







Wat Trai Mit

## ***TAT Tourist Information Centres***

### **Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) (Head Office)**

1600 Phetchaburi Road, Makkasan

Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400

Tel: 0 2250 5500 Fax: 0 2250 5511

[www.tourismthailand.org](http://www.tourismthailand.org)

E-mail: [info@tat.or.th](mailto:info@tat.or.th)

Open daily at 08.30 - 16.30 hrs.

### **Ministry of Tourism and Sports**

4 Ratchadamnoen Nok Road, Pom Prap Sattru Phai

Bangkok 10100

Open daily at 08.30 - 16.30 hrs.

### **Tourism Authority of Thailand, Bangkok Office (TAT Bangkok)**

1600 New Phetchaburi Rd., Makkasan, Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400

Tel : 0 2250 5615, 0 2250 5500 ext. 2991-5

Fax: 0 2250 5616

[www.tatbangkok.com](http://www.tatbangkok.com)

E-mail: [tatbangkok@tat.or.th](mailto:tatbangkok@tat.or.th)

Areas of Responsibility: Bangkok, Pathum Thani, Nonthaburi, Samut Prakan and Chachoengsao



Wat Phra Si Rattana Satsadaram or Wat Phra Kaeo



## Contents

<b>Transportation</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Attractions in and around Bangkok</b>	<b>6</b>
<i>Royal Palace</i>	6
<i>Museums</i>	10
<i>Temples</i>	30
<i>Monuments</i>	35
<i>Public Parks</i>	38
<i>Zoos / Animal Farms</i>	42
<i>Amusement Parks</i>	46
<i>Shopping Areas and Markets</i>	46
<b>Cruises</b>	<b>51</b>
<i>The Chao Phraya River &amp; Bangkok's Canals (Khlongs)</i>	51
<i>Dinner cruise</i>	51
<i>Cruise to Ayutthaya</i>	52
<i>Cruise to Nonthaburi</i>	52
<b>Cultural Performances</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Theatres</b>	<b>52</b>
<i>Dinner and Thai Classical Dance</i>	55
<i>Cultural Theme Park</i>	55
<b>Art Exhibition Centres</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Major Exhibition Centres</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Special Interests</b>	<b>56</b>
<i>Thai Boxing</i>	56
<i>Thai Cooking</i>	57
<i>Thai Traditional Massage</i>	58
<i>Spas</i>	58
<i>Meditation</i>	59
<i>Turf Clubs</i>	60
<i>Golf Courses</i>	60
<b>Major Events</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Examples of One Day Trip Programmes in and around Bangkok</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Useful Calls</b>	<b>66</b>



Wat Arun

## **ATTRACTIONS IN AND AROUND BANGKOK**

*Bangkok is one of Asia's most cosmopolitan cities. Created as the Thai capital in 1782 by the first monarch of the present Chakri dynasty, Bangkok is a national treasure house and Thailand's spiritual, cultural, political, commercial, educational and diplomatic centre.*

Bangkok exceeds 1,500 square kilometres in area and is home to one-tenth of the country's population.

Major tourist attractions include glittering Buddhist temples, palaces, timeless "Venice of the East" canal and river scenes, classical dance extravaganzas, and numerous shopping centres.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **Buses**

A regular bus service is provided by the Bangkok Mass Transit Authority (BMTA) and its contracted operators throughout Bangkok as well as to its outskirts during 4.00 a.m. – 11.00 p.m. and around the clock on certain routes. Public buses are plentiful and cheap, with a minimum fare of 7 baht to most destinations within metropolitan Bangkok. Air-conditioned buses have minimum and maximum fares of 11 and 24 baht, respectively. Air-conditioned Metro Buses charge a flat fare of 20-30 baht all routes. A Bus Route Map is available at bookshops. For more information, please call 1348.

### **Taxis**

Taxis cruising city streets are metred. They charge a minimum of 35 baht for the first 3 kilometres, and approximately 5 baht per kilometre thereafter. Make sure you have change, as taxi drivers often don't! Passengers must pay tolls in the case of using an expressway.

### **Tuk-Tuks**

These three-wheeled 'open-air' motorised taxis are popular for short journeys. Fares must be bargained in advance. Minimum fares, for journeys of up to 3 kilometres, are approximately 30 baht.

### **BTS Sky Trains**

BTS sky trains ply along Sukhumvit, Silom and Phahonyothin roads. The routes connect Bangkok's leading hotels and major shopping areas such as Siam Square, Silom, Ratchaprasong and Chatuchak Weekend Market during 6.00 a.m.-12.00 p.m. The fare ranges from 15-40 baht according to the distance. For more information, contact the Bangkok Mass Transit System at Tel: 0 2617 6000, 0 2617 7340-2 or visit [www.bts.co.th](http://www.bts.co.th)

## Bangkok Metro

A metro service is available from Bang Sue via Kamphaeng Phet 2 Road, Chatuchak Weekend Market, Ratchadaphisek Road, Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Lumpini Park, Silom, Sam Yan to its terminal at Hua Lamphong Railway Station during 6.00 a.m.-12.00 p.m. The fare ranges from 15-40 baht according to the distance. Call 0 2624 5200 or visit [www.bangkokmetro.co.th](http://www.bangkokmetro.co.th) for further information.

## Airport Rail Link

Airport Rail Link offers train services between Suvarnabhumi Airport and Bangkok City from 6.00 a.m.-12.00 p.m. There are two types of services: City Line taking 25 minutes with the fare calculated from the distance, starting from 15 Baht and up to 45 Baht, and Express Line taking 15 minutes with a flat rate of 150 Baht. A train service is available from Phya Thai BTS Station (the originating point for SA City Line) to Suvarnabhumi Airport via Ratchaprarop, Makkasan (the originating point for SA Express Line), Ramkhamhaeng, Hua Mak, Ban Thap Chang, Lat Krabang to its terminal at Suvarnabhumi Airport. For more information, contact Tel.1690 or visit the website: <http://airportrailink.railway.co.th/>

## River Taxis

Taxis that are even more unusual, though equally convenient, are the river taxis that ply the Chao Phraya River. Some are just cross river ferries, but others serve the many landing stages on both banks and cover a route that goes up as far as the northern suburb of Nonthaburi. Call 0 2623 6001-3 or visit [www.chaophrayaboat.co.th](http://www.chaophrayaboat.co.th) for further information.

# ATTRACTIONS IN AND AROUND BANGKOK

## Royal Palace

**The Grand Palace and Wat Phra Si Rattana Satsadaram or Wat Phra Kaeo** (พระบรมมหาราชวังและวัดพระศรีรัตนศาสดารามหรือวัดพระแก้ว)

**The Grand Palace** (พระบรมมหาราชวัง) Constructed simultaneously with the establishment of Bangkok or Krung Rattanakosin by King Rama I the Great, the complex covers a total area of 132 rai and comprises 3 major quarters; namely, Phra Maha Prasat – the throne halls, Phra Ratchamonthon Sathan – royal residences and Wat Phra Si Rattana Satsadaram – Temple of the Emerald Buddha. Formerly, the Grand Palace served as a residential palace for the royal family, with a similar



*Phra Thinang Chakri Maha Prasat*

floor plan to that of the Grand Palace in the Kingdom of Ayutthaya. The Temple of the Emerald Buddha is a palace temple just as Wat Phra Si Sanphet used to be in the Ayutthaya Period. A blend of Western architecture prevailed during the reigns of King Rama IV and King Rama V. Major throne halls include:

***Phra Thinang Dusit Maha Prasat*** (พระที่นั่งดุสิตมหาปราสาท), formerly named as Phra Thinang Inthraphisek Maha Prasat, is the first throne hall to have been constructed within the Grand Palace to house royal remains of the kings, queens and members of the royal family. It is also for use in major royal ceremonies such as auspicious rites and merit-making.

***Phra Thinang Aphonphimok Prasat*** (พระที่นั่งอาภรณ์พิโมกษ์ปราสาท), located near Phra Thinang Dusit Maha Prasat served as the king's mounting platform as well as dressing area for a royal procession.

***Phra Thinang Phiman Rattaya*** (พระที่นั่งพิมานรัตยา), established in 1789 and served as the king's royal chamber as well as assembly hall for members of the royal family and audience hall for ladies of the court to receive royal decorations and title's paraphernalia in the reign of King Rama VI. It was also where the bathing ceremony for royal remains of the members of the royal family before the urn would be placed inside the Phra Thinang Dusit Maha Prasat.

***Phra Thinang Chakri Maha Prasat*** (พระที่นั่งจักรีมหาปราสาท), built in the reign of King Rama V in 1876 to receive royal guests who were monarchs or heads of state. There are also several other principal throne halls





*Wat Phra Si Rattana Satsadaram or Wat Phra Kaew*

such as Phra Thinang Ratchakaranyasapha, Phra Thinang Munlasathan Boromma-at, Phra Thinang Sommutithewarat Upbat, Phra Thinang Borommaratchasathit Mahoran, Phra Thinang Chakraphatdi Phiman, Phra Thinang Phaisan Thaksin, etc.



## Wat Phra Si Rattana Satsadaram or Wat Phra Kaeo

(วัดพระศรีรัตนศาสดารามหรือวัดพระแก้ว)

Known among foreigners as Temple of the Emerald Buddha, Wat Phra Kaeo is a royal temple situated on the northeastern corner of the Grand Palace compound. It is where the image of the Emerald Buddha is enshrined as well as royal religious ceremonies have been performed. The construction of the temple was completed in 1784, and it has consistently undergone several times of restoration from the reign of King Rama I through to the reign of King Rama IX. The temple's ordination hall – Phra Ubosot – and enclosing cloister house fine murals. Other interesting structures include a group of 8 Prang towers, Phra Si Rattana Chedi, model of Angkor Wat, Prasat Phra Thepbidon, etc.

*Open: Daily from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. (Tickets are sold till 3.30 p.m.) (except during special royal ceremonies)*

*Admission: 500 baht. (including a ticket to Vimanmek Royal Mansion or Anantasamakhom Throne Hall or Sanam Chandra Palace (Nakhon Pathom Province). Proper attire is essential*

*Personal Audio Guide in Thai, English, French, German, Spanish, Russian, Japanese and Mandarin: 400 baht*

*Tel: 0 2623 5500 ext 3100 [www.palaces.thai.net](http://www.palaces.thai.net)*

## Sanam Luang or Thung Phra Men. (สนามหลวงหรือทุ่งพระเมรุ)

A vast open ground situated near the northern wall of the Grand Palace and the eastern wall of the former Viceroy Palace or Wang Na. At the time when Bangkok was first established, the ground was a rice field and was sometimes used as a location for a royal crematorium, Phra Men in Thai. The ground was, thus, otherwise called as 'Thung Phra Men' which means the crematorium ground. In considering that the name was inauspicious, King Rama IV had the ground renamed as 'Thong Sanam Luang', or the Royal Ground, and the rice farming there cancelled. Later, King Rama V had the Wang Na's eastern wall demolished and the area of Sanam Luang enlarged to cover a total of 78 rai as it does nowadays. The place has been used as the crematorium ground for kings, members of the royal family and nobility, in addition, to being a royal sporting ground. The king also had 365 tamarind trees planted around it.

*Open: Daily*

*Admission: Free*

### **The City Pillar Shrine.** (ศาลหลักเมือง)

According to an old Thai tradition, a city pillar had to be built upon the establishment of a new city. King Rama I had the Bangkok city pillar erected near the Temple of the Emerald Buddha on Sunday, 21 April, 1782, with the city's horoscope inside. The original pillar was made of cassia wood known as Chaiyaphruek, measuring 75 cm. in diameter and 27 cm. high. In the reign of King Rama IV, the old dilapidated pillar was replaced by a new one made of the same kind of wood, measuring 270 cm. high and standing on a base of 175 cm. wide, sheltered by a Prang-shaped shrine as it appears today. The shrine also houses images of protective deities including Thepharak, Chaopho Ho Klong, Phra Suea Mueang, Phra Song Mueang, Chaopho Chetakhup and Phra Kan Chai Si.

*Open: Daily*

*Admission: Free*

## **Museums**

### **Anantasamakhom Throne Hall.** (พระที่นั่งอนันตสมาคม)

This Renaissance building was constructed of marble from Italy under the instruction of King Rama V, with an intention to be used as a royal reception – assembly hall. The construction was completed in the next reign. The dome of the throne hall houses picturesque frescoes of royal activities undertaken during the reigns of King Rama I – King Rama VI of the Royal House of Chakri. The building serves as a venue for royal and state ceremonies and was once used as the National Assembly before it was moved to the new building behind.

*Open: Daily from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. (except Mondays, New Year Day, Songkran Day)*

*Admission: Adult 150 baht, Child 75 baht (proper attire is essential)*

*Tel: 0 2282 7319 [www.vimanmek.com](http://www.vimanmek.com)*

### **Ancient City** (เมืองโบราณ)

Situated in Bang Pu Mai Sub-district on Sukhumvit Road (old route) towards Bang Pu, at Kilometre 33, the Ancient City is on the left and 8 kilometres from Samut Prakan town. It is a centre of replicas of important historical sites in the country. It covers an area of approximately 800 rai and was first constructed at the end of 1963. Major historical sites in the Ancient City are Khao Phra Wihan (Preah Vihear), Prasat Hin Phanom Rung, Wat Mahathat Sukhothai, Phra Phutthabat Saraburi, Phrathat Mueang Nakhon, Prathat Chaiya, etc.





*Anantasamakhom Throne Hall*

The replicas were elaborately constructed in both smaller-scaled sizes, while some are in the actual size. Besides, it is a source of local Thai arts and culture which is disappearing from modern society. Those who wish to conduct research on the history of Thailand can study this at the Ancient City.

*Open: Daily from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Adult 350 baht, Child 150 baht*

*Tel: 0 2709 1644-5, Fax: 0 2323 9253 [www.ancientcity.com](http://www.ancientcity.com)*

### **Bangkok Butterfly Garden and Insectarium.** (อุทยานผีเสื้อและแมลง กรุงเทพฯ)

Situated in the southeastern area of Vachirabenjatas Park (Railway Park), Kamphaeng Phet 3 Road, the garden covers an area of approximately 6 rai. It comprises of 4 main sections; namely, 1) a touch screen computer area introducing the garden, 2) a mini-theatre for the VDO presentation on insects and the ecological system, 3) an exhibition area and feed breeding room of the embryo of butterflies and insects, 4) a cage covering an area of 1,168 square metres with a large dome of 15 metres high, built from an open framework for good ventilation. It displays 20 kinds of more than 500 butterflies. The garden, which connects to the Chatuchak and Queen Sirikit Parks, is an appropriate natural classroom for learning, conducting research, as well as, collecting and exchanging the knowledge on butterfly species

and insects, their life cycles and their ways of living. The garden is open daily except for Monday during 8.30 a.m.- 4.30 p.m.

*Open: Tuesday - Sunday and public holidays from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.*

*Admission: Free.*

*Tel: 0 2272 4359-60*

### **Bangkok Dolls & Museum** (บ้านบางกอกดอลล์และตุ๊กตานานาชาติ)

Located at 85 Soi Ratchataphan (Soi Mo Leng) off Ratchaprarop Road. It was established by Khunying Tongkorn Chandavimol in 1956 after having completed a course on doll making from the Osawa Doll School in Tokyo, Japan. Her intention was to make as well as publicise Thai dolls. Bangkok Doll's products are well recognised internationally and renowned among doll collectors. They won the first prize and the Honorary Gold Peacock Feather Award from the 3rd International Folklore Dolls Biennial 1978 in Poland. The place serves as both a museum and workshop where various kinds of dolls are displayed and made totally by hand, using mainly locally available materials. There are several categories of dolls such as Khon dolls, hill tribes, Thai rural lifestyles as well as Khon mask miniatures. There is also a corner in the workshop where a private collection of some 400 dolls from around the world are displayed.

*Open: Mon-Sat from 8.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

*Tel: 0 2245 3008, 0 2245 4532 [www.bangkokdolls.com](http://www.bangkokdolls.com)*

### **Bank of Thailand Museum.** (พิพิธภัณฑ์ธนาคารแห่งประเทศไทย)

Located on a total area of 30 rai on the Chao Phraya River inside Bang Khun Phrom Palace within the same compound as the Bank of Thailand, Sam Sen Road, Phra Nakhon District. The museum building is one example of the finest architecture of the same art style built by King Rama V to be a royal residence of HRH Prince Boriphat Sukhumphan, his 33rd son born with Queen Sukhuman Marasi. After 1932, the palace was used as a governmental office for a certain period until 1945 when it became the Bank of Thailand. It was turned into the Bank of Thailand Museum in 1982, accommodating 14 rooms on 2 floors. *Floor 1* houses rooms of ancient coins, the Phot Duang or Thai bullet coins, modern Thai coins and banknotes, golds and foreign currency. *Floor 2* houses rooms of the 60th anniversary of the Bank of Thailand, banknote printing, and several others.

*Open: Mon-Fri from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 a.m. , 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*



*Tel: 0 2544 4527-7, 0 2283 5286, 0 2283 6723( Please contact at least 2 weeks in advance. (Attention: Director of the Bank of Thailand Museum).*

### **Children's Discovery Museum.** (พิพิธภัณฑ์เด็ก)

The museum is located inside Queen Sirikit Park and was established under the royal initiative of Her Majesty the Queen, in her realizing the significance of creating a pleasurable learning process for Thai children. Based on the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration's children and family activities, the Children's Discovery Museum took shape in the form of 3 exhibition buildings and an open-air activity ground covering a total area of 5 rai. The construction was completed in 2001 and undertaken under the project to celebrate the 60th birthday anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen.

The museum offers exhibitions as well as funny activities for children to enjoy and learn about human life, sciences, culture and society, nature and the environment, including an exhibition in honour of Her Majesty the Queen.

*Open: Daily (Tues-Fri from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., Sat-Sun from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.)*

*Admission: Adult 150 baht, Child 150 baht*

*Tel: 0 2615 7333 ext. 102, 134, 148 [www.bkkcdm.com](http://www.bkkcdm.com)*

### **The Erawan Museum** (พิพิธภัณฑ์ช้างเอราวัณ)

Located on Sukhumvit Road (old route) passing Bang Phli Intersection prior to the Pak Nam Intersection, covering an area of 12 rai of the Thonburi Automotive Assembly Plant Company Limited, Tambon Samrong Thap, this museum was inspired by the thought and imagination of Khun Lek Viriyapant, owner of the Ancient City or Muang Boran in Samut Prakan and the Sanctuary of Truth in Pattaya, Chonburi. The museum is intended to collect the antiques and cultural heritage of various kinds and to pass on and preserve Thai arts for the future. The Erawan or three-headed elephant is the first free-standing sculpture of the world to be constructed with a manual direct metal technique. It is made of more than a hundred thousand pieces of copper. The smallest ones are a similar size as a palm. They were softened by heat, knocked and connected with delicacy. The height of the elephant and the building combined is 43.6 metres (or approximately equivalent to a 14-17 storey building). The Erawan Museum is divided into 2 main parts; namely, the upper part which is the elephant and the lower one. The upper part consists of the head of the elephant weighing 100 tons and the body weighing 150 tons, 29 metres in height, 12 metres in width, and 39 metres in length. The

belly of the elephant or called the "Heaven" was lined with black ebony designed to serve as a museum exhibiting the precious objects such as the tempera painting of the universe and the collection of antiques of Khun Lek Viriyapant. At the lower part of the elephant is a base consisting of a 14.6 metre - high hall whose structure is made of reinforced concrete with the weight of the elephant being supported by the ring beams outside and inside the building. The weight is then transferred onto the 8 poles outside the hall and another 4 inside. Inside the building or called the "Earth" displays antiques comprising a pavilion of Phra Ket – Protective God of the Earth and the Ocean, silver and golden staircases, ceiling decorated with stained glass into an ancient map. The decoration inside the building is a combination of various kinds of arts such as the use of stained glass from the West, colourful Bencharong crockery with mixed patterns, the embossed design on tin plate by the Nakhon Si Thammarat craftsmen, various old-style sculptures such as Khon Than – a musician in Thai literature, and Naga – a mythical serpent – by the Phetchaburi craftsmen. The basement called "Chan Badan" – the "Underworld" houses an exhibition and a large number of antiques such as Buddha images, divine images from various eras and Chinese blue and white ceramics. The corridor around the building consists of 8 archways. The museum is also surrounded by a garden of plants appearing in Thai literature and the rare species of plants from every region of the country. Moreover, the sculptures of the characters from the Ramakian story are placed around the building.

*Open: Daily from 8.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. (The last Guided Tour is at 5.00 p.m.)*

*Admission: Adults 150 baht, Child 50 baht*

*Information: Tel: 02371 3135-6 Fax. 02380 0304 or [www.erawan-museum.com](http://www.erawan-museum.com)*

### **Gem and Jewellery Institute of Thailand** (สถาบันวิจัยและพัฒนาอัญมณีและเครื่องประดับแห่งชาติ (องค์การมหาชน))

Located inside the Gem and Jewellery Institute of Thailand near the Geological Department, Faculty of Science, the museum was established with the objective to enhance knowledge as well as encourage awareness among the youth and public of the significance of jewellery, in addition, to emphasise the image of Thailand as one of the world's coloured stones and jewellery trading and industrial centres. It is also intended to give inspiration to jewellery designers as well as to preserve fine specimens of jewellery for later generations. Displayed items include gems and jewellery donated by the private sector, precious metals for use in jewellery making, tools and equipment, as well as rotating exhibitions of jewellery borrowed from various jewellery companies. The permanent exhibition features history



of gems and jewellery, model of a gemstone mine and production procedures including size selection, sectioning, cutting, polishing, etc.

*Open: Mon – Fri from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.*

*Admission: 100 baht.*

*Tel: 0 2218 5470-4 ext. 17 or [www.git.or.th](http://www.git.or.th).*

### **Geological Resource Museum (Minerals and Rocks Museum)** (พิพิธภัณฑ์ทรัพยากรธรณี)

Located on the first floor of the Emerald Building next to the Department of Mineral Resources on Rama VI Road, the museum is attached to the Bureau of Geological Survey, Department of Mineral Resources, and was established in 1948. It exhibits minerals, rocks, fossils as well as ancient tools made from minerals and rocks in 3 sections: 1. Geology, featuring the Earth, plate movements, earthquakes, minerals and rocks, geological surveys, ground water and fossils; 2. Mineral Resources, displaying specimens of gemstones and precious stones, uses of minerals, mineral fuels, petroleum and minerals from abroad; 3. Special Exhibition, currently showcasing dinosaur fossils in Thailand.

*Open: Mon – Fri from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.*

*Admission: Free.*

*Tel: 0 2202 3670, Fax. 0 2202 3754*

### **House of Museums. (บ้านพิพิธภัณฑ์)**

The House of Museums is located at 170/17 Mu 17, Khlong Pho Land, Soi Khlong Pho 2, Sala Thammasop Road, Thawi Watthana, Bangkok 10170. It is accessible by driving along Phutthamonthon Sai 2 Road toward the railway track or Khlong Maha Sawat. At the end of the road, turn left onto Sala Thammasop Road and follow the sign to the museum. The exhibition features a collection of old as well as modern items of various uses of both townspeople and villagers such as toys, books, stationery and kitchen and household utensils, forming a legacy of the past to be inherited by the present. The modern 3½-storey building of 3 chambers covers a total area of 232 square metres. The first floor lends an old atmosphere of shop houses before 1957 including a café, drugstore, barber's, etc. There are rooms displaying alternate exhibitions on various topics, as well.

*Open: Sat-Sun from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Adult 30 baht, Child 10 baht*

*Tel: 08 9666 2008, 08 9200 2803*



*Jim Thompson Museum*

### **Jim Thompson Museum** (พิพิธภัณฑ์จิม ทอมป์สัน)

This collection of traditional Thai-style houses, fashioned into one dwelling, belongs to the man who helped restore the Thai silk industry after World War II, and today, preserved as a museum, contains a priceless collection of Asian objects d'art. The canalside museum is located in Soi Kasemsan 2 on Rama I Road opposite the National Stadium.

*Open: Daily from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Adult 100 baht, Child 50 baht.*

*Tel: 0 2216 7368 [www.jimthompsonhouse.com](http://www.jimthompsonhouse.com)*

### **Kamthieng House** (เรือนคำเที่ยง)

Located at 131 Sukhumvit Soi 21 Road (Asok) inside the compound of the Siam Society under Royal Patronage, Kamthieng House was originally built in Chiang Mai some 150 years ago. The traditional northern-style house was later donated to be under the care of the Siam Society and was demolished to be reconstructed in Bangkok. It serves as a folk, ethnological museum exhibiting the way of life of the Northerners and various household items and equipment used in their daily life.

*Open: Tues–Sat from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Adult 100 baht, Child 50 baht.*



*King Prajadhipok Museum*

*Tel: 0 2661 6470-7 or [www.siam-society.org](http://www.siam-society.org).*

**King Prajadhipok Museum** (พิพิธภัณฑ์พระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว)

The museum is located at the preserved building of the Public Works Department at the foot of Phan Fa Lilat Bridge at the corner of Lan Luang Road in Phra Nakhon District. The building is of King Rama VI's – King Rama VII's neo-classic architecture built in 1906. It was renovated by King Prajadhipok's Institute to serve as a museum exhibiting a rare collection of King Rama VII's personal belongings as well as photographs, documents and biography of Thailand's first constitutional monarch. It has become the first perfect monarchic museum, using modern technology in giving explanations and guidance. Significant events and stories relating to King Rama VII are also exhibited including the succession to the throne, the king's biography before his accession to the throne, royal activities, political reform, promulgation of the constitution, royal utensils and memorabilia, as well as his life after abdication and death in the United Kingdom. The demolished Sala Chaloem Krung Theatre which used to stand in the nearby area is imitated with old films being projected.

*Open: Tue-Sun from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. including public holidays*

*Admission: Free*

*Tel: 0 2280 3413-4, [www.kpm.in.th](http://www.kpm.in.th) or [www.kingprajadhipokmuseum.org](http://www.kingprajadhipokmuseum.org)*

**Mr. Kukrit's Heritage Home** (บ้าน ม.ร.ว.คึกฤทธิ์)

Located at 19 Soi Phra Phinit, Sathon Tai Road, the traditional Thai style



house belonged to the late M.R.Kukrit Pramoj, a former Prime Minister who contributed significantly to the country's politics as well as arts. The residential complex comprises a group of 5 teakwood buildings of different sizes as well as a sitting-hall (Ho Nok) and Buddha image hall (Ho Phra), all built on posts with a connected balcony. There is a large traditional Thai style pavilion situated separately from the living compound for various activities.

*Open: Daily (except Songkran Day and New Year Day) from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Adult 50 baht, child 20 baht*

*Tel: 0 2286 8185, 0 2287 2937-8 Fax: 0 2679 3630 [www.kukritshousefund.com](http://www.kukritshousefund.com)*

### **Madame Tussauds Bangkok** (พิพิธภัณฑ์มาดามทุสโซ)

is located on the 6th floor of the Siam Discovery department store on Rama I Road, Pathum Wan District. It is the 10th branch of the world famous wax museum, with more than seventy waxworks on display. Visitors can pose for photos with every mannequin. The museum is divided into rooms of important figures representing famous persons and world benefactors; such as, a room of history and important persons, room of art and science, room of favourite sportsmen, room of pop singers, room of celebrities' party on the red carpet, room of TV stars, etc.

*Open: Daily from 10.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Adult 800 baht, Child 600 baht for children (5-12 years). Admission is free for children below five years old.*

*Tel: 0 2658 0060 or [www.madametussauds.com/bangkok](http://www.madametussauds.com/bangkok)*

### **Museum of Imaging Technology** (พิพิธภัณฑ์เทคโนโลยีทางภาพ)

This is the first museum of cameras and photographs of Thailand and Asia located at the Department of Photographic Science and Printing Technology Building, Faculty of Science. It collects as well as portrays the history of photograph-taking, evolution of cameras from past to present, electronic imaging, photographic accessories, film manufacturing, 3-dimensional images and photography, principles of light and colour and also contemporary photographs.

*Open: Mon-Fri from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.*

*Admission: 100 baht*

*Tel: 0 2218 5581-3 or [www.sc.chula.ac.th/photo](http://www.sc.chula.ac.th/photo)*



*Museum Siam Discovery Museum*

**Museum Siam Discovery Museum** (มิวเซียมสยาม พิพิธภัณฑ์การเรียนรู้) is located on Sanam Chai Road in Phra Nakhon District, in the former building of the Ministry of Commerce. This building won an outstanding award of art and architecture preservation in 2006 from the committee on art and architecture preservation of the Association of Siamese Architects under the Royal Patronage of His Majesty the King (ASA).

The museum serves as a learning centre on ethnology, anthropology, and other fields related to Thai society and Southeast Asia, in order to instil consciousness and understanding of the Thai people in their history, nation, culture, and localities, as well as connect relative ties with neighbouring countries. New methods of a display with modern media have been applied to enable participation of visitors in learning and understanding historical stories of the Thai nation. The contents on display in the form of the 'Essays on Thailand' have been divided into 16 rooms in the three-storey building. The first floor exhibits rooms of 'Immersive Theater' and 'Typically Thai.' The second floor displays rooms of the 'Map Room,' 'Bangkok, New Ayutthaya,' 'Village Life,' 'Change,' 'Politics and Communications,' 'Thailand and the World,' 'Thailand Today,' and 'Thailand Tomorrow.' The third floor includes rooms of 'Introduction to Suvarnabhumi,' 'Suvarnabhumi,' 'Buddhism,' 'Founding of Ayutthaya,' 'Siam,' and the 'War Room.' Visitors will gain knowledge and enjoy themselves from visiting each exhibition room. In addition, learning activities are organised for youth and aficionados of museums.

*Open : Tues-Sun from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

*Tel: 0 2225 2777, 0 2622 2599, Fax: 0 2225 2775 or [www.ndmi.or.th](http://www.ndmi.or.th).*

### **Museum of Thai Pharmacy.** (พิพิธภัณฑ์เภสัชกรรมไทย)

The museum is located on the third floor of the Pharmaceutical Association of Thailand under Royal Patronage Building at 40 Soi Santisuk, Sukhumvit 38 Road (diagonally opposite Soi Thong Lo). It was established to publicize traditional Thai medicine from past to present for later generations to learn and treasure. The exhibition is featured by various topics; namely, the Birth of Pharmacy, the Evolution of Oriental Pharmacy and Basic Wisdom, the Evolution of Western Thai Pharmacy and the Evolution of Herbs and Natural Products. (Advance contact in writing is required for a group visit.)

*Open: Mon-Fri from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

*Tel: 0 2391 6243, 0 2712 1627-8 [www.thaipharma.net](http://www.thaipharma.net)*

### **National Gallery Museum** (พิพิธภัณฑ์สถานแห่งชาติ หอศิลป์)

Situated on Chao Fa Road at the foot of Phra Pinklao Bridge, the museum is a former location of the Royal Thai Mint and now exhibits collections of both traditional Thai and contemporary arts by past as well as present famous artists of Thailand. Oil paintings by His Majesty the King are also exhibited here.

*Open: Wed-Sun from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.*

*Admission: 200 baht.*

*Tel: 0 2224 1370, 0 2282 2639-40, 0 2282 8525, 0 2282 0637*

### **National Museum** (พิพิธภัณฑ์สถานแห่งชาติ พระนคร)

A former palace of the Wang Na or second king - Kromphra ratchawangbowon Mahasurasinghanat - built simultaneously with the Grand Palace, the complex comprises several major throne halls such as Phra Thinang Siwamok Phiman, Phra Thinang Phutthaisawan and Phra Thinang Itsara Winitchai. In the reign of King Rama V, a national museum was first established at the Concordia Hall and known as "Miosiam" before being transferred to where it is now located. Currently, the second king's palace also houses Thammasat University, Bangkok Fine Arts College, Bangkok Dramatic Arts College and National Theatre.



The complex also accommodates Wat Bowonsathan Sutthawat otherwise known as Wat Phra Kaeo Wang Na. The National Museum exhibits a large variety of antiquities and objets d'art, which represent the cultural heritage of Thailand and neighbouring countries. The Bangkok National Museum won the Award of Excellence in the category of Tourism Promotion Organisations and Projects of the Thailand Tourism Awards 2002 from its "Museum Education for the Public" project, the main objective of which was to encourage appreciation in the country's cultural heritage in the local community for tourism purposes.

*Open: Wed- Sun from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.*

*Admission: 200 baht*

*Guided tours in English, French, German, and Japanese are provided on Wednesday and Thursday of the week.*

*Tel: 0 2224 1370, 0 2224 1333 [www.finearts.go.th](http://www.finearts.go.th)*

### **National Science Museum** (พิพิธภัณฑ์วิทยาศาสตร์แห่งชาติ)

Located in Tambon Khlong 5, Amphoe Khlong Luang, Pathum Thani, within the compound of the Technopolis complex, 4 kilometres off the Rangsit - Nakhon Nayok Road, the museum is distinguished due to its design into a die shape. Inside the building displays an exhibition of science through modern technology and inventions that visitors can use for conducting research, an experiment or self-learning so that they will see the connection of science and daily life and obtain knowledge with fun. It is to strengthen understanding in science and technology to youth and the general public. On the 1st floor is a photo gallery, scientific pieces of work and a gigantic globe. On the 2nd floor lies a life-like reconstruction of "Lucy" fossils, which is a presentation of the creation of the first human being, a spaceship and a replica of an astronaut. On the 3rd floor is a shadow tunnel and wooden house to present the information on light, while the 4th floor exhibits basic information and technology in Thailand, geographical, geological and ecological characteristics, agricultural production, as well as construction technology. On the 5th floor, there is an analysis of human parts and utensils used in daily life. On the 6th floor is a presentation on Thai folk intellect, a natural science museum which manifests knowledge on natural science, various academic papers, a display of animal skulls, animal horns, fossils, stuffed birds donated by the Lekhakun Family, as well as, an exhibition of Dr. Bunsong Lekhakun's biography and discoveries of Thai scientists.

*Open: Tues– Sun and public holidays [from 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. (Tues–Fri), 9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (weekend and public holidays)]*

*Admission: Adult 60 baht, Child 20 baht.*



*Pom Phra Chulachomklao or Pom Phra Chun*

*Tel: 0 2577 9999 or [www.nsm.or.th](http://www.nsm.or.th)*

**Philatelic Museum and Library** (พิพิธภัณฑ์และห้องสมุดตราไปรษณียากร)

Located on the 2nd floor of the Metropolitan Postal Bureau (North) (behind Sam Sen Nai Post Office), Phahonyothin Road, Sam Sen Sub-district, it displays the history of the Thai postal service and development of Thai stamps from the past until present time. Moreover, “Solot”, the first Thai stamps used in the reign of King Rama V and the foreign ones of the member countries of the Universal Postal Union are on display. Also, there is a library collecting books and knowledge on post both in Thai and foreign languages. In the same area, stamps and accessories for stamp collection are on sale at the ground floor of the building. Next to the museum, there is also a room imitating the operational site and equipment of the post office in the past, providing services of postal money orders, selling stamps, etc. In front of the building, Thai postal boxes in various periods, as well as, those from foreign countries are exhibited.

*Open: Wed–Sun from 8.30 a.m to 4.30 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

*Tel: 0 2271 2439*

**Pom Phra Chulachomklao or Pom Phra Chun** (ป้อมพระจุลจอมเกล้า หรือ ป้อมพระจุล)

Pom Phra Chun is situated at the mouth of the Chao Phraya River, Laem

Fa Pha Sub-district, Phra Samut Chedi District. Visitors can get there using Suksawat Road (Highway 303) from Phra Samut Chedi Intersection for approximately 7 kilometres. It was a modern fortress and had a significant role in protecting the nation's sovereignty. It was a fortress used to fight against unfriendly forces in 1893 and is forever in the memory of all Thais and a very important part of Thai history. It is because during that time, King Rama V realized that Britain and France were seeking colonies and those next to Thai boundaries were already colonized. The king, thus, searched for various methods to prevent this of happening to the country, especially the protection of the waters of Thailand. He commanded that the fortresses at the river mouth be renovated and re-equipped and also hired a foreigner who was a naval specialist as a consultant for planning the development of the Thai navy. Inside Pom Phra Chulachomklao, nowadays, lie many interesting things; namely, the statue of King Chulalongkorn and the H.M.S. Maeklong Museum which was the longest-commissioned warship in the Royal Thai Navy. It was used for more than 60 years. Also, there is a Naval Historical Park, consisting of an exhibition hall displaying pictures of destruction from wars and those of the development of the Royal Thai Navy, an exhibition of outdoor weapons and their parts, presenting the evolution of the navy in protecting the country. Moreover, there is an ecotourism study route. Tourists can visit the mangrove where herons, seagulls, giant mudskippers, ghost crabs and fiddler crabs inhabit.

*Open: Daily from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. (Visitors have to ask for permission from the security guard at the front gate and exchange their identification card prior to entry.)*

*Admission: Free.*

*Tel: 0 2475 6109, 0 2475 6072,*

### **Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Centre (ศูนย์มานุษยวิทยาสิรินธร)**

Located on Borom Ratchonnani Road beyond the Southern Bus Terminal, this centre is a national institution responsible for systematic gathering processing and servicing of anthropological data scattered throughout the country. A variety of exhibitions on Social and Cultural Development in Thailand, Ethno-Archaeology, Thai Ceramic Collections, as well as the Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's Biography can be viewed.

*Open: Mon- Sat from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

*Tel: 0 2880 9429 [www.sac.or.th](http://www.sac.or.th)*



### **Rattanakosin Exhibion Hall** (นิทรรศน์รัตนโกสินทร์)

is located on Ratchadamnoen Klang Avenue in the old building next to the Lan Phlapphla Maha Chetsada Bodin Pavilion. The Crown Property Bureau renovated and decorated the original building to become a learning centre compiling historical knowledge and information, arts, and culture of the Rattanakosin Era, which is the most complete one of its kind in Thailand. The building location is compared to the gateway to Krung Rattanakosin; it was a starting point to enter the zone of the royal capital in the past. Inside the three-storeyed building is an exhibition of the Rattanakosin Era presented with modern technology, display media, models, and virtual four-dimensional mixed-media. Visitors can experience and learn by themselves. There are also animated cartoons. A guide is provided in each of the nine exhibition rooms. The building's corners on both sides serve as a viewpoint looking over the surroundings. A coffee shop with clear glass walls offers a beautiful sight of Loha Prasat (metal castle) of Wat Ratchanatda and the Golden Mount of Wat Sa Ket. Furthermore, there is a library, and souvenirs, food, and beverage shops.

*Open: Tues-Fri (11.00 a.m.-8.00 p.m.), Sat-Sun 10.00 a.m.-8.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Adult 200 baht, Child 50 baht for children not over 110-cm tall. Admission is free for students in uniform or those producing their student card, Buddhist monks and novices, the elderly older than 60 years old, and the disabled.*

*Tel: 0 2621 0044 [www.nitasrattanakosin.com](http://www.nitasrattanakosin.com)*

### **Royal Barge National Museum** (พิพิธภัณฑ์สถานแห่งชาติ เรือพระราชพิธี)

Thailand's ornately carved and decorated Royal Barges are displayed in boatsheds on Khlong (Canal) Bangkok Noi, just off the Chao Phraya River near Phra Pin Klao Bridge on the Thon Buri side. The barges are used on royal occasions and formerly served as war vessels.

*Open: Daily from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.*

*Admission: 100 baht*

*Tel: 0 2424 0004*

### **Science Centre for Education** (ศูนย์วิทยาศาสตร์เพื่อการศึกษา) (ท้องฟ้าจำลอง)

Situated next to the Eastern Bus Terminal (Ekkamai) on Sukhumvit Road, this is an exhibition centre on a variety of scientific knowledge. Among the attractions are a planetarium, an aquarium as well as permanent exhibitions of sports science, communication technology and natural environment.



*Suan Pakkad Palace*

*Open: Exhibition: Tue- Sun (except public holidays) from 9.00 a.m.-4.30 p.m.*

*Planetarium: 1-hour shows at 11.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. Additional shows on Sat & Sun at 10.00 a.m., 11.00 a.m. and 1.30 p.m., 2.30 p.m.*

*Admission: Adult 30 baht, Child 20 baht*

*Tel: 0 2392 5951-5 [www.sciplanet.org](http://www.sciplanet.org)*

### **Siriraj Museum** (พิพิธภัณฑ์การแพทย์ศิริราช)

Located on the 2nd floor of the Adulyadej Vikrom Building inside Siriraj Hospital on Phran Nok Road, Thon Buri District, which is Thailand's first medical institute. The museum comprises the Congdon Anatomical Museum, Songkran Niyomsane Forensic Medicine Museum, Prehistoric Museum, Pathology Museum and Traditional Thai Medicines Museum.

*Open : Mon-Sat from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.*

*Admission: 40 baht*

*Tel: 0 2419 7000 ext. 6363, 6364*

### **Suan Pakkad Palace** (วังสวนผักกาด)

Located on Si Ayutthaya Road, this complex of five Thai-style houses was once the residence of one of Thailand's leading art collectors, Prince Chumbhot of Nagara Svarga. It houses an extensive collection

of Asian art and antiques, including items from the prehistoric Ban Chiang civilisation, and also an impressive collection of sea-shells. Khon (classical Thai masked dance) Museum and Traditional Thai Music Museum are also established here.

*Open: Daily from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.*

*Admission: 100 baht*

*Tel: 0 2246 1775-6, 0 2246 0568, 0 2246 2852 ext 229, 0 2245 4934*

*www.suanpakkad.com*

### **Sunthorn Museum** (พิพิธภัณฑ์สุนทร)

Situated at 82/10 Sukhaphiban 1 (off Phetkasem Road near Lotus Supermarket), this is a private museum operated by Mr. Sunthorn Chunothisawat. It houses invaluable antiques from different periods such as BMW Motorcycles in the World War Periods, various kinds and types of old clock, lamps, children toys made out of zinc, Raio, Irons, type writers, Fans and sewing machines which are still being maintained in good condition.

*Open: Mon- Sat from 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Adult 100 baht, Child 50 baht*

*Tel: 0 2802 0863-4 www.sunthornmuseum.com*

**Thai Human Imagery Museum** (พิพิธภัณฑ์หุ่นขี้ผึ้งไทย) is located at 43/2 Mu 1, Borommaratchachonnani Road (Pinklao-Nakhon Chai Si), at Km. 31, Tambon Khun Kaeo. Visitors can see many life-like and beautiful fibreglass wax models. All of them are made by Khun Duangkaew Phityakornsilp and a group of Thai artists who had done experimental research for more than 10 years. The purpose to build this museum is to support, publicize, and conserve Thai culture and tradition. The project was set up in 1982 and the museum was first opened on 14 June, 1989. The building has 2 floors. On the first floor, there are 7 permanent exhibition rooms containing rooms to show sets of wax models as follows: The Great Buddhist Monks; Former Kings of the Chakri Dynasty; One side of Thai Life, which includes Playing Chess, Three Generations, Abolition of Slavery, etc. On the second floor, there are temporary exhibition rooms whose shows are changed depending on various occasions. Now, visitors can see the sets of wax models concerning Khru Phleng Thai - Thai song masters, world important persons, Thai literature, Phra Aphaimani in Sunthon Phu's novel, Thai children's folk games, and Thai history on this floor.

*Open: daily from 9.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. (weekdays), 8.30 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. (Weekends and public holidays)*





*Thai Human Imagery Museum*

*Admission: Adults 200 baht, Child 100 baht.*

*Tel. 0 3433 2109, 0 3433 2607, Fax. 0 3433 2061.*

**Thai Labour Museum.** (พิพิธภัณฑ์แรงงานไทย)

This museum is located at the former office of the State Railway of Thailand Labour Union on Nikhom Rotfai Road, Makkasan, Ratchathewi. It exhibits a historical background of Thai labour in 7 rooms: *Room 1*, slave labour and corvée system - the foundation of ancient Thai society - presenting the history of Thai labour since ancient times; *Room 2*, Chinese coolies - early hire workers - featuring their way of life; *Room 3*, labour and the country's reforms in the reign of King Rama V - a major transitional period in Thai history; *Room 4*, labourers and the 1932 Revolution - labourers before and after the revolution; *Room 5*, from World War to the Cold War - Thai labour under critical situations during World War II and the Cold War; *Room 6*, from the 14 October uprising to the economic crisis - life of Thai workers during the pro-democracy period, women and child labour, truck drivers and boxers; *Room 7*, labour artist Chit Phumisak - dedicated to Chit Phumisak, a significant thinker and intellectual. The exhibition in each room is displayed through various media such as television, slides and computer, which make it more interesting and easier to understand. The museum also provides a library service with books and research reports about labourers and computer training for workers.

*Open: Wed-Sun and Public holidays from 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

*Tel: 0 2251 3173 (Advance contact is required for a group visit.)*

*www.voicelabour.org*

### **Thai Life Permanent Exhibition Hall (หอไทยนิทัศน์)**

Located in the Thailand Cultural Centre on Ratchadaphisek Road, this is a venue for displaying the history of the Thai people and different aspects of Thai culture, as developed from pre-historic times up to the present. The exhibition is presented under five topics: The Evolution of the Thai Nation, Rice and Thai Way of Life, Thai Language and Literature, Thailand and the World, and Important Achievements and Events in Thai Society.

*Open: Mon-Fri (except public holidays) from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

*Tel: 0 2247 0028 ext. 4223-4 [www.culture.go.th](http://www.culture.go.th)*

### **The Press Museum. (พิพิธภัณฑ์หนังสือพิมพ์ไทย)**

Located in the same building as the Press Association of Thailand on Ratchasima Road, Dusit district (opposite Suan Dusit Rajabhat University), this is the first museum to have been established to enhance press occupation and be a source of study and information as well as valuable historical data about the Thai press from past to present. The exhibition is displayed through modern information technology. The first portion presents the press in the past by imitating the working atmosphere of reporters represented by wax models. Next are the political, economic as well as social roles of the press and biographies of outstanding personalities such as Dr. Bradley, Prince Narathipphongpraphan, M.R. Kukrit Pramoj, Kularb Saipradit, Malai Choopinij and Isra Amantakul. There are also images of King Rama IV – founder of Thailand's publishing business established to publish declarations and royal gazettes, the first newspaper for Thai people – and King Rama VI – a press king who granted freedom for newspaper publication. The museum features an exhibition on newspapers and magazines and provides a library service, as well.

*Open: Mon - Fri from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

*Tel: 0 2669 7124-5, Fax: 0 2243 5876 [www.thaipressasso.or.th](http://www.thaipressasso.or.th)*

### **The State Railway Hall of Fame (หอเกียรติภูมิรถไฟ)**

This is a train museum where steam engines, train models, and miniature trains are exhibited along with the story of world railway



*Vimanmek Mansion Museum*

systems. It is located on the western side of Chatuchak Park adjacent to Kamphaeng Phet Road.

*Open: Tue-Fri from 6.00 a.m. to 12.00 a.m., Sat-Sun from 6.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

*Tel: 08 1615 5776*

### **Vimanmek Mansion Museum** (พระที่นั่งวิมานเมฆ)

This is the world's largest golden teak building located in the compound of the Dusit Palace on Ratchawithi Road. The three-storey royal mansion has 81 rooms, halls and ante-chambers containing fin de siecle royal memorabilia. A guided tour in English is provided to visitors.

Other beautiful buildings in the same compound display various items and art objects; for example, H.M. King Bhumibol's photography, H.M. Queen Sirikit's collection of handicraft masterpieces created by rural people, paraphernalia of rank and portraits, old clocks, ancient cloth, and royal carriages.

*Open: Daily from 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are sold till 3.00 p.m. (The last Guided Tour is at 3:15 p.m.)*

*Admission: 100 baht (Proper attire is required)*



*Wat Arun (Temple of Dawn)*

*Tel: 0 2628 6300 ext. 5119-5121 [www.vimanmek.com](http://www.vimanmek.com)*

## **Temples**

### **Wat Arun (Temple of Dawn) (วัดอรุณ)**

This famous Chao Phraya riverbank landmark diagonally opposite the Grand Palace, is best known for a porcelain encrusted 79 metre central pagoda which sparkles in the sun. The temple can be reached either by Arun Amarin Road or by boat from Tha Tian Pier near Wat Pho.

*Open: Daily from 7.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.*

*Admission: 50 baht*

*Tel: 0 2465 5640, 0 2466 3167 [www.watarun.org](http://www.watarun.org)*

### **Wat Pho (วัดโพธิ์)**

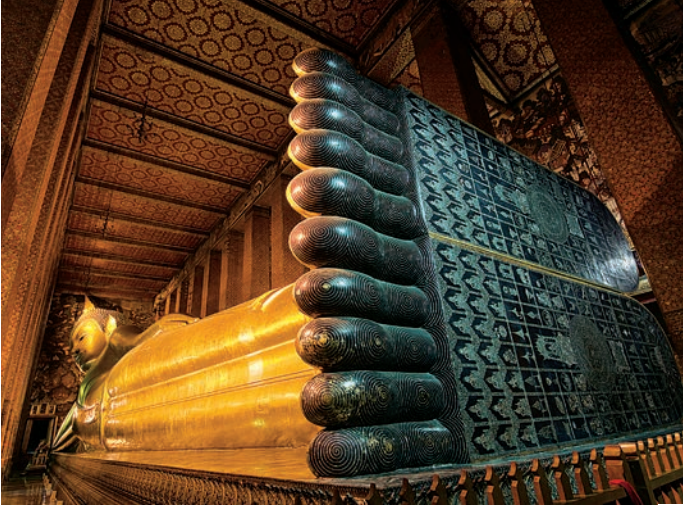
This large and extensive temple neighbours the Grand Palace enclave on Thai Wang Road and contains a gigantic gold plated Reclining Buddha some 46 metres long and 15 metres high with inlaid mother of pearl soles. The temple is also regarded as the first centre of public education and is sometimes called 'Thailand's first university'.

*Open: Daily from 8.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.*

*Admission: 50 baht*

*Tel: 0 2226 0335 [www.watpho.com](http://www.watpho.com) ; Wat Po Thai Traditional Massage*





*Wat Pho*

*School Tel: 0 2622 3551, 0 2221 3686 [www.watpomassage.com](http://www.watpomassage.com)*

*Wat Pho Thai Massage Tel: 08 4206 3774, 08 4206 3580 (behind the temple)*

**Wat Ratchapradit Sathitmahasimaram.** (วัดราชประดิษฐ์สถิตมหาสีมาราม)

Situated to the north of Saran Rom Park, the temple is relatively small and covers a total area of approximately 2 rai. It was built in the reign of King Rama IV who intended it to be a temple in the Dhammayutika Sect as well as to be one of the 3 major temples as required by an old tradition to be situated within the capital. The place was originally a royal coffee plantation in the reign of King Rama III. With his personal donation, King Rama IV bought the plantation and had a small temple constructed there, naming it "Wat Ratchapradit Sathitthammayutikaram". Later, he had the name changed to "Wat Ratchapradit Sathitma hasimaram". A place of interest in this temple is Phra Wihan Luang - the royal image hall - which houses mural paintings depicting "The Royal Ceremonies over 12 Months" and legend of the solar eclipse phenomenon.

*Open: Daily from 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

*Tel: 0 2222 0855, 0 2622 1030*

**Wat Ratchabophit** (วัดราชบพิธ)

The temple is located on Fuang Nakhon Road near Wat Pho. Built by

King Rama V in 1869, it was in keeping with tradition that each monarch constructed a temple to mark his reign. The temple is a mixture of local and western styles, showing an awakening interest in new ideas and a desire to experiment with them. The exterior of the chapel is in the Thai style, but the interior is decorated in the European style.

*Open: Daily from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

*Tel: 0 2222 3930, 0 2221 0904*

### **Wat Mahathat (วัดมหาธาตุ)**

This old temple was built in the reign of King Rama I. Located on Na Phrathat Road near Thammasat University, the temple houses Mahachulalongkorn Buddhist University, one of the two highest seats of Buddhist learning in Thailand and also offers meditation classes for foreigners.

*Open: Daily from 7.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

*Tel: 0 2221 1962, Meditation Centre: 0 2222 6011*

### **Wat Suthat and the Giant Swing (วัดสุทัศน์และเสาชิงช้า)**

Located on Bamrung Muang Road, this temple is noted for its superb 19th century murals in the main chapel. The distinctive Giant Swing outside the temple was once used in Brahmanic ceremonies long since discontinued. Nearby shops stock a very comprehensive range of Buddhist religious supplies.

*Open: Daily from 8.30 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.*

*Admission: 20 baht*

*Tel: 0 2222 6935 [www.watsuthat.org](http://www.watsuthat.org)*

### **Wat Bowon Niwet (วัดบวรนิเวศ)**

This temple is located on Phra Sumen Road in the Bang Lamphu area. Built in 1829, it is the shrine-hall of Phra Phutthachinnasi, a very beautiful Buddha image which was moulded in about 1357. This is one of the most important temples of Bangkok, whose one-time chief abbot was King Rama IV before he ascended the throne. King Rama IV and King Rama VII, as well as His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej had resided here during their monkhood.

*Open: Daily from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.*



*Wat Suthat and the Giant Swing*

*Admission : Free*

*Tel: 0 2281 2831-3*

### **Wat Intharawihan (วัดอินทรวีหาร)**

Located on Wisutkasat Road, this temple is well known for a huge standing Buddha image called Luang Pho To. The image, built in the reign of King Rama IV, is 32 metres tall and 10 metres wide. The topknot of the Buddha image contains a relic of Lord Buddha brought from Sri Lanka.

*Open: Daily from 6.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

*Tel: 0 2281 1406*

### **Wat Ratchaburana. (วัดราชบูรณะหรือวัดเลียบ)**

This temple is located at the foot of the Rama I Memorial Bridge on the Bangkok side. Built in the late Ayutthaya period by a Chinese merchant, it is otherwise known as Wat Liap and is one of the 3 principal temples of the capital which include Wat Ratchaburana, Wat Ratchapradit and Wat Mahathat. It had been regularly restored since the reign of King Rama I through to the reign of King Rama VII, except in the sixth reign. Some of the temple's principal buildings, especially Phra Ubosot – the ordination hall – which houses mural paintings by

Khrua In Khong, were badly damaged by bombing during World War II. The buildings were later restored to their good condition as they appear today.

*Open: Daily from 6.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

*Tel: 0 2225 1595*

### **Wat Ratchanatdaram (วัดราชนัสดาราม)**

Located on Mahachai Road, the temple was built in the reign of King Rama III in 1846. Loha Prasat, the temple's main attraction, standing 36 metres high with 37 surrounding spires, is the only one of its kind left in the world. Next to the temple is the area for welcoming an important foreign guest and a memorial statue of King Rama III.

*Open: Daily from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

*Tel: 0 2224 8807*

### **Wat Thepthidaram (วัดเทพธิดาราม)**

Located on Mahachai Road, the temple was built in the reign of King Rama III with a mixture of Chinese architectural styles. Sunthon Phu, one of Thailand's greatest poets, had resided in this temple during his monkhood from 1840-1842.

*Open: Daily from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

*Tel: 0 2222 5067*

### **Wat Saket and The Golden Mount (วัดสระเกศและภูเขาทอง)**

Wat Saket's major feature is the Golden Mount, dating from the 1800s. A Lanka-style chedi on the top contains relics of Lord Buddha and offers a panoramic view of historic Bangkok.

*Open: Daily from 7.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.*

*Admission: 10 baht*

*Tel: 0 2621 0576*

### **Wat Benchamabophit (วัดเบญจมบพิตร)**

Located on Si Ayutthaya Road, this unique marble temple was





*Wat Saket and The Golden Mount*

constructed during the reign of King Rama V. It employs European ecclesiastic details, such as stained glass windows, and contains a superb cloister collection of bronze Buddha images.

*Open: Daily from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.*

*Admission: 20 baht*

*Tel: 0 2281 2501, 0 2281 7413, 0 2280 4012, Fax: 0 2628 7947*

### **Wat Trai Mit (วัดไตรมิตรวิทยาราม)**

Located at the end of Chinatown's Yaowarat Road near Bangkok Railway Station, this temple houses an ancient solid gold seated Buddha image of the Sukhothai Period, three metres in height and weighing five and a half tons.

*Open: Daily from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.*

*Admission: 20 baht*

*Tel: 0 2225 9775*

## **Monuments**

**King Rama I the Great Memorial.** (พระบรมราชานุสาวรีย์พระบาทสมเด็จพระพุทธยอดฟ้าจุฬาโลกมหาราช)

Built in commemoration of Bangkok's 150th anniversary celebrations



*Democracy Monument*

in 1932, the monument is situated at the foot of Pathom Boromrachanuson or Rama I the Great Memorial Bridge on the Bangkok side. King Rama I was the first king in the Royal House of Chakri and founder of Bangkok as the capital of the Kingdom of Siam, as Thailand was formerly known. He was born in Ayutthaya, one of Thailand's former capitals, on 20 March, 1736, accessed to the throne on 6 April, 1782, and passed away 27 years later.

*Open: Daily*

*Admission: Free*

**King Rama III Memorial.** (พระบรมราชานุสาวรีย์พระบาทสมเด็จพระนั่งเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว)

The monument was built by the Fine Arts Department in 1990 near the Royal Reception Pavilion in front of Wat Ratchanatdaram on Ratchadamnoen Road. The bronze statue, half larger than life size, is seated on a throne. The surrounding area is decorated with beautiful plants, with the Royal Reception Pavilion and three minor pavilions known as Sala Rai nearby.

*Open: Daily*

*Admission: Free*

**King Rama VI Statue.** (พระบรมราชานุสาวรีย์พระบาทสมเด็จพระมงกุฎเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว)

Located in front of Lumpini Park, the statue was sculpted by Professor Corrado Feroci, or Silpa Bhirasri as he was called by his Thai name, who gave it a final touch on 7 June, 1941. It was open on 27 March, 1942.

*Open: Daily*

*Admission: Free*

**King Taksin the Great Monument.** (พระบรมราชานุสาวรีย์พระเจ้าตากสินมหาราช)

This is an equestrian statue situated at Wongwian Yai Circle on Prachathipok Road. The king is portrayed with his right hand holding a sword, measuring approximately 9 metres in height from his horse's feet to the spire of his hat. The statue rests on a reinforced concrete pedestal of 8.90 x 1.80 x 3.90 metres. There are four frames of stucco relief on the two sides of the pedestal. The opening ceremony of this monument was held on 17 April, 1954 and a homage-paying fair takes place annually on 28 December.

*Open: Daily*

*Admission: Free*

**Monument to the Expeditionary Force.** (อนุสาวรีย์ทหารอาสา)

Near a northern corner of Sanam Luang stands a monument to the Thai expeditionary force that fought in the European battlefield during World War I. After war broke out in 1914, Thailand joined the Allied Army to declare war on Germany and sent militia to Europe on 20 June, 1918. Upon their return to Thailand on 21 September, 1919, the ashes of dead veterans were taken to be enshrined here on 24 September, 1919.

*Open: Daily*

*Admission: Free*

**National Memorial.** (อนุสรณ์สถานแห่งชาติ)

It is located on Vibhavadi Rangsit Road slightly beyond Don Muang Railway Station. Covering an area of 38 rai, the National Memorial is under the responsibility of the Armed Force Education Department, Supreme Command Headquarters. There are wall paintings depicting historic events in Thai history from the Sukhothai period to Rattanakosin period, replicas of royal decorations, bas-reliefs of the

establishment of the city and models recounting historic battles in Thai history.

*Open: Mon- Fri from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

*Tel: 0 2532 1021. A speaker is available for a group visit but advance contact in writing is required.*

### **The Equestrian Statue of King Rama V the Great.** (พระบรมรูปทรงม้า)

Established in 1908 in the reign of King Rama V with a fund raised by the Thai people, the statue was cast in Paris by a French craftsman. The remaining fund was spent by King Rama VI on the establishment of "Chulalongkorn University", which was named after King Rama V.

*Open: Daily*

*Admission: Free*

### **Victory Monument.** (อนุสาวรีย์ชัยสมรภูมิ)

The monument is situated on Phahonyothin Road. It was constructed in 1941 under the premiership of Field Marshal Plaek Pibulsongkhram in order to praise the heroic deeds of soldiers, policemen and civilians who sacrificed their lives in a dispute between Thailand and France on the demarcation between Thailand and other Indochinese nations. The dispute ended with a compromise being agreed by the two parties, and 59 casualties. Victory Monument was, therefore, established as a memorial to their bravery.

*Open: Daily*

*Admission: Free*

## **Public Parks**

### **Benchasiri Park** (สวนเบญจศิริ)

This compact park on Sukhumvit Road near Soi 24 was built to commemorate the 60th birthday of HM Queen Sirikit in 1992. It features a huge sculpture of commemorative coin illustrating an image of HM Queen Sirikit and 12 pieces of contemporary sculptures including children's works.

*Open: Daily from 5.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*





*Benchasiri Park*

### **Benjakitti Park** (สวนเบญจกิติ)

This park is situated in the center of Bangkok in the area of the old Tobacco Factory nearby Queen Sirikit National Convention Center on Ratchadaphisek Road and Rama IV Road withing the area of 430 Rai. It was built to commemorate the 60th birthday of HM Queen Sirikit in 1992.

*Open: Daily from 5.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

### **Chatuchak Park** (สวนจตุจักร)

This is located at the junction of Phahonyothin and Vibhavadi Rangsit roads. There are nine pieces of ASEAN sculptures that enhance the character of the park.

*Open: Daily from 5.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

### **Queen Sirikit Park** (สวนสมเด็จพระนางเจ้าสิริกิติ์)

This is situated east of Chatuchak Park on Phahonyothin Road. It was built to commemorate the 60th birthday anniversary of HM Queen Sirikit. A big pool in the park contains three fountains and a fine collection of both Thai and foreign lotuses.

*Open: Daily from 5.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*



*Lumpini Park*

**Vachirabenjatas Park (Railway Park) สวนวชิรเบญจทัศ (สวนรถไฟ)**

Located on Kamphaeng Phet 2 Road and its areas connect to two other parks: Queen Sirikit Park and Chatuchak Park. This large public park covers an area of more than 375 rai, which was once known as the railway golf course. It serves as a place for relaxation and recreational activities. Facilities in the park include a sports centre, bicycle-for-rent service, the Bangkok Butterfly Garden and Insectarium, the Buddhadasa Indapanno Archives, etc.

*Open: Daily from 5.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

### **Lumpini Park** (สวนลุมพินี)

This was a huge open space once belonging to King Rama VI, who issued a royal command to turn the area into a public park as a gift to Bangkok residents. It is located on Rama IV Road, between Ratchadamri and Witthayu (Wireless) roads, with entrance gates on all sides.

*Open: Daily from 5.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

### **Princess Mother Memorial Park** (อุทยานเฉลิมพระเกียรติสมเด็จพระศรีนครินทราบรมราชชนนี)

This beautiful park is located on Soi 3 Somdet Chao Phraya Road, Khlong San District. It was built near the Wat Anongkharam community where Somdej Phra Srinagarindra Boromarajajonani, HRH the Princess Mother had resided during her childhood. The park comprises a full scale model of the Princess Mother's house and the old buildings renovated as exhibition halls displaying the life story of Her Royal Highness the Princess Mother as well as the history of the Wat Anongkharam community.

*Open: Garden - Daily from 6.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. (except public holidays)*

*Museum - Daily from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. (except public holidays)*

*Admission: Free*

*Tel: 0 2437 7799, 0 2439 0902 [www.theprincessmothermemorialpark.org](http://www.theprincessmothermemorialpark.org)*

### **Rommaninat Park** (สวนรมณีนาถ)

This is a public park built on the old prison grounds on Mahachai Road near Wat Suthat. The Corrections Museum inside the park displays instruments of punishment and evolution of punishment in Thailand.

*Open: Park - Daily from 5.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.*

*Museum - Thu to Sat from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

### **Santi Chai Prakan Pavilion and Public Park.** (พระที่นั่งและสวนสาธารณะสันติชัยปราการ)

The park is on Phra Athit Road on the bank of the Chao Phraya River. It was constructed near Phra Sumen Fort under the cooperation between the Royal Thai Government and the general public to mark the auspicious occasion of the sixth cycle birthday anniversary of His Majesty the King on 5 December, 1999. The spacious area provides a pleasant atmosphere as well as a scenic view of the Chao Phraya River

and the Rama VIII Bridge. It is popular among both Thais and foreigners, especially from the nearby Bang Lamphu community.

*Open: Daily*

*Admission: Free*

### **Saranrom Park** (สวนสราญรมย์)

Located near the Grand Palace between Rachini and Charoenkrung roads, this park was originally a royal garden in the Saranrom Palace. At the south end of the park is a marble monument dedicated to HM Queen Sunantha Kumareerat and HRH Prince Kannaporn Phetcharat, who died in a boating accident in the reign of King Rama V.

*Open: Daily from 5.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

### **Suan Luang Rama IX** (สวนหลวง ร. 9)

The 200-acre botanical garden-cum-public park is located deep inside Sukhumvit Soi 103 (Udomsuk) and was opened in 1987 to commemorate the 60th birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

*Open: Daily from 5.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.*

*Admission: 10 baht.*

*Tel: 0 2328 1395, 0 2328 1385-6*

## **Zoos / Animals Farms**

### **Dusit Zoo** (สวนสัตว์ดุสิต)

Located beside the Royal Plaza, Bangkok's oldest zoo contains a collection of popular African and Asian mammals and birds in an ornamental garden.

*Open: Mon-Fri from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. , Sat-Sun from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00p.m.*

*Admission: Adult 100 baht; Child 50 baht*

*Tel: 0 2281 2000, 0 2281 9027-8 [www.zoothailand.org](http://www.zoothailand.org), [www.dusitzoo.org](http://www.dusitzoo.org)*

### **Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute (Snake Farm)** (สถานเสาวภา สภากาชาดไทย)

Located near Chulalongkorn Hospital on the corner of Henri Dunant Road and Rama IV Road, this institute contains a collection of poisonous





*Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute (Snake Farm)*

snakes which are “milked” daily for their venom in order to produce invaluable anti-snakebite serum.

*Open: Mon–Fri from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.; Sat, Sun and Public Holidays from 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.*

*Venom extraction: Mon–Fri at 11.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.; holidays at 11.00 a.m.*

*Admission: Adult 200 baht; Child 50 baht*

*Tel: 0 2252 0161-4*

### **Safari World (ซาฟารีเวิลด์)**

Bangkok’s greatest open zoo and leisure park is located in Min Buri, via Km. 9 on Raminthra Road. The 300-acre complex comprises a Safari Park populated by African and Asian mammals, a Marine Park with amusing performances of well-trained dolphins and seals, a Bird Park and a Games Corner.

*Open: Mon–Fri from 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.; Sat, Sun and Public Holidays from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Adult 800 baht; Child 500 baht*

*Tel: 0 2518 1000-19, 0 2914 4100-19 [www.safariworld.com](http://www.safariworld.com)*



*Samut Prakan Crocodile Farm and Zoo*

### **Samphran Elephant Ground & Zoo** (ลานแสดงช้างและฟาร์มจระเข้สามพราน)

Located on the Phetchakasem Road at Km.30 marker, 1 Km. before the Rose Garden in Nakhon Pathom. It occupies an area of 130 Rais (about 52 acres). There are various kinds of animals on display and show. There are daily elephant shows, elephant ride around the compound, elephant musical shows, crocodile-wrestling shows, and magic shows. *Crocodile wrestling shows* commence at 12.45 a.m., 2.20 p.m. and 4.20 p.m. (Mondays-Saturdays), additional show times for Sunday are 11.00 a.m., 4.05 p.m. and 4.50 p.m. *Magic shows* commence at 1.15 p.m., 3.00 p.m. (Mondays-Saturdays), additional show- time for Sunday is 11.30 a.m. *Elephant musical shows* commence at 1.45 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. (Mondays-Saturdays), additional show time for Sunday is 12.00 a.m. *Travel in the park by elephant riding* on Mondays – Sundays, at 10.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m., at 2.20 p.m. - 3.20 p.m.

*Open: Daily from 8.30 a.m.-5.30 p.m.*

*Admission: Adult 500 Baht, child 300 Baht..*

*Tel: 0 3431 1971, 0 3432 1471, 0 2429 0361-2 Fax: 0 2429 0455 Bangkok,  
Tel: 0 2284 0273, 0 2284 1873, 0 2295 2938-9*

*Fax: 0 2294 5211 or [www.elephantshow.com](http://www.elephantshow.com).*

### **Samut Prakan Crocodile Farm and Zoo** (ฟาร์มจระเข้และสวนสัตว์สมุทรปราการ)

Located on Thai Ban Road in Tambon Thai Ban, approximately 30 kilometres from Bangkok in Samut Prakan province, it is also accessible by old Sukhumvit Road, Thetsaban Bang Pu Soi 46. It was established in 1950 and is at present the world's largest crocodile farm, where more than 60,000 crocodiles of various sizes are bred. There are daily crocodile shows every hour during 9.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. (with a lunch break), with additional shows at 12.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. on holidays. There is also daily elephant shows every hour during 9.30 a.m.-4.30 p.m. The zoo provides a home for tigers, chimpanzees, gibbons, turtles, snakes, birds, camels, hippopotamus, deer and schools of fish, as well. There is a dinosaur museum where skeletons and models of dinosaurs are exhibited as well as a slide multivision of primitive man and animals.

*Open: daily from 7.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Adult 300 baht, Child 200 baht.*

*Tel: 0 2703 4891-3, 0 2703 5144-8.*

### **Siam Ocean World** (สยามโอเชียนเวิลด์)

The largest aquarium in Southeast Asia, exhibiting over 30,000 marine animals from all over the world and featuring a wide range of rare and exotic species. The area of the aquarium spans over 10,000 square meters, as wide as two football fields, and uses world-class advanced technology to provide a rewarding underwater experience to visitors. Feel like you are walking under the ocean and be amazed with the fascinating underwater world. It is Situated on B1-B2 floors of Siam Paragon, an extravagant department store located in the heart of the metropolis. For the brave and adventurous, the aquarium also offers a 'Dive with the Sharks Program' where you can scuba dive in our Oceanarium side by side with sharks and rays. Siam Ocean World also features a state-of-the-art 4D theatre, "Sanyo 4D Xventure" that will excite your senses with unexpected surprises. 4D movie opens daily from 10.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. (last show). A visit to Siam Ocean World is truly a memorable experience and a must do when you are in Bangkok.

*Open: Daily from 10.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Adult 1,000 baht, Child 800 baht*

*Tel: 0 2687 2000 or [www.siamoceanworld.com](http://www.siamoceanworld.com).*

## Amusements Parks

### **Dream World** (ดรีมเวิลด์)

Situated at km.7 of Rangsit-Ongkharak Road, this large amusement park houses a European style plaza, miniature land of major world legends, and offer exciting rides, shows and games.

*Open: Weekdays from 10.00 a.m.to 5.00 p.m. Holidays from 10.00 a.m.to 7.00 p.m*

*Admission: 750 baht (including Snow Town), 550 baht*

*Tel: 0 2533 1152 [www.dreamworld-th.com](http://www.dreamworld-th.com)*

### **Siam Park City** (สวนสยาม)

Located in suburban Min Buri on Sukhaphiban 2 Road, this water amusement park contains a man-made sea with towering slides. Satellite attractions include children's playgrounds, aviaries, an open zoo and a botanical garden.

*Open: Daily from 10.00 a.m.to 6.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Siam Day Pass 900 baht, Siam Fantasy Pass ( only for Water Park ) 300 baht.*

*Tel: 0 2919 7200-19 [www.siamparkcity.com](http://www.siamparkcity.com)*

### **Wonder World Extreme Park** (สวนสนุกวันเดอร์ เวิลด์)

Located on Kanchanaphisek Road (Ram Inthra Road Km. 10), opposite the Fashion Island department store, Khan Na Yao District

*Open: Daily from 1.00 p.m.-10.00 p.m.*

*Admission: Free*

*Tel: 0 2918 1444, 0 2918 1001 [www.wonderworldextremepark.com](http://www.wonderworldextremepark.com)*

In addition to the amusement parks as mentioned above, many leading department stores in Bangkok also provide an indoor amusement area such as *Fantasia Lagoon* at the Mall (Bang Khae), Tel: 0 2487 1000, *The Mall* (Bang Kapi), Tel: 0 2173 1000, *Leo Land* at Central City (Bangna), Tel: 0 2361 0888, *Seacon Square* (Si Nakharin), Tel: 0 2721 8888, *Imperial World* (Samrong), Tel: 0 2756 8217-9, *Fashion Island*, Tel: 0 2947 5000, and so on.

## Shopping Areas and Markets

Shopping in Bangkok is not limited to one or two major streets. There

are many areas throughout Bangkok affording ample choices and easy access. The following is just a selection of some of the principal shopping areas.

### **Ploenchit-Ratchaprasong** (เพลินจิต-ราชประสงค์)

Top department stores and luxury shopping malls are concentrated in the area, namely Central World, Gaysorn Plaza, Isetan, Zen, Erawan Bangkok, Peninsula Plaza, all of which together make the largest shopping promenade in Bangkok. Ratchaprasong intersection is the gateway to several shopping areas such as Phloenchit-Sukhumvit, Siam Square-Mahboonkrong, Silom and Pratunam-Phetchaburi.

### **Silom-Surawong-Patpong** (สีลม-สุรวงศ์-ปทุมพงษ์)

Silom Road is the main artery of Bangkok's commercial heart and is paralleled by Surawong Road, while Patpong runs crosswise between the two. In addition to housing dozens of specialist shops and boutiques representing all the major buys, this area also boasts many branches of well-known retailers and several shopping plazas. Street stalls also abound, most notably at Patpong's famous night market.

### **Silom-Mahesak-Charoenkrung Road** (สีลม-มหะศักดิ์-เจริญกรุง)

Silom leads into Charoen Krung Road which parallels the Chao Phraya River, and notable shopping opportunities include gems and jewellery stores (Mahesak Road is a gem trading centre), Oriental Plaza and River City shopping complex.

### **Sukhumvit** (สุขุมวิท)

Like Silom, Sukhumvit is one of Bangkok's main thoroughfares, and the long road is lined with shops, boutiques and modern shopping plazas ranging from Soi 3 (Nana Nua) up to Soi 63 (Ekkamai). Most shops and restaurants are concentrated between Soi 3 and Soi 21 (Asok) and along shortcuts between Asok and Ekkamai.

Sombat Permpoon Gallery at Sukhumvit Soi 1 sells both paintings and sculptures by established artists and those of the new generation.

### **Siam Paradise Night Bazaar** (สยาม พาราไดซ์ ไนท์บาร์ซ่า)

Is opposite Soi Sukhumvit 101/1, offering products for Thai and foreign tourists from 4.00 p.m.-12.00 p.m.



### **Pratunam-Phetchaburi** (ประตูน้ำ-เพชรบุรี)

A highlight in the district is Pratunam market, one of Bangkok's biggest centres for ready-to-wear clothing.

### **Baiyoke Tower** (ตึกใบหยก)

Located next to Bangkok's tallest hotel building, Baiyoke tower is one of the city's renowned garment centres.

### **Nai Lert Plaza** (ศูนย์การค้านายเลิศ)

Situated close to Pratunam Market, Nai Lert Market is one of many shopping areas in Bangkok where you can buy just about everything from clothing to handicrafts.

### **Bang Lamphu** (บางลำพู)

Situated close to the Grand Palace, Bang Lamphu has a lively market where clothing is a popular buy.

### **Chinatown** (ย่านเยาวราช)

Centre on Yaowarat Road and Sampheng Lane, Bangkok's Chinatown offers a profusion of gold shops as well as several nearby traditional shopping places such as Ban Mo Jewellery Street, Phahurat Cloth Market and the Old Siam Plaza.

### **Bo-be Market** (ตลาดโบ๊เบ๊)

Situated close to Bangkok Railway Station, Bo-be is one of the city's renowned ready-to-wear clothing centres, both wholesale and retail.

### **Jatujak or Chatuchak Weekend Market** (ตลาดนัดจตุจักร)

Located adjacent to Chatuchak Park, the weekend market, open on Saturday and Sunday, is a Bangkok landmark where you can buy just about everything from clothing to potted plants and everything in between - a paradise for browsers and bargain-hunters alike. The market also offers items of furniture and home decor. It is also where professional and amateur art-lovers and artists meet.

### **Pak Khlong Talat** (ปากคลองตลาด)

This is a wholesale market for all kinds of cut flowers and vegetables.



*Jatujak or Chatuchak Weekend Market*

It is located on Maharat Road near the Memorial Bridge. The market is crowded in the early morning and in the evening.

### **Saphan Phut** (สะพานพุทธ)

A night market beneath Phra Phuttayotfa Bridge, known locally as Saphan Phut, selling second-hand items such as clothes, shoes and many other items.

### **Lang Krasuang** (หลังกระทรวงกลาโหม)

The name literally means “behind the Ministry” and refers to an area behind the Ministry of Defence on Atsadang Road, which runs along Khlong Lot. On sale are military items such as uniforms, territorial defence student uniforms, shoes as well as travelling accessories like tents, sleeping bags and camping pots. There are shops selling musical instruments nearby.

### **Khlong San Pier** (ท่าเรือคลองสาน)

Located in a soi off Charoen Nakhon Road, the area offers items like ready-to-wear clothes for teenagers and shoes at relatively low prices.

### **Woeng Nakhon Kasem** (เวียงนครเกษม)

A quarter of Thai and Chinese antiquities and art objects such as blue-and-white porcelain, brass ware and furniture decorated with mother-of-pearl inlay. It is located near Charoen Krung and Yaowarat Roads.

### **Thewet.** (เทเวศร์)

A pot plants market is located near Thewet Pier, along the bank of Khlong Phadung Krung Kasem off Samsen Road.

Handicrafted products are available at **the Chitralada Shop** [www.chitraladashop.com](http://www.chitraladashop.com), **Doi Kham Shop** [www.doikham.co.th](http://www.doikham.co.th), **Phufa Shop** [www.phufa.org](http://www.phufa.org), **Patpat Shop** [www.patpat9.com](http://www.patpat9.com), which offers items from the Royal Project SUPPORT Foundation, or at **Narai Phand Shop** in President Tower, No.7C th Floor, 973 on Ploenchit Road, or on 4th Floor, Isetan. It is open daily during 10.00 a.m.-8.00 p.m. Tel: 0 2656 0173-4 [www.naraiphand.com](http://www.naraiphand.com)

### **Taling Chan Floating Market** (ตลาดน้ำตลิ่งชัน)

The floating market is located in front of Taling Chan District Office and renders a blend of a rural market and canal side way of life. On weekends during 7.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m., vendors who are in fact local farmers take their produce including plants, vegetables, fruits, fish and various kinds of food to this market for sale. The produce varies seasonally. There are also floating food shops and a private-run canal tour service for visitors to enjoy the district's canal side way of life as well as farming.

*Open: Sat-Sun*

*Admission: free*

*Tel: For more details, please contact Khun Noppadol, Head of the Floating Markets Community at Tel: 08 1374 7616 or Taling Chan District Office, Tel: 0 2424 1742 and 0 2424 5448.*

### **Wat Sai Floating Market.** (ตลาดน้ำวัดไทร)

Situated in Chom Thong district on the Thonburi side of Bangkok, this floating market used to be a popular touristic site for visitors to admire

a canal side way of life. Construction of new roads within the area left the floating market abandoned before it was recently revived to resume its charm. A canal tour along this historic waterway to enjoy the floating market crowded with boats of farm produce for sale as well as life along the banks of Khlong Sanam Chai, especially on weekends, is available. Stop to visit Tamnak Thong and the old Ho Klong - a drum tower - of Ayutthayan architecture at Wat Sai, a Chinese style royal residence of King Rama III and Chinese sculpture at Wat Ratcha-orot, pay respect to the bejewelled Buddha image and appreciate mural paintings depicting the Chinese tale of Sam Kok or 'The Romance of the Three Kingdoms' at Wat Nang Nong, pay respect to Luangpu Thao at Wat Nang and view a snake-catching show at a snake farm on the bank of Khlong Dan.

*To get there*, drive along Ekachai Road that runs by Wat Sai or take bus No. 43 or 120 from Wongwian Yai. A boat for rent is also available from Tha Chang or Chang Pier along the Chao Phraya River and into canals to Wat Sai.

*Open: Daily*

*Admission: Free*

### **Damnoen Saduak Floating Market** (ตลาดน้ำดำเนินสะดวก)

This popular attraction is some 80 kilometres west of Bangkok, accessible by regular bus from the Southern Bus Terminal. Everyday, hundreds of vendor boats crowd the market area in the early morning till noon.

## **Cruises**

### **The Chao Phraya River & Bangkok's Canals (Khlongs)**

Nineteenth-century Bangkok was laced with canals, giving the capital the designation 'Venice of the East'. Surviving canals, and the Chao Phraya River provide memorable vignettes of traditional waterborne way-of-life that has remained essentially unchanged over the centuries. The river and canals may be conveniently explored by chartered boat from Tha Chang (*Chao Phraya Express Boat* Tel: 0 2623 6001-3 or [www.chaophrayaexpressboat.com](http://www.chaophrayaexpressboat.com) *Mit Chao Phraya* Tel: 0 2225 6179, 0 2221 2297), a pier near the Grand Palace, or Tha Si Phraya Express Boat [*Pier*] (*Si Phraya Boat Trip.Co.th* Tel: 0 2235 3108) near the River City Shopping Complex. Tourists can also book such a tour through travel agents.

### **Dinner Cruise**

Riverine Bangkok offers some of the capital's most arresting sights, particularly at night when the weather is cooler and light reflections

bestow the Chao Phraya River with flickering magic and romance. An ideal way of combining dining with riverine enchantment is to enjoy a river dinner cruise. Reservations, current prices, conditions and departure times may be obtained from travel agents or the following organisers: *Dairy Queen* Tel: 0 2921 8670-5 ; *Grand Pearl* Tel: 0 2861 0255-60 ; *Horizon Cruise* Tel: 0 2236 7777 ; *Loy Nava* Tel: 0 2437 4932, 0 2437 7329 [www.loynava.com](http://www.loynava.com) ; *Manohra* Tel: 0 2476 0021-2 [www.manohracruise.com](http://www.manohracruise.com) ; *Riverside* Tel: 0 2883 1588 [www.riversidebangkok.com](http://www.riversidebangkok.com) ; *Wan Fah* Tel: 0 2622 7657-61 ext. 405 and *Yok Yor Marina* Tel: 0 2863 0565-6.

### Cruise to Ayutthaya

The luxurious cruise from Bangkok to the former capital of Ayutthaya is operated by *Chao Phraya Princess Cruise* Tel: 0 2860 3700 ; *Horizon Cruise* Tel: 0 2236 7777 ; *River Sun Cruise* Tel: 0 2266 9316, 0 2266 9125-6; *Manohra* Tel: 0 2476 0021-2 [www.manohracruise.com](http://www.manohracruise.com) and *Grand Pearl* Tel: 0 2861 0255-60.

### Cruise to Nonthaburi

A budget tour to Ko Kret, Nonthaburi is operated every Sunday by Mit Chao Phraya Tel: 0 2225 6179, 0 2221 2297

## Cultural Performances

Details of current programmes and events can generally be found in Bangkok's major English-language newspapers, namely Bangkok Post and The Nation.

## Theatres

**The National Theatre** (โรงละครแห่งชาติ), located on Na Phra That Road next to the National Museum, is the official centre of Thai classical performance. Call 0 2224 1342 for a current programme.

**Thailand Cultural Centre** (ศูนย์วัฒนธรรมแห่งประเทศไทย), on Ratchadaphisek Road, is a fully integrated venue for social education and cultural activities. Call 0 2247 0028 for a current programme or [www.culture.go.th](http://www.culture.go.th).

**Chalerm Krung Royal Theatre** (เฉลิมกรุงรอยัลเธียเตอร์) is located on Charoen Krung Road (New Road) near the Old Siam Plaza. Thai dramas and plays are usually held while Khon or Thai musical dance drama is a special event that is staged occasionally. Call 0 2225 8757-8, 0 2623 8148-9 for more information.





*The National Theatre*

**Patravadi Theatre** (ภัทราวดีเธียเตอร์) is near Wat Rakhang, Thon Buri. Renowned for its lavish productions, this outdoor theatre has gained popularity through its modern adaptations of classical Asian literature, with each play demonstrating an ingenious blend of various theatrical techniques. Showtime is on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Call 0 2412 7287-8 or [www.patravaditheatre.com](http://www.patravaditheatre.com) for a current programme.

**Rachadalai Theatre** (โรงละครเมืองไทยรัชดาลัยเธียเตอร์) is on the 9th floor of the Esplanade department store on Ratchadaphisek Road, Din Daeng District. It is the first standard Broadway theatre in Thailand for stage performances of domestic productions and those from across the world. For more information, contact Tel. 0 2642 2400-5, or visit the website: [www.rachadalai.com](http://www.rachadalai.com).

**Siam Niramit** (สยามนิรมิต) is located on Thiam Ruam Mit Road, diagonally across from the Thailand Cultural Centre, next to the Embassy of the Republic of Korea (South Korea), Khet Huai Khwang. It has state-of-the-art cultural performances which have achieved international standards. It uses special techniques integrated with drama to depict the history of each region of Thailand. The story also includes depictions about hells, the forest of Himmaphan, heavens and lands beyond imagination from Thai literature, all of which are influenced by the Thai common beliefs. There is also a spectacular performance of Thailand's arts and cultural heritage. The show is staged by more than 150 performers in a luxurious theatre with a capacity of more than 2,000 seats. The showtime is at 8.00 p.m. only and the ticket costs Bt1,500. Before admiring the performances, visitors can walk

outside the theatre to see typical Thai houses in various styles depending on the four different regions. Food and drink shops are available. For further information, please contact Tel: 0 2649 9222, or Fax: 0 2649 9200, or [www.siamniramit.com](http://www.siamniramit.com).

**Wangna Theater** (โรงละครวังหน้า) is located near Sanam Luang, in the compound of the Bunditpatanasilpa Institute on Rachini Road, Khwaeng Phra Borom Maha Ratchawang, Phra Nakhon District. It has a capacity of 250 seats. Traditional Thai dances, music, plays, and Khon mask performances performed by teachers and students of the Institute are presented in a show lasting 75 minutes every day. Tickets are 600, 800, and 1,000 Baht. For further details, contact Tel. 0 2224 4704 ext. 408, or visit the website: [www.bpi.ac.th](http://www.bpi.ac.th).

**Traditional Thai Puppet, Joe Louis** (นาฏยศาลา หุ่นละครเล็ก โจหลุยส์) The establishment of this puppet was inspired by the intention of Master Sakhon Yangkhieosot or Joe Louis, a National Artist of 1996, who wishes to preserve the art of operating Hun Lakhon Lek puppets. In operating the puppets, the puppeteers require basic skills of Khon performance as they will have to also move their footsteps and hand gestures to coincide with those of the puppets. Each puppet is operated by three puppeteers, lending it lifelike movements. Hun Lakhon Lek usually performs the story of Ramakian, the Thai version of the Ramayana epic. Sakhon Nattasin is currently the only performing troupe of Hun Lakhon Lek in Thailand. The troupe received the Thailand Tourism Award presented by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) in 2000 in the category of Recreational Attraction and the Best Traditional Performance Award 2006 and the Best Performance Award 2008 from World Festival of Puppet Art at Prague, Republic of Czech. For more information, contact Tel: 0 2965 8288 or [www.thaipuppet.com](http://www.thaipuppet.com)

**Aksra Theatre** (โรงละครอักษร) is located on the 3rd floor of the King Power Complex on Rang Nam Road, Khwaeng Thanon Phaya Thai, near Victory Monument. It is a place for stage events. The performance of Hun Lakhon Lek (puppets) is held on Thursdays and Fridays at 7.30 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays at 1.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. Tickets are 400 Baht. Seat reservations can be made at the counter in front of the Theatre which is open daily from 10.00 a.m. - 8.00 p.m. or on the website: [www.thaiticketmajor.com](http://www.thaiticketmajor.com). For more information, contact Tel. 0 2677 8888, Fax: 0 2245 8631, or visit the website: [www.aksratheatre.com](http://www.aksratheatre.com).

**Hun Lakhon Lek Khlong Bang Luang by the Khamnai Puppet Show Company** (หุ่นละครเล็ก คลองบางหลวง คณะค่านาย) is performed at Ban Sinlapin in the Khlong Bang Luang Community, Soi Phetchakasem 28, on a daily basis except for Wednesdays, with one show at 2.00 p.m. One more show is available on Saturdays and Sundays at 11.30 a.m. For more information, contact Tel. 0 2868 5279, 08 1258 9260.

## Dinner and Thai Classical Dance

Reservations can be made through travel agents or the following restaurants: **Piman** Tel: 0 2258 7866, 0 2258 7861; **Sala Rim Nam** Tel: 0 2659 9000 ext. 7330-3, 0 2437 3080; **Sala Thai (Indra Regent Hotel)** Tel: 0 2208 0022; **Sawasdee** Tel: 0 2237 6310-1, 0 2237 7114; **Silom Village** Tel: 0 2234 4448 and **Suwannahong** Tel: 0 2245 4448, 0 2245 3747

## Cultural Theme Park

**Rose Garden Riverside** (สวนสามพราน) This tourist attraction is located on Phetchakasem Road 32 Kms. from Bangkok, in Nakhon Pathom Province. It is located adjacent to the Nakhon Chai Si River and occupies an area of 137.5 Rais (about 55 acres). There are a multitude of beautiful floral displays of great variety. A Thai-style houses; parts of the area are hotel, lodges, and golf course. In addition, every morning at 10.00 a.m.-12.00 a.m. there will be 12 performances reflecting the Thai ways of life such as Thai traditional music, Thai dancing, flower garland stringing, fruit carving, pottery molding, martial arts, silk weaving, basketry, umbrella painting, etc. In the afternoon at 2.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m., there will be performances concerning Thai local traditions such as ordination, wedding ceremony, rice growing, and dances of the four regions. It also features an attractive Thai cultural show that commences daily in the afternoon. It was awarded a 2008 Thailand Tourism Award in the category of outstanding recreation tourist attraction.

*Open: Daily from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. An entrance fee to the garden for adult is 50 Baht, child fee is 20 Baht.*

*Admission: 500 baht*

*Tel: 0 3432 2544-7 or [www.rosegardenriverside.com](http://www.rosegardenriverside.com).*

## Art Exhibition Centres

**Bangkok Art and Culture Centre** (หอศิลป์วัฒนธรรมแห่งกรุงเทพมหานคร) It is located at the Pathumwan Intersection, facing the MBK and Siam Discovery Centres. Admission is free. It is open daily from 10.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. (closed on Mondays) Tel: 0 2214 6630-8 or [www.bacc.or.th](http://www.bacc.or.th)

**The Queen's Gallery** (หอศิลป์สมเด็จพระนางเจ้าสิริกิติ์ พระบรมราชินีนาถ) It is situated within the compound of the Bangkok Bank Office, Saphan Phan Fa branch, on Ratchadamnoen Klang Road. It is open on Thursday -Tuesday. (closed on Wednesday) during 10.00 a.m. - 7.00 p.m. Admission fee is 30 baht. Tel. 0 2281 5360-1 or [www.queengallery.org](http://www.queengallery.org)



*Muai Thai or Thai boxing*

## **Major Exhibition Centres**

**Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre** (ศูนย์การประชุมแห่งชาติสิริกิติ์), 60 New Ratchadaphisek Road, Khlong Toei, Bangkok. Tel: 0 2229 3000 or [www.qsncc.com](http://www.qsncc.com)

**Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Centre** (ศูนย์นิทรรศการและการประชุมไบเทค), 88 Bangna-Trat Road (Km. 1), Bang Na. Tel: 0 2749 3939-60 or [www.bitec.co.th](http://www.bitec.co.th).

**IMPACT Exhibition Centre** (ศูนย์นิทรรศการอิมแพ็ค) Mueang Thong Thani, 99 Popular Road, Pak Kret, Nonthaburi. Tel: 0 2833 4455 or [www.impact.co.th](http://www.impact.co.th)

## **Special Interests**

### **Thai Boxing**

Muai Thai or Thai boxing is both a sport and means of self defence. Contestants are allowed to use almost any part of their body: feet, elbows, legs, knees, and shoulders, are all weapons. The playing of traditional music during bouts makes for even greater excitement.

### **Boxing Stadiums**

There are two venues in Bangkok for this type of sport.

**Ratchadamnoen Stadium** (สนามมวยราชดำเนิน), Ratchadamnoen Nok Road, open every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday at 6.30 p.m.-11.30 p.m. Tel: 0 2281 4205, 0 2280 1684-6.



*Thai Cooking*

**Lumphini Stadium** (สนามมวยลุมพินี), Rama IV Road, open every Tuesday and Friday at 6.30 p.m. and Saturday at 5.00 p.m. - 8.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m.-12.00 p.m. Tel: 08 3138 8938, 0 2251 4303, 0 2252 8765

## Thai Boxing Schools

**The Muay Thai Institute**, (โรงเรียนมวยไทย) 317 Phaholyothin Road, Tambon Prachathipat, Amphoe Thanyaburi, Pathum Thani Province. Tel: 08 1828 5115, 0 2992 0096-9 or [www.muaythai-institute.net](http://www.muaythai-institute.net)

**Fairtex Muay Thai Fitness** (ค่ายมวยแฟร์เท็กซ์) 99/8 Mu 8 Soi Buntham Anuson, Tambon Bang Phli Yai, Amphoe Bang Phli, Samut Prakan Province. Tel: 0 2757 5147, 0 2386 6117-9, 0 2755 3329, 0 2385 5148-9, or [www.fairtexbangplee.com](http://www.fairtexbangplee.com)

## Thai Cooking

The Thai cuisine gains increasing international favour. Visitors wishing to learn how to cook Thai food can contact : **Bai Pai Thai Cooking School** (โรงเรียนสอนทำอาหารไทยใบพาย) Tel: 0 2561 1404 Fax: 0 2941 0929 [www.baipai.com](http://www.baipai.com) ; **Blue Elephant Bangkok Cooking School and Restaurant** Blue Elephant Building 233 South Sathon Road, Yannawa, Sathorn, Tel: 0 2673 9353-4, 0 2673 9356 Fax: 0 2673 9355 [www.blueelephant.com](http://www.blueelephant.com) ; **The Thai House** (บ้านไทย) Tel: 0 2903 9611, 0 2997 5161 Fax: 0 2903 9354 [www.thaihouse.co.th](http://www.thaihouse.co.th), **International Baking and Cooking School** (โรงเรียนขนมอบนานาชาติ) (Opposite Chatuchak Weekend Market), Tel: 0 2272 5692-3, 0 2272 5663, 0 2272 5654 [www.](http://www.)



international-baking-cooking-school.com ; **Thai & International Food Academy** (โรงเรียนธุรกิจการอาหารไทยและนานาชาติ) 1004 Rama III Road, Bang Phong Phang, Yannawa, Tel: 0 2682 7644 Fax: 0 2682 8845 www.yingsakfood.com ; **Suan Dusit International Culinary School** (โรงเรียนการอาหารนานาชาติสวนดุสิต) Tel: 0 2244 5391-3 www.chefschoo.dusit.ac.th ; **The Modern Woman Institute** (แม่บ้านทันสมัย) Tel: 0 2 279 2831, 0 2279 2834 www.mwthaicook.com, **UFM Baking & Cooking School** (โรงเรียนสอนการผลิตอาหารและขนมมาตรฐาน) Sukhumvit Soi Sukhumvit33/1, Sukhumvit Road Tel: 0 2259 0620-30, 0 2260 5280-300 Fax: 0 2259 0632 Siam Square 180-184 Bakery House Bldg., Siam Square Soi 1, Patumwan Tel: 0 2252 7286, 0 2252 7520 www.ufmeducation.com, **Wandee Culinary School** (โรงเรียนครัววันดี) Tel: 0 2279 9844-5, 08 7499 9888 Fax: 0 2279 2204 www.wandeethaicooking.com

A Thai cooking class is also arrange by many hotels including **Bangkok Mariott Resort and Spa** (โรงแรมแมริออท รีสอร์ท แอนด์ สปา) (Near Krung Thep Bridge), Thon Buri Tel: 0 2476 0021-2 www.manohracruises.com; **Tai Pan** (โรงแรมไต้หวัน) Tel: 0 2260 9888, 0 2260 9898 www.taipanhotel.com ; **Thai Cooking School at the Oriental** Charoen Nakhon Rd., Tel: 0 2659 9000 ext. Thai cooking school www.mandarinoriental.com, **The Landmark Hotel** (โรงแรมแลนด์มาร์ค) Tel: 0 2254 0404 www.landmarkbangkok.com

## Thai Traditional Massage

This therapeutic and highly soothing form of massage purportedly evolved from rishis (forest-dwelling Brahmin hermit ascetics) who relieved the physical stress of extended periods of meditation by adopting certain postures. Wat Pho is the best known centre for massages and massage tuition. Major hotels also offer Thai massage services.

For more information, call Wat Po Thai Traditional Massage School Tel: 0 2221 3686, 0 2622 3551 or www.watpomassage.com

## Spas

Spas, traditionally, were towns where public baths, hospitals or hotels were built on top of mineral springs so that people could come and make use of the healing properties found in the water and its mud for medical purposes.

These days, a spa doesn't have to be a town built on natural thermal springs. It can be a place anywhere that anyone can go to, to relax in tranquil surroundings with a variety of treatment administered to recontour and rejuvenate the body and mind.

**Banyan Tree Spa**, 21th floor of Thai Wah Tower II, South Sathon Road, Sathon, Bangkok Tel: 0 2679 1052, 0 2679 1054 www.banyantreespa.com.

**The Grande Spa & Fitness Club**, Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit Hotel, 250 Sukhumvit Road (Near Soi 12) Tel: 0 2649 8121.

**JW's Health Club & Spa**, JW Marriott Hotel, Sukhumvit Road Soi 2. Tel: 0 2656 7700.

**Health Land Spa, - Sri Nakharin** 70/21 Mu 2 Sri Nakharin Road, Nong Bon, Bangkok Tel: 0 2748 8135-9, 0 2746 5376-8 ; **Sathon** 120 North Sathon Road, Silom, Bang, Rak Bangkok Tel: 0 2637 8883 ; **Pinklao** 142/6 Charansanitwong Road, Arun Amarin, Bangkok Noi, Bangkok Tel: 0 2882 4888; **Ekkamai** 96/1 Soi Sukhumvit 63 (Ekamai) Sukhumvit Road, Wattana, Bangkok Tel: 0 2392 2233 ; **Chaeng Wattana** 5/55 Moo 3 Chaeng Wattana Road , Pakkret, Nonthaburi Tel: 0 2573 3355 ; **Asoke** 55/5 Sukhumvit 21 Rd. (Asoke), Khlong Toei, Wattana, Tel: 0 2261 1110 or [www.healthlandspa.com](http://www.healthlandspa.com)

**Let's Relax Sukhumvit** Sukhumvit Soi 39, (Phrom Pong), Wattana, Bangkok Tel: 0 2662 6935-7, **Ratchadapisek** 6th Floor, Roongrojthanakul Building (Toyota Showroom), 44 Rachadapisek Road, Huay Khwang, Bangkok, Tel: 0 2643 8422-3 or [www.bloomingspa.com](http://www.bloomingspa.com)

**Oriental Spa**, 48 Oriental Hotel, Charoen Nakhon Rd, Soi 10, Tel: 0 2659 0444. [www.mandarinoriental.com](http://www.mandarinoriental.com).

**Thai Privilege Spa** - 999/9, on 3 rd floor Central World Tower, Rama I Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok Tel: 0 2646 1933-4 [www.thaiprivilegespa.com](http://www.thaiprivilegespa.com)

**The Royal Natural Spa** 878 Rama IV Road, Si Phraya, Bang Rak, Bangkok Tel: 0 2637 1032

**The Spa**, Four Seasons Bangkok Hotel, 155 Ratchadamri Road. Tel: 0 2250 1000, 0 2651 9312 [www.fourseasons.com/bangkok/spa/](http://www.fourseasons.com/bangkok/spa/)

**Spa de Vie Zenith** Sukhumvit Hotel 4th floor, Sukhumvit Soi 3, Bangkok Tel: 0 2655 4943 [www.zenith-hotel.com](http://www.zenith-hotel.com)

## Meditation

Meditation is one of the most popular aspects of Buddhism, practiced regularly by numerous Thais, and laymen as a means of promoting inner peace and happiness. The following are meditation centres which offer a class in English for foreign visitors who wish to find out more about Buddhism and Buddhist meditation.

**The International Buddhist Meditation Centre** (ศูนย์วิปัสสนานานาชาติ) Wat Mahathat, Tha Phrachan, Bangkok Tel: 0 2222 6011

**The World Fellowship of Buddhists** (องค์การพุทธศาสนิกสัมพันธ์แห่งโลก) 616 Sukhumvit Soi 24, Khlong Tan, Khlong Toei, Bangkok Tel: 0 2661 1284-7 [www.wfb-hq.org](http://www.wfb-hq.org)

## Turf Clubs

Horse Races are held on Sunday from 12.30 a.m.-6.00 p.m. at two alternate turf clubs:

**Royal Turf Club of Thailand** (ราชตฤณมัยสมาคม), on Phitsanulok Road, Tel: 0 2628 1810-5, 0 2280 0020-9.

**Royal Bangkok Sports Club** (ราชกรีฑาสโมสร), on Henri Dunant Road, Tel: 0 2652 5000, 0 2255 1420-8, or [www.rbsc.org](http://www.rbsc.org)

## Golf Courses

### Bangkok

**Dusit Golf Course** (สนามกอล์ฟดุสิต) 183 Phitsanulok Road, Dusit, Bangkok Tel: 0 2281 1330 (18 holes)

**Krungthep Kreetha Sports Club** (สนามกอล์ฟกรุงเทพกรีฑา) 516 Krungthep Kreetha Road, Huamark, Bangkapi, Bangkok Tel: 0 2379 3716-7, 0 2379 4953-4 Fax: 0 2736 2230 (18 holes)

**The Legacy Golf Club** (เดอะ เลกาซี กอล์ฟคลับ) 18 Mu 7 Liabkhlongsong Road, Khlong Sam Wa (Tawantok), Khlong Sam Wa, Bangkok Tel: 0 2914 1930-4 (18 holes)

**Navatane Golf Course** (สนามกอล์ฟนาวาณี) 22 Ramindra, Khan Na Yao, Bangkok 10230 Tel: 0 2376 1034-6 (reservation 0 2376 1693-5) or [www.navatane.com](http://www.navatane.com) (18 holes)

**Panya Indra Golf Club** (สนามกอล์ฟปัญญาอินทรา) 9 Panya-Ramindra Road, Khan Na Yao, Bangkok 10230 Tel: 0 2943 0000-10 [www.panyagolf.com](http://www.panyagolf.com) (27 holes)

**President Country Club** (เพรสซิเด้นท์ คันทรี คลับ) 42 Mu 8 Suwintawongse Road, Lumtoiting, Nong Chok, Bangkok Tel: 0 2988 7555-63 Fax: 0 2988 7564 [www.president.co.th](http://www.president.co.th) (36 holes)

**Royal Bangkok Sports Club** (ราชกรีฑาสโมสร) on Henri Dunant Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok Tel: 0 2251 0181-6, 0 2652 5000 or [www.rbsc.org](http://www.rbsc.org) (18 holes)

**Royal Thai Airport Golf Club** (สนามกอล์ฟทหารอากาศกานทรรัตน์) 171 Vibhavadi Rangsit Road, Donmuang, Bangkok Tel: 0 2523 6441, 0 2534 3840-1 (18 holes)

**Royal Thai Army Sports Center** (สนามกอล์ฟทหารบก) on Ramindra Road (Km.1), Bang Khen, Bangkok Tel: 0 2521 5339, 0 2521 1184-5 (2 สนาม ๆ ละ 18 holes)

**Royal Thai Navy Golf Club** (สนามกอล์ฟราชนาวี) on Sukhumvit Road (Bangna Intersection) Bangna, Bangkok Tel: 0 2393 1652, 0 2393 1637 (9 holes)

**Unico Grande Golf Course** (สนามกอล์ฟ ยูนิโก้ แกรนด์) 47 Mu 12 Krungthep Kreetha Road, Saphan Sung, Bangkok Tel: 0 2138 8074  
www.unicograndegolf.com (18 holes)

**Windsor Park & Golf Club** (วินเซอร์ พาร์ก แอนด์ กอล์ฟ คลับ) 46 Mu 8, Suwinthawong Road (K.m.9), Nong Chok, Bangkok 10530 Tel: 0 2989 4200-18 Fax: 0 2989 4224-5 www.windsorgolf.co.th (36 holes)

## Chachoengsao

**Bangpakong Riverside Country Club** (สนามกอล์ฟบางปะกงริเวอร์ไซด์ คันทรี่ คลับ) 49 Mu 2, Sanpudart, Banpho, Chachoengsao Tel: 0 3851 3523-5, 08 1761 7034, 08 1761, 4874 Fax: 0 3851 3526 www.brc-golfcourse.com (18 holes)

**Royal Lakeside Golf Club** (รอยัล เลคไซด์ กอล์ฟ คลับ) 150 Mu 3, Bangna-Trat Road (Km.51), Tambon Takham, Bang Pakong, Chachoengsao Tel: 0 3857 3275-9 Fax: 0 3857 3281 www.royallakeside.com (18 holes)

**Thai Country Club** (ไทย คันทรี่ คลับ) 88 Mu 1 Bangna-Trat Road (Km.35.5), Tambon Pimpa, Bang Pakong, Chachoengsao Tel: 0 3857 0234-46, 0 2651 5300-6 Fax: 0 3857 0225, 0 2651 5307 www.thaicountryclub.com (18 holes)

## Nonthaburi

**Royal Irrigation Department Golf Course** (สนามกอล์ฟชลประทาน) Tiwanon Road, Pak Kred, Nonthaburi Tel: 0 2583 6060-9 ext. 269, 0 2962 3686 (9 holes)

## Pathum Thani

**Alpine Golf Club** (สโมสรอัลไพน์กอล์ฟ คลับ) 99 Mu 9, Bangkhan-Sathaneevithyu Road, Khlong 5, Khlong Luang, Pathum Thani Tel: 0 2577 3333 fax: 0 2577 7100-2 www.alpinegolfclub.com (18 holes)

**Bangkok Golf Club** (บางกอก กอล์ฟ คลับ) 99 Mu 2, Tiwanon Road, Bang Kradee, Mueang District, Pathum Thani Tel: 0 2501 2822-9, Fax: 0 2501 2810 www.golf.th.com (18 holes)

**Chuan Chuen Golf Club** (ชวนชื่น กอล์ฟ คลับ) 100 Mu 8, Bangkok-Pathumthani Road, Bang Khuwad, Mueang District, Pathum Thani Tel: 0 2598 2699, 0 2598 2839 (18 holes) www.golfcoursethailand.com

**Krung Kavee Golf Course & Country Club Estate** (สนามกอล์ฟกรุงกวี) 115/12 Mu 3 Rangsit-Nakhon Nayok Road (Km.9), Thanyaburi, Pathum Thani Tel: 0 2577 4141-9, Fax: 0 2577 2894 www.krungkavee.com (18 holes)

**Lam Luk Ka Country Club** (ลำลูกกา คันทรี คลับ) 29 Mu 7, Lam Luk Ka Khlong 11, Lamsai, Lam Luk Ka, Pathum Thani Tel: 0 2995 2300-4, 0 2995 2312-5 Fax: 0 2995 2305 [www.lamlukkagolf.net](http://www.lamlukkagolf.net) (36 holes)

**Muang- Ake Golf Course** (สนามกอล์ฟเมืองเอก) 52 Mu 7, Phaholyothin Road, Tambon Luk Hok, Mueang District, Pathum Thani Tel: 0 2533 9334-5 Fax: 0 2533 9345 (18 holes)

**Muang-Ake Vista Golf Course** (สนามกอล์ฟเมืองเอกวิสตา) 52/999 Phahonyothin Road, Tambon Luk Hok, Mueang District, Pathum Thani Tel: 0 2997 8501-6 Fax: 0 2533 9915 (18 holes)

**Pinehurst Golf & Country Club** (ไพน์เฮิร์สท กอล์ฟ แอนด์ คันทรี คลับ) 73 Mu 17 Phaholyothin Road (Km.37), Khlong 1, Khlong Luang, Pathum Thani Tel: 0 2516 8679-84 Fax: 0 2516 8685 [www.pinehurst.co.th](http://www.pinehurst.co.th) (27 holes)

**Royal Thai Air Force Golf Club** (สนามกอล์ฟรพฐปะเตมิย์) 14 Mu 8 Phaholyothin Road, Lam Luk Ka, Pathum Thani Tel: 0 2531 1484, 0 2534 3880 (18 holes)

## Samut Prakan

**Bang Poo Golf & Sport Club** (บางปู กอล์ฟ แอนด์ สปอร์ต คลับ) 191 Mu 3 Sukhumvit Road, Tambon Praeksa Mai, Mueang District, Samut Prakan Tel: 0 2324 0320-9 Fax: 0 2324 0330 [www.bangpoogolf.com](http://www.bangpoogolf.com) (18 holes)

**Green Vally Coutry Club** (สนามกอล์ฟกรีนวัลเลย์) 92 Mu 3, Bangna-Trat Road (K.m.15), Bang Plee, Samut Prakan Tel: 0 2312 5883-9 [www.greenvallybangkok.com](http://www.greenvallybangkok.com) (18 holes)

**Kiarti Thanee Country Club** (สนามกอล์ฟเกียรติธานี คันทรี คลับ) 199-200 Mu 5 Bangna-Trad Road.(Km.29), Bang Bo, Samut Prakan Tel: 0 2707 1700-9 [www.kiartithaneecountryclub.com](http://www.kiartithaneecountryclub.com) (18 holes)

**Lakewood Country Club** (เลควูด คันทรี คลับ) 99/1 Mu 11, Bangna-Trat Road(Km.18), Bang Phli, Samut Prakan Tel : 0 2312 6278-86 (reservation: 0 2312 6275-7) [www.lakewoodcountryclub.co.th](http://www.lakewoodcountryclub.co.th) (27 holes)

**Muang Kaew Golf Course** (สนามกอล์ฟเมืองแก้ว) 52 Mu 8 Bangna-Trat Road(Km.7.7), Bang Phli, Samut Prakan Tel: 0 2316 3918-21, 0 2740 2693-99 Fax: 0 2740 2691 [www.muangkaewgolf.com](http://www.muangkaewgolf.com) (18 holes)

**The Royal Golf & Country Club** (เดอะ รอยัล กอล์ฟ แอนด์ คันทรี คลับ) 69 Mu 7 On –Nut Road, Tambon Srisachorakanoy, Bang Sao Thong, Samut Prakan Tel:0 2738 1010 ext.10-11 Fax: 0 2738 0138 [www.royalgolfclubs.com](http://www.royalgolfclubs.com) (18 holes)

**Subhapruek Golf Course**(สนามกอล์ฟสุภาพฤกษ์) 102 Mu 7, Bangna-Trat Road(Km.26), Bang Bo, Samut Prakan Tel: 0 2317 9149-50, 0 2317 0801-4 Fax: 0 2317 0805 [www.subhapruekgolf.com](http://www.subhapruekgolf.com) (18 holes)

**Summit Windmill Golf Club** (ซัมมิท วินมิลล์ กอล์ฟ คลับ) 72 Mu 14, Bangna –Trat Road (Km.10.5), Bang Phli, Samut Prakan Tel: 0 2750 2112-20 Fax: 0 2316 8268 [www.summitwindmillgolfclub.com](http://www.summitwindmillgolfclub.com) (18 holes)



**Thana City Golf & Sports Club** (ธานี ซิตี้ กอล์ฟ แอนด์ สปอร์ต คลับ) 100/2 Mu 4 Bangna-Trat Road (Km.14), Bang Phli, Samut Prakan Tel: 0 2336 0568-74 fax: 0 2336 1980 [www.thanacitygolf.com](http://www.thanacitygolf.com) (18 holes)

**The Vintage Club** (เดอะ วินเทจ คลับ) 549,549/1-4 Mu 3, Panviti Road, Bang Bo, Samut Prakan Tel: 0 2707 3820-4 Fax: 0 2707 3829 [www.vintagegolfthai.com](http://www.vintagegolfthai.com) (18 holes)

## MAJOR EVENTS

### Chinese New Year Festival

#### *January or February*

This is the most important event on the Chinese calendar. The Chinese New Year is not on the same day as the western New Year. The Chinese New Year is consistent with the Chinese lunar Month. It falls on the twelfth lunar month. Or according to the Chinese calendar, it falls on the first, second and third waxing moon of the second lunar moon month. These dates are equivalent to approximately the month of January or February. At present, the Thai-Chinese descendants have got together to create a new legend for China Town as “The biggest celebration of Chinese New Year - China Town a place that never sleeps”. During this grand festival, the whole of Yaowarat road will be closed and many stores and food stands will crowd the road. This is the opportunity for many Thais and foreigners to gather and walk to taste all the authentic Chinese food. And last but not least, are the grandiose and colourful Chinese lion and dragon processions.

### Bangkok Songkran Festival

#### *April 12-14*

The traditional Thai New Year is an occasion for merriment all over the city, but most notably at Sanam Luang, near the Grand Palace, where the revered Phra Phuttha Sihing image is displayed and bathed by devotees. In the Wisutkasat area, a Miss Songkran beauty contest is held and accompanied by merit-making and entertainment. Khao San Road, Bang Lamphu area is also one of the high-spots in the city to experience the water-throwing activities between locals and tourists.

### Royal Ploughing Ceremony

#### *May*

An ancient Brahman ritual, conducted at Sanam Luang, in which farmers believe is able to forecast the abundance of the next rice crop. The event is a result of a series of ceremonies that are conducted by Phraya Raek Na, portrayed by a high-ranking official from the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives who wears colourful traditional

costumes. This ceremony was re-introduced in 1960 by H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej and is considered the official commencement of the rice-growing season.

### **H.M. The Queen's Birthday Celebration**

#### **August 12**

To display their loyalty and to honour Her Majesty Queen Sirikit on the occasion of her royal birthday, the Thai people decorate their houses and public buildings. Around Bangkok, Ratchadamnoen Avenue, the area around the Grand Palace and other well-known locations are bedecked with coloured lights and magnificent adornments.

### **Trooping of the Colours**

#### **December**

Their majesties the King and Queen preside over this impressive annual event, held in the Royal Plaza near the equestrian statue of King Chulalongkorn. Dressed in colourful uniforms, amid much pomp and ceremony, members of the elite Royal Guards swear allegiance to the King and march past members of the Royal Family.

### **H.M. The King's Birthday Celebrations**

#### **December 5**

H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest reigning monarch is well beloved and deeply respected by all Thais old and young. The occasion of his royal birthday provides his loyal subjects the opportunity to express their reverence for him. All over the country, buildings and homes are elaborated and the area around the Grand Palace is spectacularly illuminated.

## **Examples of One Day Trip Programmes in and around Bangkok**

### **Route 1 Bangkok**

Morning	-The Grand Palace and Wat Phra Si Rattana Satsadaram or Wat Phra Kaeo (พระบรมมหาราชวังและวัดพระศรีรัตนศาสดารามหรือวัดพระแก้ว)
	-Canals Trip
	-Royal Barge National Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ์สถานแห่งชาติเรือพระราชพิธี)
	-Wat Arun (Temple of Dawn) (วัดอรุณ)

- Afternoon
- Wat Pho (วัดโพธิ์)
  - Wat Trai Mit (วัดไตรมิตรวิทยาราม)
  - China Town

## Route 2 Bangkok

- Morning
- Wat Benchamabophit, The Marble Temple (วัดเบญจมบพิตร)
  - Vimanmek Mansion Museum (พระที่นั่งวิมานเมฆ)
  - Anantasamakhom Throne Hall. (พระที่นั่งอนันตสมาคม)
- Afternoon
- Jim Thompson Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ์จิม ทอมป์สัน)
  - Shopping in the shopping area (Siam Square and Ratchaprasong)

## Route 3 Ratchaburi and Nakhon Pathom

- Morning.
- Damnoen Saduak Floating Market (ตลาดน้ำดำเนินสะดวก)
- Afternoon
- Samphran Elephant Ground & Zoo (ลานแสดงช้างและฟาร์มจระเข้สามพราน)
  - Rose Garden Riverside (สวนสามพราน) Thai Human Imagery Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ์หุ่นขี้ผึ้งไทย)

## Route 4 Samut Prakan

- Morning.
- Ancient City (เมืองโบราณ)
- Afternoon
- Crocodile Farm (ฟาร์มจระเข้สมุทรปราการ)
  - The Erawan Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ์ช้างเอราวัณ)

## Route 5 Cruise to Ayutthaya

## Route 6 Cruise to Nonthaburi

## Evening Programmes

- Thai Boxing (มวยไทย) at boxing stadiums
- Chao Phraya River Dinner Cruise
- Dinner and Thai Classical Dance
- Siam Niramit (สยามนิรมิต)
- Dinner at China Town

## Tips for Visiting a Temple/Museum/Ancient Monument

- Study information about the place to be visited.
- Dress politely and be composed.
- Take off your shoes before entering a religious building or area.

- Contact a local speaker such as a monk or officer who can give you information.
- Avoid touching an artefact or ancient monument, especially the reliefs or paintings to maintain their original condition.
- Avoid trespassing in a prohibited area or on an ancient monument and taking any parts of the artefacts or architecture.
- Seek permission before taking photos.
- Avoid using a flash in photo-taking which may cause damage to the artefacts or architecture.

USEFUL CALLS

Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT)	1672, 0 2250 5500
Tourist Police	1155
Bangkok Tourist Bureau	0 2225 7612-4
Thai Airways	0 2356 1111
Suvarnabhumi Airport	0 2132 1888
Bangkok Railway Station	1690, 0 2220 4334
Eastern Bus Terminal	0 2391 2504, 0 2391 6846
Southern Bus Terminal	0 2433 9527, 0 2434 7152, 0 2435 5605
Northern/ Northeastern Bus Terminal (Mo Chit 2)	0 2936 2852 -66
BTS Sky Train	026177340-2, 026176000
Bangkok Metro	0 2624 5200
BMTA Public Bus	1348
Telephone Number Inquiry	1133