

# Clark & Angeles

## Travel Guide 2026

Real itineraries from our trips — with prices, transport details, and local tips.

By Scott & Jenice • DiscoverPhilippines.travel

### What's Inside This Guide

- ✓ Day-by-day itinerary with prices in PHP and USD
- ✓ Best hotels and restaurants (budget to splurge)
- ✓ Getting there, getting around, and money tips
- ✓ Local phrases and cultural etiquette
- ✓ Scott's Pro Tips from 20+ years of travel
- ✓ Jenice's local knowledge from growing up in Mabalacat

Region	Best Time	Daily Budget	Airport	Language
Central Luzon	Nov – May	\$35–\$106 USD	CRK	Kapampangan

# Sample 3-Day Clark Itinerary

## Day 1: Arrive & Settle In

Fly into Clark International Airport (CRK). Skip the taxi touts outside arrivals — open Grab immediately (airport WiFi works). Grab to Angeles: ₱200–350 (~\$3.50–\$6.20 USD). Check into your hotel and rest up.

- Afternoon: Explore Clark Freeport Zone. Wide tree-lined roads, no tricycle traffic, different vibe from Angeles.
- Dinner: Aling Lucing's Sisig — the original sizzling pork masterpiece. ₱150 (~\$2.65 USD). Pilgrimage-level.
- Evening: Stroll Parking Circle on the base. Restaurants, cold beer, relaxed atmosphere.

## Day 2: Food Capital & Family Fun

Pampanga is the culinary capital of the Philippines. Today is about eating your way through it — plus some family-friendly activities on the base.

- Morning: Lola Nor's Meryendahan for bringhe (Pampanga paella) and morcon. Mains ₱180–350.
- Midday: Dinosaurs Island (₱500/~\$8.85 USD) or Clark Zoo. Great for families.
- Lunch: Korean BBQ Row — unlimited samgyeopsal ₱399–599/person. Better value than Manila.
- Afternoon: Pool villa rental — private villas available from ₱3,000–5,000 for the day.
- Dinner: Margarita Station — Filipino-fusion, live music weekends. ₱300–600/person.

## Day 3: Day Trip or Fly Out

Use Clark as a hub. Fly to Cebu (~\$30, 1 hour), drive to Subic Bay (45 min via SCTEX), or head to Manila via the Skyway (2–3 hrs, ~\$10 tolls).

- Option A: Clark → Cebu (1hr flight, ~\$30). Start your island-hopping from there.
- Option B: Drive to Subic Bay via SCTEX (45 min). Jungle trails, duty-free shopping, different vibe.
- Option C: Manila via Skyway. The highway-over-the-city cuts the drive from 4 hours to 2–3.

## Where to Stay

### The Mansion Hotel (Upscale)

₱3,500–5,500/night (~\$62–\$97 USD)

Inside the Freeport Zone. Good pool, solid restaurant. Our top pick for a proper hotel experience.

### La Grande Residence (Mid-Range)

₱2,000–3,500/night (~\$35–\$62 USD)

Near Mabalacat. Clean, modern rooms, gym, restaurant better than it needs to be. Our home base for family visits.

### Clarkton Hotel (Business)

₱2,200–3,800/night (~\$39–\$67 USD)

Inside the Freeport Zone. Nothing fancy but reliable, clean, and well-located.

## Where to Eat

Restaurant	Price	What to Know
Aling Lucing's Sisig	₱150 (~\$2.65)	The original sisig. Sizzling pork face and ears on a hot plate. Pilgrimage-level.
Lola Nor's Meryendahan	₱180–350	Jenice's family pick. Order the bringhe and morcon.
Margarita Station	₱300–600/person	Local institution. Filipino-fusion, cold beer, live music weekends.
Korean BBQ Row	₱399–599/person	Unlimited samgyeopsal. Better value than Manila. Angeles has a huge Korean community.
Parking Circle	Varies	On the base. Great evening spot with a surprising range of options.

## Getting Around

Grab Car (Best Option) — ₱150–400 (~\$2.65–\$7.10)

Air-conditioned, fixed price, tracked route. Our default for everything.

Car Rental — ~₱1,700/day (~\$30 USD)

What we actually do for extended stays. Local agency, insurance included. Great for families.

Tricycle — ₱30–100

The original Filipino ride. Great for short hops. Expect traffic jams during peak hours.

Taxi — Don't

50 combined years of travel, zero functional meters. Use Grab.

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## Scott's Pro Tips

- > Airport arrival: Do NOT take taxis outside arrivals. Open Grab immediately — airport WiFi works. Grab to Angeles: ₱200–350. Taxis will quote ₱500–800 for the same trip.
  - > SIM card: Get Globe or Smart at the airport. ₱300 (~\$5.30). Essential for Grab and navigation.
  - > Money: ATMs widely available in Angeles and Clark. Much better than remote islands. Bring a debit card with no foreign transaction fees.
  - > Safety: Clark and Angeles are generally very safe. Angeles City can feel seedy at night — stick to main roads. Nearest hospital: The Medical City Clark.
  - > Best time: Dry season Nov–May. Sweet spot is Dec–Feb (warm, not brutal). Mar–May gets very hot.
  - > Packing: Mosquito repellent, reef-safe sunscreen, sturdy flip-flops, rain jacket if visiting Jun–Oct.
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## Jenice's Local Knowledge

- > Holiday lechon: Order from a Pampanga supplier — better quality than Manila. Whole pig: ₱8,000–12,000 (~\$142–\$212). Worth every peso for family gatherings.
- > Korean food scene: Angeles has one of the biggest Korean communities outside Korea and Manila. Don't sleep on the samgyeopsal spots.
- > Language: Local language is Kapampangan. "Oy" is casual for getting attention. Use "po" and "opo" for respect with elders.
- > Base shortcut: When tricycle traffic is gridlocked, jump onto the Clark Freeport Zone base — they don't allow trikes, so it's just cars. Zip right through.

# Plan Your Clark Trip

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*This guide was created by Scott & Jenice for DiscoverPhilippines.travel*

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