

Bangkok Guide



Bangkok is an attractive and fascinating city with a rich cultural heritage that spans hundreds of years. There is much to be explored, and the city will occupy you from morning to night.

Shopping, traditional markets, places of worship, dining and entertainment – these are scattered about the city and to ensure you experience the best that Bangkok has to offer, we have highlighted the places that are not to be missed!

- Getting to the Hotel
- Currency
- Weather
- Getting around the city
- Places of interests
- Shopping and Malls
- After Darks
- Dining
- Calendar
- Others

Getting to the Hotel

From the airport, you may reach your hotel by any of the following:

■ Taxi

Proceed to the taxi counter, level 2 at the Arrivals Hall near entrances 3, 4, 7 and 8. Taxi Fare: Airport surcharge of THB 50 plus amount on meter and expressway fees.

■ Airport Link

Airport link operates from 6.00am to 12.00 midnight.



There are 2 types of Airport Link; SA Express and SA City Line.

SA Express provides transportation service from Makkasan Station to Suvarnabhumi Airport only within 15 minutes while SA City Line provides service between Phaya Thai Station which stops 6 stations along the way to Airport. SA City Line takes approximately 30 minutes of journey time.

For more info visit www.airportrailink.railway.co.th

■ Limousine

Make an advance booking with the hotel for THB 1,200 per way for a car or THB 1,600 per way for a van (Email: reservations@arcadiasuities.com)

Weather

Bangkok being a tropical city, the weather is generally warm throughout the year, with temperatures ranging from 25 to 35c.

■ March-May

April and May are relatively warmer than other periods of the year, with the temperature reaching its peak in April.

■ October – February

This is the most pleasant time of year, where temperatures range from 25-28c with light breezes and only the occasional shower.

■ June – September

A cooler time of year with some rain.

Getting around the city



There are several modes of transportation available around the city:

■ On foot

There are many things to see around hotel from street shopping, infinite and varied eateries to shopping malls.

■ Tuk Tuk

Best known for its 'Sam Lor' - a motorized 3 wheeled traditional form of transportation, found readily around the city. Bargaining is a must.

■ BTS and MRT

A clean and convenient mode of transportation in this busy metropolis, with both the skytrain and underground stations located along most major routes and tourist destinations. Ask for more details for the

skytrain and underground train routes from our Concierge.

■ Taxi

In general, taxis are readily available, a word of caution, some drivers may refuse to turn on the meter, therefore, bargain or hail another taxi.

■ Ferry and Public Boat

The ideal for taking in the sights and sounds along the Chao Phraya River.

■ Canal boat

There are also several canal routes by long-tail boat which offer more charming scenery with stops at old temples which are scattered along all canals.

Places of Interest



■ The Grand Palace

Past residence of the Kings of Thailand, a must see for every visitor. The palace is a mix of Traditional Thai and European architecture. Religious ornaments and statues fill the grounds of the Grand Palace.

■ **Wat Pho**



Or “Temple of the Reclining Buddha”, houses one of the largest reclining Buddha’s in the world at 46 meters long and 15 meters high.

■ **Erawan Shrine**  **CHIDLOM**

Visit one of the most popular places of worship (shrine) for Brahma and his elephant, Erawan. Traditional Thai dancing is shown from time to time.

■ **The Ancient City (Ayuttaya)**

A visit to the Ancient City makes an excellent, but exhausting, full day outing. The 320-acre outdoor museum is an architectural reflection of Thailand’s glorious past. Houses several ethnological displays of artifacts and antiques, including rural arts, ancient tools, evidence of the long-term survival of a native culture. Be sure to start early and allow yourself the better part of a day to see everything.



■ **Chao Phraya Cruise**

Cruise the largest river in Thailand to the accompaniment of music and fine food whilst taking in the Bangkok skyline.



■ **Dream World**

With a day out at Dream World, you and the kids will get to experience this huge amusement park, and enjoy the exciting shows and rides like the Corkscrew, Bumper Cars, Rollercoaster, and more. If you have kids (and the time) definitely a place to take them.



■ **Dusit Zoo**



An attractive zoo with botanical gardens that continually improves. There is a children’s zoo, play area and paddleboats to provide fun for kids. The zoo is open every day from 8am until 6pm.

■ **Elephant & Crocodile Farm**

The farm has more than 30,000 crocodiles, & is the largest in Thailand. The popular crocodile wrestling shows & the elegant elephant shows are performed regularly. Opening hours: 8.30am - 5.30pm

■ **China Town**  **HUA LAMPHONG**

Yaowarat – an explosion of color with bright neon signs written in Chinese and Thai lining the streets. Take a slow unhurried walk, and savour the sights and sounds of these pulsating neighborhoods.

■ **Siam Ocean World**  **SIAM**

Located in the basement of the luxurious Siam Paragon shopping mall, Siam Ocean World is one of the largest aquariums in Southeast Asia featuring over 30,000 marine animals. It has become Thailand’s finest tourist attraction & centre for the youth to broaden their perspective.

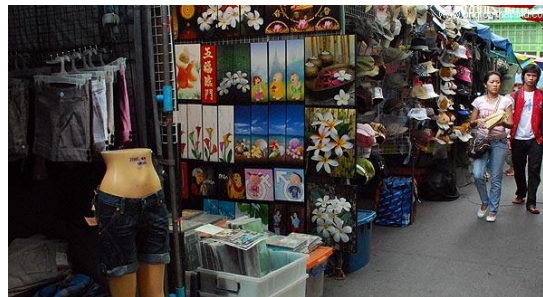


Shopping and Malls

■ **Chatuchak Market**



The prime commodity is clothing, but almost everything is sold there, and it is well worth a visit. The size is 35 acres making it the biggest market in Bangkok and some argue the largest market in Asia.



It opens from about 8am every Saturday and Sunday and closes around 5pm.

■ **MBK**  **NATIONAL STADIUM**



At eight stories high and 330 metres long, with more than 2,500 outlets using a total selling area of 89,000 sqm, this shopping mall used to be one of the largest malls in Asia when it was first opened in 1985.

■ **Siam Paragon**  **SIAM**

Famous for its large ground floor food court and the Underwater World, the complex is one of the most popular malls, selling designer and semi-designer goods.

■ **The Emporium**  **PHROM PHONG**

Located in the prestigious Phrom Phong area, the ultra-chic Emporium is especially popular with high-end and luxury products.

■ **Central World**  **SIAM or CHIDLOM**



At 830,000 sqm, Central World is now officially the largest lifestyle shopping complex in Southeast Asia. It’s a lifestyle destination the likes of which Bangkok has never seen because it has everything you want in one place.

■ Platinum Mall

This "wholesale" mall on Petchaburi Road is much like an outdoor market, except for the air conditioning & clean bathrooms. With more than 1,300 shops, specializing in women's clothing and fashion accessories, you'll need at least four hours to get through the mall.



■ Terminal 21



Terminal 21 is a one floor one concept shopping mall. This concept is market streets of the world. It

decorated a well-known city streets; such as Rome, Paris, Tokyo, London, Istanbul etc. This mall has the longest escalators in Thailand, up to 36 meters.

After Dark

■ Siam Niramit

Listed in the Guinness World of Records, Siam Niramit is a world class spectacular performance of Thai art and cultural Heritage with amazing state of the art special effects. Featuring over 150 performers with as many as 500 costumes, this captivating 80-minute extravaganza uncovers the

history, customs and cultural treasures that have descended through centuries and which continue to fascinate Thailand's visitors.

■ Calypso Cabaret

Cabaret performance by *ladyboys*, their beauty will take your breath away.

■ Patphong / Silom



The infamous Patphong – not only lined with massage parlours and bars, it offers much by way of shopping with hundreds of street stalls lining the way. Silom is another area suited for bargain hunters.

■ Khao San Road

An endless number of bars and clubs at which to quench that thirst. The streets of Khao San are also lined with hundreds of small shops and street stalls.

Dining

■ Le Banyan Restaurant



The 70s picturesque house turned into a warm French restaurant is where you come for authentic food, not for posh atmosphere. You must

be sure to order the special pressed duck, which is a dish Le Banyan is famous for. **Location:** 59, Sukhumvit Soi 8

■ Seafood Market

The Seafood Market & Restaurant seats over 1500 people and is a large destination spot in Bangkok with its famous tagline of "If It Swims, We Have It.?" The uniqueness of the restaurant lies in the fact you choose from a wide

selection of 'live seafood' & have it cooked to your liking.

Location: 89, Sukhumvit Soi 24

■ Bed Supper Club



Unique in design with its cylindrical shape, this club is always listed as one of Bangkok's premiere hot spots.

Don't miss this trendiest club in town. **Location:** Sukhumvit Soi 11

■ Nasir al-Masri

Nasir al-Masri offers the finest Arabian, Egyptian and Asian cuisine, as well as a comfortable arena for some sheesha smoking. Dishes like lamb, fish, and chicken stand out for their vibrant flavors. The specialty is grilled stuffed pigeon, which may sound unappetizing but promotes this delicacy to the hilt. Hey, you're on vacation; try something new.

Location: Sukhumvit Soi 4

■ The Face Bar

Popular with Bangkok's well-heeled set, The Face is an upscale joint that fuses three of Asia's most distinct cultures to charming effect. Comprising three restaurants – Japanese, Indian and Thai, guests can enjoy their respective choice of cuisine in a classic Thai environment. **Location:** Sukhumvit Soi 38

■ Gianni Ristorante

One of the finest Italian Restaurant in Bangkok for over 10 years, Gianni Ristorante cuisine is based on 3 main principles;Mediterranean style, modernity & top quality raw ingredients. The décor of the restaurant is sophisticated, elegant, yet not



formidable, with use of Mediterranean blues and a mural covering one wall of the restaurant, it fits any occasion.

Location: 34/1 Soi Tonson, Ploenchit Road

Spas & Massages



■ Ananda Spa

Ananda comes from the Sanskrit word meaning 'Harmony'. A wide array of spa and beauty treatments await guests, ranging from massages, scrubs, bath therapies and Ananda Facial and hair treatments to provide that "perfect balance" to soothe away stress and fatigue. **Location:** Sukhumvit Soi 11



■ Mulberry Spa

Set amidst a quiet corner with lush orchards just a short drive from BTS Asoke Station, the unique classical features of the Chinese-Portuguese and Thai colonial influences from the Rattanakosin era, Mulberry Spa invites you to experience a unique atmosphere and the ultimate "Spa" experience.

■ Divana Spa Bangkok

The Divana spa is located in a two-storey Thai house surrounded by a huge botanical garden and swimming pool. With 17

treatment beds in 9 private couple treatment rooms with each room having its own unique design and all are fully equipped with steam, shower and bathtub. Offers a full range of very well priced treatments - massage, facial and body - all designed to relax and remove stresses of everyday life the spa. Open daily from 11:00 am - 11:00 pm, with the last appointment at 9:00 pm.

Calendar

February – Chinese New Year

Every year, a big celebration featuring lion or dragon dances and fireworks with food stalls lining the streets will be held in China Town.

March – Kite Festival

A spectacle not to be missed, where thousands of kites of every shape, size and color fill the sky. Head to Lumpini Park or the Grand Palace.



April – Songkran Festival

In celebration of the New Year, an age old tradition of being blessed by having a small amount of water poured over ones hands has evolved to new heights, with buckets of water being thrown at you, all in the spirit of Songkran. Khao San Rd is the center of this activity. Fireworks are also displayed in several spots in the city.

August – Queen’s Birthday

The whole town will be beautiful with magnificent lights decoration along the main streets and Grand Palace.

September – International Boat Race

A world class, international event featuring participation from over 20 countries. A colorful and noisy spectacle, a day at the boat races is not to be missed.

November – Loy Krathong

A celebration that gives thanks to the water spirit who has given a life. During the full moon, you may participate by floating “krathongs” in a canal or river.



December – King’s Birthday

In December, the citizens of Bangkok come together to celebrate the birthday of their beloved King. Lights, large pictures, and flowers fill every street corner.

Things to Know



Thai people greet each other using the term “Sawasdee” along with both

palms and hands united to form a *wai*. The *wai* is equivalent to the Western handshake.

- Always show your respect toward the King and members of the Royal Family, monks and elders, as well as all religious statues.
- Thailand is famous for cheap and nice goods; however you may still need to bargain especially in tourist areas.
- Everyday at 8am and 6pm the National Anthem is played in a show of patriotism, and as a sign of respect all Thais will come to a standstill.
- Don’t get a taxi without meter.

In and Out from Bangkok

Hua Lamphong Station HUA LAMPHONG

Main railway station in city which connects to the MRT (underground train). Built in 1916, over 130 trains pass through daily, carrying 60,000 passengers to various cities around the country. T: +66 (02) 621 701

Eastern Bus Terminal EKKAMAI

Located on Sukhumvit Soi 40, (near BTS Ekkamai it serves destinations in the Eastern part of Thailand, including popular Pattaya and Rayong. T: +66 (02) 391 2504

Northern/North Eastern Bus Terminal

Located on Kamphaeng Phet 2 Rd (near Chatuchak Market), it serves destinations in the North and North East of Thailand, including Chiangmai, Chiangrai and Korat. T: +66 (02) 936 2852-66

Southern Bus Terminal

Located on Borommarat Chonnani Road, (2 km from the Pinklao Bridge), it serves destinations in the South such as Hua Hin, Phuket as well as Western provinces like Nakhon Pathom and Kanchanaburi. T: +66 (02) 391 2504

Suvarnabhumi International Airport

Meaning ‘Golden Land’, the Suvarnabhumi International Airport opened in 2006. The airport serves 45 million passengers yearly from all over the world. The International Airport Code is BKK.

Don Muang Domestic Airport

Opening in 1914, the Don Muang Airport was the International Airport until 2006 when the new airport opened. Currently, this airport serves local destinations.

Currency



Thai Baht (THB) is used in the country with the below exchange rates (approximate only)

1 EUR = 40.07 THB	1 SGD = 25.14 THB
1 USD = 30.71 THB	1 JPY = 0.385 THB
1 AUD = 31.69 THB	1 GBP = 49.19 THB

Please visit www.xe.com/ucc for updated daily rates.

Important Information

- Language : Thai and English
- Electricity : 220 Volts
- Religion : Buddhist (90%)
- Area Code : +66 (Thailand)
- City Code : 02 (Bangkok)
- Time Zone : UTC/GMT +7

Emergency Calls

- Tourist Police : 1555
- Police : 191
- Ambulance : 1646
- Information : 1133