

Philippines

Country name	Philippines ¹
State title	Republic of the Philippines
Name of citizen	Filipino (m) / Filipina (f)
Official languages	English (eng), Filipino (fil) ²
Country name in official languages	Philippines (eng) / Pilipinas (fil)
State title in official languages	Republic of the Philippines (eng) / Republika ng Pilipinas (fil)
Script	Roman script
Romanization System	Not required
ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)	PH/PHL ³
Capital (Conventional name)	Manila
Capital in official languages	Manila (eng) / Maynila (fil)
Area / Population	300,000km ² / 116,434,200 (2023 est.) ⁴

Introduction

The Philippines is an archipelagic nation, located north of Indonesia in the Pacific Ocean. Its total area is 300,000 km², 298,170 km² of which is land and 1,830 km² is water.

The Philippine Islands became a Spanish colony during the 16th century and were ceded to the US in 1898 following the Spanish-American War. In 1935, the Philippines became a self-governing commonwealth. Following Japanese occupation during World War II, the Republic of the Philippines attained its independence on 4 July 1946.

The country name derives from the name "Las Islas Filipinas", which was given to Spain's possessions in the archipelago – named for the Spanish King Phillip (Felipe) II.

Geographical names policy

Geographical names for the Philippines should be taken from English-language official Philippine sources. The [National Mapping and Resource Information Authority \(NAMRIA\)](#) is the official mapping agency for the Philippines, publishing maps and charts and providing some of these for download from its website. Names can also be taken from the online [Geoportal Philippines](#).

¹ Although the definite article (the) is not part of the country name it may precede the country name in running text, e.g. "Filipino is spoken in the Philippines".

² ISO 639 codes are given for languages mentioned in this Factfile.

³ <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui>

⁴ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/philippines/summaries>

English and Filipino are both official languages. Some features may have alternative names in either Filipino or one of the Philippines many other native languages. These names do not tend to be used for official purposes in the Philippines but may be included for reference on HMG products if required. It should be noted that spelling in these other languages may be inconsistent. See *Languages* section for further details.

The official names found on Philippine English-language sources may have their origins in local languages or Spanish or English.

Languages

Filipino (fil)⁵ and English (eng) are the official languages of the Philippines and Filipino is the national language⁶. The national language is officially described as “Tagalog-based”. In practice, Filipino is the standard register and official, formal language, whereas Tagalog (tgl) is the spoken language. However, the exact distinction and use of the two languages can be rather ambiguous and the two language names are sometimes used as synonyms.

There are many ethnic groups in the Philippines, many of which speak other languages. According to Ethnologue, 175 indigenous languages are spoken, including Tagalog/Filipino⁷, the majority of which are from the Austronesian language family. Due to the historic presence of the Spanish in the Philippine islands, there are many Spanish (spa) loanwords in Philippine languages and toponyms. Toponyms of the Philippines may have their origins in English, Filipino/Tagalog, indigenous languages or Spanish, or a mixture thereof.

Spanish names and terms are commonly found in Philippine toponyms. These may contain the character ‘ñ’ (Unicode: 00F1). Some examples of Spanish in toponyms include:

Davao de Oro
Bucas Grande
Las Piñas
Puerto Princesa
La Trinidad
Ilocos Norte
Ilocos Sur
San Fernando

Some examples of Tagalog/Filipino generic terms are:

Lungsod	- City (sometimes Lunsod, usually on older documents)
Rehiyon	- Region (sometimes Rehyon)
Lalawigan	- Province ⁸
Bayan	- Municipality
Lawang	- Lake
Dagat	- Sea

Compass points will also be encountered in Tagalog or Filipino names for features, such as the provinces, e.g.:

Hilaga	- North
Timog	- South
Silangan	- East
Kanluran	- West

⁵ Filipino (fil) is written in Roman script.

⁶ <http://www.gov.ph/constitutions/1987-constitution/>

⁷ <https://www.ethnologue.com/country/PH/>

⁸ This is the English translation of the generic *lalawigan*, used by the Philippines government for the ADM1s. There is also a word *probynsya* or *probinsya*, meaning province, used in Filipino and Tagalog.

Map of Philippines



Map produced by PCGN for illustrative purposes only, and is not to be taken necessarily as representing the views of the UK government on boundaries or political status.

Boundary/Toponymic Disputes

There are many disputes over rights to the South China Sea. The Philippines claims some disputed features as described below. In June 2011, the Philippines began officially referring to the South China Sea as the "West Philippine Sea". South China Sea remains the recommended name for HMG use.

Scarborough Reef (15° 08' N, 117° 46' E)

Whilst this feature is properly a reef, it is sometimes referred to as Scarborough Shoal. Scarborough Reef is claimed by the Philippines and China (and also the *de facto* government on the island of Taiwan). The Philippines refers to Scarborough Reef as Panatag Shoal or Panatag Reef, or Bajo de Masinloc. China refers to it as Huangyan Dao.

HMG products should not assign sovereignty to this feature. It should be labelled as "Scarborough Reef (Disputed)", or if space permits, "Scarborough Reef (Disputed between China and Philippines)".

Spratly Islands (10° 0' 0" N, 114° 0' 0" E)

This extensive feature in the South China Sea consists of around 750 reefs, islets, atolls, cays and islands. The Spratly Islands, and/or the waters around them, are claimed either entirely or in part by Brunei, China, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam (and also the *de facto* government on the island of Taiwan).

China & Taiwan refer to the Spratly Islands as Nansha Qundao.

The Philippines refers to its claim as the Kalayaan (Freedom) Island Group/Kapuluan ng Kalayaan (name refers only to the islands that the Philippines claim).

The Vietnamese refer to the Spratlys as Quan Đảo Trường Sa.

In Malaysia the Spratlys are referred to as Kepulauan Spratly.

HMG products should not assign sovereignty to this island group. It should be labelled as "Spratly Islands (Disputed)". If space, or scale, permits then it may be useful to add the names of all the claimants to the "Disputed" label.

Administrative structure

The administrative structure of the Philippines is complex but the website of the [Philippines Statistic Authority \(PSA\)](#) provides useful lists of names and explanations of the function of the various units and the Local Government Code of 1991 sets down the powers and responsibilities of the various units of local government administration⁹.

As of 30 September 2023, the administrative structure of the Philippines consisted of 17 Regions, 82 Provinces, 149 Cities¹⁰, 1,485 Municipalities¹¹ and 42,001 Barangays¹².

Regions

The largest unit is the Region, which is described as a sub-national administrative unit comprising several Provinces having more or less homogenous characteristics, for example the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)¹³, which is composed of predominantly Muslim Provinces. Although geographically each Region contains several Provinces, with the exception of ARMM and Cordilleras¹⁴, the Regions have no government of their own and do not have a supervisory function over the Provinces they contain. The Province is described as the largest unit in the political structure of the Philippines.

Provinces

The Province is the highest level of political administration so can be classified as a first-order administrative division (ADM1), as can the Highly Urbanised Cities (HUCs) and Independent Component Cities (ICCs), which are administered independently of the provinces. Component Cities and Municipalities fall under the supervision of the provinces and are therefore second-order administrative divisions (ADM2). The third-order administrative divisions are the Barangays¹⁵.

⁹ http://www.lawphil.net/statutes/repacts/ra1991/ra_7160_1991.html

¹⁰ There are three different classifications of cities. See section B for details of the cities.

¹¹ A full list of all the administrative divisions can be found at <https://psa.gov.ph/classification/psgc>

¹² <https://psa.gov.ph/classification/psgc>

¹³ <https://bangsamoro.gov.ph/>. Formerly the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. The creation of the autonomous government was originally slated for 2022 but was postponed until 2025 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, among other reasons.

¹⁴ Article X, Section 15 of the Philippines Constitution states "There shall be created autonomous regions in Muslim Mindanao and in the Cordilleras consisting of provinces, cities, municipalities, and geographical areas sharing common and distinctive historical and cultural heritage, economic and social structures, and other relevant characteristics". See <http://www.chanrobles.com/article10autonomousregions.htm> and http://www.congress.gov.ph/download/ra_11/RA09054.pdf

¹⁵ NCSB has data right down to this level: <http://www.nscb.gov.ph/activestats/psgc/default.asp>

TOPONYMIC FACT FILE

The administrative structure of Philippines is as follows. Details of the Provinces and Cities are provided on the following pages:

ADM1	Province, HUC & ICC
ADM2	Component City & Municipality
ADM3	Barangay

A - The Provinces

Below is a list of the 82 provinces grouped by region.¹⁶ The **National Capital Region** (NCR) does not contain any provinces, rather it contains 16 cities, including the City of Manila, and one municipality, which are subdivided into 1710 Barangays.

CAR – Cordillera Administrative Region

Province	Capital	Sub-divisions ¹⁷	Location of Province ¹⁸
Abra	Bangued	27 Mun. 303 Bgys	17° 35' 00" N 120° 45' 00" E
Apayao	Kabugao	7 Mun. 133 Bgys	18° 03' 38" N 121° 12' 28" E
Benguet	La Trinidad	13 Mun. 140 Bgys	16° 30' 00" N 120° 40' 00" E
Ifugao	Lagawe	11 Mun. 176 Bgys	16° 50' 00" N 121° 10' 00" E
Kalinga	City of Tabuk	7 Mun. 1 City 153 Bgys	17° 28' 13" N 121° 18' 15" E
Mountain Province	Bontoc	10 Mun. 144 Bgys	17° 05' 00" N 121° 10' 00" E

REGION I (Ilocos Region)

Province	Capital	Sub-divisions	Location of Province
Ilocos Norte	Laoag City	21 Mun. 2 Cities 559 Bgys	18° 10' 00" N 120° 45' 00" E
Ilocos Sur	City of Vigan	32 Mun. 2 Cities 768 Bgys	17° 15' 41" N 120° 32' 01" E
La Union	City of San Fernando	19 Mun. 1 City 576 Bgys	16° 30' 00" N 120° 25' 00" E
Pangasinan	Lingayen	44 Mun. 4 Cities 1364 Bgys	15° 55' 00" N 120° 20' 00" E

REGION II (Cagayan Valley)

Province	Capital	Sub-divisions	Location of Province
Batanes	Basco	6 Mun. 29 Bgys	20° 40' 00" N 121° 55' 00" E
Cagayan	Tuguegarao City	28 Mun. 1 City 820 Bgys	18° 00' 00" N 121° 50' 00" E
Isabela	Ilagan	34 Mun. 3 Cities 1055 Bgys	17° 00' 00" N 122° 00' 00" E
Nueva Vizcaya	Bayombong	15 Mun. 275 Bgys	16° 19' 29" N 121° 07' 27" E
Quirino	Cabarroguis	6 Mun. 132 Bgys	16° 17' 00" N 121° 35' 00" E

REGION III (Central Luzon)

Province	Capital	Sub-divisions	Location of Province
Aurora	Baler	8 Mun. 151 Bgys	16° 00' 00" N 121° 45' 00" E
Bataan	City of Balang	11 Mun. 1 City 237 Bgys	14° 40' 00" N 120° 25' 00" E
Bulacan	City of Malolos	20 Mun. 4 Cities 572 Bgys	15° 00' 00" N 121° 05' 00" E
Nueva Ecija	Palayan City	27 Mun. 5 Cities 849 Bgys	15° 35' 00" N 121° 00' 00" E
Pampanga	City of San Fernando	19 Mun. 2 Cities 505 Bgys	15° 04' 00" N 120° 40' 00" E
Tarlac	City of Tarlac	17 Mun. 1 City 511 Bgys	15° 30' 00" N 120° 30' 00" E
Zambales	Iba	13 Mun. 230 Bgy	15° 20' 00" N 120° 10' 00" E

¹⁶ Some, but not all, of the regions are coded using Roman Numerals.

¹⁷ For a full list see <https://psa.gov.ph/classification/psgc>

¹⁸ Locations provided refer to the approximate central point of the provinces.

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REGION IV-A (Calabarzon)

Province	Capital	Sub-divisions	Location of Province
Batangas	Batangas City	29 Mun. 5 Cities 1078 Bgys	13° 55' 00" N 121° 05' 00" E
Cavite	Trece Martires City	115 Mun. 8 Cities 803 Bgys	14° 15' 00" N 120° 50' 00" E
Laguna	Santa Cruz	24 Mun. 6 Cities 681 Bgys	14° 10' 00" N 121° 20' 00" E
Quezon	Lucena City	39 Mun. 1 City 1209 Bgys	14° 01' 01" N 121° 54' 07" E
Rizal	<i>de facto</i> : Antipolo City <i>de jure</i> : Pasig City ¹⁹	13 Mun. 1 City 189 Bgys	14° 38' 10" N 121° 16' 04" E

REGION IV-B (Mimaropa)

Province	Capital	Sub-divisions	Location of Province
Marinduque	Boac	6 Mun. 218 Bgys	13° 25' 00" N 121° 57' 00" E
Occidental Mindoro	Mamburao	11 Mun. 164 Bgys	13° 00' 00" N 120° 55' 00" E
Oriental Mindoro	City of Calapan	14 Mun. 1 City 426 Bgys	13° 00' 06" N 121° 23' 08" E
Palawan	Puerto Princesa City	23 Mun. 367 Bgys	10° 04' 00" N 118° 54' 18" E
Romblon	Romblon	17 Mun. 219 Bgys	12° 30' 00" N 122° 15' 00" E

REGION V (Bicol Region)

Province	Capital	Sub-divisions	Location of Province
Albay	Legazpi City	15 Mun. 3 Cities 720 Bgys	13° 13' 00" N 123° 33' 00" E
Camarines Norte	Daet	12 Mun. 282 Bgys	14° 10' 00" N 122° 45' 00" E
Camarines Sur	Pili	35 Mun. 2 Cities 1063 Bgys	13° 40' 00" N 123° 20' 00" E
Catanduanes	Virac	11 Mun. 315 Bgys	13° 50' 00" N 124° 15' 00" E
Masbate	City of Masbate	20 Mun. 1 City 550 Bgys	12° 10' 00" N 123° 35' 00" E
Sorsogon	City of Sorsogon	14 Mun. 1 City 541 Bgys	12° 50' 00" N 123° 55' 00" E

REGION VI (Western Visayas)

Province	Capital	Sub-divisions	Location of Province
Aklan	Kalibo	17 Mun. 327 Bgys	11° 40' 00" N 122° 20' 00" E
Antique	San Jose de Buenavista ²⁰	18 Mun. 590 Bgys	11° 10' 00" N 122° 05' 00" E
Capiz	Roxas City	16 Mun. 1 City 473 Bgys	11° 24' 00" N 122° 34' 00" E
Guimaras	Jordan	5 Mun. 98 Bgys	10° 34' 51" N 122° 37' 34" E
Iloilo	Iloilo City	42 Mun. 1 City 1721 Bgys	11° 00' 00" N 122° 40' 00" E
Negros Occidental	Bacolod	19 Mun. 12 Cities 601 Bgys	10° 25' 00" N 123° 00' 00" E

¹⁹ The seat of the provincial government is Antipolo City. Rizal Governor Casimiro A. Ynares III on June 17, 2008 announced the transfer of the Capitol from Pasig. <http://www.gmanews.tv/story/101682/Rizal-capitol-to-be-transferred-to-Antipolo>.

²⁰ Sometimes just 'San Jose'.

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REGION VII (Central Visayas)

Province	Capital	Sub-divisions	Location of Province
Bohol	Tagbilaran City	47 Mun. 1 City 1109 Bgys	09° 50' 00" N 124° 10' 00" E
Cebu	Cebu City	44 Mun. 6 Cities 1066 Bgy	10° 19' 17" N 123° 45' 17" E
Negros Oriental ²¹	Dumaguete City	19 Mun. 6 Cities 557 Bgys	09° 45' 00" N 123° 00' 00" E
Siquijor	Siquijor	6 Mun. 134 Bgys	09° 11' 00" N 123° 34' 00" E

REGION VIII (Eastern Visayas)

Province	Capital	Sub-divisions	Location of Province
Biliran	Naval	8 Mun. 132 Bgys	11° 35' 07" N 124° 29' 05" E
Eastern Samar	City of Borongan	22 Mun. 1 City 597 Bgys	11° 40' 00" N 125° 30' 00" E
Leyte	Tacloban City	40 Mun. 2 Cities 1478 Bgys	11° 00' 10" N 124° 51' 28" E
Northern Samar	Catarman	24 Mun. 569 Bgys	12° 23' 17" N 124° 49' 24" E
Samar (Western Samar)	City of Catbalogan	24 Mun. 2 Cities 951 Bgys	11° 50' 00" N 125° 00' 00" E
Southern Leyte	City of Maasin	18 Mun. 1 City 500 Bgys	10° 20' 00" N 125° 05' 00" E

REGION IX (Zamboanga Peninsula)

Province	Capital	Sub-divisions	Location of Province
Zamboanga del Norte	Dipolog City	25 Mun 2 Cities 691 Bgys	08° 00' 00" N 122° 40' 00" E
Zamboanga del Sur	Pagadian City	26 Mun 1 City 681 Bgys	07° 54' 15" N 123° 19' 10" E
Zamboanga Sibugay	Ipil	16 Mun. 389 Bgys	07° 48' 27" N 122° 35' 20" E

REGION X (Northern Mindanao)

Province	Capital	Sub-divisions	Location of Province
Bukidnon	City of Malaybalay	20 Mun. 2 Cities 464 Bgys	08° 00' 00" N 125° 00' 00" E
Camiguin	Mambajao	5 Mun. 58 Bgys	09° 10' 00" N 124° 45' 00" E
Lanao del Norte	Tubod	22 Mun. 462 Bgys	08° 00' 58" N 124° 02' 43" E
Misamis Occidental	Oroquieta	14 Mun 3 Cities 490 Bgys	08° 20' 00" N 123° 42' 00" E
Misamis Oriental	Cagayan de Oro City	23 Mun. 2 Cities 424 Bgys	08° 45' 00" N 125° 00' 00" E

REGION XI (Davao Region)

Province	Capital	Sub-divisions	Location of Province
Davao de Oro (formerly Compostela Valley)	Nabunturan	11 Mun. 237 Bgys	07° 35' 31" N 126° 04' 22" E
Davao del Norte	City of Tagum	8 Mun. 3 Cities 223 Bgys	07° 37' 20" N 125° 40' 29" E
Davao del Sur	City of Digos	9 Mun. 1 City 232 Bgys	06° 20' 00" N 125° 30' 00" E
Davao Occidental	Malita	5 Mun. 105 Bgys	
Davao Oriental	City of Mati	10 Mun. 1 City 183 Bgys	07° 10' 00" N 126° 20' 00" E

²¹ Negros Oriental had requested a name change to Oriental Negros, but this has not been ratified.
<http://filipinayzd.i.ph/blogs/filipinayzd/2007/04/22/negros-oriental-o-oriental-negros/>

REGION XII (SOCCSKSARGEN²²)

Province	Capital	Sub-divisions	Location of Province
Cotabato (North Cotabato)	City of Kidapawan	17 Mun. 1 City 480 Bgys	07° 12' 44" N 124° 52' 53" E
Sarangani	Alabel	7 Mun. 142 Bgys	05° 52' 29" N 125° 16' 31" E
South Cotabato	City of Koronadal	10 Mun. 1 City 199 Bgys	06° 15' 08" N 125° 00' 02" E
Sultan Kudarat	Isulan	11 Mun. 1 City 249 Bgys	06° 33' 00" N 124° 17' 00" E

REGION XIII (Caraga)

Province	Capital	Sub-divisions	Location of Province
Agusan del Norte	Cabadbaran ²³	10 Mun. 1 City 167 Bgys	09° 10' 00" N 125° 30' 00" E
Agusan del Sur	Prosperidad	13 Mun. 1 City 314 Bgys	08° 30' 00" N 125° 50' 00" E
Dinagat Islands ²⁴	San Jose	7 Mun. 100 Bgys	09° 59' 00" N 125° 36' 00" E
Surigao del Norte	Surigao City	20 Mun. 1 City 335 Bgys	09° 37' 49" N 125° 42' 37" E
Surigao del Sur	City of Tandag	17 Mun. 2 Cities 309 Bgys	08° 40' 27" N 126° 08' 48" E

BARMM – Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

Province	Capital	Sub-divisions	Location of Province
Basilan	Isabela City	11 Mun. 1 City 210 Bgys	06° 34' 43" N 122° 02' 06" E
Lanao del Sur	Marawi City	39 Mun. 1 City 1161 Bgys	07° 55' 00" N 124° 20' 00" E
Maguindanao del Norte	Datu Odin Sinsuat	12 Mun. 1 City 258 Bgys	07° 11' 20" N 124° 11' 02" E
Maguindanao del Sur	Buluan	24 Mun. 287 Bgys	06° 52' 17" N 124° 31' 13" E
Sulu	Jolo	19 Mun. 410 Bgys	06° 00' 00" N 121° 00' 00" E
Tawi-Tawi	Bongao, Panglima Sugala ²⁵	11 Mun. 203 Bgys	05° 12' 21" N 120° 01' 35" E

B - The Cities

All Philippine cities are classed as Chartered Cities, meaning that their existence as corporate and administrative entities is governed by their own specific charters, in addition to the Local Government Code of 1991, which specifies the administrative structure and political powers of sub-national government entities.

The cities of the Philippines are divided into three distinct types. A Highly Urbanised City (HUC) is a city with a population exceeding 200,000 and with an annual income of at least Fifty Million Pesos. Independent Component Cities (ICC) are independent of the provinces, their inhabitants being prohibited from voting for provincial elective officials. The cities which do not meet the requirements

²² Formerly Central Mindanao, the region's name is an acronym that stands for its four provinces and one highly urbanized city (**S**outh **C**otabato, **C**otabato, **S**ultan **K**udarat, **S**arangani and **G**eneral Santos).

²³ Republic Act No.8811- *Transferring the Capital and Seat of Government of the Province of Agusan del Norte from Butuan City to the Municipality of Cabadbaran*, approved: 16 August 2000. Some administrative offices remain in Butuan.

²⁴ In February 2010, the Supreme Court ruled that Dinagat Islands failed to comply with the Local Government Code's requirements of population size and land area for it to become a province. But on 29/03/2011 the Court voted to reverse its earlier decision to nullify Dingat Islands' provincial status.

<http://sc.judiciary.gov.ph/news/courtnews%20flash/2010/02/02111002.php>
<http://www.gmanews.tv/story/216534/nation/dinagat-islands-a-province-again-as-sc-reverses-itself>

²⁵ NSCB lists both of these cities as centres of Tawi-Tawi.

of either a HUC or an ICC are known as Component Cities (CC), as they are considered components of the province in which they are located²⁶. Consequently, HUCs and ICCs can be considered on a par with the provinces in the administrative hierarchy as first-order administrative divisions, whereas the Component Cities fall under the administration of the provinces and should therefore be treated as second-order administrative divisions.

As of September 2023, there are 149 cities in the Philippines, including 33 HUCs and 4 ICCs. Some independent cities still serve as the seat of government of the respective provinces in which they are geographically located. The cities of the Philippines are listed in the table below. There is some inconsistency in the form of the generic, e.g. Batangas City versus City of Alaminos. As far as possible the name form used by official Philippines sources should be followed. It should be noted that in some cases more than one city has the same name.

List of the Cities of the Philippines²⁷

City Name	City Type	Province
Batangas City	CC	Batangas
City of Alaminos	CC	Pangasinan
City of Angeles	HUC	Pampanga
City of Antipolo	CC	Rizal
City of Bacolod	HUC	Negros Occidental
City of Bacoar	CC	Cavite
City of Bago	CC	Negros Occidental
City of Baguio	HUC	Benguet
City of Bais	CC	Negros Occidental
City of Balanga	CC	Bataan
City of Baliwag	CC	Bulacan
City of Batac	CC	Ilocos Norte
City of Bayawan	CC	Negros Oriental
City of Baybay	CC	Leyte
City of Bayugan	CC	Agusan del Sur
City of Biñan	CC	Laguna
City of Bislig	CC	Surigao del Sur
City of Bogo	CC	Cebu
City of Borongan	CC	Eastern Samar
City of Butuan	HUC	Agusan del Norte
City of Cabadbaran	CC	Agusan del Norte
City of Cabanatuan	CC	Nueva Ecija
City of Cabuyao	CC	Laguna
City of Cadiz	CC	Negros Occidental

²⁶ In cases where the Component City is located within the boundary of more than one province the city is considered a component of the province of which it used to be a municipality.

²⁷ <https://psa.gov.ph/classification/psgc/cities>

TOPONYMIC FACT FILE

City Name	City Type	Province
City of Cagayan de Oro	HUC	Misamis Oriental
City of Calaca	CC	Batangas
City of Calamba	CC	Laguna
City of Calapan	CC	Oriental Mindoro
City of Calbayog	CC	Samar (Western Samar)
City of Caloocan	HUC	NCR, Third District*
City of Candon	CC	Ilocos Sur
City of Canlaon	CC	Negros Oriental
City of Carcar	CC	Cebu
City of Carmona	CC	Cavite
City of Catbalogan	CC	Samar (Western Samar)
City of Cauayan	CC	Isabela
City of Cavite	CC	Cavite
City of Cebu	HUC	Cebu
City of Cotabato	ICC	City of Cotabato*
City of Dagupan	ICC	Pangasinan
City of Dapitan	CC	Zamboanga del Norte
City of Dasmariñas	CC	Cavite
City of Davao	HUC	Davao del Sur
City of Digos	CC	Davao del Sur
City of Dipolog	CC	Zamboanga del Norte
City of Dumaguete	CC	Negros Oriental
City of El Salvador	CC	Misamis Oriental
City of Escalante	CC	Negros Occidental
City of Gapan	CC	Nueva Ecija
City of General Santos	HUC	South Cotabato
City of General Trias	CC	Cavite
City of Gingoog	CC	Misamis Oriental
City of Guihulngan	CC	Negros Oriental
City of Himamaylan	CC	Negros Occidental
City of Ilagan	CC	Isabela
City of Iligan	HUC	Lanao del Norte
City of Iloilo	HUC	Iloilo
City of Imus	CC	Cavite
City of Iriga	CC	Camarines Sur
City of Isabela	CC	City of Isabela*
City of Kabankalan	CC	Negros Occidental

TOPONYMIC FACT FILE

City Name	City Type	Province
City of Kidapawan	CC	Cotabato (North Cotabato)
City of Koronadal	CC	South Cotabato
City of La Carlota	CC	Negros Occidental
City of Lamitan	CC	Basilan
City of Laoag	CC	Ilocos Norte
City of Lapu-Lapu	HUC	Cebu
City of Las Piñas	HUC	NCR, Fourth District*
City of Legazpi	CC	Albay
City of Ligao	CC	Albay
City of Lipa	CC	Batangas
City of Lucena	HUC	Quezon
City of Maasin	CC	Southern Leyte
City of Makati	HUC	NCR, Fourth District*
City of Malabon	HUC	NCR, Third District*
City of Malaybalay	CC	Bukidnon
City of Malolos	CC	Bulacan
City of Mandaluyong	HUC	NCR, Second District*
City of Mandaue	HUC	Cebu
City of Manila	HUC	NCR, City of Manila, First District*
City of Marawi	CC	Lanao del Sur
City of Marikina	HUC	NCR, Second District*
City of Masbate	CC	Masbate
City of Mati	CC	Davao Oriental
City of Meycauayan	CC	Bulacan
City of Muntinlupa	HUC	NCR, Fourth District*
City of Naga	ICC	Camarines Sur
City of Naga	CC	Cebu
City of Navotas	HUC	NCR, Third District*
City of Olongapo	HUC	Zambales
City of Oroquieta	CC	Misamis Occidental
City of Ozamiz	CC	Misamis Occidental
City of Pagadian	CC	Zamboanga del Sur
City of Palayan	CC	Nueva Ecija
City of Panabo	CC	Davao del Norte
City of Parañaque	HUC	NCR, Fourth District*
City of Pasig	HUC	NCR, Second District*
City of Passi	CC	Iloilo

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City Name	City Type	Province
City of Puerto Princesa	HUC	Palawan
City of Roxas	CC	Capiz
City of Sagay	CC	Negros Occidental
City of San Carlos	CC	Negros Occidental
City of San Carlos	CC	Pangasinan
City of San Fernando	CC	Pampanga
City of San Fernando	CC	La Union
City of San Jose Del Monte	CC	Bulacan
City of San Juan	HUC	NCR, Second District*
City of San Pablo	CC	Laguna
City of San Pedro	CC	Laguna
City of Santa Rosa	CC	Santa Rosa
City of Santiago	ICC	Isabela
City of Silay	CC	Negros Occidental
City of Sipalay	CC	Negros Occidental
City of Sorsogon	CC	Sorsogon
City of Santo Tomas	CC	Batangas
City of Surigao	CC	Surigao del Norte
City of Tabaco	CC	Albay
City of Tabuk	CC	Kalinga
City of Tacloban	HUC	Leyte
City of Tacurong	CC	Sultan Kudarat
City of Tagaytay	CC	Cavite
City of Tagbilaran	CC	Bohol
City of Taguig	HUC	NCR, Fourth District*
City of Tagum	CC	Davao del Norte
City of Talisay	CC	Negros Occidental
City of Talisay	CC	Cebu
City of Tanauan	CC	Batangas
City of Tandag	CC	Surigao del Norte
City of Tangub	CC	Misamis Occidental
City of Tanjay	CC	Negros Oriental
City of Tarlac	CC	Tarlac
City of Tayabas	CC	Quezon
City of Toledo	CC	Cebu
City of Trece Martires	CC	Cavite
City of Urdaneta	CC	Pangasinan

City Name	City Type	Province
City of Valencia	CC	Bukidnon
City of Valenzuela	HUC	NCR, Third District*
City of Victorias	CC	Negros Occidental
City of Vigan	CC	Ilocos Sur
City of Zamboanga	HUC	Zamboanga del Sur
Danao City	CC	Cebu
Island Garden City of Samal	CC	Davao del Norte
Mabalacat City	CC	Pampanga
Ormoc City	ICC	Leyte
Pasay City	HUC	NCR, Fourth District*
Quezon City	HUC	NCR, Second District*
San Jose City	CC	Nueva Ecija
Science City of Muñoz	CC	Nueva Ecija
Tuguegarao City	CC	Cagayan

* Cities marked with an asterisk in column three are not located within a province.

C - Metropolitan Areas

There are 3 metropolitan areas in the country, as defined by the Philippines National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)²⁸. These metropolitan areas do not necessarily constitute the exact extent of the urban area, for example the built-up area of Manila extends beyond the boundary of Metro Manila, while some metro areas can contain rural areas. Ten other metro areas were previously recognised by NEDA: Metro Angeles, Metro Bacolod, Metro Baguio, Metro Batangas, Metro Cagayan de Oro, Metro Dagupan, Metro Iloilo–Guimaras, Metro Naga, and Metro Olongapo. However, these ten were not included as metropolitan areas in the 2017–2022 Philippine Development Plan created by NEDA²⁹.

By 2025, Metro CDO (Cagayan de Oro) will become the 4th metropolitan centre based on its projected population growth and functional role as a major gateway and trans-shipment hub in Northern Mindanao.

Metropolitan Area	Cities and Municipalities
Metro Manila	16 cities: City of Manila, Caloocan, Las Piñas, Makati, Malabon, Mandaluyong, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Navotas, Parañaque, Pasay, Pasig, Quezon City, San Juan, Taguig, Valenzuela 1 municipality: Pateros
Metro Cebu	7 cities: Cebu City, Carcar, Danao, Lapu-Lapu, Mandaue, Naga, Talisay 6 municipalities: Compostela, Consolacion, Cordova, Liloan, Minglanilla, San Fernando
Metro Davao	6 cities: Davao City, Digos, Mati, Panabo, Island Garden City of Samal, Tagum 9 municipalities: Carmen, Hagonoy, Maco, Malalag, Malita, Padada, Santa Cruz, Santa Maria, Sulop

²⁸ <http://www.neda.gov.ph>

²⁹ <https://pdp.neda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/PDP-2017-2022-10-03-2017.pdf>

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Other Significant Locations

Below are details of some significant features in and around the Philippines. The table provides the recommended name for HMG use as well as names used by relevant other countries and alternative spellings that might be encountered.

PCGN Recommended Name	Alternative Names/Spellings	Location	Feature Type
South China Sea	West Philippine Sea/Dagat Kanlurang Pilipinas (<i>Philippines</i>), Biển Đông (<i>Vietnam</i>), Nan Hai (<i>China</i>), Laut Cina Selatan, Laut China Selatan (<i>msa</i>), Dagat Timog Tsina (<i>tgl</i>)	15° N, 115° E	Sea
Philippine Sea	-	20° N, 135° E	Sea
Sulu Sea	Dagat Sulu (<i>tgl</i>)	8° N, 120° E	Sea
Celebes Sea	Dagat Selebes (<i>tgl</i>), Laut Sulawesi (<i>msa & ind</i>)	4° N, 122° E	Sea
Luzon	-	16° N, 121° E	Island
Mindanao	-	8° N, 125° E	Island
Mindoro	-	112° 55' 49" N 121° 05' 41" E	Island
Palawan	-	09° 30' 00" N 118° 30' 00" E	Island
Panay	-	11° 25' 06" N 122° 22' 26" E	Island
Negros	Los Negros	10° N, 123° E	Island
Leyte	-	10° 50' 00" N 124° 50' 00" E	Island
Samar	-	12° N, 125° E	Island
Masbate	-	12° 12' 29" N 123° 41' 55" E	Island
Bohol	-	09° 50' 00" N 124° 10' 00" E	Island
Luzon Strait	Kipot ng Luzon (<i>tgl</i>), Lusong haixia (<i>China</i>)	21° N, 121° E	Strait
Sulu Archipelago	-	6° N, 121° E	Archipelago
Moro Gulf	-	7° N, 123° E	Gulf
Philippine Trench	Philippine Deep, Mindanao Trench, Mindanao Deep	08° 00' 00" N 127° 30' 00" E	Undersea trench
Visayan Sea	-	11° 33' 28" N 123° 51' 08" E	Sea
Sibuyan Sea	-	12° 37' 34" N 122° 29' 01" E	Sea
Balintang Channel	-	19° 49' 00" N 121° 40' 00" E	Marine channel

Useful references

- BBC Country Profile: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-15521300>
- CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/philippines/>
- Ethnologue: www.ethnologue.com (for information on languages)
- FCDO Geographical Names Index (GNI):
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/geographical-names-and-information>
- FCDO Travel Advice: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/philippines>
- Geoportal Philippines: <https://www.geoportal.gov.ph/>
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO): www.iso.org
- ISO Online Browsing Platform (OBP): <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui#home>
- National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA):
<https://www.namria.gov.ph/>
- Omniglot: www.omniglot.com (for information on languages and scripts)
- PhilAtlas: <https://www.philatlas.com/>
- PCGN Country Names list: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/country-names>
- PCGN Information Paper *Geographical names in the South China Sea, October 2015*
- Philippines National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA):
<http://www.neda.gov.ph>
- Philippine Standard Geographic Code (PSGC): <https://psa.gov.ph/classification/psgc>
- Philippine Statistics Authority: <https://psa.gov.ph/>
- Unicode: www.unicode.org
- US Board on Geographic Names GEOnet Names Server:
<https://geonames.nga.mil/geonames/GNSHome/welcome.html>

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