

LIVING IN THE PHILIPPINES

Living in Manila

Getting around

There are 4 forms of transport: Trikes, (motorbike side car) Jeepneys, (small buses) buses and in central Manila transit trains. All are very cheap by western standards. It is also possible to buy a motorbike or car (insurance and gasoline are again much cheaper than in the west)

If you wish to travel further afield you can take a ship or aeroplane to most islands within the Philippines. Manila airport also offers cheap flights to other Asian countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong.... Even cheaper flights can be booked from Clarks airport (about 2 hours north of Manila)

Eating and drinking

Tap water is not suitable for drinking anywhere in the Philippines. It is important that you therefore only drink bottled water (As we have a tropical climate it is important to ensure you drink a lot of water to avoid dehydration)

As Manila is a large city is also very cosmopolitan and offers a variety of restaurants to eat in from all over the world.

Health

The standard of health care is good but hospital bills need to be paid in cash.(the school covers medical insurance for teachers) However, it is relatively cheap and a doctors consultation is around 400PHP.

Pharmacys are numerous here and offer most western medicines. It is also possible to buy perscription drugs here over the counter.

Shopping

Manila is a Metropolis and as a result has many Malls (The Mall of Asia is the biggest Mall in Asia) You can buy almost anything you need at these malls and they also have all the big name brands from overseas.

There are also public markets were you can buy goods slightly cheaper than in the malls.

Accommodation

Houses and appartments vary depending on were you live in Manila but a house near the school can range from 14-20,000PHP. A studio apartment in Makati (the central district) is about the same price Many new teachers opt to share for their first year and pay around 6-10,000PHP each.

Maids: Hiring a maid for your house is very cheap. You can decide on a live in maid (it is standard in most houses to have a separate bedroom, bathroom and kitchen as maids quarters) who will cook and clean for you on a daily basis or you can choose to have a maid come 2 or 3 times a week.

Furnishing and appliances

Furniture here is inexpensive and easy to get. This is the same for electrical appliances. **ATTENTION** Electricity here runs on 60Hz / 220W and has American standard sockets. Adaptors and converters are available to buy here.

You can also easily buy parts or get services for laptops here (with the exception of Sony) Internet connection is around 900PHP a month (it is possible to use a connection at the school until you get set up)

Cable TV is around 1000PHP a month

You can bring mobile phones over with you and change your SIM card here or buy a new or used phone here.

Cultural

Manila has many Cinemas, Fitness studios, Spas and theatres (at international standard) as well as the usual sports golf and scuba diving are very easy to do here.

Prices of goods in the Philippines

10 Gallon drinking water	50,00 PHP
Baguette-Mini	34,00 PHP
1 pineapple	30,00 PHP
1 Butter Anchor	51,95 PHP
1 Margarine	19,10 PHP
1 Bottle Mayonnaise 470 ml	86,70 PHP
1 kg Bananas	33,00 PHP
1 kg Mangos	60,00 PHP
1 bottle beer (San Miguel)	19,00 PHP
1 Can Coca Cola	20,00PHP
1 Pack cigarettes	30,00 PHP
1 Big Mac set (KFC, Wendys, BK etc)	105,00 PHP
1 Cinema ticket	100,00 PHP
Restaurant meal	300-750,00 PHP

