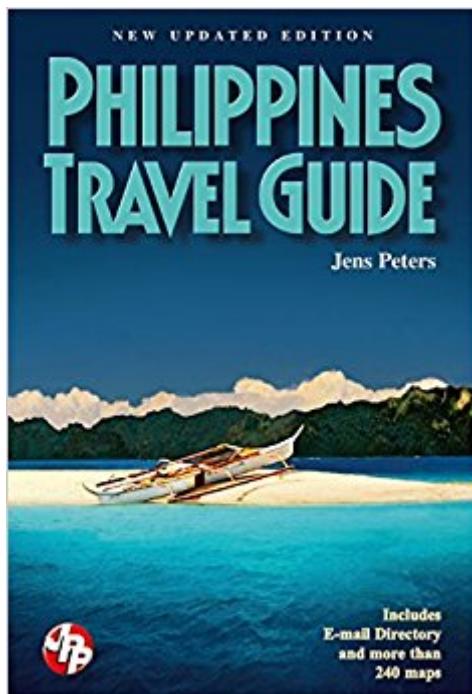


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# Philippines Travel Guide



## Synopsis

The most comprehensive travel guide to the Philippines has been completely revised and once again proves to be a trailblazer with this new edition. Inside, you'll find places, routes, highlights, hotels, restaurants etc that no other travel guide can offer. It also contains a huge number of clear, detailed 'show you the way' maps (243 in total, always relevant to the text) that will help you in so many ways to plan and carry out your Philippines trip.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jens Peters studied advertising, communications and arts education in Berlin, Germany. After his student days he travelled several months a year in countries outside Europe, and deciding to earn a living from his hobby was the obvious next step. He began travel writing, and over the years has worked as a freelance journalist for various prominent travel magazines. Jens has also published several books about tropical countries, with his guidebook on the Philippines taking first place. In fact, he has visited the Philippines (his favourite country in South-East Asia) more than 60 times so far and spent over 15 years there all together.

Jens Peters penned the original Lonely Planet editions of the Philippines Travel Survival Kit during my Navy years in and around Subic Bay, which led me to many good memories of places explored beyond the Olongapo River Bridge from the Naval Station's Main Gate. However, in the decades following both I and the US Navy have since left the Philippines and Herr Peters is now self-publishing his Philippines Travel Guide in English, to Lonely Planet's loss. While I have looked

at subsequent Lonely Planet and Rough Guide offerings on "PI" since leaving, only this book has made me seriously considering a return visit- this time to islands I'd only passed by aboard ship. The level of travel and lodging details is superb, his descriptions of the various islands, towns, and major cities honest and forthright (if he believes a place isn't worth visiting, or may be too dangerous for a tourist, he says so), and one can read throughout the book the genuine love he has for the Philippines. It's too bad most people considering a trip to the Philippines don't hear about this book, because for my money it's the best one around.

After doing a little research ahead of a 2 month trip to the Philippines I came to the conclusion this book is the best out there. To make long things short - It is. The good:- First episode in the book is pure golden - giving a lot of general information, brief history and Do's and Don't Do around the Philippines. Some of which you can't find anywhere else online.- Also, the background on each island or place you arrive is good.- Prices for common things (not that updated but gives a good reference) The bad:- The longest episode is about Manila. There is really no reason to spend more than 2 days in that city.- 70% of the book is information about hotels, restaurants, diving shops which you can easily find online on places like Tripadvisor. So, that makes most of the book pure paperweight in your bag.- After 3 weeks the book found its comfortable final place at the bottom of my backpack. Conclusion: Buy for the general information and for something to read during flights. Consider leaving it at your home/hotel.

I have lived in the Philippines for two years now. I have a big website and YouTube channel here, and I have found this book to be extremely valuable - it is hands down, the best full guide to nearly every, out of the way spot in the country. The only downside is the size and weight. Thankfully, modern technology has come to the rescue, so when I am heading off to a certain area, I usually just take photos of the relevant pages with my phone and peruse them as I need them. Thanks Mr. Peters!

I found this book to be weirdly too much and too little...it was very detailed in places, but seemed to never be quite addressing what I might want to know. I traveled the Philippines for several weeks; I was carrying this, the Rough Guide, and the Lonely Traveler guide. This book became the orphan...after a while, I seldom even looked in it. I had read that it had very detailed information about public transportation and such, but found it to be not quite useful in this regard. Lastly, the book was published on what is, no doubt, expensive paper. Unfortunately, that made it weigh a

bloody ton! From the moment it arrived, I was concerned about carrying it with me...and while I traveled, I found myself tearing out sections that I wouldn't need again, just to lighten it up! No worry now, though...I left it in the Philippines.

I did some serious browsing and shopping for a guidebook, and since Lonely Planet for the Philippines had not so fantastic reviews, I picked this one. Frankly, too little information for major destinations, too many tidbits overall. It is not user-friendly, and I didn't use it much.

I followed one of the suggested Manila Walking Tours in this book, and I soon became alarmed that I was clearly in the wrong part of town, without a clear way to exit, being leered at by locals, and, true to my suspicions, moments later my cell phone was stolen out of my bag. Not that this is directly the author's fault, but clearly I think it is a very unwise recommendation for foreign travelers to walk or tour through that suggested route. And some routine notes about pickpockets and scams in the book's introduction does not make up for recommending readers travel through bad ghetto streets that the native Manila residents later warned and forbid me not to visit. To make an analogy, it would be like a New York City travel guide for foreign visitors that gave introductory notes on crime and thieves, then later on gave suggested visits and tours through dangerous parts of the city boroughs that no outsider had any business passing through. The rest of the book I found to be not very helpful or clear. All black-and-white, plain text except for the abstract (sometimes misleading or at least very unclear) maps and a 16-page middle section of color photos. Very tedious to flip back-and-forth in search of map indexes and relevant information. For example, I first might find a map for the city or area I wanted, then spend time flipping back-and-forth to compare the numbered points on the map to find my hotel or point of interest, then check the nearby text page and find that it wasn't related to the map area but was a continuation of a long passage on restaurants as a whole for the entire city. I would then have to start flipping around again to get what I was after. Not that this problem is unique to this travel book; I haven't read through any of the other Philippine guides to compare. The information on sites, restaurants, and hotels I found to be too abstract or nonspecific. I was able to get a better sense off of [traveladvisor.com](http://traveladvisor.com). Too often, I think the author neglects to mention how haphazard things are in the Philippines. He might mention where one can find a jeepney to a nearby town, for instance, but he neglects to describe how walking as a foreigner with a big backpack or suitcase through the middle of this pothole-filled street, through busy intersections, and then through crowds of people and a mess of indistinct storefronts is a very confusing, trying, and awkward experience. (I have been to other countries in Asia and in

third-world, shockingly poor conditions, so this was not a simple matter of culture shock or naivety on my part). My advice to any future travelers: making a do-it-yourself tour through the Philippines is a very bumpy, stressful experience. You will often be confused and lost in the messy streets and storefronts, and you will have to just ask the many curious bystanders where the bus station is, etc. This book did not do an adequate job of smoothing out or preparing the traveler for these lost, wandering experiences. But credit where it is due: the author has compiled a list of what appears to be every conceivable city, town, island, and area that a traveler could venture to in the Philippines, and that is quite a long list. The number of places listed is very complete.

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