

General Information

Climate : We enjoy a tropical climate with 3 distinct seasons - hot from March through May, wet from June to September, and cool from October through February. The average annual temperature is 28° C (83° F), ranging from in Bangkok, for example, from 30 C in April to 25 C in December.

What To Wear : Light, loose cotton clothing is best. Nylon should be avoided. Sweaters are needed during the cool season evenings or if visiting mountainous areas or national parks. Jackets and ties are required in a few restaurants and nightclubs. Neat clothes are required for entering temples or palaces.

Local Time : GMT + 7 hours.

Business Hours : Most offices open from 9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday, except on public holidays. General banking hours are Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 3.30 pm. Many stores open 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

Currency : There are 100 satangs in 1 baht. (B=baht) Notes are issued in denominations of B1000 (gray), B500 (purple), B100 (red), B50 (blue), B20 (green), and B10 (brown). There are 10, 5 and 1 baht coin, and 50 and 25 satang. Most [foreign currencies](#) and traveller cheques are easily changed at banks, hotels or moneychangers. All major credit cards are widely accepted throughout the kingdom.

Electricity : The electric system is 220 Volt AC (50 cycles). There are many plugs and sockets in use. Travelers with shavers, tape recorders and other appliances should carry a plug-adaptor kit.

Do's and Don'ts



The Monarchy : Thai people have a deep, traditional reverence for the Royal Family, and a visitor should be careful to show respect for the King, the Queen and the Royal Children.

Religion : Visitors should dress neatly in all religious shrines. They should never go topless, or in shorts, hot pants or other unsuitable attire.

It is acceptable to wear shoes when walking around the compound of a Buddhist temple, but not inside the chapel where the principal Buddha image is kept.

Each Buddha image, large or small, ruined or not, is regarded as a sacred object. Never climb onto one to take a photograph or do anything which might indicate a lack of respect.

Buddhist monks are forbidden to touch or be touched by a woman, or to accept anything from the hand of one. If a woman has to give anything to a monk, she first hands it to a man, who then presents it.

Social Norms : Thais don't normally shake hands when they greet one another, but instead press the palms together in a prayer-like gesture called a wai. Generally a younger person wais an elder, who returns it.

Thais regard the head as the highest part of the body, literally and figuratively. Therefore, avoid touching people on the head and try not to point your feet at people or an object. It is considered very rude.

Shoes should be removed when entering a private Thai home.

Public displays of affection between men and women are frowned upon.

Tipping : Tipping is not a usual practice in Thailand although it is becoming more common. Most hotels and restaurants add a 10% service charge to the bill. Taxi drivers do not require a tip, but the gesture is appreciated.

Bargaining : Fixed prices are the norm in department stores, but at most other places bargaining is to be expected. Generally, you can obtain a final figure of between 10-40% lower than the original asking price. Much depends on your skills and the shopkeeper's mood. But remember, Thais appreciate good manners and a sense of humor. With patience and a broad smile, you will not only get a better price, you will also enjoy shopping as an art.

Frequently Asked Questions

Here are some of the questions we're asked most frequently:

When is the best time to visit Thailand ?

During the cool season between November and March

What vaccinations do I need before coming to Thailand ?

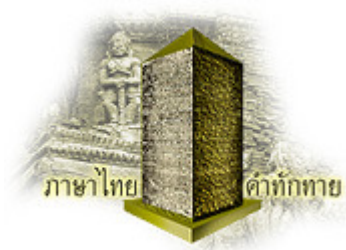
There are no required vaccinations, unless you are coming from an infected area. Yellow fever certificates are required for those who are coming from an infected area. Please check the latest regulations with your local health office.

Do I need a visa ?

Temporary visitors who are exempted from applying for an entry visa must be of the nationality of and holding a valid passport or travelling documents issued by : Persons meeting the above conditions are exempted from a visa and are permitted to remain in the Kingdom for a period not exceeding 30 day. **Note :** Please check the period of stay stamped in your passport upon entry into the Kingdom.

Language

Thai is a tonal language belonging to the group of Ka-Tai languages, the five tones are monotone, low, falling, high, and rising. This can be a rather complicated language for the visitor; however, English is quite widely understood, particularly in Bangkok where it is almost the major commercial language.



Hello (male speaker)	<u>sawatdee krup</u>
Hello (female speaker)	<u>sawatdee kaa</u>
How are you?	<u>sabai dee reu</u>
Fine thanks	<u>sabai dee</u>
Thank you	<u>kop koon</u>
Never mind	<u>mai pen rai</u>
I can't speak Thai	<u>phoot Thai mai dai</u>
I don't understand	<u>mai kao chai</u>
Do you understand?	<u>kao chai mai</u>
May I take a photograph?	<u>tai ruup dai mai</u>
Where is the rest room?	<u>hong nam yoo tee nai</u>
How much does this cost?	<u>nee tao-rai</u>
What is this ?	<u>nee arai</u>
Very expensive	<u>paeng maag</u>
The bill please	<u>gep taang</u>
Good-bye	<u>la gon</u>
See you again	<u>laew phob gan mai</u>
Good luck	<u>kor hai chok dee</u>
Sorry/excuse me	<u>kor thoad</u>
Who sells chicken eggs?	<u>Krai kai kai kai</u>

List for Thailand

Some of these items you may not want to bring. Many you won't need at the Resort but, you will in the village.

vitamins

Tooth brush

tooth paste

toilet paper

hand soap

shampoo

brush

tissues

towel

mosquito spray*

bandaids

first aid creams

flash light

batteries

matches

camera

film

sheets(I am taking them for the class and I will leave them for the people)

pajamas

sandals(one doesn't wear shoe in the house so you should bring a pair that are easy to remove.)

pictures of family to share

musical instrument (if you play one)

umbrella (May-Oct.)