

International TESOL Program
American TESOL Institute



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Preface

Welcome to Asia, the mystical Orient !

The continent that is famed for its hospitality and exotica. A traveler never ceases to be amazed by its variant culture and cuisine. Experience Asia in miniature experience Thailand!

Just as exciting it is to be in a foreign land there are also practical trials and tribulations that one must be aware of. You are not just a visitor here. You have come to Thailand to work as a teacher and make this place a temporary home. This brief guide book will help you to make this transition as smooth as possible. It includes basic information about the place, transportation and food. It also is a quick reference regarding facts like basic survival, foods, transportation, hospital, employment, visa rules etc which a regular tourist guide book will not mention.

Wishing you all the best and hope you have a pleasurable stay and memorable experience in Thailand

ATI Student Support Team

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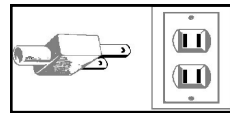
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CHAPTER 1 : Survival

Thailand is located at the meeting point of the two great cultural systems of Asia—Chinese and Indian. In everyday life, Chinese culture has mixed very well with the Thai, whereas in Thai court culture, which has been based mainly on Buddhism and Brahmanism, India, has exerted a strong influence.

Electricity 220 V 50 Hz

Japanese style plugs are used in Thailand



Local Time GMT+7

Business Hrs Office 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.,
Bank 8:30 a.m. - 3:30p.m.

Clothing Cotton is the best

Currency Baht (1 Baht = 100 Satang)
Coins 25, 50 Satang 1, 2, 5 and 10 Baht

Bank notes 20, 50, 100, 500, 1, 000 Baht

Major foreign currencies can be exchanged for Thai Baht with banks and authorized money exchangers. Major credit cards are also widely accepted in tourist centers, petrol stations and big restaurants.

Language Thai is an official language.

Some people in major cities, hotels and big restaurant's staff can speak English.

Climate

Thai climate is rainy, hot and humid. Rainy season starts from middle of May until end of October followed by winter which will be cold mostly in North and Northeast of Thailand where the places are surrounded by mountains. Winter in Thailand is warm; the coldest month is around second half of December even though winter is officially from November to January. During December temperature ranges from 16-25°C in central region, 20-25°C in south region, 5-15°C in North and Northeast region and the coldest region is on the top of mountain which will be around 2-3°C. It feels like summer for most of the year in Thailand. Temperature slightly increases from February and reaches highest point at around 37-38°C in April then decreases to around 26-28°C in rainy season.

Foods & Drinks

Chili is an indispensable part of Thai food which is prepared and cooked in various ways. However there are some dishes which do not contain chili such as soups and fried vegetables with meat.

Western, international and imported food is available in big cities and tourist places but can be a bit expensive.

Cooking seems to be very difficult and costly affair for Thai people especially small families living in a city, so they prefer to buy ready cooked food which is inexpensive and easily available in markets and supermarkets. In fact the best food is street food in Thailand which is wholesome, fresh and healthy.

Being a hot tropical country the Thai people consume a lot of ice all the time; unfortunately sometimes the ice may probably be made from water which may not be clean enough for new visitors. It is always advisable to drink and use bottled water and ice from grocery stores like 7- Eleven.

Shops and Stores

Most of shops and stores in Thailand are open everyday from morning to night. They remain closed only during long weekends or on public holidays. However there are 24 hours convenience stores available in towns and cities.

English books can be found in most of the major cities at either second hand book shops or large international book stores.

Accommodations

Thailand offers a wide range of accommodations for short and long stay, from five star hotels to very basic rooms. Accommodation in Southeast Asia are generally smaller and have fewer amenities than western style accommodations. All accommodations will include basic amenities such as a bed, fan (if no A/C), dresser, closet or clothes rack and en suite bathrooms. Short stay accommodation rate normally includes utility charges, taxes and service charges. Long stay accommodation rate is exclusive of utility charges and normally 1-3 months deposit is a prerequisite.

Laundry is easily and inexpensively done by many local ladies (~500 baht/month) or at a per clothing rate or at self serviced coin-operated washing machines.

Public restrooms

Public restrooms are not commonly seen in Thailand. Municipality provides mobile restroom only at communities and/or fairs. While traveling, travelers can use a restroom provided in petrol stations all over Thailand. Please note that instead of tissue paper, a small shower is provided in the restrooms.

Safety

Thailand is safe to travel but while walking through crowded places you must pay more attention to your belongings and be more careful at night. Keeping a copy of personal documents and credit cards is a must for travelers for their safety. Keep your original documents in a safer place at home and carry the copy with you. Keep windows and doors locked both when you are home or away.

Transportation

Taxi Meter



Taxis are available in Bangkok 24 hours fixed with a meter and have a sign 'TAXI - METER' on the roof. Minimum fare rate is 35 Baht. The fare will increase according to the distance.



Motor Cycle Taxi

Motor Cycle Taxis are available all over Thailand especially for short distances and for lanes and by lanes. The fare may start from 15 baht and will increase according to the distance.



Tuk Tuk

Tuk-tuks or 'sam lor' (three-wheeled) are symbolic of Thailand and used to be everyone's favourite way of getting around Bangkok before the BTS, MRT and colourful taxis took over. Originating from an old-fashioned rickshaw during the second World War, a tuk-tuk is essentially a rickshaw with a small engine fitted in. Tuk-tuks have become one of Bangkok's most recognisable transportation features, and are still popular among tourists and visitors. Riding a tuk-tuk is more of an experience rather than a practical way to get around.

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5 tips to ride a Tuk Tuk in Bangkok

1. Normally a very short trip will cost 30 baht. However, fares depend on the distance travelled, the time of the day, the traffic, and the mood of the drivers.
2. Fare negotiating and haggling is a norm because the price named by the driver is always tourist rates. It is acceptable to negotiate 5 - 15 baht off the proposed fare, and take it from there.
3. Be careful of the tuk-tuk drivers around touristy areas, who may offer sightseeing tours and unsolicited help to take you places. A short and sweet "no, thanks" will save you from their scams. The same rule applies to taxis.
4. Avoid taking a tuk-tuk during peak hours (07:00 - 09:00, 16:00 - 19:00).
5. Tuk-tuks are most ideal for short trips. Sometimes it would cost the same, or even cheaper, to take a cab to the same destination, but it will go a lot faster.

BTS (Sky train) The Bangkok BTS Route Guide has been designed to help you discover all the interesting sites and activities surrounding each station so that you can get more out of your BTS-hopping experience through Bangkok.

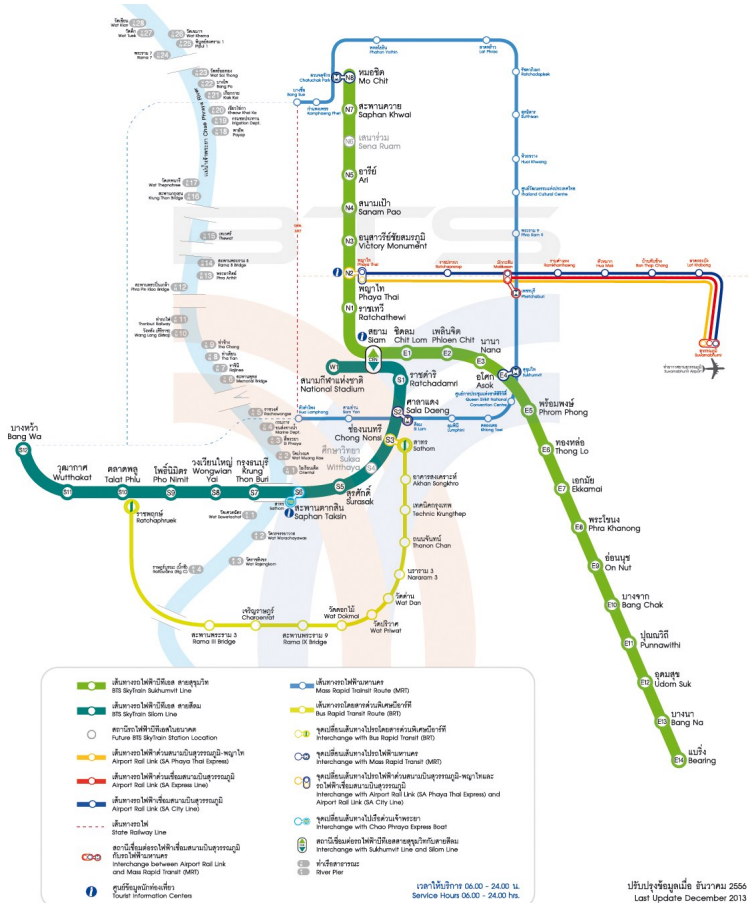
THERE ARE TWO BTS LINES:

SILOM LINE runs west to south, between the National Stadium in the Siam shopping area to Bang Wa in Thonburi (across the river). **SUKHUMVIT LINE** runs north to east from Mo Chit to Bearing. The two lines meet at Siam Station, and also interconnect at two points with the underground (MRT) – at Sala Daeng and Asok stations.

A new train arrives every 3 - 6 minutes or so between 06:30 and midnight. The last train leaves between 23:30 and 23:50. Fares start at 15 baht for one stop . Avoid the peak hours (07:00 - 09:00 and 16:00 - 19:00), as the BTS has also become the popular mode of transport for people living and working in Bangkok.

MRT (Subway) Fast and efficient, the Mass Rapid Transit network (MRT) serves 18 stations and stretches for 20 km in a horseshoe shape from Hua Lamphong in the South (near Chinatown) to Bang Sue in the north. Trains arrive every 5-7 minutes, and connect to the BTS Skytrain at Sukhumvit and Silom stations.

Stops of particular interest to visitors include Kam-paengphet (Chatuchak Weekend Market, Or Tor Kor Market and Rod Fai Market), Sukhumvit (Asok BTS Skytrain), Silom (Saladaeng BTS Skytrain, Pat Pong Night Market and Lumpini Park) and Hua Lamphong (Chinatown and Central Railway Station). The Petchaburi Station is about 300m from the Airport Rail Link's Makkasan Interchange Station, where you can board the express train to Suvarnabhumi International Air-



Boats

Thailand, has an extensive water transport system serving passengers crossing or travelling along the Chao Phraya River as well as certain canals. The Chao Phraya Express Boat service is a water bus which carries passengers along the Chao Phraya, regularly serving thirty-four stops from Rat Burana to Nonthaburi. Ferries operate at thirty-two crossings of the Chao Phraya within Bangkok, as well as Nonthaburi and Samut Prakan Provinces. The Khlong Saen Saep boat service travels along Saen Saep Canal, serving twenty-seven stops from Wat Si Bun Rueang to Phan Fa Lilat.

Inter City Transportation



In Bangkok, there are three (3) main inter-city bus stations: the Northern Bus Terminal, Mor Chit II, the largest, and providing buses that travel to central, north and north east Thailand. Then there is the Southern Bus Terminal located on a new site in 2008 at Taling Chan, which covers routes to all destinations south of Bangkok and to Kanchanaburi for the Bridge over the River Kwai. Finally, there is the ageing, overloaded Eastern Bus Terminal adjacent to the BTS station at Ekkamai (Sukhumvit Road, Soi 63) where one can take buses to all eastern destinations, Pattaya in particular.

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Since buses to most towns and cities leave at certain fixed times and the seats are limited, it is better to pre-book your seat(s) by going to the particular bus station beforehand to make a booking. There are four (4) different grades of bus: (a) VIP single-decker buses, often colored purple and grey, with 24 seats only and space like going business class by air. (b) would be the ordinary, generally blue/white a/c buses which go from point to point (like Bangkok - Pattaya) non-stop. No standing passengers are allowed on either of these categories. Then there are (c) stopping a/c buses, mainly white but with blue and red stripes, which follow definite routes but will stop as and when hailed. (d) Lastly, there are the orange, non a/c, stopping buses which, again, ply definite routes but take much longer to reach their destination and are often used as unofficial freight carriers.

Trains

Trains are available from Bangkok Railway Station (Hua Lum pong). **Hua Lamphong Railway Station** (Thai: สถานีรถไฟหัวลำโพง), officially known as the **Bangkok Railway Station**, is the main railway station in Bangkok, Thailand.

It is located in the center of the city in Pathum Wan District, and is operated by the State Railway of Thailand. There are 14 platforms, 26 ticket booths and two electric display boards. Hua Lamphong serves over 130 trains and approximately 60,000 passengers each day. Since 2004 the station has been connected by underground passage to the MRT subway system with a station by the same name. The station is also a terminus of the Eastern & Orient Express.

Flights

There are 6 International airports. The details are as follows :

| Name of the Airport | Code | Flights to |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Suvarnabhumi International | BKK | Samutprakarn (Bangkok suburb) |
| Donmueang International | DMK | Bangkok |
| Chiangmai International | CNX | Chiangmai |
| Mae fah luang International | CEI | Chiang rai |
| Hat Yai International | HDY | Songkhla |
| Phuket International | HKT | Phuket |

Communication

Telephone

Country Code : 66
Home phone number starts from : 0
Mobile phone start from : 06,08,09

To call from Thailand dial number given, to call from abroad dial 66 then skip 0 from either home phone or mobile phone then the rest number for example :

Mobile number : 08 1234 5678
International : 668 1234 5678

Mobile phones in Thailand are inexpensive; price range from 500 THB to more than 20,000 THB depends on functions required. There are 3 network providers, they are

- AIS
- DTAC
- TRUE

You can purchase a local SIM card and prepaid phone cards for air time at any convenience store as well as other retail outlets. If you are a long-term resident you can obtain a service plan and be billed monthly.

Internet

Broadband or ADSL is available in most cities in Thailand. Rural areas however, may not have access to a broadband connection. There are usually other options available such as satellite and fiberglass internet.

To get connected to broadband, you will need to contact one of the broadband providers and provide following documents:

- Passport
- Valid visa

A copy of work permit (if applicable)

Wireless internet access

Wi-fi is available in most Thai hotels and larger restaurants. Prices vary depending on the location, though you will probably be able to connect to many for free. Be careful when viewing personal and banking information over wireless internet connections, unless you are sure they are secure. Many public (and especially free) wireless connections can leave your computer vulnerable to hackers.

Internet cafés

Internet cafés are popular and common in Thailand, especially in major cities. They offer cheap internet access at hourly rates.

Official dress for ladies :

- A sleeved or short sleeved blouse (must cover shoulders) or shirt of any color (no loud colors, sheer, or low cut).
- A skirt or dress with a hemline below the knees
- Jean skirts or dresses worn for more casual wear and trousers are not acceptable dress alternatives
- Strappy sandals or closed shoes for the feet. No flip flops

Official dress for men :

- Button up dress shirt that is tucked into trousers (can be short sleeved).
- Dress trousers, black or dark color. Dress shoes that are black or dark colored.

Shoe Size International Conversion Chart

| | | Sizes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|
| Europe | | 35 | 35½ | 36 | 37 | 37½ | 38 | 38½ | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46½ | 48½ |
| Mexico | | | | | | | 4.5 | 5 | 5.5 | 6 | 6.5 | 7 | 7.5 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12.5 |
| Japan | M | 21.5 | 22 | 22.5 | 23 | 23.5 | 24 | 24.5 | 25 | 25.5 | 26 | 26.5 | 27.5 | 28.5 | 29.5 | 30.5 | 31.5 |
| | W | 21 | 21.5 | 22 | 22.5 | 23 | 23.5 | 24 | 24.5 | 25 | 25.5 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| U.K. | M | 3 | 3½ | 4 | 4½ | 5 | 5½ | 6 | 6½ | 7 | 7½ | 8 | 8½ | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13½ |
| | W | 2½ | 3 | 3½ | 4 | 4½ | 5 | 5½ | 6 | 6½ | 7 | 7½ | 8 | 9½ | 10½ | 11½ | 13 |
| Australia | M | 3 | 3½ | 4 | 4½ | 5 | 5½ | 6 | 6½ | 7 | 7½ | 8 | 8½ | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13½ |
| | W | 3½ | 4 | 4½ | 5 | 5½ | 6 | 6½ | 7 | 7½ | 8 | 8½ | 9 | 10½ | 11½ | 12½ | 14 |
| U.S. & Canada | M | 3½ | 4 | 4½ | 5 | 5½ | 6 | 6½ | 7 | 7½ | 8 | 8½ | 9 | 10½ | 11½ | 12½ | 14 |
| | W | 5 | 5½ | 6 | 6½ | 7 | 7½ | 8 | 8½ | 9 | 9½ | 10 | 10.5 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15.5 |
| Korea | | 228 | 231 | 235 | 238 | 241 | 245 | 248 | 251 | 254 | 257 | 260 | 267 | 273 | 279 | 286 | 292 |
| Inches | | 9 | 9 1/8 | 9 1/4 | 9 3/8 | 9 1/2 | 9 5/8 | 9 3/4 | 9 7/8 | 10 | 10 1/8 | 10 1/4 | 10 3/8 | 10 1/2 | 11 | 11 1/4 | 11 1/2 |
| Centimeters | | 22.8 | 23.1 | 23.5 | 23.8 | 24.1 | 24.5 | 24.8 | 25.1 | 25.4 | 25.7 | 26 | 26.7 | 27.3 | 27.9 | 28.6 | 29.2 |
| Mondopoint | | 228 | 231 | 235 | 238 | 241 | 245 | 248 | 251 | 254 | 257 | 260 | 267 | 273 | 279 | 286 | 292 |

M=Men's W=Women's
If not indicated, then size is for both.

Normal shoes size for Thai lady is 37-40 (Europe), Thai man is 42-45 (Europe). It is preferable to carry your official shoes from home if your size is bigger than that!

Banking

Thailand Bank counter service hour is 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Check deposit Time : 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon or 2 p.m. for clearing check depends on branch where the check is deposited. Bank will take 1-2 days to process. Any check which is deposited later will be processed the next day. 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. for check for collection. The check will be approved by 6 p.m. of the same day. **Automatic Teller Machines (ATM)** is open for 24 hrs.

Money Exchange

Major currencies are acceptable in Thailand. Once you land, do exchange a few thousand baht (around 100 USD) at the airport to tide over the initial days. Bank counters and money exchange booths located outside the airport give better exchange rates compared to the booths located inside the airport. Bank counters can buy foreign bank notes once you ask for it but they may not always have foreign bank notes to sell.

Money exchange booths are also available at tourist places, shopping malls and BTS stations (Saim, Prompong) in Bangkok. For current exchange rates you may log on to **<http://www.xe.com/>**

Medication

Pharmacists are available in drug stores to help you for simple sickness but they may not be good in English. There are many hospitals in Bangkok and big provinces provide services for foreigners. English speaking hospitals are in Bangkok and the surrounding areas. The list of some of the prominent hospitals are as follows :

| Name of the Hospital | Address | Phone Number |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Pakkred Vejchakarn General Hospital (Private hospital, English spoken) | 132/215 Chaeng Wattana Road. | 02960-9655-9 |
| Bangkok Christian Hospital (Private hospital since 1949, English spoken) | 124 Silom Road. | 02264-0560-79, 02634-0453 - 64 |
| Bangkok General Hospital (Modern 500-bed private hospital, | 2 Soi Soonvijai 7 New Petchburi Road | 02310-3000, 02310-3101 - 3 |

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| | | |
|--|---|----------------|
| Bangna Hospital (Some English spo- | Km. 3, Bang Na-Trat Road. | 02393-8534 - 5 |
| BNH Hospital (formerly Bangkok Nursing Home) | 9 Convent Road. Sathorn Nua (North) Rd. | 02632-0560 |
| Saint Louis Hospital (Oldest private hospital in Thailand, Eng- | 215 Sathorn Tai Road. | 02675-5000 |

| | | |
|--|---|-----------------|
| Samitivej-Srinakarin Hospital (Modern private hospital, English) | 488 Srinakarin Road | 0 2731-7000 |
| Vibhavadi General Hospital (Private hospital, English spoken) | 51/3 Ngarm Wong Wan Road, | 02561-1258 - 67 |
| Bumrungrad Hospital | 33 Sukhumvit Soi 3 Wattana, Bangkok | 02667-1000 |
| Thai Nakarin Hospital (Modern private hospital, English spoken) | 345 Bang Na-Trat Road. | 02361-2712 - 61 |
| Vejthani Hospital | 1 Ladprao Road 111, Klong-chan Bangkokpi, Bangkok 10240 | 02734-0000 |
| Samitivej Hospital | 133 Soi 49, Sukhumvit Road. | 02392-0011 |

Social security is secured for

•**Health:** employees can claim for sickness/accident medical treatment at social security registered hospitals.

•**Employment** : employees can claim in case of termination and resignation only 6 months contribution

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towards unemployment has been paid to social security fund.

- **Retirement :** Employees can claim for remuneration or pension at 55 years old and 180 months contribution towards Social security

Useful Thai Lesson

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Man says 'Krub' at the end of sentences. Woman says 'Ka' at the end of sentences. | |
| Greeting - Thai people say one word—krub/ka? And during the day "Sawaddee" Krub/Ka | |
| Sorry | 'Kho Tote' Krub/Ka |
| Excuse me | 'Kho Tote' Krub/Ka |
| Thank you | 'Khob Khun' Krub/Ka |
| Good bye | 'Sawaddee' Krub/Ka |
| How much does it cost? | Un nee raka tao rai krub/ka? |
| How to go to ? | Pai taang nai krub/ka? |
| Where is the way out/exit? | Tang ork yu ti nai? |
| Can you give me discount? | Lod dai mai krub/ka? |
| I want to get off here | Pom/Chan long ti ni |
| Where is this train going to? | Rot fai ni pai nai? |
| Can you help me please? | Chuay noi dai mai? |
| Hospital | Rong pa ya ban |
| Embassy | Sa tan toot |
| Toilet | Hong num |
| Road | Ta non |
| Temple | Wat |

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Thai Numbers

| | | | |
|---|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 : Nung | 2 : Song | 3 : Saam | 4 : See |
| 5 : Ha | 6 : Hog | 7 : Jed | 8 : Pad |
| 9 : Gao | 10 : Sib | 20 : Yee Sib | 30 : Saam Sib |
| 40 - 90 : put the number then follow by Sib | | | |
| 100 : Nung Roi | 1,000 : Nung Pan | 10,000 : Nung Mun | 100,000 : Nung Saen |

School

| | | | |
|---------|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| Teacher | Kru / Ajarn | Student | Nak rien |
| School | Rong rien | Teacher's room | Hong pak kru |

Classroom

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Book | Nang sue | Notebook | Sa mood |
| Reward | Rang wan | Good boy/ good girl | Dek dee |
| Punish | Tam tote | Hit | Tee |
| Listen | Fang | Speak | Pood |
| Read | A m | Write | Kien |
| Form group | Jab kloom/ Ruam kloom | Homework | Kan |
| Page | Na | Listen carefully | Tang jai fang |
| Ask | Tam | Repeat after me | Pood tarm |
| Get back to your seat | Nang tee | Sit down | Nang |

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| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Speak slowly please | Pood cha cha | Stand up | Yuen Kuen |
| Like | Chob | Clap your hands | Tob mue |
| Quiet | Ngeab | Fun | Sanook |
| Sing | Rong pleng | Play games | Len game |
| Song | Pleng | | |

Thai Menu

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Mangsawi Rat | มังสวิรัต | Vegetarian |
| Khao | ข้าว | Rice |
| Khao tom | ข้าวต้ม | Boiled Rice |
| Kab Khao | กับข้าว | Any food provided to eat with rice |
| Phad Pak Ruam Mit | ผัดผักรวมมิตร | Fried mixed vegetables |
| Tom Yam | ต้มยำ | Spicy Soup with Thai herbs |
| Yam | ยำ | Spicy Thai Salad |
| Kai Jeaw | ไข่เจียว | Fried Thai Omelet |
| Kai dow | ไข่ดาว | Fried egg |
| Khao phad | ข้าวผัด | Fried Rice |
| Khao man kai | ข้าวมันไก่ | Chicken and Rice |
| Khao moo daeng | ข้าวหมูแดง | Rice with Red Pork |
| Guai taew | ก๋วยเตี๋ยว | Noodle Soup |
| Rad na | ราดหน้า | Noodles with sticky soup |

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| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Café yen/ café ron | กาแฟเย็น/กาแฟร้อน | Iced coffee/ hot coffee |
| Cha/ cha ma-nao | ชา/ชามะนาว | Tea/lemon tea |
| Nam plao | น้ำเปล่า | Drinking water |
| Nam Khaeng | น้ำแข็ง | Ice |

Greetings—Thai Wai

The Wai is used for several reasons, the most popular being to express a hearty 'welcome' or 'hello'. When it is intended as this form of greeting, the greeter almost always smiles and says 'Sawaddee' while lowering the head slightly or, in the case of females, executing a slight courtesy as well.

Apart from the sheer sign of greeting, the Wai is simultaneously a sign of respect for an elder or a person of a higher status regardless of sex. Thus a well brought up child would wai his or her parents upon returning from school; an office boy would wai his superior immediately upon going into the boss's room. He would not do it daily but he certainly would if the boss has important guests. It's a mark of protocol to show the boy respects his boss; a guest would wai his elder host upon entering the house, but a younger host would wai a visiting elder first.

CHAPTER 2 : Visa & Work Permit

Traveling to Thailand, travelers can apply for different types of visas which is available for different purposes from the Royal Thai Embassy or Royal Thai Consulate general located worldwide in 88 locations. There are 8 types of visas, 3 out of 8 which will be widely held by visitors are described below :

Tourist Visa

- Tourists can apply easily for tourist visa but permit of stay is different as per passport they hold not exceeding 60 days.

Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Brunei, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Netherland, Norway, New Zealand, Oman, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UAE, USA, UK, Hong Kong, Laos, Macau, Vietnam, Russian Federation

Other countries passport holders can stay not exceeding 30 days. Tourists can apply for extension of stay for 30 days.

Visa on Arrival or Temporary Tourist Visa

Passport holder of 20 countries can apply for this visa and allowed to stay not exceeding 15 days.

Bhutan, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, India, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Maldives, Mauritius, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Saudi Arabia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Taiwan.

Visitors cannot file an application for extension of stay except in special cases such as illness which prevents them from traveling.

Non-Immigrant Visa

Passport holders from every country can apply for the visa and allowed to stay not exceeding 90 days. They can file an application for extension of stay. There are difference in visa code which will be depend on purpose of visit.

Non Immigrant B or Business /Working Visa

Foreigners who comes to work in the country must apply for this type of visa, the validity of which will depend on duration of employment in the country. However at the onset one can stay continuously not exceeding 90 days and then process other paper work to get extension or alteration.

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Number of entries for Non Immigrant visa type B can be SINGLE (one entry, one exit) and MULTIPLE (multiple entry, each entry the visa holders are allowed to stay not longer than 90 days unless they are allowed to work legally in Thailand).

Extending Visa

Visa holders must try to get work permit and extend their stay within the first 90 days.

Note A 'Single entry' can be converted to 'multiple entry' when applying for work permit but the process of work permit application cannot be done or ignored until the completion of the first 90 days of stay, the 'single entry' visa will expire and the person must leave the country. Then a fresh visa must be applied for at the Thai embassy in the neighboring countries or get extension for 30 days in the country or get 30 days visa exemption from the border.

Leaving the country

During employment if a person would like to leave the country for holiday or business and plan to re-enter Thailand he must fill out 'Re-entry' form and submit to immigration officer at immigration check point to keep his work permit valid.

Failing to follow the 'Re-entry' process the work permit and 'Single entry' visa will be cancelled automatically once the person leaves the country.

Cancelling the work permit

- Leaving the country.
- Reporting end of service to labor and immigration office by the employer . The employee must report to the immigration office on the same day of cancellation to get 7 days legal stay with the existing visa after the date of cancellation. However he must leave the country within 7 days. Failing to report will incur 500 THB per day fine to the immigration check point while leaving the country (maximum 20,000 THB fine will be applicable).

Reporting

Non Immigrant Visa holders must report to the immigration office about his stay and address in Thailand every 90 days without leaving the country.

Deduction from salary

Income Tax : Foreigners who work legally in Thailand longer than 180 days must pay income tax which will be calculated by the employer and deducted from their salary monthly.

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Social Security : As per labor law, employers must apply for social security for employees within 30 days after employment. Foreign employees must apply within 30 days after receiving their work permit. 5% of the salary or 750 THB maximum will be deducted from the salary and paid to the government. The employers' contribution will be the same amount for each employee.

