A multicultural country

Dear Lisa,
I will talk about the Philippines. I'm a Filipino who's from Visayas and I speak Bisaya, but here in my country we have lots and lots of dialects! 😊
Our national animal is called Carabao. A Carabao is an animal similar to a cow. Here in the Philippines, we celebrate fiestas and festivals. When we celebrate festivals, there will be street festival dances, food and many more. We also have many delicacies that we enjoy eating like *budbud*, *biko*, *kuchinta* and many many more. We also have traditional dances that we often perform during festivals and presentations. Our places here in the Philippines are beautiful and attract lots of tourists. There are a lot of trees and mountains here to be explored too. The Philippines also has its national hero which is Jose Rizal, in school we study about our hero. We have a lot of coconut trees which can be a source of food and resources to build houses and furniture. Religion is one of the factors that is present in most Filipinos. Filipinos have a lot of beliefs and each one of the beliefs is different from each other. Long before, we Filipinos believed in mythical creatures and each mythical creature has its own characteristics, these can interest children and scare them at the same time. We Filipinos also have a way of being polite in addressing people, we put "Ate" before the name of a woman older than us and "Kuya" for men older than us. Filipinos are often family-oriented, family would always come first. We Filipinos enjoy

karaoke, eating meat, going to the beach and dancing. Our spaghetti also weirdly taste sweet and not sour like pasta :D
The Philippines is a country full of intriguing cultures and traditions, it is a beautiful and wonderful country to explore! Lisa, I hope you'll come and visit the Philippines and witness the beauty of my country. I hope you also learned something from what I just wrote about my country.
Thank you, Lisa!
Lots of love,

Clarisse

A country with many islands

Dear Lisa,
I know you've never been to the Philippines, so I will try to express or I will try to explain what my country looks like. You know what, we have 7.641 islands and in the Philippines located in Visayas it is very hot, it's because it is sunny but sometimes is rainy. There's a place that is very clean but not really. You know what, the sea is very beautiful and it's nice to go to the sea, it's because it is very hot here in Visayas. Located in Dumagete it's really hot and you know what, our country is really beautiful. Have you ever heard about how beautiful or how clean our country is?

Joy

A strong connection to Spain

Dear Lisa,

I would like to share what it is like in our country. I will tell you about our traditions and about the Philippines.

Firstly, I would like to tell you that our country was conquered by many countries, but the longest country that conquered us is the Spaniards which are called Spanish people. They conquered us for 333 years and being with them for 333 years or living with them for 333 years, Filipinos learned a lot from them like their language, their clothing and some of their traditions. Most of the stories I heard from our country are connected to Spain, like the books written by Jose Rizal. The best tradition I know in the Philippines is the festivals, but it has many festivals like Sandurot festival for dancing and Santo Niño (baby Jesus) which is celebrated in Cebu. Let's go back to the time when Spanish people conquered the Philippines, so before the Filipinos were conquered by Spain, they believed about legends, they did believe in fairy stuff or the fantasy, they called it "diwato", know that the Philippines were conquered by Spain so there we learned that God had existed so much for that the Spanish are the reasons why we have mestizo faces, because before Filipinos figure was igorot. Igorot looks like black or dark brown skin and curly hair, etc. So, let's move on into that. Now I would like to tell you about the Filipino people, so that people love to make stories and do storytelling, but most of the Filipinos are about mythical creatures which means a home story or a fantasy story. Another tradition in the Philippines is that

when men court a lady they will go to her house and sing a love song for her; they call it “Harana”.
We also have our traditional food, trees and animals, since the food is so many I will only name two of them: the *Odobong manok* and *bebingka*, for the tree is Nara tree and for the animal they call it Carabao. So basically, Filipinos love to eat and dance and have fun with fellow Filipinos. People here in the Philippines love to smile even if they have a problem. So, there is a saying about the Philippines, the travelers also say that: #IT IS MORE FUN IN THE PHILIPPINES.
That’s what I can say about the traditions of the Philippines. I forgot to mention that one of the traditional dances in the Philippines is that finikling, they dance it with a bamboo stick.
So, I hope you will like what I have shared and written. Hope you have learned from me, also the Philippines have many natural places and it is so beautiful here, you will refresh your mind.

Pamela

The Philippines has strong and smiley people

Dear Lisa,
In the Philippines everything is bright and beautiful. Our flag has the colors blue and red which means peace for blue and

war for red. Also, there are three stars surrounding the sun. The three stars represent our three main islands: Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. In Luzon most people speak Tagalog, in Visayas almost all people speak Bisaya and also in Mindanao. But in the Philippines we have more than thousands of dialects, we Filipinos usually speak at least two languages. The national animal of our country is Carabao, because we believe that this animal is strong and loyal. Also, our national tree is the Nara Tree because of the fact that these trees are very strong especially in typhoons. The Philippines are actually always hit by typhoons and strong typhoons, but we are able to survive by building strong houses and buildings. In the mountains they build their houses with rocks and stones because they believe that the house will stay longer. In the Philippines we are not so rich but to be able to really survive we plant fruit and vegetables. We are able to live by planting and eating. People that live in the Philippines are called Filipinos. In our country our population is more than 100 million. We Filipinos love to eat. Many of our delicacies are kutchinta, pichi pichi, taho, biko and many more. Our delicacies are usually made up of our natural ingredients. We love it because it's actually sweet and delicious. I also believe that Filipinos are always very happy because they love where they belong. They love where they live and they love to be loved. Filipinos always smile no matter what. Because Filipinos always smile through the pain. Filipinos love to create many friends and peace. Filipinos love to be together, they cooperate and help for the country. So Lisa, if you want to be happy and

see many beautiful things, just come to the Philippines, everything you want to see is waiting for you!

Rizza

An imperfect country

Dear Lisa,

Today I wanted to tell you about my country, the place I was born to serve.

My country is beautiful, it is rich with natural beauties and great habitats for animals to live in. It is full of wonders and uniqueness is always present.

Yes, the place is great but the people living in it are not as great as you think. We are not perfect… Yet, even if we know we create mistakes and do something, my people do not seem to be bothered.

There are bad sides and good sides of my country and I know every country has its. I'm quite disappointed with the rulers of this country, they may have the power to use for the betterment but I didn't see any progress that they did that would make me really say "I'm proud of it".

I love my country, for it was not wrong and I also want it to live on with a good reputation but I'm just a dust in my land and even if I'd do something, nothing changes for I have no power and such…But there's no harm in trying, right? But even if there is, it would be me willing to fight for change.

I don't hate being born here…and I'm proud of the great beauty my country gave me to see but I haven't really found

some people who would really inspire me, but well, I got friends and they are awesome…
I'm glad for my parents, friends and home that welcomes me.
I hope, if you visit my country, you'll see the wonders of it, the beauty it carries and the gentle people you may meet but don't be disappointed on who rules, for that I don't know what to say or do.
Enjoy the beauty and goodness while it's still present…
Wish you all the best…
P.S. Hope you'll write your thoughts about my country too when you have the chance. 😊

Divina