

Bangkok Information 2023

From the IAFL Asia Pacific Chapter Meeting's DMC Corporate Travel Management

Getting around Bangkok

By BTS Skytrain Bangkok (BTS) is the best public transport in Bangkok. There are two lines for getting around Bangkok, the Sukhumvit Line (Light green), and the Silom line (Blue). There are 52 Stations in all. The Sukhumvit line runs between Khu Khot and Kheha, and the Silom line runs between the National Stadium and Bang Wa. There is also a new monorail line, the Gold Line that runs between Krung Thonburi station and Khlongsan providing easy access to IconSiam & the Riverside. Operating hours are 05:00-24:00, 7 days a week. The frequency is every 3-5 minutes. The trains are air-conditioned and comfortable but can be crowded during morning and evening rush hours Monday to Friday.

By MRT subway comprises of 2 lines, blue and purple line. Easily plan your journey along MRT with Bangkok MRT Application. This application provides important information of our service, Blue Line & Purple Line route map, locality map, feeder system, facilities, news, and activities.

By Taxi most popular application GRAB taxi and AllThaiTaxi are an effective way of calling to accept fares via the app and also it may be safer for the traveler since you will have all the relevant information relating to your driver. On a night where everything is planned and you want to avoid delays, reserving a taxi through a taxi app makes as much sense as reserving your dinner table. If you are traveling to the airport during odd hours of the night or traveling with extra luggage, it is definitely a good idea to schedule a taxi in advance.

Prices and Tipping

Taxis in Thailand are very cheap relative to western countries. **The starting taxi fare is just 35 baht** and the meter increases relatively slowly to the distance travelled. Although tipping is not strictly required in Thailand, it is customary to round up the fare to the nearest 10 or 20 baht when you have had a pleasant experience. On longer journeys, like trips to the airport, you should tip at least 10% of the entire fare if you are satisfied with the trip.

Before taking a taxi, check if you have smaller bills such as 20 baht or 50 baht notes. It will be easier for the driver to give you a change upon completion of the journey. If you are carrying only large 500 and 1,000 baht notes, ask to be taken to a nearby 7-11 or other convenience store (there are many), or preferably visit one before you get in the taxi, so you can break your large bills if the taxi driver doesn't have change, which is often the case. If you are coming or going to the airport, the toll booths on the expressway are a good place to change larger bills into smaller bills.

Art galleries and museums

National Museum Bangkok

<https://www.museumthailand.com/en/museum/National-Museum-Bangkok-Phranakorn>

The forerunner to Bangkok National Museum was founded in 1874. The museum was formerly located in the Grand Palace and then moved to Thammasat University next to Sanam Luang. In 1926, the museum became the National Museum. In addition to traditional cultural relics from various periods, the museum began a modern art collection in 1993. The National Museum has an open floorplan. It is beautiful and exotic. In addition to the main exhibition hall in the middle, the museum has many pavilions nearby as well as several lotus ponds, allowing visitors to quietly admire the grounds.

Opening hours: Wednesday-Sunday and on public holidays 9.00am – 4:00pm

MOCA Bangkok Museum of Contemporary Arts

<https://mocabangkok.com/>

The Art Museum was established in 2012. It is a relatively new art exhibition hall in Bangkok. It is a must for literary and art lovers. The Art Museum is a 6-storey building with more than 400 works of art by more than 100 artists. It is worth savoring. Everything inside is very trendy and creative. There is also a cafe with a good atmosphere. When you are tired of shopping, you can have a coffee break in the rich artistic atmosphere.

Opening hours: Tuesday-Sunday 10.00am – 6.00pm

Bangkok Art and Cultural Center

<https://www.bacc.or.th/>

The campaign advocating for the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre by then took over a decade. Finally, the construction began at the Pathumwan Junction site, with the cooperation and support of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and the People's Network for the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre. Bangkok finally has a major art centre for its inhabitants. It is a place for people to meet, and to help define and make culture.

Opening hours: Tuesday – Sunday 10.00am – 8.00pm

Museum Siam

<https://www.museumsiam.org/museumsiam-visit.php>

The Siam Museum is a yellow building with a Western-style appearance, which aims to introduce the historical changes and cultural customs of Thailand and the world. In addition to cultural relics, the museum also uses modern technologies such as models and video screens to attract young audiences, and will also hold various events from time to time to attract audiences. There is a wholesale flower market near the Siam Museum, where you can see all kinds of delicate flowers.

Opening hours: Tuesday – Sunday 10.00am – 6.00pm

Thai theatre

Most cinemas in Bangkok are located in shopping malls and are dominated by the **Major Cineplex company**, which owns the Major Cineplex, EGV, Paragon Cineplex at Siam Paragon and Thailand's only IMAX theatre. The second biggest operator is **SF Cinema City**, with branches at leading shopping malls like MBK Centre and the Emporium. Smaller chains include Apex in Siam Square, Thana Cineplex, Major Hollywood and UMG.

Where to shop

Souvenir	MBK Center, Weekend Market (Chatuchak), Asiatique, Icon Siam
Suit-Tailor	Tony Silom trustworthy (we can arrange free transportation)
Jewelry	Gems' Gallery (Lifetime guarantee) (we can arrange free transportation)
Shopping	Paragon, Emporium, Emquartier, Central World, Central Embassy, Icon Siam Gaysorn Plaza

Where to eat street food

Siam Square
China Town (18:00 onwards)
Asiatique (Souvenir, restaurants, Calypso Show)
Jodd Fairs Train night market

Tipping

Tipping is not customary in Thailand, there is absolutely no mandatory requirement to tip anyone, but small gratuities for great service are very much appreciated.

Currency

The Thai baht (THB) is the official currency of the Kingdom of Thailand. The symbol of the currency is ฿. It is divided into 100 satang. Exchange rate 1 USD = 34 THB (Approximately). In Thailand, Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted at Department Stores, restaurants and leading stores or shops. At local markets, most merchants prefer cash.

General Tours

To arrange a private or extended tour, contact Pattama Sriyapai (Vanda), CTM-BKK, via email: patmemento@gmail.com or mobile: +66 (0) 98 429-9238

CTM will also have a hospitality desk at The Banyan Tree Hotel providing you information on site.

