

# 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.

### ■ Bus

Air-conditioned bus service which operates from 5.00am to 12.00 midnight. There are 4 bus routes into town, please check with the Airport Express Counter for your routes. Fare is THB 150 per trip.

### ■ 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: sales@compasshospitality.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

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.



### ■ Vimanmek Mansion

World's largest golden teakwood mansion, in stunning 19<sup>th</sup> century architecture, and the former palace of King Rama V.





### ■ Floating Market

Shopping or dining, either can be carried out from the seat of your boat. An adventure indeed!

### ■ Chao Phraya Cruise



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

### ■ China Town



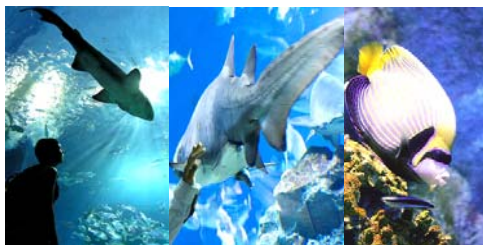
Yaowarat – an explosion of color with bright neon signs written in Chinese and Thai lining the streets. Take a slow unhurried walk, and savour the sights and sounds of this pulsating neighbourhood.



### ■ Siam Ocean World



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.



## Shopping and Malls

### ■ Chatuchak Market



As the largest weekend market in Thailand, with more than 15,000 stalls on 35 acres, a day is not enough.

### ■ Suanlum Night Bazaar



Located in the city, this outdoor market is perhaps a little more upscale and a little better organized, with nevertheless, a mind boggling number of stalls to explore.



### ■ MBK



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



This shopping complex is one of the most popular malls, selling designer and semi-designer goods. It also famous for its large

ground floor food court and the Underwater World.

### ■ The Emporium



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

### ■ Central World



With a total built up area of 830,000sqm, it is currently the largest shopping mall in South East Asia, offering a wide range of products and foods.

### ■ Platinum and Pratunam Mall

Garments, shoes, bags, accessories at wholesale prices but no trying allowed.

## After Dark



### ■ Siam Niramit



Spectacular performance by the Thai Arts and Culture Department with special art technology effect. With 500 costumes and 150 performers, this must-see show is performed on a gigantic stage now listed in Guinness World Records.

### ■ 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

### ■ Café 11

Don't miss Café 11, situated on ground floor of Grand President. Café 11 serves a delectable array of Thai and international dishes, dining at Grand President takes great delight in satisfying your culinary requirements.

T: +66 (02) 651 1200

### ■ QBar

One of the famous bar on Sukhumvit 11. Sway to the latest hip hop music, or relax on the second floor with a cocktail and snack in hand.

T: +66 (02) 252 3274

### ■ 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.

T: +66 (02) 6513537



### ■ Manchester United Restaurant & Bar

A latest venue with Thai, Asian and English / American cuisine in Bangkok, ground floor of President Palace Hotel in Sukhumvit Soi 11. Fans will be able to watch the matches while enjoying the fantastic dining environment specially designed. T: +66 (02) 661 7895

### ■ Coco Walk

Don't miss a chance to enjoy an incredible gastronomic experience with lovely melody! It is located in one of the most happening city in Bangkok, Pratunam with various small bars and Thai restaurants gather in a same place. You can take BTS to Ratchatewi Station; it is just near the station.

## 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

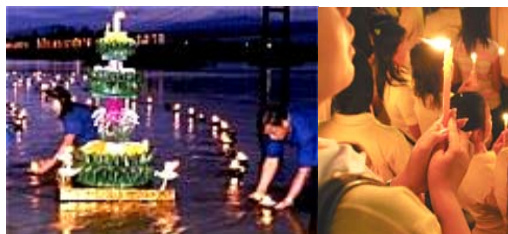
In celebration of the New Year, an age old tradition of being blessed by having a small amount of water poured over ones hands has evolved to new heights, with buckets of water being thrown at you, all in the spirit of Songkran. Khao San Rd is the center of this activity. Fireworks are also displayed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



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



Located on Sukhumvit Soi 40, (near BTS Eka-mai 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 = 49.50 THB	1 SGD = 23.50 THB
1 USD = 32.00 THB	1 JPY = 0.301 THB
1 AUD = 30.00 THB	1 GBP = 62.20 THB

## 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