

“Smile at Life in the Philippines.” This is our invitation to our former Filipino citizens and foreign nationals to choose the Philippines as their second home. Famous for our vibrant culture, hospitality, friendly English-speaking population, natural attractions, and tropical climate, retirees can expect the good life in the Philippines at an affordable cost.

GEOGRAPHY

The Philippines is an archipelagic nation made up of 7,107 islands spanning 1,840 kilometers north to south. It is part of the Southeast Asian region, and is bordered by Taiwan to the north, Indonesia and Malaysian Borneo to the south, the South China Sea to the west, and the Pacific Ocean to the east. The Three main Philippine Island groups are Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao. The Capital is Manila. Time Zone is GMT +8 hours.

CLIMATE

Generally, Philippines has a tropical climate. March to May is hot and dry. June to October is rainy, November to February is cool. Average temperatures: 78F/25C to 90F/32C; humidity is 77%.

LANGUAGE

Understanding each other will not be a problem between the retirees and our people. Almost every Filipino can understand and speak some English. In fact, we are the third largest English-speaking nation in terms of population.

Two official languages are Filipino and English. Filipino which is based on Tagalog is the national language. English is widely used and is the medium of instruction in higher education. Eight (8) major dialects spoken by majority of the Filipinos: Tagalog; Cebuano; Ilocano; Hiligaynon or Ilonggo, Bicol, Waray, Pampango, and Pangasinense.

RELIGIONS

Some 83% of Filipinos are Catholic. About 5% are Muslim. The rest are made up of smaller Christian denominations and Buddhist.

COST OF LIVING

The principal appeal for retirement in the Philippines is the lower cost of living. Housing, food, and labor costs are quite reasonable. Global Filipinos and foreign retirees can retire in the Philippines and enjoy not only the lower cost of living but also the very favorable currency exchange rate.

The Philippines' monetary unit is the Peso. Foreign currency may be exchanged at any hotels, most large department stores, banks and authorized money changing shops accredited by the Central bank of the Philippines. International credit cards such as Visa, Diners Club, Bank Americard, Master Card, and American Express are accepted in major establishments.

WORLD-CLASS MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

In terms of medical services, our facilities are comparable to the best anywhere else. Our highly trained medical personnel and caregivers are in demand all over the world not only for their competence and expertise but most especially for the care and compassion they show to their wards. Healthcare, a top priority of the senior market, is an expertise of the Filipino who is world-renowned for his excellent healthcare practitioners.

FILIPINO HOSPITALITY

Filipinos are naturally warm, friendly and hospitable. We have a ready smile for everybody and our religious background that is predominantly Catholic makes service to others an innate trait.

TELECOMMUNICATION EDGE

Every retiree can avail of the country's continuously improving telecommunication facilities. They can keep abreast of what is happening around the world and keep in touch with their relatives and friends back home.

ECO-TOURISM DESTINATION

Philippines can provide the retirees endless choices of world-class destinations that will bring them closer to Mother Nature with clean air and beautiful sceneries. The white sand beaches of Boracay and Panglao and the virgin islands of Palawan often referred to as “the last frontier” are truly unforgettable places that entice the visitors to come back in the Philippines.

PRA SERVICE

The Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA) prides itself on the after-membership service that it provides to the retirees. During their stay in the country, they can consider PRA as their second family. PRA helps them address their needs. If and when they encounter any problem, PRA is with them every inch of the way.

Retiree Services and Assistance

The PRA provides a range of services to help the retiree settle comfortably in the country. We offer principal retirees and dependent children the following services:

1. Greet and Assist

Upon your arrival at the airport, a PRA representative will meet and will lead you to your transportation vehicle to take you to your destination. The PRA provides airport shuttles on a first-come, first-serve basis.

2. 24/7 Hotline

You may call the PRA hotline (+63.2.848.1412) anytime of the day, seven days a week for any inquiries that you may have.

3. Assistance in Obtaining Basic Government Documents/Requirements

Our office provides you the assistance in obtaining basic government documents you may need during your stay. These include, but not limited to securing the following:

- a. National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Clearance
- b. Driver's License and Motor Vehicle Registration
- c. Philippine Tax Exemption
- d. Medical Clearance
- e. Alien Employment Permit (AEP)

4. Assistance with Banking Matters

We encourage you to keep in close contact with bank representatives with regard to your investment. Our office staff would likewise be of assistance to you for any matter in relation to this.

5. Merchant Discounts

As a retiree, you are entitled to discounts from our merchant partners.

6. List of Hospitals and Doctors

As retiree-members of the program, having a guide or List of hospitals and doctors, may be of help in the future or in case of emergency. The U.S. Embassy, Philippines, recommends the said list. The Philippine Retirement Authority assumes no responsibility for the integrity or professional ability of the persons or hospitals whose names appear in the given list.

Source: www.pra.gov.ph

