The Philippines

65,000,000 people live in the Philippines. More than 60% of the population lives in urban areas, with the largest city being Manila, which is the capital of the Philippines. The Philippines' population is second only to that of Indonesia in Southeast Asia.

The Philippines is located in the region of Southeast Asia, bordered by the South China Sea to the east, the Celebes Sea to the north, and the Sulu Sea to the west.

The national language of the Philippines is Tagalog, with English also being widely spoken. The national currency is the Philippine Peso. The flag of the Philippines features a dark blue background with a sun in the center, representing the 7,000 islands of the Philippines.

In the Philippines, the three most spoken languages are Tagalog, Cebuano, and Hiligaynon. The Philippines has a rich cultural heritage, with a blend of Spanish, Malay, and indigenous influences.
Volcanoes

Philippines

Volcanoes in the Philippines are active. Volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occur regularly in the Philippines. Half of the volcanoes in the Philippines are active.

Mount Pinatubo

In June 1991, Mount Pinatubo erupted on Luzon Island. More than 900 people were killed and 40,000 houses were destroyed. The eruption lasted for over 500 years.

Climate

The wet season is usually rains heavily in the afternoon. The dry season is cool as the wet season approaches in May, and a dry season from January to June. The beginning of the dry season has a wet season from July to December.

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Physical Features

The Philippines is made up of both large and small islands.

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Animals and Plants

Plants

Coral

Seas The islands of the Philippines are rich in wildlife. Members of the primates family, such as monkeys, live high up in the trees. In contrast, the rare mousedeer antelopes and the Philippine mouse-deer are found in the forests. These forests are home to many species of birds, monkeys, and small mammals. The Philippines is also home to a variety of freshwater and marine life, including coral reefs and mangroves.

Birds

On the leaves and branches of trees, you'll find a variety of animals. The leaves of the bamboo plant, for instance, are home to the bamboo rat, which feeds on the leaves and other plant material. Other common animals found in the forests of the Philippines include the monkey, the deer, and the boar. The forests also provide habitat for various species of birds, such as the hornbill, the kingfisher, and the parrot.

Mammals

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Plants

Coral

Seas

Birds

Mammals

Animals

Fact File
People

Most people in the Philippines have a Malay, Indonesian or Polynesian background.

Food

Filipino food is a mix of Chinese, Spanish and Malay influences. Rice is eaten with most meals. Since the Philippines is surrounded by water, fish is a major part of the Filipino diet. Tropical fruit is available year-round. Popular fruits are jackfruit, bananas, pineapple and mangoes.

Housing

Traditional Filipino housing is made of local materials such as palm fronds and wood. In the cities, people live in timber and brick houses or concrete apartments.

Tribes

Some Filipinos belong to indigenous tribal groups. For about 2000 years, the Higaonon group of people have grown rice on terraces cut into the mountainsides around Banaue in North Luzon. The Badjaos are called sea gypsies because of their seafaring life. Most of these people now live in small houses on the coast and support themselves by catching fish.

Ethnic groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Filipino tribes</th>
<th>Rural (country)</th>
<th>Urban (cities)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Negrito</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bontoc</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tagalog</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fact file

Every Filipino village has a fresh food market.
Christianity

Jesus is an important figure in Filipino Catholicism, being the subject of the Bible, the son of God, and the savior of humanity. Catholicism is a Christian religion and the Catholic Church is the majority of people observing the Catholic faith in the Philippines. The Spanish conquest of the Philippines resulted in the rise of Christianity.

Islam

Muhammad, who received messengers from the Lord Allah, founded the religion of Islam. Muslims follow the teachings of their prophet Muhammad. Muslims have resisted conversion to the introduction of Islam to the region during the 1500s. In the southern Philippines, the people who practice Islam are called Muslims. See readers.

Animism

Esoteric groups still follow local Anhuthin rituals. To keep these gods happy, sacrifices are also worshiped. Some mountains and forests offer sacrifices of animals and food are given. In festivals such as the older religion in the Philippines was Anhuthus. Followers of this religion believe that many gods are present in different places such as mountains, forests, rivers, and lakes.

Religion

The Philippines is mainly Catholic, but some tribes adopted a combination of Christian teachings and Animist beliefs. The religion and culture of the Filipinos are influenced by the country's original tribes and the European rulers.