

Preparation For Moving to The Philippines Checklist:

A) Get rid of stuff if you have no plans on going back, or alternatively put it in storage if you're only planning on staying one or two years. Take your time selling your stuff as to maximize your profits. Use Facebook marketplace this is an awesome easy to use tool, very easy to use on a smart phone.

B) Make sure that your passport has at least 12 months left on it, I would consider applying for a new one if you have less than 24 months on it as it is much more of a hazard to renew here in the Philippines, **ALSO AND THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT - YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST 6 MONTHS LEFT FOR EXPIRATION DATE FROM THE DATE YOU ARE LEAVING ON YOUR PASSPORT OTHERWISE THEY WON'T LET YOU LEAVE TO THE PHILIPPINES.**

C) Make sure you home country driver's license has at least 24 months on it, the reason for this is that you have to be in the Philippines continuously for 12 months before they will let you change to Filipino driver's license.

D) If you are on ANY type of medication start getting extra so you can take at least a 6-month supply, preferably more (As much as you can) As medicine here is more expensive than the USA, I recommend travel insurance as it covers more things than a traditional insurance plan and follows you if you plan on visiting other countries.

Travel & Medical Insurance & Covers Covid-19: <http://bit.ly/36pHlVf>

Global Health Insurance for remote workers and nomads covers Covid-19: <https://bit.ly/3kJOret>

Health Insurance: covers pre-existing conditions, cancer and Covid-19: - <http://bit.ly/3fSZEaL>

To avoid any incident, pack any medications that you bring with you in their original containers. Check that all their labels are easy to read. Bring a signed and dated letter from your personal physician, confirming your current medication needs, particularly if you have reason to carry any syringes or needles. Avoid buying any items that you suspect are counterfeit. While you are unlikely to face any penalties while in the Philippines, it is possible that customs officials will take the counterfeit items away upon departure from the country.

Declare all your medication when you enter the Philippines.

E) Consider sending a balikbayan box, what is a balikbayan box? It is a box that is sent via shipping at approx. 120-150 USD and takes about 90 days to get to the Philippines, now with covid it's hard to say how much longer it takes. The size of these boxes differ from vendor to vendor, call around and get the best deal. Remember these boxes have to be tapped VERY well and anything inside has to be protected these boxes and NOT MEANT for fragile items (I have sent a few BBB in my time and several items have broken) so pack things with a lot of padding.

F) Start looking at tickets and understand what are the cheapest rates you can get, as an example don't travel in December as this is VERY expensive. Use google to find the months that are cheapest to Travel, be flexible on your travel date, you are now retired so you can travel any day of the week, typically cheapest days are Tuesday to Thursday. Do the research for your travel. Make sure you book your flight at least 30 days ahead of time for the best rate, again use google to find out what rates are available and when to book

- VERY IMPORTANT book a throwaway ticket out of the country within 28 days of arrival to the Philippines. A Throwaway ticket is basically a valid ticket OUT of the Philippines to show that you are leaving the Philippines, typically you book one to Malaysia and they can be as cheap as 25 usd. You will never use this ticket therefore it's called a throwaway ticket.

<https://onwardticket.com/>

G) The 3 main airports that you will land in are in Manila, Clark and Cebu city, which city you chose to land in depends on your final destination, but if you can I would choose Cebu or Clark as the airport is smaller and it's easier to get through than Manila, again this will depend on your final destination.

H) Have a good scale at home to weigh your luggage before you go, even if it's just 0.5 to 1 lb. over they will give you a hefty "Fine" so make sure all your luggage is within the limits. Any valuables such as laptops, cameras (basically any electronics) take with you in your carry on.

I) Remember PH is 220V @ 60 hz so anything you bring that you have to sun on an electric grid make sure it can take 220V - almost all laptops/Phones/cameras all can do 110 and 220V.

K) Finding a place to live:

FB Market place for finding rent apartment/condo, you can also rent a place for a month or two on Airbnb which is actually a good way to go, don't forget to negotiate don't take price give at face value offer 30% lower and put bids on several places, a lot of empty places right now. If you feel uncomfortable negotiating have a friend, do it for you.

L) It's very important that you print all your documents (I typically do two copies and put them in different places, in case I should lose one), such as airline tickets, hotel stays and so on. If you use smartphone or tablet you can also put it in an app like OneNote (Remember to save to your phone not just to the cloud in case there is no internet)

M) **Open a bank account that has no foreign ATM fees or that will reimburse you any fees charged by the local banks in the Philippines** – one such bank **Charles Schwab**, I use them and have been extremely happy with the service and website.

N) Open a mailbox forwarding account, there are many out there, currently I do not use any as I have a friend who does this for me. This is a good idea to keep your address in the USA unless you have a friend who you trust that can do this for you. If you live in a state that has high state Tax consider an address change to a state such as Texas so that you will not pay state Tax on any income, talk to a tax advisor about this specific point.

Get a USA address and mail forwarding service:

<https://bit.ly/3DCZY8k>

O) I have found some websites in the USA need an IP address from USA otherwise you cannot use it & other countries as well, so a VPN might be a useful tool for you once you get to the Philippines. I use Express VPN, I have been happy with them so far.

Express VPN: Get 30 days free:

<https://bit.ly/3Dp2Bun>

P) I would recommend multiple ways to access your money including a 2nd bank account and ways to transfer money here. The following are my recommendations.

Need to Send your Filipina girlfriend money or yourself:

Remitly: Sending Money around the world: Get a special promotional rate and no fee on your first transfer!!

<http://remit.ly/bw9omq>

Wise get your first transfer for free: <http://bit.ly/2Z4xxfZ>

Q) Set up a phone in your home country though Skype or Google or even a local phone carrier in able to get texts from your bank or credit cards.

R) Anything and everything with an expiration date, extend out as far as you can. Contact your banks, Driver's License, Credit Cards and extend out everything that you can. You might be gone for a few years and it is easier to deal with this stuff later in your home country.

S) Dating and Relationships in the Philippines: Best way of course are boots on the ground and out and about meeting people. However, some people don't have the confidence, time or skill set for this. You can do online dating in combination of boots on the ground or just one or the other. If you are to meet using dating apps, these are the ones I recommend.

#1 Dating Site to meet quality Filipina girls: Christian Filipina Meet Beautiful Christian Singles Today! They check every profile. Best overall results of any dating site in the Philippines.

<https://bit.ly/30bPjP8>

FilipinoCupid is the #1 Filipino Dating Site With Over 5.5 Million Members

<https://cupidlinks.com/?a=142230&c=1&p=r&s1=>

New and Upcoming Dating Site:

<https://filipinaloveconnection.com/>

T) I recommend packing as light as possible, remember 90% of the things you are bringing can just be purchased here. Things I do recommend bring can be found in my Gio's Essential Travel List below. If you are a bigger guy you may want to bring extra clothes and shoes. If you fall within the normal range no need, just purchase here. Have a day shopping here at an inexpensive department store, you may even meet a nice sales clerk while you're at it.

Gio's Essentials Traveling List

Order today!

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JBL Go 3 Portable speaker

<https://amzn.to/3hwyZn9>

Merrell's Sandals

<https://amzn.to/3tRaLGQ>

Amazon Fire TV Stick

<https://amzn.to/3wfWZzi>

Roku Streaming Stick

<https://amzn.to/3tX9EWa>

Pacsafe metrosafe Anti-theft backpack

<https://amzn.to/3hyYnbX>

Balennz wicking quick dry t-shirts

<https://amzn.to/3ot9SmY>

Mesh Quick Dry Sports Underwear

<https://amzn.to/3yRutFK>

Water Shoes Anti-slip

<https://amzn.to/3uXD6MR>

WELCOME TO THE PHILIPPINES – it's more fun here, it really is 😊

Visiting or moving to The Philippines? 1 on 1 Consultation With Gio: e-mail:

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