



2026 VIP TOUR WRAPS UP TEN-DAY JOURNEY ACROSS THE PHILIPPINES

LOS ANGELES, CA - The 2026 Very Important Pinoy (VIP) Tour concluded on 21 July after a ten-day tourism and cultural journey across Manila, Dumaguete, Cebu, Bohol, and Siquijor. The tour brought together 279 participants from the United States, including representatives of Philippine Foreign Service Posts in the United States and U.S. elected officials.

A collaborative undertaking among the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Tourism, Rajah Tours, and Philippine Foreign Service Posts in the United States, the 2026 VIP Tour was led and coordinated by the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles. The program showcased the Philippines' heritage, culture, natural attractions, and hospitality while strengthening participants' connection to the country. Held in conjunction with the 80th anniversary of Philippines-United States diplomatic relations, it also highlighted the enduring people-to-people ties between the two countries.

WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY





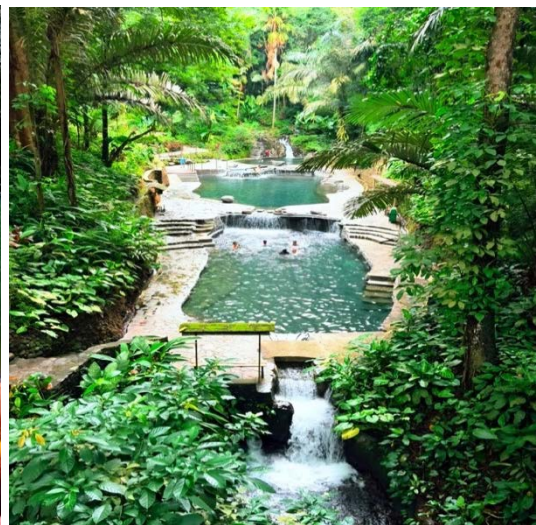
In the photos: Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz with representatives of the City of Manila, VIP Tour organizers, and participants during the wreath-laying ceremony on 13 July 2026.

The program formally opened on 13 July with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Rizal National Monument. Organizers, officials, and participants, joined by military and civilian hosts from the City of Manila, paid tribute to Philippine National Hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

MANILA AND NEARBY DESTINATIONS

Participants joined tours of historical and cultural sites, natural attractions, and resorts in Manila, Tagaytay, Laguna and Antipolo. The Tourism Promotions Board capped the day with a dinner attended by Department of Tourism Undersecretary Stanley K. Ng.



In the photos: Pagsanjan Falls and Hidden Valley in Laguna, 13 July 2026.



In the photos: Consul General Cruz with DOT Undersecretary Stanley K. Ng and other officials, and delivering remarks during the Welcome Dinner hosted by the DOT-Tourism Promotions Board on 13 July 2026.

NEGROS ORIENTAL AND SIQUIJOR

From 14 to 16 July, participants explored the heritage, traditions, and natural attractions of Dumaguete and Siquijor, with excursions to Apo Island, Manjuyod, and Balinsasayaw Twin Lakes. The Province of Negros Oriental and the City of Dumaguete also welcomed the delegation at a hosted dinner.



Consul General Cruz with Negros Oriental Governor Manuel L. Sagarbarria, representatives of Philippine Foreign Service Posts in the U.S., and Cerritos Mayor Lynda Johnson at the Province's Welcome Dinner, 14 July 2026.



In the photos: Participants en route to Siquijor, and a sea turtle at Apo Island, 14-16 July 2026.

CEBU

From 17 to 19 July, participants experienced Cebu's history, culture, cuisine, and natural attractions through island-hopping, heritage and culinary tours, and ptional visits to Oslob, Kawasan Falls, Moalboal, Olango Island, Bohol, and Cebu City. Cebu Governor Pamela S. Baricuatro and Lapu-Lapu City Mayor Ma. Cynthia “Cindi” King Chan welcomed the delegation at hosted dinners.



In the photos: Canyoneering in Kawasan Falls in Badian, Cebu on 17 July 2026.



In the photos: Island hopping in Cebu and neighboring islands, 18 July 2026.



Cebu Governor Pamela S. Baricuatro (back row, 5th from left) with VIP Tour participants at the dinner hosted on 18 July 2026.

COURTESY CALL ON DFA OFFICIALS

On 21 July, Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz led heads and representatives of Philippine Foreign Service Posts in the United States in a courtesy call on DFA Undersecretary for Economic and Cultural Diplomacy Maria Andrelita S. Austria. Assistant Secretary for Economic and Cultural Diplomacy Rhenita B. Rodriguez and other DFA officials also joined the meeting.



DFA Undersecretary Maria Andrelita S. Austria (fourth from right) with DFA officials and heads and representatives of Foreign Service Posts in the U.S., 21 July 2026.

The 2026 VIP Tour helped promote Philippine destinations, support local tourism economies, and deepen participants' connection to the country and their Filipino heritage. Building on this year's success, the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago will serve as the lead coordinating Post for the 2027 VIP Tour. END.