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BANGKOK

The Complete Travel Guide

Temples & palaces, rooftop bars & late nights, malls & markets, street food & fine dining, and the best day trips nearby - planned the way we plan it for our own travellers from India.



Inside: 30+ places to see • 12 rooftop & nightlife picks • 15 shopping stops • 25+ dishes & food areas • 6 day trips • Ready 3, 5 & 7-day plans

> **How to use this guide:** Prices are in Thai Baht (THB). As a rough guide, THB 100 is about Rs 260-280 - check the live rate before you travel. Entry fees, hours and visa rules change, so confirm on the official site of each place a day before you go.

Cover: Wat Arun, the Temple of Dawn, at sunset. • Crafted Vacays - crafted for Indian travellers.

START HERE

Bangkok at a glance

Bangkok rewards travellers who cluster their days by neighbourhood. The Old City holds the temples, Sukhumvit holds the nightlife and malls, the river holds the views - and the traffic holds everyone who tries to cross all three in one afternoon.

Need to know	At a glance
Best months	November to February - cooler, drier, 25-32 C. March-May is very hot; June-October brings short, heavy rains.
Time zone	ICT (UTC+7) - 1 hour 30 minutes ahead of India.
Currency	Thai Baht (THB). Cards work in malls and hotels; carry cash for markets, street food and tuk-tuks.
Airports	Suvarnabhumi (BKK) - most international flights. Don Mueang (DMK) - budget and regional flights.
Language	Thai. English is widely understood in tourist areas, hotels and malls.
Getting around	BTS Skytrain, MRT metro, Chao Phraya river boats, Grab app taxis. Avoid road travel at peak hours.
Daily budget (mid-range)	THB 2,500-4,500 per person for food, local travel and activities, excluding hotel and shopping.

What is inside

See & do

Grand Palace, Wat Pho, Wat Arun and the full temple circuit; Chinatown, the river, museums, parks and sky-high viewpoints.

After dark

Rooftop bars for sunset, cocktail bars, clubs and disco nights, live music and night markets - by area and by mood.

Shop

Luxury malls, bargain malls, Chatuchak, Pratunam, night markets and what is actually worth bringing home.

Eat

The 10 dishes to try first, street-food streets, Indian, vegetarian and Jain options, cafes and splurge dinners.

Nearby

Ayutthaya, Kanchanaburi, floating markets, Pattaya, Bang Krachao and Ancient City day trips.

Plan

Ready 3, 5 and 7-day itineraries, scam alerts, etiquette and a packing checklist.

BEFORE YOU GO

Entry, money & staying connected

For Indian passport holders

- **Visa:** Thailand has offered visa-free entry to Indian tourists in recent seasons, typically for stays up to 30 days - this changes by policy, so verify the current rule on the Thai embassy / official immigration site before booking non-refundable plans.
- **Thailand Digital Arrival Card (TDAC):** Complete the online arrival card within 3 days before arrival, as currently required. Use only the official immigration website - never a paid copycat site.
- **Carry:** Passport valid 6+ months, return/onward ticket, hotel bookings, and proof of funds if asked.
- **Insurance:** Take travel insurance with medical cover. Private hospital care in Bangkok is excellent but expensive without it.

Money, done right

- Exchange a small amount at the airport for the first ride, then use reputed city exchanges (areas around Sukhumvit and Silom usually beat airport rates) or withdraw from ATMs - note Thai ATMs add a flat foreign-card fee per withdrawal, so withdraw larger amounts less often.
- Always choose to be charged in THB, not rupees, when a card machine offers a choice.
- Keep THB 20, 50 and 100 notes handy - street stalls and boats rarely break a 1,000 note happily.

SIM, apps & power

- Pick up a tourist SIM/eSIM at the airport (AIS, TrueMove) or activate an eSIM before you fly. You will need data constantly for maps and Grab.
- **Download before you land:** Grab (taxis & food), Google Translate (Thai camera translate is gold at menus), Google Maps, and your airline app.
- Thailand uses 220V with flat/round two-pin plugs - most Indian chargers work, but carry a universal adapter.

> **Crafted tip:** Screenshot your hotel name and address in Thai script. Showing it to a driver ends 90% of all address confusion.

What Bangkok weather means for packing

Light, breathable clothing, a temple outfit that covers shoulders and knees (for everyone), comfortable walking shoes, sunscreen, and a light rain layer from June to October. Rooftop bars need smart-casual - no shorts, flip-flops or sleeveless tops for men at most premium venues.

ON THE GROUND

Getting around & where to stay

The transport ladder - use it in this order

Mode	Best for	Remember
BTS Skytrain & MRT	Crossing the city fast; Siam, Sukhumvit, Silom, Chatuchak	Buy a stored-value / day option if riding 4+ times. Stations are announced in English.
Chao Phraya Express Boat	Grand Palace, Wat Pho, Wat Arun, ICONSIAM	The tourist boat costs more but is simpler; local boats are cheapest. Saphan Taksin BTS connects to the pier.
Grab car / taxi	Hotels, airports, groups, late nights	Insist on the meter in taxis, or use Grab for a fixed price. Add 30-45 min buffer at peak hours.
Tuk-tuk	Short, fun hops in the Old City and Chinatown	Agree the full price before you sit down. Never accept a "very cheap" tour with shopping stops.
Airport Rail Link	BKK airport to Phaya Thai / city	Fast and cheap; connect to BTS at Phaya Thai.

Where to stay - pick your base

Sukhumvit (Asok-Nana-Phrom Phong)

Best all-rounder for first-timers: BTS + MRT interchange, malls, Indian restaurants, nightlife. Busy and modern.

Siam / Pratunam

Shopping base: MBK, CentralWorld, Platinum Mall on your doorstep. Great for families and bargain hunters.

Riverside

Views, luxury hotels, boat access to temples and ICONSIAM. Quieter, romantic, pricier.

Silom / Sathorn

Business-meets-leisure: rooftop bars, Lumpini Park, good value hotels, easy MRT/BTS.

Old City / Khao San area

Walk to the Grand Palace and Wat Pho; backpacker energy, guesthouses and hostels. No BTS - use boats and MRT Sanam Chai.

Thonglor / Ekkamai

Local, trendy Bangkok: cafes, Japanese dining, clubs. For repeat visitors who want to live like a local.

Our verdict: First trip of 3-5 days? Stay near Asok or Siam. Honeymoon or anniversary? Riverside. Temple-heavy 2-day stopover? Old City or Riverside.

ICONIC BANGKOK - 1

The Grand Palace & Wat Pho - do them together, early



The Grand Palace & Temple of the Emerald Buddha (Wat Phra Kaew)

Bangkok's most important site: a palace complex founded in 1782, home to the Emerald Buddha, Thailand's most revered image. The mural galleries retell the Ramakien - the Thai Ramayana - so Indian visitors will spot a familiar story in a Thai style.

Na Phra Lan Road, Old City • Nearest: MRT Sanam Chai, or Chao Phraya boat to Tha Chang pier • Typically open daily about 8:30 AM-3:30 PM (last entry early afternoon) • **Indicative fee: THB 500 for foreigners**, usually including the Emerald Buddha Museum and a Khon performance at Sala Chalermkrung - confirm on the official palace site.

- Arrive at opening. By 10:30 AM it is hot and crowded.
- Strict dress code: covered shoulders, long trousers/skirts, no ripped jeans or leggings as outerwear. Sarongs are sold/rented near the gate - do not buy from touts outside who claim the palace is "closed today". It almost never is.
- Budget 2-2.5 hours. No photography inside the Emerald Buddha chapel.

Wat Pho - the Reclining Buddha

Ten minutes' walk south: a 46-metre gold Reclining Buddha, 108 bronze bowls along the wall (drop a coin in each for luck), and the birthplace of traditional Thai massage - the massage school here is the most authentic splurge in the Old City.

Sanam Chai Road • MRT Sanam Chai • Typically 8 AM-6:30 PM • **Indicative fee: THB 300** • Traditional massage at the Wat Pho school from about THB 320 for 30 minutes.

> **Half-day route:** Grand Palace at 8:30 AM - Wat Pho by 11 AM - lunch near Tha Tien - cross the river to Wat Arun after 3 PM when the light turns golden.

ICONIC BANGKOK - 2

Wat Arun & the temples worth your time



Wat Arun - Temple of Dawn

The porcelain-mosaic prang on the Thonburi bank is Bangkok's postcard. Climb the central tower's steep steps for river views, then watch it glow from a riverside cafe on the opposite bank at sunset - the best free show in the city.

Wang Doem Road, Thonburi • Cross-river ferry from Wat Pho's Tha Tien pier (a few baht), or MRT Itsaraphap + short walk • Typically 8 AM-6 PM • **Indicative fee: THB 200** • Thai costume rental shops near the gate are popular for photos - agree price and duration first.

Four more, each with a reason

Temple	Go for	Nearest transit
Wat Saket - Golden Mount	Climb 300+ steps past bells and trees to a golden chedi and the best Old City panorama at sunset.	MRT Sam Yot + walk
Wat Traimit	The 5.5-tonne solid-gold Buddha in Chinatown, hidden under plaster for centuries.	MRT Hua Lamphong / Wat Mangkon
Wat Benchamabophit - Marble Temple	Italian marble, serene courtyards, monks collecting alms at dawn.	Taxi / boat to Thewet
Erawan Shrine	Not a temple but a beloved Hindu shrine to Brahma in the heart of the shopping district; Thai dancers perform as offerings.	BTS Chit Lom

> **Temple etiquette, everywhere:** Cover shoulders and knees, remove shoes where signed, never point your feet at a Buddha image, do not touch monks (women hand offerings via a cloth or a man), keep voices low, and never climb on statues for a photo.

BEYOND THE TEMPLES

Chinatown, the river & the rest of the greatest hits



Yaowarat - Chinatown

By day: gold shops, wholesale lanes (Sampeng Lane) and temples. By night: one of the world's great street-food streets under neon. Come hungry from 6 PM. Nearest: MRT Wat Mangkon.

On and along the Chao Phraya

- **Dinner cruise:** 2-hour buffet cruises from ICONSIAM or Asiatique with live music and temple views lit at night. Book a reputable operator, board early for upper-deck seats.
- **Asiatique The Riverfront:** Open-air night bazaar, Ferris wheel and restaurants by the river. Free shuttle boat from Saphan Taksin BTS.
- **ICONSIAM:** Part mall, part sight - indoor floating-market food floor, river terrace and evening fountain show.

Culture, green space & heights

Jim Thompson House

Thai silk king's teak-house museum in a garden oasis near Siam. Guided tour only, about 45 minutes. BTS National Stadium.

Mahanakhon SkyWalk

Glass tray at 314 metres on Thailand's iconic pixel tower. Go at sunset, book online. BTS Chong Nonsi.

Lumpini Park

Morning tai chi, paddle boats, monitor lizards on the lawns. Bangkok's green reset between mall days.

Erawan Museum & Ancient City

Giant three-headed elephant museum and a vast open-air Thailand-in-miniature - pair them as a half-day south of the city.

With kids: SEA LIFE Aquarium (Siam Paragon), Safari World day trip, Dream World, and the Children's Discovery Museum near Chatuchak all work well. Carry water and plan a midday indoor break - Bangkok heat is real for small travellers.

AFTER DARK - 1

Rooftop bars: sunset is the main event



Arrive 30-45 minutes before sunset, book ahead for Fridays and Saturdays, and expect premium pricing - most rooftop cocktails run THB 450-800++, with a cover or minimum spend at some venues on peak nights. Dress smart-casual everywhere below.

Rooftop	The vibe	Area / transit
Sky Bar at lebua (State Tower)	The famous one - 63rd floor, river and city panorama, strict dress code	Silom - BTS Saphan Taksin
Vertigo & Moon Bar (Banyan Tree)	Open-air fine dining + bar, 61st floor, romantic	Sathorn - MRT Lumpini
Octave (Marriott Sukhumvit 57)	Three levels, 360-degree views, lively without being a club	Thonglor - BTS Thong Lo
Tichuca	Jungle rooftop with a giant lit "tree", young, photo-friendly crowd	Thonglor - BTS Thong Lo
Above Eleven	Peruvian-Japanese food, Sukhumvit skyline, good for groups	Nana - BTS Nana
CRU / Red Sky (Centara Grand)	Shop at CentralWorld, then sunset upstairs - easiest logistics in Siam	Chit Lom BTS
King Power Mahanakhon rooftop	SkyWalk glass floor by day, rooftop bar energy by evening	BTS Chong Nonsi

> **Budget-smart move:** Go for one sunset drink at a marquee rooftop, then move to a soi-level bar for the rest of the night. You pay for the view once, not all evening.

Discos, clubs & nightlife by neighbourhood

Bangkok's night splits cleanly by area. Pick one zone per night - crossing town at midnight is nobody's idea of fun. Most clubs peak after 11 PM, charge entry on weekends (often redeemable against drinks), and check ID - carry a photo of your passport if you do not want to carry the original, and keep the original in your hotel safe.

Zone	Best for	What it is like
Sukhumvit Soi 11	First big night out; clubs, rooftop pre-drinks, late food in one soi	International crowd, easy for visitors, BTS Nana
Thonglor / Ekkamai	Stylish local scene, cocktail bars, Thai live-music pubs	Where Bangkokians party; pricier, dressier
RCA (Royal City Avenue)	Large clubs and EDM nights	Purpose-built club strip; taxi/Grab territory
Khao San Road	Backpacker bars, buckets, street party	Cheap, chaotic, fun once; watch your belongings
Silom	Rooftops plus lively bar streets; Patpong night market nearby	Mixed crowd; be polite and firm with touts
Chinatown (Soi Nana, Yaowarat)	Speakeasy-style cocktail bars in old shophouses	Bangkok's coolest small-bar crawl right now

Types of night, pick yours

- **Disco / club night:** Start with rooftop sunset, dinner by 9 PM, club by 11:30 PM. Pre-book a table for groups of 6+ - bottle service often works out cheaper per head than individual drinks at premium clubs.
- **Cocktail night:** Chinatown's Soi Nana and Thonglor hide some of Asia's most awarded bars - arrive before 8 PM or expect a queue; many take no reservations.
- **Live music:** Thai pubs in Thonglor, jazz in Silom and Sukhumvit hotel bars, and rooftop acoustic sets - check venue social pages for the week's line-up.
- **Night markets instead:** Jodd Fairs and Asiatique give you food, shopping and music without a club cover - ideal with family.

> **Stay safe:** Never leave a drink unattended, agree all prices upfront, keep Grab as your ride home, and decline any "special show" touted on the street - bills there are the classic tourist trap. Alcohol sales and venue hours follow Thai law and may change on Buddhist and election days.

Malls: from luxury icons to bargain floors



Mall	Go for	Transit
ICONSIAM	Luxury brands, Thai craft floor, riverside dining, fountain show	Gold Line / boat from Saphan Taksin
Siam Paragon + Siam Center + CentralWorld	The central trio: luxury, youth fashion, big-brand flagship stores, aquarium	BTS Siam / Chit Lom
EmQuartier / Emporium / Emsphere	Designer labels and Bangkok's best mall food halls	BTS Phrom Phong
MBK Center	Electronics, souvenirs, bargain floors - Bangkok's classic value mall	BTS National Stadium
Platinum Fashion Mall	Wholesale-price fashion - buy 3+ pieces per shop for wholesale rates	Pratunam (walk from Chit Lom / Ratchathewi)
Terminal 21	Airport-themed floors, affordable Thai brands, fun food court	BTS Asok / MRT Sukhumvit
Central Ladprao / Mega Bangna	Where locals shop; Mega Bangna pairs with IKEA for home lovers	MRT Phahon Yothin / taxi

VAT refund - do not leave money behind

Foreign tourists can claim VAT refunds on goods from participating stores (look for "VAT Refund for Tourists" signage). Ask for the refund form at purchase with your passport, keep goods unused and claim at the airport's VAT office before check-in for high-value items, then collect after immigration. Minimums and rules apply - check the current Thai Revenue Department guidance.

> **Bring home:** Thai silk, spa and herbal products, dried mango and Thai snacks, silver and celadon, Muay Thai gear, and good-quality elephant-print trousers from a market - not from a mall.

Markets: where Bangkok really shops

Chatuchak Weekend Market - the big one

One of the world's largest markets: 15,000+ stalls of clothes, antiques, ceramics, plants, pets and superb street food. Saturday-Sunday is the full experience (sections for plants open midweek). Go at 9 AM, carry cash and a tote, photograph the stall number of anything you "might come back for" - you will never find it again otherwise.

Kamphaeng Phet Road • BTS Mo Chit / MRT Chatuchak Park or Kamphaeng Phet • Full market Sat-Sun roughly 9 AM-6 PM.

More markets, each with a job

Market	Best for
Jodd Fairs	Evening food-first market - seafood, giant river prawns, fruit and photo-famous stalls. MRT Phra Ram 9 area - confirm current site before going, it has moved before.
Pratunam Market	Daytime wholesale clothes lanes around Platinum and Baiyoke - cheapest fashion in the centre.
Sampeng Lane, Chinatown	Wholesale everything: accessories, gifts, fabrics, festival goods at local prices.
Pak Khlong Talat - Flower Market	Orchids and marigold garlands, busiest late night to dawn. Beautiful, fragrant, photogenic. Near MRT Sanam Chai.
Amulet Market (Tha Prachan)	Buddhist amulets and curios near the Grand Palace - fascinating browsing even if you buy nothing.
Train / rotating night markets	Vintage goods, car-boot stalls and local eats - line-ups change seasonally, check current listings on arrival.

> **Bargaining, Thai style:** Smile, start around 20-30% below asking at market stalls (not at fixed-price or food stalls), bundle for a better deal, and walk away politely - if the price was real, they will call you back. Never bargain after you have agreed a price.

Tailoring note

Bangkok tailors can turn around suits in 3-5 days with 2-3 fittings. Choose a long-established shop, insist on fittings, and never order on your last two days.

EATING GUIDE - 1

Street food & the 10 dishes to try first



Rule one: eat where there is a queue of locals and high turnover. Rule two: "pet nit noi" means "a little spicy" - learn it, Thai "medium" is Indian "extra hot". Most street dishes cost THB 50-120; mall food courts serve the same classics hygienically for THB 80-200 and are a great first-day warm-up.

Dish	What it is
Pad Thai	Tamarind rice noodles with egg, tofu, peanuts - prawn version for the classic.
Tom Yum Goong	Hot-sour prawn soup with lemongrass and galangal - Thailand in a bowl.
Som Tam	Green papaya salad, pounded to order - order "mai pet" if you fear chilli.
Khao Soi	Northern coconut-curry noodles with crispy noodle topping.
Boat Noodles	Small, rich, dark broth bowls - order three, everyone does.
Gai Tod / Moo Ping	Fried chicken and grilled pork skewers with sticky rice.
Khao Man Gai	Thai Hainanese chicken rice with ginger-chilli sauce.
Rad Na / Pad See Ew	Wok noodles - gravy-style or dark soy, smoky and comforting.
Mango Sticky Rice	Coconut sticky rice with ripe mango - dessert of the trip.
Roti & Thai Tea	Flaky banana/Nutella roti and orange cha yen to finish the night.

Where to graze: Yaowarat (Chinatown) at night, Victory Monument for boat noodles, Thonglor and Ari for cafes, Ban Tad Thong near Chula for a young local food street, and any mall food court (Terminal 21's Pier 21 is famously cheap).

Indian, vegetarian, Jain & splurge dining

Home food, when you need it

Bangkok is one of the easiest cities in Asia for Indian travellers. Sukhumvit Sois 11, 13 and the Nana-Asok stretch, Silom, and Pahurat (Little India, near Chinatown) are dense with North Indian, South Indian, Gujarati and chaat options - from budget thalis to fine dining. Pahurat also has Indian sweet shops, spice stores and fabric lanes, and sits next to Bangkok's Sikh temple, Gurdwara Siri Guru Singh Sabha, which welcomes visitors (cover your head, dress modestly).

Vegetarian & Jain - say it right

- **"Je" (jay)** = strict vegetarian/vegan food, no meat, egg, dairy, garlic or onion - look for yellow-red "je" flags, especially during the October Vegetarian Festival when the whole city cooks je.
- **"Mang-sa-wi-rat"** = vegetarian (may still include egg/fish sauce) - always add "mai sai nam pla" (no fish sauce) and for Jain needs, specify no onion, no garlic, no root vegetables.
- Indian restaurants in Sukhumvit and Silom routinely cook Jain preparations on request - ask before ordering, and order the day's Jain dishes early at smaller places.
- Thai dishes that adapt well: veg Pad Thai (no egg, no fish sauce), mushroom Tom Yum, tofu green curry, papaya salad without dried shrimp or fish sauce.

Splurge & special-occasion tables

- **Fine Thai:** Bangkok has multiple Michelin-listed Thai fine-dining rooms - book 2-4 weeks ahead for the famous chef's counters, and dress smart.
- **Riverside dinners:** Book a window table facing Wat Arun at sunset from the Tha Tien side - the view does half the work.
- **Dinner cruises:** Best for groups and celebrations; choose operators with live cooking and an upper deck.
- **Cafes:** Ari, Thonglor and the Old City's riverside lanes are cafe country - specialty coffee, Thai desserts and slow mornings.

> **Food safety, simply:** Fresh-cooked and busy is safe. Peel fruit, drink sealed water, go easy on ice from unknown carts (factory ice with a hole in the middle is standard and fine), and give your stomach one day to adjust before a Som Tam challenge.

NEARBY PLACES

Day trips: six ways out of the city



Trip	Distance / time	Do not miss
Ayutthaya	~80 km, 1-1.5 hrs by train/van	Wat Mahathat's Buddha head in banyan roots, Wat Phra Si Sanphet, river prawns for lunch, sunset at Wat Chaiwatthanaram. The #1 day trip.
Kanchanaburi	~130 km, 2.5 hrs	Bridge on the River Kwai, war museum and cemetery, Erawan Falls' turquoise tiers. Long day - start early or stay overnight.
Floating markets	Damnoen Saduak ~100 km; Amphawa ~90 km	Damnoen Saduak is iconic and touristy (go at 7 AM); Amphawa is local, afternoon-evening, with firefly boats. Pair with Maeklong Railway Market.
Pattaya	~150 km, 2 hrs	Sanctuary of Truth, Nong Nooch Garden, Koh Larn island boats, beach clubs. Many travellers add 2 nights instead of a day trip.
Bang Krachao	30-45 min + short boat	Bangkok's "green lung": cycle elevated paths through palm jungle, weekend floating market, no cars, pure slow day.
Ancient City + Erawan Museum	~40 min south	Thailand's landmarks recreated in one huge park - rent a golf cart, go early, pair both sights.

How to book day trips: Trains to Ayutthaya are cheap and easy from Krung Thep Aphiwat / Hua Lamphong. For Kanchanaburi and the floating markets, a private car or a reputable small-group tour saves hours - tell us your dates and Crafted Vacays will line up verified operators, not pier-side touts.

READY PLANS

3, 5 & 7 days - copy-paste itineraries

3 days - the essentials

Day	Plan
1	Grand Palace (8:30 AM) - Wat Pho + massage - ferry to Wat Arun - sunset drink facing Wat Arun - Chinatown food walk at night.
2	Jim Thompson House - Siam malls / MBK - Terminal 21 lunch - Octave or Sky Bar sunset - Soi 11 night or Jodd Fairs.
3	Chatuchak (weekend) or Lumpini + cafes - ICONSIAM afternoon - river dinner cruise.

5 days - add depth

Day	Plan
4	Ayutthaya day trip by early train; relaxed Silom evening, Thai foot massage.
5	Golden Mount + Old City lanes - Pahurat & Sampeng shopping - Mahanakhon SkyWalk at sunset - Chinatown cocktail crawl.

7 days - go further

Day	Plan
6	Floating market + Maeklong Railway Market morning, or Kanchanaburi full day. Evening: Asiatique.
7	Slow day: Bang Krachao cycling or a Thai cooking class in the morning, last shopping at Platinum / EmQuartier, spa, airport.

> **Planning rules that save trips:** One big sight before 10 AM, indoor or rest 12-3 PM, second act after 4 PM. Temples on weekday mornings. Chatuchak only truly works on weekends. Keep the last day light - Bangkok traffic to the airport needs 1-1.5 hours plus a buffer.

Sample mid-range daily spend (per person)

Item	THB
Food (street + one sit-down meal)	700-1,200
Local transport (BTS/MRT/Grab mix)	300-600
Sights & activities	500-1,500
Massage / extras	300-800

TRAVEL SMART

Scams, etiquette & your final checklist

Five scams to walk away from

- **"The palace is closed today"** - from anyone near the palace selling a tour instead. Check at the official gate yourself.
- **Too-cheap tuk-tuk tours** with gem/tailor stops - you pay in wasted hours and hard sells.
- **Jet-ski / rental damage claims** (mainly Pattaya) - photograph any rental before use, or skip it.
- **Bar bills for shows you never ordered** - never follow a tout upstairs; check prices on a printed menu first.
- **Unmetered taxis quoting flat fares** in tourist zones - insist on the meter or switch to Grab.

Respect the culture

- Stand for the national anthem (played in stations and cinemas), never criticise or joke about the monarchy - it is both illegal and deeply offensive.
- Wai greeting: palms together, slight bow. A smile solves more than volume.
- Feet are lowest, head is highest: do not step over people, touch heads, or use feet to point or move objects.
- Dress modestly at temples and the Grand Palace, every time.

Health, safety & emergencies

Bangkok is generally safe for tourists; use normal city sense at night and in crowds. Tourist Police: 1155. General emergency: 191. Save your hotel's number and your insurer's helpline in your phone. Drink water, respect the heat, and treat a Thai massage from a reputed spa as recovery, not a luxury.

Packing & pre-flight checklist

- Passport (6+ months), TDAC completed, insurance, bookings on phone + offline copies
- Temple outfit, smart-casual outfit for rooftops, swimwear, light rain layer
- Universal adapter, power bank, sunscreen, basic medicines, rehydration sachets
- Small day bag + tote for markets, photocopy of passport, hotel address in Thai

Ready to craft your Bangkok trip?

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Tell us your dates and travel style - we will plan the rest.

Hours, fees and entry rules in this guide are indicative and were compiled for planning; please confirm on official sources before your visit. Safe travels - Sawasdee!