



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS ANGELES



PHILCONGENLA UNVEILS VIP TOUR 2027: WINTER ESCAPADE



Members of the Filipino community gather for the launch of the 2027 VIP Tour: Winter Escapade Edition

LOS ANGELES, CA – The Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles officially launched the 2027 Very Important Pinoy (VIP) Tour: Winter Escapade Edition on 25 August 2026 at the Consulate General's Community Hall. The launch brought together Filipino and Filipino-American community leaders, travel industry partners, and prospective participants for a preview of the destinations and experiences lined up for the special 2027 edition of the VIP Tour, which will take place from 07 to 17 February 2027.

In his opening remarks, Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz thanked the community in the U.S. Southwest for its strong support, which helped make the Consulate General-led 2026 VIP Tour a success, and encouraged the community to join the 2027 VIP Tour. He also announced that the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago will serve as the lead coordinating Post for the 2027 tour, with the Los Angeles team extending its full support.



Consul General Cruz delivering his opening remarks

In a recorded video message, Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel G. Romualdez highlighted the special 2027 edition, which will bring together participants from the United States and Canada under the VIP Tour x Winter Escapade program. He

underscored the initiative as a shared effort to promote Philippine tourism and harness its contribution to economic growth, regional development, and international engagement.

During the program, Mr. Jose C. Clemente III and Mr. Michael Kipping of Rajah Tours Philippines, who joined the launch online from Manila, presented the 2027 itinerary and tour experience, including the different travel options available to participants.



Ambassador Romualdez addresses the community through a recorded message

The tour will begin in Manila, where participants may choose from several day-tour options before proceeding to one of five pocket-tour destinations: Leyte, Legazpi-Naga, Siargao, Camiguin, or Bohol. For the latter part of the tour, participants may select between two itineraries. The Iloilo-Bacolod option highlights the culture, cuisine, and attractions of Western Visayas, while the El Nido option offers several days of island experiences in Palawan.



Rajah Tours Philippines and Philippine Airlines discuss the 2027 VIP Tour itinerary, tour packages, and travel arrangements

Mr. Jomito “Mitty” Torres of Philippine Airlines (PAL) shared PAL’s special all-in packages and other flight options available to VIP Tour participants.

Following the presentations, Ms. Meg Ilagan gave a testimonial on the personal impact of joining previous VIP Tours, including the recently concluded 2026 tour held in July. She spoke about the sense of fulfillment that came from reconnecting with the Philippines and encouraged fellow attendees to experience the tour for themselves.

The program also included a question-and-answer portion, giving guests an opportunity to learn more about the itinerary, travel arrangements, and the VIP Tour in general.



L: Rajah Tours addresses questions from the audience; L: Consul General Cruz presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Rajah Tours

Following the Q&A, Consul General Cruz presented Certificates of Appreciation to Mr. Clemente and Rajah Tours Philippines, Mr. Torres and PAL, and the PDOT-Los Angeles team led by Tourism Representative Mr. Gerard O. Panga, in recognition of their continued support in the various editions of the VIP Tour.

In line with the celebration of *Buwan ng Kasaysayan*, the launch opened with a special screening of *Katung Adlaw nga Nadula Ako sa Kahanginan* (The Day I Went Off Air), a short film by Iloilo-based writer and director Daniel de la Cruz. The Hiligaynon-language film, part of the offerings of the Sentro Rizal Film Club in connection with its relaunch by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), served as a teaser for the evening's presentation of the 2027 itinerary.

The VIP Tour 2027: Winter Escapade Edition is a flagship tourism initiative of the Department of Foreign Affairs, coordinated by Philippine Foreign Service Posts in the United States and Canada, in partnership with the Department of Tourism and Rajah



Tours Philippines, that seeks to encourage overseas Filipinos and friends of the Philippines to visit and rediscover the country.

For more information on the 2027 VIP Tour: Winter Escapade Edition, visit www.viptourphilippines.com. END