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**National Symbols of the Philippines**

**National Animal: Carabao (Water Buffalo) - The carabao is an Asiatic water buffalo and it is used as a beast of burden.**

**National Anthem: Lupang Hinirang - This is the title of the national anthem of the Philippines and it is an anthem that is played with a "marching tune."**

**National Bird: Philippine Eagle - It is a rare and critically endangered bird and it is found only in a few places in the Philippines. It became a national symbol in 1995, replacing the maya as the national bird.**

**National Dance: Tinikling - Labeled as "bamboo dance" in the English language, this traditional form of Philippine dance is characterized mainly by the skillful walking and hopping of dancers between and over long bamboo poles which are manipulated by two or four men. Traditional music accompanies the dance. Tinikling is often performed during special occasions or cultural events.**

**National Dress for Men: Barong Tagalog - This traditional type of dress for men in made from pina or ramie or similar fabric. In the past, it is often used as formal attire but, nowadays, the short-sleeve version of the barong serves as semi-formal attire.**

**National Dress for Women: Baro't Saya - This is a beautiful formal gown worn by Filipino women during special occasions or official functions. The gown symbolizes all that is good about the femininity of Filipino women.**

**National Fish: Bangus (Milkfish) - The "bangus" is a favorite food of the Filipinos. Filipinos have learned to cook the "bangus" in a variety of ways. It can be fried, stewed, steamed or grilled. "Pritong bangus" (fried milkfish), "sinigang na bangus" (milkfish stew) and "inihaw na bangus" (grilled milkfish) are some main dishes in which the main ingredient is the "bangus."**

**National Flower: Sampaguita - The sampaguita is a small, white flower which is very fragrant. It is this fragrance that makes this flower quite popular. Sampaguita flowers are used in making garlands and these garlands are often hanged around the necks of the guests.**

**National Food: Lechon or Litson (Roasted Pig) - This food is served during special occasions (birthdays, weddings, fiesta). It is cooked by roasting a pig whole in charcoal. The way it is roasted and the sauce of the lechon determine how good the food is.**

**National Fruit: Mango - This tropical fruit has an aromatic smell, a yellow color and a sweet and very delicious taste when ripe. It is not uncommon for Filipinos to eat this fruit as a main dish (ulam). When the mango is not yet ripe, it has a green color. This type of mango is often served as a side dish.**

**National Hero: Jose Rizal - He is considered by many Filipinos as the foremost national hero of the Philippines. He is a Filipino hero who is also honored in other countries like Spain, China and the United States of America.**

**National House: Nipa Hut - This traditional type of house can still be seen in many parts of the country. It is a simple house made from wood that is available in the community and it has a thatched roof.**

**National Tree: Narra - It is a sturdy tree and its wood, which is quite expensive, is often used in home construction and furniture.**

**National Sports or Game: Sipa (Ballgame) - This traditional ballgame is played by opposing players who kick a ball the size of a tennis ball over a net that is located in the middle of the playing field. It is rarely played by Filipinos nowadays.**

**Banaue Rice Terraces**

**Before it became a world heritage site, the Banaue rice terraces (as a whole) was already a very famous tourist spot of the Philippines, and Filipinos considered it (and still think of it) as the "eighth wonder of the world." In her book entitled, "The Philippines: A Unique Nation," Sonia Zaide wrote: "In beauty and symmetry of design and in durability and massiveness of construction, these rice terraces can favorably match any engineering masterpiece in the world. Foreign travelers who have seen the Rice Terraces of Banaue marvel how the ancient ancestors of the Ifugaos, untrained in engineering science and using only their crude iron tools and bare hands, could have carved such wondrous irrigated paddies, on the steep and rocky mountain slopes." (1999)**

**Filipino Culture on Philippine Stamps**

**1854: Queen Isabela II - Set of 4 stamps (Denomination and Image: 5c, 10c, 1r and 2r ----- <Queen Isabela II>) (Note: The 10c stamp is believed to have never been issued.)**

**1906, September 8: Jose Rizal - 10 stamps from a set of 14 stamps (Denomination and Image: 2c, 4c, 6c, 8c, 10c, 12c, 16c, 20c, 26c and 30c ----- <Portrait of Jose Rizal>)**

**1932, May 3: Carabao - 1 stamp from a set of 7 stamps showing various places in the Philippines (Denomination and Image: 20c and carabao as beast of burden)**

**1932, May 3: Banaue Rice Terraces - 1 stamp from a set of 7 stamps showing various places in the Philippines (Denomination and Image: 24c and rice terraces)**

**1934, April 14: Basketball - 1 stamp from a set of 3 stamps issued to publicize the 10th Far Eastern Championship Games (Denomination and Image: 16c and two basketball players going for the ball)**

**1936, November 15: President Manuel L. Quezon - Set of 3 stamps commemorating the first anniversary of the Commonwealth of the Philippines (Denomination and Image: 2c, 6c and 12c ----- <portrait of Manuel Quezon between two standing women>)**

**1947, December 22: Bureau of Post, Lawton, Manila - Set of 1 special delivery stamp (Denomination and Image: 20c, and post office worker riding on a bicycle and Manila Central Post Office serving as background)**

**1948, December 8: Sampaguita, National Flower - Set of 1 stamp (Denomination and Image: 3 centavos and sampaguita flowers)**

**1952, October 23: Milkfish - Set of 2 stamps issued to publicize the fourth Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council meeting (Denomination and Image: 5c and 6c ----- <milkfish and map>)**

**1957, October 23: Juan Luna - Set of 1 stamp issued to commemorate the birth centenary of Juan Luna (Denomination and Image: 5c and Juan Luna's "Spolarium")**

**1959, September 8 (1960, March): Old Congress Building, Manila (Now: National Museum Of The Philippines) - Set of 2 stamps commemorating the 5th anniversary of the Southeast Asian Treaty Organization or SEATO (Denomination and Image: 6c and 25c ----- <Old Congress Building>)**

**1962, March 9: Waling-waling (Orchid) - 2 stamps from a set of 1 se-tenant block of 4 perforated stamps and 1 imperforate block of 4 stamps (Denomination and Image: <Perforate and Imperforate Stamps> - 5c x 2 <Waling-waling>)**

**1963, November 30: Andres Bonifacio - Set of 3 stamps commemorating Bonifacio's birth centenary (Denomination and Image: 5s, 6s and 25s ----- <Katipunan flag and Andres Bonifacio the revolutionary>)**

**1967, April 9 (May 15): Battle of Bataan, 25th Anniversary - Set of 3 stamps (Denomination and Image: 5s, 20s and P2.00 ----- <"Succor" by Fernando Amorsolo>)**

**1967, May 6 (August 31): Battle of Corregidor, 25th Anniversary - Set of 2 stamps (Denomination and Image: P5.00 and P75.00 ----- <General Douglas MacArthur and paratroopers landing in Corregidor>)**

**1968, November 22: Philippine Musical Instruments - Set of 4 stamps (Denomination and Image: 10s <kudyapi>, 20s <ludag>, 30s <kulintangan> and 50s <subing>)  
  
1969, November 4: Cultural Center of the Philippines - Set of 2 stamps (Denomination and Image: 10s and 30s ----- <building and ground of the Cultural Center of the Philippines>)**

**1969, November 30: Melchora Aquino - Set of 3 stamps commemorating the 50th death anniversary of Melchora "Tandang Sora" Aquino (Denomination and Image: 10s, 20s and 30s ----- <Portrait of Melchora Aquino>)**

**1970, November 12 - 1971, May 3: Tourist Spots (Tourist Publicity Series I, II, III and IV) - 4 sets of 4 stamps each showing various tourist spots of the Philippines (Denomination and Image: ( I ) 10s <Hundred Islands, Pangasinan>,   20s <Pasonanca park, Zamboanga city>,  30s <Negros Island>  and P2.00 <Miagao Church, Iloilo>  /  ( II ) 10s <Nayong Pilipino, Metro Manila>,  20s <Estancia, Iloilo>,  30s <Pagsanjan falls, Laguna>  and P5.00 <Punta Cruz and Chocolate hills, Bohol>  /  ( III ) 10s <cultured pearl farm, Davao>,  20s <Davao>,  40s <Zamboanga del Sur> and P1.00 <Ifugao woman and Banaue rice terraces>  /  ( IV ) 10s <Zamboanga city>,  30s <Cross of Magellan, Cebu city>,  50s <Calamba, Laguna>  and 70s <Mount Mayon> / Date of Issue: ( I ) - November 12;   ( II ) - February 15;  ( III ) - April 19;  ( IV ) - May 3)**

**1972, May 31: Rizal Monument, Rizal Park ("Visit ASEAN Lands" Campaign) - Set of 3 stamps (Denomination and Image: 5s, 50s and 60s ----- <Rizal monument at Rizal park, Manila>)**

**1972, June 12: Evolution of the Philippine Flag - Set of 10 stamps**

**(Denomination and Image: 30s x 10 and the historical development of the Philippine flag)**

**1978, July 10: Andres Bonifacio Monument - Set of 1 stamp showing an iconic structure in Metro Manila (Denomination and Image: 30s and Andres Bonifacio monument in "Monumento," Kalookan City)**

**1979, June 11: Dona Aurora (Mussaenda) - 1 stamp from a set of 6 stamps (Denomination and Image: P2.30 and Dona Aurora)**

**1983, February 18: Beatification of Lorenzo Ruiz - Set of 2 stamps (Denomination and Image: 40s and P1.20 ----- <Lorenzo Ruiz>)**

**1985, September 26: Banaue Rice Terraces - 1 stamp from a single-stamp set on the 10th anniversary of the World Tourism Organization (Denomination and Image: P2.40 and Ifugao woman and rice terraces)**

**1991, April 1: Gumamela - Se-tenant block of 4 stamps from a set of 3 stamps, 1 se-tenant block of 4 stamps and 1 se-tenant block of 4 stamps (set of 11 stamps) (Denomination and Image: P5.50 x 4 and gumamela)**

**1995, August 11: Philippine Eagle, The New Philippine National Bird - Set of 1 souvenir sheet (Denomination and Image: P16.00 and Philippine eagle)**

**1996, December 1: Carabao (New Year Greeting Stamps; "1997 Year Of The Ox") - 3 stamps from a set of 2 Stamps,  1 perforate souvenir sheet of 2 stamps and 1 imperforate souvenir sheet of 2 stamps (Denomination and Image: P4.00 stamp <carabao>,  P4.00 stamp of perforate souvenir sheet <carabao>  and P4.00 stamp of imperforate souvenir sheet <carabao>)**

**1996, December 30: Rizal Martyrdom Centennial- Set of 1 stamp (Denomination and Image: P4.00 and Jose Rizal's execution in Bagumbayan field)**

**1998, June 9: Melchora Aquino - 1 stamp from a set of 3 stamps in se-tenant form commemorating the Philippine Independence Centennial (Denomination and Image: P1.00 and Melchora Aquino)**

**1999, September 3: National Anthem Centennial - Set of 1 stamp (Denomination and Image: P5.00, and national anthem, Julian Felipe and Jose Palma)**

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**Legend :** (Spanish Period)  c - cuarto(s)  /  r - real   /////  (US Administration Period to Philippine Republic Period)  P - Philippine peso (pesos)  /  c - centavo (centavos)  /  s -  sentimo (sentimos)  /  x - multiply by (times)