxury.

Address: 1 Rizal Park, Roxas Boulevard  
Phone: +63 2 527 0011  
Internet: [www.manila-hotel.com.ph](http://www.manila-hotel.com.ph)

### **Richmonde Hotel**

Richmond hotel is an efficient, plush hotel with health club and pool and a great location near popular shopping malls, bars and entertainment.

Address: 21 San Miguel Avenue  
Phone: +63 2 638 7777  
Internet: [www.richmondehotel.com](http://www.richmondehotel.com)  
More Info: Ortigas Center, Pasig City

### Garden Plaza Hotel & Suites

The former Swiss Inn has been renovated and expanded and is an ideal choice for people exploring the city by foot. Here you have the option for suites with fully equipped kitchenettes for longer-staying guests.

Address: 1030 Belen Street, Paco  
Phone: +63 2 522 4835  
Internet: [www.gardenplazamanila.com](http://www.gardenplazamanila.com)

### Malate Pensionne

Malate Pensionne is a small and cosy, with clean and comfortable rooms. Air-conditioned, fan and dormitory rooms available.

Address: 1771 M. Adriatico St, Malate.  
Phone: +63 2 523 8304  
Internet: [www.mpensionne.com.ph](http://www.mpensionne.com.ph)

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



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### Exchange Office

There are more fun things to do on your holiday than look for exchange offices or ATMs. Exchange your currency before you leave and get time to do things that you really want. At Forex Bank you can always buy foreign currency free of charge, at hours that suits you. For more info about Forex Bank visit our website or click:

<http://www.forex.se/sv/Om-FOREX/Bankbutiker/>

### Airport

Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) is 7 km from the centre of Manila.

Book a taxi at an official desk in the airport and avoid those outside. Fare to Manila should be PHP300. The journey can take 30-120 minutes, depending on the time of day and the traffic.

### Public transport

16-seat Jeepneys will take you on pre-set routes for a fixed fare of PHP7.50. The colourful Jeepneys were originally made from converted US war jeeps. Routes are written on the front of the vehicle. Just flag the driver down and let him know when you want to go.

Manila has a rail system comprising the two lines of the Manila Light Rail Transit System (LRT) and the single line of the Manila Metro Rail Transit System (MRT), also known as the Metrostar Express or Metrostar. The LRT is open 5 am-9.30 pm, the MRT for one hour later. Pricing is different for each line but for PHP250 you can buy a Flash Pass for a week's unlimited use on all three lines.

### Taxi

Most fares within Manila will be between PHP100-150. When flagging a taxi in the street or booking by phone, use only one of the firms listed below:

Dollar (red cabs)  
Phone: +63 2 921 2383

EMP (white with yellow stripes)  
Phone: +63 2 293 5930

MGE (white with green stripes)  
Phone: +63 2 366 6214

R&E (yellow with green stripes)  
Phone: +63 2 330 1654

### **Post**

Post offices are open from 9 am-5 pm Monday-Friday.  
The central post office is at Magallanes Drive, Between Jones Bridge and MacArthur Bridge, Manila 1000.

### **Pharmacy**

24-hour drug stores abound in Metro Manila, many operated by market leader Mercury Drug.

24-hour branches

Address: 660 San Andres St., Malate  
Phone: +63 2 523 1696

### **Dentist**

Located at three location: Glorieta Makati, St. Lukes Medical Center and SM Mall of Asia

Address: St. Lukes Medical Center  
Phone: +63 2 721 9215  
Internet: [www.mls-dentalcosmetics.com](http://www.mls-dentalcosmetics.com)  
More Info: North Tower Cathedral Heights Building Complex Quezon City, Room 1013, 10th Flr.

### **Telephone**

Country code +63  
Area code: 02

### **Electricity**

220 volts, 60Hz



10th Street	A2	D Romualdez Sr	D2 D3	P Casal	D1
11th Street	A2	Dasmarias	B1	P Correa	D3
12th Street	A2	David	B1	Padre Avenue	B3 B4
14th Street	A2	Dr Antonio Vasquez	D4	Padre Burgos	B3 C2
15th Street	A2	Elizondo	C1	Padre Faura	C4 D3
16th Street	A2	Escolta	B1	Pasaje del Carmen	D1
17th Street	A2 A3	Felipe Agoncillo	D4	Pedro Gil (Herran)	C4 D4
18th Street	A2 A3	Finance	C3	Perez	D3
19th Street	A3	G Apacible	D4	Pilar Hidalgo Lim	D4
20th Street	A3	General Luna	B2 B3 C3 D3	Plaza Moriones	A1
21st Street	A3	General M Malvar	D4	Q Paredes	B1
22nd Street	A3	General Solano	D2	Quezon Boulevard	C1
23rd Street	A3	Globo de Oro	C1	Quezon Bridge	C1
24th Street	A3	Gonzates	D3	R Hidalgo	C1 D1
25th Street	A3	Guerrero	B4 C4	Railroad Drive	A2
8th Street	A2	J Bocobo	C3 C4	Real	B2
9th Street	A2	J Nepomuceno	D1	Recoletos	B2
A Mabini	C3 C4	Jaboneros	A1	Roberto S Oca Sr (13th) Street	A2
A Villegas	C1 C2	Jones Bridge	B1	Romero Salas	C4
Almacenes	A1	Juan Luna	B1	Roxas Boulevard (Dewey Boulevard) B4 C4	
Anda	B1 B2	Lara	A1	San Fernando	A1
Andres Soriano Jr	A2 B1	Legarda	D1	San Francisco	B2
Arlegui	D1	Legaspi	B2	San Gabriel	B1
Arquiza	C4	Leon Guinto Sr	D4	San Marcelino	D2 D3 D4
Arzobispo	A2	M Adriatico	C4	San Nicolas	A1
Ayala Boulevard	C2 D2	M H del Pilar	B4 C4	San Vicente	B1
Ayala Bridge	D2	Madrid	A1	Santa Clara	A1 A2
Barbosa	C1	Magallanes	B2	Santa Lucia	A2 B2
Barcelona	A1	Magallanes Drive	B1	Santa Monica	C4
Barraca	A1	Mahatma Gandhi	D3	Santa Potenciana	B2
Basco	B2	Maria Y Orosa	C3 C4 D4	Sevilla	A1
Beaterio	B2	McArthur Bridge	C1	Solana	B1 B2
Belen	D3	Muelle de Binondo	A1 B1	South Road	B4
Bonifacio Drive	A1 A2 A3	Muelle de la Industria	A1 B1	Sylvia	D2
Boston	A2 A3	Muelle de San Francisco	A3	Taft Avenue	C3 D4
C M Aguila	D1	Muelle del Banco Nacional	B1 C1	Teodoro F Valencia Circle	C3
Cabildo	A1 A2 B2	Muelle del Rio	B1	Teodoro M Kalaw Sr	B3 C3 D3
Camba	A1	Muralla	B1 B2 B3	United Nations Avenue	B4 C3 C4 D3
Carlos Palanca Sr	C1 D1	N Padilla	D2	Urbiztondo	A1
Carriedo	C1	Natividad Almeda-Lopez	C2	Vergara	D1
Chicago	A2 A3	Novales	B2	Victoria	B2 C2
Conde de Gamazo	D3	Nueva	B1	Zobel	D2
Cuartetes	C4	Orozco	C1		