

Philippines Etiquette

The island country of Philippines is a melting pot of different cultures owing to the diversity among the people that inhabits the country. An integral part of every country's culture is its code of conduct that is followed strictly by all and is expected to be followed by every visiting tourist. The etiquettes that one practices and preaches not only show the character of the person but they are like mirrors in which you can have a glimpse of the cultural life of the country. Philippines is also one such country with its own set of etiquettes and behavior.

General Etiquettes in Philippines

A handshake or a smile is the general norm of greeting in Philippines. Since they give immense importance to their family values the eldest person is greeted first at a social meeting.

Since having double or multiple names is a general custom in the country, ask by which name they prefer to be addressed. Since status is an important criteria it is better to address by formal names in the first meeting.

While calling out someone, one should refrain from pointing the finger. Also avoiding too much of eye contact is preferred. One should also be knowledgeable of the non verbal expressions practiced in Philippines.

While being invited to someone's house it is preferred to leave behind some food in the plate only to point out that you had enough.

Always remember to leave the shoes outside while entering someone's house.

Business Etiquettes in Philippines

Active participation is required by every staff at a business gathering.

It is considered good if you are punctual. Try not to drink too much at a business gathering. Toasts are common and are usually initiated by the host or the senior executive.

Let the host invite you to a drink and start the lunch or dinner session. The first offer should be declined as a mark of politeness however the second should be graciously accepted.

The host of the party is entitled to pay the bill.

Gift Etiquettes in Philippines

Every gift received should be followed by giving a return one on the purpose of a business gathering or a social gathering. Gifts can be of flowers or food.

During festivals, receiving gifts is a part of the tradition. However according to the Philippines custom, the gifts should not be opened in public.

During baptism it is customary to toss coins at the children present. Money Bills are often pinched in the attires of brides and grooms at a wedding.

Ref.: <http://www.asiarooms.com/en/travel-guide/philippines/culture-of-philippines/philippines-etiquette.html>