



Customized program developed for:  
**San Mateo Community College District**  
**Philippines**  
June 29-July 14, 2024





**OFFICIAL NAME:** Republic of the Philippines

**CAPITAL:** Manila

**TOP LANGUAGES:** Filipino, English

**MAJOR INDUSTRIES:** electronics assembly, textile and garments, business process outsourcing, chemicals, food manufacturing

**MAJOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS:** sugar cane, rice, coconuts, maize, bananas, vegetables, tropical fruit, plantains, pineapples, cassava



## SPOTLIGHT ON THE PHILIPPINES

From bustling cities to stunning beaches and mountains, the Philippines has a lot to offer. Located in the Pacific Ocean near the equator, this archipelago consists of 7,640 islands, 2,000 of which are inhabited. The country can be divided into three main areas: Luzon, a group of islands called the Visayas, and Mindanao. Each region features breathtaking landscapes that appear otherworldly, such as the Chocolate Hills of Bohol or the Ifugao Rice Terraces, which demonstrate that industry and nature can exist in harmony. As a result of 350 years of Spanish rule, the majority of the population practices Catholicism. Holdovers from Spanish influence can still be seen today through exuberant town festivals and centuries-old stone churches, of which there are many.

Economic growth in the Philippines has accelerated in recent years. They have been relatively unimpacted by global economic shocks due to limited exposure to problematic international securities, low dependence on export, resilient domestic consumption, and a rapidly expanding service industry. Although the country is expanding its net foreign direct investment, it continues to lag due to limiting laws and restrictions. Sustained efforts are needed for improvement of the judicial system, governance, the regulatory environment, the infrastructure, and the ease of doing business. The current administration views infrastructure shortcomings as a key barrier to sustained economic growth and therefore has pledged to address the issue by spending billions of dollars on infrastructure in the coming years.

### TOPICS TO EXPLORE

**TRENDS AND GROWTH IN FOOD & BEVERAGE INDUSTRY** – Learn about the food manufacturing business and the effects on the local economy by meeting with a company with roots in the Philippines.

**CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES IN TEXTILE INDUSTRY** – This engagement will delve into one of the Philippines’ most promising industries: textile and apparel manufacturing. See the operations of a modern facility and discuss innovative production processes, evolving workplace management tactics, and sustainability initiatives with members of leadership.

**THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY** – Gain insights into the latest trends in technology and digital transformation of the country’s corporate sector while understanding the main challenges involved.

### BY THE NUMBERS

\$963.1 BILLION | EST 2019 GDP (USD PPP)

110.8 MILLION | POPULATION

300,000 KM<sup>2</sup> | AREA

1,200+ MEETINGS PLANNED IN THE REGION

# Your customized itinerary

The following itinerary is a working document and is subject to change (revised 1/30/2024).

June 29, 2024   Program Begins	
<p>Saturday</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flight departs for Manila – Arranged by participants.</li> </ul>
Jun 30   Manila	
<p>Sunday</p> <p><b>Meals Included</b> Dinner</p> <p><b>Manila Accommodations</b> 3* Hotel or similar (1 of 11)</p>	<p><i>Welcome to Manila! The "Pearl of the Orient" is a megacity where steel-and-glass skyscrapers co-exist with swarming slums alongside the genteel artifacts of European and American colonial heritage. Dense, multicultural, and soulful, Manila is evolving toward a new kind of modernity.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the most common arrival time of all participants, transfer to your accommodations – Private transportation included.</li> <li>Check-in to your accommodations or store luggage if check-in is unavailable.</li> </ul> <p><b>Orientation</b> <i>Sourced by San Mateo Community College District. Meeting space not included.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the evening, taste the local cuisine with a group <b>Welcome Dinner</b> –Private transportation included.</li> </ul>
July 1   Manila	
<p>Monday</p> <p><b>Meals Included</b> Breakfast</p> <p><b>Manila Accommodations</b> 3* Hotel or similar (2 of 11)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make your way to today’s engagements –Full day local staff and private transportation included.</li> </ul> <p><b>University of Philippines, Diliman Visit</b> <i>Sourced by San Mateo Community College District.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Break for lunch on own.</li> <li>Continue to next visit.</li> </ul> <p><b>Half-Day Manila Introduction Tour (Guided)</b> <i>Quick stop at Luneta Park, Visit Museong Pambata. Tour of the 16th Century Intramuros, the city within the walls built during the Spanish era of colonization. Old gates and battlements have been restored to preserve the history of Old Manila. Casa Manila; a museum reflecting the lifestyle of the Spanish/Filipino elite. Cross over to San Agustin Church and Museum, the oldest Church in the country that withstood heavy bombardment during the 2nd World War; cobbled stone plaza &amp; antique houses. Proceed to Fort Santiago, a fortress built to guard the city from invaders. Lastly, drop by National Museum of Anthropology or Natural History. (Entrance fees included)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enjoy the remainder of the day free with dinner on own.</li> </ul>

**July 2 | Manila**

Tuesday

**Meals Included**  
Breakfast

**Manila Accommodations**  
3\* Hotel or similar (3 of 11)

- Make your way to today’s engagements –*Full day local staff and private transportation included.*

**Bantay Bata- NGO**

*Sourced by San Mateo Community College District.*

- Break for lunch on own.
- Continue to next visit.

**Quiapo Heritage Tour (Guided)**

*Quiapo Heritage Tour will bring people to Calle Hidalgo, which sits at the heart of Quiapo's heritage district. This tour features the extended path, which will bring participants to Calle Bilibid Viejo, including a short stop on several side streets in the area, with one leading to just outside the Ocampo Pagoda mansion. This focuses on a part of Manila which still has a few remaining samples of grand houses from the Spanish period, all of which survived the destruction caused by the Second World War. These structures are the anchors of stories about people, groups, and institutions which helped shape Quiapo and Philippine society. (No entrance fees required)*

- Enjoy the remainder of the day free with lunch and dinner on own.

**July 3 | Manila**

Wednesday

**Meals Included**  
Breakfast

**Manila Accommodations**  
3\* Hotel or similar (4 of 11)

- Make your way to today’s engagements –*Full day local staff and private transportation included.*

**Old and New Metropolitan Tour (Guided)**

*First stop at **Rizal Park** which was named after our National Hero Dr. Jose Rizal. Across the monument, you'll see a marble marker designated as KM 0 for road distances on the island of Luzon and the rest of the Philippines. The tour continues with an overall view of old downtown Manila passing by Planetarium, National Museum, Manila City Hall, Jones Bridge, Filipino Chinese friendship Arch towards Binondo area referred to as the local "China Town". Next stop at **Old Intramuros** built by the Spaniards and home of the elite during that long period of Spanish colonization in the Philippines; The battle for liberation of Manila in 1945 World War II left the area in ruins. Stop at **San Agustin Church**, the oldest stone church that withstood heavy bombardment during the 2nd World War. From San Agustin Church, crossover to **Casa Manila**, "colonial lifestyle" museum that reflects the culture and traditions during the Spanish era. The tour continues to Fort Santiago, one of the oldest fort in Manila built in 1571. It was here that our national hero Dr. Jose Rizal spent his last days and where he wrote his famous "My Last Farewell". First stop at **American War Memorial and Cemetery**, it has the largest number of graves of any cemetery of U.S. personnel killed during the World War II and holds war dead from the Philippines and other allied nations. Continue the tour to **Ayala Museum** that features sixty handcrafted dioramas that chronicle the rich tapestry of Philippine history and one-of-a-kind boat gallery showcasing miniatures of some of the watercrafts that contributed to the development of Philippine maritime trade and colonial economy before heading back to pier. (Entrance fees included)*

- Enjoy the remainder of the day free with lunch and dinner on own.

**July 4 | Manila**

Thursday

**Meals Included**  
Breakfast

**Manila Accommodations**  
3\* Hotel or similar (5 of 11)

- Make your way to today’s engagements –*Full day local staff and private transportation included.*

**University of Philippines, Diliman Visit:**

**Payatas Dumpsite**

*Sourced by San Mateo Community College District.*

**Smokey Mountain**

*Sourced by San Mateo Community College District.*

- Enjoy the remainder of the day free with lunch and dinner on own.

**July 5 | Manila**

Friday

**Meals Included**  
Breakfast  
Lunch

**Manila Accommodations**  
3\* Hotel or similar (6 of 11)

- Make your way to today’s engagements –*Full day local staff and private transportation included.*

**Pagsanjan Falls Tour (Guided)**

*The scenic town of Pagsanjan is on the southeast side of Laguna de Bay, the largest freshwater lake in South East Asia. Upon arrival in Pagsanjan Riverview, you will be given enough time to use the restroom before proceeding to the docking area. Each of you will wear life vest and helmet. You will walk on a cobble stone walkway passing by the Riverview’s mini garden towards the docking area. There are 49 steps going down to reach the boat docking area. You will be provided by a cushion which you will be laid in the canoe for you to sit on. Maximum of 2 guests per canoe. This canoe will be maneuvered by 2 boatmen. Boats are tug to each other. It will be towed by a motorized canoe in front up to Bumbungan River where “shooting the rapids” start. GET READY TO BE WET! Boatmen get off the boat and with the help of designed hand-holds, they pull the boat up rocks and raging water. In some areas they literally need to carry and push your boat upstream against the strong current. The path along the river is full of lush greenery and waterfalls. Canoes stopped at big rocks area just before the falls. You have to walk towards the main falls. Upon reaching the main falls, you may swim and opt to try the raft ride to devil’s cave. Going to the Devil’s cave, you will board a bamboo raft and hold a rope tied on it. The locals pulled the rope attached to the opposite end to be able to reach the cave. After this once in a lifetime experience of the “shooting the rapids”, you will board the canoe again to proceed back to Riverview for your lunch. Upon arrival in Pagsanjan Riverview, you may change into fresh clothes and enjoy your lunch which served a local Filipino dish. After your sumptuous lunch, board bus to return to hotel. (Entrance fees, lunch included)*

- Enjoy the remainder of the day free with dinner on own.

**July 6 | Countryside Tour**

Saturday

**Meals Included**  
Breakfast

**Manila Accommodations**  
3\* Hotel or similar (7 of 11)

- Make your way to today’s engagements –*Full day local staff and private transportation included.*

**Masungi Georeserve (Guided)**

*The Masungi Georeserve is a conservation area and a rustic rock garden tucked in the rainforests of Rizal. Masungi’s name is derived from the word “masungki” which translates to “spiked” - an apt description for the sprawling limestone landscape found within. In this sanctuary, guests will be able to commune with nature, and reenergise themselves while doing so. Wander through our pathways for an encounter with wildlife and plant species. Enjoy light snacks before exiting the trail. Learn more about the history of the place introducing you to a community rich with heritage and life. (Entrance fees included)*

- Enjoy the remainder of the day free with dinner on own.

**July 7 | Countryside Tour**

Sunday

**Meals Included**

Breakfast  
Lunch

**Manila Accommodations**

3\* Hotel or similar (8 of 11)

- Make your way to today’s engagements –*Full day local staff and private transportation included.*

**Mt. Pinatubo Adventure (Guided)**

*Barely three hours away from Manila, the Philippines capital, you’ll find Mt. Pinatubo, one of the most powerful active volcanoes from the 20th century. It was a dormant giant for about 500 years until it erupted in June 1991 a few days following a 7.8 magnitude earthquake. The devastating catastrophe buried the surrounding towns with ash and lava flows, leaving behind unimaginable loss of agriculture, infrastructure, and life. Over a decade later, Mt. Pinatubo and its surrounding area is now a beautiful sight to behold. Its once tragic and ashen gray backdrop has now become a picturesque mix of blues and greens that can be witnessed in Mt. Pinatubo. (Entrance fees and lunch included)*

- Enjoy the remainder of the day free with dinner on own.

**July 8 | Manila to Baguio**

Monday

**Meals Included**

Breakfast

**Baguio Accommodations**

3\* Hotel or similar (1 of 3)

- Check out of your accommodations and depart for your next destination– *Private transportation included.*

**Coach to Baguio** - *Approximately 3 hours & 40 minutes; Quote only*

- Upon arrival, make your way to your accommodations –*Private transportation included.*
- Check-in to your accommodations or store luggage if check-in is unavailable.
- Enjoy the remainder of the day free with lunch and dinner on own.

**July 9 | Baguio**

Tuesday

**Meals Included**

Breakfast

**Baguio Accommodations**

3\* Hotel or similar (2 of 3)

- Make your way to today’s engagements –*Full day local staff and private transportation included.*

**University of the Cordilleras Visit**

*Sourced by San Mateo Community College District.*

- Enjoy the remainder of the day free with lunch and dinner on own.

**July 10 | Baguio**

Wednesday

**Meals Included**

Breakfast

**Baguio Accommodations**

3\* Hotel or similar (3 of 3)

- Make your way to today’s engagements –*Full day local staff and private transportation included.*

**University of Philippines- Baguio Visit**

*Sourced by San Mateo Community College District.*

- Break for lunch on own.
- Continue to next visit.

**Kayad Kalinga- NGO**

*Sourced by San Mateo Community College District.*

- Enjoy the rest of the day free on own with dinner on own.

**July 11 | Baguio to Manila**

Thursday

**Meals Included**  
Breakfast

**Manila Accommodations**  
3\* Hotel or similar (9 of 11)

- Check out of your accommodations and depart for your next destination– Private transportation included.

**Coach to Manila** - Approximately 3 hours & 40 minutes; Quote only

- Upon arrival, make your way to your accommodations.
- Check-in to your accommodations or store luggage if check-in is unavailable.
- Enjoy the remainder of the day free with lunch and dinner on own.

**July 12 | Manila**

Friday

**Meals Included**  
Breakfast

**Manila Accommodations**  
3\* Hotel or similar (10 of 11)

- Make your way to today’s engagements –*Half day local staff and private transportation included.*

**University of Philippines, Diliman Visit**  
*Sourced by San Mateo Community College District.*

- Enjoy the rest of the day on own with lunch and dinner on own.

**July 13 | Manila**

Saturday

**Meals Included**  
Breakfast  
Dinner

**Manila Accommodations**  
3\* Hotel or similar (11 of 11)

- Make your way to today’s engagements –*Half day local staff and private transportation included.*

**Reflections and Family Connections**  
*Sourced by San Mateo Community College District. Meeting space not included.*

- In the evening, taste the local cuisine with a group **Farewell Dinner** –*Private transportation included.*

**July 14 | Program Ends**

Sunday

**Meals Included**  
Breakfast

- Check out of your accommodations.
- At the most common departure time of all participants, transfer to the airport –*Private transportation included.*
- Flights return home – *Arranged by participants.*