Philippines

One Country - 7,640+ Islands!

With 115,831 sq mi of land area, the Philippines is smaller than California but consists of about 7,640 islands. It is situated in the Western Pacific Ocean and is part of Southeast Asia. The Philippines also has the 5th longest discontinuous coastline in the world with over 22,000 miles.

People

- **Homo Luzonensis**, or “Callao man,” is an ancient species of human (possibly a pygmy) that was discovered in 2007 in Callao Cave in Luzon, Philippines. Its age dated back about 67,000 years old.
- Official Philippine Census shows there are 108.1 million people in the Philippines (13th in the world)

![Darren Criss | Bruno Mars | Manny Pacquiao | Lea Salonga | H.E.R.](image)

Culture & Fun Facts

- The Philippines has a wide range of ethnic groups, all of whom speak about 111 different dialects.
- Tagalog and English are the official languages of the Philippines.
- The Philippines is the only predominantly Christian (89%) country in Asia
- The Philippines has a volcano within a lake and has a lake within that volcano (Taal)
- One of its islands has the most volcanoes per square km in the world
- Of the Top 10 largest malls in the world, 3 are in Manila

History

At a glance:
- c.40,000 BC — Migrants cross land bridge from Asian mainland and settle in the archipelago.
- Late 14th Century — Muslim clergy start to bring Islam to the Philippines from Indonesia and Malaya.
- 1521 — Portuguese Explorer Ferdinand Magellan lands on Cebu and claims the region for Spain. Lapu Lapu (Rajah Cilapulapu), in defending his island of Mactan, slays Magellan.
- 1543 — Next Spanish expedition led by Ruy de Villalobos lands in Mindanao. He names the archipelago “Filipinas,” after Crown Prince Felipe II. Spanish introduces Christianity.
- 1898 — The United States defeats Spain in war. Treaty between the United States and Spain grants the US authority over the Philippines.
- 1944 — MacArthur and Osmeña land in Leyte and begin the Allied effort to retake the archipelago.
- 1946 — On July 4, the Philippines is granted independence.

Filipinos in the US and TN

- Filipinos are the second largest Asian-American group in the United States, 2nd only to Chinese.
- TN has a small population of Filipinos with about 8,000.

Food

Philippine cuisine is not only rich in its bold flavors but also in history and culture that has evolved throughout the centuries from its Austronesian origins to a mixed cuisine of Malay, Spanish, Chinese, and American influences.