

Making a New Life in The Philippines

by Angela Cato



The Philippines is a perfect location for anyone in search of a new home where the [climate is great](#) year-round and where people are friendly everywhere you go. The Filipinos living in the islands are a friendly group of people who are family oriented and very nice to newcomers. It doesn't take long to feel at home once your plane lands and you are on land in the Philippines. Before making your move overseas, you will need to take a little time to consider the many benefits of a move as well as determine which flight will be best and which companies you may need to use to bring your personal items with you during the move.

Places to Visit

Whether you have already moved or are just beginning to think about making such a large leap over the ocean, you will want to know about the [great places to visit](#) when you arrive. Did you know that the Philippines has more than 7000 islands for tourists and residents to visit? This most likely means that you will never run out of things to do even if you spend your entire life here. Surfing is one of the most popular water sports in the Philippines and until you have surfed some of the isolated, yet outstanding waves in

the islands, you haven't yet discovered how amazing a board and a wave can feel when they connect. From August through November, be ready for some monstrous waves, but the rest of the year is typically smaller, more docile waves which is great for beginners and those who just want to relax on the water.

Besides the great beaches that are rampant throughout the islands in the Philippines, you can find great nature parks and wilderness reserves where you can see animals and other wildlife in natural settings. If you like lighthouses, you'll be happy to know there are numerous lighthouses scattered throughout the islands and many are open for tourists to check out.

Prefer a busier lifestyle? You can always visit places like Cebu where you can visit art and history museums, find shopping malls and plenty of restaurants to sit down and enjoy a meal. When you are in the Philippines, you will find that any area you are in is never dull and there is always going to be something to do, day or night.

Know Your Local Language

When you want to move to the Philippines, you really should know how to speak and understand the language you will hear the most. Sure, you will find quite a few people who speak English and this is especially true in the areas where more tourists may be present. Tagalog is one of the [most common languages](#) you will hear spoken in the Philippines and it is one that you may find yourself lost without at least knowing a little about it. Don't fret if you don't have time to learn the language prior to your move. You will find English spoken in almost every large city and even on the coast due to tourism. You can take your time and learn Tagalog in your own time once your move is complete.

Where to Live

As a foreigner, you will not be able to buy your property in the Philippines. You can however, buy your own apartment or home. If you are married and your spouse is Filipino, you can have the land placed in their name. To buy a home, you should speak to a good real estate attorney who can work with you to draw up the necessary paperwork and who can check the home location to verify that no one else currently owns it.

Moving Everything Over

Some people hope on a flight and bring little more than a backpack and a few changes of clothing. Other however, want to feel the true comforts of home and will need to arrange with an international mover to bring their personal items over for them. For cars, you will need to obtain an import permit from the [Philippine Bureau of Import Service](#) before you can have the car shipped. Only returning Filipino residents and immigrants holding a visa showing they are either a citizen of the Philippines, a foreign national

married to a Filipino or a Filipino citizen working on a government project may import a car. To proceed with importation of a vehicle, you can get a quote at [this link](#) and find other information to get the process started to bring your car over.

While the Philippines are less expensive to reside in than many areas of the United States, it is very important to have a steady income stream either from retirement benefits, social security or employment to live here. While \$1000 monthly may not be able to allow you to move into a dream vacation condo right on the beach, it can allow for a home inland where you can pay rent as well as afford to eat and have a social life. Before you move, be sure to speak to a licensed realtor to get a better idea of where to live and what you can expect to pay.

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