

# BUS BOSS – NORTHERN LUZON MAP (JEEPNEY BOSS)

The Philippines is an island republic in the Pacific Ocean. It is an archipelago of some 7100+ islands, over 850 of which are inhabited although only 46 are larger than 1 square mile. The main islands are Luzon in the North and Mindanao in the South. The capital is Manila, situated in central Luzon. The climate is tropical and the islands are subject to tropical storms and hurricanes during the rainy season (autumn). The islands are very fertile and geologically rich. The Philippines are also the only Catholic nation in SE Asia, having been colonised by the Spanish for centuries. The Spanish influence is clearly visible in many parts of the islands.

The transport infrastructure in the Philippines is poor, with only a limited railway network and few good roads. The main commercial form of public transport is the Jeepney, originally derived from surplus American jeeps left over from World War II. The first jeepneys were actually the army jeeps themselves, numbering into the hundreds all over the country, but mostly concentrated in the metropolis, which were repainted or scraped to the metal, upon which various decorations were attached. Moving horse figurines, flags, colorful lights, paintings, traditional designs, bonnets, mirrors and stickers were put on these vehicles, making each vehicle startlingly different in terms of appearance from the next one. The unique thing about jeepneys is that no jeepney is exactly the same as another. Each jeepney is a testament to the artistic ability of the designer assigned to it.

This map is dedicated to these mobile works of art. It is mainly based on the existing road network and key towns, although some key tourist resorts (Bolinao, Mariveles and Calatagan) are also included. I have not included Metro Manila itself, but divided the capital into 4 key districts. These include Makati City, the main commercial district, Pasig, Quezon City and Baclaran. Baclaran is the Jeepney centre for all the Philippines and is the start point for many Jeepney routes.

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