

# Manila

City of Manila  
*Lungsod ng Maynila*



The Manila skyline



Flag



Seal

**Nickname(s):** "*Perla del Oriente* (Pearl of the Orient) "Queen of the Orient"; "The City of Our Affections"; "City by the Bay"; "*La Insigne y Siempre Leal Ciudad* (Distinguished and Ever Loyal City)"

**Motto:** *Linisin Ikarangal Maynila*



Map of [Metro Manila](#) showing the location of the City of Manila

Coordinates:  [14°35'N 120°58'E](#) / [14.583, 120.967](#)

<b>Country</b>	<a href="#">Philippines</a>
<b>Region</b>	<a href="#">National Capital Region</a>
<b>Districts</b>	<a href="#">1st to 6th districts of Manila</a>
<b>Barangays</b>	897
<b>Incorporated (city)</b>	June 10, 1574
<b>Government</b>	

- Mayor	<a href="#">Alfredo Lim</a> (2007-2010; <a href="#">GO</a> )
- Vice Mayor	<a href="#">Isko Moreno</a> (2007-2010; ( <a href="#">AM/PDP-Laban/GO</a> ))
<b>Area</b>	
- City	38.55 km <sup>2</sup> (14.9 sq mi)
<b>Elevation</b>	16.0 m (52 ft)
<b>Population</b> (2007)	
- City	1,660,714
- <b>Density</b>	43,079/km <sup>2</sup> (26,774/sq mi)
- <b>Metro</b>	11,553,427
<b>Time zone</b>	<a href="#">PST (UTC+8)</a>
<b>ZIP code</b>	0900 to 1096
<b>Area code(s)</b>	2

**Website:** [www.manila.gov.ph/](http://www.manila.gov.ph/)

The **City of Manila** ([Filipino](#): *Lungsod ng Maynila*), or simply **Manila**, is the [capital](#) of the [Philippines](#) and one of the 17 cities and municipalities that make up [Metro Manila](#). Located on the eastern shores of [Manila Bay](#) just west of the [National Capital Region](#) in western side of [Luzon](#), it is one of the central hubs of a thriving metropolitan area home to over 14 million people.[1]

Manila, occupying a total land area of 38.3 square kilometers,[2] is the second most populous city in the Philippines, with more than 1.6 million inhabitants. Only nearby [Quezon City](#), the country's former capital, is more populous. The metropolitan area is the second most populous in Southeast Asia.[1]

Manila lies about 950 kilometers southeast of [Hong Kong](#) and 2,400 kilometers northeast of [Singapore](#). The river bisects the city in the middle. Almost all of the city sits on top of centuries of prehistoric [alluvial](#) deposits built by the waters of the Pasig River and on some land reclaimed from Manila Bay. The layout of the city was haphazardly planned during Spanish Era as a set of communities surrounding the original Spanish Era walled city of Manila, called [Intramuros](#). Intramuros is one of the oldest walled cities in the Far East. During the American Period, some semblance of city planning using the architectural designs and master plans by [Daniel Burnham](#) was done on the portions of the city south of the Pasig River. Burnham, the noted American city planner and architect, was famed for his plans and designs of Chicago, Cleveland (the Group Plan), San Francisco, Washington, DC (the McMillan Plan), and Baguio City, details of which appear in The Chicago Plan publication of 1909.

Manila is bordered by several cities in [Metro Manila](#) such as [Navotas](#) and [Caloocan City](#) to the north, [Quezon City](#) to the northeast, [San Juan](#) and [Mandaluyong City](#) to the east, [Makati City](#) to the southeast, and [Pasay City](#) to the south.

Well into the 13th century, the city consisted of a fortified settlement and trading quarter at the bay of the Pasig River, on top of previous older towns. The official name of the city under its [Malay](#) aristocracy was *Seludong/Selurung*, which was the same name given for the general region of southwestern [Luzon](#) at that time, suggesting that it was the capital of [Ancient Tondo](#). However, the city became known by the name given to it by its [Tagalog](#) inhabitants, *Maynila*, first recorded as *Maynilad*. The name is based on the [nila](#), a flowering mangrove plant that grew on the marshy shores of the bay, used to produce soap for regional trade; it is either from the phrase *may nila*, [Tagalog](#) for "there is *nila*," or it has a prefix *ma-* indicating the place where something is prevalent (*nila* itself is probably from Sanskrit *nila* 'indigo tree').[3] (The idea that the plant name is actually "nilad" is a myth.)[4]

The original Manila was inside the fortified walls of [Intramuros](#) (meaning within the walls) which was constructed and designed by Spanish [Jesuit](#) missionaries to keep from invading Chinese pirates and

natives uprising. Manila became the seat of the [colonial](#) government of [Spain](#) when it officially controlled the Philippine Islands for over three centuries from 1565 to 1898. The city was also temporarily occupied by [Great Britain](#) for two years from 1762-1764 during the [seven years war](#). During those two years under the British flag the capital was temporarily moved to [Pampanga](#). Manila also became famous during the Manila-[Acapulco](#) trade which lasted for three centuries and brought the goods as far as Mexico all the way to [South East Asia](#). Beginning in 1899, the [United States](#) ceded the Philippines from Spain and colonized the whole Philippine archipelago until 1946. During [World War II](#), much of the city was destroyed. It was the second most destroyed city in the world after [Warsaw](#), Poland during [World War II](#). The Metropolitan Manila region was enacted as an independent entity in 1975.

Manila has been classified as a "Gamma" [global city](#) by the Globalization and World Cities Study Group and Network.[\[5\]](#)

## Brief History

### Pre-colonial era

When the Mongols invaded China, [Zhang Shijie's](#) fleet and the last [Song](#) emperor was believed to have escaped to pre-colonial Philippines and established the [Luzon Empire](#) or the *Lesser Song Empire*. It was also known as *Gintu* ("The Land of Gold") or *Suarnabumi* by its neighbors. The said empire flourished during the latter half of the [Ming Dynasty](#) when China closed its doors to foreign trade. [Ancient Tondo](#) has always been the traditional capital of the empire. Its rulers were equivalents to kings and not mere chieftains, and they were addressed as *panginuan* or *panginoon* ("lords"), *anak banua* ("son of heaven") or *lakandula* ("lord of the palace").

During the reign of [Bolkiah](#) (1485-1521) the [Kingdom of Brunei](#) decided to break the [Luzon Empire's](#) monopoly in the China trade by attacking [Tondo](#) and establishing the city state of Selurong (now Manila) as a Burnesian satellite. A new dynasty under the Salalila was also established to challenge the House of Lakandula in Tondo.[\[citation needed\]](#)

In the mid-16th century, the areas of present-day Manila were [sultanates](#) and they were governed by Muslim [rajahs](#). [Rajah Sulayman](#) and [Rajah Matanda](#) ruled the Muslim communities south of the [Pasig River](#), and [Rajah Lakandula](#) ruled the [Ancient Tondo](#), the community north of the river. These settlements held ties with the sultanates of [Brunei](#), [Sulu](#), and [Ternate](#) in [Cavite](#)



Spanish rule

## The Entrance of the Real Fuerza de Santiago ([Fort Santiago](#))

Governor-General [Miguel López de Legazpi](#), searching for a suitable place to establish his capital after being compelled to move from [Cebu](#) to [Panay](#) by [Portuguese](#) pirates, and hearing of the existence of a prosperous sultanate in [Luzon](#), sent an expedition under Marshall [Martin de Goiti](#) and Captain [Juan de Salcedo](#) to discover its location and potentials. De Goiti anchored at [Cavite](#), and tried to establish his authority peaceably by sending a message of friendship to Maynilad. [Rajah Sulayman](#), then its ruler, was willing to accept the friendship that the Spaniards were offering, but did not want to submit to its sovereignty unto them and waged war against them.<sup>[6]</sup> As a result, De Goiti and his army attacked Maynilad on June 1570. After a stout fight, he captured the city before returning to Panay.

In 1571, the Spaniards returned, this time led by Legazpi himself along with his entire force (consisting of 280 Spaniards and 600 native allies). Seeing them approach, the natives set the city on fire and fled to [ancient Tondo](#) and neighboring towns. The Spaniards occupied the ruins of Maynilad and established a settlement there. On June 3, 1571, Legaspi gave the title *city* to the colony of Manila.<sup>[7]</sup> The title was certified on June 19, 1572.<sup>[7]</sup> Under Spain, Manila became the colonial entrepot in the [Far East](#). The [Manila-Acapulco Galleon](#) trade route between the Philippines and [Mexico](#) flourished from 1571 until 1815<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup>.

Because of the Spanish presence in the area, the Chinese people, who were living in the area and engaging in free trade relations with the natives, were subjected to commercial restrictions as well as laws requiring them to pay tribute to Spanish authorities. As a result, the Chinese revolted against the Spaniards in 1574, when a force of 3,000 men and 62 Chinese warships under the command of [Limahong](#) attacked the city. The said attempt was fruitless, and the Chinese were defeated. In order to safeguard the city from similar uprisings later, the Spanish authorities confined the Chinese residents and merchants to a separate district called [Parian de Alacercia](#).

On June 19, 1591, after the commencing the construction of the fort there, Legazpi made overtures of friendship of [Rajah Lakandula](#) of Tondo, which was prudently accepted. However, Rajah Sulayman refused to submit to the Spaniards and gathered together a force composed of Tagalog warriors after failing to get the support of Lakandula and that of the chieftains of [Hagonoy](#) and [Macabebe](#). On June 03, 1571<sup>[8]</sup>, Sulayman led his troops and attacked the Spaniards in a decisive battle at the town of [Bangkusay](#), but they were defeated, and Sulayman himself was killed. With the destruction of Sulayman's army and the friendship with Rajah Lakandula, the Spaniards were enabled to establish throughout the city and its neighboring towns. Rajah Matanda consented to give the Spaniards a land for their settlement and moved out of Maynilad. Because of Matanda's recognition of the Spanish authority, he was proclaimed as the first Christian. Through his efforts, many of his relatives were converted to Christianity. When Matanda died in 1572, Legazpi and other high officials carried his remains and placed it in front of the main altar of the [Manila Cathedral](#), a place of the highest honor. This act overwhelmed the other native chieftains like Lakandula who was baptized as Don Carlos Lacadola to accept the Spanish sovereignty. According to historian [John Foreman](#), "Lakandula appears to have been regarded more as a servant by the Spaniards, rather than a free ally." To ensure their loyalty the Spaniards they were given privileges and titles. Eventually, the [Augustinians](#) came to spread the [Roman Catholic](#) faith through the establishment of schools and parishes. They were soon followed by the [Franciscans](#), [Jesuits](#), [Dominicans](#), [Augustinians](#) and other religious orders who came later in the centuries.

In 1595, Manila was decreed to be the capital of the Philippines, although it had already in fact served that function practically from its founding in 1571. Legazpi then ordered the creation of a municipal government or *cabildo* with a set of Spanish-style houses, monasteries, nunneries, churches, and schools giving birth to [Intramuros](#).

At various times in the following century, the Chinese rose in revolt against the Spaniards. In 1602, they set fire to [Quiapo](#) and Tondo, and for a time threatened to capture Intramuros. In 1662, they again revolted, while in 1686, a conspiracy led by [Tingco](#) plotted to kill all the Spaniards. These events led to the expulsion of the Chinese from Manila and the entire country by virtue of the decrees that were made by the Spanish authorities to that effect. However, later reconciliations nearly always permitted the continuation of the Chinese community in the city.

## **British occupation**

There was a brief British occupation of Manila from 1762-1764 as a result of the [Seven Years' War](#), which was fought between [France](#) and [Britain](#). Spain became a British enemy when it sided with France due to ties between their royal families. The fleeing Spaniards destroyed many of the records, and in the sack of the town by the British, many historical documents of great value were destroyed or stolen from the archives.

The British Occupation was confined to Manila and [Cavite](#) while [Simón de Anda y Salazar](#), acting as a *de facto* Spanish governor general, kept the countryside for Spain with the help of Filipino soldiers. The British eventually obtained a document signed by Archbishop Rojo and the Royal Audencia ceding the entire archipelago to Great Britain.<sup>[9]</sup> All the while, though the archbishop and his officials were continuously doing whatever they could to obstruct and delay attempts by the British to take full possession of the country.<sup>[9]</sup> The Indian soldiers known as [Sepoys](#), who came with the British, deserted in droves and settled in [Cainta, Rizal](#), and explains the uniquely Indian features of generations of Cainta residents.<sup>[10]</sup> French mercenaries who came with the British also settled in various locations around Manila.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

## **Katipunan years**

Being the traditional seat of education and liberal thinking in the Philippines, Manila was a rich field for anti-Spanish propaganda. The seeds of revolution germinated in 1886 with the publication of [Dr. Jose Rizal](#)'s book [Noli Me Tangere](#) (*Touch Me Not*), a novel critical of the way the Spanish friars were governing the Philippines. The Spanish government condemned the book, and Rizal was exiled to [Dapitan](#). In 1892, he returned to Manila to found [La Liga Filipina](#), a nationalistic organization. Later that year, in [Tondo](#), [Andres Bonifacio](#) founded the [Katipunan](#), a secret organization devoted to the overthrow of Spanish rule in the country.

Although initial skirmishes between the Filipinos and Spaniards were brief and nearly always lost by the Filipinos, the movement grew until open rebellion broke out in August 1896 when the Spaniards discovered the Katipunan. With the unmasking of the Katipunan, Bonifacio called the [Tejeros Convention](#), at which the revolutionary Tejeros government was formed, with [General Emilio Aguinaldo](#) at its head. The Tejeros government was unsuccessful in its fight for freedom from Spain, and as part of the [Pact of Biak-na-Bato](#) peace treaty, General Aguinaldo accepted exile in Hong Kong. Dr. Rizal became a martyr of the revolution when the Spaniards executed him by firing squad on December 30, 1896.

American period



Escolta Street in [stereoptical](#) view, 1899

U.S. Troops invaded Manila in 1898 and waged war with the Spaniards and Filipinos in the [Spanish-American War](#) and the [Philippine-American War](#). Following the defeat of Spain, U.S. forces took control of the city and the islands in one of the most brutal and forgotten chapters of Philippine American history.

The American Navy, under Admiral [George Dewey](#), defeated the Spanish squadron in the [Battle of Manila Bay](#) on May 1st, 1898. Admiral Dewey testified that after the battle the Spanish Governor wished to surrender to the Americans rather than the Filipinos, whom he feared.<sup>[11]</sup>

Having just won their independence from Spain, the Filipinos were fiercely opposed to once again being occupied. [Emilio Aguinaldo](#) proclaimed the [First Philippine Republic](#) at the [Malolos Congress](#) and had begun to build the foundations for an independent nation. Admiral Dewey, however, claimed he never recognized the Philippine Republic, as he did not have the authority to do so and did not consider it an organized government.<sup>[12]</sup> War broke out between the Filipinos and the Americans on February 4, 1899, when an American soldier shot and killed a Filipino in Manila. The Americans pursued the retreating Filipino forces province by province, until General Emilio Aguinaldo (then president of the Republic) surrendered in [Palanan, Isabela](#), on March 23, 1901.

American high command at that time was headed by General Otis who ordered invasion and occupation. By that time the Filipino troops had taken classic defensive positions around Manila to attempt to keep them out. However, the poorly armed, ill-trained soldiers could not compete with the superior firepower of the Americans and they lost and were severely beaten; so much so that it has been reported that the dead were used as breastworks.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

Under the command of [Aguinaldo](#) the Filipinos began a guerrilla campaign to resist the new occupiers. This campaign had limited success in the early days following the initial occupation of the Americans although any successes were short-lived. The replacement of [General Otis](#) by General [Arthur MacArthur, Jr.](#) began an extensive campaign to suppress the local population.

This campaign by the USA has been reported as being a particularly bloody suppression with wild reports of commanders ordering the murder of everyone over 10 years old. Several books have been written on this war and its implications for both the local peoples and the US. These books are largely hostile to the US: <sup>[13]</sup>

In the [Treaty of Paris](#) in 1898, Spain handed over the Philippines to the United States of America for [US\\$ 20,000,000](#) and ending 333 years of Spanish rule in the islands. <sup>[14][15]</sup>

Manila continued under an American military government until civil government was established for the city on July 31, 1901. The [Philippine-American War](#) continued through 1903 at the cost of many lives both in Manila and elsewhere in the Islands. In 1935, the [United States](#) government committed itself to granting the Philippines Independence after a ten-year transition, a period that was extended by one year due to World War II.

## Japanese invasion

American combat units were ordered to withdraw from the city and all military installations removed on December 30, 1941. Manila was declared an open city by President [Manuel L. Quezon](#), to spare the city from death and destruction. Quezon issued a decree enlarging the safe zone to include outlying areas of Manila as safe zones, establishing the new administrative jurisdiction, Greater Manila.

The post of mayor of Greater Manila was given to Quezon's former Executive Secretary, [Jorge B. Vargas](#). On the evening of New Year's Day of 1942, a Japanese courier delivered notice to Vargas that Japanese forces already bivouacked at [Parañaque](#) would enter Greater Manila the following day. From 9 am to 10 am of January 2, [Japanese imperial](#) forces marched into the City of Manila.

Vargas was tasked to hand over to the new authorities Greater Manila and present the remaining Filipino leaders to Japanese authorities. Vargas and the Filipino leaders present were asked to choose three options; (1) a purely Japanese military administration, (2) a dictatorial government run by a Filipino under [General Artemio Ricarte](#) who went on self-exile to Japan after the Filipino-American war, or (3) a government by commission selected by Filipinos. Vargas and the local leaders chose the third option and established the [Philippine Executive Commission](#) to manage initially Greater Manila, and was later expanded to cover the whole of the Philippines.

Vargas assumed the chairmanship of the Philippine Executive Commission and appointed to the post of Mayor of Greater Manila in 1942, [Leon G. Guinto Sr.](#), a Secretary of Labor under the [Philippine Commonwealth](#) administration of President Manuel L. Quezon. Guinto held the position of Mayor of Greater Manila until the liberation of the city.

On October 20, 1944 American General [Douglas MacArthur](#) fulfilled a promise to return to the Philippines (see [Battle of Leyte](#)). From February 3 to March 3 1945, after the climactic battle at Intramuros ended, the thoroughly devastated city of Manila was officially [liberated](#) by joint Filipino and American troops against the Japanese. Allied Filipino & American troops did not reach the city in time to prevent the [Manila Massacre](#) though. Soon, Greater Manila was dissolved, and its towns returned to their pre-war status. On July 4, 1946, the Philippine flag was raised for the first time in [Rizal Park](#).

## Martial Law years



### EDSA Revolution

Between 1972 and 1981, Manila and the rest of the country was placed under [martial law](#) by President Marcos. During that period, the local economy continued disintegration amid charges of overwhelming corruption by Marcos and his associates.<sup>[8]</sup> On August 21, 1983, opposition leader [Benigno Aquino](#) flew to Manila from the United States and was assassinated as he left the airplane in Manila. Increasingly, the population opposed Marcos' rule. After the [People Power Revolution](#), Aquino's widow, [Corazon](#), was installed as president in 1986. During the Aquino presidency, Manila witnessed

six unsuccessful [coup](#) attempts, the most serious occurring in December 1989.<sup>[16]</sup>

## Recent times

Manila has been subject to militant attacks. The metropolis have been targeted twice by groups [Moro Islamic Liberation Front](#) and [Abu Sayyaf](#). In addition, [Al-Qaida](#) cells have been discovered in the metropolis.

[Project Bojinka](#), which was a large-scale attack being planned in late 1994 and early 1995, was being planned in Manila. The project was abandoned after the night of January 6, 1995 and the morning of January 7, when an apartment fire led investigators to a laptop computer containing the plans.

## Geographical History

Before and during the Spanish colonization of the Philippines, Manila was the provincial capital over a province whose territory at one time covered nearly all of Luzon, and included the modern territorial subdivisions of [Pampanga](#), [Bulacan](#), [Rizal](#), [Laguna](#), [Batangas](#), [Quezon](#), [Mindoro](#), [Masbate](#) and [Marinduque](#). Later, these subdivisions were themselves made provinces, leaving Manila province with a territory roughly equal to the present City of Manila proper (except Intramuros, the capital site), and the northwestern two-thirds of Rizal province. The boundary of Manila province went from northeast to southwest, including [Antipolo](#), [Cainta](#), [Taytay](#) and [Taguig](#), and all of the towns north and west of them, in Manila province; and [Angono](#), [Teresa](#), [Morong](#), and the towns south and east of them, in Laguna province. Early in the province's history, the provincial name was changed from Manila to **Tondo Province**, by which it was known for most of the Spanish era.

In about 1853, four [pueblos](#) or towns of Tondo Province were joined with the northeastern towns of Laguna province to form the politico-military *Distrito de los Montes de San Mateo*, or District of the San Mateo Mountains. The Tondo Province annexed to this new district the towns of [Cainta](#), [Taytay](#), [Antipolo](#) and [Boso-boso](#), while Laguna contributed the towns of [Angono](#), [Binangonan](#), [Cardona](#), [Morong](#), [Baras](#), [Tanay](#), [Pililla](#) and [Jalajala](#). But the name of the new district proved unwieldy, too long, and misled many into thinking the town of [San Mateo](#) (in Tondo province) was the capital of the San Mateo Mountain District, when in reality the district capital was in Morong. So, in 1859, following common practice of the day, the district was renamed after its capital; namely, Morong District. At about the same time, Tondo Province was renamed **Manila Province**.



View of the city center as originally depicted in the [Burnham Plan](#)

When the Spaniards turned over the Philippines to the hands of the Americans, a civil government was formed. In about the same period, the Manila Province was dissolved by the [Philippine Commission](#), and its pueblos were incorporated with those of the District of Morong, forming the new [Province of Rizal](#). A few weeks, a new charter for the City of Manila, defining its boundaries and annexing some of towns of the Province of Rizal to its districts. These boundaries were slightly revised and redefined on



January 29, 1902 when the suburb of [Gagalangin](#) was annexed to the city district of Tondo, and the former pueblo of [Santa Ana](#) was turned into a city district of Manila. On July 30 of the same year, the city board officially divided the city into 13 political subdivisions named as districts, and the boundaries of each were defined. On August 15 of the same year, the pueblo of [Pandacan](#) was annexed as a city district. Since then the boundaries and city districts of Manila have remained essentially the same.

During World War II, the City of Manila was declared an open city and its administrative boundaries expanded to outlying cities and municipalities. It was called the **Greater Manila** and included districts such as *Bagumbayan* means New Town (South of Manila), *Bagumpanahon* means "New Era" (Sampaloc, Quiapo, San Miguel and Santa Cruz), *Bagumbuhay* means "New Life" (Tondo), *Bagong Diwa* means "New Order" (Binondo & San Nicholas), the then newly established [Quezon City](#) was collapsed and divided into two districts, while the municipalities of [Caloocan](#), [Las Piñas](#), [Malabon](#), [Makati](#), [Mandaluyong](#), [Navotas](#), [Parañaque](#), [Pasay](#), and [San Juan](#) became districts of Manila.

In 1948, [Quezon City](#) was declared the national capital of the new Republic of the Philippines. But on May 29, 1976, [President Ferdinand E. Marcos](#) returned the national capital to Manila by virtue of the **Presidential Decree No. 940**, declaring that "the area prescribed as Metro Manila by **Presidential Decree 824** was to be the seat of the national government.

## Government



The view of the Manila City Hall's Clock Tower from the old Spanish fortress

Like all [cities of the Philippines](#), Manila is governed by a mayor who heads the executive department of the city. The current mayor for the 2007-2010 term is [Alfredo Lim](#), who is making a comeback to the city hall following a 3-year stint as a Senator. The city mayor is restricted for three consecutive terms (nine years), although he can be elected again after an interruption of one term.

[Isko Moreno](#) the city's incumbent vice-mayor heads the legislative arm which is composed of the elected city councilors, six from each of the city's six congressional districts.

The city is divided into 897 [barangays](#), which are the smallest unit of local government in the Philippines. Each barangay has its own chairperson and councilors. For administrative convenience, all the barangays in Manila are grouped into 100 zones and which are further grouped into 16 administrative districts. These zones and districts have no form of local government.

The city further has six representatives popularly elected to the [House of Representatives](#), the lower legislative branch of the Philippines. Each representative represents one of the six [Congressional districts of Manila](#).

## City seal

The City Seal depicts the words *Lungsod ng Maynila* and *Pilipinas*, [Filipino](#) for *City of Manila* and *Philippines*, in a circle around a shield. The circle also contains six yellow stars representing the city's six congressional districts. The shield, in the shape of pre-colonial people's shield, depicts the city's nickname *Pearl of the Orient* on top; a sea lion in the middle, in reference to the city's Spanish influences; and the waves of the [Pasig River](#) and [Manila Bay](#) in the bottom portion. The colors of the seal mirror that of the [Flag of the Philippines](#).

## Geographical districts



Map of Manila

The city is divided into sixteen (16) geographical districts. Only one district was not an original town - Port Area. Eight (8) districts are located north of the Pasig River and eight (8) are in the south. San Andres Bukid was previously part of Santa Ana, while Santa Mesa was once a part of Sampaloc. These districts should not be confused with the six [congressional districts](#) of Manila.

Geographical district	<a href="#">Barangays</a>	Population (2007 census)	Area (has.)	Pop. density (per km <sup>2</sup> )
<a href="#">Binondo</a>	10	12,100	66.11	18,304.1
<a href="#">Ermita</a>	13	6,205	158.91	3,904.8
<a href="#">Intramuros</a>	5	5,015	67.26	7,455.7
<a href="#">Malate</a>	57	78,132	259.58	30,099.8
<a href="#">Paco</a>	43	69,300	278.69	24,866.7
<a href="#">Pandacan</a>	38	76,134	166.00	45,862.9
<a href="#">Port Area</a>	5	48,684	315.28	15,441.4
<a href="#">Quiapo</a>	16	23,138	84.69	27,322.0
<a href="#">Sampaloc</a>	192	255,613	513.71	49,758.5
<a href="#">San Andres</a>	65	116,585	168.02	69,386.2

<a href="#">San Miguel</a>	12	16,115	91.37	17,636.9
<a href="#">San Nicolas</a>	15	43,225	163.85	26,380.5
<a href="#">Santa Ana</a>	34	62,184	169.42	36,703.5
<a href="#">Santa Cruz</a>	82	118,779	309.01	38,438.1
<a href="#">Santa Mesa</a>	51	98,901	261.01	37,892.2
<a href="#">Tondo</a>	259	630,604	865.13	72,891.6

All of these districts, with the exception of Port Area, have their own churches, and several of these districts have achieved recognition in their own right. Intramuros being the old and original enclave of Manila is a historical site. The district of Binondo is the city's [Chinatown](#). Tondo is the densest in terms of population, the largest in land area and also with the highest poverty level. The districts of Ermita and Malate are well-known and popular with tourists, having many bars, restaurants, five-star hotels, and shopping malls while the districts of San Miguel and Pandacan hosts the official residence of the President of the country, [Malacañan Palace](#).

### National government offices



The former Agriculture and Finance Buildings and the Agrifina Circle in [Rizal Park](#). The buildings date to the American colonial period.

The City of Manila is the capital of the Philippines and is also the seat of political power in the country. During the early years of the American colonial government, they envisioned a well designed city outside the walls of Intramuros. In nearby "Bagumbayan" or what is now Rizal Park, was chosen to become the center of government and a design commission was given to [Daniel Burnham](#) to create a master plan for the city patterned after [Washington D.C.](#) The plan was abandoned and construction was halted due to [World War II](#).<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup>

Eventually, under the Commonwealth Government of Manuel L. Quezon, a new government center was to be built on the hills northeast of Manila, or what is now [Quezon City](#). Several government agencies have set-up base in Quezon City but several key government offices are in Manila such as, the Office of the President, the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, the [Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas](#), the Departments of [Budget](#), [Finance](#), [Health](#), [Justice](#), [Labor & Employment](#), and [Tourism](#).

Parks and open areas



### The Rizal Monument at [Rizal Park](#)

Directly south of Intramuros lies [Rizal Park](#), the country's most significant park. Also known as *Luneta* (Spanish term for "crescent-shaped") and previously as *Bagumbayan* ("New Town"), the 60 hectare Rizal Park sits on the site where [José Rizal](#), the country's national hero, was executed by the Spaniards on charges of subversion. A monument stands in his honor. The big flagpole west of the Rizal Monument is the Kilometer Zero for road distances on the island of [Luzon](#) and the rest of the country.

Other attractions in Rizal Park include the Chinese and Japanese Gardens, the Department of Tourism building, the [National Museum of the Philippines](#), The [National Library of the Philippines](#), the Planetarium, the Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion, an open-air auditorium for cultural performances, a relief map of the Philippines, a fountain area, a children's lagoon, a chess plaza, a light and sound presentation, and the [Quirino Grandstand](#).

Another famous open space in Manila is the [Baywalk](#). This promenade lies in front of the Manila Bay where one can experience one of the most breathtaking sunsets of the world. Coconut trees, giant kaleidoscopic lamp posts and other scenery dot this two-kilometer stretch of ample space beside [Roxas Boulevard](#). The Baywalk used to include *al fresco* cafés and restaurants, and stages with live musical acts but these were removed in late 2007 by Mayor [Alfredo Lim](#).<sup>[17]</sup>

Aside from Rizal Park, Manila has very few other open public spaces. [Rajah Sulayman Park](#), Manila Boardwalk, Liwasang [Bonifacio](#), Plaza Miranda, Mehan Garden, [Paco Park](#), Remedios Circle, [Manila Zoological and Botanical Garden](#), Plaza Balagtas and the Malacañang Garden are some of the other parks in the city. In 2005, Mayor [Lito Atienza](#) opened the Pandacan Linear Park, a strip of land that served as a buffer zone between the oil depot and the residential-commercial properties in Pandacan and could be found along the banks of the Pasig River. In the northern most part of the city lies the three cemeteries of Loyola, Chinese, and Manila North Green Park, the largest public cemetery in Metropolitan Manila. A newly opened and functioned [Manila Ocean Park](#) features a wide variety of marine animals.

# Economy



The Banco Monte de Piedad building in [Santa Cruz](#) district

Manila's economy is diverse and multifaceted. With its excellent protected harbor, Manila serves as the nation's chief seaport. In addition, it is the financial and publishing center for the Philippines.<sup>[16]</sup>

Diverse manufactures include chemicals, textiles, clothing, and electronic goods. Watches, iron and steel, leather goods, and shoes are also manufactured within the city. Food and beverages and tobacco products also employ many residents. Additionally, local entrepreneurs continue to process primary commodities for export, including rope, plywood, refined sugar, copra, and coconut oil.<sup>[16]</sup>

Tourism is also a thriving industry. Being one of the major tourist destinations in the country, the city attracts over 1 million visitors<sup>[16]</sup> from all over the world annually. Many of Manila's tourist sites are found in the [Binondo](#), [Intramuros](#) and [Malate](#).

Every district in the city with the exception of [Port Area](#) has its own public market, locally called the *pamilihang bayan* or *palengke*. Public markets are often divided into two, the dry goods section and the wet goods section.<sup>[18]</sup> Commerce in these public markets is lively, especially in the early morning. Under the urban renewal program of the incumbent administration, some of the public markets had been refurbished and given a fresher look, like the Santa Ana Public Market and the Pritil Public Market. Cheap buys or goods being sold at rock-bottom prices are available in the flea markets of [Divisoria](#) and [Quiapo](#), where bargaining is a major shopping experience.

Modern shopping malls dot the city especially in the areas of [Malate](#) and [Ermita](#). SM City Manila, part of the country's largest chain of malls, stands behind the Manila City Hall, while the original SM Department store still operates in Carriedo in [Santa Cruz](#). One of the popular malls that lies at the heart of Manila is Robinson's Place Ermita. In the southern part of the city in [Malate](#) district is Harrison Plaza, one of the city's oldest shopping malls.

# Demographics

## Population density

With a population of 1,660,714 and a land area of 38.55 km<sup>2</sup>, Manila has the highest population density of any major city in the world with 43,079 people/km<sup>2</sup> (with district 6 being the most dense with 68,266, followed by the first two districts (Tondo) with 64,936 and 64,710, respectively, and district 5 being the least dense with 19,235).<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

Manila's population density dwarfs that of [Paris](#) (20,164 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>), [Shanghai](#) (16,364 people/km<sup>2</sup>, with its most dense district of Nanshi's 56,785 density), [Buenos Aires](#) (2,179 people/km<sup>2</sup>, with its most dense inner suburb Lanus' 10,444 density), [Tokyo](#) (10,087 people/km<sup>2</sup>), [Mexico City](#) (11,700 people/km<sup>2</sup>), and [Istanbul](#) (1,878 people/km<sup>2</sup>, with its most dense district Fatih's 48,173 density).

But when accounting for the entire urban area, Metro Manila drops to 85th place with 12,550 people/km<sup>2</sup> in a land area of 1,334km<sup>2</sup>, behind even [Cebu City](#), which ranks 80th.<sup>[19]</sup>

## Languages

The vernacular language is [Filipino](#) in the form of [Tagalog](#), while [English](#) is the language most widely used in education and business throughout the Metro Manila region. [Hokkien Chinese](#) is spoken by the city's large Chinese-Filipino community.<sup>[citation needed]</sup> A number of older residents can still speak basic [Spanish](#), which was a mandatory subject in the curriculum of Philippine universities and colleges until 1987, and many children of European, Indian or other migrants or expatriates also speak their parents' languages at home, aside from English or Filipino for everyday use.

## Religion

The cosmopolitan atmosphere and cultural diversity of Manila is reflected in the number of places of worship scattered around the city. The freedom of worship in the Philippines, which has existed since the creation of the republic, allowed the diverse population to build their sacred sites without the fear of persecution. People of different denominations are represented here with the presence of Christian churches, Buddhist temples, Jewish synagogues, and Islamic mosques.

### Roman Catholicism



The [Manila Cathedral](#) in [Intramuros](#).

Manila is the seat of the [Archdiocese of Manila](#), the oldest archdiocese in the country, and the [Primate](#) of the Philippines.<sup>[2]</sup> The archdiocese's offices is located in the [Manila Cathedral](#) (Basilica Minore de la Nuestra Señora de la Inmaculada Concepcion) inside the Intramuros. The city is under the Patronage of San Andres ([St. Andrew](#)).

Being the seat of the Spanish colonial government in past centuries, it has been used as the base of numerous Roman Catholic missions to the Philippines. Among the religious orders that have gone to the Philippines include the [Dominicans](#), the [Jesuits](#), the [Franciscans](#), the [Augustinians](#) (which includes the [Augustinian Recollects](#)), the [Benedictines](#), the [Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres](#), the [Vincentian Fathers](#), the Congregatio of the Immaculati Cordis Mariae, and the [De La Salle Christian Brothers](#).



Basilica Minore de [San Lorenzo Ruiz](#) ([Binondo Church](#))

Other notable churches and cathedrals in the city include [San Agustin Church](#) in Intramuros, the shrine of the canonically crowned image of Nuestra Señora de Consolación y Correa, a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#)<sup>[2]</sup>, and a favorite wedding place of notable people and one of two fully air-conditioned churches in the city; [Quiapo Church](#), also known as the Basilica Minore del [Nuestro Padre Jesus Nazareno](#), site of the annual January Black Nazarene procession; Binondo Church, also known as Basilica Minore de [San Lorenzo Ruiz](#); [Malate Church](#), the shrine of Nuestra Señora de Remedios; Ermita Church, home of the oldest Marian Image in the Philippines, Nuestra Señora de Guia; Tondo Church, home of the century-old ivory image of [Sto. Niño](#) (Child Jesus); Sta. Ana Church, shrine of the canonically crowned image of Nuestra Señora de los Desamparados; and [San Sebastian Church](#) or the Basilica Minore de San Sebastian, the only all-steel church in [Gothic](#) style in Asia.

## Protestant churches



Basilica Minore de [San Sebastian](#)

Manila is home to some of the older and larger Protestant churches in the Philippines. While most of the older churches established by American missionaries are located within the Manila city limits, a greater number of the larger churches are in the suburbs and satellite cities.

After the Second World War, a great influx of foreign Protestant missionaries came to the islands among which are the [Baptists](#), [Nazarenes](#), [Pentecostals](#), [Christian and Missionary Alliance](#) established churches and schools throughout the islands making Manila their headquarters of operations. The Baptist Bible Church in Santa Mesa, Manila is the first church founded under the auspices of the Baptist Bible Fellowship in 1947.<sup>[[citation needed](#)]</sup> Since its founding, the Springfield, Missouri-based Baptist Bible Missions have established 2000 churches in the Philippines.

## **Islam, Buddhism and other faiths**

There are many [Buddhist](#) and [Taoist](#) temples built by the Chinese community in Manila. The Quiapo district is home to a sizable [Muslim](#) population in Manila, and [The Golden Mosque](#) is located there. In Ermita, there is a large [Hindu](#) temple for the Indian population, while on U.N. Avenue, there is a Sikh Temple. There is also a temple of [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](#). In Malate, along Quirino Avenue, there once was a synagogue for the small [Jewish](#) community in the Philippines; a new synagogue has since been erected in neighboring [Makati](#), along Tordesillas Street. The Philippine-based [Iglesia ni Cristo](#) and the [Philippine Independent Church \(Aglipayan\)](#) also has numerous chapels and churches spread throughout the city.

## **Members Church of GOD, International(ANG DATING DAAN)**

The MCGI known as ANG DATING DAAN is one of the religious group spread fastly in the city this group claims that they have more than 20 local congregation in the city and thousands upon thousands members.

## **Education**

Manila is home to majority of the colleges and universities in Metro Manila. The [University Belt](#) or *U-Belt*, informally located in the districts of Malate, Ermita, Intramuros, San Miquel, Quiapo, and Sampaloc is the colloquial term for the high concentration of institutions of higher education that are located in these districts. Among them are the state university [University of the Philippines, Manila](#), which houses the [Philippine General Hospital](#), [Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Manila](#) located in Sta. Mesa, private school [Adamson University](#) in Ermita, private school [Philippine Women's University, Taft Ave.](#), private school [De La Salle University-Manila](#) and [De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde](#), the private schools [University of the East](#), [Far Eastern University](#), [Centro Escolar University](#), [San Beda College](#) and [University of Santo Tomas](#) in Sampaloc, and the city-owned [Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila](#) at Intramuros.

The city also plays host to [Manila Science High School](#), the [National Museum of the Philippines](#), where the [Spoliarium](#) of [Juan Luna](#) is housed, the Metropolitan Museum, the Museong Pambata (Children's Museum), as well as the [National Library](#), located within Rizal Park.