

GENERAL INFORMATION

THAILAND IS THE 50TH LARGEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD; MOST NEARLY EQUAL IN SIZE TO SPAIN. LOCATED JUST 15 DEGREES NORTH OF THE EQUATOR, THAILAND HAS A TROPICAL CLIMATE.



COUNTRY

Thailand is a constitutional monarchy whose current head of state is **King Maha Vajiralongkorn**. A unified Thai kingdom has existed since the mid-14th century, and Thailand was known as Siam until 1939 when it officially became the Kingdom of Thailand.

GEOGRAPHY

Thailand is the 50th largest country in the world; most nearly equal in size to Spain. Located just 15 degrees north of the equator, Thailand has a tropical climate and temperatures typically range from 19 to 38 degrees C (66-100 F). Thailand's largest peak, Doi Inthanon, is 2,565 meters (8,415 ft) tall. Thailand covers 510,890 sq km of land and 2,230 sq km of water. The coastline of Thailand is 3,219 km long. Thailand's longest shared border is with Myanmar (Burma), stretching 1,800 km.



AREA

Thailand has a rough geographical area of 514,000 sq km (200,000 sq miles). This makes Thailand roughly equivalent in size to France or Texas.

WEATHER

The weather in Thailand is generally hot and humid: typical of its location within the tropics. Generally speaking, Thailand can be divided into three seasons: “hot” season, rainy season, and “cool” season, though Thailand’s geography allows visitors to find suitable weather somewhere in the country throughout the year.

Visit website: <http://www.tmd.go.th/en/>

POPULATION

The population of Thailand comprises of roughly 65 million citizens, the majority of whom are ethnically Thai, though peoples of Chinese, Indian, Malay, Mon, Khmer, Burmese, and Lao origin are also represented to varying degrees. Approximately 7 million citizens live in the capital city, Bangkok, though this number varies seasonally and is otherwise difficult to accurately count.

CAPITAL CITY

Bangkok

PEOPLE

The vast majority (roughly 80%) of Thailand's nearly 65 million citizens are ethnically Thai. The remainder consists primarily of peoples of Chinese, Indian, Malay, Mon, Khmer, Burmese, and Lao decent. Of the 7 million citizens who live in the capital city, Bangkok, there is a greater diversity of ethnicities, including a large number of expatriate residents from across the globe. Other geographic distinctions of the population include a Muslim majority in the south near the Malaysian border, and hill tribe ethnic groups, such as the Hmong and Karen, who live in the northern mountains.

LANGUAGE

More than 92% of the population speaks Thai or one of its regional dialects. While the Thai language is the official language of Thailand, as a result of its cosmopolitan capital city and established tourism infrastructure, English is spoken and understood throughout much of Thailand.

RELIGION

94.6% of Thais are Buddhist, 4.6% of Thais are Muslim 0.7% of Thais are Christian.

GOVERNMENT

Thailand is a constitutional monarchy, not dissimilar to England's, whereby an elected Prime Minister is authorized to be the head of government and a hereditary Thai King is head of state. The constitution of Thailand allows for the people of Thailand to democratically elect their leaders in the form of a parliament, with a bicameral legislature consisting of a Senate and House of Representatives, and executive authority in the hands of the Prime Minister. A Judiciary, overseen by the Supreme Court, was designed to act independently of the executive and the legislature.

TEMPERATURE

Located just 15 degrees north of the equator, Thailand has a tropical climate and temperatures typically range from 19 to 38 degrees C (66-100 F).

ECONOMIC

The economy of Thailand is reliant on exports, which account for 60% of Thailand's approximately US\$ 200 billion GDP. The economy of Thailand is the 2nd largest in Southeast Asia. Thailand's exports consist primarily of agricultural products including fish and rice, of which it is the largest exporter in the world, as well as textiles, rubber, automobiles, computers and other electronic appliances and jewelry.

CURRENCY



THE CURRENCY OF THAILAND IS THE THAI BAHT. BAHT COME IN BOTH COIN AND BANKNOTE FORM. THE SIZE OF THAI CURRENCY, BOTH COINS AND BILLS INCREASES WITH VALUE AND VARIES IN COLOR.

BANKNOTES

Value (Baht)	Dimensions	Main colour	Description	
			Obverse	Reverse
1,000	162 x 72 mm	Brown	King Bhumibol Adulyadej in the Royal House of Chakri gown	King Bhumibol Adulyadej
500	156 x 72 mm	Violet		King Buddha Yodfa Chulalok the Great (king Rama I) monument; Wat Phra Chetuphon Vimolmangklararm Rajwaramahaviharn (Wat Pho); Phra Sumen Fort (Bangkok city wall)
100	150 x 72 mm	Red		King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) and King Vajiravudh (Rama VI)
50	144 x 72 mm	Blue		King Naresuan the Great pouring water for declaration of independence monument; Statue of king Naresuan the Great on war elephant; Phra Chedi Chai Mongkol temple
20	38 x 72 mm	Green		King Ram Khamhaeng the Great on the Manangkhasila Asana Throne monument; invention of the Thai script; Ramkhamhaeng stele

COINS OF THE THAI BAHT

Value (Baht)	Technical parameters			Description	
	Diameter	MASS	Composition	Obverse	Reverse
10	26 mm	8.5 g	Ring: Cupronickel Center: Aluminium bronze	King Bhumibol Adulyadej	Wat Arun, Bangkok
5	24 mm	6 g	Cupronickel clad copper		Wat Benchamabophit, Bangkok
2	21.75 mm	4 g	Aluminium bronze		Wat Saket, Bangkok

1	20 mm	3 g	Nickel-plated steel		Wat Phra Kaew, Bangkok
50 Satang	18 mm	2.4 g	Copper-plated steel		Wat Phrathat Doi Suthep, Chiang Mai
25 Satang	16 mm	1.9 g	Copper-plated steel		Wat Phra Mahathat, Nakhon Si Thammarat

BANKING

Thai bank hours are generally Monday through Friday, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, though certain banks have shorter Saturday hours and currency exchange booths are open considerably longer hours in Bangkok and other tourist destinations.

TIME

Thailand Standard time is GMT +7. Thailand does not observe daylight savings.

EMERGENCY AND IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY SERVICES



Emergency Services **191**



Fire **199**



Ambulance **1646**



Tourist Police **1155**



Emergency Medical Service **1669**



Thailand Tourism **1672**

HOSPITALS

Bangkok Christian	02 235 1000-7
Bangkok International	02 310 3000
BNH Hospital	02 686 2700
Bumrungrad International	02 667 1000
Camillian	02 391 0136
Deja	02 246 0137
Lerdsin	02 353 9798-9
Paolo Memorial	02 279 7000
Petcharavej	02 318 0080-1
Phaya Thai 2	02 617 2444
Piyavate	02 625 6500
Police General	02 252 8111
Pram 9	02 202 9999
Prommitr	02 259 0373
Rutnin Eye	02 639 3399
Saint Louis	02 210 9999
Samitivej Sukhumvit	02 711 8000
Sukhumvit Hospital	02 391 0011

INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

Free WiFi is available at Suvarnabhumi Airport. While hotspots are available within the city area, you may wish to purchase a local SIM card to remain connected during your time in Thailand.

Thailand largest mobile providers are TRUE, DTAC and AIS.

[For more information click [here](#)]

TOURISM IN THAILAND



CENTRAL REGION

Defined by the fertile plain of the Chao Phraya River, the Central Region is the agricultural heartland of the country with a network of rivers and canals where the lifestyle based on water activities occurs. This is also where Bangkok, the capital of Thailand is located as well as the ancient capital of Ayutthaya, the legendary Bridge over the River Kwai, in Kanchanaburi and many other well-known cultural attractions like the Ancient City, Samut Prakan. This region of the country has had a dramatic history and is full of heritage of ancient temples, battlefields and ruins, and has the renowned floating markets of Damnoen Saduak and Amphawa that draw tourists to visit our country.

EAST COAST

The East Coast with 400 kilometres of coastline extending from Chon Buri to Trat has some of the finest beaches in Asia. Pattaya, with an enormous range of resorts, hotels and guest houses, is its centre. For those seeking a more relaxing experience, travel further down the coast to Rayong or Ko Samet and the lovely islands of Ko Chang National Park and Ko Kut in Trat province near the Cambodian border. All of this is within easy reach of Bangkok; thus, it is a popular region amongst local and foreign travellers. This region is also renowned for its fruit orchards and plantations.



THE NORTH

Famous for its long history and exotic traditional culture of the Lanna Kingdom, and with Chiang Mai as its centre, the North also has unique nature full of forests, rivers, towering waterfalls, and spectacular mountain ranges enveloped in mist that covers almost the entire region. This region is the birthplace of the earliest Thai civilisation

and has many sites of archaeological and cultural interest; for example, Sukothai and Si Satchanalai. It is also the home of many ethnic hill tribes who have settled in villages on the mountainsides in Mae Hong Son, Chiang Rai, and Nan to name a few and are a great attraction for travellers to the North.

THE NORTH-EAST

Also known as I-san and as the “Cradle of Civilization’, the Northeast is famed for its most intriguing destinations with many Stone Age and Bronze Age dwellings and artefacts, especially at Ban Chiang in Udon Thani province, dinosaur fossils in Kalasin and Khon Kaen, as well as several stone sanctuaries that are a legacy of the great Khmer Empire of the past at Phimai, Nakhon Ratchasima province and Phanom Rung in Buri Ram province. The pace of life is slow, but this is made up for with the colourful fun-filled festivals that reflect this region’s culture and traditions. It also has very distinctive cuisine and a unique dialect. In recent years, the Northeast has risen to become a useful starting point for adventurous journeys to destinations along the mighty Mekong River; such as, Lao PDR. And Vietnam in which there have been important developments in infrastructure to accommodate tourism.





THE SOUTH

The South extends southward along a narrow peninsula lying between the Andaman Sea with its rugged and strange limestone rock formations and cliffs on the west and the Gulf of Thailand with its wide bays and calm seas on the east. It is a rich land in terms of the abundance of its natural resources, the fertility of its soil, the diversity of its people and its commercial viability. Phuket is the tourist capital of the South, and other popular locales include Nakhon Si Thammarat, Trang, Phang-nga, and Krabi. The region is also famous for its international beach resorts, and is full of white sandy beaches and exotic islands with rich underwater life. Thus, it is a big hit with people who love sun, sea, and sand.

For information on individual provinces in each region, please visit:

www.tourismthailand.org/Attraction