

# Filipinos in New Zealand

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## A Catalog of Philippine Festivals

Name	When	Location	Details
Black Nazarene	9 <sup>th</sup> day of January	District of Quiapo City of Manila	A religious-inspired festival where bare-footed men carry the life-sized statue of the Black Nazarene through the district while yelling "Viva Señor!"
Ati-atihan Festival	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday January	Town of Kalibo Province of Aklan	Dubbed as the "Mother of All Philippine Festivals", it features a series of merry-making activities. It is known for its colorful street dancing as participants painted with black body paint and adorned with tribal costumes cheer ' <i>Hala Bira!</i> ' to lively drumbeats.
Pasungay Festival	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday January	Town of San Joaquin, Province of Iloilo	Featuring the bulls on the hillsides of San Joaquin, Iloilo. Spectators cheer on their bulls dueling with other same-sized bulls inside an arena.
Sinulog Festival	3 <sup>rd</sup> weekend January	Cebu City Province of Cebu	Celebrating Cebu's patron saint, the Sto. Niño or Child Christ through a traditional procession, street dancing and a fluvial parade. During the festival, people are heard chanting " <i>Pit Señor!</i> "
Dinagyang Festival	4 <sup>th</sup> weekend January	Iloilo City Province of Iloilo	A spectacular event where people garbed in unique costumes dance away all day and night to commemorate the Christianization of the natives and to honor the Holy Child Jesus.
Zambulawan Festival	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday January	Pagadian City Zamboanga del Sur	A festival that displays the Subanon tribe's rich cultural heritage with singing, dancing and exhibits of musical instruments.
Our Lady of Candles Pageant Festival	2 <sup>nd</sup> day of February	District of Jaro Iloilo City	The most opulent religious pageant in Western Visayas where the blessing of candles and the yearly procession of the patroness – the Nuestra Señora de Candelaria, are followed by the fiesta queen and her court in a parade as its highlight.
Panagbenga Festival	Whole Month of February	Baguio City Benguet Province	This month-long festival is a popular tourist attraction which showcases the grand parade of flowers and the rich cultural traditions in Baguio City. It is marked with elaborate floral designs, street dancing, a grand fireworks display, and other weekly activities which include local art shows and beauty pageants.
The Paraw Regatta	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of March	Iloilo City Province of Iloilo	Traditionally highlighted by a race involving hundreds of small sailboats or <i>paraws</i> along the strait separating Iloilo City and Guimaras to preserve <i>paraws</i> as part of Ilonggo culture and history.
The Banana Festival	18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> of March	Town of Baco Oriental Mindoro	A festive celebration which coincides with this town's homage to its patron St. Joseph. It features an abundance of bananas through various fiesta activities such as banana cook fests, a musical parade, street dancing and singing and beauty pageants.
Via Crucis Festival	Holy Week in April	Banawa Hills Cebu City	A Lenten activity where devotees from Cebu City, neighboring cities and surrounding towns embark on a penitential procession through the Stations of the Cross built on 12 hectares of rolling hills. The life-sized statues of the 14 stations are patterned after the Way of the Cross in the town of Lourdes, France.
Pak'Kaat Kallo Festival	Holy Week in April	Town of Magpet Province of Cotabato	An annual festival in celebration of abundant harvest events of the indigenous Manobo tribes people held every Lenten Season.
Moriones Festival	Holy Week in April	In the town streets of Boac, Gasan, Magpoc and Torrijos Marinduque Province	Marked by the folk-religious festival of Moriones which has become a major tourist attraction of the province. It relives the miraculous restoration of Longinus – the Roman centurion who speared the crucified Christ sighted through a

			dramatic play that feature costumes of painted masks, Roman legion helmets, and tunics.
The Turumba Festival	Good Friday Holy Week in April	Town of Pakil Province of Laguna	The townspeople of Pakil celebrate this festival to commemorate the seven sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a 7-day feast highlighted by a procession and a dance to the beat of a turumba song. The word 'turumba' is from the Filipino phrase ' <i>natumba sa laki ng tuwa</i> ' or tremble in great joy.
Pagtaltal sa Guimaras Festival	Good Friday Holy Week in April	Town of Jordan Guimaras	The Pagtaltal sa Guimaras is a Holy Week festival that reenacts the Passion of Christ. Local devotees join the pilgrimage at ' <i>Balaan Bukid</i> ' or Holy Mountain site where a huge cross is planted by the chapel overlooking Guimaras Strait and Iloilo City.
Lamilamihan Festival	2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> Week of April	Town of Lamitan Basilan Province	A festival showcasing the traditional customs and traditions of the indigenous Yakan tribes through their unique crafts, music and dances. The locals dress up in their colorful tribal attire during the parade which include horse races and a lot more.
Manaoag Pilgrimage	2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of April	Pangasinan Province	A province-wide pilgrimage event to the Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag. Considered miraculous, the Virgin's image has become one of Manaoag's main attractions to local pilgrims and tourists.
Flores de Mayo	Whole Month of May	Nationwide	Essentially a flower-festooned festival held in honor of the Virgin Mary all throughout the Philippines. Every afternoon for an entire month, songs of prayers and flowers are offered to the Blessed Mother. Sharing of local snacks follows after this daily ritual. The month-long festival culminates with another festival called The Santacruzán procession.
Pista'y Dayat Festival	1 <sup>st</sup> Day May	Town of Lingayen Pangasinan Province	A day of thanksgiving for bountiful harvests and abundant fishing observed all over the province of Pangasinan held traditionally with the celebration of Mass on Lingayen Gulf beautiful white-sand beaches and with a fluvial parade
The Santacruzán	1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 <sup>th</sup> of May	Nationwide	The Santacruzán is a procession commemorating St. Helena's finding the "True Cross"; preceded by a 9-day Novena in honor of the Holy Cross. On the last day, usually on a weekend, the Santacruzán is held. The Reina Elena, accompanied by a little boy representing King Constantine, and the other ' <i>sagalas</i> ' representing biblical characters walk under gaily decorated arches.
The Carabao Festival	14 <sup>th</sup> Day of May	Town of Angono Rizal Province	This festival is celebrated on the feast day of San Isidro. Carabaos (or water buffalos) are groomed, painted over and adorned with colourful decorations, then farmers who own them lead their hooved wards to parade around the town. The highlight of the festival is when the carabaos compete for a prize in free-for-all race.
Pulilan Carabao Festival	14 <sup>th</sup> Day of May	Town of Pulilan Bulacan Province	Not to be outdone by their neighbours in Angono along Laguna de Bay, hundreds of festively-adorned carabaos are paraded around by Bula-keño farmer-owners on the street leading to the church; there they are made to kneel down in homage to San Isidro de Labrador, the patron saint of farmers.
The Pahiyas Festival	15 <sup>th</sup> Day of May	Towns of Sariaya, Lucban & Tayabas Quezon Province	A colorful burst greets visitors to this feast celebrated simultaneously by three towns in Quezon Province in honor of San Isidro Labrador. The highlight is a procession on main streets where all houses along the way are decorated with harvested agricultural produce such as fruits, vegetables, rice grain heads and stalks, beautiful flowers and ferns together with the native <i>pahiyas</i> (a special decor) called <i>kiping</i> , a wafer of rice with various colours.

Obando Fertility Rites	17 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> of May	Town of Obando Bulacan Province	This lively event is celebrated annually in honor of various Catholic saints such as San Pascual, Baylon, Sta. Clara and the Nuestra Senora de Salambao. During the 3-day festivities, childless couples and farmers are seen dancing along the streets in belief that they will be blessed with children and good harvest.
Tapusan sa Kawit	30 <sup>th</sup> Day of May	Town of Kawit Cavite Province	People of the historic town of Kawit celebrate this annual event with a procession of floats brightly decorated with the flowers of May time to honour the Blessed Virgin. The most beautiful young ladies in the town take part in the procession as they symbolize the purity and innocence of the blessed mother of Christ.
Antipolo Pilgrimage	During May	Town of Antipolo Rizal Province	A month-long celebration that draws devotees and pilgrims to venerate the Lady of Peace and Good Voyage enshrined in Antipolo Church and afterwards, to picnic at the nearby mountain side waterfall called ' <i>Hinulugang TaktaK</i> '.
Independence Day	12 <sup>th</sup> Day of June	Town of Kawit, Cavite and Nationwide	The first event that celebrates the Philippines' Independence Day festivities across the country starts at the historic town of Kawit marked by a flag-raising ceremony on the balcony of the Emilio Aguinaldo Shrine, where the first Philippine flag was unfurled in June 1898.
The Parada ng Lechon Festival	29 <sup>th</sup> Day of June	City of Balayan Batangas Province	Filipinos' most famous festival food becomes the centre of attention as the towns people of Balayan, Batangas line-up hundreds of crispy <i>lechon</i> (roasted pig) on the streets. These <i>lechons</i> are usually dressed as brides and grooms while others wear different apparel to delight the audience even before they savour the dish. The festival is also held along with the feast of their patron St. John.
The Pintados Festival	29 <sup>th</sup> Day of June	Tacloban City Province of Leyte	The Pintados Festival recalls the pre-Hispanic history of the native Leyteños and showcases the cultural heritage of the local people of both Leyte and Samar islands by incorporating native music and dances. The word ' <i>pintados</i> ' is Spanish and refers to the body tattoos of the native warriors which represent their unassailable courage and beauty of design. At that time, a man who faced the dangers of infection by tattooing and lived was considered strong and brave. In addition, he had to earn his tattoos by fighting wars and battles. Being a ' <i>pintado</i> ' was also a status symbol. The highest ranked or bravest warriors were heavily tattooed from head to toe.
The Sandugo Festival	20 <sup>th</sup> Day of July	City of Tagbilaran Bohol Island	An annual festivity held in commemoration of the first international treaty of friendship between Filipinos and Spaniards, led by Rajah Sikatuna and Spanish conquistador Miguel Lopez de Legazpi through a blood compact. Among the highlights of this festival are street dancing, the dramatic reenactment of the blood compact, and a beauty pageant. This celebration also coincides with the annual gathering of Boholanos known as " <i>Tigum Bol-anon Tibuok Kalibutan</i> ."
Paaway sa Kabayo Festival	25 <sup>th</sup> July & 25 <sup>th</sup> of December	Town of Tangay Negros Oriental	This bi-annual event feature a thrilling and often times bloody encounter between studs for supremacy over a female horse. Like prize fighters, more than 100 horses are trained to do battle during the festival events.
Bocau River Festival	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of July	Town of Bocau Bulacan Province	A famous river festival held in honour of the miraculous Cross of Bocau (or <i>Krus ng Wawa</i> ). During the fluvial procession, devotees ride in "pagoda" boats and douse each other with water.
The Rajah Baguinda Festival	2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of August	City of Jolo Island of Sulu	The Rajah Baguinda Festival is a 3-day cultural show which commemorates the memory of Rajah Baguinda, an Arab religious missionary from Me-

			nangkabaw, Sumatra who arrived in Mindanao in 1390 AD. The term ' <i>Baguinda</i> ' is of Menangkabaw origin which means "prince." He is the one responsible for the spread of Islam in parts of Southern Philippines and for reinforcing the Sultanate government in Sulu during his time.
Kadayawan sa Dabaw Festival	3 <sup>rd</sup> Week of August	City of Davao Capital Region of Davao Mindanao Island	This is the time when Davaoños share a joyous celebration of life, culture, and bountiful harvest during the month of August. Considered as the mother of festivals in the region, the Kadayawan sa Dabaw Festival has become one of the more well-known Philippine festivals among both local and foreign tourists principally for its week-long activities culminating with a grand floral parade and street dancing.
The Tsinelas Festival	6 <sup>th</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> Days of August	City of Gapan Nueva Ecija Province	A 3-week celebration of shows and festivities celebrating Gapan cityhood. Activities include the Tsinelas parade, a trade fair, sports events, the search for Mutya ng Lungsod ng Gapan, and street dancing. The sinicized word ' <i>Tsinelas</i> ' is derived from the Spanish word ' <i>chinela</i> ' – an extremely comfortable flat slipper with no heel worn both by Philippine men and women which slips easily onto the foot. It is considered a necessity and has been incorporated in the standard inventory of every household, regardless of social and economic class.
The Lemlunay T'boli Tribal Festival	16 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> Days of September	Lake Sebu Area South Cotabato Province in Mindanao Island	This festival highlights the rich culture of the T'boli tribal people by means of traditional music and instruments, cultural dances and horse fights. The T'boli, who reside on the mountain slopes on either side of the upper Alah Valley and the coastal areas of Maitum, Maasim and Kiamba in Sarangani, are one of the indigenous peoples of South Cotabato in Southern Mindanao.
The Feast of Nuestra Señora Peñafrancia	Starts on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of September	City of Naga Camarines Sur Province	The Feast of Nuestra Señora Peñafrancia is a celebration in honour of Our Lady of Peñafrancia. Its week-long activities feature a fluvial parade of the patroness, sports fests, beauty pageants and other cultural exhibitions.
The Maskara Festival	Starts on the 19 <sup>th</sup> Day of October	City of Bacolod Negros Occidental	A blissful week of festivities takes place in the <i>City of Smiles</i> as Negrenses observe the annual Maskara Festival. The colourful masks with smiling faces worn by street dancers in ostentatious costumes of their design are primary attractions of the celebration. Aside from street dancing, the festival also features a food fest, sports events, trade fairs, beauty pageant, and concerts. Part of this event is in conjunction with the commemoration of the city's founding anniversary.
The Ibalong Festival	19 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> Days of September	City of Legazpi Province of Albay	This is a festivity that presents the Bicol region's early beginnings through the "Ibalong" epic. Revelers parade on the streets wearing masks of these heroes and villains. The epic story is about a hero called Baltog from Botavora of the brave clan of Lipod, who came to the land now known as Bicol at a time when many monsters were still roaming in its very dark forests. He decided to stay and was the first to cultivate the land and to plant them with <i>gabi</i> , a root crop.
La Naval de Manila Festival	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of October	District of Sto. Domingo Quezon City Metro Manila	A festival revolving around the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary of La Naval, which was carved in 1533 AD and given as a gift to the Dominican Fathers at the start of colonisation of the Philippines by the Spanish Crown. Borne on an elaborately decorated and well-lit carriage in the form of a ship, the venerated image is brought out of the church preceded by a dozen or so images of Dominican saints. The procession goes around the main streets of Sto. Domingo parish and then returns to the church amidst applause

			until it reaches the altar pedestal.
The Gigantes Festival	22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> Days of October	Town of Angono Rizal Province	The word ' <i>Higantes</i> ' means 'giants' in Spanish. A prominent feature of this festival is the gigantic paper machés of human figures paraded in the town of Angono. In honour of San Clemente (patron saint of fishermen), participants of the procession dress themselves with fishermen's clothes and other local costumes while carrying boat paddles, fish nets, and other fishing gear.
The Grand Cordillera Festival	During November	City of Baguio Benguet Province	The Grand Cordillera Festival is held annually to celebrate the culture and traditions of the major ethno-linguistic tribe groups of the region composed of the provinces of Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga and Mountain Province, as well as Baguio City, the regional center. This week-long festival features different tribal dance performances and thanksgiving ceremonials by members of the various upland hills and mountain tribes of Northern Luzon.
The Grand Marian Procession	8 <sup>th</sup> Day of December	Old Walled City of Intramuros in Manila Metro Manila	This religious festival showcase in one grand procession of 83 images and statues of the Blessed Mother that come from different parts of the country. The statues are paraded throughout Intramuros' thoroughfares in flower-decked carriages which bear each of them along the procession. Devout Catholics from all parts of the Philippines flood into the streets of Intramuros as an expression of their faith and also to experience this grandeur procession held each year.
The Pagdidiwata Festival	8 <sup>th</sup> Day of December	City of Puerto Princesa Palawan Island	Pagdidiwata is a thanksgiving celebration by the Tagbanua people of central and northern Palawan island. The Tagbanua are one of the oldest tribes in the Philippines. Research suggests that they are possibly descendants of the Stone Age Tabon Man (circa 22-20,000 BC), making them one of the original inhabitants of the Philippines. In this celebration there are ritual dances and food offerings to their deities and souls of departed kin.
Feast of the Immaculate Conception	Starts on 8 <sup>th</sup> Day of December	City of Puerto Princesa Palawan Island	The Philippines has the largest Catholic population in the whole of Asia and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception has been celebrated since the early beginnings of the Spanish Colonial Period. During celebrations, which are a week long affair, a parade is held every day at certain times of the day along the bay of Puerto Princesa City. Once the sun sets, there are various cultural presentations at the town hall prepared by the different <i>barangays</i> that make up Puerto Princesa City. Because the Feast of the Immaculate Conception honours the patron saint of this city, a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary on a float adorned with flowers is always a part of the parade.
The Bikol Pastores Festival	18 <sup>th</sup> Day of December	City of Legazpi Albay Province	A uniquely Philippine Christmas celebration believed to have originated in the province where ' <i>pastores</i> ' – young men and women dressed in colourful shepherd costumes, joyfully dance and sing " <i>Pastores a Belen</i> " through the streets of Legazpi City. The word ' <i>Belen</i> ' is the name given to a Nativity scene in Spain and in countries with some Spanish heritage.
The Giant Lantern Festival	Saturday before Christmas Eve	San Fernando City Pampanga Province	From a lamp-lit procession, the annual celebration of the Giant Lantern Festival has become a major attraction during the Christmas season. A stunning display of lights and color occurs during the festival night of lanterns in the City of San Fernando as various designers of each of the Christmas-inspired lanterns called ' <i>parols</i> ' compete for the loudest applause given by the

			audience for the most dynamic interplay of moving lights displayed by their creations during designated 5-minute shows for each giant lantern.
The Binirayan Festival	28 <sup>th</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup> Days of December	City of San Jose Antuque Province	This festival commemorates an episode in the history of the Filipino people through colourful pageants acted on the beaches of Maybato in San Jose and Malandog in Hamtik. Particularly interesting is the drama play of the first Malay settlement at Malandog which runs for 3-days days and nights. Binirayan is also an occasion for reunions of family, relatives and friends with home coming Antiqueño expatriates.