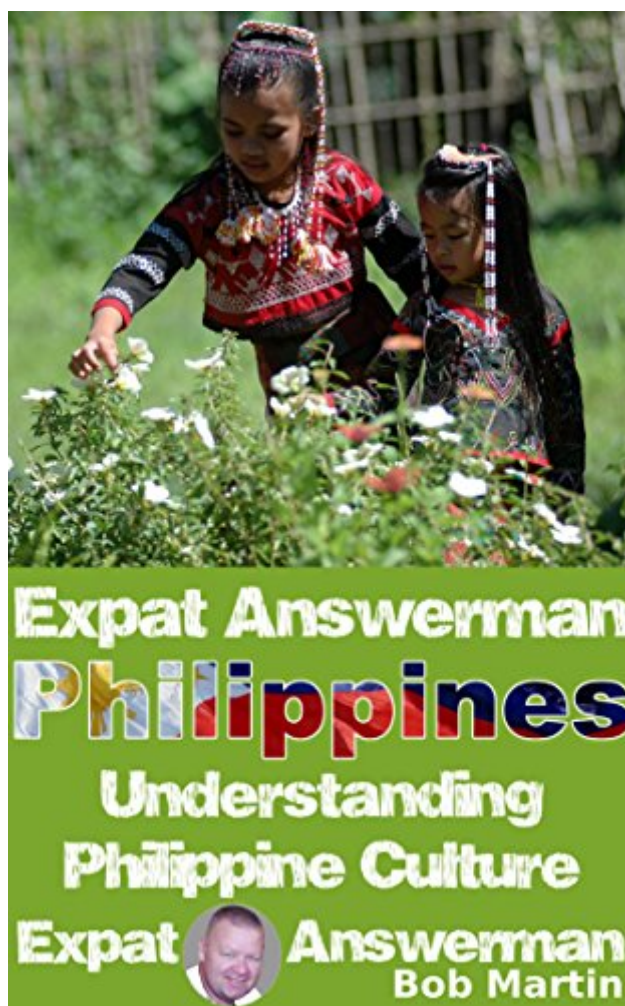


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Understanding Philippine Culture: Expat Answerman (Expat Answerman: Philippines Book 6)



Synopsis

The culture of the Philippines is very much misunderstood by foreigners. Many people from other countries think that the culture in the Philippines is very similar to western culture. After all, the Philippines was ruled by the Spanish for 400 years, followed by nearly 50 years of American rule. Of course the culture would have been influenced by the west, and thus the Filipino way of thinking and acting would be very western. Wrong. It doesn't take long of living in the Philippines to realize how wrong that thinking is. The fact is that the culture of the Philippines is very complex, and also very different from western cultures. It is not easy for foreigners to understand, even after years of living in the Philippines. At the time of this writing, I have lived in the Philippines for nearly 15 years, and I feel that I have a pretty good understanding of Philippine culture, but it took many years to gain that knowledge. In fact, I was able to gain a lot of understanding of Philippine culture because I had a private tutor who taught me how to speak Bisaya (one of the Philippine languages), and she also spent significant time explaining Philippine culture to me as part of the courses. In this book, I will lay out the tenets of the culture of the Philippines for you. I will also give you some real life examples of Philippine culture at play, and how I dealt with the various real life situations. I truly believe that learning these cultural lessons is a big factor in enjoying a good life in the Philippines. If you try to live in the Philippines without an understanding of the things in this book your life will be a constant series of frustration, misunderstanding in dealing with Filipinos and a general unhappiness with living in the Philippines.

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Customer Reviews

I have been married to a Filipina for almost 26 years, and have worked with a large group of Filipinos for longer than that and still have failed to grasp some of parts of their culture. My wife was born in the Philippines, and emigrated to the US at an early age, but her family still follows Filipino tradition. I have only visited the Philippines once so far, but have plans to return in the near future. This book clears up a lot of my confusion. To someone new to the Filipino culture, this book will be a great tool in helping to understand their ways. I particularly was interested in the "What should I call him or her" chapter. Thanks for clearing up some confusion in that regard. I have always felt that I was offending my in-laws when I visited, and turned down an offer for food or drink, and often have eaten just because I felt it the right thing to do. In more than 26 years, my father in law has never failed to offer me a beer when I entered his home, and I found out that he often didn't even have beer in the house and would send someone to the store if I accepted his offer. He's 92 years old now and still offers!! Now have a little more insight as to when I should accept offers of hospitality.

Spot on. Couldn't have said it better. I am an American, Cano, with my wife a Filipina from Cagayan De Oro city. We lived on Siargao island and took on the task of building a house. I learned the hard way in one year what Bob has gleaned here in this book. I would say for any westerner thinking of moving to or spending extended time in the wonderful wiley and sometimes wacky world of the Philippines to read this book. It will help you in many ways and save you some frustration. I could regale you with my own stories but they are similar only the locale is different. With the honest help and discussions Bob had with his teacher this is not only the opinion of a westerner but the opinion and knowledge of a native born citizen of the Philippines. Do yourself a favor a read this. If you have spent time in the Philippines or are married into a Philippine family, and trust me you do marry "into" a family read this to smile and understand more. If your planning on going to the islands read it. If you just enjoy learning about other cultures read it. Good job Mr. Martin. Bubba

Absolutely the best guide that I have found to discover the Philippines from a fellow American who

is living the life. I have been married to a Filipino for 8 years and learned more about understanding her and her culture from reading this book than from her. There are just things out there that Filipinos can not explain properly to a 'Western' person but Bob Martin is one of us and has a unique way of explaining it in a way for all of us can understand.

If you plan to move, or visit the Philippines. Or even if you just want to have a relationship with someone who is Filipino, that is personal or business. I had wished I had the opportunity to read this book, 7 years ago, when I started traveling to the Philippines. While I was reading this book, couldn't keep my head from nodding in affirmation, because some of the information in this book I had figured out the hard way. But there was a lot of information in this book that I have never realized, or I never realized why things are the way it is, dealing with another culture. Was a very informational book. Keep up the Good Work. Bob.

I have been married to a Filipina for 17 years and have had the privilege to visit the Philippines twice. I wish I had read this book before both visits. It would have helped me tremendously and I wouldn't have had to learn some things about the Filipino people the hard way. In fact reading this book even helped me to understand some things about my wife and her family. Why they may act a certain way & why they do the things that they do that don't really make sense to me. If I visit the Philippines again I will be sure to read this before I go as a refresher. It is easily worth the low price.

A great book and a must read for anybody thinking of going to the Philippine or dating someone from there. After reading this book I now understand some of the family dynamics that was going on during my three year stay with my soon to be wife and her children. Bob hits the nail on the head when he goes about explaining Philippine culture and the "resistance" that today's youth have in honoring "old customs". Well thought out and written, it explains complicated cultural issues in a way that the "foreigner" can understand.

A fantastic book! It deals perfectly with the issues and complexity of living in the Philippines and working and living along side the people. I loved it!

Bob Martin presents Philippine culture in a way that is accessible to the outsider. The book has particular value for anyone considering spending significant time in the Philippines. Because the author has lived in the country for 15 years and he speaks (one of) the language, he understands it

like few other expatriates. For anyone considering going to or living in the Philippines, this is an excellent starting point on your journey!

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