

## Philippines



The Philippines consist of more than 7,000 islands, but the bulk of the population lives on just 11 of them. The terrain is mostly mountainous and subject to earthquakes and eruptions from around 20 active volcanoes.

PHILIPPINES FACTS
<b>Population:</b> 80 million (UN, 2003)
<b>Capital:</b> Manila
<b>Major languages:</b> Tagalog, English
<b>Major religion:</b> Christianity
<b>Life expectancy:</b> 68 years (men), 72 years (women) (UN)
<b>Monetary unit:</b> 1 Philippine peso = 100 centavos
<b>Main exports:</b> Electrical machinery, clothing, food and live animals, chemicals, timber products
<b>Average annual income:</b> US \$1,030 (World Bank, 2001)
<b>Internet domain:</b> .ph
<b>International dialing code:</b> +63

The Philippines were ceded by Spain to the US in 1898 following the Spanish-American War. They attained independence in 1946 after Japanese occupation in World War II. The 21-year rule of Ferdinand MARCOS ended in 1986, when a widespread popular rebellion forced him into exile. In 1992, the US closed its last military bases on the islands. The Philippines has had two electoral presidential transitions since the removal of MARCOS. In January 2001, the Supreme Court declared Joseph ESTRADA unable to rule in view of mass resignations from his government and administered the oath of office to Vice President Gloria MACAPAGAL-ARROYO as his constitutional successor.



Flag Description: two equal horizontal bands of blue (top) and red with a white equilateral triangle based on the hoist side; in the center of the triangle is a yellow sun with eight primary rays (each containing three individual rays) and in each corner of the triangle is a small yellow five-pointed star. To listen to the Philippines' national anthem go to [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/country\\_profiles/1262783.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/country_profiles/1262783.stm)