

## Philippine Christmas Dances

Philippine Christmas Dances are dances expressive of the Christmas season practiced in certain regions in the Philippines.

Aside from the Christmas carols most Filipinos are fond of during the yuletide season, there are also Christmas dances that are performed to celebrate this festive time of the year. Among the Philippine Christmas dances are:

**Tulu Kahadi**, (also called Tulo Kahadi-an, "Three Kings") is the traditional Christmas dance of the Eastern Visayas recounting the journey of the Magi seeking the newborn Jesus Christ in Bethlehem.

**Bati**, which means greetings, is the dance practiced in the province of Batangas;

**Pastores de Belen** from the Bicol region, is the presentation of the shepherds singing and dancing from house to house and is danced in groups of 6 or 10 performers. They are the PASTORAS SA BELEN. They are clad in silk dresses in FUSCHIA, LAVENDER, YELLOW or WHITE with quaint bonnets, ribbons and sometimes wooden staffs wrapped in red or green crepe paper and garlands. They are accompanied by a 'manager' who accompanies them on a guitar. They sing PASTORAS SA BELEN, ALLI, ALLI VAMOS A BELEN! And they say they make good money - for their costume for next year;

**Pandanggo Rinconada** (Pandanggo Rindonada), another dance from the province of Bicol, has no religious element but is a favorite dance during the yuletide season. The Pandanggo Rinconada is a staple among the Christmas veladas (evening programs or shows) in Nabua, Camarines Sur. Obviously the dance was an offshoot of the Spanish fandango that was introduced to the natives' repertoire of festival dances. The Pandanggo Rinconada derived its name from the sub-region of the Bicolandia where a distinct Bikol dialect is spoken. That subregion comprising the Camarines provinces is called Distrito de Rinconada. The other sub-regions of Bikol are Bikol Estandarte (Naga district), Bikol Albayano, Bikol Catanduanes, Bikol Masbatenyó and the Bikol Sorsogon also called Bisakol due to the heavy Bisayan influence in their language particularly Waray. In fact, some linguists classify the dialect spoken in Gubat, Sorsogon as Waray.

**Sakuting**, a dance from the Ilocos region - province of Abra It was originally an all-male dance performance presenting a mock fight between Ilocano Christians and non-Christian groups of the northern mountains using sticks. It is danced by children while striking together footlong sticks for rhythm when going from house to house to solicit gifts - Christmas;

**Las Panderetas** is the Yuletide folk dance, which used to accompany the Christmas carols called Daigon, is the traditional Christmas dance of Tanza, Iloilo. The music used in the later is a typical Visayan "daygon - daigon" similar to the pastores musics used in the pastores traditions in Bikol, Cebu, Leyte and Samar and some other places outside Visayan.

Ref. e.g.: [http://en.wikipilipinas.org/index.php?title=Philippine Christmas Dances](http://en.wikipilipinas.org/index.php?title=Philippine_Christmas_Dances)

Look more here: [www.Christmas.FilipinoTraditions.ph](http://www.Christmas.FilipinoTraditions.ph)