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Global Immigration alert

March 2026

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The Philippines

Visa-free entry for nationals of the Chinese mainland

Executive summary

Effective 16 January 2026, nationals of the Chinese mainland may enter the Philippines without a visa as business visitors or tourists for stays up to 14 days. This policy is in line with the President's directive to facilitate trade, investments and tourism, as well as strengthen people-to-people exchanges between the Philippines and the Chinese mainland.

Key developments

The visa-free entry applies to nationals of the Chinese mainland who enter the Philippines for tourism or business visitor activities. The visa-free entry is non-renewable and non-convertible to any other type of Philippine visa category. It is valid for entry only through the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) in Metro Manila and the Mactan-Cebu International Airport (MCIA) in Cebu. The policy will be in effect for one year from 16 January 2026 and will be reviewed by authorities accordingly before its expiry. Eligible individuals are required to meet the following entry requirements:

- Have a passport that is valid for at least six months beyond their planned stay.
- Have confirmed hotel accommodation or booking.
- Have return or onward ticket to the next country of destination.
- Have registered or updated their information on the [eTravel](#) system. Proof of registration may include phone or email confirmation.

Visa-free entry does not permit any form of employment. Work or technical activities still require the appropriate work permit and visa. Individuals who intend to stay longer, perform work or engage in paid activities must obtain the appropriate visa before entering.

Impact on employers

The new policy is expected to benefit employers who send nationals of the Chinese mainland to the Philippines for permissible business activities by reducing the time and expenses associated with admission.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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