A Travel Guide to THAILAND

THE ESSENTIAL THINGS

PLACES  CUISINES  CULTURE  HACKS and MORE!
It's a blessing for us to take people to places and make them smile every day.

- CEO David Dao
EXPLORE
ENJOY
REPEAT

UNBEATABLE PRICES
7-DAY MONEY BACK
DEPARTURE GUARANTEE

EXPLORE
ENJOY
REPEAT
Greetings from
Asia Vacation Group

Inspired by the passion of travelling and exploring the extraordinary, Asia Vacation Group travel agency was born in 2015 with the vision of delivering the ultimate travel experience to group and individuals around the world.

Guests Lover
Our dedicated services are with you all the way. Just sit back and relax.

Local Leaders
With more than 60 itineraries to 7 countries in Asia, we will take you the most beautiful corners of the land.

Responsible Travel
We implement only good ethic practices to protect the environment and historical wonders for mankind.

The accommodation was exemplary in the four hotels we stayed in and every tour was terrific with the highlight for me being the Saigon River dinner cruise. The food everywhere was fantastic. Thank you for arranging such a great holiday.

- Norm Avent
Asia Vacation Group Customer
THAILAND

Thailand is well-known as “The Land of Smiles”, offering stunning sceneries of tranquil villages, gorgeous beaches and glistening ancient pagodas along with the unique local culture. Crystal clear water in Phuket, extraordinary transgender shows in Pattaya, and a tremendous amount of street foods are just a few things that keep visitors from coming back to Thailand.
Quick Facts

POPULATION
69 mils (as of Feb, 2018)

CURRENCY
THB (Baht)

EXCHANGE RATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1 USD</th>
<th>1 AUD</th>
<th>1 Euro</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to THB</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POPULAR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS
Chiang Mai Airport (CNX), Chiang Mai
Suvarnabhumi Airport (BKK), Bangkok
Phuket Airport (HKT), Phuket

LANGUAGE
Thai

TIME ZONE
UTC +7 hours

ELECTRICITY
220V/50Hz
Plug type A, C & F

Weather
Thailand generally has 3 seasons, dry season (March – May), rainy season (May – Oct), and cool season (Nov – Feb). The further south you go, the more heat you may expect.
**WHERE TO GO**

1. **Chiang Rai**
   Considered as a land of Thailand’s ancient values, this is home to spectacular mountainous scenes, Buddhist shrines, architectural ruins and tribal villages, offering a relaxed and peaceful atmosphere.

2. **Chiang Mai**
   Located among the highest mountains in the north and referred to as the “Northern Capital”, Chiang Mai is famous for the blend of the fascinating history and modern culture.

3. **Ayutthaya**
   The Historic City of Ayutthaya is awarded UNESCO World Heritage Site for its splendour of archaeological ruins and temples. Its proximity to Bangkok makes it a popular day tour option.

4. **Kanchanaburi**
   Kanchanaburi is one of Thailand’s largest provinces, well-known for the breathtaking Erawan National Park, and the rich history of Death Railway as well as the Bridge over the River Kwai.

5. **Bangkok**
   The capital of Thailand. Besides the hustle and bustle, Bangkok also offers a large number of sacred Buddhist temples and pagodas as well as a unique taste of Thai culture.

6. **Pattaya**
   A multicultural beach city where you can find hundreds of recreational activities to amuse yourself such as risqué shows, ladyboys, nightclubs and vibrant walking streets, etc.

7. **Phuket**
   As the largest island in Thailand, Phuket offers a string of upscale restaurants, elite resorts locating nearby the beach, along with a full choice of watersports for recreation purposes.
There are much more beautiful destinations not being mentioned here. Visit our website to explore the bigger Thailand.
WHAT TO DO

01
Visit the magnificent Grand Palace
Considered as the symbol of Bangkok, the Grand Palace is always on top of the must-go list for any tourist. The premise is 2.35 million square feet and consists of 2 main zones, the Royal Residence and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, where the precious Emerald Buddha is being housed.

02
Ride a Tuk-tuk
Small, no air-conditioner, yet very mobile and affordable. Tuk-tuk or auto rickshaw is considered to be the icon in means of transportation in Thailand, especially for tourists. You can find one literally anywhere. A Tuk-tuk may fit up to 4 people so it is super economical for travel groups. It is recommended to confirm the price prior to using services.

03
Float and shop
Markets on the water are very popular in this country. Located around Bangkok, there are 5 well-known floating markets including Damnoen Saduak (the most crowded), The Amphawa, Bang Nam Phueng, Khlong Lat Mayom and Taling Chan.
04 Watch the shows of transgenders
In Pattaya, there are shows performed by transgenders, demonstrating the beauty of their true self. Sometimes, you will see “girls” who are more beautiful than you’ve ever seen. You can choose either Tiffany Show or Alcazar Show for this exclusive experience.

05 Light up a “sky latern”
The Loi Krathong festival is celebrated across the country during the full moon night of 12th Lunar month. The sky will be lid up brightly with lanterns, carrying wishes to heaven.

06 Get a Thai massage
Thai massage is not only famous in Thailand, but also around the world. During a session, your body will be compressed, pulled, stretched and rocked for extreme relaxation. Getting a massage may help your muscle and joint’s pain as well.
**Not recommended for pregnancy.

07 Eat insects
Street food in Thailand is enormous and insects are popular ones. It is quite easy to find a vendor on streets selling snacks made out of worms, mantis, and bugs. The insects are raised and processed carefully so it is safe to eat. High protein and crunchy tastes.
Getting a Visa

If a visitor intends to stay in Thailand for more than 30 days, he or she is recommended to apply for the visa at the closest Thai Embassy. In most cases, tourists only need the 30-day visa, in which can be apply in person at Thailand’s international airports or online.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Standard Visa on Arrival</th>
<th>Electronic Visa on Arrival</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What</td>
<td>The visa shall be applied and processed at the airport on arrival.</td>
<td>The visa shall be applied and processed online. On arrival at the airport, only the passport and the pre-approval letter is required to present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pros</td>
<td>Anyone can apply.</td>
<td>Save time at the airport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cons</td>
<td>Long queue at the airports.</td>
<td>Only residents from 28 countries are eligible. Refer to extranet.immigration.go.th/voaonline</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Visa fee is to paid at the airport and in Thai Baht currency only (2,000 THB).

Living Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Low Range</th>
<th>Mid Range</th>
<th>High Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>USD40/day</td>
<td>USD40-120/day</td>
<td>USD120/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hostels or dorms</td>
<td>USD10-15/night</td>
<td>USD20-50/night</td>
<td>From USD80/night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus/MRT/BTS</td>
<td>USD0.5-0.7/ride</td>
<td>USD1/short ride</td>
<td>USD0.5-0.75/ride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economical vendors</td>
<td>USD1.5-2.5/meal</td>
<td>From USD10/meal</td>
<td>From USD20/meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decent restaurants</td>
<td>USD20-50/night</td>
<td>Decent restaurants</td>
<td>Premium restaurants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premium hotels</td>
<td>USD80/night</td>
<td>USD120/night</td>
<td>USD120/night</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Local Money

Local currency can be exchanged at the banks or authorized agencies. Popular banks are Bangkok Bank, Kasikorn, Siam Commercial Bank (SCB), KrungThai and TMB.

Do not make any transaction at unauthorized shops. There’s a fine and the difference is not worth it.
MOVING AROUND

AIRLINES
Premium airlines are Thai Airways and Bangkok Airways. Route BKK – HKT costs around USD100.
Economical airlines are Nok Air, Air Asia, and Thai Lion Air. Route BKK – HKT costs around USD45.

BOAT & FERRY
For regions full of islands as in Phuket, speedboats and ferries are widely available at reasonable costs. Route Phuket – Koh Phi Phi costs about USD10.
Within urban areas like Bangkok, boat-taxi may be available for USD0.6/route.

TAXI
The average cost per short ride is about USD2. While most of Thailand’s taxis have meters, some do not. In any case, make sure to confirm the price before using services.

TUK-TUK
Tuk-tuk offers great mobility, authentic local experiences and less expensive than a taxi while being able to carry multiple passengers. The average cost is around USD1/ride. Confirm the price before using services.

BANGKOK SUBWAY & SKYTRAIN
The Skytrain (BTS) is likely for tourists while the Subway (MRT) is more for local residents due to their designated stops. One-day passes for BTS and MRT respectively are USD4.5 and USD4. Both systems operate from 6 am to midnight every day.

BUS
Catching a bus is a bit tricky since not all stops have signs or stands. It typically costs less than a US dollar for a ride within the city. Most buses run from 5 am to 11 pm every day.
Spicy. Sweet. Sour

FEELING HUNGRY?

01 Thai Fried Noodles (Pad Thai)
Best place to get: Anywhere
A stir-fried noodles with the combination of peanuts, shrimps, tofu, bean sprouts, onions, peppers and noodles. This is considered as the national dish.

02 Spicy Shrimp Soup (Tom Yam Goong)
Best place to get: Anywhere
A popular Thai spicy and hot soup, made of lime leaves, lemongrass, fresh Thai chillies and shallots, shrimps and mushrooms.

03 Spicy Green Papaya Salad (Som Tam)
Best place to get: Bangkok
A dish made by mixing chopped green papaya with carrots, peanuts, tomatoes, chillies, fresh lime juice and fish sauce.

04 Green Curry Chicken (Geng Kheaw Wan Gai)
Best place to get: Bangkok
Green Curry is not extremely spicy as Red Curry. The main ingredients include chillies (of course), coconut milk, basil, coriander and served with Thai rice.

05 Thai Iced Tea (Cha Yen)
Best place to get: Anywhere
A common drink that is recognized worldwide by all ages. It is brewed with tea leaves and mixed with condensed milk for milky and sweet flavors.
Generally, healthcare in Thailand is good with world class international standard hospitals in big cities. Most doctors are specialists and they can speak English. The most common health issues when travelling in Thailand include diarrhea, road accidents, and insect bites. In an emergency, you must quickly get transferred to the nearest medical centres for treatment and advice. We highly recommend that all travellers should purchase travel insurance for peace of mind.

For data only, a 4G SIM card can be from USD8 for 3Gb of data, valid for 15 days (AIS). For voice/data, it is from USD14 for 30 minutes of voice and 3GB of data (DTAC). Popular Network Providers are AIS, DTAC, and True Move H.

Pickpockets and snatch theft: To avoid becoming a victim, only carry small cash amounts, do not put your purse or wallet in the back pockets and stay cautious when entering crowded areas.

Scam: Thai people are nice but not all the offers on the streets are ideal. If you get involved in a scam, report immediately to the local authority.
CULTURE

FESTIVAL

Loy Krathong Festival
November - Multiple locations
Loy Krathong Festival, also called Lantern Festival is celebrated annually for 3 days from the full moon of the 12th month in the Thai lunar calendar, aimed to show respect to the Goddess of Water. Usually, Loy Krathong is held most impressively in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Ayutthaya and Sukhothai. During these days, both the rivers and the sky are illuminated by thousands of sparkling lanterns.

Songkran Water Festival
April - Nationwide
The most popular festive water celebration, marking the beginning of a new year, usually celebrated from 13th-15th April. During this festival, people will splash water on each other, Thai people believe that the wetter you get, the luckier you are in New Year.

Phi Ta Khon
July - Dan Sai
Phi Ta Khon or Ghost Festival originated from a legend of a party which was so fun that both the living and the death wanted to attend. People will wear colourful costumes and masks while parading the streets. The festival lasts for 3 days and occurs on the 6th full moon of a lunar year.
ETIQUETTES

Stay local. Stay right

#1
Greet with a Wai, pressing your palms together and bow slightly.

#2
Remove your shoes before entering someone’s home.

#3
When dining, if you are full, leave a few bits of food on your dish.

#4
Dress properly when going inside temples and sacred places. Shoulders and knees must be covered.

#5
Do not use your feet to point or touch objects and people. It is disrespectful to do so.

#6
Avoid touching your opposite sex, especially in public.

#7
Avoid loud voice, hot temper or criticize anyone in public.

#8
Smile for thank you, apology, or just being friendly.

#9
Do not judge or make inappropriate jokes to others. “Face” is a big deal in society.

#10
Bring a gift when visiting someone’s home. The host will really appreciate it. Who does not?
Employed by Asia travel experts, Asia Vacation Group understands deeply WHERE to go, WHAT to do, and HOW to take your holiday to the fullest.

**Best Prices**

**7-day Money Back**

**100% Departure Guarantee**

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**Our tours typically include**

- Flights
- Accommodation
- Selective Meals
- Transportation
- Sightseeing
- Tour Guides

*Prices are on per person twin share basis and subject to change without notice.*

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**13 Day Thailand Tour & Phu Ket Beach Break**
Tour Code WTL13
Bangkok, Kamphaeng Phet, Chiang Mai, Sukhothai, and Phuket

**18 Day Southeast Asia Tour**
Tour Code ASEA1-18
Bangkok, Kanchanaburi, Hanoi, Halong Bay, Hoi An, Saigon, Siem Reap, and Phnom Penh

**13 Day Luxury Thailand Tour with Beach Break**
Tour Code ATLB-13
Bangkok, Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai(3N), and Phuket Island
TRAVEL HACKS

the CHECKLIST for PACKING

You don’t need to pack your whole apartment into your luggage...

Documents

☐ Passport with at least 6 months expiry date.
☐ Visa documents.
☐ E-tickets or printed ticket.
☐ Hotel list.
☐ Tour itinerary.

Money

☐ Foreign currency in cash.
☐ Credit card (Mastercard or Visa are more widely accepted).

Packing Gears

☐ 1 check-in luggage (up to 20/30kg).
☐ 1 carry-on luggage (up to 7kg).
☐ 1 small travel bag/backpack.

Clothes

☐ T-shirts, shorts.
☐ Swimsuit.
☐ Jackets.
☐ Hat or cap.

Electronics

☐ Chargers.
☐ Electrical adapter and converter.
☐ Camera kit, including batteries and memory cards.
☐ Phone, earphones.

Shoes

☐ Comfortable walking shoes.
☐ Sandals.

Accessories

☐ Sunglasses.
☐ Umbrella.
☐ Hat or cap.

Medicines

☐ Cold/Flu, Diarrhea, Pain Relief, Allergy.
☐ Prescription drug with label and doses description.
☐ Sunscreen and insect spray.

Toiletries

☐ Toothbrush and toothpaste.
☐ Soap/shower gel.
☐ Feminine product.
☐ Hand sanitizer or wet wipe.
ON THE GO
SURVIVAL TIPS

CROSSING THE STREETS

Thailand traffic may get overwhelming for tourists.

Rule 1: Cross with a local (if possible).
Rule 2: Do NOT wait for the street to be empty. It just doesn't happen.
Rule 3: Do NOT go backward.
Rule 4: Traffic will not stop for you. Don't rush.

TALK LOCAL

Some common Thai phrases that may come in handy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Thai</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hello</td>
<td>Sa-wa-di-kha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank you</td>
<td>khop khun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorry</td>
<td>Khor thoad khrup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Chai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>Mai</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BARGAIN

Prices are made to be haggled and bargaining is an art.

Rule#1: Only perform this technique at street vendors or similar.
Rule#2: Do not use this move if the price is too low already.
Rule#3: Start bidding at 50% of the offer received and work your way up.
Rule#4: If 50% works, walk away immediately. It can be much lower.
Rule#5: Just walk away...

Have fun shopping! 😊
**SECTION 1: TRIP DETAILS**

1. Which tour do you want to book?

2. Preferred room type
   - Twin
   - Double
   - Triple

3. Where will you depart from?
   - Sydney
   - Melbourne
   - Brisbane
   - Adelaide
   - Canberra
   - Perth
   - Auckland
   - Other (Please specify below)

4. When do you want to travel
   - (dd/mm/yyyy)

5. Preferred Flight Class
   - Economy
   - Premium Economy
   - Business
   - First Class

6. Number of passengers

7. Special Request (transport, accommodation, etc)

8. Add-on Tours (Please name all of them)

9. Add-on Tours (Please name all of them)

10. First Name
11. Middle Name
12. Last Name
13. Street Address 1
14. City
15. State
16. Postal Code
17. Street Address 2
18. Country
19. Nationality
20. Email Address
21. Phone Number

* Final price will vary based on your selections. But don’t worry, you are still having the best rates possible

**SECTION 2: LEAD PASSENGER**

22. Would you like to hear about our latest offers and promotions?
   - Yes
   - No

Terms & Agreement (Please read carefully)
If submitted by one party only, I confirm that I am authorized to sign on behalf of all passengers listed on this booking form.
All parties have read, understood and agree to abide by the terms, booking conditions and responsibilities.

Your signature: ____________________________
Today’s Date: __________/________/________
BOOKING CONDITIONS

Reservation & Deposit
Tour prices are subject to availability of tour, airlines, special economy class fare and specific airfare class availability. All services are subject to availability. Typically, a deposit (from $199 per passenger) is required within three (3) days of receiving confirmation that the company is holding space for you. Actual amount of deposit may vary depending on tours. Note that Private Tours and Tailor-Made Tours require a 30% deposit. Passenger names must be provided exactly as per passport, including middle names, at the time of deposit/booking. Any spelling corrections made after a deposit is paid must be sent in writing and will incur additional fees, including any ticket reissue fees. Asia Vacation Group reserves the right to correct any errors in rates quoted or calculated, or any commissions made at any time during your booking. Any verbal quote given is an indication only of the final price and is subject to confirmation in writing.

Amendments & Extra Fees
The following fees will apply:

- Amendments to confirmed and deposited itineraries outside of 30 days prior to departure where the value of the booking is decreased: $50 per change for admin fee.
- Transferring between tours (within 75 days); See “Cancellation by Customer” for applicable fees and details.
- Reissue of airline tickets: From $100 per person.
- Once a booking is confirmed, name transfers may incur additional charges.

Cancellation by Customers
All cancellations must be made in writing to Asia Vacation Group and will be subject to the following cancellation charges from the date the written cancellation is received:

- If airline and rail tickets are issued, up to 100% of the airfare and rail fare surcharged.
- If your booking is made with the Budget airlines, up to 100% of package tour.
- If customer wants to change the travel dates and visa issued, up to 100% of visa fee.
- More than 75 days prior to departure: loss of deposit plus any administration fees
- Between 74 and 59 days prior to departure: 25% of total cost
- Between 58 and 46 days prior to departure: 50% of total cost
- 45 days or less prior to departure: 100% of total cost
- Any “No Show”: 100% of total cost

In the event of a cancellation any refunds will be less administration fees and any applicable amendment fees. Asia Vacation Group will endeavour to recover as much as possible from suppliers to pass on to the customer. Regrettably cancellation charges and fees cannot be waived. There can be no exceptions. No refund will be made for any unused portions of the holiday after the departure date. Please note that employees of any overseas company or staff of Asia Vacation Group outside Australia are not authorised to give any guarantees or agreements to customers in respect of refunds or any other matters.

Cancellation by the Company
Asia Vacation Group reserves the right to cancel or vary a tour prior to departure due to insufficient numbers. In such an event, alternative guaranteed travel dates will be offered. Should these options not be acceptable Asia Vacation Group will refund the full price paid, less visa cost. If a tour is cancelled or varied prior to departure due to unforeseeable circumstances such as, but not restricted to, severe weather conditions or force majeure, Asia Vacation Group will refund all monies prior to departure less visa cost, fuel surcharge and any other cancellation fees levied by airlines and other third parties. Unforeseeable circumstances such as force majeure, adverse weather, flight rescheduling, hotel overbooking and faults with transportation or road conditions may also have an effect on the tour itinerary after the commencement date. Any decision made in respect of tour services by independent operators to re-route or amend the itinerary due to any of the above or similar circumstances is at the discretion of the tour service provider and Asia Vacation Group will not be liable for any claim whatsoever arising from such events.

Responsibilities
Asia Vacation Group acts as a co-ordinator for all persons taking these tours in the making of all arrangements for transportation, sightseeing and hotel accommodation. The Company does not own, manage, control or operate any transportation vehicle, any hotel or restaurant or any other supplier of services. All receipts and tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the supplier and all services are subject to the laws of the country where the services are provided. The Company acts only as an agent for the owners, contractors and suppliers of transportation and/or other related travel services provided and assumes no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage to baggage or property or for any injury, illness or death or for any damages or claims whatsoever caused arising directly or indirectly from accidents, loss, theft or damage to person or property, delays, transport failure, strikes, wars and uprisings or acts of God etc. over which the Company has no control. We strongly urge all customers to undertake a high level of personal responsibility in order to ensure that possessions, equipment and personal documents are closely monitored and protected at all times.

Privacy
We are collecting your personal information so that we can process your booking. We will also keep you up to date with other Asia Vacation Group’s offers and product information that may be of interest to you if you have consented to this. You can opt out of receiving information at any time if you choose to do so. Any personal information you provide will be managed in accordance with Asia Vacation Group’s privacy policy.
We are living in a connected world.
You *NEVER* have to travel *ALONE*