

Balikbayan 1-Year Visa Free Entry Privilege

The *balikbayan* privilege extends principally to (1) Philippine citizens residing abroad, and to (2) former Philippine citizens residing abroad who are now German citizens. Derivatively, it extends to their foreign spouses and children under certain conditions.

The following may avail of the *balikbayan* 1-year visa free entry privilege:

1. **Former citizens** of the Philippines who now possess German citizenship
2. **German spouse and children** of a former Philippine citizen
3. **German spouse and children** of a Philippine citizen (i.e., an overseas worker or a citizen who has been continuously out of the Philippines for at least one year¹)

German spouses and children may avail of the said privilege only when **travelling together with the Filipino spouse/parent who is the principal balikbayan**. Upon arrival in the Philippines, they must inform the immigration officer that they wish to avail of the 1-year visa free entry privilege for balikbayans so that the appropriate entry stamp can be made in their passports.

The following documents **MUST** be brought and presented to the immigration officer at the Philippine airport in order to establish *balikbayan* status:

1. The principal *Balikbayan*

Type of <i>Balikbayan</i>	Documentary Evidence of <i>Balikbayan</i> Status
<i>Former Philippine citizen</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Old Philippine passport, or• Foreign naturalization papers showing previous Philippine citizenship, or• Certification from the adoptive country that the individual is a former Philippine citizen
<i>Philippine citizen who is an overseas worker</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• POEA-approved employment contract, or• Certificate or contract of employment from foreign employer, or• Certificate of employment abroad issued by

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Philippine Embassy/Consulate, or contract worker stamp on passport, or Seaman's Service Record Book, or E-card (OFW electronic ID)
<i>Philippine citizen who has been continuously out of the Philippines for at least 1 year</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid passport showing date of last departure from the Philippines

2. The foreign spouse and children of the principal *Balikbayan*

	Documentary Evidence of Relationship to the Principal <i>Balikbayan</i>
<i>Foreign spouse</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marriage contract
<i>Foreign children</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth certificate, or Adoption papers (in case of legally-adopted children)

If your current citizenship or the citizenship of your spouse and children is NOT German, please contact the Philippine Embassy in order to check if you are qualified for the *balikbayan* 1-year visa free entry privilege. **The *balikbayan* 1-year visa-free entry privilege is NOT extended to some foreign nationals, even if they are former Philippine citizens.**

¹Since 2001, the Philippine Commissioner of Immigration has authorized immigration officers at authorized ports of entry into the Philippines to grant benefits and privileges to all qualified *balikbayans* every time they enter the Philippines to visit, regardless of their frequent travel.