



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Botschaft der Republik der Philippinen
Berlin

BALIKBAYAN PRIVILEGE

The Balikbayan Program as instituted by Republic Act 6768 (amended by Republic Act 9174) was launched by the Philippine Government to attract and encourage overseas Filipinos to come and visit their motherland. The following are considered Balikbayans:

1. A Filipino citizen who has been continuously out of the Philippines for a period of at least one (1) year;
2. A Filipino overseas worker;
3. A former Filipino citizen who had been naturalized in one of the following countries listed on the attached page and who comes or returns to the Philippines; please note that their **accompanying** foreigner spouse and children are also considered balikbayans.

ONE YEAR VISA-FREE BALIKBAYAN STAY

The Philippines' BALIKBAYAN PROGRAM allows a one-year visa-free stay for former Filipinos who have acquired citizenship in certain countries (please refer to the attached list of countries).

The visa-free stay privilege is extended to the balikbayan's non-Filipino spouse and children, on the two conditions that (1) they enter the Philippines with the balikbayan and (2) they are citizens of a country listed below.

Former Filipino balikbayans travelling to the Philippines are advised to declare before the Immigration Officer at the port of entry that they are availing of the privilege and to bring either their old Philippine passport or copy of Philippine birth certificate as proof of their former Philippine citizenship.

Accompanying family members of the balikbayan can bring appropriate supporting documents to show evidence of relationship:

- For the spouse: copy of marriage certificate
- For each child: copy of birth certificate (indicating the balikbayan as a parent)
- For adopted children: copy of adoption papers

Aside from visa-free entry to the Philippines, Philippine Law (R.A. 9174) provides benefits to Balikbayans:

- Tax-exempt maximum purchases in the amount of USD 1,500, or the equivalent in Philippine and other currency, at Philippine Government-operated duty free shops
- Exemption from Travel Tax, provided that their stay in the Philippines is one year or less. If their stay in the Philippines exceeds one year, Travel tax will apply to them.



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COUNTRIES COVERED BY THE BALIKBAYAN PROGRAM

Andorra	Greece	Panama
Angola	Grenada	Papua New Guinea
Antigua and Barbuda	Guatemala	Paraguay
Argentina	Guinea	Peru
Australia	Guinea Bissau	Poland
Austria	Guyana	Portugal
Bahamas	Haiti	Qatar
Bahrain	Honduras	Republic of Korea
Barbados	Hungary	Romania
Belgium	Iceland	Russia
Belize	Indonesia	Rwanda
Benin	Ireland	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Bhutan	Israel	Saint Lucia
Bolivia	Italy	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Botswana	Jamaica	Samoa
Brazil	Japan	San Marino
Brunei Darussalam	Kazakhstan	Sao Tome and Principe
Bulgaria	Kenya	Saudi Arabia
Burkina Faso	Kiribati	Senegal
Burundi	Kuwait	Seychelles
Cambodia	Kyrgyzstan	Singapore
Cameroon	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Slovak Republic
Canada	Latvia	Slovenia
Cape Verde	Lesotho	Solomon Islands
Central African Republic	Liberia	South Africa
Chad	Liechtenstein	Spain
Chile	Lithuania	Suriname
Colombia	Luxembourg	Swaziland
Comoros	Madagascar	Sweden
Congo	Malawi	Switzerland
Costa Rica	Malaysia	Tajikistan
Cote d'Ivoire	Maldives	Thailand
Croatia	Mali	Togo
Cyprus	Malta	Trinidad and Tobago
Czech Republic	Marshall Islands	Tunisia
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mauritania	Turkey
Denmark	Mauritius	Turkmenistan



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Djibouti	Mexico	Tuvalu
Dominica	Micronesia	Uganda
Dominican Republic	Monaco	United Arab Emirates
Ecuador	Mongolia	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
El Salvador	Morocco	United Republic of Tanzania
Equatorial Guinea	Mozambique	United States of America
Eritrea	Myanmar	Uruguay
Estonia	Namibia	Uzbekistan
Ethiopia	Nepal	Vanuatu
Fiji	Netherlands	Vatican
Finland	New Zealand	Venezuela
France	Nicaragua	Vietnam
Gabon	Niger	Zambia
Gambia	Norway	Zimbabwe
Germany	Oman	
Ghana	Palau	

Former Filipinos and or their immediate family who are nationals of countries not found on the country list above will need to secure a visa before going to the Philippines.

For more information:

<http://www.gov.ph/official-gazette/2002/11/07/republic-act-no-9174>

<http://www.immigration.gov.ph/faqs/visa-inquiry/balikbayan-privilege>