



**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
**EMBAJADA DE LA REPUBLICA DE FILIPINAS**  
**MADRID**

**PUBLIC ADVISORY # 21**

**Q&A On Travel To and From the Philippines**  
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**1. I am an overseas Filipino in Spain and I wish to return to the Philippines. How can I arrange for my flight home?**

To date, major airlines such as KLM, Philippine Airlines, Turkish Airlines, Etihad, Emirates and Qatar Airways have already announced the availability of commercial flights to and from Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA):

Among these airlines, it has been reported that flights depart daily from the Middle East (Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Qatar) to Manila while Philippine Airlines is given a weekly slot every Thursday to Manila via London.

Travel to the Philippines is possible via Spain's major international airports, which are Madrid-Barajas Airport and Josep Tarradellas Barcelona-El Prat Airport. International flights are also available in Malaga and Palma de Mallorca and Gran Canaria.

Questions on booking confirmation will need to be discussed with the airline you are travelling with. It is thus important to check with the websites of your airline on updates on flight connections and their prices.

**2. What is the situation about international commercial flights that are arriving in the Philippines?**

Commercial international flight to the Philippines is still restricted and priority is given to chartered repatriation flights / cargo / air ambulance / emergency flights. Airlines are given limited slots for entering the country and every inbound flight will need pre-approval by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (as noted in the Embassy's Public Advisory #16). This will affect the decision of airlines when scheduling flights to the Philippines.

NAIA has released details on domestic and international flight cancellations as the airport continues to limit passenger arrivals. These cancellations may be accessed at <https://mnlairport.ph/flights/cancellations>. NAIA also has a list of all airlines that fly to and out of NCR or Metro Manila and may be accessed at <https://mnlairport.ph/airlines>.

**3. As a returning overseas Filipino, what should I be aware of?**

You will get tested. All passengers arriving in the Philippines shall be subjected to health evaluation and thermal scanning/medical assessment upon arrival. Passengers will be subjected to the RT-PCR (swab test) and must await results in a hotel quarantine facility.

All overseas Filipinos (non-OFWs) and foreign nationals will shoulder the cost of their own food and accommodation and will be staying in a DOH-approved or OWWA-designated quarantine facility/hotel where they will strictly observe health protocols. Returning OFWs will have their

quarantine accommodations shouldered by OWWA for land-based workers, and by the local manning agency and or MARINA for sea-based OFWs.

Those that will be advised to do mandatory quarantine will need to stay in isolation for 14 days. You will only know if you will be doing mandatory quarantine based on the results of the COVID-19 test. Those who have completed the prescribed quarantine will be provided a medical certificate as proof they have been discharged from their accommodation. They may still be subject to further health/quarantine protocols set by the DOH and local government units of their residence.

#### **4. Who can so far enter the Philippines?**

Aside from Filipino nationals with valid travel documents, only the following may enter the Philippines:

- Accredited Foreign Government and International Organization officials and their dependents;
- Foreign spouses and children, and children of Filipino nationals;
- Foreign airline crew;
- Seafarers with valid 9(c) visas.

Beginning 01 August 2020, foreign nationals with long-term visas (specifically immigrant visas under Section 13 of CA613; RA 7919 and EO 324, including native-born foreign nationals) shall be allowed entry in the Philippines subject to the following conditions:

- They must have a valid visas at the time of entry, and
- They must pre-book with an accredited quarantine facility and with a COVID-19 testing provider.

#### **5. As a Filipino holding a Spanish residency card, what should I be aware of when returning to Spain?**

Filipinos who hold a Spanish residence card (temporary residence and /or work permits, study permits, student mobility, non-work related internship or volunteer services), whose validity expired during the state of alarm in Spain (effective March 15) or 90 calendar days prior to that, has been extended by up to six months from June 21. The validity of the residence card of a family member of an EU citizen, as well as that of a foreigner's identification card, is extended automatically from its expiration date, as well as for the same period of six (6) months after the end of the state of alarm.

Foreigners who may be abroad shall be able to enter Spain by presenting a valid travel document and the expired residence card of a family member of an EU citizen, or the foreigner's expired identification card.

Prior to arrival in Spain, travelers are required to fill up a health form for contract tracing.

#### **6. I have intentions of coming home within the second half of 2020. Will conditions improve by then where I would not have to undergo quarantine?**



It is difficult to set concrete expectations for the near future. As reported in social media, there are still thousands of Filipinos, mainly OFWs, that are still expected to return to the Philippines. For as long as testing and quarantine on travelers are still imposed due to COVID-19 conditions, it is further advised that tourist travel, and unnecessary travel, to the Philippines be deferred for the time being.

**7. What should Spanish nationals and other foreigners consider when they set plans to travel to the Philippines?**

There are different types of community quarantine protocols strictly implemented in the country that restricts movement of individuals/large group of people in the country.

For this purpose, travel to the Philippines for leisure purposes is still not allowed. The Philippine government's COVID-19 task force is constantly reviewing conditions on the entry of foreigners to the country.

**8. I am a Filipino national with a valid Schengen visa and wish to travel to Spain for tourist or business purposes. Also, how can I apply for a visa for Spain?**

If you are a non-resident foreign citizen, you are not allowed to enter Spain at the moment even if you have a Schengen visa. For greater accuracy of travel information, it is best to consult with the airline instead of a travel agent. For visa-related matters, the Spanish Consulate in Manila will be in a better position to answer your question.

**9. Can you provide website references on travel concerns?**

For global COVID-19 airport status, including status update on select PH airports:

International Civil Aviation Organization  
[www.icao.int/safety/Pages/COVID-19-Airport-Status.aspx](http://www.icao.int/safety/Pages/COVID-19-Airport-Status.aspx)

For flight schedules and notices in Spain and the Philippines:

Aeropuerto Josep Tarradellas Barcelona-El Prat  
[www.aena.es](http://www.aena.es)  
Madrid Barajas International Airport  
[www.aeropuertomadrid-barajas.com](http://www.aeropuertomadrid-barajas.com)  
Manila International Airport Authority (NAIA)  
[www.miaa.gov.ph](http://www.miaa.gov.ph)



*This latest advisory supercedes Public Advisory # 20 dated 4 June 2020  
Regular updates will be made to this Q&A/ Updated as of 1200 hrs / 20 July 2020 / Madrid PE*