

Philippines

Continent: Asia

Languages Spoken: Filipino, English

Population: 113,900,000

Currency: Philippine Peso (PHP)

Area: 300,000

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Chocolate Hills', 'writeup': 'A unique geological formation of over 1,200 symmetrical hills that turn brown in the dry season, located in Bohol.'}
- {'name': 'Rizal Park', 'writeup': 'A historical urban park in Manila dedicated to national hero José Rizal.'}
- {'name': 'Taal Volcano', 'writeup': "One of the world's smallest active volcanoes, located on an island in Taal Lake."}
- {'name': 'Banaue Rice Terraces', 'writeup': "Ancient terraces carved into the mountains of Ifugao, often called the 'Eighth Wonder of the World.'"}
- {'name': 'Intramuros', 'writeup': 'A historic walled city in Manila dating back to Spanish colonial times.'}

Head of State / Government:

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Sinulog Festival', 'writeup': 'An annual cultural and religious festival in Cebu honoring the Santo Niño with street dancing and parades.'}
- {'name': 'Ati-Atihan Festival', 'writeup': 'A week-long festival in Kalibo featuring tribal dances and music to honor the Santo Niño.'}
- {'name': 'Pahiyas Festival', 'writeup': 'A colorful harvest festival in Lucban where houses are decorated with agricultural produce.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Filipino cuisine is characterized by bold flavors and a mix of indigenous, Spanish, Chinese, and American influences, featuring dishes like adobo, sinigang, lechon, and pancit.

Brief History:

The Philippines was colonized by Spain for over 300 years, followed by American rule after the Spanish-American War. It gained independence in 1946 and has since developed as a democratic republic with a diverse cultural heritage.

Important People:

- José Rizal - National hero and reformist
- Andrés Bonifacio - Revolutionary leader
- Corazon Aquino - First female president

- Ferdinand Marcos - Former president and dictator

- Lea Salonga - Renowned singer and actress

Current Conflicts:

Ongoing territorial disputes in the South China Sea and internal conflicts with insurgent groups such as the New People's Army and Islamist militants.

Youtube Links:

- Philippines Travel Guide - Top Things to Do & See

- History of the Philippines in 10 Minutes

- Filipino Food Tour: Must-Try Dishes

- Cultural Festivals of the Philippines

- Understanding the South China Sea Dispute