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10 ways to celebrate Independence Day



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Philippine flags displayed on houses, establishments, and even roads—patriotism is in the air again. It doesn't matter if our ringside ambassador lost his battle to a split decision, today is not about that. Rather, today is a time to commemorate the selfless and unrelenting courage of the heroes who fought and sacrificed their lives for our liberty. June 12 is Independence Day, the day we honor our forefathers for fighting back and becoming victorious for our freedom.

So, what do you have planned for Independence Day? Whether you're preparing for another stressful week at work and want to spend the day at home relaxing, or preparing for the start of school and want to celebrate your last day of summer vacation with a bang, we've prepared a list of things you can do in the spirit of our independence:

1) Celebrate with a Filipino movie marathon

Catch the tribute to Filipino films in the [Citi-Rustan French Film Festival 2012](#), and don't let the French beat you to the best of Philippine cinema. Watch some critically-acclaimed Filipino films that have been shown in French film festivals, and celebrate your pride.

If you're staying at home and thinking to catch up on movies for this holiday, why not catch up Filipino movies? Watch the [highest grossing Philippine films of all-time](#), or check out [Spot.ph's 10 Filipino Films You Must Watch Before You Die](#) for an idea of what movies to watch. Flipping through your favorite Filipino movie channel is also a, much easier, great idea!

2) Feast on Filipino dishes

[Adobo](#), [dinuguan](#), [sinigang na hipon](#), [lechon](#), and more!

Go out for lunch or dinner in a Filipino restaurant like [Adama Food and Culture Restaurant](#), where the Filipino food is as good as the old Filipino ambiance.

If you're staying at home, pick your favorite Filipino dish and take a chance at preparing it yourself. You can call up your mom for her recipe and make it a family affair or check out new twists to your favorite Filipino dishes at [Yummy.ph](#).

3) Make it a Filipino-speaking day

Most Filipino households speak in Filipino or their dialect, but sometimes you just can't help add foreign words to your sentences. For this special day, make an effort to compose all your conversations in pure Filipino, or your native dialect. It might be a challenge, but it's one that

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MeetManila Lunch time! How about eat your dessert first this smile Friday? [Tap some yummy cake, a specialty of](#)



Join the conversation

will enrich your vocabulary. You can also take this challenge online and post your tweets, Facebook statuses, and blogs in Filipino.

4) Wear a Filipino-inspired outfit

Valentino 2012 and Lady Gaga have been spotted sporting Filipiniana-like outfits. It's bound to be the next big trend! So, go rummage through your closet and create your Filipiniana-inspired outfit to wear for this special day, and even on other normal days out. More inspiration for your modern Filipiniana outfit on our Pinterest page.

5) Read a Filipino book

Re-read Filipino classics Ibong Adarna, Florante at Laura, Noli Me Tangere, and El Filibusterismo, to enrich what you have learned in high school. You can also bury yourself in modern historic novels like F. Sionil José's Ben Singkol, Miguel Syjuco's Ilustrado, or Lualhati Bautista's Dekada 70. If you have kids, you can also read to them something from the Adarna House library.

6) Post your Filipino pride on YouTube

Proudly-Filipino YouTube stars like Mikey Bustos, Happy Slip, and Arnel Pineda know that there's no better way to reach a worldwide audience than YouTube. So, if you're musically inclined, make a cover of your favorite Filipino song for the world to hear. Or if you want to be more crazy, rock the Call Me Maybe parody in your Filipiniana wear or make a Filipino version of the song!

7) Learn Baybayin

Why don't we? With videos and other online material to guide you, the strokes of the Baybayin are pretty easy to learn. But as easy it is learning these letters, it is as difficult to read. So start by trying to write the alphabet, until you go expert-level of reading our very own set of letters!

8) Visit historic places like the Philippine National Museum

Going to the Philippine National Museum should be on your bucket list, and if you haven't been there, Independence Day would be the perfect day to go! You can't get more national than that. If you're staying at home, take a sneak peek of the wonders in the National Museum with their 360 Virtual Tour. And for the next holiday, plan a family or barkada trip to the museum and other exciting places in Manila.

9) Buy Filipino

Need shoes? Get the best at Marikina City or Liliw, Laguna. Need a healthier alternative for sugar? Try Davao's coco sugar. Need fresh shellfish? Siquijor's got that and a lot more! It's been known that a lot of Filipino products are the best in the world. So, why not buy Filipino? Take a trip to your nearest grocery store, or better yet, travel to these beautiful provinces to try out their specialities.

10) Plan your next out-of-town trip!

There are a lot of sights to visit, people to meet, and cultures to discover in the 7,107 of the Philippines. That may be a lot to take in in one day, but Meet Manila is here to help. To start off in the spirit of Independence Day, you can browse through our feature on Historical and Cultural Places.

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NO to DMCI's "Terror de Manila"

How about supporting a cause that gives greater meaning to our independence? Such observations must be made meaningful and relevant by honoring our heroes with the respect they deserve. Example: Let's not allow DMCI to destroy the Rizal Park sightline via their Torre de Manila project. Pls sign the petition: https://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/no-to-dmci-s-torre-de-manila-project.

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