

## TIPS AND FACTS ABOUT THAILAND

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

(Source: Thaiways. "A Guide for Tourists & Businessman")

**Geography:** Thailand has a land area of 513,115 Sq. km. bordered by Malaysia (South), Myanmar (West & North), Laos (North & East) and Cambodia (Southeast).

**Climate:** Temperature varies from 38°C to 19°C; humidity from 82.8% to 66%.

**Seasons:** Hot (March to May), Rainy (June to October) and Cool (November to February); average temperature 27°C

**Population:** About 64 million. Of the total, 84.7% live in rural areas, 9.9% in Bangkok, and 5.4% in other towns and cities.

**Religion:** Buddhist 95%, Muslim 3.9%, Christian 0.5%, Others 0.6%

**Government:** A constitutional monarchy.

**Head of State:** H.M. King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun (Rama X of the Chakri Dynasty)

**Prime Minister:** General Prayut Chan-o-cha

**Administration:** 77 provinces, each subdivided into *amphoe* (district), *tambon* (sub-**district**) and *muban* (village)



**National Flag:**

The red, white and blue bands symbolize the Nation, Buddhism and the Monarchy respectively.

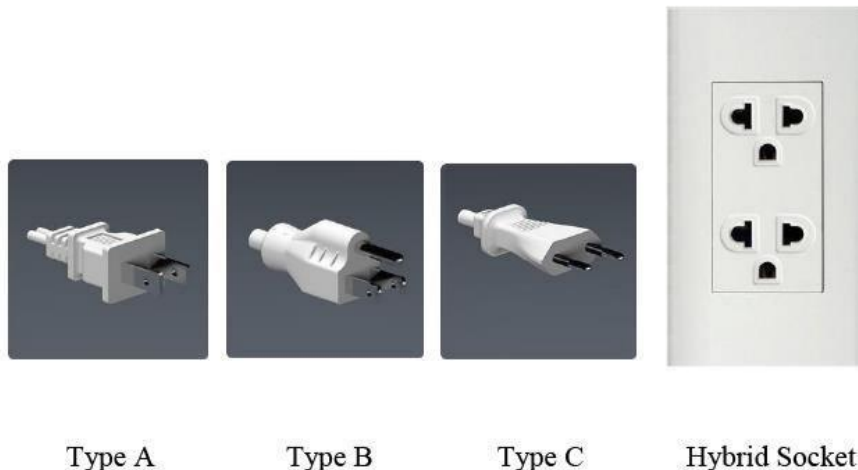
### 2. CLOTHING

In general, light cotton clothing is most suitable. A jacket or sweater may be necessary in the cool season, especially in mountainous areas of the North or Northeast. Short pants and T-shirt are considered to be informal. Thai people may not mind as much in the touristy areas and beaches however once out of these areas please dress appropriately. When traveling to temples and holy places, please show respect. You will need to wear long pants and long sleeves especially if you're woman. Or supposed to cover the knees, at least.

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**3. ELECTRICITY**

The electric power in Thailand is 220V running at 50Hz and the plug types used are either type A, type B, or type C\*. A hybrid socket is almost universally found which accepts a combination of the above plug types. Delegates are strongly encouraged to carry their own adapters for use with laptops and other electrical appliances. In case of need, adapters can be purchased from shops in the city dealing in electronic and electrical items.

**4. DRINKING WATER**

Drink only bottled or boiled water.

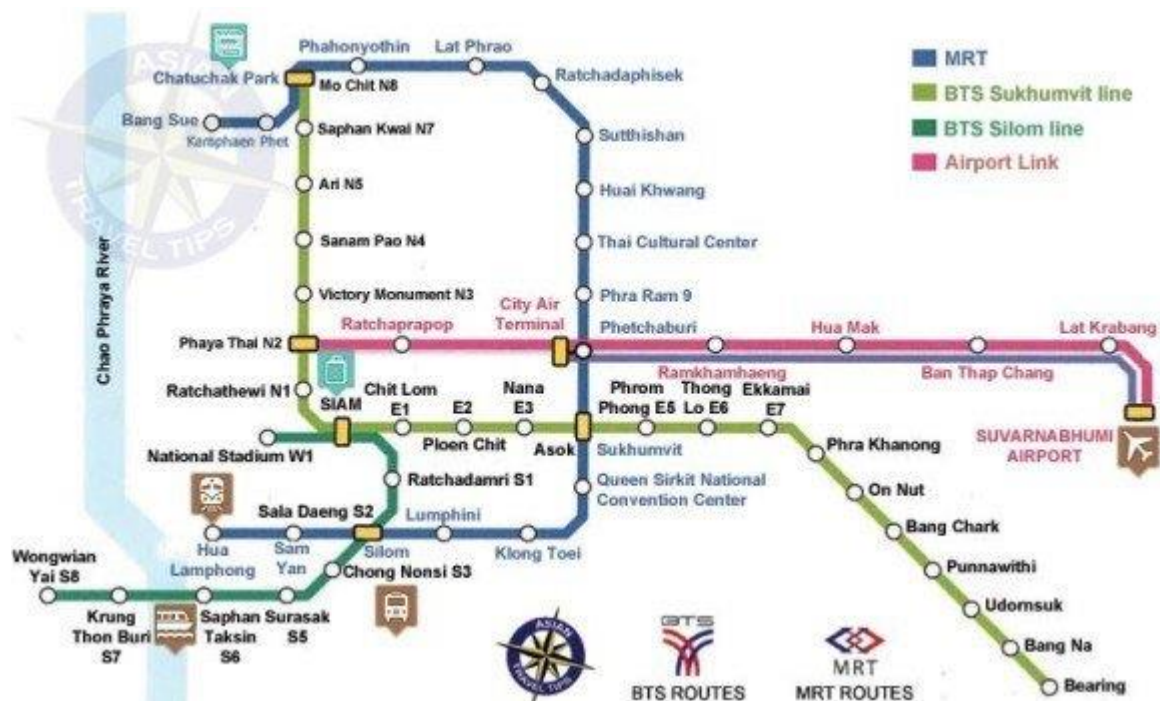
**5. CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS**

- Thailand is a Buddhist country where Buddha images are held sacred. Sacrilegious acts are punishable by imprisonment even if committed by foreign visitors.
- Thai people hold the King and the Royal Family in great reverence, and will not tolerate foreigners talking about them with disrespect.
- Generally Thai women are conservative. So, we strongly advise that you do not touch them without their consent.
- Dress properly when entering a Buddhist temple. Take your shoes off before going inside the hall of worship. Ladies must not on any account touch a Buddhist monk, give things direct to him or receive things directly from him.
- Public displays of intimacy are generally regarded unfavorably, and should be avoided.
- Sunbathing in the nude is prohibited.
- Call Thais by their first names; use the title "Khun" to all adults (male & female).
- Thai people smile to express gladness and happiness, to thank for small services, to return the *wai* (a way of greeting) of children and inferior persons, and even to excuse small inconveniences.

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## 6. TRANSPORTATION

- BTS (Sky train) / MRT (Underground):** With stations in major commercial areas and departure every 5-10 minutes, this is the most convenient and ideal means of transportation to escape the traffic.
  - **BTS** runs from 6 am. to midnight, and fares range from THB 15 to THB 55 per person, depending on distance and zone cross. There are two routes: the Sukhumvit Line runs from Mo Chit to Bearing, and the Silom Line, from the National Stadium to Bang Wa.
  - **MRT** runs from 6 a.m. until midnight, and fare rand starting from THB 15, depending on distance. Connected to the BTS station at Chatuchak: Mo Chit station, Sukhumvit:Asok station, Saladeng:Silom station.



- Taxis:** Metered taxis are available 24 hours a day where you can taking from the sidewalk or any taxi stands. fare is standardized: THB 35 for the first two kms. and THB 5 for each km. thereafter. Fees on tollways and expressways are additional to the fare, and must be paid by passengers.
- Grab Taxi and LINE MAN:** Both are smartphone-based taxi booking and dispatching services operate, very common and conveniences in Thailand. There will be a THB 25 for booking fee.
- Public Transportation:** Bangkok has an extensive bus service with routes serving every part of the city, providing a cheap way to explore the city. The fare for the former depends on the distance traveled, starting from THB 15 per person. There is also public van service available in Bangkok, staring from THB 30 per person.

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## 7. CURRENCY

- The basic monetary unit in Thailand is the Baht. A Baht is divided into 100 satang. The following coins and notes are currently in use:
- One US Dollar is worth around THB 31 (as of January 2019).
- Coins: 25 and 50 satang; 1, 5 and 10 Baht.
- Bank notes: THB 20 (green), THB 50 (blue), THB 100 (red), THB 500 (purple) and THB 1,000 (pale brown).
- Major foreign currencies can be exchanged for Thai Baht with banks and authorized money changers. Major credit cards are also widely accepted in tourist centers.
- Foreign visitors may freely bring in foreign currencies or other types of foreign exchange. Upon leaving Thailand, they may freely take out all foreign exchange they have brought in. For residents, unlimited amounts of foreign notes and coins, but no more than USD 20,000 in drafts or check, may be taken out for traveling expenses.
- Foreign visitors may bring in an unlimited quantity of Thai currency. For travelers leaving Thailand, the maximum amount permitted to take out without prior authorization is THB 50,000 per person or, if they are going to one of Thailand's neighboring countries, THB 100,000 per person.
- Foreign tourists are permitted to take out gold ornaments free. But import and export of gold other than jewelry are subject to licensing by the Ministry of Finance.

## 8. DINING

- Most Thai food is already cut into small pieces before serving or made soft enough to be cut with a spoon or fork; thus, knives are not necessary.
- Salt-shakers are rarely found on Thai dinner tables, so add a little caramel-color fish-sauce (called *nam pla* in Thai) instead, if you find your food not salty enough.
- English is spoken in large restaurants; and most establishments have menus in Thai and English, except street-side food stalls and some small restaurants.

## 9. SHOPPING

- Bargaining is an art long practiced in Asian countries, including Thailand. Feel free to ask for a proper discount when shopping in markets and other places where prices are not marked.
- Be careful in dealing with sidewalk vendors, who may not offer genuine goods at fair prices.
- We strongly recommend that you obtain receipts for all goods that you buy. For jewelry, you must get a certificate of guarantee as well.
- Some shops can offer a money-back guarantee, but you should clearly determine all conditions with the shopkeeper beforehand.

## 10. USEFUL Word for COMMUNICATION

- **"Sa wat dee"** – means to Hello; Good morning, afternoon and evening.
- **"Khop khun"** – means to Thank you.
- **"Kor tode"** – means to sorry or excuse me
- **"Krap /Kha"** - You will hear Thai people finish their sentences with the words **Krap** (for males) and **Kha** (for females). This is a sign of respect and makes the phrase sound gentler, as it is a proper way.