



## What is the Philippines?

The Philippines is a small country made of 7,107 islands; its combined area makes it the 64<sup>th</sup> largest country in the world. With a population of over 100 million, the Philippines is the 12<sup>th</sup> most populated country in the world.

It is located east of China and South of Taiwan. The Philippines is also within the Ring of Fire, so many islands are volcanic, but most are dormant.

## History of the Philippines

The Philippines has a rich and interesting history. In 1521, Ferdinand

Magellan came to the Philippines and claimed the land for Spain. Colonization began when Miguel Lopez de Legazpi arrived from Mexico in 1565. Under Spanish rule after exiling members of the Tondo Conspiracy, Manila was established as the capital of the Philippines. In 1896, Bonifacio and the Katipunan

started the Philippine Revolution. After Emilio Aguinaldo took charge of the revolution and the Spanish-American War was raging on,

Aguinaldo declared independence from Spain in 1898. The islands were later ceded by Spain to the United States. The Philippines gained independence in 1946.

## Popular Attractions

There are many popular sites in the Philippines that attracts thousands of tourists every year. You can visit the Banaue Rice terraces or the beautiful beaches of Boracay. You can take a hike through the chocolate hills or go shopping in the Mall of Asia. There are countless things available to do in the Philippines.

Justin C.

### Side Facts

1. The Philippines is named after King Philip II.
2. Bruno Mars is half Filipino.
3. Of the top ten shopping malls in the world, three are in the Philippines.

### Side Facts

1. Mt. Pinatubo's eruption made the largest mushroom cloud of any volcano in history.
2. During a war, the Filipino flag is raised upside down.