

PICPE

Geography of the Philippines

1. Location

- Situated in **Southeastern Asia**.
- An **archipelago** consisting of **7,641 islands**.
- Part of the **western Pacific arc system**, known for its **active volcanoes**.

2. Shape and Size

- **Type:** Elongated archipelago.
- **Total Area:** 115,830 square miles.
- **Coastline Length:** 22,549 miles (longest irregular coastline in the world).
- **Length:** 1,851 km (SSE – NNW).
- **Width:** 1,062 km (ENE – WSW).

3. Neighboring Countries & Surrounding Bodies of Water

- **North:** Luzon Strait.
- **East:** Philippine Sea.
- **South:** Celebes Sea.
- **West:** South China Sea.

4. Terrain and Notable Points

- **Mostly mountainous;** all islands are **earthquake-prone**.
- **Highest Point:** Mount Apo (9,691 ft).
- **Lowest Point:** Philippine Sea.
- **Natural Harbors:** 61 total, including **Manila Bay** (one of the finest harbors in the Far East).

5. Active Volcanoes

- **Luzon:** Mayon (Albay), Taal (Batangas), Pinatubo (Zambales), Bulusan (Sorsogon), Didicas (Cagayan).
- **Visayas:** Kanlaon (Negros Island).
- **Mindanao:** Hibok-Hibok (Camiguin), Musuan (Bukidnon), Makaturing (Lanao del Sur).

6. National Symbols

Flora and Fauna

- **National Flower:** Sampaguita (Jasmine sambac).
- **National Animal:** Carabao (symbol of hard work and perseverance).
- **National Bird:** Philippine Eagle (critically endangered, killing it is punishable by law).

Culture and Heritage

- **National Hero:** José Rizal (writer, ophthalmologist, and key figure in the Filipino Propaganda Movement).
- **National Attire:**
 - **Men:** Barong Tagalog (embroidered long-sleeved formal shirt).
 - **Women:** Baro't Saya (traditional blouse and skirt ensemble).

7. Administrative Regions

Luzon

- **Region I:** Ilocos Region
- **Region II:** Cagayan Valley
- **Region III:** Central Luzon
- **Region IV-A:** CALABARZON
- **Region IV-B:** MIMAROPA
- **Region V:** Bicol Region

Visayas

- **Region VI:** Western Visayas
- **Region VII:** Central Visayas
- **Region VIII:** Eastern Visayas

Mindanao

- **Region IX:** Zamboanga Peninsula
- **Region X:** Northern Mindanao
- **Region XI:** Davao Region
- **Region XII:** SOCCSKSARGEN
- **Region XIII:** Caraga
- **BARMM:** Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

Special Regions

- **NCR:** National Capital Region (Metro Manila)
- **CAR:** Cordillera Administrative Region

8. Land and Island Claims

- **The Philippines claims several islands, including:**
 - Spratly Islands
 - Scarborough Shoal
 - Sabah
 - Palmas/Mianguas Island
 - Sangir Islands
 - Orchid Island
 - Marianas and Caroline Islands

Origin and Geography of the Philippines

1. Origin of the Philippines

Mythological Explanations

- One legend states that a **giant** carrying a rock got tired and threw it down, forming the islands.
- Another legend tells of a quarrel between the **sea and the sky**, where the sky threw rocks into the sea, creating the islands.

Scientific Theories

- Some believe the Philippines was part of a prehistoric continent called **Mu or Lemuria**, which sank due to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.
- The **Sunda Shelf Theory** states that the Philippines was connected to Asia via land bridges, which submerged when the Ice Age ended (**25,000 years ago**).

Religious Beliefs

- **Christian belief:** God created the landforms as part of creation.
- The **Great Flood (Noah's Time)** caused continents and islands to emerge.
- Other indigenous religions explain the land's formation through legends.

2. Location and Importance

- Lies in **Southeast Asia**, just above the Equator (latitudes **4°23'N** and longitudes **116°E – 127°E**).
- **Boundaries:**
 - **East:** Pacific Ocean
 - **West:** South China Sea
 - **North:** Bashi Channel
 - **South:** Sulu and Celebes Seas
- **Key Islands:**
 - **Northernmost:** Y'ami Island (240 km from Taiwan)

- **Southernmost:** Saluag Island (24 km from Sabah, Borneo)

Strategic Importance

- Only **Christian nation** in a predominantly non-Christian Asian region.
- A **melting pot of cultures** with influences from Asia, Europe, and America.
- Acts as a **bridge** between the East and West.
- A **crossroads** of Asian air and sea routes.
- One of the few **democratic nations** in Asia.

3. Area and Major Islands

- **Total Land Area:** 300,780 sq. km.
- **Main Islands:**
 - **Luzon** – 104,687 sq. km.
 - **Mindanao** – 94,630 sq. km.
 - **Samar** – 13,080 sq. km.
 - **Negros** – 12,709 sq. km.
 - **Palawan** – 11,785 sq. km.
 - **Panay** – 11,515 sq. km.
 - **Mindoro** – 9,735 sq. km.
 - **Leyte** – 7,214 sq. km.
 - **Cebu** – 4,422 sq. km.
 - **Bohol** – 3,864 sq. km.
 - **Masbate** – 3,269 sq. km.

4. Topography

- **Inverted Y-shaped archipelago** with islands, coral reefs, rivers, lakes, bays, mountains, valleys, and volcanoes.
- **Coastline:** 34,600 km (longest discontinuous coastline in the world).

- **Harbors:** 61 natural harbors (Manila Bay is the finest in Asia).
- **Notable Landforms:**
 - **San Juanico Strait:** Narrowest in the world, between Samar and Leyte.
 - **Bataan and Bicol Peninsulas (Luzon); Zamboanga and Davao Peninsulas (Mindanao).**
 - **Philippine Deep:** 37,732 ft below sea level (deepest in the world).

5. Major Mountain Ranges & Peaks

- **Sierra Madre:** Longest range, from Cagayan to Laguna.
- **Highest Peaks:**
 - **Mt. Apo** (Mindanao) – 9,690 ft (highest in the country).
 - **Mt. Pulag** (Luzon) – 9,587 ft (second highest, dormant volcano).
 - **Other notable mountains:** Mt. Banahaw, Mt. Bulusan, Mt. Halcon, Mt. Kanlaon, Mt. Matutum.

6. Plains, Valleys, and Plateaus

Lowlands

- **Central Plain (Luzon)** – “Rice Granary of the Philippines.”
- **Cagayan Valley (Luzon)** – Largest valley, major tobacco producer.
- **Agusan & Cotabato Valleys (Mindanao)** – Fertile agricultural lands.

Plateaus

- **Benguet Plateau** (Luzon) – Location of **Baguio**, the summer capital.
- **Bukidnon Plateau** (Mindanao) – Known for **pineapple plantations**.

7. Rivers and Lakes

- **132 rivers** traverse the country.
- **Longest River:** Cagayan River (Luzon).

- **Largest by volume:** Rio Grande (Mindanao).
- **Most historic:** Pasig River (Manila, now heavily polluted).
- **Largest Lake:** Laguna de Bay (source of inspiration for José Rizal).
- **Hot Springs:** Found in **Los Baños, Bulacan, Albay, and Ilocos Sur**.

8. Waterfalls

- **Maria Cristina Falls** (98m, Iligan) – Major hydroelectric power source.
- **Hinulugang Taktak** (Rizal) – Protected National Park.
- **Tamaraw Falls** (Mindoro) – 128.3m, famous for its twin merging falls.

9. Climate

- **Tropical Monsoonal Climate.**
- **Temperature Range:** 21°C – 32°C (70°F – 90°F).
- **Seasons:**
 - **Dry Season:** December – May (Hottest: May).
 - **Wet Season:** June – November (Coldest: January).
- **Humidity:** 71% – 85%.
- **Rainiest Months:** July – October.

10. Name of the Philippines

- **Ma-yi** – Early Chinese traders called it “Land of Gold.”
- **Maniolas** – Greek geographer Claudius Ptolemy’s name for the islands.
- **Archipelago of St. Lazarus** – Name given by **Magellan (1521)**.
- **Felipinas (1543)** – Named by **Ruy López de Villalobos** after Spanish Crown Prince Felipe (later King Philip II).
- **Pearl of the Orient Sea** – Popularized by **José Rizal**, originally by **Fr. Juan J. Delgado (1751)**.

11. Early History of the Philippines

Stone Age (c. 50,000 – 500 BC)

- First use of **stone tools and ceramics**.
- **Negritos (Aetas)** migrated from **Central Asia** via land bridges (**30,000 BC**).
- Earliest known human remains:
 - **Callao Man (67,000 BC)** – Oldest human remains in the Philippines.
 - **Tabon Man (22,000 BC)** – Discovered in Palawan (1962).

12. Migration Theories

Beyer's Wave Migration Theory

- **Dawn Man** (cavemen) – Similar to Java & Peking Man.
- **Negritos** (25,000 – 30,000 years ago).
- **Indonesians** (5,000 – 6,000 years ago, first sea migrants).
- **Malays** – Brought Iron Age culture, dominant cultural group.

Jocano's Local Origins Theory

- Claims Filipinos, Indonesians, and Malays **evolved locally** from ancient Southeast Asians.
- Denies Filipino culture as solely **Malayan** in origin.

Peopling of the Philippines

1. Introduction

- The peopling of the Philippines is part of the **prehistoric human migration** in Southeast Asia.
- Archaeological and linguistic studies reveal **connections between Southeast Asian cultures**.
- Various hypotheses attempt to explain how early humans populated the Philippine archipelago.

2. Linguistic Hypotheses

Two main hypotheses explain the migration of Austronesian speakers:

Northern Movement Hypothesis

- Proposed by **Richard Shutler (1975)**.
- Suggests that **Proto-Austronesians** originated from **South China** and migrated to **Taiwan/Formosa** around **9,000 B.C.**.
- Some groups moved from Taiwan to **Batanes and Northern Luzon** between **5,500 – 7,000 B.C.**.

Southern Movement Hypothesis

- Suggests Proto-Austronesians moved from **South China** to **Indochina, the Malay Peninsula, Borneo, Palawan, and Mindoro**, then further to **Luzon and Taiwan**.
- Dates migration to **2,000 – 3,000 B.C.** (Dyen, 1965; Llamson, 1977).

3. Migration and Major Ethnolinguistic Groups

Northern Philippine Group

- Migrated to **Northern Luzon**.
- Languages include **Ifugao, Kalinga, Isneg, Kankanaey, Ilongot, Ibanag, Pangasinan, Kapampangan, and Dumagat**.
- Some members moved **north to Batanes and Taiwan** around **700 B.C.** (Thomas and Healey).

Central Philippine Group

- Separated around **100 B.C.** (Thomas and Healey, 1962).
- Occupied **Southern Luzon and Visayas**.
- Languages: **Tagalog, Bikol, Cebuano, Hiligaynon, Waray, Butuanon, Tausug, and Mangyan languages**.

Southern Philippine Group

- Arrived in **Mindanao** at different times via **Borneo**.

- Includes two major subgroups:
 - **Samal-Badjao** (Sulu Islands).
 - **Manobo** (largest ethnolinguistic group in Mindanao).
- Other smaller groups: **Mandaya, Mansaka, Bilaan, T'boli, and Subanun.**

4. Early Human Migration and the Sunda Shelf

- **Sunda Shelf:** A prehistoric land bridge connecting Southeast Asia during the **Pleistocene Period (Ice Age, 20,000 years ago)**.
- Facilitated the movement of early humans and animals from **Asia to the Philippines**.
- Two primary migration routes:
 1. **Sunda Shelf Route** – Through **Sumatra and Borneo**.
 2. **Taiwan/Luzon Route** – Through **Formosa, Luzon, and Borneo**.

5. Archaeological Evidence

Tabon Caves (Palawan)

- Excavated by **Robert Fox**.
- Contained **stone tools and human remains** from **22,000 – 28,000 years ago**.
- Shows evidence of early human settlement and resource use.

Niah Cave (Borneo)

- Excavated by **Harrison**.
- Found **Upper Paleolithic human remains** dating back **40,000 years**.
- Suggests similarities between **Tabon Man and Negrito-type humans** (Brothwell, 1960).

6. Post-Pleistocene Period (10,000 – 15,000 B.C.)

- Marked the spread of **horticulturalist Proto-Austronesians** from **South China**.
- **Archaeological evidence** suggests:
 - Austronesians were **swidden cultivators**.
 - Used **cord-impressed reddish pottery** (Chang, 1969).
 - Migration routes: **North via Formosa** → **Luzon** and **South via Borneo** → **Mindanao**.

7. Metal Age and Austronesian Expansion

- **400 B.C.:** Introduction of **bronze, copper, and pottery** from Vietnam (Dongson culture).
- **Iron Age migration** (Malay influence):
 - Brought **rice terracing, weaving, jar burials, and carnelian beads**.
 - Introduced **irrigation techniques** and **pottery-making traditions**.

8. Summary of Findings

- Early humans migrated to the Philippines through **land bridges and sea routes**.
- **Austronesians came in two waves:**
 - **Northward migration** from **South China** → **Taiwan** → **Luzon**.
 - **Southward migration** from **Borneo** → **Mindanao** → **Visayas**.
- **Tabon Man (22,000 – 28,000 years ago)** is one of the earliest known human remains.
- **Negritos** were the earliest settlers, followed by **Austronesian-speaking migrants**.
- **Metal-bearing groups** introduced new technologies and cultural advancements.

Prehistory of Indigenous Peoples (IPs)

1. Early Human Presence

- **Callao Man (67,000 BC)** – Earliest human remains in the Philippines.
- **Tabon Man (22,000 BC)** – Fossilized skull found in Palawan.
- Early humans were **hunter-gatherers** living in caves and using stone tools.

2. Migration and Early Settlers

- **Negritos (c. 30,000 BC)** – First inhabitants; arrived via land bridges.
- **Austronesians (c. 5,000 BC – 500 BC)** – Migrated via boats, introduced farming and metal tools.

3. Lifestyle and Culture

- **Negritos**: Nomadic, small tribes, relied on hunting and foraging.
- **Austronesians**: Developed agriculture (rice, root crops), pottery, and seafaring.
- Practiced **animism** (belief in spirits) and nature-based rituals.

4. Technological Developments

- **Stone Age (50,000 BC – 500 BC)**: Used stone tools for hunting and food preparation.
- **Metal Age (500 BC – 900 AD)**: Introduction of iron tools, weaving, and pottery.
- **Jar Burials**: Early burial practices indicating belief in the afterlife.

5. Indigenous Groups Before Colonization

- **Highland Groups**: Ifugao, Kalinga, Bontoc – Known for rice terraces and warrior culture.
- **Lowland Groups**: Tagalog, Kapampangan, Visayan – Engaged in farming, trading, and fishing.

- **Muslim Groups:** Tausug, Maranao, Maguindanao – Had early sultanates and trade networks.

6. Trade and External Influence

- Early trade with **China, India, and Southeast Asia.**
- Adopted new cultural elements (pottery, goldsmithing, boat-building techniques).

Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA)

Chapter 1: General Provisions

- **Republic Act No. 8371 (1997)** protects the rights of Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs)/Indigenous Peoples (IPs).
- Establishes the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).
- Recognizes IPs' rights to ancestral domains, self-governance, and cultural integrity.

Chapter 2: Definition of Terms

- **Ancestral Domains:** Areas occupied, possessed, and utilized by IPs since time immemorial.
- **Ancestral Lands:** Lands held by ICCs/IPs through inheritance or traditional ownership.
- **Customary Laws:** Traditional laws and practices observed by IPs.
- **Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC):** Requirement for IPs' approval before any project affects their land.
- **Communal Claims:** Collective land claims by an IP community.
- **Native Title:** Recognition of ancestral land ownership based on long-term possession.
- **Sustainable Traditional Resource Rights:** IPs' rights to use and manage natural resources traditionally linked to them.

Chapter 3: Rights to Ancestral Domains

- **Ownership & Management:** IPs own ancestral lands, forests, and resources.
- **Recognition:** CADTs/CALTs certify land ownership.
- **Protection:** IPs cannot be displaced without consent.
- **Right to Develop & Utilize Resources:** IPs have priority over domain resources.
- **Right to Stay in the Territory:** IPs cannot be forcibly removed.
- **Right to Regulate Entry of Migrants:** IPs control settlement in their territories.
- **Right to Resolve Land Conflicts:** Customary laws govern land disputes.

Chapter 4: Right to Self-Governance & Empowerment

- **Indigenous Political Systems:** IPs maintain traditional governance.
- **Justice System:** Customary laws apply within their communities.
- **Mandatory Representation:** IPs must be included in policy-making bodies.
- **Right to Development:** IPs determine their economic, social, and cultural priorities.
- **Right to Form Tribal Barangays:** IP-dominated areas can establish their own barangays.

Chapter 5: Social Justice & Human Rights

- **Equal Protection:** IPs are safeguarded from discrimination.
- **Basic Services:** Right to education, healthcare, employment, and housing.
- **Rights During Armed Conflict:** Protection from forced displacement.
- **Protection Against Exploitation:** No forced labor or coercive recruitment.

Chapter 6: Cultural Integrity

- **Heritage Protection:** IPs preserve cultural sites, traditions, and knowledge.
- **Right to Indigenous Knowledge & Practices:** Control over traditional medicine, crafts, and genetic resources.
- **Protection of Sacred Sites:** Prohibits destruction of cultural and religious areas.
- **Community Intellectual Rights:** Ownership over indigenous technologies and cultural assets.

Chapter 7: National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)

- **Main Agency:** Oversees the implementation of IPRA.
- **Functions:** Issues CADTs/CALTs, enforces IP rights, and ensures government compliance.
- **Powers:** Implements programs, settles disputes, and represents IPs in national and international forums.

Chapter 8: Delineation and Recognition of Ancestral Domains

- **Identification Process:** IPs self-delineate ancestral lands.
- **Legal Recognition:** Government grants official domain titles.
- **Process:** Includes submission of documentary evidence, surveys, and community consultations.

Chapter 9: Jurisdiction & Enforcement of Rights

- **Customary Laws:** Applied in disputes among IPs.
- **NCIP Authority:** Handles conflicts over ancestral domains.
- **Appeals:** IPs can challenge NCIP decisions in the Court of Appeals.
- **Legal Remedies:** IPs may seek redress in higher courts if their rights are violated.

Chapter 10: Ancestral Domains Fund

- **Funding:** Government provides financial support for land protection.
- **Utilization:** Funds used for land delineation, community projects, and legal assistance.
- **Sources:** General Appropriations Act, donations, and other sources.

Chapter 11: Penalties for Violations

- **Illegal Land Use:** Unauthorized land occupation is punishable.
- **Failure to Secure FPIC:** Heavy fines and imprisonment for violations.
- **Exploitation of IP Resources:** Unauthorized extraction of natural resources is penalized.
- **Discrimination & Rights Violations:** Strict penalties for discrimination against IPs.

Chapter 12: Merger of ONCC and OSCC

- **Integration:** ONCC and OSCC merged into NCIP.
- **Consolidation:** Government IP agencies unified for efficiency.
- **Staffing & Reorganization:** Government employees handling IP concerns are reassigned.

Chapter 13: Final Provisions

- **Recognition of Existing Property Rights:** IPRA respects previously granted land rights.
- **Implementing Rules:** NCIP enforces and oversees compliance.
- **Legal Authority:** IPRA takes precedence over conflicting laws.
- **Effectivity:** Law became effective 15 days after publication in the Official Gazette.