

Spotlight on Bangkok



HISTORY

Bangkok is Thailand's capital and it is situated on the Great Chao Phya River Delta which flows from the North down to the Gulf of Thailand. The word "Bangkok" is derived from two primitive Thai words, "Bang" meaning Village and "Kok" meaning Olive, thus its original meaning is "Village of Olive". In the olden days, Bangkok was just a small agricultural and fishing village where people traveled mainly by rowing boats.

European merchants had stopped at Bangkok on their way to the first capital Ayutthaya. The story behind the foundation of Bangkok was the Burmese invasions of Siam in both the 16th and 18th centuries, capturing Chiang Mai and destroying Ayuthaya. The Thais expelled the Burmese and moved their capital to Thonburi. In 1782, the current Chakri dynasty was founded by King Rama I and the capital was moved across the river to Bangkok.

Since then, Bangkok has grown into a sprawling accumulation of glistening skyscrapers, towering apartments and gridlock traffic with a skyline like that of many other Southeast Asian capitals.

DOCKING

The ship docks at the cruise terminal in the port of Laem Chabang.

SHORE EXCURSIONS

Please check your tour ticket for the correct meeting time and location for your tour. Your cruise line representative will direct you to your transportation.

TRANSPORTATION

Public transport options, including taxis, buses and túk-túks around the island, are plentiful and cheap.

HOW TO GET TO TOWN

The cruise ship terminal is approximately 80 miles to the southeast of Bangkok, and about 10 miles north of the Pattaya Beach.

SHOPPING

Good buys include Thai silks and cottons, batiks, silver, pottery with celadon green glaze, precious

and semiprecious stones, dolls, masks, lacquer ware, pewter ware, bamboo artifacts and bronze ware. Tailor-made clothes are also good value and can be made in a matter of days.

STORE HOURS

Shops are generally open from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm from Monday to Saturday.

BANK HOURS

Banks are generally open from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm from Monday to Friday.

POST OFFICE INFORMATION

The Central Post Office in Bangkok is located on Charoen Krung (New) Road. The main post offices are open from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday to Friday and 8:00 am to 1:00 pm on weekends and public holidays.

EMERGENCY

In case of an emergency, dial 191 or 1155 for the police.



BANGKOK

PORT & SHOPPING MAP



CAPITAL

The capital of Thailand is Bangkok. Size: Bangkok is approximately 600 square miles in size.

LOCATION

Bangkok is located on the shores of the Chao Phraya River, near the Gulf of Thailand.

LANGUAGE

The official language of Bangkok is Thai.

CURRENCY

The official currency of Thailand is the Baht.

POPULATION

Approximately 8 million people live in Bangkok.

TIME ZONE

Bangkok follows GMT + 7.

TOURIST OFFICE

Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is located at 1600 New Phetburi Road.

PLACES TO SEE

A. THE GRAND PALACE

The Grand Palace served as the official residence of the king of Thailand from the 18th century to the mid-20th century. It incorporates its holiest and most dazzling temple, Wat Phra Kaeo.

B. WAT PHO

At 20 acres large, it is the largest Wat in Bangkok, and is technically the oldest too, as it was built around 200 years before Bangkok became Thailand's capital. It holds the dual honors of having both Thailand's largest reclining Buddha image and the most number of Buddha images in Thailand.

C. THE NATIONAL MUSEUM

National Museum is the largest of its kind in Southeast Asia and contains an 18th century palace and a group of well-designed buildings. It houses Thailand's artistic treasures from prehistoric to contemporary periods.

D. CHINATOWN

Bangkok has one of the best Chinatowns in Southeast Asia. This area is over 200 years old. The shopping, the food, and the culture make it worth a visit.

