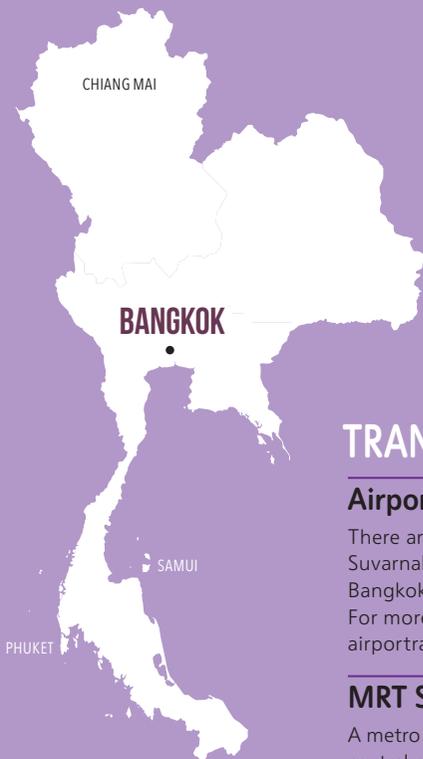


BANGKOK

As the political, economic, cultural and culinary capital of Thailand, Bangkok, or “Krung Thep - the city of angels” as it is known to its inhabitants, features both old-world charm and modern convenience. Many tourists who travel to Bangkok are immediately overwhelmed by the vast number of attractions Bangkok has to offer.



TRANSPORTATION

Airport Rail Link

There are train services between Suvarnabhumi Airport and Bangkok City 6am to midnight. For more information, see <http://airportrailink.railway.co.th>

MRT Subway

A metro service connects Bangkok's central railway station “Hua Lamphong” and major business and shopping areas such as Chatuchak Market, Ratchadaphisek Road, Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre, Lumpini, Silom, Sam Yan Market as well as Bangkok's bus terminal “Mo Chit”. The trains operate 6am to midnight. Fares vary according to the distance. For more information, see www.bangkokmetro.co.th

BTS Skytrain

BTS sky trains connect Bangkok's major business and shopping areas as well as residential areas such as Siam, Ratchaprasong, Silom and Chatuchak Market. The trains operate 6am to midnight. Fares vary according to distance. For more information, see www.bts.co.th

ATTRACTIONS



The Grand Palace & Wat Phra Kaeo

The Grand Palace complex comprises three major quarters: namely, Phra Maha Prasat-the throne halls, Phra Ratchamonthonian Sathan-royal residences and Wat Pra Kaeo (Temple of the Emerald Buddha). Formerly, the Grand Palace served as a residential palace for the royal family, currently it is used for state functions only. Wat Phra Kaeo is a royal temple situated on the northeastern corner of the Grand Palace compound. It is where the image of the Emerald Buddha is enshrined. The temple's ordination hall and enclosing cloister house fine murals. It opens daily (except during special royal ceremonies) 8.30am to 4.30pm. (Tickets are sold until 3.30pm.) Admission includes a ticket to Vimanmek Royal Mansion or Anantasamakhom Throne Hall and a ticket to Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles. Proper attire is essential.

SHOPPING & DINING



Chatuchak Market

This market, although open every day, is most lively on Saturdays and Sundays. It is a paradise for browsers and bargain-hunters alike, also a place where professional and amateur art-lovers and artists meet.

JJ Green Night Market

This might just be the coolest place to shop in Bangkok, with its much more chilled-out, bohemian vibes compared to Chatuchak Market just down the road. Part vintage flea market, part local drinking hangout, JJ Green is best visited on Thursday to Sunday evening, from 5pm-midnight, although many bars here keep going until after midnight on Saturday and Sunday night, when the market is at its busiest.

JJ Green comprises a mix of permanently built shops and bars, whilst local peddlers lay-out their merchandise on makeshift stalls or just spread it over the floor in the large car park at the back.



Yodpiman River Walk

Located on the bank of Chao Phraya River near Pak Khlong Talat, the community mall features more than 40 shops and restaurants. Its highlight is the 300 metre long beautiful corridor along the bank of Chao Phraya River. It opens daily 10am to 10pm. More information, see www.yodpimanriverwalk.com

SIAM (MBK, Siam Discovery, Siam Centre, Siam Paragon, Siam Square)

SIAM is one of Bangkok's biggest shopping districts. Also known as Mahboonkrong, MBK is a mall of over 2,000 shops and stalls and has everything the typical visitor would want to buy. There are also restaurants, food courts, cinemas, and pharmacies within the mall.

Siam Discovery, Siam Centre and Siam Paragon shopping malls are more up-market than MBK. Besides local and international designer brands, there are plenty of restaurants, food courts, cinemas, “Sea Life Bangkok



Ocean World” aquarium, kids’ edu-tainment centre “KidZania”, wellness spas, dental clinics, even car showrooms.

Siam Square is Bangkok's most renowned fashion quarter for international teenagers. There are also plenty of fast food eateries, fine dining restaurants as well as wellness spas in the quarter.

SIAM is best reached by BTS Sky Train, get off at SIAM Station. (For MBK, the closest station is National Stadium, although it is just a short walk from Siam Station.



Asiatique

ASIATIQUE The Riverfront

Located on the bank of Chao Phraya River, this entertainment and shopping complex features more than 1,000 shops selling souvenirs and decorative items, a section staging shows such as Cabaret and Muay Thai Live, international restaurants, an over 100-year old sawmill refurbished into shopping stores selling apparel and accessories, the longest boardwalk along the Chao Phraya River and Asiatique Sky, a 60-metre high ferrous wheel, offering a panoramic view of the river and the city. The most convenient way to get here is by a free shuttle boat service, departing near BTS Sky Train Saphan Taksin Station.

Platinum Fashion Mall

This bargain shopping mall is located in central Bangkok, a 10-minute walk from Central World Shopping Mall or a short taxi ride from Ratchathewi or Chidlom BTS Sky Train Station. It's air conditioned and comes complete with a large food court as well as cafés and fast food chains.

Ratchaprasong – Chidlom & The EM District (EmQuartier)

Ratchaprasong - Chidlom & The EM District (EmQuartier) are famous for high end shopping malls, trendy eateries and cinemas. The big malls in Ratchaprasong – Chidlom area include Central World, Gaysorn, Central Chidlom and Central Embassy. These are best reached by BTS Sky Train i.e. getting off at Ploenchit Station for Central Embassy, at Chidlom Station for Central Chidlom and at either at Chidlom or Siam Station for Gaysorn and Central World. Whereas The Em District (EmQuartier) is located along Sukhumvit Road and best reached by BTS Sky Train, getting off at Phrom Phong Station.



Khlong Lat Mayom Floating Market

Khlong Lat Mayom is a large floating market with an area on land selling numerous kinds of food and desserts, clothes, home decorative items, plants, etc. A sightseeing boat tour along Bang Ramat Canal is available which includes a visit to Ban Khanom Thai or Thai desserts house, where visitors can taste the desserts and buy a souvenir. The market opens on weekends and public holidays 8am to 5pm.



Watching or Learning Thai Boxing

There are two main stadiums to watch Thai Boxing i.e. Rajadamnern Stadium and Lumpinee Stadium. Please see <http://rajadamnern.com/> and <http://www.muaythailumpinee.net/en/> for more details.

There are many Thai Boxing schools in and near Bangkok e.g.

Eminent Air Boxing Gym www.eminentgym.com

Fairtex Muay Thai Fitness www.fairtexbangplee.com

The Muay Thai Institute in Pathum Thani www.muaythai-institute.net

Pop Theeratham Gym <http://muaythaicampsthailand.com/poptheeratham-gym/>

Sor Vorapin Boxing Gym <http://thaiboxings.com/>

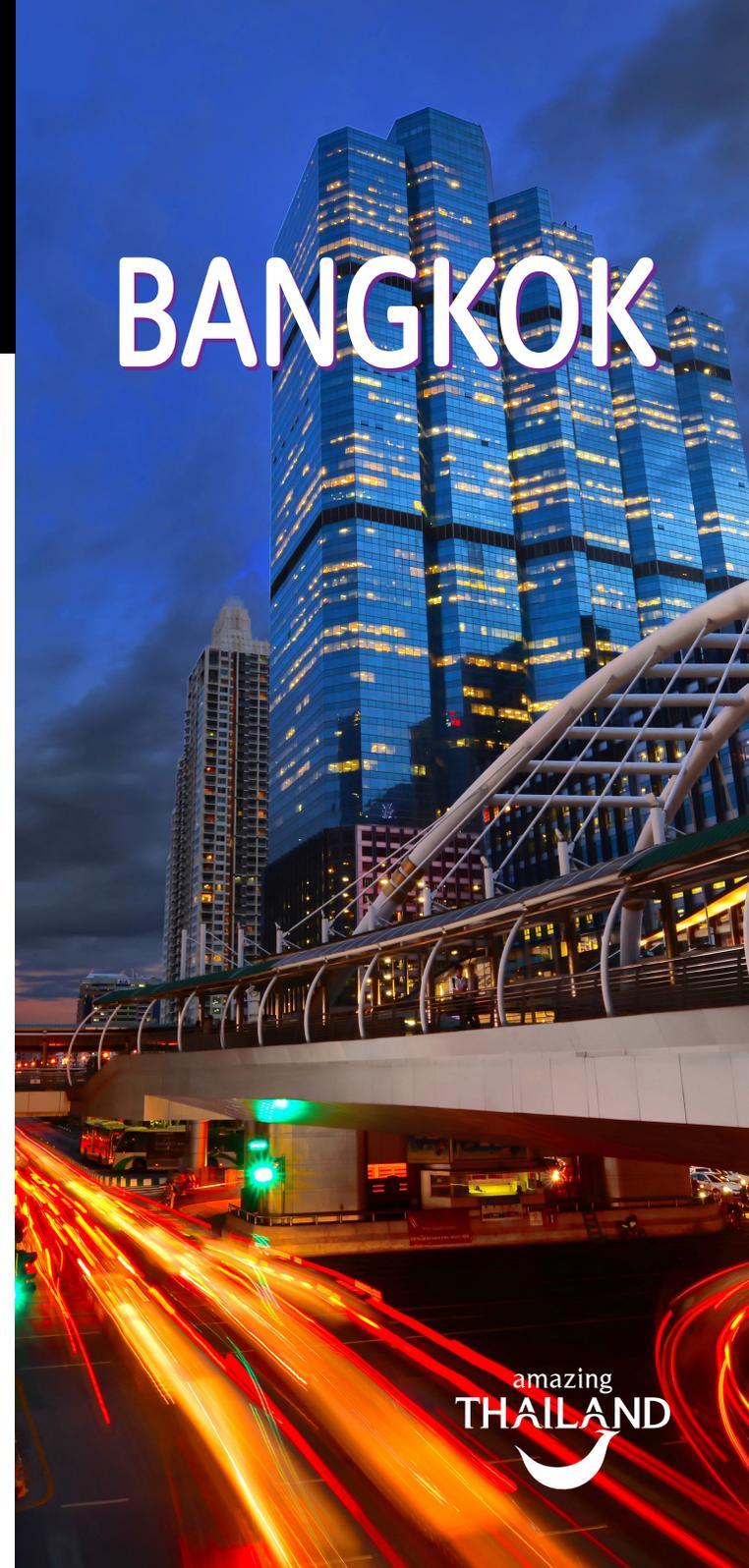


Street Food

Dotted all over the city, Bangkok is a heaven for street food lovers with the different famous areas serving food during different times of the day. Food on offer ranges from rice, noodle, Som Tum, grilled chicken to seafood. Famous areas include Bang Lamphu (morning until afternoon), Yaowarat (evening until late night), Silom (all day), Pratunam (evening until late night)

Experience Thailand like the Locals

Visitors to Thailand can discover "Thainess" through experiential tourism such as Community – based tourism, such as staying and dining with the locals, participating in local daily activities such as rice farming, batik fabric dyeing, cooking, or simply shopping at village markets, or travelling with the local means of transport. For Bangkok, we recommend: Touring with Hivesters (www.hivesters.com) for sustainable tourism activities in Bangkok which improves the livelihoods of local people in the communities; and Best Eats Midnight Food Tour by Tuk Tuk (www.bangkokfoodtours.com)



BANGKOK