

## **BALIKBAYAN INFORMATION**

The Balikbayan Program was instituted in 1989 under Republic Act No. 6763 and implemented through Tourism Administrative Order No. 89-05 to encourage overseas Filipinos and their families to visit the Philippines.

A balikbayan is defined as :

- (1) Filipino citizen who has been continuously out of the Philippines for a period of at least one year from the date of last departure;
- (2) a Filipino overseas worker;
- (3) a former Filipino citizen who has been naturalized in a foreign country;
- (4) the spouse and children of (3) who hold foreign passports and are travelling with the former Filipino citizen to the Philippines

### **Benefits and Privileges**

1. Visa-free entry and a maximum stay of one year for foreign passport holders
2. Tax-free purchases at Philippine duty-free shops
3. Travel tax exemption
4. Special promotions and incentives from national flag carrier, especially designated reception area at ports of entry and special immigration lanes for expeditious processing of documents

For former Filipinos, proof of former Philippine citizenship (old passport, birth certificate, etc.) is required at port of entry to avail of balikbayan privileges. For spouse and children of a balikbayan, who are not balikbayan in their own right, proof of relation to the balikbayan, such as marriage certificate for spouse and birth certificate for children, are required.

Information on the Balikbayan Program available at this website: <http://www.philtourism.com>