

## **DOs in the Philippines**

### **1. Use honorifics or familial words**

People in the Philippines are generally very courteous and respectful. “Sir” and “Ma’am” or “Madam” are commonly used by the Filipinos. The word “Po” is indicative of respect.

### **2. Be friendly**

The Filipinos are by nature very friendly people. A reciprocal friendliness will get you the best friends one can ever find in the world.

### **3. Have a good sense of humor**

Filipinos can take anything in stride and by just making fun out of even the most trying circumstances. They tend genuinely appreciate laughter and such gestures.

### **4. A simple Thank You**

Hospitality is a trait commonly shared by every Filipino. Tourists and travellers get the experience first-hand and they are quite surprised with the kind of welcoming hearts the people have in this country. A simple Thank You for any favor done will be gratifying for them.

### **5. Wave back**

Strangers or no strangers, the people love to wave at people anytime, anywhere. This is their way of saying they do appreciate your coming to the country (for whatever reason or purpose) and that they would be happy to see you again. Waving back is acknowledging their presence and that simple gesture will make them very pleased.

### **Don'ts in the Philippines**

**1. Don't be flashy**

Most targeted by scammers and pickpockets are those flashing out their wealth. It is always recommended that tourists don't come in with valuables flashed around. Keep them and use them only when in a safe environment, and not on the street.

**2. Don't lose temper**

You may encounter some people in the places that you travel to who only speak their dialect. Don't show irritation when talking to them. Instead try to find someone who can at least understand a little English to get your message across.

**3. Don't refuse food**

Filipinos are hospitable and they will offer food to guests every chance they get. That's part of the hospitality they are so known for. Don't refuse especially if they made the effort to cook them for you.

**4. Don't walk the streets alone**

If you are in the metropolis or the rural areas, it is not advisable to walk the streets alone. As a foreigner, you will easily get the attention of people and some of them may not be as heartwarming as the others.

**5. Don't be offended by questions related to income**

Approaching questions about income, standard of living or things that would often be considered personal with sensitivity. These topics are not always welcomed in discussion. However, it is not uncommon for Filipinos to ask questions relating to age, work and level of education to ensure they address you correctly in future interactions.

**6. Don't Criticize**

Avoid directly criticizing the Philippines as a country. This may not be well received and criticisms from a foreigner may be interpreted as an insult.

**7. Don't Display Anger in Public**

Do not publicly display signs of anger, raising your voice or shouting in front of those older or superior to you. Any confrontational or aggressive behavior may bring *hiya* (shame or embarrassment), tarnishing your reputation.

**8. Don't be offended by comments on physical traits**

Try not to be offended if your Filipino counterpart makes frank comments about people's body shape. Such as "Oh, you've put on weight" or "Do you have a boyfriend/girlfriend?". Such comments are not intended to be hurtful, invasive or offensive.