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# FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING VISAS

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## *Do I need to apply for a visa to stay in the Philippines for less than 30 days?*

Spanish nationals and citizens of **these countries** who wish to visit the Philippines for business reasons and/or tourism are allowed to enter the Philippines without a visa, for a stay not longer than thirty (30) days, as long as they have a two-way ticket from their port of origin to their next country of destination and a passport valid for six months after their programmed period of stay. Nonetheless, Immigration officials in the ports of entry can exercise their discretion to allow entry to holders of passport valid at least sixty (60) days after their programmed period of stay.

Nationals of **all** other countries need to apply for a visa.

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## *If I need a visa, what do I have to do?*

The tourist visa to the Philippines will allow the applicant to stay up to fifty-nine (59) days – Single entry, 9(A) type. The applicant must comply with all the requirements prior to the issuance of the visa and apply and submit his/her documents personally at the Philippine Embassy or the nearest Honorary Consulate. Evaluation of the application is done at the Philippine Embassy in Madrid.

The granting of a Philippine visa is only a form of pre-entry authorization. Immigration officials have the authority to allow or deny entry of a foreign national upon his arrival at any port of entry in the Philippines. A foreigner with a Philippine visa is subject to the norms of immigration control at the port of entry in the Philippines.

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## ***What documents should I present to apply for a visa to the Philippines?***

For tourism, the requirements for visa application are as follows:

1. An **Application Form** filled-out properly (FA Form 2A). All entries should be written/typed-written in CAPITAL LETTERS.
2. Original passport (with a minimum period of validity of six months passed the period of stay in the Philippines and a photocopy of the data page;
3. Original and photocopy of the two-way ticket, indicating the arrival to and exit from the Philippines;
4. Two (2) photos taken during the last six (6) months;
5. Letter of guarantee from the sending company, for business trips.

**Note:** Applications with incomplete documentary requirements will not be processed. The Embassy's Visa Section may require additional documents from the applicant.

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## ***If I travel to the Philippines without a visa and I wish to extend my stay for more than thirty (30) days, what should I do to apply for extension of stay to avoid issues with the Bureau of Immigration?***

Tourists who do not need visa and are allowed to stay initially for up to thirty (30) days may apply for an extension of their period of stay up to additional twenty-nine (29) days. For more information regarding visa extension and requirements, please visit the webpage of the **Bureau of Immigration** at this [link](#).

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## ***Where can I apply for visa extension if I'm in Cebu, Palawan, Boracay or in other places in the Philippines?***

The Bureau of Immigration has other offices in the said places and also in other provinces. For more information regarding the location of said offices, contact details and office hours, please visit this [link](#).

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***Is it possible to request for a multiple-entry visa at the Embassy if I haven't finalized my travel itinerary yet? What if I also want to visit other places in Asia and return to the Philippines during my trip?***

Your documents have to be checked by proper authorities and they will determine if it is possible to issue you a multiple-entry visa. As a general rule, those who apply for a Philippine visa for the first time are granted a single-entry visa.

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***I'm a \_\_\_\_\_ national and a permanent resident in Spain, may I apply for a visa at the Philippine Embassy?***

Yes, you may apply for a visa at the Philippine Embassy in Madrid. The approval is subject to your personal circumstances and would also depend on your submitted documents.

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***I am a retiree and I would like to live in the Philippines. What kind of visa should I apply for?***

To retire in the Philippines, a foreign national should apply for a Special Resident Retirees Visa (SRRV) directly with the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA) in the Philippines. Please check out the [information guide](#), requirements and [application form](#) and the PRA [webpage](#) or their [Facebook](#) page.

If the applicant wishes to retire in the Philippines, he has two options: First is to apply for a tourist visa and once he arrives in the Philippines, he could apply for conversion of his visa to SRRV, or Second – apply for SRRV before he leaves for the Philippines.

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## ***I am a journalist. What are the requirements for visa application and accreditation of foreign media in the Philippines?***

Below is the list of documentary requirements for foreign media/filming groups who would like to cover events or shoot in the Philippines:

1. Members of the filming crew must personally apply for an entry visa at the Philippine Embassy in Madrid located at Calle Guadalquivir, 6, (near Metro República Argentina). They must bring with them the following documents:
  1. Accomplished **application form**, which can be downloaded from this **link**.
  2. Original and photocopy of the data page of Passport valid at least for 6 months beyond the contemplated stay in the Philippines;
  3. Copy of flight itinerary or airway ticket with confirmed dates of arrival to and departure from the Philippines;
  4. Two (2) new ID photos; and
  5. Visa fee of 27,00 euros.
  
2. Send, through advance email, a Letter request to the International Press Center (IPC), stating the group's intention to do a documentary film in the Philippines and request for accreditation of the production crew. It is suggested that the group identify a local coordinator to facilitate and follow up the application with IPC. Please address the letter to:

**MR. PAULO J. ESPIRITU**  
**Director for Media Relations**  
**International Press Center (IPC)**  
**Presidential Communications Operations Office**  
**G/F National Press Club Bldg., Magallanes Drive**  
**Intramuros, Manila 1002**  
**Contact Details**  
**Telefax: (632) 309-1095; 536-7448**  
**Email: [intlpresscenter@gmail.com](mailto:intlpresscenter@gmail.com)**

Please attach the following to the above letter request:

- a. Duly accomplished IPC Accreditation Form (for each member of the filming crew) and Bio-data/General Application Form for Special Work Permit which they have to apply at the Bureau of Immigration (BI). Each crew member will have to pay the required fees for the permit and the notarization of their application. IPC can also assist the applicants if they do not have a local coordinator;
- b. List of production crew members and designation;
- c. Photocopy of pages 1 and 2 of their passports;
- d. Three (3) pcs. 2x2 colored photographs with white background for each of the production crew members;
- e. Flight details and itinerary of the filming crew;
- f. List of TV equipment (IPC will assist in facilitating the clearance and release of their equipment from the Bureau of Customs;
- g. Synopsis or storyline of the program.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Please provide the Embassy copies of the abovementioned Application for IPC accreditation permit and supporting documents. Upon arrival in the Philippines, the production crew has to proceed to the IPC Office for accreditation.

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***If I wish to travel to other islands/provinces in the Philippines, what options do I have for transportation?***

There are two big airline companies in the Philippines. Click on the appropriate link to visit the [Philippine Airlines](#) and [Cebu Pacific](#) webpages.

There are also other airline companies for those who wish to visit El Nido, Palawan. There are also buses and inter-island ferries that travel through Roll-on, Roll-off (RORO), depending on your destination.

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***What is the best season to travel to the Philippines? Could you give me recommendations on the best months to visit the country?***

Being a tropical country, the Philippines has only two seasons, wet and dry. Al ser un país tropical, Filipinas solo tiene dos estaciones, una húmeda y otra seca. It's best to visit the Philippines all year round.

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### ***How can I visit El Nido and Coron in Palawan, or Boracay?***

To get a more detailed information regarding these places, we invite you to search for information in the internet or you may also ask us in the Embassy for itinerary as it is recommendable to have a specific itinerary or plan beforehand.

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### ***What is the distance between Spain and the Philippines? Could you tell me the number of hours during the flight?***

The distance between Spain and the Philippines is 11,873 kilometers, equivalent to 7,378 miles (Source: distancefromto.net). The duration of the flight will depend on the route chosen by the passenger.

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### ***Are tourists allowed to work in the Philippines?***

Tourists are not allowed to work in the Philippines.

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### ***How long does it take for the issuance of a visa?***

Usually, the visa will be ready within three (3) working days after filing.

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***Where is the Philippine Embassy located and what are the office hours?***

When all your documents are ready for the filing of visa application, please go to the Consular Section of the Philippine Embassy. Located in Calle Guadalquivir, 6, Madrid. The office hours are from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday, except during holidays.

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***Can nationals with 30-day visa free entry privilege, particularly US passport holders with a return ticket beyond 30 days enter the Philippines without getting a visa from the Embassy and extend their stay with the Philippine Bureau of Immigration?***

Visa-free nationals, with the intention of staying in the Philippines for more than 30 days, are encourage to apply for 9(a) visa to avoid the inconvenience of applying for an extension of period of stay with the Bureau of Immigration. Post may issue them 9(a) visas with a period of stay of 59 days.

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***Can 13 (g) and 13(a) visa applicants submit their application directly to the Bureau of Immigration without going through Philippine Embassies or Foreign Service Posts?***

For visa-free nationals, yes.

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***Can 13(g) and 13(a) visa holders travel to the Philippines with a one-way ticket?***

Yes, as they will apply for a temporary resident's visa or permanent resident's visa with the Bureau of Immigration. Said applications usually take months.

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***Can the Balikbayan Program be availed of by the balikbayan and dependents every time they enter the Philippines, and not only once a year?***

Former Filipinos and their dependents may be granted a 1-year period of stay every time they avail themselves of the Balikbayan privilege. This is subject to the assessment and approval of the Immigration Officer at the port of entry.

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***Can those who avail of the Balikbayan Program, including dependents, be exempted from the return ticket requirement?***

Yes, they can stay in the Philippines for one (1) year.

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***Can an applicant get advance information on whether or not he/she is on the Embassy's Visa Look-out list (LOL)?***

The Department does not issue any document or certificate regarding visa LOL. A foreign national may only be checked in the Visa LOL once he/she is applying for a visa.