Name Origins: The name Philippines comes from King Philip II of Spain, chosen by the Spanish explorer Ruy López de Villalobos during the 16th century.

Greetings: While formal greetings include "Magandang umaga" (good morning), "Magandang hapon" (good afternoon), and "Magandang gabi" (good evening), most people use simpler greetings like “hello ma’am” or “hello sir.” The word maganda means “beautiful,” so it’s a way of wishing someone a beautiful day!

Languages: There are 175 languages in the Philippines, with 171 still spoken today. The two official languages are Filipino and English.

"Ingat": This means "take care" and is often used when saying goodbye to someone.

Utensils: Filipinos use a spoon and fork for eating, and cutting is done with the spoon! The knife is only used in the kitchen. This is a legacy from Spanish colonization, which replaced traditional hand-eating practices.
The Yo-Yo: The yo-yo (meaning “to return”) originated in the Philippines. It was first used as a weapon before becoming the popular toy we know today, thanks to Filipino inventor Pedro Flores.

National Bird: The Philippine eagle is the largest of its kind, with a wingspan of up to 2 meters! Sadly, it is an endangered

species, with fewer than 500 individuals left. Killing one is punishable by heavy fines and imprisonment.

Precious Shell: The Conus Gloriamaris (glory of the sea cone), a rare and expensive shell once considered the rarest in the world, can cost up to 100 euros today.

Karaoke Culture: Karaoke is a must at Filipino parties, where it's common to sing while enjoying drinks like beer.

The Filipino Concept of Family: Family here goes beyond blood relations. Neighbors, friends, and even playmates are often treated as family, creating a deeply rooted sense of community and belonging.