

To be honest, Manilla is not a place where I would like to live. "You can easily end up feeling very lonely there, even though the locals try very hard to help you" says Nils, a friend of mine from Sweden who decided to go there and earn some money a few years ago. Everyone can see the appeal of this kind of lifestyle, when you feel like you are working and on holiday at the same time. To survive, just two things are essential: an air-conditioned house or flat, and a smartphone or a laptop connected to the internet. It sounds awesome, but what's the catch? This area is very prone to cyclones, so sooner or later a cyclone will appear - and that means trouble for everybody. Even if you were a clone of the fastest man in the world, you wouldn't be able to run away from the stones, palm trees, cars and parts of buildings flying through the air, which could easily break your bones or leave you trapped in a damaged building, as happened to Nils.