



EMBASSY OF THE PHILIPPINES
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BALIKABAYAN PROGRAM
INFORMATION SHEET

The ***Balikbayan Program***, as instituted by Republic Act 6768 (amended by Republic Act 9174), was launched by the Philippine Government “under the administration of the Department of Tourism to attract and encourage overseas Filipinos to come and visit their motherland.”

Who falls under the BALIKBAYAN Program?

By legal definition, a *balikbayan* is:

- A Filipino citizen who has been continuously out of the Philippines for a period of at least one (1) year from the date of last departure;
- A Filipino overseas worker; or
- A former Filipino citizen with foreign passport and members of his/her family. The term “family” shall mean the spouse and the children of the balikbayan (who are not balikbayan in their own right) who are travelling to the Philippines with the balikbayan.

What are the documents to be presented to show proof of BALIKBAYAN status?

- For Filipino citizens who have been continuously out of the country, you would need to show your Philippine passport showing date of last departure;
- For former Filipino citizens with foreign passport, you need to present your foreign passport and any of the following:
 1. Previous Philippine passport;
 2. Foreign Naturalization papers to show former Filipino citizenship; or
 3. Certification issued by the Embassy or Consulate of the adoptive country that the individual is a former Filipino citizen.

Who else can avail of the BALIKBAYAN Program?

Family members of the *balikbayan* can go to the Philippines without having to apply for a visa, provided they are travelling **together with the *balikbayan***, pay immigration fees, and observe and comply with immigration rules and regulations. In addition to showing their foreign passport, a family member must present:

- A Birth Certificate (with English translation) or Report of Birth filed at the Embassy, in case of children;
- A Marriage Certificate (with English translation) or Report of Marriage filed at the Embassy, in case of spouse; and
- Adoption papers (proof of adoption) in case of legally adopted children.

According to the Bureau of Immigration, the Balikbayan Privilege can be availed of by the foreign member of a *balikbayan's* family EVERY TIME they enter the Philippines with the balikbayan (former Filipino/dual citizen) AND NOT ONLY ONCE A YEAR.

Please note that only family members of *balikbayans* from France and the other countries that enjoy the no-visa entry for 21-day stay may avail of the *balikbayan* privilege and be able to stay in the Philippines for a period of one year without having to apply for a temporary visitor's visa. All other nationals must secure entry visas prior to their travel to the Philippines.

If a *balikbayan* has used his/her privilege and stayed in the Philippines for one year, he/she may apply for an extension of stay for multiples of two months up to one additional year by paying the appropriate fees at the nearest Bureau of Immigration office.

LIST OF COUNTRIES INCLUDED UNDER THE NO-VISA ENTRY FOR 21-DAY STAY IN THE PHILIPPINES-

Nationals from countries listed below are allowed to enter the Philippines without visas for a stay not exceeding twenty-one (21) days, provided they hold valid tickets for their return journey to port of origin or next port of destination. Department regulations require that passports are valid for a period of not less than six (6) months beyond the contemplated period of stay. However, Immigration Officers at ports of entry may exercise their discretion to admit holders of passports valid for at least sixty (60) days beyond the intended period of stay.

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| 1. Andorra | 51. Ghana | 101. Norway |
| 2. Angola | 52. Gibraltar | 102. Oman |
| 3. Antigua and Barbuda | 53. Greece | 103. Palau |
| 4. Argentina | 54. Grenada | 104. Panama |
| 5. Australia | 55. Guatemala | 105. Papua New Guinea |
| 6. Austria | 56. Guinea | 106. Paraguay |
| 7. Bahamas | 57. Guinea Bissau | 107. Peru |
| 8. Bahrain | 58. Guyana | 108. Poland |
| 9. Barbados | 59. Haiti | 109. Portugal |
| 10. Belgium | 60. Honduras | 110. Qatar |
| 11. Benin | 61. Hungary | 111. Republic of Korea |
| 12. Bhutan | 62. Iceland | 112. Romania |
| 13. Bolivia | 63. Indonesia | 113. Russia |
| 14. Botswana | 64. Ireland | 114. Rwanda |
| 15. Brazil* | 65. Israel* | 115. Saint Kitts and Nevis |
| 16. Brunei Darussalam | 66. Italy | 116. Saint Lucia |
| 17. Bulgaria | 67. Jamaica | 117. Saint Vincent & the Grenadines |
| 18. Burkina Faso | 68. Japan | 118. Samoa |
| 19. Burundi | 69. Kenya | 119. San Marino |
| 20. Cambodia | 70. Kiribati | 120. Sao Tome and Principe |
| 21. Cameroon | 71. Kuwait | 121. Saudi Arabia |
| 22. Canada | 72. Lao PDR | 122. Senegal |
| 23. Cape Verde | 73. Latvia | 123. Seychelles |
| 24. Central African Republic | 74. Lesotho | 124. Singapore |
| 25. Chad | 75. Liberia | 125. Slovakia |
| 26. Chile | 76. Liechtenstein | 126. Slovenia |
| 27. Colombia | 77. Lithuania | 127. Solomon Islands |
| 28. Comoros | 78. Luxembourg | 128. Somalia |
| 29. Congo | 79. Madagascar | 129. South Africa |
| 30. Costa Rica | 80. Malawi | 130. Spain |
| 31. Cote d'Ivoire | 81. Malaysia | 131. Suriname |
| 32. Cyprus | 82. Maldives | 132. Swaziland |
| 33. Czech Republic | 83. Mali | 133. Sweden |
| 34. Democratic Republic of Congo | 84. Malta | 134. Switzerland |
| 35. Denmark | 85. Marshall Islands | 135. Thailand |
| 36. Djibouti | 86. Mauritania | 136. Togo |
| 37. Dominica | 87. Mauritius | 137. Trinidad and Tobago |
| 38. Dominican Republic | 88. Mexico | 138. Tunisia |
| 39. Ecuador | 89. Micronesia | 139. Turkey |
| 40. El Salvador | 90. Monaco | 140. Tuvalu |
| 41. Equatorial Guinea | 91. Mongolia | 141. Uganda |
| 42. Eritrea | 92. Morocco | 142. United Arab Emirates |
| 43. Estonia | 93. Mozambique | 143. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland |
| 44. Ethiopia | 94. Myanmar | 144. United Republic of Tanzania |
| 45. Fiji | 95. Namibia | 145. United States of America |
| 46. Finland | 96. Nepal | 146. Uruguay |
| 47. France | 97. Netherlands | 147. Venezuela |
| 48. Gabon | 98. New Zealand | 148. Vietnam |
| 49. Gambia | 99. Nicaragua | 149. Zambia |
| 50. Germany | 100. Niger | 150. Zimbabwe |

The following are allowed to enter the Philippines without a visa for a stay not exceeding fifty-nine (59) days:

1. Holders of Brazil passports; and
2. Holders of Israel passports

The following are allowed to enter the Philippines without a visa for a stay not exceeding seven (7) days:

3. Holders of Hong Kong Special Administrative (SAR) passports
4. Holders of British National Overseas (BNO) passports
5. Holders of Portuguese Passports issued in Macao
6. Holders of Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) passports

Important Note: Nationals who are subjects of deportation/blacklist orders of the Department and the Bureau of Immigration shall not be admitted to the Philippines.