

Tips for Travellers

MANILA

Accommodation

Rates are in US dollars and are exclusive of any applicable taxes.

Edsa Shangri-La Hotel

No. 1 Gardenway
Ortigas Centre
Mandaluyong City
Metro Manila
Tel: 0063 2 633 8888
Fax: 0063 2 631 1063
Email: esl@shangri-la.com
Web site: www.shangri-la.com
Rate: From US\$110.00

Discovery Suites

25 ADB Avenue
Ortigas Centre
Pasig City
Metro Manila
Tel: 0063 2 635 2222
Fax: 0063 2 683 8111
Web site: www.discoverysuites.com
Rate: From US\$85.00

Holiday Inn Galleria Manila

One ADB Avenue, Ortigas Centre
Pasig City
Metro Manila
Tel: 0063 2 633 7111
Fax: 0063 2 633 2821 / 633 2824
Email: manilagalleria@netasia.net
Web: www.galleriesuites.com
Rate: From US\$85.00

Shangri La Makati

Ayala Avenue
corner Makati Avenue
Makati City
Tel: 0063 2 813 8888
Fax: 0063 2 813 5499
Email: slm@shangri-la.com
Web site www.shangri-la.com
Rate: From US\$115.00

Mandarin Oriental Manila

Makati Avenue
(corner Paseo de Roxas)
Makati City
Tel: 0063 2 750 8888
Fax: 0063 2 827 2472
Web site: www.mandarinoriental.com/manila/
Rate: From US\$95.00

Transport

Airports

The premier airport is the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) located in the southern portion of Metro Manila.

While the distance is quite near the business centre of Makati City (approximately 10 kilometres) travel time may take up to 1.5 hours due to traffic congestion. You should try to be at the airport at least 3 hours before your flight. It is advisable to confirm flights 72 hours before departure.

Hotels typically have airport transfer services, the cost of which can be added to your hotel bill. Avis operates a taxi service at the NAIA.

Taxis

The best way around the city is by taxi. Taxis normally have meters.

Air-conditioned taxis can be hailed from the sidewalk.

Drivers would sometimes negotiate for a fixed price depending on your destination but always insist that the meter be used.

Always prepare smaller bills (Php10.00, 20.00 or 50.00) as drivers sometimes do not have enough change for bigger bills.

A tip is normally expected and it is acceptable practice to add Php 10.00 to the fare. Taxis do not accept credit cards.

Some 5-star hotels have accredited taxis that have fixed rates to various destinations.

Hotel limos cost a bit more but are more reliable and safer.

Telephone numbers and codes

In the city of Makati and Pasig IDD (International Direct Dial) facilities are available from the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) or Globe Telecoms (Globe).

You can also place international calls directly from your hotel rooms and toll charges will be added to your bill.

A NZ mobile phone account with an international roaming feature will work in the Philippines.

A pre-paid SIM card can be purchased straight away but you would need a mobile phone unit that can operate on the two major mobile phone service providers, Smart or Globe.

The Philippines is 4 hours behind New Zealand (5 hours if daylight savings time is in effect in NZ).



There are many internet cafes around the major shopping malls. The business centres of most 5-star hotels also offer Internet service. If your ISP has a local counterpart you can dial the Philippine number from your hotel room.

Tips for Business

- Normal business hours are anywhere from 8:00am to 5:00pm. Executives normally come in after 9:00am.
- Business meetings are usually started with a greeting and "getting to know you" conversation before any serious business is discussed.
- Filipino businessmen prefer to do business with people they are comfortable with and people they know and trust. Rarely is a transaction concluded on the first meeting. A friendly relationship must be established between the supplier and customer.
- A business card is an important tool so always have some ready for the people you are meeting.
- While gifts are not necessary, token gifts or corporate give-aways are a good way to "break the ice".
- A lunch or dinner invitation is a good way to put your business contact at ease where business can be discussed in a friendly atmosphere and manner.
- A "Yes" does not always mean "yes". Filipinos seldom like saying "No" so an affirmative answer may mean "I hear you".
- A business suit is almost always required for meetings with senior executives or senior government officials. A business shirt and tie will suffice for most other meetings.
- Manila has horrendous traffic jams so consider travelling time in between meetings.

Useful phrases

Good evening	Magandang gabi
Good morning	Magandang umaga
Good afternoon	Magandang hapon
How do you do	Kamusta ka
Goodbye	Paalam
Thank you	Salamat

Tips from the industry

If you have any tips that you can share with your fellow industry members, please email them to educationnz@educationnz.org.nz

Information correct as at 7 September 2006.
