

# SUICON INTERNATIONAL 2020

## GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS



**10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

**November 22, 2020 (Sunday)**

**Tea House and Fishing Village of the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center  
Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines**

## Welcome Message

Dear International Participants,

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to sincerely thank you for joining us for this year's SuiCon International 2020! We are extremely excited for all the things we have in store for you.

SuiCon originally started in 2013 as Suicon Philippines. Inspired by the efforts of Suikoden Day and the Suikoden Revival Movement, Suicon was envisioned as a simple get-together among Suikoden fans to geek out and talk about a series so dear to our hearts. What started off with a small group of about 10 people in 2013, it eventually grew to a group of nearly 50 participants in 2016. Now, after a 4-year hiatus, we are now gearing up for our biggest and best event yet: SuiCon International! This is made possible by the tireless efforts of the people from the Hai Yo Master Chef group and through the generosity of our main sponsors KimiKon and Suikoden Day.

This year is quite commemorative, as it marks the 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Suikoden series. As such, we want to make this an event that you will never forget. We have a lot of amazing things planned for this year's event. Here's a little sneak peak: a Luca Blight inspired game; a Suikoden quiz bee; Chinchirorin; and perhaps even a delicious bowl of Nanami Ice.

We know that coming to the Philippines to attend a convention is a large undertaking. To help make it easier for you, we have made this short guide to assist you on your trip here. We are proud to welcome you to our country, and will do our utmost best to help make this a pleasant experience for you.

It's time to gather once again, Stars of Destiny! Join us for SuiCon International 2020!

Yours Truly,



SuiCon International 2020 Organizers

## The Location

The Philippines is an island nation in Southeast Asia, situated in the western Pacific Ocean. It consists of 7,641 islands and is home to a wide array of ethnic groups. The official languages are Filipino and English. For this reason, communicating and getting around will not be a problem. Metro Manila is its capital city, and in actuality, is a combination of several cities put together. As a rising economic power in Southeast Asia, the Philippines is home to several international companies and brands. If you are looking for a specific chain such as Starbucks, McDonald's, UNIQLO, or Gap, just look to the nearest mall and you will find it.

Some random facts about the Philippines:

- We have a population of more than 100,000,000 people. That's A LOT of Stars of Destiny.
- The three main islands are Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Metro Manila is situated in Luzon, the northernmost main island.
- Listening to the Filipino language, you will hear a lot of Spanish, Malay, and English words mixed together. We hear Sindarin is quite similar.
- Filipinos love two things: Jollibee and Karaoke.
- Suikoden has a cult following in the Philippines. This is why you belong! You will be among your fellow SoDs.

Find out more about the Philippines and Metro Manila by checking out:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippines>

[https://wikitravel.org/en/Metro\\_Manila](https://wikitravel.org/en/Metro_Manila)



### TAKE NOTE!

Wall outlets in the Philippines are Type C (CEE 7/16 Europlug) and Type A (NEMA 1-15) and supply electricity at 220 volts AC / 60 Hz frequency. Yes. You need to know this.

## Climate

The Philippines, just like the rest of Southeast Asia, enjoys a tropical climate. There are two main seasons: the dry season (November to March) and the wet season (April to October). In November, expect hot and humid weather in Metro Manila, with an average temperature of 26-31°C. For this reason, please come prepared with hats, sunblock, and an umbrella. Keep yourself well-hydrated throughout the day and try to stay in cool, shady areas when possible.

## Currency



The national currency is the Philippine Peso (₱, PHP). As of February 2020, ₱50 is equivalent to around \$1 (USD). Currency can be exchanged at most banks, malls, and licensed money changers. It is highly advised to change money at secure locations such as banks and malls. Most ATMs accept international cards for a fee. Foreign currencies are not accepted in most shops. The Philippines is a cash-based society, but major department stores and outlets usually accept credit cards.

The cost of living in the Philippines is generally inexpensive and affordable. Before arriving in the Philippines, it is advised to change at least ₱2,500 (\$50) to cover immediate needs. See below for a quick guide of usual costs:

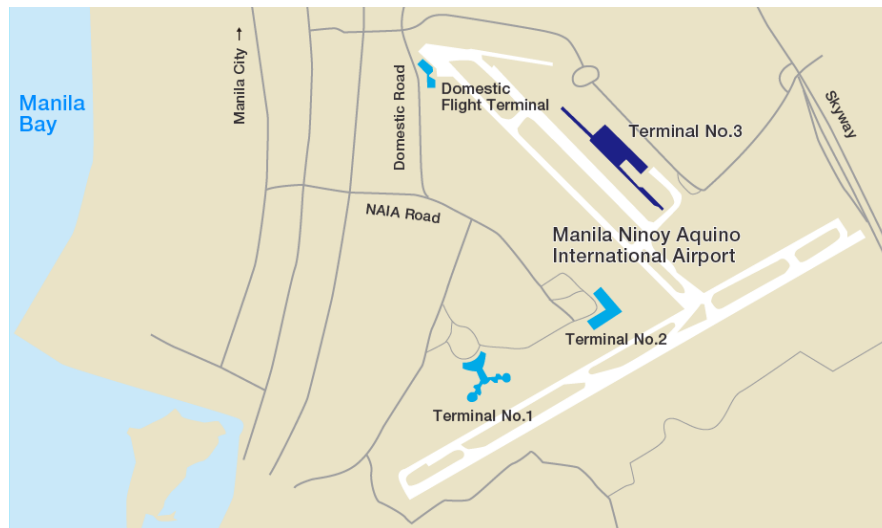
Accommodation (Hotels) for 2 people in one room	₱2,000-₱4,000
Taxi (Grab)	₱150-₱400
Meal (Fast Food Restaurants & Food Courts)	₱50-₱150
Meal (Restaurant)	₱100-₱300

## Before Arriving & Getting In

All International participants are responsible for securing their travel arrangements. However, the Suicon organizers would be more than happy to assist you in looking for the best flight ticket to suite your needs. Participants are responsible in ensuring that they are in possession of a passport with at least six (6) months validity prior to the travel date. Most Southeast Asian countries do not need a

visa to enter the Philippines for short visits. **PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING WHETHER OR NOT YOU NEED A VISA.** Participants are also responsible for their own travel/health insurance.

All International flights arrive through the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA). NAIA consists of 4 main terminals, which accommodate the following:



Terminal 1 — All international carriers except All Nippon Airways, Cathay Pacific, KLM, Emirates, Singapore airlines, Delta, and Air Asia International flights.

Terminal 2 — All Philippine Airlines flights

Terminal 3 — All PAL Express, Cebu Pacific, All Nippon Airways, Cathay Pacific, KLM, Emirates, Singapore airlines, Delta and all Air Asia International flights.

Terminal 4 — Air Asia domestic flights and Interisland Airways flights.

#### **FOR ROYALTY PASSPORT HOLDERS:**

Once you have purchased a flight ticket, please inform us immediately of your flight details (Point of Departure, Arrival Terminal, Flight No. and times, etc). **Upon arrival, international participants will be met by SuiCon staff and brought to the designated hotel accommodation. This option will strictly be available ONLY to those arriving in Manila from November 20 (Friday) to November 21 (Saturday).** Please note that transportation will be done in groups, so there is a possibility that you may have to wait for other groups of international participants to arrive. If you wish to arrange for your own transportation, please do inform us in advance.

#### **FOR THOSE COMING INDEPENDENTLY:**

If you are an international participant but coming without a royalty passport, we highly suggest using the Grab application (see the Transportation section) to get to your hotel.

## Accommodation



### FOR ROYALTY PASSPORT HOLDERS:

International participants will be brought to one central accommodation hub, Go Hotels North Edsa-Quezon City AKA “SuiCon Inn”. Go Hotels is a popular budget hotel chain in the Philippines. Go Hotels North Edsa-Quezon City was specifically chosen for its close proximity to the SuiCon International event venue. It is a quick 10-minute walk to prime malls and restaurants. **International Participants will be accommodated from November 20 (Friday) to November 23 (Monday) on a twin-sharing room basis (2 people in one room).** If you are coming with a companion and would prefer a room with a single queen-sized bed, please inform us in advance; we will try our best to secure a room for you. For twin-sharing rooms, we will arrange that your roommate will be of the same sex as you (unless you specifically request to be together with a friend). Check-in time is at 2:00 PM until 11:59 PM. Check out time is on or before 12:00 Noon. It is possible to extend your stay by enquiring at the front desk at least 24 hours in advance (subject to availability). Should you decide to seek out your own accommodation independently, please inform us as soon as possible.

For more information on the hotel, please check out:

<https://www.gohotels.ph/go-hotels/branch/north-edsa-quezon-city>

### FOR THOSE COMING INDEPENDENTLY:

There are many options for accommodation with varying price ranges. However, we suggest looking for a place closer to the venue as traffic and transportation is a major factor to consider. If you are coming independently, we suggest booking a hotel somewhere close to UP Diliman or anywhere near SM North Edsa. SuiCon staff would also be happy to help you look for a suitable accommodation.



## Meals

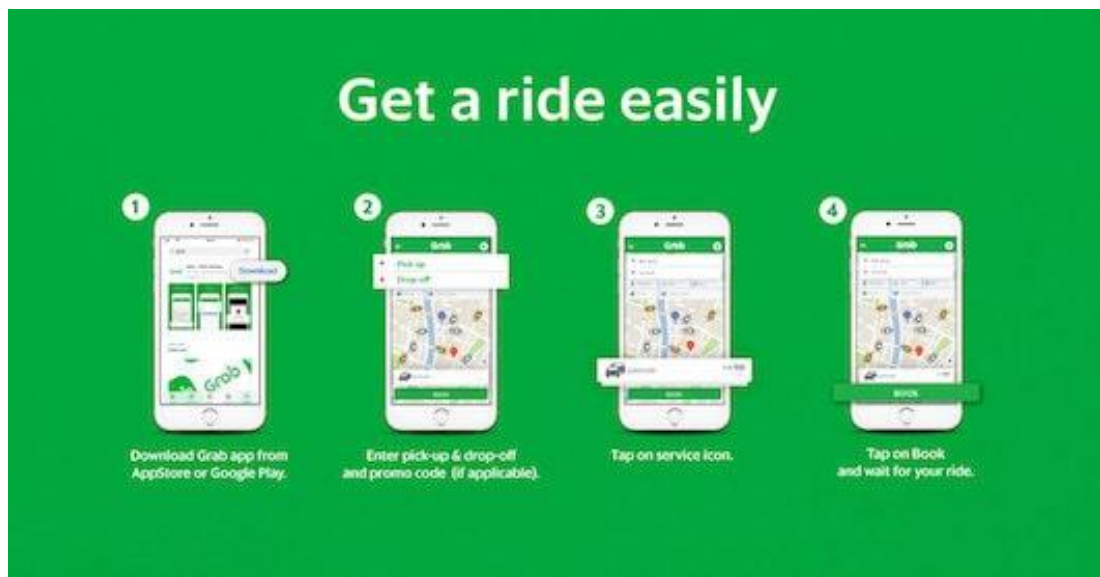
Filipino food is largely influenced by our Asian neighbors, coupled together with a dash of Spanish and American cuisine. Some famous dishes you might hear of are lechon, sisig, sinigang, and halo-halo. Still, it is very easy to find cuisine from other parts of the world (Western, Japanese, Korean, etc.). Meals during your stay in the Philippines must be covered by the participants. **However, International ticket-tier participants will be provided with meals during the Suicon event proper. All meals will be halal.** Please inform us of any special dietary restrictions (halal, vegetarian, vegan, etc.) in advance. Suikoden-inspired meals and snacks will also be available for purchase during the event proper. The menu will be announced at a later date.

## Local Transportation



### GRAB APPLICATION

Don't forget to download this application! As long as you have access to internet, you can use this to get around. It's almost as good as having a blinking mirror!



Public transportation (bus, train, jeepney) in Metro Manila is generally cheap. However, traffic is quite bad. Be prepared for long waiting times in traffic. We do not recommend public transportation or general taxi services, as they are unreliable and there is a chance you may be swindled. For your safety and convenience, we request that you download and use the Grab application on your phone.

Grab offers ride-hailing transportation services (similar to Uber). Rates would depend on where you are going and the time of day. During the rush hour from 8 to 10 AM and 4 to 6 PM, it may be harder and more expensive to book a Grab. While it is a slightly costlier option compared to public transportation, Grab is safe and comfortable.

### **Safety & Security**

Contrary to popular misconception, the Philippines can be a safe place as long as you use your street-smarts. Locals are usually friendly and warm, and will be more than willing to help you if you are in a difficult situation. The most common crime committed to travelers would be theft and pickpocketing. All things considered, here are some tips to help you keep safe and healthy while you are here:

1. Use your street-smarts! Be alert and aware of your surroundings at all times.
2. Don't be afraid to say no. If you find yourself in a situation where you find that someone is making you feel uncomfortable, say no and turn away.
3. Secure your belongings. Make sure your important items are kept somewhere safe, and that you use electronics and gadgets in secure locations.
4. For food safety concerns, we suggest that you eat at well-established restaurants or food courts in malls and the like.
5. **Tap water in the Philippines is NOT DRINKABLE. For this reason, please buy bottled water at supermarkets or convenience stores.**
6. Try to avoid public transportation, and use Grab instead. Once you are picked up by a Grab driver, there is a button that allows you to send information (driver's name, vehicle registration no. etc) through text to someone. Please send this information to us or someone you trust.
7. We would like to recommend that we implement a buddy system. Please make sure that you have a companion with you at all times (you will have a lot to choose from, as you will be meeting other Suikofans from other countries)!

**All personal valuables you bring to the event are your responsibility.** Personal security of the participants outside the actual event, as indicated in the schedule, is the responsibility of the participant.



## The Event



Suicon International 2020 is scheduled to happen on November 22, 2020 (Sunday) from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines. **For international participants, we will arrange for transportation from the hotel to the event venue itself.** The exact venue - the Fishing Village and Tea House – was specifically chosen to fit the aesthetic of a Suikoden game. Imagine Kuskus or Radat. Think of Lakewest, Duck Village...some place tranquil, quiet and peaceful. This will be our headquarters for the day. This is where our Stars of Destiny will gather. The unique setup of the venue also allows for unique events, games, and booths. Be prepared!

**The event is an outdoor event, so please be sure to come prepared for the warm and humid weather.** Sunblock, a hat/umbrella, a bottle of water, and maybe one of those mini portable fans may come as a lifesaver! The huts in the fishing village and the tea house will offer enough cool shade, so do not worry! **Please come in comfortable attire.** Games will require you to run and move around quite a lot, and they can get pretty physical!

**The event will also host a variety of booths and “shops”. To be able to purchase things at these shops, you must exchange your Philippine Peso to Suikoden Potch.** Each currency will be exchanged for its exact equivalent (Ex. ₱100 is equivalent to 100 Potch). Potch will come in 1, 5, 20, 50, and 100 Potch denominations. Currently, we plan on selling mostly fan-made merchandise and a limited number of official Japan-released merchandise. Also, prizes will be given to game winners!

### **SCHEDULED GAMES AND EVENTS (subject to change):**

As Stylish as a Narcissist Cosplay Contest

Uhm, Actually... Trivia Contest

Luca Blight Blitz

Rope Climbing Game

Trading Post Mini-Game

The Next Ivanov Fanart Contest

The Nanami Ice Challenge

Tenkai Olympics

The Search for Sindar

Dandy Richmond's Investigations

## TICKET TIERS

While all ticket types will be available to participants, the **ROYALTY PASSPORT is the ticket tier specifically designed for international participants**. This ticket tier is all-inclusive and meets all the needs of international participants coming to the Philippines. Therefore, we highly suggest this option! Tickets will be available for pre-purchase on our website (details to be announced in March) for both local and international participants. A limited number of tickets will be sold on-site, subject to availability.

<b>CITIZEN PASS</b> <b>Price: 150.00 PHP</b> Includes: Access Badge & Lanyard Poster	<b>MERCENARY PASS</b> <b>Price: 250.00 PHP</b> Includes: Access Badge & Lanyard Loot Bag (Poster, Suicon Pins, and a Bandana)
<b>ROYALTY PASSPORT (International Delegation Pass)</b> <b>Price: 6,500.00 PHP</b> Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– 4 days, 3 nights accommodation at “Suicon Inn” (Go Hotels North Edsa) from November 20 (Friday) to November 23 (Monday)</li><li>– Airport Greeting at Ninoy Aquino International Airport + Transportation to Hotel<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Transportation to the Suicon Venue on November 22 (Sunday)</li><li>– 1 Meal (with drink) voucher to be used at Suicon International 2020</li><li>– 2 Snack (with drink) vouchers to be used at Suicon International 2020<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Badge &amp; Lanyard</li></ul></li><li>– 1 Loot Bag (Poster, Suicon Pins, and a Bandana)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– 1 Rose Brooch</li><li>– 1 SuiCon Shirt</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>	

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Information (such as accommodations, transportation arrangements, etc.) written on this guide is subject to change. Should a significant change in plans occur, participants will be notified in advance through e-mail.**

## OTHER STUFF:

We know that coming to another country to attend an event is a big thing in itself. That said, we would like to make this a truly memorable experience for you. We will try our best to accommodate all your needs – anything from exchanging money, planning a group tour on the Saturday before the event, planning other smaller activities at the hotel, etc. Any of your suggestions would also be very much appreciated! Please feel free to e-mail us at [suiconinternational@gmail.com](mailto:suiconinternational@gmail.com).

### Useful Filipino Phrases

Hello. How are you?

Good morning!

Good afternoon!

Good evening!

Thank you!

Goodbye.

How much is it?

Help me!

Where is \_\_\_\_\_?

Die, pig!

Please accept the job.

Star of Destiny

Kamusta?

Magandang Umaga!

Magandang Tanghali!

Magandang Gabi!

Salamat!

Paalam.

Magkano ito?

Tulungan mo ako!

Saan ang \_\_\_\_\_?

Mamatay kang baboy ka!

Tanggapin niyo na po ang trabaho.

Bituin ng tadhana

### Contact Information

On the occasion that you need some assistance, please feel free to add any of these members to your party. Each of these characters have their own special skills & abilities, and will definitely be a worthy ally in case you are facing a group of Bon Bons.

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**Facebook: @suiconinternational**

**Instagram: @suiconinternational**

**Twitter: @SuiconIntl**

**Want to do something more?**  
**Join us as a volunteer!**  
**A ton of perks, fun, & friendship await.**  
**Contact us and ask us how!**  
**Email [suiconinternational@gmail.com](mailto:suiconinternational@gmail.com).**

