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Bangkok

# Attractions in and around Bangkok

As the political, economic, cultural and culinary capital of Thailand, Bangkok features both old-world charm and modern convenience, at times served up in an apparently chaotic manner, but always with a gracious smile.

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

Bangkok or Krung Thep "the city of angels" as it is known to its inhabitants. Many tourists who travel to Bangkok are immediately overwhelmed by the sheer size of the city and the vast number of attractions Bangkok has to offer. Indeed there is a wide variety of Bangkok sightseeing opportunities spanning more than two centuries of rapid development following the city's founding in 1782 by King Rama I, the first king of the present Chakri dynasty.

Attractions Bangkok contains, from exotic temples, which underscore Thailand's strong Buddhist history, to modern shopping malls, which make shopping an integral part of any Bangkok holiday. Bangkok pleases visitors either simply passing through the city or spending their entire Thailand holiday in Bangkok.

Beware of scams involving tuk tuks, gem shops, and tailors, particularly around popular tourist attractions. Remember, there is no such thing as a free ride.

Its better to flag down taxis that are already driving (the red light means empty); these will generally use the meter while parked taxis typically ask for higher fixed fares or will take you for the proverbial 'ride'.

During the monsoon season months of June through September rains come quickly and heavily, particularly in the afternoon. Adequate footwear and an umbrella are advisable.

### TRANSPORTATION

Airport Rail Link The train services between Suvarnabhumi Airport and Bangkok City from 06.00 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. The train service is available from Phya Thai BTS Station to Suvarnabhumi Airport via Ratchaprarop, Makkasan, Ramkhamhaeng, Hua Mak, Ban Thap Chang, Lat Krabang to its terminal at Suvarnabhumi Airport. For more information, contact Tel: 1690, or http://airportraillink.railway.co.th

BTS Sky Train BTS sky trains ply along Sukhumvit, Silom-Bangwa and Phahonyothin road. The routes connect Bangkok's leading hotels and major shopping areas such as Siam Square, Ratchaprasong, Silom and Chatuchak Weekend Market during 06.00 a.m.-12.00 p.m. The fare ranges from 15-52 Baht according to

the distance. For more information, contact the Bangkok Mass Transit System at Tel: 0 2617 6000, 0 2617 7340-2 www.bts.co.th MRT Subway A metro service is available from Bang Sue via Kamphaeng Phet 2 Road, Chatuchak Weekend Market, Ratchadaphisek Road, Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Lumphini Park, Silom, Sam Yan to its terminal at Hua Lamphong Railway Station during 06.00 a.m.-12.00 p.m. The fare ranges from 16-42 Baht according to the distance. Call 0 2624 5200 or www.bangkokmetro.co.th

Taxi Metered-Taxi charge a minimum of 35 Baht for the first one kilometre, and approximately 5 Baht per kilometres there after or 2 Baht every minute during traffic jam. Passengers must pay tolls in the case of using an expressway.

*Tuk-Tuk* These three-wheeled motorised taxis are popular for short journeys. Fares must be bargained in advance. Minimum fares, for journeys of up to 3 kilometres, are approximately 50 Baht.

Bus 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 04.00 a.m.-11.00 p.m. and around the clock on certain routes. Public buses are plentiful and cheap, with a minimum fare of 8 Baht to most destinations within metropolitan

Bangkok. Air-conditioned buses have minimum and maximum fares of 12 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.

River Taxi 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 2866 3163-4, 0 2449 3000 or www.chaophrayaboat.co.th



### TOURIST SPOT IN BANGKOK

The Grand Palace & Wat Phra Kaeo

The Grand Palace (พระบรมมหาราชวัง) Constructed simultaneously with the establishment of Bangkok or Krung Rattanakosin by King Rama I the Great, the complex comprises 3 major quarters; namely, Phra Maha Prasat-the throne halls, Phra Ratchamonthian 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 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 (พระที่นั่งดุสิต มหาปราสาท) 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 (พระที่นั่ง อาภรณ์พิโมกซ์ปราสาท) 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 (พระที่นั่ง พิมานรัตยา) 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 (พระที่นั่ง จักรีมหาปราสาท) 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 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.

Open: Daily (except during special royal ceremonies) from 08.30 a.m.-04.30 p.m. (Tickets are sold till 03.30 p.m.)

Admission: 500 Baht. (including a ticket to Vimanmek Royal Mansion or Anantasamakhom Throne Hall). Proper attire is essential Audio Guide in Thai, English, French, German, Spanish, Russian, Japanese and Mandarin: 400 Baht





Wat Phra Kaeo or Temple of the Emerald Buddha

Bus: No. 1, 3, 9, 15, 25, 30, 32, 33, 43, 44, 47, 53, 59, 60, 64, 82, 91, 203, 503, 507, 508

Tel: 0 2623 5500 ext 3100 www.palaces. thai.net

Wat Phra Kaeo or Temple of the Emerald Buddha (วัดพระแก้ว) Wat Phra Kaeo (Wat Phra Si Rattana Satsadaram) 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 (except during special royal ceremonies) from 08.30 a.m.-04.30 p.m. (Tickets are sold till 03.30 p.m.)

Admission: 500 Baht (including a ticket to Vimanmek Royal Mansion or Anantasamakhom Throne Hall). Proper attire is essential. Personal Audio Guide in Thai, English, French, German, Spanish, Russian, Japanese and Mandarin: 200 Baht per hour

Tel: 0 2623 5500 ext 3100 www.palaces. thai.net

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



Wat Pho

10 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.

# Temples/ Mosque

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". Wat Pho Thai Massage is behind the temple.

Admission: 100 Baht

Tel: 0 2226 0335 www.watpho.com; Wat Po Thai Traditional Massage School Tel: 0 2226 4887, 0 2622 3550-1, 0 2221 3686 www.watpomassage.com

Open: Daily from 08.30 a.m.-06.30 p.m.

Wat Arun (Temple of Dawn) (วัตอรุณ) 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 08.00 a.m.-06.00 p.m.

Admission: 50 Baht

Tel: 02466 9179, 0 2891 2185, 0 2465 5640,

0 2466 3167 www.watarun.org

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 07.00 a.m.-05.00 p.m.

Tel : 0 2221 5999, 0 2227984, 0 2221 1962,

Meditation Centre: 0 2222 6011

Wat Ratchapradit (วัดราชประดิษฐ์) Situated to the north of Saran Rom Park. 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



Wat Suthat and the Giant Swing

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 Sathitmahasimaram". 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 09.00 a.m-04.30 p.m.

Tel: 0 2222 0855, 0 2622 1030

www.rajapradit.com

Wat Ratchabophit (วัดราชบพิตร) 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 09.00 a.m.-05.00 p.m.

Tel : 0 2222 3930, 0 2221 0904

Wat Suthat and the Giant Swing (วัดสุทัศน์ และเสาซิงซ้า) Located on Bamrung Muang Road, this temple is noted for its superb 19<sup>th</sup> 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.



Wat Saket and the Golden Mount

Open: Daily from 08.30 a.m.- 08.00 p.m.

Admission: 20 Baht

Tel: 0 2222 6935 www.watsuthat.org

Wat Ratchanatdaram (วัตราชนัตตาราม) 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 09.00 a.m.-05.00 p.m.

Tel: 0 2224 8807, 0 2225 7889

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 08.00 a.m.-05.00 p.m.

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 08.00 a.m.-05.00 p.m.

Admission: 10 Baht

Tel : 0 2621 0576 www.watsakesa.com



Wat Benchamabophit

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 08.30 a.m.-04.30 p.m.

Tel: 0 2281 2831-3

Wat Intharawihan (วัดอินทรวิหาร) 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 06.00 a.m.-06.00 p.m.

Tel: 0 2281 1406

Wat Benchamabophit (วัดเบญจมบพิตร) Located on Si Ayutthaya Road, this unique marble temple was 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 09.00- a.m.-05.00 p.m.

Admission: 20 Baht

Tel: 0 2281 2501, 0 2281 7413, 0 2280 4012

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 08.00 a.m.-05.00 p.m.

Admission: 20 Baht

Tel: 0 2225 9775, 0 22226011, 0 2623 5613

www.wattrimit.com

Gurdwara (ศาสนสถานคุรุดวารา/ วัดซิกซ์) The place of worship for Sikhs, on Chakraphet Road. Indian town, means the gateway to the guru, however, people of all faiths are welcomed in the Sikh Gurdwara. The people can eat free food served by the Sikh community.

Open: Daily from 08.00 a.m.-05.00 p.m.

Bus: 4, 5, 21, 37, 53, 56, 73

Tel: 0 2221 1011 www.thaisikh.org

Maha Umadevi Temple (Hindu) (วัดศรีมหา อุมาเทวี/วัดแขกสีลม) The temple is situated on Pan Road, Silom. It was built in 1879, houses of hindu godess and gods. For those who visit the temple, photos, foods are prohitbited. The Navaratri is an important festival and celebrated in September-October.

Open: Daily from 06.00 a.m.-08.00 p.m.

BTS Sky Train : get off at Saladaeng Station

Underground : get off at Silom Station

Tel: 0 2238 4007, 08 4451 5722



Wat Trai Mit

Haroon Mosque (มัสยิดฮารูณ) The mosque is located on Charoen Krung 36 Road, was built in 1901 with two storeys stucco. The interior is decorated in Muslim style with wooden craft. They are some religious leader from other country had visited. The mosque warmly welcomes all visitors.

Open: Daily 09.00-11.00 a.m., 01.30-03.00 p.m. and 04.00-05.00 p.m., Friday 02.00-05.00 p.m.

Tel: 0 2630 9435

### Museums / Art Exhibition

Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles (พิพิธภัณฑ์ ผ้าในสมเด็จพระนางเจ้าสิริกิต์ พระบรมราชินีนาถ) Located at the Ratsadakorn-bhibhathana Building in the Grand Palace, was established according to Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's initiative with the purpose of disseminating and promoting knowledge of the art wisdom, culture, costumes, and textiles to be a sustainable learning centre of fabric and traditional Thai costumes from the early Rattanakosin period to the present time showcasing in the form of exhibitions and related-documents. In the exhibition part, it includes "Artistry in Silk: the Royal Style of H.M. Queen Sirikit" displaying the royal costumes in modern styles tailored from silk, and the national royal Thai costume exhibition showcasing a variety of royal Thai dresses in order to set as a sample of the traditional Thai dress for several occasions. Also, there is a video showing the evolution of Thai dresses from the past to present. In addition, a museum shop is available for selling products under the Promotion of Supplementary Occupations and Related Techniques of H.M. Queen Sirikit of Thailand project which includes dresses, woven and silk fabrics, decorative items, and basketry.

Open: Daily from 09.00 a.m.-04.30 p.m. (ticket selling closes at 03.30 p.m.)

 $\label{eq:Admission: 150 Baht for adults, 50 Baht for adults, 50$ 

seniors (above 65 years old), and students (12-18 years old with ID), no admission fee for children aged below 12.

Tel: 0 2225 8420, 0 2225 9430 Fax: 0 2225 9431 www.sirikitmuseumoftextiles.org.

Bus: No. 1, 3, 9, 15, 25, 30, 32, 33, 43, 44, 47, 53, 59, 60, 64, 82, 91, 203, 503, 507, 508

National Museum (พิพิสภัณฑสถานแห่งชาติ พระนคร) A former palace of the Wang Na or second king-Kromphraratchawangbowon 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



National Museum

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: Wednesday-Sunday from 09.00 a.m-04.00 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, 0 2224 1396 www.nationmuseumsfinearts.go.th

National Gallery Museum (พิพิธภัณฑสถาน แห่งชาติ หอศิลป) 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: Wednesday-Sunday from 09.00 a.m.-04.00 p.m.

Admission: 200 Baht

Tel: 0 2282 06370, 2282 2639-40, 0 2282 8525, 0 2282 0637

Pipit Banglamphu (พิพิธยางลำพู) The Museum preserves the history of Banglamphu, its communities, craftsmen, places and the way of life in this neighbourhood in old Bangkok. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the concrete has two sections; the first is an area for temporary exhibits

for special occasions, the second records the history of the old city, the forts and the city gates.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor had several rooms with exhibits on the Treasury Department, coin minting, asset management, land appraisal at different periods and locations.

The museum is extremely well equipped. There are touch screen videos in Thai with English sub-titles. All display boards are in English and Thai. Old scenes have been painstakingly re-created either by models, murals or projected images.

There's a conducted tour in Thai of the upper stories in both buildings every half an hour. Register at the reception. Take a tour on your own of the ground floor before joining the conducted tour.

Discover life and soul of Banglamphu in Pipit Banglamphu Museum.

Open: Tuesday-Sunday (closed Monday, Public Holidays) from 10.00 a.m.-04.00 p.m.

Bus: 3, 6, 9, 30, 32, 33, 53, 64, 524 or take Chao Phraya Express boat to Phra Athit pier. Then walk through the park past Phra Sumen Fort till reach a white concrete building.

Tel: 0 2281 9828

Coin Museum Treasury Department Thailand (พิพิธภัณฑ์เหรียญ) The museum is located on Chakkrapongse Road, Banglamphu. In the building is divided into three stories, showing several kinds of coins in the past through the present time, library, history of Thai life by 4D presentation, temporary exhibition.

Open: Tuesday-Sunday (closed Monday, Public Holidays) from 10.00 a.m.-05.00 p.m.

Admission : 100 Baht

Tel: 0 2282 0818

http://coinmuseum.treasury.go.th

Bank of Thailand Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ์ ธนาคารแห่งประเทศไทย) Located 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 Oueen 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 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bank of Thailand, banknote printing, and several others.

Open: Monday-Friday from 09.00 a.m.-12.00 a.m., 01.30 p.m.-04.00 p.m.

Tel: 0 2283 6152, 0 2356 7702, 0 2283 5265, 0 2283 5286, 0 2283 6723 www.bot.or.th (contact at least 2 weeks in advance).

Museum Siam Discovery Museum (มิวเซียม สยาม พิพิธภัณฑ์การเรียนรู้) 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.

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.

Open: Tuesday-Sunday from 10.00 a.m.-06.00 p.m.

Admission: 300 Baht

Tel: 0 2225 2777 www.ndmi.or.th

Rattanakosin Exhibition Hall (นิทรรศน์ รัตนโกสินทร์) 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



Museum Siam Discovery Museum

and information, arts, and culture of the Rattanakosin Era, which is the most complete one of its kind in Thailand. The 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. A coffee shop with clear glass walls offers a beautiful sight of Loha Prasat (metal castle) of Wat Ratchanatda and the Golden Mount. Furthermore, there is a library and souvenirs shop.

Open: Tuesday- Sunday from 10.00 a.m.-07.00 p.m.

Admission : Adult 100 Baht, child 50 Baht for children not over 110-cm.

Tel: 0 2621 0044, 0 2226 5048 www.nitasrattanakosin.com

Ratchadamnoen Contemporary Art Centre (หอศิลป์ร่วมสมัยราชดำเนิน) Situated on Ratchadamnoen Klang Avenue, close to the Nithat Rattanakosin Building, and Royal Pavilion Mahajetsadabodin Court, is an art centre exhibiting a variety of international contemporary arts and culture; such as, visual art, acting, literature, costume and music design. In addition, the Centre offers a rotation exhibition, academic seminar, and information service of contemporary arts of artists.

Open : Daily 10.00 a.m.-07.00 p.m.

Bus: No. 2, 15, 47, 59, 60, 70, 79, 157, 171, 183, 503, 509, 511

Tel: 0 2422 8827

The Queen's Gallery (หอศิลป์สมเด็จพระนางเจ้า สิริกิติ์ พระบรมราชินีนาถ) It is situated within the compound of the Bangkok Bank Office, Saphan Phan Fa branch, on Ratchadamnoen Klang Avenue.

Open: Thursday -Tuesday (closed on Wednesday) from 10.00 a.m.-07.00 p.m.

Admission: 30 Baht

Tel: 0 2281 5360-1 www.queengallery.org

King Prajadhipok Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ์ พระบาทสมเด็จพระปกเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว) 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 neo-classic architecture building was built in 1906. Then, it was renovated to serve as a museum exhibiting a rare collection of King Prajadhipok's (King Rama VII) 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. The exhibition 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,



Anantasamakhom Throne Hall

as well as his life after abdication and death in the United Kingdom.

Open: Tuesday-Sunday from 09.00 a.m.-04.00 p.m.

Tel: 0 2280 3413-4

www.facebook.com/kingprajadhipokmuseum

Anantasamakhom Throne Hall (พระที่นั่ง อนันตสมาคม) 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: Tuesday-Sunday from 10.00 a.m.-05.00 p.m. (except Mondays, New Year Day, Songkran Day, Constitutional Day) tickets are sold till 04.20 p.m.

Admission: 150 Baht (proper attire is essential)

Tel: 0 2282 7318 www.artsofthekingdom.com Vimanmek Mansion Museum (พระที่นั่ง วิมานเมฆ) 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: Tuesday-Sunday from 09.30 a.m.-03.30 p.m. (Tickets are sold till 03.00 p.m.)

Admission : 100 Baht (Proper attire is required)

Tel: 0 2628 6300 www.vimanmek.com

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: Monday-Friday from 09.00 a.m.-05.00 p.m.

Tel: 0 2669 7125

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 three sections:

Geology featuring the Earth, plate movements, earthquakes, minerals and rocks, geological surveys, ground water and fossils.

Mineral Resources displaying specimens of gemstones and precious stones, uses of minerals, mineral fuels, petroleum and minerals from abroad.

Special Exhibition currently showcasing dinosaur fossils in Thailand.

Open: Tuesday-Sunday (Closed Monday) from 08.30 a.m.-04.30 p.m.

Tel: 0 2621 9647, 0 2621 9642, 0 2202 3670 www.dmr.go.th

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.

Open: Daily from 09.00 a.m. - 04.00 p.m.

Admission: 100 Baht

Bus: No. 72, 77

BTS Sky Train: get off at Phayathai Station.

Tel: 0 2246 1775-6 ext 229. 0 2245 4934

www.suanpakkad.com

Bangkok Dolls & Museum (บ้านบางกอก ดอลส์และตุ๊กตานานาชาติ) 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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: Monday-Saturday from 08.00 a.m.-05.00 p.m.

Tel: 0 2245 3008, 0 2245 4532 www.bangkokdolls.com

Jim Thompson Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ์จิม ทอมป์สัน) This collection of traditional Thaistyle 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 canal side museum is located in Soi Kasemsan 2 on Rama I Road opposite the National Stadium.

Open: Daily from 09.00 a.m.-05.00 p.m.

Admission: Adult 100 Baht, child 50 Baht

Tel: 0 2216 7368 www.jimthompsonhouse.com

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Bangkok Art and Culture Centre

Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (หอศิลป วัฒนธรรมแห่งกรุงเทพมหานคร) The Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (BACC) is located at the Pathumwan Intersection, facing the MBK and Siam Discovery Centres. It is a new mid-town facility for the contemporary arts. Programmes for art, music, theatre, film, design, and cultural/educational events take place in a friendly and recreational atmosphere-with cafe, restaurants, bookshops, and an art library being part of the facility. The BACC aims to create a meeting place for artists, to provide cultural programmes for the community giving importance to cultural continuity from past to contemporary. It aims to open new grounds for cultural dialogue,

networking, and create new cultural resources from both the public and the private sectors. It is intended as a venue for cultural exchange in terms of content, curatorial and cultural management, giving Bangkok an operational base on the international art scene.

Open: Daily from 10.00 a.m.-09.00 p.m. (closed on Mondays)

Tel: 0 2214 6630-8 www.bacc.or.th

Madame Tussauds Bangkok (พิพิธภัณฑ์ มาดามทุสโซ) Located on the 6th floor of the Siam Discovery department store on Rama I Road, Pathum Wan district. It is the 10<sup>th</sup> 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.-09.00 p.m.

Admission : Adult 800 Baht, child (5-12 years)

600 Baht

Tel: 0 2658 0060

www.madametussauds.com/bangkok

Museum of Imaging Technology (พิพิธภัณฑ์ เทคโนโลยีทางภาพฯ) 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 : Monday-Friday from 09.30 a.m.-

04.00 p.m.

Admission: 100 Baht

Tel: 0 2218 5581-3 www.sc.chula.ac.th/photo

Gem and Jewellery Institute of Thailand (สถาบันวิจัยและพัฒนาอัญมณีและเครื่องประดับ แห่งชาติ (องค์การมหาชน) Located ITF Tower. Silom, 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 iewellery 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: Monday-Friday from 09.00 a.m.-

07.00 p.m.

Admission: 200 Baht

Tel: 0 2634 4999 www.git.or.th.

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 stle pavilion situated separately from the living compound for various activities

Open : Daily (except Songkran Day and New Year Day) from 10.00 a.m.-04.00 p.m.

Admission : Adult 50 Baht, child 20 Baht

Tel: 0 2286 8185, 0 2287 2937-8 www.kukritshousefund.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 : Tuesday-Saturday from 09.00 a.m.-

05.00 p.m.

Admission: 100 Baht

Tel: 0 2661 6470-7 www.siam-society.org

Museum of Thai Pharmacy (พิพิธภัณฑ์ เภสัชกรรมไทย) 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 Pharmacv and the Evolution of Herbs and Natural Products. (Advance contact in writing is required for a group visit.)

Open: Monday-Friday from 10.00 a.m.-04.00 p.m.

Tel : 0 2391 6243, 0 2712 1627-8 www.thaipharma.net

Science Centre for Education (ศูนย์ วิทยาศาสตร์เพื่อการศึกษา-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.

Open: Exhibition: Tuesday-Sunday (except public holidays) from 09.00 a.m.-04.30 p.m.

Planetariam: 1-hour shows at 11.00 a.m. and 02.00 p.m. Additional shows on Tuesday-Friday at 11.00 a.m., 02.00 p.m., Saturday-Sunday at 11.00 a.m. and 01.00 p.m., 02.00 p.m., 03.00 p.m.

Admission: Adult 30 Baht, child 20 Baht

Tel: 0 2392 5951-5, 0 2392 1773

www.sciplanet.org

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. 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: Wednesday-Sunday and Public holidays from 10.00 a.m.-04.30 p.m.

Tel: 0 2251 3173 www.thailabourmuseum.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: Monday-Friday (except public holidays) from 09.00 a.m.-4.30 p.m.

Tel: 0 2247 0028 ext. 4223 www.culture.go.th

Art in Paradise Bangkok (อาร์ท อิน พาราไดซ์) Located on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Esplanade Plaza, Ratchadaphisek Road, is a 3 dimensional art museum where visitors can be involved and enjoy taking pictures.

Open: Daily from 10.00 a.m.-08.00 p.m.

Admission: 180 Baht for adults, 120 Baht for children (not more than 120 cm. height)

Tel: 0 2660 9130

www.facebook.com/artinparadisebangkok

MRT Subway : get off at the Thailand Cultural Centre Station, Exit 3

Philatelic Museum Sam Sen Nai (พิพิธภัณฑ์ ตราไปรษณียากรสามเสนใน) Located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Metropolitan Postal Bureau (North) (behind Sam Sen Nai Post Office), Phahonyothin Road. 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: Wednesday-Sunday from 08.30 a.m.-04.30 p.m.

Tel: 0 2831 3722, 0 2271 2439

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.

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: Tuesday-Friday from 09.00 a.m.-05.00 p.m., Saturday-Sunday from 10.00 a.m.-06.00 p.m.

Admission : Adult 150 Baht, child 150 Baht Tel : 0 2272 4500-2, 0 2615 7333 ext. 102, 134, 148 www.bkkcdm.com Bangkok Butterfly Garden and Insectarium (อุทยานผีเสื้อและแมลงกรุงเทพฯ) Situated in the southeastern area of Vachirabenjatas Park (Railway Park), Kamphaeng Phet 3 Road. 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.

Open: Tuesday - Sunday and public holidays from 10.00 a.m.-04.00 p.m.

Tel: 0 2272 4359-60

Royal Barge National Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ สถานแห่งชาติเรือพระราชพิธี) Thailand's ornately carved and decorated Royal Barges are displayed in boatsheds on Bangkok Noi canal, 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 09.00 a.m.-05.00 p.m.

Admission : 100 Baht

Tel: 0 2424 0004

Siriraj Bimuksthan Museum (พิพิภัณฑ์ศิริราช พิมุขสถาน) It is situated on the bank of Khlong Bangkok Noi, Chao Phraya River. At the front of the museum is located a building in a traditional Thai style pavilion, housing the statues of King Rama V the Great and

HRH. Prince Siriraj Kakuttaphan. The Museum comprises the vintage railway station building, clock tower, and warehouse which have been renovated to be a location for displaying the 200-year-old history of the early Rattanakosin period, multimedia exhibition with light and sound about the kings and royal family members' story related to medicine and the founding of Siriraj Hospital for the public's benefits, the evolution of traditional Thai medicine from the past to present, the surgical simulation in which visitors can experience the roles of physicians and nurses like being in the surgical room. The warehouse section showcases a theatre, poetry, shops, and Dhamma hall that depicts the art, culture, traditions, and local wisdom of the Bangkok Noi community's way of life. A 24-metre antique wooden ship, which was buried for more than 100 years, is also on display.

Open: Monday, and Wednesday-Sunday (closed on Tuesday and public holidays) from 10.00 a.m.-05.00 p.m. Ticket sold till 04.30 p.m.

Admission: visit one museum 200 Baht, visit Siriraj Bimuksthan Museum and Siriraj Medical Museum (located in the Siriraj Hospital area) 300 Baht with audio.

Bus: No. 57, 81, 91, 146, 149, 157, 177

Tel: 0 2419 2601, 0 2419 2618-9 www.si mahidol.ac.th/museums

Siriraj Medical Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ์การแพทย์ ศิริราช) Located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Adulayadejvikrom Building, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital on Wanglang Road, which is Thailand's first medical institute. The museum comprises the Congdon Anatomical Museum, Songkran Niyomsane Forensic Medicine Museum, Prehistoric Museum and laboratory, Pathology Museum and Touch Exhibits Museum in honor of Her Majesty the Queen

Open: Wednesday-Monday, from 10.00 a.m.-05.00 p.m. (closed on official holidays)

Admission: 200 Baht

Tel: 0 2419 2618-9, 0 2419 2601 www.si.mahidol.ac.th/museums

Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Centre (ศูนย์มานุษยวิทยาสีรินธร) 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: Monday-Saturday from 09.00 a.m.-04.00 p.m.

Tel: 0 2880 9429 www.sac.or.th

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Buddha Art Gallery (หอศิลป์พุทธะ) Located at 1 Borommaratchachonnani Road, Sala Thammasop, displays Buddhism-related artworks, which is offered in rotation and permanent exhibitions in digital, art printing, exquisite printed Buddhist-related pictures on a canvas, and the life of the Buddha. The gallery is also a place for studying the Tripitaka, Dhamma preaching, and Dhamma practice for interested persons.

Open : Daily from 10.00 a.m.-06.00 p.m.

Tel: 0 2441 1940, 08 5425 3663, 08 9084 5664 www.thebuddhaartgallery.com

Bus: from the Victory Monument, take No. 515, 539 or from Sanam Luang, take No. 124

House of Museums (บ้านพิพิธภัณฑ์) The House of Museums is located at Soi Khlong Pho 2, Sala Thammasop Road, Thawi Watthana. 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. The first floor lends an old atmosphere of shop houses before 1957 including a café, drugstore, barber's, etc.

Open: Saturday-Sunday from 10.00 a.m.-05.00 p.m.

Admission : Adult 40 Baht, child 10 Baht

Tel: 08 9666 2008, 08 9200 2803

Sunthorn Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ์สุนทร) Situated on Sukhaphiban 1 (off Phetkasem Road near Lotus Supermarket), this is a private museum operated by Mr. Sunthorn Chunothaisawat. 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, irons, type writers, fans and sewing machines which are in good condition.

Open: Monday- Saturday from 09.00 a.m.-06.00 p.m.

Admission : Adult 100 Baht, child 50 Baht

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

# Zoos / Aquarium

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: Monday-Friday from 08.00 a.m.-06.00 p.m., Saturday-Sunday from 08.00 a.m.-06.00 p.m.

Admission : Adult 100 Baht, child 50 Baht

Tel: 0 2281 2000, 0 2281 9027-8 www.zoothailand.org www.dusitzoo.org

Sea life Bankok Ocean World (ซีไลฟ์ บางกอก โอเชี่ยน เวิลด์) It is situated on B1-B2 floors of Siam Paragon, an extravagant department store located in the heart of the metropolis. 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 as wide as two football fields, and uses world-class advanced technology to provide a rewarding underwater experience to visitors. Feel like walking under the ocean and be amazed with the fascinating underwater world

Open : Daily from 10.00 a.m.-08.00 p.m.

Admission : Adult 490 Baht, child 350 Baht

Tel: 0 2687 2000 www.siamoceanworld.com

Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute (Snake Farm) (สถานเสาวภาสภากาชาดไทย-สวนฐ) Located near Chulalongkorn Hospital on the corner of Henri Dunant Road and Rama IV Road, this institute contains a collection of poisonous snakes which are "milked" daily for their venom in order to produce invaluable anti-snakebite serum.

Open: Monday–Friday from 08.30 a.m.-04.30 p.m.; Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays from 09.30 a.m.-01.00 p.m.

Venom extraction : Monday-Friday at 11.00 a.m. and 02.30 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: Monday-Friday from 09.00 a.m.-04.30 p.m; Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays from 09.00 a.m.-05.00 p.m.

Admission: Adult 800 Baht, child 500 Baht

Tel : 0 2518 1000-19, 0 2914 4100-19

www.safariworld.com



Dusit Zoo

### Amusement Parks

Kids Zania Bangkok (คิดส์ ซาเนีย) Located on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor of Siam Paragon Centre, Rama I Road, is a learning and entertainment centre for children in the form of a model city that displays the roles of various occupations through virtual activities consisting of the Airport Zone to get into the city, City Square Zone with a mock up of a governmental office centre, universities, hospitals, banks, etc., and performance activities, and Suburb Zone featuring different kinds of factories. The place is well equipped with facilities for the disabled; such as, elevators for wheelchair users and kidZos cash for the eyesight impaired.

Open: Daily on Monday-Friday from 10.00 a.m.-05.00 p.m. and on Satureday, Sunday and public holidays 10.00 a.m-03.00 p.m. and 04.00-09.00 p.m.

Admission: 300 Baht for children aged 2-3, 650 Baht for children aged 4-14, 400 Baht for children aged and above 15 years old, and 300 Baht for adults aged more than 60.

Tel: 0 2683 1888 www.kidzania.com

Flow House Bangkok (โฟลว์ เฮาส์ แบงค์ค็อก) Located in the A Square Community Mall Project, Sukhumvit 26, Khlong Toei, is a location of the biggest surfing sport simulation in the South East Asia region, with a water flowing speed at 20 miles per hour (32 kilometres per hour). Adults or children are welcome to play.

Open: Monday-Friday from 10.00 a.m.-11.00 p.m. and on Saturday-Sunday from 08.00 a.m.-11.00 p.m.

Admission: 750 Baht per hour

BTS Skytrain: get off at the Phrom Phong Station then go to Soi Sukhumvit 24 or Sukhumvit 26 to the end of the road.

Bus: No. 2, 25, 38, 46, 48, 116

Tel: 0 2108 5211-16, 0 2108 5210 www.flowhousebangkok.com.

Funarium (ฟันเนเรี่ยม) Located on Sukhumvit 26. It is a playground theme park that small children to adults can participate. The space is divided into 4 zones: the Toddler Zone is a play zone for the development of small children aged 1-4 where they can play in a soft playground, slider, and a small ball pool, the Junior Zone for children between 4-13 years old features a two-storey-tall play structure ideal for climbing, jumping, crawling and balancing, a ball-blower machine, and a large 4-lane slider that can accommodate adults and children at the same time, the Sport Zone offers a bike rink, a basketball, or football court, and the Sand and Water Zone includes a puddle and a large sand pit for building sand castles.

Open: Monday-Thursday from 09.00 a.m.-06.00 p.m., Friday-Sunday and public holiday from 09.00 a.m.-07.00 p.m.

Admission: 200 Baht/3 hours for children (up to 105 centimetres high), 320 Baht/3 hours

for children above 105 cm. high and aged not more than 13, and 110 Baht for adults.

Tel: 0 2665 6555 Fax: 0 2661 5056 www.funarium.co.th

BTS Sky Train: At Phrom Phong Station, then take a cab to get into Soi Sukhumvit 26 about 250 metres.

Subway: At Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre Station, and walk toward the Big C Superstore direction on Rama IV Road.

The Escape Hunt (เอสเคป ฮันท์) Situated in the Interchange Building, B2 Floor, Sukhumvit 27, Khlong Toei Nuea, Watthana, is an entertainment complex offering an adventurous game where players can act as a famous English detective named Shylock Barnes (or Charlotte Barnes), who investigated and solved many significant cases of more than 100 years ago. 2-5 players can participate in the game.

Open: Daily from 09.30 a.m.-06.30 p.m.

BTS Sky Train : At Asok Station Exit 6, the building is on the left.

Subway : At Sukhumvit Station Exit 2, 4

Bus: No. 25, 38, 40, 48, 136, 181, 508, 511

Tel: 0 2611 2827-8 www.escapehunt.com

Play Time (เพลย์ ไทม์) Situated in the Park Lane Shopping Centre, Sukhumvit Soi 63, Ekkamai, is an edutainment park that promotes learning development skills for children. The area is divided for each activity; for example, the Spaceship Adventure Zone features space playing machines, the Electric Mini Car in the Street Zone provides mock up traffic in which kids can learn the traffic rules, the Dino Rock and Cliff Zone takes kids from the virtual space time in transition to the Dinosaur era via a time machine, the Toddler Zone is for small children to climb, Arts and Craft Room is an art workshop in various forms, Kids Career Courses are a role play activity in different careers, and Kids Sports offers sport activities for children to learn about playing with spirit.

Open: Monday-Thursday from 09.00 a.m.-06.00 p.m., Friday-Sunday and public holidays from 09.00 a.m.-07.30 p.m.

Admission: 250 Baht for children not taller than 105 cm., 390 Baht for children taller than 105 cm., and 130 Baht for adults.

Tel: 0 2382 0077 Fax: 0 2382 0083 www.playtime.co.th

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.-06.00 p.m.

Admission : Siam Day Pass 900 Baht, Siam Fantasy Pass (Water Park) 300 Baht

Bus: No. 26, 60, 512

Tel: 0 2919 7200-19 www.siamparkcity.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 4<sup>th</sup> floor, The Mall (Bang Khae) Tel: 0 2487 1000

Fantasia Lagoon 4<sup>th</sup> floor, The Mall (Bang Kapi) Tel: 0 2173 1000

Funplanet, Leo Land Water Park  $6^{\text{th}}$ - $7^{\text{th}}$  floor, Central City (Bangna) Tel : 0 2725 5000

Yo Yo Land 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Seacon Square (Si Nakharin) Tel: 0 2721 8888

Skippy Land basement and 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Imperial World (Samrong) Tel: 0 2756 8217-9

Kids Island 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Fashion Island Tel: 0.2947 5000

### Public Parks

Sanam Luang (สนามหลวง) 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. 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.

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 from 05.00 a.m.-08.00 p.m.

Lumphini 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 05.00 a.m.-07.00 p.m.

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 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Open: Daily from 05.00 a.m.-07.00 p.m.

Admission: 10 Baht

Tel: 0 2328 1395, 0 2328 1385-6

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 05.00 a.m.-08.00 p.m.

Queen Sirikit Park (สวนสมเด็จพระนางเจ้า สิริกิติ์) This is situated east of Chatuchak Park on Phahonyothin Road. It was built to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> 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 05.00 a.m.-08.00 p.m.

# Shopping

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.



Suan Luang Rama IX

Siam Square-Ploenchit-Ratchaprasong-Ratchaprarop (สยาม-เพลินจิต-ราชประสงค์-ร

Sukhumvit (สุขุมวิท) 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), such as Robinson and The Emporium (luxuary department store). Most shops and restaurants are concentrated between Soi 3 and Soi 21 (Asok) and along shortcuts between Asok and Ekkamai.

Emquartier (เอ็ม ควอเทียร์) located on the opposite of the Emporium, Sukhumvit Road. It's the Luxury Mall, filled with shops selling high end local and international brands, international food court, beauty institute, fitness center, IT shops, Quartier Cineart Theater, Sky outdoor garden and a highest manmade waterfall in Asia.

Open : Daily from 10.00 am.-10.00 pm.

Tel: 0 2269 1000

Terminal 21 (เทอร์มินัล 21) Is situated at Soi Sukhumvit 19, Sukhumvit Road. The highlight of this place is that it was built as a market street simulating international airports from around the world in order to bring visitors to the cities; such as, Caribbean, Rome, Paris, Tokyo, London, etc. Each floor has been decorated harmoniously with every city zone.

Open : Daily from 10.00 a.m.-10.00 p.m.

Tel: 0 2108 0800 www.terminal21.co.th

K Village (เค วิลเลจ) Located at the end of Soi Sukhumvit 26, is a community mall in which its space is mostly allocated for restaurants and shopping stores for the rest.

Open: Daily from 10.00 a.m.-10.00 p.m.

Tel : 0 2258 9919-21

www.kvillagebangkok.com

Rain Hill (เรนฮิสล์) Situated at Soi Sukhumvit 47 Sukhumvit Road. It is a community complex combining restaurants, coffee and bakery shops, clothing, fashion, jewellery stores, health and beauty parlours, and academies.

Open: Daily from 10.00 a.m.-10.00 p.m.

BTS Skytrain : between Phrom Phong and Thong Lo Stations.

Tel: 0 2620 8777 www.rainhill47.com

J Avenue Thonglor (เจ อเวนิว ทองหล่อ) Located at Soi Thong Lo 15, Sukhumvit 55 Road. It is a shopping arcade combining Japanese fusion restaurants.

Open : Daily from 10.00 a.m.-10.00 p.m.

Tel: 0 2660 3900 www.facebook.com/ Javenue.Thonglor

Pratunam-Phetchaburi (ประตูน้ำ-เพชรบุรี) A highlight in the district is Pratunam market, one of Bangkok's biggest centres for ready-to-wear.

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



ASIATIQUE The Riverfront

The Portico Langsuan (เดอะปอร์ติโก้หลังสวน) Located at 31, Lang Suan Road, Lumphini, Pathumwan, is a building complex combining various kinds of stores; such as, international stylish restaurants, fashion stores, Japanese style gift shops, dancing school, yoga studio, etc.

Open : Daily from 10.00 a.m.-12.00 p.m.

BTS Sky Train : about 100 metres from Chit

Lom Station

Tel: 0 2652 1968-70 www.theporticolangsuan.com

The Nine Neighbourhood Centre (เดอะไมน์) Located on Rama IX Road, Suan Luang, is a community mall with the design that combines nature and architecture in the concept of a tropical village style, enchanting the mall to look modern and pleasant under the shade of trees

Open: Daily from 10.00 a.m.-10.00 p.m.

Tel : 0 2716 7999 Fax : 0 2719 7998

www.thenine.co.th

Silom-Surawong-Patpong (สีสม-สุรวงศ์-พัฒพงษ์) 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, 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 (สีสม-มเหศักดิ์-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.

ASIATIQUE The Riverfront (เอเชียทีค เดอะ ริเวอร์ฟร้อนท์) Located on Charoen Krung Road, the complex has been constructed into a colonial style. It is divided into 4 sections: the Charoenkrung section consisting of more than 1,000 shops selling souvenirs and decorative items.

the Town Square section staging shows like Jo Louis Puppet Theatre, Calypso Cabaret and Muay Thai Lives including international restaurants.

the Factory section is a more than 100-yearold sawmill refurbished into a modern look to be shopping stores of apparel and accessories.

the Waterfront section comprising restaurants on the Chao Phraya Riverside and the longest boardwalk along the Chao Phraya River.

Visitors can see a panoramic view and take Asiatique Sky, a 60-metre high ferris wheel, to see a panoramic view.

Open: Daily from 05.00-12.00 p.m.

BTS Sky Train: At Saphan Taksin Station, take the free Asiatique's shuttle boat service between 05.00-10.00 p.m.

Tel: 0 2108 4488 www.thaiasiatique.com

Crystal Design Centre (คริสตัลดีใชน์ เซ็นเตอร์)
Situated on Pradit Manutham Road (alongside the Ekkamai-Ram Inthra Expressway). It is the first and only design centre in Thailand that provides the biggest and most complete package of design products and services in Asia combining furniture in various styles, art gallery, modern architectural decoration, etc., as well as offering a library that contains

more than 4,000 well-selected design books from all around the world, plus restaurants, and supermarkets. In addition, there is a night market on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 5.-9 p.m.

Open: Daily from 10.00 a.m.-10.00 p.m.

Tel: 0 2515 0922 www.sbdesignsquare.com

Festival Walk Nawamin Art Village (นวมินทร์ เฟสติวัล วอล์ค) Situated at Soi Senanikhom Niwet 200, Prasoet Manunkit Road, Lat Phrao. It is an open-air shopping mall built in semi-ancient European and modern architecture consisting of restaurants and shops selling clothing, jewellery, home decorations, etc. The outer space is designed into a green area with a pool. Every Saturday, the "Festival Art@Festival Walk" will be held. The event features shops selling creative ideas or handmade work.

Open: Daily 10.00 a.m.-12.00 p.m.

Tel: 0 2660 9000

www.facebook.com/NawaminFestival

Amorini Boutique Lifestyle (อะมอรินี่ ไลฟ์สไตล์ มอลล์) Located on Ram Inthra Km. 12 Road (at the entrance of the Suan Siam Water Park). It is a shopping mall that built in Greek-style architecture by imitating Santorini Island. This place is remarkable with a large windmill and big bell tower, featuring shopping stores and restaurants.

Open : Daily from 10.00 a.m.-10.00 p.m.

Tel: 0 2518 5669 www.amorinimall.com



Chatuchak Weekend Market

Bang Lamphu (บางล้าพู) Bang Lamphu is a market in the old town of Bangkok where clothing, food are popular buy. Besides shopping, many restaurants, hotels and guesthouses are located. Most of the bag packers choosing this area for visiting Thailand.

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, It is one of the city's renowned ready-to-wear clothing centres, both wholesale and retail.

Chatuchak Weekend Market (ตลาดนัด จตุจักร) Located adjacent to Chatuchak Park, the weekend market, open on Saturday and Sunday, is a Bangkok landmark where the tourists can buy everything from clothing to potted plants, 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. It is located on Maharat Road near the Memorial Bridge. The market is crowded in the early morning and in the evening.

Yod Piman River Walk (ยอดพิมาน ริเวอร์ วอล์ค) located near Yodpiman market at the heart of Pak Khlong Talat, on Chakkaphetch Road, Phranakorn district. It's the community mall, performes as a Thai Heritage Mall, filled with more than 40 shops selling Thai and International food, Spa products shops and

OTOP products. It's highlight is superior to any other places with 300 metres of corridor along Chaophraya river bank, allowing true closeness to the delightful view of the river.

Open: Daily from 10.00 a.m.-10.00 p.m.

Tel: 0 2623 6851-55

www.yodpimanriverwalk.com

Bus: No. 6, 8, 73 and by Chaophraya Express boats.

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.

Woeng Nakhon Kasem (เวิ้งนาครเกษม)
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.

 $\label{thm:conducts} \mbox{Handicrafted products are available}:$ 

Chitralada Shop www.chitraladashop.com

Doi Kham Shop www.doikham.co.th

Phufa Shop www.phufa.org

Patpat Shop www.patpat9.com, which offers items from the Royal Project SUPPORT Foundation

#### River & Canals

The Chao Phraya River & Canal Tour

The Chao Phraya river and canals may be conveniently explored by chartered boat :

Chao Phraya Express Boat at Tha Chang Pier near The Grand Palace Tel: 0 2623 6001-3 www.chaophrayaexpressboat.com

Mit Chao Phraya at Tha Chang Pier Tel: 0 2225 6179, 0 2221 2297

Si Phraya Boat Trip at Si Phraya Pier near the River City Shopping Complex. Tel: 0 2235 3108

Tourists can also book such a tour through travel agents.

Taling Chan Canal Tour (ล่องเรือเขตตลิ่งชั้น)
Taling Chan District on the bank of Khlong
Bangkok Noi, is well-known for canal tour.
Visitors will have a chance to explore the
way of Thai live along the canal.

Canal tour by boats on 4 routes every Saturday-Sunday, visitors can buy tickets and take a boat at the Taling Chan Floating Market.

Tour 1: Visit Khlong Lat Mayom floating market, Wat Saphan Market, and Taling Chan Floating Market. The 3-hour tour operates once a day at 09.30 a.m. Tickets: 99 Baht for adults and 60 Baht for children.

Tour 2: Visit Orchid farm, Wat Saphan Market, feeding fish at Wat Pak Nam, and buying Khao Lam (glutinious rice roasted in a bamboo joint)



Chao Phraya River

on a canal side. The 3-hour tour operates once a day at 01.30 p.m. Ticket 99 Baht for adults and 60 Baht for children.

Tour 3: Klong Bangluang Artist's House, watch the Hun Lakhon Lek puppet show and sightseeing the atmosphere of Khlong Bang Luang Floating Market. The 3-hour tour operates once a day at 01.30 p.m. Tickets: 99 Baht for adults and 60 Baht for children.

Tour 4: An hour boat tour cruising around and sightseeing the way of life along the riverside. The boat operates every hour from 12.00-03.00 p.m. Ticket: 100 Baht each. Special activity in April, during the Songkran Festival, visitors can enjoy splashing water while riding on a boat.

Bus : Take air-conditioned bus No.79 and get off at Taling Chan District Office.

Tel: 0 2424 1742, 0 2424 5448. Taling Chan District Office

#### 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 280/seat (A la carte) boat leave King Rama III Bridge pier

Tel: 0 2921 8670-5 www.d-dairyqueen.com

Wonder Grand Pearl 2,500 Baht (international buffet with Thai performance) boat leave River City pier) Tel: 0 2861 0255-60 www.grandpearlcruise.com

Horizon Cruise 2,300 Baht (international buffet) boat leave Shangri-la Hotel pier

Tel: 0 2236 7777 www.shangri-la.com

Loy Nava 1,900 Baht (buffet with Thai performance) boat leave Si praya pier

Tel: 0 2437 4932, 0 2437 7329 www.loynava.

Manohra 1,750-2,500 (buffet with Thai music) boat leave Taksin pier

Tel: 0 2476 0021-2 www.bangkok-riverside. anantara.com

Riverside 910 Baht (Buffet with live music, Thursday-Sunday Thai performance) Boat leave Riverside Hotel pier.

Tel: 0 2883 1588 www.riversidebangkok.com

Wan Fah 1,300 Baht (set menu Thai, international with Thai performance) boat leave The River City Hotel pier, Charoen Krung Soi 30

Tel: 0 2622 7657-61 ext. 405 www.wanfahcruise.com

Yok Yor Marina 160 Baht/seat (A la carte)

Tel: 0 2863 0565-6 www.yokyor.co.th

### Floating Market

Wat Taling Chan Floating Market (ตลาดน้ำ วัดตลิ่งขัน) Located near Taling Chan District Office, is a floating market of the community and temple. The trading shops have been constructed with thatched roofs to match with the environment of this place where bamboo table sets are provided for enjoying eating a variety of food in a riverside atmosphere. Visitors can also buy fresh fruits, vegetables and many kinds of plants sold by orchardists.

Open: Saturday-Sunday from 08.00 a.m.-05.00 p.m.

Bus: air-conditioned bus No. 79 and get off at Taling Chan District Office

Tel: 0 2424 1742. Taling Chan District Office

Wat Champa Floating Market (King Rama III Park) (ตลาดน้ำวัดจำปา) (อุทยาน ร. 3) Located Taling Chan District, constructed into an open Thai style hall with a thatched roof, is a small floating market that reflects the community lifestyle while on the opposite side is a garden in the city, featuring fruits, vegetables and lotus field, which is quite rare to see nowadays. Some interesting activities are available; such as, Thai desserts cooking class at Ban Mae Chuap, Ban Sawang Chan Homestay, a traditional Thai house that suits those who love the atmosphere of a canalside orchard. Wat Champa is an ancient temple from the late Ayutthaya to the early



Rattanakosin periods. It was restored in the reign of King Rama III to King Rama V the Great, featuring crockery decoration on the gables of the Ubosot and Mondop and stucco relief of Chinese deities in the Chinese art style as well. The Ubosot roof is decorated with stucco of a large alligator casting its body along the roof ridge, which was made according to the myth that there was a big alligator inhabiting Khlong Bang Ramat.

Open: Saturday-Sunday and public holidays from 09.00 a.m.-03.00 p.m.

Bus: air-conditioned bus No. 79 and get off at Taling Chan District Office, then take mini bus

Tel: 08 1918 8825, 08 9810 1770

Wat Saphan Floating Market (ตลาดน้ำ วัดสะพาน) Located inside Wat Saphan on the bank of Khlong Bangkok Noi, Pak Nam-Krachom Thong Road, Bang Phrom, Taling Chan. Wat Saphan is an ancient temple since the Ayutthaya period as evidenced from the discovery of a sandstone Buddha image and the three other Buddha images: Luangpho To, Luangpho Klang, and Luangpho Dam. The Market offers a variety of food and desserts including fresh fruits and vegetables from gardeners.

Open: Saturday-Sunday and public holidays from 09.00 a.m.-03.00 p.m.

Bus: air-conditioned bus No. 79 and get off at Taling Chan District Office, then take mini

Tel: 08 6035 0424

Khlong Lat Mayom Floating Market (ตลาดน้ำ คลองลัดมะยม) Situated on Bang Ramat Road, Taling Chan, is a large floating market with an area on both sides of the street where it offers numerous kinds of food and desserts. clothes, house decorative items, pottery with a moulding demonstration, various kinds of plants brought and sold by gardeners, and Suan Chiam Ton or a nature learning centre to educate the new generation to learn the original gardeners' way of life that is simply living with nature. A sightseeing boat tour along Bang Ramat Canal is available including visiting Ban Khanom Thai or Thai desserts house, in which visitors can taste and buy for a souvenir.

Open: Saturday-Sunday and public holidays from 08.00 a.m.-05.00 p.m.

Bus: No.68, 147 get off at Macro department Store, Charan Sanitwong branch then take mini bus

Tel: 0 2422 4270, 08 9215 2659

Kwan-Riam Floating Market (ตลาดน้ำ ชวัญเรียม) Situated on the bank of Khlong Saen Saep, Wat Bamphen Nuea (Soi Seri Thai 60) and Wat Bang Pheng Tai (Soi Ramkhamhaeng 187), Min Buri district, offers various food from nationwide where visitors can eat on boat or on land. Local souvenirs are on sale. There is an antique boat on display. The highlights of this market are a bridge in a boat shape connecting Wat



Cultural Performances

Bamphen Nuea and Wat Bang Pheng Tai, and alms offering on a boat every Saturday and Sunday at 7.30 a.m. with chanting for blessings to visitors. A boat tour along the canal is offered and narrates the history and stories of the Khlong Saen Saep Community lifestyle by a youth guide. In addition, there are Thai cultural performances of each region by children, a variety of activities on the stage; such as, musical performances and sermons by monks, etc.

Open: Saturday-Sunday and public holidays from 07.00 a.m.-08.00 p.m.

Bus: No.27, 58, 113, 502, 514

Tel: 08 7701 2878, 08 1635 1491 www.kwan-riamfloatingmarket.com

## **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.

www.bangkokpost.com or www.nationmultimedia.com

#### Theatres

The National Theatre (โรงละครแห่งชาติ) located on Na Phra That Road next to the National Museum, is the official centre of Thai classical performance.

Tel: 0 2224 1342

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: 600, 800, and 1,000 Baht

Tel: 0 2224 4704 ext. 408 http://wangnatheater.com/drama

Chalerm Krung Royal Theatre (เฉลิมกรุง รอยัลเซียเตอร์) 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.

Tel: 0 2225 8757-8, 0 2623 8148-9 www.salachalermkrung.com

Hun Lakhon Lek Khlong Bang Luang by the Khamnai Puppet Show Company (หุ่นละครเล็ก คลองบางหลวง คณะคำนาย) 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 02.00 p.m. One more show is available on Saturdays and Sundays at 11.30 p.m.

Bus : No. 509, 68, 80, 81. Micro bus 10

Tel: 0 2868 5279, 08 1258 9260

Thailand Cultural Centre (ศูนย์วัฒนธรรม แห่งประเทศไทย) on Ratchadaphisek Road, is a fully integrated venue for social education and cultural activities.

Tel: 0 2247 0028 for a current programme or www.culture.go.th

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. 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 08.00 p.m. only and the ticket costs 1,500-2,000 Baht. 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.

Tel: 0 2649 9222 www.siamniramit.com

#### Dinner and Thai Classical Dance

Reservations can be made through travel agents or the following restuarants:

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

Suwannahong Tel : 0 2245 4448, 0 2245 3747

### Special Interests

### Thai Boxing

Muay 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. There are two Boxing Stadiums:

Ratchadamnoen Stadium (สนามมาย ราชดำเนิน) Ratchadamnoen Nok Road, open every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday at 6.30 p.m.-11.30 p.m.



Ticket: 500-2,000 Baht

Bus: No. 70, 157, 503, 509

Tel: 0 2281 4205, 0 2280 1684-6

Lumphini Stadium (สนามมวยลุมพินี) Ram Indra Road KM.2, open every Tuesday 06.00 p.m. and Friday-Saturday at 04.30-08.00 p.m. and 8.30 p.m.-12 p.m.

Ticket: 500-2,000 Baht.

Bus : No. 26

Tel: 0 2521 5338-39, 0 2521 4708

### Thai Boxing Schools

Eminent Air Boxing Gym (ค่ายอีมิเน้นท์แอร์) Soi Punnawithi 20, Sukhumwit 101 Rd., Bangkok. Tel: 08 9217 0822 www.eminentgym.com

Fairtex Muay Thai Fitness (ค่ายมวยแฟร์เท็กซ์) Mu 8 Soi Buntham Anuson, Amphoe Bang Phli, Samut Prakan. Tel: 0 2757 5147, 0 2386 6117-9, 0 2755 3329, 0 2385 5148-9 www.fairtexbangplee.com

The Muay Thai Institute (โรงเรียนมวยไทย) Phaholyothin Road, Amphoe Thanyaburi, Pathum Thani. Tel: 08 1828 5115, 0 2992 0096-9 www.muaythai-institute.net

## 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 (โรงเรียน สอนทำอาหารไทยใบพาย) Ngam Wongwan Soi 54 Road, Chatuchak Tel : 0 2561 1404 www.baipai.com

Blue Elephant Bangkok Cooking School and Restaurant Blue Elephant Building South Sathon Road, Tel: 0 2673 9353-8

International Baking and Cooking School (โรงเรียนขนมอบนานาชาติ) (Opposite Chatuchak Weekend Market), Tel: 0 2272 5692-3, 0 2272 5663, 0 2272 5654, 0 2682 7644 www.international-baking-cooking-school.com

Siam Square 180-184 Bakery House Bldg., Siam Square Soi 1, Patumwan Tel : 0 2252 7286, 0 2252 7520 www.ufmeducation.com

Suan Dusit International Culinary School (โรงเรียนการอาหารนานาชาติสวนดุสิต) Tel : 0 2244 5391-3 www.chefschool.dusit.ac.th

Thai & International Food Academy (โรงเรียนธุรกิจการอาหารไทยและนานาชาติ) Rama III Road, Yannawa, Tel : 0 2682 7644 www.yingsakfood.com

The Modern Woman Institute (แม่บ้าน ทันสมัย) Setsiri Road, Phaya Thai, Tel : 0 2279 2831, 0 2279 2834 www.mwthaicook.com

The Thai House (บ้านไทย) Amphoe Bangyai, Nonthaburi, Tel : 0 2903 9611, 0 2997 5161 www.thaihouse.co.th UFM Baking & Cooking School (โรงเรียนสอน การผลิตอาหารและขนมมาตรฐาน) Sukhumvit Soi Sukhumvit 33/1, Sukhumvit Road Tel : 0 2259 0620-30, 0 2260 5280-300

Wandee Culinary School (โรงเรียนครัววันดี) Padiphat Road, Phayathai Tel : 0 2279 9844-5, 0 2279 2204 www.wandeethaicooking.com

Thai cooking class is also arrange by many hotels including:

Mandarin Oriental Hotel (โรงแรมแมนดาริน โอเรียนเต็ล) Charoen Nakhon Road., Tel: 0 2659 9000 ext. Thai cooking school www.mandarinoriental.com

Anantara Resort and Spa (โรงแรมอนันตรา รีสอร์ท แอนด์ สปา) (Near Krung Thep Bridge), Thon Buri Tel: 0.2476 0021-2

#### 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.

Buddhadasa Indapanno Archives (หอ จดหมายเหตุพุทธทาส อินทปัญโญ หรือสวน โมกข์กรุงเทพฯ) Located at the entrance of Wachira Benchathat Park (Railway Public Park) behind the PTT Headquarters Building, Chatuchak, is a learning and recreational centre as well as spiritual fitness and edutainment centre for happiness and serenity. Moreover, the Archives collect written documents, printed materials, and audio-visual aids for propagating Achan Buddhadasa Indapanno's sermons, which can be used as a reference for education, and research on Buddhism academia. The Dhamma activities are meditation, music, Edutainment, arts, photography practice, Yoga and Tai Chi.

Open: Daily from 09.00 a.m.-06.00 p.m.

Tel: 0 2936 2800 www.bia.or.th

BTS Sky Train: get off at Mo Chit Station, then take taxi

MRT Subway : get off at Chatuchak Park Station, then take taxi

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

The World Fellowship of Buddhists (องค์การ พุทธศาสนิกสัมพันธ์แห่งโลก) Sukhumvit Soi 24, Khlong Toei, Bangkok Tel : 0 2661 1284-7

## 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



Thai Traditional Massage

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 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.

#### Street Food

Street foods have become a heaven for those looking for good taste. Dotted on almost every street in Bangkok, food stalls are open in the evening, ranging from rice, noodle, somtom, grilled chicken to fresh seafood. It could be found in Bang Lamphu, Yaowarat, Silom, Chong Nonsi, Pratunam, Ratchaprasong, Phetchaburi Soi 10-12, BTS Ratchatewi Station, Siam, Sukhumvit.



Ayutthaya Historical Park, Ayutthaya

## TOURIST SPOT AROUND BANKOK

## Ayutthaya

The luxurious package cruise from Bangkok to Ayutthaya is operated by; Anantara Cruises Tel: 0 2477 0770 www.bangkok-cruises. anantara.co.th

#### Nonthaburi

A budget tour to Ko Kret, Nonthaburi is operated every Saturday, Sunday by Mit Chao Phraya from Tha Chang pier. Ticket 500 baht Tel: 0 2225 6179, 0 2221 2297 River Sun Cruise Tel: 0 2266 9316 www.riversuncruise.co.th

### Nakhon Pathom

Samphran Elephant Ground & Zoo (ลานแสดงช้างและฟาร์มจระเข้สามพราน) Located on the Phetchakasem Road at Km.30 marker, 1 Kilometres. before the Rose Garden in Nakhon Pathom. 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.

Open: Daily from 08.30 a.m.-05.30 p.m.

Admission : Adult 500 Baht, child 300 Baht Bus : No.123 Sanam Luang (Tha Chang), 539 Victory Monument till Big C (Om Yai) then take mini bus to Samphran Tel: 0 2295 2938-9, 0 2284 0273, 0 2284 1873, 0 2429 0361-2, Nakhon Pathom Tel: 0 3431 1971, 0 3432 1471 www.elephantshow.com

Rose Garden Riverside (สวนสามพราน) This tourist attraction is located on Phetchakasem Road 32 Kms. It is located adjacent to the Nakhon Chai Si River. 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

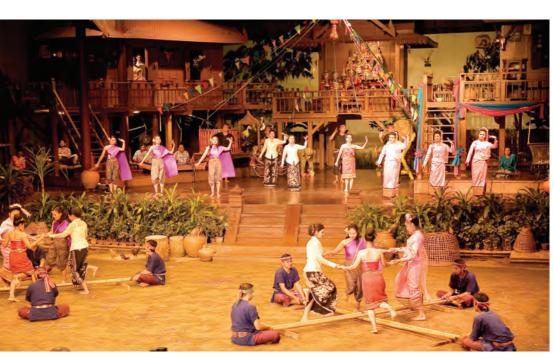
weaving, basketry, umbrella painting, etc. In the afternoon, at 2.30 p.m.-3.30 p.m., there will be performances concerning Thai local traditions such as ordination, wedding ceremony, rice growing, and dances of the four regions. It also features an attractive Thai cultural show that commences daily in the afternoon.

Open: Daily from 08.00 a.m.-03.00 p.m.

Admission: 500 Baht

Bus: No.123 Sanam Luang (Tha Chang), 539 Victory Monument till Big C (Om Yai) then take mini bus to Samphran

Tel: 0 3432 2544-7 www.sampranriverside.net



Thai Human Imagery Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ์ หุ่นขี้ผึ้งไทย) is located at Km. 31, Borom maratchachonnani Road (Pinklao-Nakhon Chai Si). 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. The building has 2 floors. 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, There are temporary exhibition rooms depending on various occasions. world important persons, Thai literature, Phra Aphaimani in Sunthon Phu's novel, Thai children's folk games, and Thai history.

Open: daily from 08.00 a.m.-05.30 p.m. (weekdays), 09.00 a.m.-06.00 p.m. (Weekends and public holidays)

Admission : Adults 300 Baht, child 150 Baht

Tel: 0 3433 2109, 0 3433 2607

#### Pathum Thani

The Golden Jubilee Museum of Agriculture (พิพิธภัณฑ์การเกษตรเฉลิมพระเกียรติ) The museum is situated on Km. 46-48 Phahonyothin Road, comprises a group of 9 bulidings connecting to one another. It displays the story on agriculture through modern technology and models, covering every aspect of the

agricultural process such as land development, forestry, fishery, animal husbandry, and ecological system, while outside are the greenhouses, demonstrating rice fields, and a presentation of the farmers' lifestyles in every region of Thailand. Moreover, it is a training centre, an academic seminar venue on agriculture, and a source for education on the royal projects.

Open : Tuesday-Sunday and public holidays from 09.30 a.m.-3.30 p.m. and closed on Monday

Tel: 0 2529 2211-4

Dream World (ดิรีมเวิลด์) Situated at km.7 of Rangsit-Ong kharak 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.-05.00 p.m. Holidays from 10.00 a.m.-07.00 p.m

Admission : 180-560 Baht (800 Baht including Snow Town)

Tel: 0 2577 8666, 0 2533 1152 www.dreamworld.co.th

National Science Museum Thailand (พิพิธภัณฑ์วิทยาศาสตร์แห่งชาติ) Located in Tambon Khlong 5 within the compound of the Technopolis complex. 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. It is to strengthen understanding in science and technology to youth and the general public.

The Museum exhibits photo gallery, scientific pieces of work and a gigantic globe. reconstruction of "Lucy" fossils, a replica of an astronaut, a shadow tunnel and wooden house to present the information on light, basic information and technology in Thailand, geographical, geological and ecological characteristics, agricultural production, as well as construction technology. There is an analysis of human parts and utensils used in daily life. 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.

Open: Tuesday-Friday and public holidays from 09.30 a.m.-04.00 p.m., Saturday-Sunday 09.30 a.m.-05.00 p.m.



National Science Museum Thailand, Pathum Thani

Admission: Adult 100 Baht, child 20 Baht

Tel: 0 2577 9999 ext. 2122, 2125

www.nsm.or.th

### Ratchaburi

Damnoen Saduak Floating Market (ตลาดน้ำ ดำเนินสะดวก) This popular attraction is some 80 Kilometres west of Bangkok. Every morning till noon, boat venders will sell product from their plantations that varies from fruits to vegetables. Check in early morning and take a ride on a row boat to get the real sense of floating market.



Damnoen Saduak Floating Market, Ratchaburi

Bus: Take the bus from the Southern Bus Terminal (Bangkok-Damnoen Saduak Floating Market route)

### Samut Prakan

Crocodile Farm and Zoo (ฟาร์มจระเข้และ สวนสัตว์สมุทรปราการ) Located on Tai Ban Road, approximately 30 km. east of Bangkok. The farm has more than 60,000 crocodiles of various sizes are bred. There are daily crocodile shows, elephant shows during 09.00 a.m.-04.00 p.m. The zoo provides a home for tigers, chimpanzees, gibbons, turtles, snakes, birds, camels, hippopotamus and deer. 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 07.00 a.m.-06.00 p.m.

Admission: Adult 300 Baht, child 200 Baht Bus: No.25, 102, 507, 508, 511 then take mini bus Pak Nam-Crocodile farm route

Tel: 0 2703 4891-3, 0 2703 5144-8 www.worldcrocodile.com

Ancient City (เมื่องโบราณ) Situated 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. Major historical sites in the Ancient City are Khao Phra Wihan (Preah Vihear), Prasat Hin Phanom Rung, Wat Mahathat Sukhothai, Bang Pa-In

Summer Palace, Floating Market etc. 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.

Open: Daily from 09.00 a.m.-08.00 p.m.

Admission: Adult 700 Baht, child 350 Baht

Bus: 511 to the end of the line. Then, take mini-bus No 36

BTS: Take BTS to Bearing station exit 1, the free shuttle bus (3 times/ day) park at Soi Sukhumvit 105



Ancient City, Samut Prakan

Tel: 0 2709 1644, 0 2323 4094-99 www.ancientcity.com

The Frawan Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ์ช้างเอราวัณ) Located on Sukhumvit Road (old route) passing Bang Phli Intersection prior to the Pak Nam Intersection. The museum displays 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 hundred thousand pieces of copper. The height of the elephant and the building combined is 43.6 metres. The upper part consists of the head of the elephant weighing 100 tons and the body weighing 150 tons. The belly of the elephant or called the "Heaven" was lined with the designed to exhibit the precious objects. At the lower part structure is made of reinforced concrete with the weight of the elephant being supported by the ring beams outside and inside the building or called the "Earth" displays antiques comprising a pavilion. Furthermore, staircase is decorated with silver and gold, ceiling decorated with stained glass into an ancient map.

Open: Daily from 09.00 a.m.-08.00 p.m. (Tour Guide serve Monday-Saturday 09.00 a.m.- 05.30 p.m.)

Admission : Adults 400 Baht, child 200 Baht

Bus: No. 25, 142, 365, 102, 507, 511, 536

Tel: 0 2371 3135-6 www.erawan-museum.com

Bang Nam Phueng Floating Market (ตลาดน้ำ บางน้ำผึ้ง) Situated at Wat Bang Nam Phueng, Phra Pradaeng district. The Market was constructed into a more than 2-kilometre walkway along a small canal that is separated from the Chao Phraya River, a water source of the agricultural area of the community. The Market offers authentic food and sweets and crop produce from local gardeners. Furthermore, the Market sells local products. A paddle boat service for sightseeing the Bang Nam Phueng community is offered during the day and sightseeing fireflies at night. Bikes for rent and traditional Thai massage are also provided.

Open: Saturday-Sunday from 08.00 a.m.-04.00 p.m.

Bus: No. 82, 138, 140, 506 to Phra Pradaeng Market and take the bus routing Phra Pradaeng-Bang Ko Bua.

Bang Kachao (บางกะเจ้า) Located in Phra Pradaeng district, is a green area for agricultural conservation. The area is abundant with flora and an 18-kilometre-length of the Chao Phraya River, which is a perfect combination with the atmosphere of ecotourism, agro-tourism and cultural community lifestyle. The attraction in the area includes "Sri Nakhon Khuean Khan Park and Botanical Garden" to be used for accommodating tourism and as a nature learning centre for youth. The area is divided into two parts: the front area features a public



Amphawa Floating Market, Samut Songkhram

park with a large pond providing a gazebo for relaxation. In the back part stays the original environment of the park and is a habitat of the community. This is also a place for studying local flora, and agricultural crops, which includes a 7-metre high birdwatching tower. In addition, there is a bike route to explore community's ways of life, homestay or a boat ride.

Bus: No. 82, 138

Tel: 0 2819 6575

Mega Bangna (เมกะ บางนา) Located on Bang Na-Trat Road, Bang Phli district, is divided into 7 zones: Mega Fashion, Mega Banking, Mega Food, Mega Tech, Mega Wellness, Mega Home, Mega Lifestyle, Mega Kids, and Mega Sport.

Open: Daily from 10.00 a.m.-10.00 p.m.

Bus: No. 38, 46, 48, 115, 139, 180, 182, 207,

552, 551, 558

BTS Sky Train: Udomsuk Station (Exit 5) and take a shuttle bus operating from 10.00 a.m.-11.00 p.m.

Tel: 0 2105 1000 www.megabangna.com

## Samut Songkhram

Amphawa Floating Market (ตลาดน้ำยามเย็น อัมพวา) It is an afternoon floating market on Friday, Saturday and Sunday during 12.00 a.m.-08.00 p.m. The Amphawa Canal is occupied by vendors who pack their boats with food and drink, such as seafood, noodles, coffee, sweets, etc. Tourists can enjoy a cosy atmosphere and local music by the community members, and hire a boat to see fireflies at night. There are many standard homestays provide packages tour during the day.

Bus: Take the bus from the Southern Bus Terminal (Bangkok-Damnoen Saduak route), then get off at Amphawa Floating Market



# SUGGESTED ITINERARY IN AND AROUND BANGKOK

#### Route 1

Morning

- The Grand Palace and Wat Phra Kaeo
- Canals Tour

- Afternoon Royal Barge Museum
  - Wat Arun (Temple of Dawn)
  - Wat Pho
  - China Town

Route 2

Morning

- Wat Benchamabophit (The Marble Temple)
- Vimanmek Mansion Museum
- Anantasamakhom Throne Hall.

- Afternoon Jim Thompson Museum/ Suan Pakkard Palace
  - Shopping in the shopping area (Siam Square and Ratchaprasong)

## **Evening Programmes**

- Thai Boxing at boxing stadiums
- Chao Phraya River Dinner Cruise
- Dinner and Thai Classical Dance at the restaurant
- Thai Cultural Performance
- Experience Bangkok Street Food
- Shopping at night market

### Route 3 Ratchaburi and Nakhon Pathom

Morning

- Damnoen Saduak Floating Market

- Afternoon Samphran Elephant Ground & Zoo
  - Rose Garden Riverside
  - Thai Human Imagery Museum

### Route 4 Samut Prakan

Morning - Ancient City

Afternoon

Crocodile Farm

The Frawan Museum





### TIPS FOR VISITING A TEMPLE/ PALACE/ MUSEUM

- Dress politely and be composed.
- Take off your shoes before entering a religious building or area.
- Avoid touching monk an artefact or ancient object, especially the reliefs or paintings to maintain their original condition.
- Follow the instruction sign.

## **USEFUL CALLS**

Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) : Tourist Line 1672 (24 hrs.)

Tourist Police : Hotline 1155
Thai Airways : 0 2356 1111

Suvarnabhumi Airport : 0 2132 1888

Bangkok Railway Station : 1690

Telephone Number Inquiry : 1133

#### TOURIST INFORMATION

#### TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND

**Head Office** 

1600 Phetchaburi Road, Makkasan

Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400

Tourist Line 1672

www.tourismthailand.org

www.tatcontactcenter.com

E-mail: info@tat.or.th

Open daily at 08.30 a.m. - 04.30 p.m.

#### MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPORTS

4 Ratchadamnoen Nok Road, Bangkok 10100

Tel: 0 2283 1556

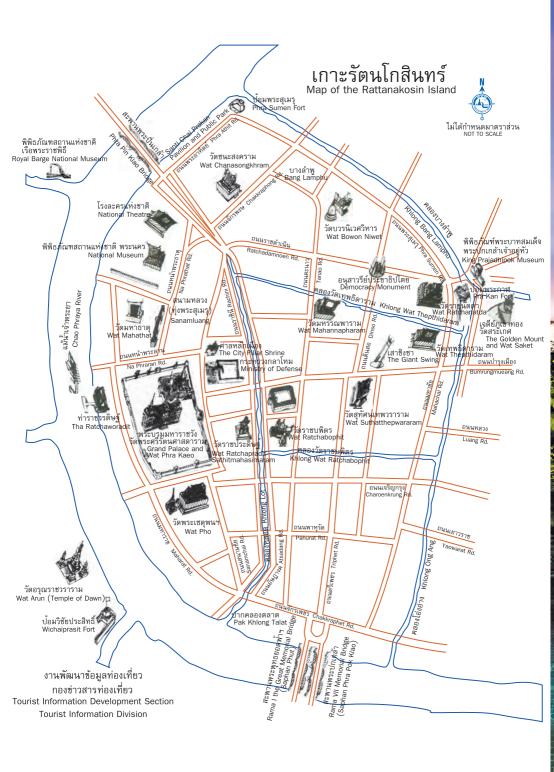
Open daily at 08.30 a.m.-04.30 p.m.

Update March 2015

This leaflet is for information purposes only.

Use the service of only registered travel agents.

You have legal rights under Thai law.







Wat Phra Kaeo









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