

A 'Different' Manila



The capital of the Philippines is sometimes considered as a transitory spot for traveling tourists. They simply pass through without getting to know Manila. However, according to official figures of the Department of Tourism, this tendency is changing. More tourists are heading for Manila as their final destination. Truly, that this charming city has much to offer.

Manila is quite diverse as far as the tourist attractions go. For history fans, there are several places to visit. Fort Santiago is definitely one of them; it was built on behalf of the Spanish colonial government. It was damaged during WW II and currently contains a park, a promenade, and local theatres.

The Malacañang Palace is another building of historical value. It stands on the north bank of the legendary Pasig River that splits Manila in half and is sometimes considered ' the Cradle of Civilization.'

Rizal Park is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Jose Rizal, the Philippine national hero, who was executed here in 1896. A great attraction here is also the Rizal shrine, erected at the place where he was confined during the last days of his life.

Art and museum lovers will surely appreciate The National Museum of the Philippines, The Metropolitan Museum, The Museong Pambata (for children), and the National Library.

The Chinatown is a frequently visited area and one of the 16 official districts of the town.

The Chinese belong to the biggest ethnic minority group in the Philippines, and their cultural influence is evident in most aspects of Philippine daily life.

After a long day of sightseeing, tourists might like to head for Manila Bay. The locals claim that the sunset here is one of the most breathtaking sceneries to be found anywhere.

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