



PHILIPPINES: Pre-Departure Info & packing list



Hey there, RootWave fam!

You've just locked in the trip of a lifetime—how exciting is that? We know you probably have a bunch of questions, so we've put this pack together to cover most of them. If anything's still on your mind, just reach out—we're always happy to help.

Give it a read, start getting hyped, and get ready—paradise is just around the corner. Thanks for booking with us—we can't wait to share an unforgettable adventure with you!



What to Bring & Packing List

Travel light! You'll be moving around a lot, and honestly, you can buy almost anything you need once you're in Indonesia (and usually more affordable). A good backpack is the way to go—look for one that opens from the front or sides so you're not digging to the bottom every time, and make sure it's comfortable for long walks. Suitcases aren't the best choice here—they can be tricky on boats, buses, and uneven roads. A simple daypack is also handy for shorter outings.

- ☐ Passport
- ☐ Air tickets
- ☐ Modest clothing
- ☐ Bank card & cash
- ☐ Travel insurance documents
- ☐ Driver's license
- ☐ Mobile phone, camera, & chargers
- ☐ Worldwide plug adapter
- ☐ Day bag (small bag for day trips)
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Swimwear
- ☐ Toiletries
- ☐ Flip flops/sandals
- ☐ Walking shoes/sneakers
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Medication

Get Connected

We'll create a WhatsApp group for your tour (just be sure we have your number). It's a great way to connect with your fellow travelers before your trip. Your Group Leader will join the chat about 7–10 days before your trip to introduce themselves and will also send you a welcome email around the same time—so keep an eye out!





Visa & Passport

Make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after your trip ends. If you need a visa to enter the Philippines, you can usually get a Visa on Arrival, but applying for an e-visa beforehand is often easier and quicker. You can check your options and requirements through services like [Sherpa](#). Visiting more than one country? Make sure to check each country's entry rules, and remember that some visas can take several weeks to process—so it's best to sort them out early!

Travel Insurance

All RootWave travelers are required to have travel insurance before the trip begins. Your policy should include coverage for cancellations, medical expenses, lost or damaged baggage, personal belongings, money, and public liability. Once you've purchased your policy, be sure to upload the details into your [Ready to Go](#).

Health & Vaccinations

If you have any medical conditions, please let RootWave know when you book or at least 30 days before your trip. No vaccinations are required, but it's a good idea to check with your doctor for recommendations. You can also visit the World Health Organization website for the latest travel health advice.

Currency

ATMs are widely available across the Philippines, so there's no need to carry large amounts of cash. The local currency is Philippine Peso (PHP). Be sure to let your bank know you're traveling abroad and check for any international transaction fees. We also recommend looking into a travel currency card—they usually charge lower fees for withdrawals and often come with a handy app for converting currencies on the go.

Tipping

Tipping isn't required, but it's a thoughtful way to thank the people who make your trip special. Your RootWave Leader can share local customs, and if they go the extra mile, tips are always appreciated. As a guide, \$20–25 USD per person per week is typical, but it's totally up to you. In Philippines, tax and service are often included in the bill, so totals may be higher than expected. Tips aren't required but always appreciated — even small amounts for guides, drivers, or waitstaff go a long way.

Stay Connected with an E-SIM

If your phone is unlocked, an eSIM is the easiest way to stay connected. Check with your provider first, then try [Airalo](#) — it's quick, affordable, and app-based, so you can skip hunting for a local SIM on arrival.





Meals

Some meals are included on your tour, and we'll check in on any dietary needs ahead of time. For the rest, get ready to dive into the Philippines' incredible food scene—think sizzling pork sisig, fresh seafood, hearty adobo, and sweet halo-halo to cool off. Local eats are affordable, delicious, and full of flavor, so we always encourage giving them a try. If you're craving international dishes, you'll find plenty too, though usually at a higher price.

Early Arrival

If you're planning to arrive in Cebu before your tour officially begins, you can book extra nights at the start hotel directly through us. This makes your arrival stress-free, ensures you're in the right place when your tour kicks off, and gives you a little extra time to settle in or explore on your own. To arrange pre-nights, simply reach out to us at info@rootwavetravels.com, and our team will be happy to help with availability and pricing.

Airport Pick-Up & Drop-Off

While airport transfers aren't included in your tour, we can easily set them up for you so your trip starts and ends stress-free. If you'd like us to arrange a friendly pick-up when you land or a smooth drop-off at the end of your adventure, just shoot us an email at info@rootwavetravels.com and we'll get it sorted.

Travel Far, Connect Deeper!

Don't miss out—follow us on socials to stay in the loop with trip highlights, behind-the-scenes moments, and epic shots from past and current adventures (you and your group will probably make an appearance too). Want even more? Join our RootWave Community page where travelers share tips, swap stories, and connect before, during, and after their trips. It's the perfect spot to keep the travel buzz alive and link up with your RootWave fam!

Additional Information

Check out our [Philippines: Isla Escape Itinerary](#)

Website

IG: RootWaveTravels

Tiktok: RootWaveTravels

Email us at info@rootwavetravels.com for any questions or concerns.