

GP Manila

Travel Guide

2017

FEATURES:

Foodie Destinations

Iloilo

Boracay

Baguio

Tagaytay

Introduction



National Museum of the Philippines
1000 Padre Burgos Ave. Ermita, Manila

TRANSPORT: Short Taxi Ride from GP Manila Venue

You might be here purely to work at Grand Prix Manila; get in when it starts and fly out as soon as it's over. Maybe you heard about all the great tourist spots and decided to fly in earlier (or leave after a few more days) to go around outside of the event schedule. Perhaps you'll head out and enjoy the night life after each day's proceedings and want to know how to get there. Or maybe you just want to know where the good places to eat are. Whatever your needs may be, we've got the most important information covered in this guide, compiled by a group of Filipino Judges.



13ft x 22ft "Spolarium" by Juan Luna at the National Museum of the Philippines

The country is divided into three main islands: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao; and these are further subdivided into smaller regions, each with their own unique culture, language and cuisine. Just crossing a border somewhere will bring you to a spectacularly different place.

Grand Prix Manila will be held in the SMX Convention Center at the Mall of Asia complex. This travel guide, twill focus more on areas in and around the metro, but there will be sections for those interested in traveling outside of Manila as well. Most of the information presented in the early sections will be geared towards general tourist topics such as: monetary information, local travel and accommodation information, and basic language translation to get you started. We hope that with this guide, your visit will be comfortable and enjoyable.

Welcome to Manila!

From the Airport

Assuming that most of the foreign Judges are coming in on an international flight, the starting point of your entry into the country should be the Ninoy Aquino International Airport or NAIA for short. It is possible to enter from one of three terminals that service international flights: Terminal 2 for Philippine Airlines flights, or Terminal 1 or Terminal 3 for all other international flights. Please check your flight arrangements to find out which terminal you'll be landing in.



Traveling from the Airport



NAIA Terminal 1 Arrival Area and Parking Lot

Regular Taxi

These white-colored taxis can be found everywhere in the country. The rates should be standard. Still, it is a good practice to inspect the seal on them when you get in. The standard flag down rate is Php 40, and the meter should tick Php3.50 every 300 meters and every 2 minutes of stop time.

Insist on using the taxi meter when going on a trip. For added protection, text the taxi's plate number, name, color and make to a trusted person.

Airport Taxi

These primarily yellow taxis are easily identifiable by their serial number on the sides, instead of a "name" as is with most other regular taxis. They charge around double the regular fare but it is possible to get a coupon with a travel agency or taxi stand in the airport. The flagdown rate is Php70 and goes up by about Php4.00 every 300 meters.

Grab/Uber

If you manage to get an internet connection as soon as you touch down at the airport, it is entirely possible to get an Uber or Grab from where you are. It highly recommended that you switch your payment settings to Cash Payment if you are going to do this however. It is possible to call an Uber or Grab at almost any time of the day.



General Travel Information

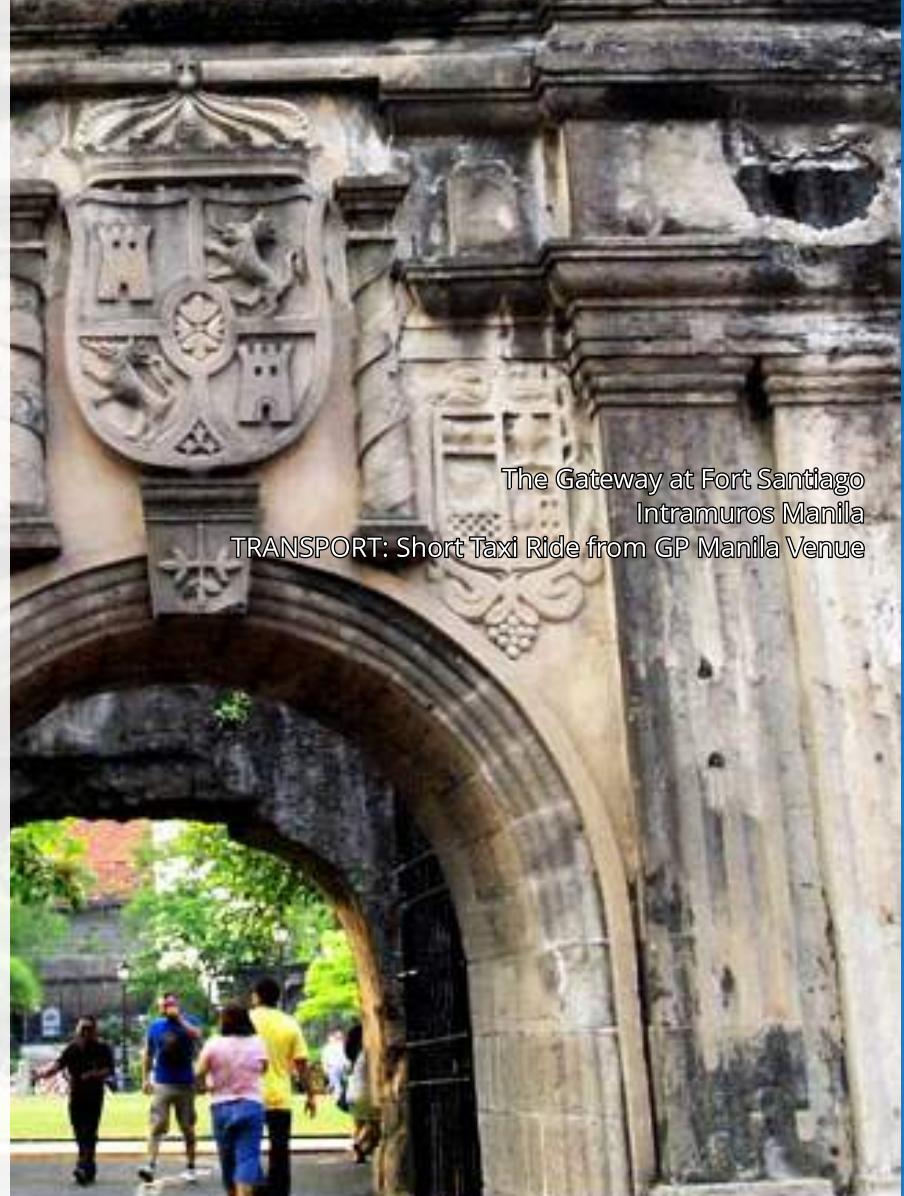
Time Zone:

Philippine Time is 8 hours ahead of Coordinated Universal Time(UTC +8) and keeps similar time to Taipei, Taiwan.

Weather and Climate:

The climate around June is expected to swing between rainy and wet, to hot and humid, as the country will supposedly be in transition from summer towards the rainy period. The average day temperature during this time should be around 32 to 37 degrees Celsius, and dropping to a warm 27 to 32 degrees Celsius at night in the city. Outside Manila, temperature averages are about the same except for a few areas such as Tagaytay or Baguio, where it's significantly cooler.

During your stay, it is recommended that one brings a pocket umbrella in case of sudden rain, a water bottle to stave off the heat, and hand towel or change of clothes for when you are wet with sweat or rain.



The Gateway at Fort Santiago
Intramuros Manila

TRANSPORT: Short Taxi Ride from GP Manila Venue

Accommodation

Golden Phoenix Hotel Frontage

Pasay City

TRANSPORT: Short Taxi Ride from the Airport (4.4km)



Type A



Type B



Type C



3 types of sockets used in the Philippines



Judge Hotel

Judges will be booked at the Golden Phoenix Hotel located at Sunrise Drive, Pasay City which is an 850 meter walk from the venue of GP Manila 2017.

Mobile Connectivity

Please make sure that your phones are able to accept SIM cards from different countries and are not locked to your region or carrier.

There are many mobile network providers available in the Philippines, but the two biggest ones are Globe Telecom (GLOBE) and Smart Communications (SMART). Sim cards are available for a nominal fee usually not more than Php150. The prepaid call and text rates for both carriers are about the same at 1-1.6 pesos for texts and 6.50 - 7.50 pesos per minute for calls.

Each carrier has their own regular prepaid "packages" for both calls/texts and mobile internet which can save you a bit of money. We recommend Smart's LTE sim card (about Php100-200), but Globe has better prepaid packages for calls and texts.

Electrical Sockets

The Philippines is primarily rated at 220V - 240V, 60Hz. The main socket types used in the country include Types A, B, and C (shown above left), with Type A being the most commonly used. Please make sure to bring an appropriate plug adapter for your various electronic devices.

Rizal Monument at Luneta Park

Roxas Blvd. Manila

TRANSPORT: Short Jeep Ride/Taxi Ride from Golden Phoenix Hotel



Passenger jeeps at terminals have barkers who shout out the jeep's route.

Transportation

There are five general ways to get around the city without a private car: by bus, by jeep, by train, by taxi or by UBER/GRAB. Taxis and Uber/Grab were already detailed in an earlier section so this part will focus on the other three.

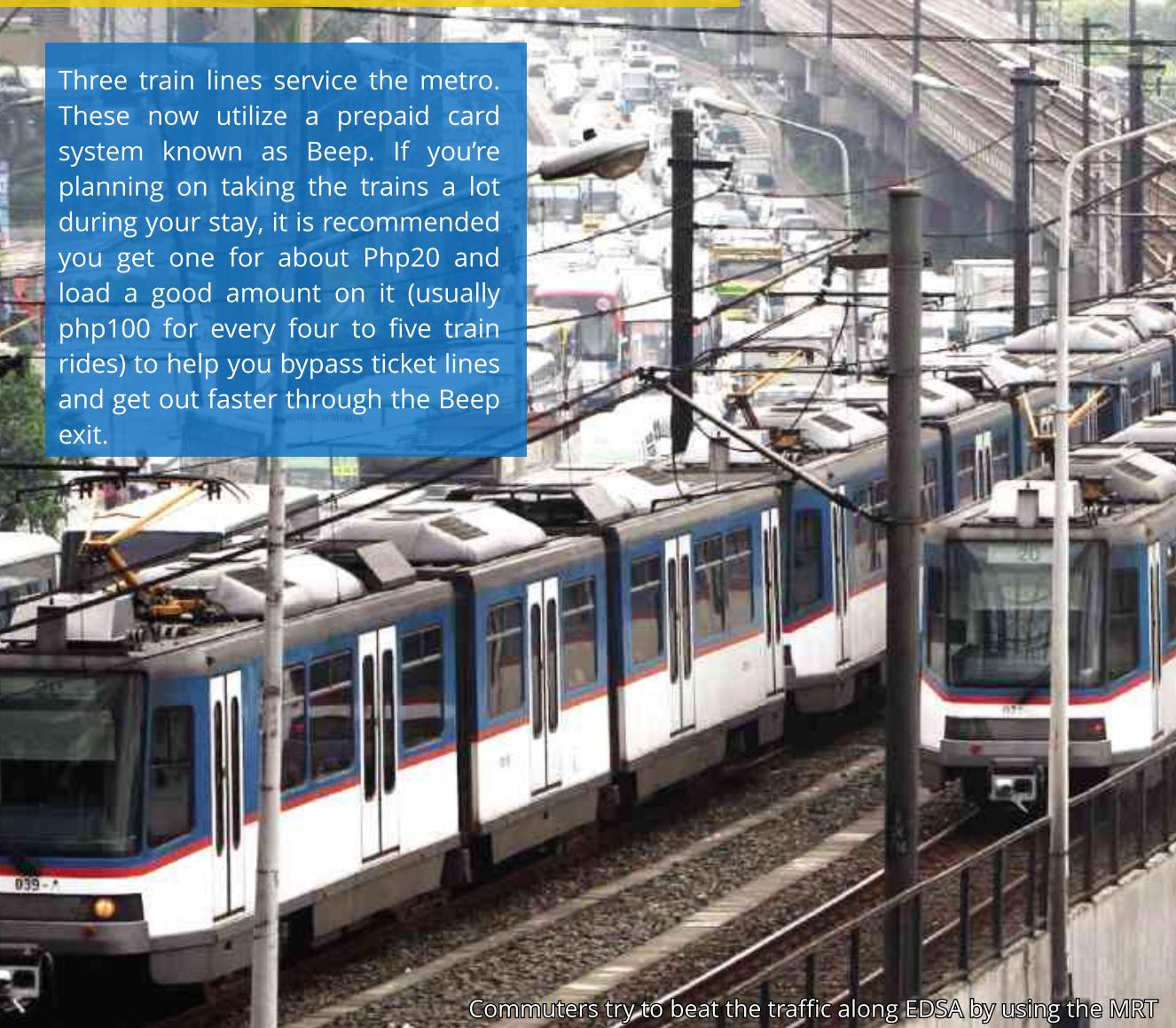
Buses: These are found along major thoroughfares of Manila, such as EDSA Ave. They have specific routes and will stop at major junctions or landmarks along the way. Even though buses on the same road are all going the same way, their route may or may not allow them to stop at a specific stop or sometimes might skip bus stops entirely. Be alert if your stop is coming up. It costs anywhere from P12 to P80 depending on how far your destination is and whether it's an express bus or a regular bus, or if it's air-conditioned or not. Each bus has a conductor who collects the fare and hands you the ticket, which you should keep until the end of the trip. They are quite knowledgeable about the routes and can help you with directions when traveling.

Jeepneys: Jeeps ply almost every route and can be found nearly everywhere. Jeeps have fixed routes often painted on the side of the vehicle, and their major stops are shown on placards hung on the front window. When hailing a jeep, it is best to ask the driver first whether it stops at your particular destination or close to it before getting on; you can also ask the driver to remind you when your stop is close by.

Jeepney fare is anywhere from Php8 to Php20. Money is passed down to the driver and by saying "**Bayad po**" and the destination, people should help you pass the money up the driver and you can say "**Para po**" or "**Sa Tabi lang**" when you want to get down.

Travelling by LRT/MRT

Three train lines service the metro. These now utilize a prepaid card system known as Beep. If you're planning on taking the trains a lot during your stay, it is recommended you get one for about Php20 and load a good amount on it (usually php100 for every four to five train rides) to help you bypass ticket lines and get out faster through the Beep exit.



Commuters try to beat the traffic along EDSA by using the MRT

MRT

The Metro Rail Transit is the main train line that also goes through EDSA, which is Metro Manila's main highway. Its route is from Pasay City (very near to Mall of Asia) to Quezon City. Its main stops include: Makati, Mandaluyong, Ortigas, San Juan, and Cubao, the latter being the main transport hub for almost all of Metro Manila.

LRT 1

Light Rail Transit Line 1 is an elevated train that runs from Baclaran, through Pasay City, through most of Taft Avenue on the west side of Manila, all the way to Balintawak in Quezon City. Its main stops include many government institutions, cultural sites, and universities and colleges in the 'university belt'

LRT 2

The Light Rail Transit Line 2 is the rail line that cuts perpendicularly across the metro. It runs from Santolan Station in Marikina to Recto in Manila, passing through Aurora Boulevard. Its main stops include Katipunan Ave., Cubao, and Gilmore (a well-known cyber-hub) and other academic institutions on the university belt.

Each of the three trains meet each other at some point in their route which it makes it possible to jump from one line to another:

- MRT – LRT 1 meet at both EDSA/Pasay and Roosevelt/North EDSA W
- LRT1 – LRT 2 meet at Doroteo Jose/Recto
- LRT 2 – MRT meet at EDSA/Cubao

Updated Paper Bills

The money used in the country is called the Philippine Peso, pronounced as “piso” or “pesos” in conversation, and abbreviated to ‘Php’ or just ‘P’ before the number. Please note that over the past several years, there has been a change in the way the paper currency looks. If you have the older currency from a previous trip, they have already been completely demonetized and are not honored any more as cash tender. Please refer to the image below for the updated paper currency.



Currency and Credit Card Information



SM Mall of Asia Lobby

Credit Cards

Most places with a modern point-of-sale (POS) system should accept both credit cards and debit cards upon request. Commonly accepted cards include Visa and MasterCard; American Express is also accepted but is more uncommon in the country. Please consult with your banking institution regarding fees and rates when swiping your card/s in a foreign country. As a precaution, make sure to always have some cash on hand, especially if you are planning to enjoy the local or “road side” establishments.

Jamba Juice



Foodie Destinations

by Ian Go



Ma Mon Luk

One of the oldest places that serves the satisfying combination of Mami and Siopao. Both branches are very old but the star of the show is really the Original Mami and Special Siopao (some people even add the siopao sauce into the Mami!)

The Manila branch is the first branch but since it is located near Quiapo Church, getting to the place can be quite hard since it the area get very crowded.

Address:

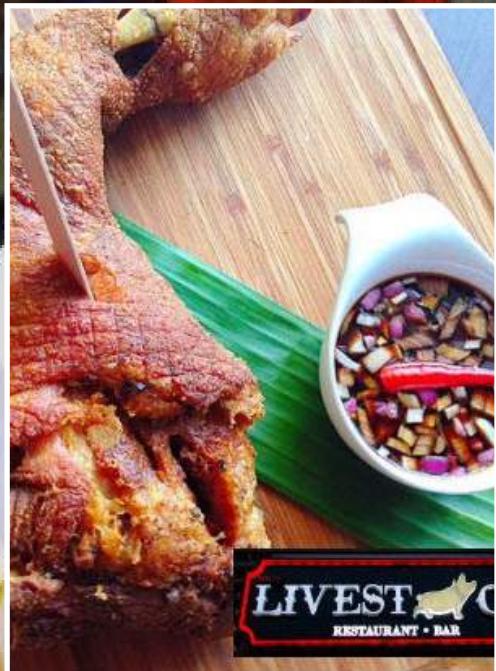
- 545 Quezon Boulevard Corner Gonzalo Puyat Street, Quiapo, Manila
- 412 Quezon Avenue, Tatalon, Quezon City



Eng Bee Tin

Almost every country would have a Chinatown, and if you find yourself in Binondo (Philippines Chinatown) your visit wouldn't be complete without visiting the original branch of Eng Bee Tin. Their call to fame is their Ube Hopia (small moon-cake like pastries with purple yam paste filling) and is still their best selling product.

In case you aren't able to visit Binondo, they already have several branches around Metro Manila. Cost: 4 US\$+ per head



Livestock

Crispy Pata (deep fried pork leg) is commonly found during special events, and Livestock does their's with a crunchy skin exterior with a soft meat interior. So soft, they even use a giant popsicle stick to cut the meat instead of knife.

Address: 34 Sgt. Esguerra Street, Esguerra Plaza, Quezon City

Cost: 8 US\$+ per head



Cafe Adriatico

A classic restaurant that serves Filipino-Spanish food. Besides good mains, they also have good choices for snacks. And they also serve Halo-Halo, a popular Filipino summer cooler.

Address:

- Second Floor, Entertainment Mall, Mall of Asia Complex (MOA),

- 1790 Adriatico Street, Remedios Circle, Malate, Manila

Cost: 10 US\$+ per head



Isaw Baboy (Grilled Pork Intestines) are a popular snack amongst Filipinos.

The skewers are great with beer or softdrinks and are available from street vendors for an average of 10 pesos per stick.

Iloilo City

by Mark Allos

Historic Calle Real Market in Iloilo



Iloilo is a province of the Philippines, located in the center of the Philippine archipelago in the southeastern part of Panay Island. The city was a conglomeration of former towns which are now turned into geographical districts. These are: Jaro, Manduriao, Molo, Villa Arevalo, La Paz, Lapuz and Iloilo City Proper. Iloilo City is just 55 minutes of flight away from Manila and is a hub for trade, commerce, technology and tourism.

There are many travel treasures you can hunt around the city. From mouthwatering delicacies to mesmerizing and splendid architectural heritage and modern designs, these are a few of the many things the city has to offer tourists.

The Top 5 you can have as your checklist are the following:

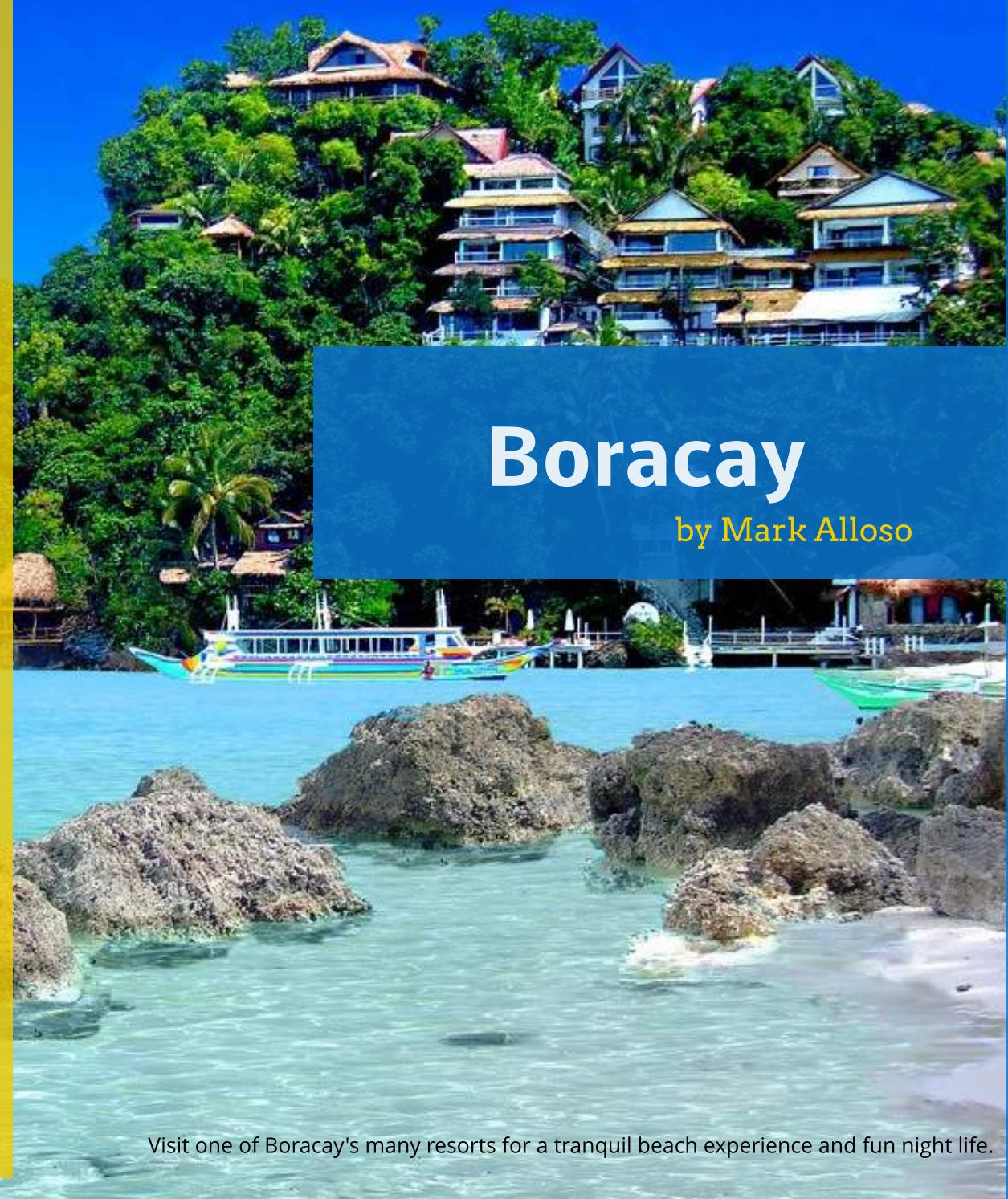
1. Eat Batchoy and Pancit Molo
2. Enjoy the skyline at the city hall rooftop
3. Stroll through the Iloilo Esplanade
4. Time travel at Calle Real
5. Party at Smallville Complex

Touring around the city is easy as most of the major roads are served by public utility jeepneys, taxis and tricycles as your transport options. Most of the locals are very friendly so it is also easy to ask around for directions as guide or if ever you get lost. Start by greeting them "Maayong aga" for good morning or "Maayong hapon" for good afternoon, then follow it up with your inquiry such as "tagpilani?" for "How much is this?"

Iloilo City also serves as a gateway to other nearby tourist spots in the provinces of Guimaras, Antique, Aklan, Capiz. Examples are Boracay Island, Isla de Higantes and Mararison Island.

Located in the northern part of Panay in the Western Visayas region, Boracay Island has been a world renowned travel destination in the Philippines. This island paradise offers not only its fine white sand and beautiful sunsets but also various kinds of outdoor activities and a buoyant nightlife. The most convenient way to is to travel via plane from the capital city. Most airlines offer daily flights from Manila to Caticlan airport which you can adjust at your most convenient schedule. Flight travel time is about 45 minutes to an hour. From the airport, you may take a tricycle to the jetty port, or arrange a van transfer with your hotel.

Boat ride is the main point of entry via the Caticlan Jetty port and it will only take 15 minutes to get to the island on the Cagban port. From the port, you can reach your designated place to stay by riding a tricycle. It is the island's main mode of transportation and the fare is 10php per person. The main outdoor activities around the island includes parasailing, snorkeling, helmet diving, island hopping, banana boating, flyfishing, sunset sailing and stand up paddling. You can find them persons offering you these services as you stroll along the beach lines. Boracay is not short in restaurants offering various cuisines. Caruso Ristorante Italiano is known for its delectable dishes, Charlie's Steakhouse or Valhalla Bar & Restaurant for your steak cravings. As for the seafood galore, D'Talipapa is the place to be. You can then end the day by enjoying a bottle of beer or your favorite cocktail at a popular nightlife hot spot in the island. A few well-known are Aplaya, Club Paraw, Coco Bar, BomBom Bar, and Guilly's Island.



Visit one of Boracay's many resorts for a tranquil beach experience and fun night life.

Baguio

by MJ Coquia

Burnham Park Baguio City

Known as the **City of Pines** and the **Summer Capital** of the country, this majestic city is located north of Metro Manila (travel time from Manila is 4 – 5 hours). Most people love to visit Baguio because of cool weather and lots of places to enjoy the beauty of nature.

Must-see places here in Baguio are Burnham Park, Mines View Park, Strawberry Farm, Fort del Pilar, and Botanical Garden. Roaming around the city is very easy. Taxis and jeepneys are the modes of transportation If you're planning to go here, the best and nearest way is to go to **Victory Liner Terminal in Pasay City**.

There are two ways to go to the said terminal: taxi, or bus. Via taxi (fare range is Php 100 - 200), you just tell the taxi driver the said location. Most taxi drivers know this place so you don't have to worry much of getting lost. Via bus from SM Mall of Asia (fare range is Php 12 - 15), just ride any bus going to North (ex. Cubao, Fairview, Ayala, Ortigas) and let the Ticket Inspector know that you will be getting off at **Victory Liner Terminal in Pasay**.



Victory Liner Terminal, Pasay

Tagaytay, one of the famous tourist destinations in Southern Luzon. Just two-hour drive from Manila, Tagaytay offers scenic views of mother nature especially Taal Volcano.

Check out the following destinations:

Palace in the Sky- A mansion commissioned by the former First Lady now Congresswoman Imelda Marcos, Palace in the Sky will be a great spot to appreciate the beauty of this destination.

Tagaytay Picnic Grove- If you fancy recreational activities or hanging out in a cottage this place is for you. The picnic grove offers activities such as horseback riding, an eco-trail and zipline.

Tagaytay Mahogany Beef Market and Bulalohan-Bulalo (Beef soup), a good soup to warm our bodies due to the climate of the city. It opens at 6am.

Mushroom Burger: Want to grab a burger, but trying to cut down on your meat intake? Then checkout Mushroom Burger of Tagaytay, a good walking distance from the Sky Ranch, Taal Vista Hotel and Casino Filipino)

Taza Fresh Table Restaurant- A restaurant that goes by the farm-to-table approach guarantees fresh ingredients. The establishment utilizes local produce, meats and other ingredients. It has an Alfresco dining experience with a great view of the Taal Volcano.

Tagaytay City

Taal Lake, Tagaytay



Salitang Filipino

(Filipino Words)

by Alvin Gener

Let your inner child loose at Museo Pambata (Museum for Children)
Roxas Blvd. Corner South Drive, Manila
TRANSPORT: Short Taxi Ride from GP Manila Venue

Most Filipinos are comfortable with both Tagalog and English. But even though the Philippines boasts having English as its second language, not everyone will be fluent enough to converse smoothly. If you go around the country, you are bound to hear some form of broken English or even something colloquially known as "Taglish", a unique mix of both languages.

When someone says . . .	It means . . .
Kamusta!	Hi! Or How are you!
Magandang umaga/hapon/gabi	Good morning/afternoon/evening
Salamat /Maraming salamat	Thank you /very much
Walang anuman	You're welcome
Magkano po ito?	How much is this?
Anong oras na?	What time is it?
Nasa ang/Saan ang . . .?	Where is . . .?
Paano ang . . .?	How is . . .?
Sino ang . . .?	Who is . . .?
Doonsa . . .	Over there at . . .
Paano pumunta/papunta ng . . .?	How to get to . . .?
Oo (Opo)/Hindi (Hindi po)	Yes/No (polite)
Isa/Dalawa/Tatlo/Apat/Lima	One/Two/Three/Four/Five
Anim/Pito/Walo/Siyam/Sampu	Six/Seven/Eight/Nine/Ten
Isang daan	One Hundred
Isang Libo	One Thousand
A la una/Alas dos/Alas tres . . . (. . .y medya)	1 o'clock/2 o'clock/3 o'clock . . . (half past . . .)
CR or Comfort Room	Toilet or Bathroom (interchangeable)
Soft drink	Soda or carbonated drinks
Xerox	Photocopy
Barya	Change/small bills
Malaki/Maliit	Big/Small
Malapit/Malayo	Near/Far



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