



CAPITAL CITY

The capital city of Thailand is **Bangkok**.

SIZE

The total land area of Thailand is 513,120 km².

GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION

Thailand is located in Southeast Asia, sharing borders with Myanmar (west and northwest), Laos (north and east), Cambodia (southeast), and Malaysia (south). It has a long coastline along the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea.

Thailand is divided into four distinct areas: the mountainous North, the fertile Central Plains, the semi-arid plateau of the Northeast, and the peninsula south, distinguished by its many beautiful tropical beaches and offshore islands.

POPULATION

As of 2025, Thailand's population is approximately 71.6 million people.

Ethnic Thais form the majority (about 91%), Other significant groups include: Chinese, Malay, Khmer, and Hill Tribes like Karen, Hmong..

LANGUAGE

Thai is the official language. English is widely taught and commonly used in urban areas and tourist destinations.

CURRENCY

The currency of Thailand is the **Thai Baht (THB) (฿)**.

As of March 2025, the exchange rate is: 1 USD = 34.5 THB, 1 EUR = 36.50 THB.

Banknotes:

- Common denominations: 20 THB, 50 THB, 100 THB, 500 THB, and 1,000 THB.
- Coins are also widely used, including 1, 2, 5, and 10 THB, as well as smaller satang coins (subunits of the baht).

ATM & Credit Card Usage

- ATMs are widely available in Thailand, providing Thai Baht (฿).
- Most ATMs accept Visa, MasterCard, and UnionPay.
- Credit cards like Visa and MasterCard are commonly accepted at hotels, restaurants, and large stores; with fees. American Express may be accepted at select locations.

Travel Tip: Cash Recommendations

- Carry some Thai Baht in cash for convenience, especially for small purchases.

- Exchange currency at banks or authorized exchange offices for better rates.
- Ensure banknotes are clean and undamaged, as they are more likely to be accepted.

Banks generally operate from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM, Monday to Friday, with limited service on Saturdays.

CLIMATE

Thailand has a tropical climate with **3 main seasons**:

- **Sunny Season (March–May)**: Temperatures can soar, perfect for beach lovers with temperatures often soaring above 35°C (95°F).
- **Green Season (June–October)**: Lush landscapes with frequent rain showers with high humidity due to the southwest monsoon, but still warm and great for exploring. Temperatures remain warm, typically ranging from 28°C to 34°C (82°F to 93°F).
- **Cool Season (November–February)**: The most pleasant time, with cooler temperatures and dry weather — ideal for sightseeing and outdoor activities. Temperatures can drop to around 16°C (61°F) at night in places like Chiang Mai, while coastal areas remain warm.

LOCAL TIME

Thailand is 7 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time. It is the same time zone as Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

ELECTRICITY

In Thailand, the electricity operates at 220 volts with a frequency of 50 Hz. There are many plugs and sockets in use. Travelers with shavers, tape recorders and other appliances should carry a plug-adaptor kit. The better hotels will make available 110 Volt transformers.

As for plug types, Thailand primarily uses: Type A, B, C.



TAP WATER

It is advisable not to drink water from the tap unless it is boiled properly.

TELECOMMUNICATION

Thailand's country code is **+66**.

4G and 5G Connectivity: Thailand offers extensive 4G coverage across the country, ensuring reliable internet access for travelers. 5G networks are also expanding rapidly, particularly in urban areas like Bangkok and Chiang Mai, providing faster speeds and lower latency.

HEALTH & MEDICAL FACILITIES

All tourist destinations and provincial capitals in Thailand have hospitals and clinics staffed by well-trained doctors and nurses. Many private hospitals have English-speaking staff and doctors, but in rural areas or smaller clinics, English proficiency may be limited.

In emergencies, ambulances can be summoned from private hospitals.

TRANSPORT

Thailand has **10 international airports**, including major ones like Suvarnabhumi Airport (BKK), Don Mueang Airport (DMK), and Phuket International Airport (HKT). These airports serve as gateways for travelers from around the world.

Train: Thailand's train system offers a unique way for travelers to explore the country (connect major cities like Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Ayutthaya, Hua Hin, and more.) There are three classes available: First (private compartments with air conditioning), Second (comfortable seats, some with AC), and Third (basic seating, budget-friendly).

Ferries: Essential for reaching islands like Koh Samui and Koh Phi Phi, ferries are a common mode of transport for coastal and island travel.

DRIVING

In Thailand they drive on the left.

The International Driving Permit is required. However, car hire is strongly discouraged in both cities than in the countryside, because of little guidance.

It is possible to rent a motorbike in Chiang Mai, Phuket and Koh Samui. For safety reasons is highly discouraged.

CUISINE

Thai food is internationally famous, offering bold flavors, fresh ingredients, and vibrant dishes.

Street Food: Thailand is famous for its street food culture. Try classics like Pad Thai (stir-fried noodles), Som Tum (spicy papaya salad), and Moo Ping (grilled pork skewers). Street vendors offer affordable and authentic options across the country.

Signature Dishes: Must-try dishes include Tom Yum Goong (spicy shrimp soup), Massaman Curry (rich and creamy with mild spices), Green Curry, and Sticky Rice with Mango.

Be cautious: Thai cuisine is famous for its **bold and spicy flavors**. Travelers should be aware that dishes like Tom Yum, Som Tum, and certain curries can pack quite a punch. If you're not accustomed to spicy food, it's a good idea to ask for a milder version (not spicy) when ordering.

CUSTOMS AND HABITS

Religion: Over 90% of Thais practice Theravada Buddhism, with other religions like Islam and Christianity freely practiced. Temples (Wats) are central to life, and meditation is popular, with centers open to visitors.

Greeting: The most common and traditional way to greet is saying "Sawasdee" (สวัสดี), which means "Hello, paired with the **wai**—hands clasped and a slight bow.

Respect the image of the King (including on banknotes), the **royal family and Buddha**. Disrespect, even online or on social networks can lead to severe penalties.

Etiquette: Remove shoes before entering temples or homes, avoid touching heads, and follow polite customs.

SHOPPING

Shopping in Thailand is a delight for travelers with lot of choices vary from craft items to silk, spices to fashion items or high-end luxury brands.

Markets: Thailand is known for its bustling markets like Chatuchak Weekend Market in Bangkok and the night markets in Chiang Mai. You'll find clothing, handicrafts, souvenirs, and street food.

Shopping Malls: High-end malls like Siam Paragon, CentralWorld, and IconSiam offer luxury brands, electronics, and international retailers.

TIPPING

Tipping in Thailand is appreciated but not mandatory.

Major hotels and restaurants often include a 10% service charge. If not, tipping around 10% is customary.

ACCESS

Thailand is globally connected with direct flights to major cities. Suvarnabhumi Airport (BKK) in Bangkok is the main hub, alongside Phuket (HKT) and Chiang Mai (CNX) airports.

From Europe: Direct flights from London, Paris, Frankfurt, and Rome are offered by airlines like Thai Airways, British Airways, Lufthansa, and Air France.

From the USA: Los Angeles (LAX) and Dallas (DFW) offer direct flights to Bangkok via airlines like American Airlines and Thai Airways.

VISA AND PASSPORT

Thailand's **Visa Exemption** Scheme allows travelers from **93 countries** to visit for tourism without a visa for up to 30 days.

Starting May 01, 2025, all non-Thai nationals entering Thailand by air, land, or sea must complete the Thailand Digital Arrival Card (T-DAC) online within 3 days prior to flying to Thailand.

The E-Arrival Card can be accessed and submitted via the following link:

👉 <https://tdac.immigration.go.th/arrival-card/#/home>

E-Visa: depending on the nationality, Thailand has globally launched its Online E-Visa system, allowing visitors to apply for visas online without visiting an embassy.

Visa on Arrival: Travelers from eligible countries can also apply for a Visa on Arrival (VoA), allowing a stay of up to 15 days.

Before anything else, you must first ensure the validity of your passport for at least 6 months after your return date. Ensure your passport has at least one blank page for the entry stamp.

BEFORE GOING

Thailand has a tropical climate, so pack light and breathable clothing. Be aware of the rainy season (June–October). However, traveler should stay hydrated, be cautious with street food hygiene, and consider travel insurance. Vaccinations for diseases like hepatitis A and typhoid are worth checking.

Be mindful of Thailand's efforts to reduce plastic waste. Carry a reusable water bottle and bags when possible.

Dress modestly when visiting temples, and avoid disrespecting the Thai royal family—it's taken very seriously.



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