

Living & Working in Bangkok

PwC guide for expatriates
4th edition



Welcome to Thailand

***and welcome to the fourth edition of PwC's guide
for expatriates, Living & Working in Bangkok.***

We've been advising on international assignments to Thailand for almost four decades. During this time we've helped with visas, work permits, tax, legal, human resources and employment issues for hundreds of clients from all over the world. Naturally, we've become involved in helping our clients with other needs such as accommodation suggestions, cultural orientation, international schooling recommendations and even advice on reputable tailors!

The contents of this guide have been drawn together from the experiences of our expatriate clients and staff over the years and we hope we've compiled a useful reference book for expatriates and their families who have recently arrived in Bangkok.

Since the publication of our last edition in 2006, many things have changed in Bangkok and there are even more tips and points that we're proud to share with you.

So welcome to Thailand. And we hope that you and your family will enjoy the challenge of living and working in this fascinating city.

Enjoy your stay!

Prapasiri Kositthanakorn
Partner

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I. General facts about Thailand

Geography and climate

Thailand is situated in Southeast Asia between the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Thailand. Covering 513,115 square kilometres, it has a similar land area to that of France. The country is bordered by Myanmar (Burma) to the west, Laos and Cambodia to the east and Malaysia to the south. It can be divided into five distinctive areas - the mountainous North, the dry North eastern Plateau, the fertile Central Delta, the Eastern Seaboard and the Southern Peninsula. The capital city, Bangkok is situated in the Central Delta area and is just 1 metre above sea level.

Thailand is a warm and humid tropical country. It is warm all year round, but Thai people claim that there are three different seasons:

- summer - from around March to May
- rainy - from around June to October, and
- cool - from around November to February).

The average temperature is approximately 29°C or 84°F and humidity is roughly 73–82%.

Time

There is only one time zone in Thailand. The local time is 7 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time. There is no daylight saving time.

Brief history

Popular belief is that the Thai people originated in south eastern China in 650 AD and formed a kingdom called **Nanchao**. It is believed that in the 13th century these people migrated south to the area that is now regarded as northern Thailand, and established a capital called **Sukhothai**. Sukhothai also refers to the first kingdom of Thailand and it was during the Sukhothai period that the Thais formed their own distinctive language, art, culture and architecture. The first Thai script was invented in this period, marking the beginning of the first written record of Thai history.

The Sukhothai Kingdom flourished for about 100 years and gradually crumbled when another more powerful kingdom of **Ayutthaya** arose in the mid-14th century to the south around the area upstream of the Chao Phraya River. This period was a time of affluence, prominence, and military strength, and initiation of trade with the West, as well as a time of territorial battle between the Thais and the Burmese. The Ayutthaya period lasted for 417 years, when the capital was lost to the Burmese invasion in 1767 AD.

The Burmese did not control Ayutthaya for long. Many of Ayutthaya's major military figures fled south to the Chao Phraya River. One of them, General Tak Sin, and his followers were able to settle in a city by the Chao Phraya River called **ThonBuri and later drove the Burmese away from Ayutthaya. By then the city of Ayutthaya had been destroyed to such an extent that General Tak Sin decided to move the capital to **ThonBuri** where he declared himself King Tak Sin of the Taksin Dynasty. King Tak Sin was the only king of this brief dynasty.**

After King Tak Sin's death in 1782 AD, General Chakri transferred the capital across the Chao Phraya River to Bangkok and proclaimed himself **King Rama I of the Chakri Dynasty. This was the start of the Rattanakosin period, which continues today. His Majesty King Bhumibol (Rama IX) has reigned since 1946 and is not only the longest serving monarch in Thai history, **he's the longest reigning monarch in the world.****

It is interesting to note that up until the reign of King Rama IX, the country had always been called Siam. The name was changed to Thailand (***Thai*** meaning free) in 1939 to reflect the nation's pride at being the only country in Southeast Asia that had avoided colonisation.

The city of Bangkok, better known among Thais as ***Krung Thep***, or ***City of Angels***, is actually an abbreviated version of the full name, which is the longest place name in the world, as follows:

Krung Thep Mahanakhon Amon Rattanakosin Mahinthara Ayuthaya Mahadilok Phop Noppharat Ratchathani Burirom Udomratchaniwet Mahasathan Amon Piman Awatan Sathit Sakkathattiya Witsanukam Prasit

The translated meaning is:

The city of angels, the great city, the residence of the Emerald Buddha, the impregnable city (of Ayutthaya) of God Indra, the grand capital of the world endowed with nine precious gems, the happy city, abounding in an enormous Royal Palace that resembles the heavenly abode where reigns the reincarnated god, a city given by Indra and built by Vishnukarn.

Population

The Thai population stands at approximately 67 million, of which around 7.8 million live in the capital city of Bangkok. The major ethnic group is Thai with a high degree of intermarriage with the Chinese. Other races include Mon, Laos, Burmese, Malay and Indian.

Religion

The national religion is Buddhism, which is practiced by more than 90% of the people. Muslim, Christian, Hindu and other faiths are also practiced in Thailand. Under the Thai constitution, a person is given the freedom to practice any religion, and the King, although a Buddhist, is the patron of all religions practiced in this country and has the title ***Defender of all Faiths***.

Government and administration

The Kingdom of Thailand is a Constitutional Monarchy, with the King as Head of State exercising his legislative power through the Parliament, executive power through the Cabinet, and judicial power through the Courts. The Parliament consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The House of Representatives consists of 500 members, 125 of which are elected on a party-list basis and the other 375 by way of constituency election. The Senate consists of 150 members, 76 of which are elected directly by the people and the other 74 members are appointed by various sectors by the Senate Selection Committee.

The Prime Minister is usually appointed from among members of the House of Representatives. Nominations for Prime Minister must be supported by at least one fifth of the total number of existing members of the House of Representatives. Once the House of Representatives has agreed on an individual, its recommendation will be presented to the King who will then appoint the Prime Minister and 35 other ministers to make up the Cabinet entrusted with the public administration of the realm. General elections should be held at least once every four years.

The administration of Metropolitan Bangkok itself falls under an elected governor and is divided into 50 districts. Besides Bangkok, there are 76 other provinces, administered by appointed governors and divided into districts, sub-districts, tambons (groups of villages), and villages.

Thai Flag



Red, white and blue stripes symbolize the nation, Buddhism, and the monarchy respectively.

Thai Language

Thailand's national and official language is Siamese or Central Thai. It is a tonal language with complex grammar and orthography, making it one of the harder languages to learn. Moreover, the spoken and written languages can be quite different sometimes. However, foreigners can become fluent in Thai, given enough time to learn and get used to the language.

A list of useful phrases for basic communication is provided below. To get you more acquainted, a comprehensive list of Thai numbers and letters of the alphabet is also shown.

Useful Thai phrases

Hello, Good-bye

How are you?

Thank you

Yes/ No

Never mind

Good/ Bad

I cannot speak Thai

I don't understand

I understand

I'm sorry

How much?

Expensive

Help!

Straight on

Turn left/ Turn right

Stop here

Slow down

Change to the left hand lane

Change to the right hand lane

U-turn

Sawaddee

Khun sabai dee mai

Kob khun

Chai/ Mai chai

Mai pen rai

Dee/ Mai dee

Phuut Thai mai dai

Mai kaw jai

Kaw jai

Kor tord

Thao rai

Paeng

Chuay duay

Trong pai

Leaw sai/ Leaw kwa

Yood, Jod

Cha cha noi

Chid sai

Chid kwa

U-turn

Thai numbers and letters of the alphabet

Numbers

๑	1
๒	2
๓	3
๔	4
๕	5
๖	6
๗	7
๘	8
๙	9
๐	๐

Consonants

ก	k
ข	kh
ค	kh
ง	ng
จ	j
ฉ	ch
ช	ch
ซ	s
ญ	y
ฎ	d
ณ	n
ด	d

ต	t
ถ	th
ท	th
ธ	th
น	n
บ	b
ป	p
ผ	ph
ฝ	f
พ	ph
ฝ	f
ภ	ph

ม	m
ย	y
ร	r
ล	l
ว	w
ศ	s
ษ	s
ส	s
ห	h
ฬ	l
อ	-
ฮ	h

Vowels

อะ	a	อา	<u>a</u>	อ้าวะ	ua
อิ	i	อี	ee	อ้าว	<u>ua</u>
อี	oe	อีอ	<u>oe</u>	อ่า	am
อุ	u	อุ	oo	ไอ, ไอ	ai
เอะ	e	เอ	<u>e</u>	เอา	ao
แอะ	ae	แเอ	<u>ae</u>	ออย	oi
โอะ	o	โอ	<u>o</u>	อุย	ui
เออะ	or	ออ	<u>or</u>	เอย	oei
เออะ	er	เออ	<u>er</u>	อวย	uai
เอียะ	ie	เอีย	<u>ia</u>	โอย	oiy
เอือะ	oea	เอือ	<u>oea</u>	อิว	iu

Legend:

The underline signifies long vowels.

Currency

The standard currency unit is the **Baht**.

1 Baht is divided into a smaller unit called **Satang**.

1 Baht = 100 Satangs.

The bank notes come in six denominations of 20, 50, 100, 500, and 1,000.

The coins come in tokens of 25 and 50 Satangs, and 1, 2, 5, and 10 Baht

It is advisable that any foreign currency exchange be made at commercial banks, currency exchange services, or authorised money changers.

Weights and measurements

Thailand uses the metric system as the standard measurement system.

Thai to metric system

2 kueb (hand stretch)	=	1sogg (elbow length)
4 sogg	=	1 wa (arm stretch)
16 square sogg	=	1square wa
100 square wa	=	1 ngan
400 square wa	=	1 rai
1 rai	=	1,600 square metres
100 square wa	=	400 square metres

Electricity supply

220 volts, 50 Hz, continental (two prong) style power points.

Water

Consumption of tap water should be avoided. Drink only bottled or filtered water.

Calendar (Public holidays)

Employees are entitled to a minimum of 13 days of public holidays per year.

	Date
New Year's Day	1 Jan
Chinese New Year*	Jan – Feb
Makha Bucha Day**	Late Jan to early Mar
Chakri Day	6 Apr
Songkran Day (Traditional Thai New Year)	13-15 Apr
National Labour Day	1 May
Coronation Day	5 May
Visakha Bucha Day**	May – Jun
Bank Mid Year Closing Day	1 Jul
Khao Pansa Day** (Buddhist Lent)	Jul – Aug
HM the Queen's Birthday	12 Aug
Chulalongkorn Day	23 Oct
HM the King's Birthday	5 Dec
Constitution Day	10 Dec
Christmas Day*	25 Dec
New Year's Eve	31 Dec

** not statutory holidays, but commonly taken*

*** this is a lunar calendar holiday*

Business hours

Government	8.30 am – 4.30 pm Monday through Friday
Post offices	8.30 am – 5.00 pm Monday through Friday 9.00 am – 12.00 pm Saturday 10.00am – 8.00 pm Everyday*
Banks	8.30 am – 3.30 pm Monday through Friday 10.00 am – 8.00 pm Everyday*
Private business	8.00 am – 5.00 pm Monday through Friday
Department stores	10.00 am – 10.00 pm Everyday

** Outlets at major department stores*

Living costs

Minimum daily wage

As of 1 January 2013, the minimum daily wage rate was adjusted to Baht 300 in all 77 provinces of Thailand.

Non-air conditioned bus

Baht 6.50 (red-cream coloured bus)
Baht 7.50 (white-green bus)

Air-conditioned bus

Baht 10 – 18 Euro I (large white-blue bus)
Baht 11 – 23 Euro II (yellow-orange bus)

Taxi fare

Metered taxis are common in Bangkok.

Baht 35 minimum fare
Getting around Bangkok typically costs from **Baht 50-250**.

*Please note that an additional fee of **Baht 20** will be charged for calling taxi service.

Public telephone

Baht 1 per 3 minutes for all local calls
Baht 3 per minute for calls to mobile phones

Postage stamps

Postal charges vary according to destination and weight, but the basic charges are:

- Within Bangkok – **Baht 3**
- Registered letter – **Baht 16**
- EMS – **Baht 32**
- Letter to U.S – **Baht 19**
- Postcard to U.S – **Baht 12**
- Letter to Europe – **Baht 17**
- Postcard to Europe – **Baht 12**
- Aerogrammes - **Baht 15** and can be sent anywhere in the world

Budget meal	Baht 40 to 80 per person
Restaurant meal	Baht 150 upwards
Mid-range hotel	Around US\$ 50/night for low season and possibly up to around US\$ 100/night for high season
Deluxe hotel	US\$100(++) - 250(++)/ night Note: if you see ++ on a menu or hotel room price it means that VAT (currently 7%) and service charge (normally 10%) are added to your bill/check). So watch out for this as it can add a considerable amount to your bill





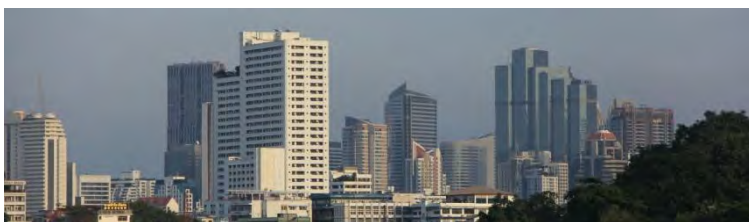
II. Thai way of life

Common customs and mannerisms

- Thais greet each other with a gesture called a *wai*, instead of the western handshake. You can do this by pressing your palms together at your chest in a prayer-like gesture and slightly bowing your head. Customarily, a more junior person will *wai* the more senior person, and the latter would *wai* in return. However, in Bangkok, especially in a business setting, it is acceptable for westerners to shake hands. Always bear in mind that some Thais are unaccustomed to the western habit of shaking hands, just as westerners are often unaccustomed to performing a *wai*, and handshakes can sometimes be a *limp* experience.

- Thais address each other by first name, rather than surname. They also add the word **Khun**, which covers Mr., Mrs., and Ms., in front of the name as an honorary term. Do not be offended if your name is Charles Parker and you are addressed as **Khun Charles** instead of **Mr. Parker**. Surnames for Thais were not introduced until about 100 years ago in the reign of King Rama VI at which time all citizens chose a unique surname. This has resulted in many Thais having very long surnames.
- Do not forget to remove your shoes when entering a Thai house. Though slippers may be provided in some houses, Thai people usually walk bare-foot in their own home.
- Holding hands between people of the same sex, especially between good friends, is common in Thailand and does not mean anything other than a platonic relationship. Do not be surprised if Thais of the same sex attempt to hold your hand (assuming they are not a total stranger!).
- Thai people do not eat with a knife and fork; they eat with a fork and spoon. It is considered ill-mannered to put a fork into one's mouth, which is akin to putting a knife into one's mouth in the west.
- Thais have a hierarchy for different body parts, with the head being the highest and feet being the lowest. Thus, touching someone's head is considered disrespectful. However, an exception is made for monks and highly respected figures (like the King and the Royal Family) for whom touching another person's head would be a way of giving a blessing. As the feet are the lowest part of the body, it is considered rude to let your feet point in the direction of another person. Never use your feet to point.
- Buddhist monks are prohibited from touching or being touched by any female. If a monk is accidentally touched by a female, it will be considered an abuse of the code of conduct of the monk and the monk would have to confess the offence. The woman herself would be considered to have committed a moral sin. However, if you are not a Buddhist, this rule would not apply to you! Nevertheless, the rule still applies for the monks. Women should take care when walking down the street not to accidentally touch a monk.

- In Thailand, some weddings will be more formal than others, for **instance a 'hi-so' (high society) wedding in Bangkok involving well-to-do families** will be an occasion where people will dress to impress, an evening gown and a suit and tie may be required. At the other end of the scale, if you are attending a wedding at a rural village in Thailand or on a beach, wearing a suit or a gown is impractical and uncomfortable and the attire will probably be more informal. If you are unsure about the expected dress code, **don't be afraid to ask the person** who has issued the invitation.
- It is important to be practical at Thai weddings especially if you are invited to attend the ceremonies in the morning. These ceremonies can go on for a few hours in hot and humid conditions and it is best to wear something that is loose-fitting and lightweight but still look good and smart. The ceremonies in the morning should be finished by midday and there will be a chance for refreshments and a change of clothes before attending the evening meal or reception. As a general rule for guests attending a Thai wedding you should avoid T-shirts, vests, shorts or flip-flops. It is also considered unlucky to wear black at a wedding, so this means no black dresses or tops for women and no black shirts or ties for men, although it is fine to wear black shoes and black trousers or slacks.



Superstitions

- Do not give any sharp objects such as a knife, scissors, or needle to a Thai. It is believed that this will cause the giver and the recipient to separate.
- Do not give a handkerchief as a gift. Thais believe that this will cause a tearful or sorrowful departure from one another forever.
- Thai superstition states that Wednesday is not a good day for any kind of grooming. Whatever is cut, clipped, groomed, etc. on that day will **not grow and prosper. Though this belief has faded somewhat, don't be surprised to find some barbers or salons closed on Wednesdays.**

- **Don't step on a threshold, especially at a temple. It is believed that** there is a threshold guardian angel living in there, and stepping on one will make the angel angry and will bring you bad luck.
- The miniature houses which are situated outside most Thai houses are spirit houses. Since many Thais believe that there are spirits everywhere, in forests, mountains, rivers, trees, and on land, it is only natural that houses have spirits too. The spirit is believed to protect the house. People should pay respect to the place they are living in by not slamming the doors, banging on the floor or doing anything that is likely to disturb the guardian spirit. The spirit house is erected to encourage the spirits to live outside the *human* house.
- As previously stated, Thais believe spirits exist almost everywhere; therefore, shrines are prevalent in Thailand. The shrines are erected to pay respect to the spirits. Thais often *wai* when they pass these shrines. Foreigners are not expected to display the same kind of gesture, but should pass by in a solemn manner.
- Since Thailand is a Buddhist country, it is only natural to see Buddhist statues everywhere, from temples, schools, offices, shop houses, and sometimes even in buses. Thai people have a hierarchy for various objects, and a Buddhist statue is one of the objects which is given the highest status, and thus should be treated with the utmost respect.
- The white, or sometimes gold, symbols or writings on walls in buildings, houses, or cars are given by monks and are believed to be sacred writings that bring luck and blessings to the owner. They are to be treated with respect.
- It is a serious crime to make critical or defamatory comments about the King or other members of the royal family. Thais hold the King in the highest regard. This particular crime is dubbed *lese majeste* and those who violate it, even unknowingly, may be arrested.



Some Thai laws to be aware of include the following:

- Section 206 of the Penal Code states that *Whoever commits any act, by any means whatever, to an object or a place of religious reverence of any community in a manner likely to insult the religion shall be punished with imprisonment from one to seven years or a fine from Baht 2,000 to 14,000 or both.*
- Section 208. *Whoever dresses or uses a symbol showing that he is a Buddhist monk or novice, ascetic or clergyman of any religion unlawfully in order to make another person believe that he is such a person shall be punished with imprisonment not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding Baht 2,000 or both.*
- Though notorious for being a sex tourism destination, Thailand passed an anti-prostitution law in April 1996. Now customers, procurers, brothel owners, and those who force children into prostitution, face long prison sentences as well as large fines for involvement in prostitution.
- Littering and jaywalking are other offences that Bangkok residents must be aware of. There are signs posted on Bangkok streets advertising these offences in English and Thai. The Tourist Police will stop and charge any offenders, so please consider these laws and save yourself the fine and the embarrassment of being caught unawares.
- The sale of alcohol in Thailand is banned between 2pm and 5pm and again between midnight and 11am seven days a week. This rule largely affects supermarkets and chain shops, such as 7-11 or Tops. It is common knowledge that the law is not always enforced at smaller, family-run shops. The Election Commission of Thailand also bans alcohol on Election Days for the offices of Prime Minister and Senator, including advanced voting days. In addition, the Government of Thailand has also been known to ban alcohol during religious holidays.
- Value Added Tax (VAT) Refunds are available to tourists. You are only eligible for a VAT Refund if you meet all of the following requirements: (1) Exit Thailand through an international airport (2) Are a non-Thai resident who has visited the country for no more than 180 days and (3) Are not a pilot or cabin crew of any departing airline. In addition, you must show your passport, a VAT Refund Application Form (which can be obtained online or at the airport), original receipt(s) of goods purchased in Thailand, and the actual goods purchased.

Further reading

For a list of suggested reading about Thailand, please refer to our list in Appendix 1.





III. Before leaving

Visa

A foreigner coming to Thailand for employment purposes must obtain a non-immigrant visa category B (business visa) before entering the country. The non-working spouse and children of the applicant should apply for a non-immigrant visa class O (other). However, in the event that your spouse becomes employed after settling down in Thailand, when he/she applies for a work permit, a non-immigrant visa category B should be obtained from an embassy abroad.

Non-immigrant visas can be obtained at the Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate in the country of residence of the applicant. Each Thai embassy appears to have a different list of documentation required when considering a non-immigrant visa application. Our advice is to call your local Thai embassy or consulate to confirm their current requirements and whether they will accept faxed copies of invitation letters, etc. Details of the Royal Thai embassies and consulates can be found at www.thaiembassy.org

Normally, most embassies will refuse to grant a non-immigrant O visa to a non-married spouse. Sometimes, however, the officials will consider applications where appropriate support can be provided (sometimes a letter from an employer). However, even when a non-immigrant O visa has been obtained for a non-married spouse, it is likely that the authorities in Thailand will refuse to extend such a visa.

TIP: When applying for non-immigrant visas prior to arrival in Thailand, request multiple entries from the embassy. Although the fee is higher, the multiple entry visa will help reduce any immigration problems during the first few months here. Please note, however, that a Thai embassy will sometimes only grant single entry visas for first-time applicants.

TIP: Furthermore, you will almost certainly be asked to provide a copy of your highest educational certificate to support your work permit application. Make sure you do not (1) leave this in your home country or (2) send it to Thailand as part of your personal shipment. Instead, try and take the original certificate with you.

The work permit process will begin once you arrive in Thailand. Please inform your immigration service provider of your arrival in Thailand in order that they can commence the work permit application process for you. PwC Thailand has a large and experienced team that handles visa and work permit issues. For more information, you can visit our website, www.pwcias.com.

Detailed information about work permit can also be found in section VI: You and Your Work.

Vaccination

No inoculations or vaccinations are statutorily required unless you are coming from or passing through infected areas. In particular, yellow fever certificates are required for those who are coming from an infected region.

However, for your own health safety, you may consider the following, which may be useful as a reference.

- Hepatitis A or immune globulin (IG) is transmitted by contaminated food and water. Immunisation with the Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended.

- Hepatitis B: if you might be exposed to blood (for example, health-care workers), have sexual contact with the local population, stay longer than 6 months in the region, or be exposed through medical treatment, immunisation with the Hepatitis B vaccine is recommended.
- Japanese encephalitis: immunisation is only required if you plan to visit rural areas for four weeks or more, except under special circumstances, such as a known outbreak of Japanese encephalitis. However, this is often recommended for all young children.
- Malaria risks also exist in some of **Thailand's rural areas**. **If planning a trip *up-country*** to hilly and forested areas of Thailand, see your doctor at least four to six weeks before your trip to consider a course of anti-malarial drugs.
- Rabies: if you might be exposed to wild or domestic animals through your work or recreational activities.
- The typhoid vaccination is recommended for all travellers and is particularly important because of the presence of typhoid strains resistant to multiple antibiotics in this region.
- As necessary, booster doses for tetanus, diphtheria and measles, and a one-time dose of polio for adults.

For the most up to date information, please check the latest regulations and advice with your local Health Officer.







IV. On Arrival

Airports and Airlines

Bangkok's International Airport or Suvarnabhumi opened in September 2006 and is now **Bangkok's main international airport**. The name **Suvarnabhumi**, ordained by His Majesty The King means ***The Golden Land***. It's located in Bang Phli district of Samut Prakan Province, 30km east of Bangkok, and it takes less than an hour to travel downtown via the expressway. The passenger terminal which is a single building serves both domestic and international passengers. More than 80 international airlines from all over the world service Suvarnabhumi Airport as well as some domestic airlines.

Bangkok also has a second airport known as Don Mueang and was Bangkok's international airport for more than 80 years. Due to the congestion at Suvarnabhumi, domestic carriers were encouraged to move back to Don Mueang International Airport which is currently the main hub for low-cost domestic airlines such as Nok Air and Thai AirAsia. Don Mueang also serves flights from Hong Kong, Singapore, Jakarta and other international

destinations. Only 22km northeast from downtown Bangkok, travelling to the city usually takes no more than 20-30 minutes from Don Mueang.

For the list of airlines operating in Thailand, *please visit* [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suvarnabhumi Airport](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suvarnabhumi_Airport) or <http://www.airwise.com/airports/asia/bangkok/airlines.html>.

Useful telephone numbers:

Suvarnabhumi Airport Call Centre
Tel. 0-2132-1888

Don Mueang Airport
Counter at Arrival: Tel. 0-2535-1253
Counter at Departure: Tel. 0-2535-1192

Transfer bus between Suvarnabhumi and Don Mueang Airport

Passengers who need to transfer between Suvarnabhumi and Don Mueang Airport can take the transfer bus free of charge. The platform at Suvarnabhumi Airport is at Gate 3 on the 2nd floor of the Passenger Terminal and on the 1st floor of Passenger Terminal at Don Mueang Airport. The bus operates from 5.00 am until midnight.

Telecommunication at Suvarnabhumi Airport

Wi-Fi

At Suvarnabhumi, free Wi-Fi is available for one hour upon request at the airport information counters.

Public Telephone

Public telephones are available for domestic calls and are located in both the passenger terminal and the concourse buildings. The rates are Baht 1 per 3 minutes for calls to landlines and Baht 3 per minute for calls to mobile phones.

Mobile Phone

Service counters for mobile operators such as AIS, DTAC and True Move are conveniently located outside the arrival gate on the 2nd floor of the passenger terminal. You can buy SIM cards and register for mobile service at these counters.

International pre-paid calling cards

Significant savings can be achieved through international pre-paid phone cards. CAT, one of the suppliers of these phone cards, offers two types of service, CAT PhoneNet and CAT ThaiCard. Using CAT ThaiCard, you can call to any country worldwide while PhoneNet has a smaller coverage of 152 countries. Both allow you to make international calls from your mobile phone, home telephone or public payphone. The per-minute rate for CAT ThaiCard is higher than CAT PhoneNet due to a better quality of phone call. Both types of calling cards come in either Baht 300, 500 or 1,000 value and can be purchased at most stores i.e. **7-Eleven, Watson's, BigC, Tesco Lotus, MaxValu** and B2S. At Suvarnabhumi, 7-Eleven stores can be found at B level and on the 3rd floor.

Transportation from the Airport

We advise that you use only the authorised transportation services for transfer from the airport to the city or your intended destination. There are service counters located within the arrival hall behind the customs checkpoint offering transportation services. You have a number of options, from a chauffeur-driven airport limousine to an air-conditioned public taxi, or if you prefer driving yourself, car rental services are also available at the airport for your convenience.



Airport Limousine

Both the Thai Limousine Services (operated by Thai Airways International) and the AOT Limousine Services (run by the Airports of Thailand) offer a large fleet of air-conditioned, chauffeured limousines and minibuses. At their airport counters, reservation agents can answer your questions in English and book your journey. This is often preferable to the alternative option of a public taxi, unless you like speed!

Thai Limousine Services

Fare:	To downtown starting from Baht 1,500
Tel:	0-2308-8399 or book online at www.thailimousinecenter.com

AOT Limousine Services

Counter:	Service Counters are located on the 2 nd floor at Baggage Claims and Arrival Hall exits, channel A, B and C.
Fare:	To downtown starting from Baht 500
Tel:	0-2134-2323-5

Taxi

Public taxis are commonly used for commuting from the airport. However, if you're new to Thailand, it is possible that a taxi driver may take you for a lengthier ride in order to earn extra money.

Taxi stand:	Platform of Passenger Terminal on the 1 st floor, Gate 4 and 7
Fare:	Based on meter plus Baht 50 surcharge from airport, plus expressway fees
Tel:	0-2132-9199

Airport Rail Link

If you want to travel to downtown Bangkok fast or want to avoid heavy traffic on the roads during rush hours, this might be a good alternative for you. The Airport Rail Link train system consists of two service routes as follows,

SA City Line

The City line (blue line) operates between two terminals: Suvarnabhumi Airport and Phaya Thai station. The train stops at 6 stations on the way which are Lat Krabang, Ban Thap Chang, Hua Mak, Ramkhamhaeng, Makkasan and Ratchaprarop. The travelling time from the airport to Phayathai is about 30 minutes and the ticket fare starts from Baht 15 to 45 depending on the distance.

SA Express

The Express line has two service routes which are the yellow line and the red line. The yellow line can take you from Suvarnabhumi Airport to the Bangkok City Air Terminal at Makkasan station within 15 minutes since it does not stop at other stations. On the other hand, the red line takes about 18 minutes from the airport to Phayathai station, also without stopping. However, as Makkasan station is not linked to the BTS (Skytrain), you should stop at Phayathai station. There is a link via walkway to Petchaburi MRT station (underground/subway).

The SA Express only runs once every hour starting at 06.30 and finishing at 23.30. So, it may not be worthwhile if you're rushing for a flight. The tickets for both lines are Baht 90 for a single trip and Baht 150 for a round trip.

Car Rental

At Suvarnabhumi Airport, you can find both well-known international and local car rental service providers located at Gate 8 on the 2nd floor of the Passenger Terminal. All services are available 24 hours a day.

- Avis Tel. 0-2251-1131-2
www.AVISThailand.com
- Budget Tel. 0-2203-9251, 0-2203-0250
www.budget.co.th
- Hertz Tel. 0-2266-4666
www.hertzthailand.com
- Thai Car Rental Tel. 089-133-6126, 083-754-3399,
086-909-4422

Airport warning

Beware of unauthorised people trying to offer transportation or guide services. It is recommended that you contact only agents registered with the Tourism Authority of Thailand or the Airports Authority of Thailand, or those displaying reliable international logos only.

When hiring a taxi or limousine on arrival at Bangkok airport, do not get into the vehicle until you are satisfied that all of your luggage has been loaded. We have heard of cases where individuals have arrived at their homes after a long flight, only to find that some of the luggage they had collected from the carousel was not in the vehicle that had brought them home.

If you need assistance relating to safety, unethical practices, or other matters, please contact the Tourist Assistance Centre on Tel. 0-2281-5051, 0-2282-8129.

Accommodation close to the airport

For those who need to find temporary accommodation, there are a number of hotels situated around Suvarnabhumi Airport offering an elegant and comfortable stay just a few minutes away. The official airport hotel by Suvarnabhumi Airport is Novotel Suvarnabhumi which was named as one of the Five Best Airport Hotels in the World by Skytrax World Airport Awards 2012. It takes only 5 minutes from the passenger terminal to the hotel via the 24-hr shuttle van service or 10 minutes walk through the air-conditioned underground walkway that connects the hotel and the airport. Apart from the luxurious and spacious suites, you can also find exquisite restaurants and bars, relax after a long flight at the spa or freshen up at the swimming pool! The price range is approximately Baht 4,000 – 7,000 per night for a double room. For more information, please contact Tel. 0-2131-1111 or www.novotelairportbkk.com.

Customs Clearance

Arriving passengers are required to go through Customs. Please note that the following restrictions should be adhered to:

Prohibited items:

All kinds of narcotics (cocaine, hemp, heroin, opium), and obscene materials.

Firearms:

Importation of firearms and ammunition requires a permit from the Police Department or local Registration Office.

Cameras:

1 still camera or 1 video camera can be brought in without duty.
5 rolls of still-camera film or 3 rolls of 8 or 16 mm movie film may be brought in free of duty.

Tobacco & alcohol:

Cigarettes, cigars, or smoking tobacco each or in total must not exceed 250 grams in weight, but no more than 200 cigarettes. 1 litre of wine or spirits may be brought in free of duty.

Plants and animals:

Certain species of fruits, vegetables, and plants are prohibited. Please contact the Agricultural Regulatory Division on tel. 0-2579-1581 or 0-2579-3576.

Permission for entry of animals arriving by air can be obtained at the airport. If by sea, application must be made at the Department of Livestock Development, tel. 0-2653-444 ext. 4174, 4175. Vaccination certificates are required.

Foreign currency:

Travellers who bring in or out of Thailand foreign currency, both a bank notes and coins, with a total value equal to or more than USD 20,000 must report to a Customs officer at a port/airport of entry or exit. There is no fee for such a report.

Personal/household effects

Non-Thai residents who hold a year-long non-immigrant visa or work permit are entitled to import used personal/household effects into Thailand, in reasonable quantities, free of taxes and duties. It is also required that the imported used personal/household effects have been owned, possessed, and used in the country where the importers resided before returning to Thailand to resume residence.

The individual can arrange for the clearance of the goods themselves. However, freight-forwarding companies offer a clearance service which only requires the individual to provide their work permit and passport. There are certain restrictions on what can be imported, including the prohibition of narcotics, obscene articles and goods with an improper Thai flag design. Restrictions on what can be imported free of duty include office equipment, excise goods and motor vehicles.

If no year-long visa is held, customs duties of up to 60% of the value of the goods (including freight costs) and VAT (currently 7%) on the value of the goods plus the customs duty may be payable. Your shipping agent should be able to handle these issues on your behalf.

For more information about importation of personal effects and customs duty, please contact the Customs Call Centre at Tel. 1164 or refer to the Customs Department's website www2.customs.go.th.

Visa extension & Re-entry permit

Visa extension

Non-immigrant visas will be valid for 90 days after entering Thailand. However, before the expiry date, a year-long visa extension for you and your spouse should be obtained.

Nevertheless, non-immigrant O visas for accompanying children can only be extended until the dependant is 20 years of age. Once a child reaches the age of 20, he/she should apply for a visa on his/her own merit. This means that the child may be enrolled in a university in which case he/she will qualify for an education (ED) visa, or may be employed, in which case he/she will have a work permit in order to live in Thailand with the parents.

Re-entry permit

In the event that a Thai embassy abroad grants you a single trip visa, you should ensure that you have a re-entry permit if you wish to take a trip abroad. This is regardless of how short the trip is. If an individual forgets to do so, the **individual's visa will be deemed to have expired on the date of departure.** This situation can be avoided by obtaining a re-entry permit prior to departure from Thailand. A re-entry permit will allow you to enter Thailand again, as long as your existing visa is still valid, without having to obtain a new visa. Either a single or multiple re-entry permit can be obtained, depending on your travel plans.

Re-entry permits are normally issued on the day of application.

90-day registration

A change in the Immigration Department's policy affected all foreigners who spend more than 90 consecutive days in Thailand.

It is important to note the following:

- This requirement applies to all foreigners, including work permit holders and their dependants.
- The requirement to register once every 90 consecutive days means that holidays and business trips abroad could avoid, or at least reduce, an obligation to register.

Legislation had always stated that foreigners residing in Thailand should register with the authorities every 90 days. Until late 1998 the Immigration Department ignored this requirement. However, following an increase in the size of penalties that can be levied for failure to register and for late registration, the Immigration Department demanded that all foreigners now comply with this requirement.

The penalties that can be levied are as follows:

- Maximum penalty for failure to register is Baht 5,000. In addition, until registration has been completed it is Baht 200 per day.
- However in practice, for late voluntary registration the penalty would be Baht 2,000. Where the Department discover a failure to register, the penalty is Baht 4,000.

To avoid any penalties, you should monitor the length of your stay and inform your immigration service provider to assist with the registration.



V. Settling down

Accommodation

Western-standard accommodation for rent is not difficult to find in Bangkok. There are many apartments, condominiums and houses available in the area. Typical expatriate accommodation would be an apartment or a condominium in the city centre or along the BTS-MRT route. The sizes available are anything from between 45-250 square meters, from a studio to one to three en-suite bedrooms and access to a swimming pool and fitness. The main types of accommodation can be categorised as follows:

Serviced apartments

Owned by a company, the apartments are normally fully furnished and equipped (TV, bedding, crockery, etc.). The rent will usually include cleaning of the apartment, changing bed linen, etc. – a laundry service would typically also be available. In many serviced apartments, a small menu for room service meals is often available.

Advantages: On-site staff. No need to employ a maid. You only need to bring your clothes/toiletries. All utilities charges are payable to the one entity; convenience - similar to hotel living.

Disadvantages: You have no control over the maids, etc. visiting your apartment (petty theft is a common complaint), costs of utilities (telephone/electricity) may be higher than standard. Similar to hotel living!

Non-serviced apartments/housing compounds

Non-serviced apartments and/or housing compounds are usually owned by one company/family where the apartments/houses are not serviced. Apartments can be let furnished, partially furnished or unfurnished. Housing compounds are less common than apartments.

Advantages: On-site maintenance, staff usually available 24 hours a day. Common area is clearly the responsibility of the single landlord, usually resulting in quality maintenance, cleaning, etc. All bills are payable to the one entity. Tenants have more control over who has access to the accommodation.

Disadvantages: There may be a mark-up added to utility bills.

Condominiums

Condominiums are generally owned by separate and individual landlords. A condominium can be let either furnished or unfurnished and standards vary dramatically.

Advantages: You can find good deals on condominiums. Standard utility charges - you are billed directly from the telephone, electricity, etc. companies and are billed at standard rates. You have more control over who has access to your accommodation and it may be easier to change telephone service. Condominiums tend to be more *individual* in furnishings, etc.

Disadvantages: Some landlords less scrupulous than others; sometimes it is difficult to recover a deposit. Some condominiums may have low occupancy rates and/or the owners are facing difficult times and in such circumstances, it is common for cost-cutting measures to be put in place, e.g. reductions in security, cleaning and maintenance of common areas, lighting, pest control, etc. It is less common for a condominium to have English speaking staff on-site at all times (or in some cases at any time).

All bills are payable to separate entities.

Independent houses

Also available is a range of detached and terraced houses in and around the city which can be leased from individual landlords. Such houses are normally available at a lower rent than housing in a compound, but the tenant would normally be responsible for security. Also there is unlikely to be an on-site assistance for repairs, etc. Independent housing appears to be more popular with expatriates who have some experience of living in Bangkok.

Advantages: Lower cost rents, more *individual* style housing available (often very picturesque and Thai style), city centre sites often available, high level of privacy.

Disadvantages: No on-site maintenance staff. Pest control, air-conditioner servicing, security, etc. may be tenants' own responsibility. Tenant has to rely on landlord for general maintenance, etc.

Where to live?

Very broadly speaking, most expatriates tend to live in one of the four following areas: Central Bangkok, Nichada Thani, Lakeside Bang-Na, and along the BTS-MRT route. While many expatriates do of course live outside these areas, these are the most commonly sought after areas.

Central Bangkok

Central Bangkok or mainly the Sukhumvit/Sathorn areas are the major business districts of the city. A large choice of accommodation (mainly apartment style living) is available at all prices. Obviously, these are nearer to the *life* of Bangkok, including restaurants, department stores, BTS, and most office buildings, and therefore, are more convenient for those who work in the city. Also, they are close to Shrewsbury International School, and the New International School of Thailand, among others.

Nichada Thani

Claimed by itself as *The expatriate town of Thailand*, it is a housing compound consisting of over 800 dwelling units located on the northern outskirts of the city. The gated community is located near the International School of Bangkok and Harrow International School (among others). The Nichada Thani compound is billed as *Thailand's first planned community* and consists mainly of top-level detached homes, many with their own pools, and the compound boasts several conveniences, such as a clubhouse, lake, Villa

Supermarket, Starbucks, gym and more. The following website contains further information: www.nichada.com.

Also around the area of Nichada are several other expatriate housing compounds, some with up to 100 dwelling units available. This area is also close to Don Mueang Airport.

Lakeside Villas Bang-Na

A slightly smaller (than Nichada Thani) collection of expatriate housing compounds exists to the South East of the city. This area is convenient for the Bangkok Pattana International School, and the housing compounds surround lakes (as the name indicates!). These compounds are gated communities and also enjoy several facilities, including a clubhouse and communal swimming pool. There are several large department stores and superstores in this area such as Central Bangna, Mega Bangna and the first and only IKEA in Thailand. Also, Suvarnabhumi Airport is only 20 minutes away.

Along BTS-MRT Route

Since the BTS and MRT have extended their operating route to cover a greater area of the city, more and more people use these rapid public transportation means to commute to work. As a result, a large number of condominiums and apartments have been built along these routes in recent years and are quite a popular area for expatriates, especially those who work in the city.

Other points to consider

Building Managers

With few exceptions, most expatriate type accommodation is run on a day-to-day basis by a building manager. Some places may use professional building management companies. In most cases the building manager is a friendly, helpful person who will assist tenants with a wide range of services. However there are a very few managers who would be better suited to a role in the prison service! We have heard tales of expatriates feeling so intimidated by the building manager of one exclusive apartment block that the tenants would only dare visit the office area to collect their mail after the building manager had gone home. When viewing potential properties try and ask the existing tenants for their opinion on the helpfulness of the building manager.

Maintenance fee

Most apartments managed by a company include the maintenance fee in their rents. If you are renting one directly from an individual, check whether they charge an additional fee.

VAT (Value Added Tax)

Check whether the rent quoted includes VAT. The current rate is 7%.

Credit card payments

If you prefer paying with a credit card, determine whether your card is acceptable to the landlord. Many charge an additional surcharge of 3% to 5% to compensate for the commission charged by the credit card company.

Electricity & Water

Check how to pay your electricity and water bills. Do you pay directly to the authorities or to the apartment? Does the apartment add any surcharge to your bill?

TV reception

Check which TV service is available (if any). Apartments with lower rates usually offer the six local channels 3, 5, 7, 9, NBT and ThaiPBS which are available free of charge. Programmes broadcast include local drama, variety shows, newscasts, and live coverage of special events, mostly in Thai. For English language news aired on Thai TV, you can watch ThaiPBS English News Service at 9.15pm every weekday.

Some apartments will provide cable TV for an additional charge while some include this in the rent. Pay TV operators, such as TrueVisions, offer both cable (CATv) and satellite (DStv) TV with a wide range of channels, including CNN, BBC World, Bloomberg, ESPN, HBO, Discovery Channel, Super Sports, Star Sports, Cinemax, MTV and broadcast other international TV shows, dramas and sitcoms. TrueVisions has several packages you can choose from **which ranges from Baht 300 to Baht 2,000 a month. Note that there's also an** installation fee, deposits and monthly equipment fee that must be paid. For more information, you can contact TrueVisions at Tel. 0-2725-2525 or visit their website at www.truevisionstv.com

Please note that some of the English programmes that TrueVisions offers are automatically dubbed into Thai language. To watch these programmes in English, please go to Settings on your TV.

If you plan to purchase a satellite dish for your residence, prior permission should be sought from condominium/building owners. Also note that during the rainy season of Thailand, satellite signals can often be interrupted by heavy rainstorms.

Parking

Determine whether parking is available, if it is, is there an additional fee?

Others

Check for other amenities such as hot water, swimming pool, gym, transportation convenience, 24-hour mini-mart and food outlet, laundry service, security and safety, monthly pest control, and air-conditioner maintenance.

Rent negotiation

There are many landlords who are willing to negotiate on the asking rent. In addition to simply offering to pay below the asking price, some landlords will agree to an even lower rent for the following:

- Payment of the rent quarterly in advance
- A lower level of equipment (e.g. no TV, washing machine, etc.)
- Offering the asking price for the rent, but (say) 2 months rent-free per annum.

When renting a condominium, landlords are often more open to negotiation if the lease is to be signed by the individual rather than the **individual's** employer. This is possibly because when an employer enters into a lease agreement, the details need to be filed with the Revenue Department.

Real estate agents

Here is a list of some real estate companies operating in Thailand that should be able to assist you in your accommodation search. You can either call or visit their websites. It is usual for the landlord to pay the real estate agent a fee for finding a tenant. If an agent suggests that you should pay a finding fee – change agents!

Acute Realty

Tel. 0-2285-4645, 085-664-5000

www.acuterealty.com

www.thaiapartment.com

Asian Tigers Transpo

Tel. 0-2687-7888

www.asiantigers-thailand.com

Bangkok Homes

Tel. 081-682-2329

www.bangkok-homes.com/index.html

CB Richard Ellis

Tel. 0-2654-1111

www.cbre.co.th

Insignia Brooke (Thailand)

19th Fl., Q-House Sathorn Bldg.

11 South Sathorn Rd.

Tel. 0-2652-6300

Jones Lang LaSalle

Tel. 0-2624-6400

www.joneslanglasalle.co.th

Telecommunication services

Telecommunications

The quality of telephone lines in Thailand is OK. The landline telephone network and internet is operated by TOT (The Telephone Organisation of Thailand), while the international calling network is operated mainly by CAT (Communications Authority of Thailand).

Telephone directories are available in both Thai and English; a free copy is given to each subscriber. Local calls to and from fixed lines are not timed, but are charged at Baht 3 per call. Below is some additional information about using telephones in Thailand.

- For directory assistance in Thailand, dial **1133**, or phonebook.tot.co.th
- For the time, dial **181** (Thai only).

To place an international direct dial call, you can either dial **008** for TOT or **009** for CAT. Both are followed by the country code, area code or mobile code, and the telephone number. TOT service is relatively cheaper than CAT.

The eFONE service by CAT and TOT 008 which operates on Internet Network using Voice over IP can also be used on fixed-line and mobile phones by dialling **009** or **008** followed by the country code, area code, and the telephone number. The internet-based rates are 10-25% lower than IDD call rates and TOT service costs a little less than that of CAT.

Long distance operator-assisted calls are the most expensive option because you are also charged a service fee in excess of the calling rate per minute. The service fee is Baht 50 for a station call and Baht 100 for a person-specific call. Dial **100** for assistance on international calls.

For more information, contact CAT Call centre at 1322 and TOT Call centre at 1100.

Internet service

Going online and organising your account is relatively easy in Thailand. There are many pre-paid offers and special promotions available as the internet usage is increasing quite rapidly.

See Appendix 2 for a list of local Internet service providers (ISPs) operating in Thailand.

Domestic staff

One of the advantages of living in Thailand is the availability and quality of help available at comparatively low cost. There are enough anecdotes around to fill several books with regard to experiences (good and bad) of domestic staff in Thailand.

The following is a list of 11 points to consider when hiring domestic staff:

- 1) It is common for most households to employ maids to handle their household chores, including cleaning, laundering, gardening, grocery shopping, and cooking. However, you might have to pay a little higher for a maid with good cooking skills. Salary levels depend on location, number of people in the household, duties to be handled, and whether an understanding of English language is required. Salary is always paid in cash.

- 2) Domestic staff are often hired on a live-in basis, though a live-out basis is not uncommon. It should be made clear at the interview whether the position is a **live-in** or **live-out** one. If **live-in**, clarify food details (it is common to either provide food or pay a food allowance).
- 3) Usually an experienced live-in maid, with communicable English skills, responsible for cleaning, ironing, and cooking costs from around Baht 9,000 per month. Payment is usually made monthly.
- 4) It is common to employ a driver as a member of your household in Thailand. Usually, the driver will be responsible for driving family members, collecting and delivering packages and dry cleaning, car cleaning, etc.
- 5) Many expatriates seek to employ foreign maids (especially those from the Philippines and Burma) due to their perceived superior English skills. Foreign maids are required to obtain work permits. Other than Burma, Laos and Cambodia, it is not normally feasible to arrange this for a domestic servant of other nationalities. Therefore, bear in mind that a foreign maid working for you may be working in Thailand illegally.
- 6) At the interview your maid should be able to present a reference or two from previous employers.
- 7) A written employment contract is a good idea, and this should clearly state hours expected and probationary period (this should not exceed 120 days).
- 8) Make it clear at an early stage what, if any, childcare duties are expected. Full-time live-in nannies usually expect a higher salary.
- 9) Be aware that maids are covered by labour law rights and upon termination are entitled to full severance pay minimums (see Appendix 3 for further details of labour law severance pay).
- 10) Remember that your maid is probably unused to handling winter clothing. Make it clear that coats, jackets, etc. should not be placed in the washing machine.
- 11) Ask for a copy of your maid's identification card when she starts working for you.

There are many sources to help you find a maid including websites (such as www.ayasan-service.com or www.getmaids.com), notices at expatriate clubs (**often displays details of members' staff who are looking for alternative** employment), notices at Villa supermarket on Sukhumvit Soi 33, recommendations from your building manager, real estate agent, neighbours, friends, agencies, etc.

Agencies usually charge commission of a couple of thousand Baht for their service. Check for their commission charge, replacement policy, and responsibility in case of theft before you make any decision.

Private vehicles

Rent a car

It is common practice for expatriates (or their employers) to hire cars on year long agreements. These agreements normally cover insurance, maintenance, car tax, etc. and may also come with a driver. This can be much more convenient than purchasing a car. To rent a car, the following documents need to be shown:

- Passport
- Credit card
- **Driver's** licence

Drivers

Many expatriates prefer to employ drivers instead of or in addition to driving themselves around. Often good drivers are found through word of mouth, advertisements at expatriate locations (i.e. British Club, Villa supermarket on Soi 33 Sukhumvit), or through their employers. However, it can sometimes take awhile to locate and employ a reliable driver. An interim measure upon arrival is to hire a driver through a firm such as those listed below (often these firms will also be able to provide a car and driver):

Krungthai Car Rental

455/1 Rama III Rd., Bangklo,
Bangkholaem, Bangkok 10120
Tel. 0-2291-8888 ext. 130-133
www.krungthai.co.th

Unity Inter Marketing Co., Ltd.

4/506 Moo 4 Klongkum, Bungkum, Bangkok 10240

Tel. 0-2540-0640-43

www.unity-inter.com

Purchase a car

However, if you are interested in owning a car in Thailand, be aware that cars are relatively expensive to purchase due to high taxes imposed on them.

Second-hand cars are also widely available. If you would like detailed advice, we recommend that you visit the website at www.siammotorworld.com. To buy a car, the following documents need to be shown:

- Copy of work permit (all pages)
- Letter/proof of the expatriate's address in Thailand (obtained from embassy or local immigration office)
- Copy of passport (photograph page and current visa page)

If your car breaks down, roadside assistance service is available through the CarWorld Club Tel: 0-2612-9999. For general maintenance, you can contact either your car dealership or B-Quik service centre network Tel: 0-2789-3210 or www.b-quik.com. For repairs, a car dealership also provides these services. However, if you are familiar with a garage, they will usually charge a fraction of the repair cost charged by car dealerships.

For installation of in-car entertainment, tires, and accessories, you can contact Autobacs on Narathiwat Road. Tel: 0-2676-4370. A list of some of the car rental agencies operating in Bangkok is also listed in Appendix 4.

Driving licence

The driving licence you carry may be either a valid Thai or international driving licence. A local Thai licence **can be obtained against your country's** driving licence. The following documents need to be submitted:

1. Driving licence from your home country or an international driving licence (original and copy). For driving licences that are not in English, a formal translation from the embassy is required. We recommended that **you obtain an international driver's licence** for driving licences that are not in English to avoid the process at the embassy.
2. Passport with non-immigrant visa (original and copy). Individuals with tourist visas do not qualify.

3. Work permit (original and copy) or present residential address in Thailand certified by your embassy.
4. Medical certificate from a clinic or a hospital.

You must apply for a driving licence in person. Take a Thai speaker with you if possible. In order to get your Thai licence, you will need to pass an eye test, but no driving test is needed. Contact the Department of Motor Vehicles Tel. 1584

The fee is Baht 605 for cars and Baht 355 for motorcycles. It usually takes only one day to get the licence **if you already have a driver's** licence in your country before. You will be given a non-permanent licence which must be renewed after one year. After that, a permanent licence is renewable every 5 year.

Car insurance

It is stipulated by law that all vehicle owners are obliged to take out compulsory government insurance. Such insurance covers medical expenses and deaths arising from accidents involving the insured vehicles, but not the vehicle itself. Motorists may wish to obtain additional insurance coverage for vehicle repair costs arising from accidents.

Advice on driving in Thailand

1. In Thailand, you must drive on the left-hand side of the road.
2. A driver's licence must be carried at all times.
3. The yearly vehicle tax certificate and a yearly compulsory insurance certificate must be displayed on the windscreen.
4. Licence plates must be clean and attached to the car (front and rear).
5. The legal city speed limit is 80 km/h and outside the city the speed limit is 90 km/h. The speed limit varies between 80 and 120 km/h on expressways and country roads. Drivers should pay special attention to speed signs posted on the left-hand side of the road for specified speed limits.
6. Always buckle up. The law requires front seat passengers in cars to wear a seat belt. The maximum fine for not wearing a safety belt is Baht 500 each. In practice, however, the usual fine is Baht 200.

7. Watch out for bumps, potholes, uneven roads and poorly-lit road construction sites.
8. Watch out for motorcycles and cyclists, there are many of them in Bangkok.
9. If riding a motorcycle, it is a legal requirement to wear a crash helmet.
10. In an accident, the more affluent driver, even if not at fault, is frequently compelled to cover the expenses of the other party.
11. Motorcades of royal family members and VIPs are commonly seen. Policemen may block the roads/expressways in order to give them right of way.

Expressways

The Bangkok expressway system running directly above the main roads is another alternative. Even though toll booths tend to show up frequently, toll charges are normally only about Baht 10 - 55. To travel the span of the expressway or between the city and a housing estate on the outskirts of the city, toll fee charges may add up to Baht 70 or more per trip. Both cash and Easy Pass are accepted. Although it should be a quicker alternative, sometimes that may not be the case due to the traffic congestion.

Easy Pass is an electronic toll collection system that makes paying tolls easier and less time-consuming. When registered to use Easy Pass, you will get a smart card for refilling money and an Easy Pass device to be installed on your windshield. The device will send and receive signals as you drive through the toll booth. This would save you time in preparing money and stopping the car to pay toll fees. So far, the system has proved to be useful for drivers as there is special lane(s) dedicated for Easy Pass.

To register for the service, only a copy of your passport is needed. You can register and refill money at every toll plaza of the Expressway. For further information, please contact the call centre at Tel. 1543 or visit their website at www.thaieasypass.com.



Public Transport

If you do not have a car, there are many means of public transport available. These rapid public transportation means should help to shorten the time **commuting in the city and reduce the uncertainty of arriving on time** at one's intended destination, some of which are listed below.

BTS

In December 1999, the BTS (Bangkok Transit System or the skytrain) started its operations. During regular hours, trains generally run every five minutes. During rush hours, trains are scheduled to leave every 3-4 minutes. The system operates everyday from 6am to midnight.

BTS connects the most important business areas which are Silom and Sukhumvit. The BTS network to other areas of Bangkok is under construction and will be completed in 2017. Fares for the skytrain are priced between Baht 15-52 for a one-way journey. Stored value cards can also be purchased at adult and student rates.

METRO (MRT)

The first subway line became operational in July 2004. The first line covers 20-kilometres of the most heavily congested areas of Bangkok between 18 stations, though the completion of the envisaged network may not come earlier than 2020. The expansion plan includes an addition of 5 operation lines and more than 100 stations which covers most of Bangkok and some parts of the suburbs. Trains operate from 6 am to midnight. Fares cost between Baht 16-40 for adults and between Baht 8-20 for children and elders.

BRT

Another means of mass transport in Bangkok is BRT or the bus rapid transit system which has been operating since 2010. The 16 km route has 12 stations between the termini which connect to two BTS stations of the Silom line; at Chong Nonsi and the newly opened Talat Phlu. The bus runs along Narathiwat Ratchanakharin and Rama 3 roads.

The bus fares are between Baht 12-20 depending on the distance; every 2 stations cost approximately Baht 2 more. BRT operates daily from 6am to midnight and comes every 5 minutes during peak hours and 10 minutes during off-peaks.

Please see Appendix 5 for the BTS, MRT, and BRT route map

TAXI

Although the BTS and subway are available, certain destinations are more easily accessible by taxi. In addition, a taxi can pick you up from your home by arranging home pick up through the many call centres available Tel: 1681, 1661, 0-2880-0888, 0-2676-1000, 0-2883-6621-5. Please note there is a Baht 20 surcharge for taxis rented by two-way radio. Advance notice of 20 minutes is advisable when using this service, but up to 30 minutes may be required during rush hours and also between 3-4 pm when the taxi shift is changing.





VI. You and Your work

Work permit

In addition to obtaining a visa, an expatriate working in Thailand is also obliged to obtain a work permit prior to working in Thailand. Applicants must hold a non-immigrant visa category B to obtain a work permit. Most foreigners working in Thailand are subject to the Alien Employment Act (B.E. 2521). Under the provisions of this Act, a foreigner cannot perform any act of work or service unless a work permit has been issued by the Employment Department, or the individual or the work performed falls within an exception to the Act. There are six categories of foreigners who are exempted from work permit requirements as follows:

- Members of the diplomatic corps, or a consular mission.
- Representatives of member countries or officials of the United Nations and its specialised agencies.

- Personal servants coming from abroad to work regularly for persons under above.
- Persons who perform any duties or missions in the Kingdom under an arrangement between the government of Thailand and a foreign government or an international organisation.
- Persons who are permitted by the government of Thailand to enter and perform any duties or mission in the Kingdom.
- Persons who perform duties for the benefit of education, culture, arts, sport or such other activities as prescribed by Royal Decree.

The term **work** is defined very broadly as “working by exerting one’s physical energy or employing one’s knowledge, whether or not for wages or other benefits”. Therefore, a foreign housewife doing volunteer or charity work would theoretically need a work permit.

Nevertheless, you can apply for an urgent work permit if you are entering Thailand temporarily to perform “urgent and essential work” for a period not longer than 15 days. Please note the following is stipulated to be urgent and essential work:

1. Administrative and educational works
 - 1.1 Conference, discussion, seminar or business invitation works
 - 1.2 Temporary internal audit
 - 1.3 Special lecture and educational work
 - 1.4 Aviation superintendent work
2. Technical work
 - 2.1 Inspection, follow-up and technical solution works
 - 2.2 Meeting work on machinery installation and technique
 - 2.3 Aircraft engineering work, aircraft mechanical work
 - 2.4 Machine repairing or installing work
 - 2.5 Petroleum technical work
 - 2.6 Mechanical demonstrative or testing work
 - 2.7 Technical training and seminar work
 - 2.8 Movie taking work
3. Overseas recruitment work
 - 3.1 Worker screening work
 - 3.2 Skill testing work

4. Miscellaneous work
 - 4.1 Purchasing work
 - 4.2 Tour liaison
 - 4.3 Public contribution work which is of non-commercial or non-profit objectives
5. Works which the director-general or the officer authorized by the director-general shall deem appropriate to accept special notifications upon interim necessity

There are two main avenues via which work permits may be sought:

- a) One Stop Service Centre, or
- b) Ministry of Labour

The One Stop Service Centre is an office set up to quickly handle work permit applications from employers that fulfil certain criteria. When this Centre can be used, a work permit application is normally approved on the day of submission.

When the individual/the employer does not qualify to use the One Stop Service Centre, work permits should be sought from the Ministry of Labour and visas from the Immigration Bureau.

A work permit appears as a passport-sized booklet detailing where the individual is allowed to work, the job description, etc. If there are any changes to these particulars, contact your immigration service provider immediately. Working in a location or position not stated in the work permit is not recommended.

Please note that there are 39 occupations reserved for Thais which are prohibited for foreigners. These include manual and industrial labour, work in agriculture, animal breeding, forestry, fishery and farm supervision, carpentry, shop assistance, accountancy, hair dressing, civil engineering, legal services, architectural work, dressmaking and clerical or secretarial work, among others.

Visa and work permit cancellation

You should contact Immigration Bureau to cancel your visa at the end of your assignment. Currently, it is not required by law for you to cancel your work permit and it will automatically expire. Nevertheless, it is beneficial for the company to cancel your work permit as the Thai/Foreigner staff ratio should be maintained if another expatriate will come in to fill your position.

Immigration law in Thailand is a complex issue, and professional advice should be sought on these matters on a regular basis.

Tax structure and liability as a taxpayer

Thai personal income tax legislation, although not particularly sophisticated, is relatively all-encompassing, and states:

All earned income derived from a Thai employment is subject to Thai personal income tax. This is regardless of whether or not the recipient is resident, or of where the income is paid.

A resident individual is also subject to Thai personal income tax on foreign source income to the extent that such income is remitted to Thailand.

Where an individual spends 180 days or more in Thailand in a calendar year, he will be regarded as resident in Thailand for income tax purposes. **Note:** The Thai tax year follows the calendar year.

Taxable earned income includes, but is not restricted to the following:

- Salary, wages, etc.
- Per diems
- Bonus
- Pensions and commissions
- Accommodation costs paid by an employer
- Personal income tax paid by an employer

Capital gains are taxable as part of an individual's income. Unfortunately, capital losses cannot be deducted from personal income. There are certain tax exemptions available in respect of gains on Thai Stock Exchange Securities, and on some immovable property, i.e. real estate.

Foreign currency – Income received in foreign (i.e. non-Thai) currency is converted, for tax purposes, into Thai Baht using the exchange rate in force on the day of receipt.

Married couples – Since the 2012 tax year, the income of a wife is no longer treated as the income of her husband. Therefore, a husband and wife who are both earning income can choose to file their income tax returns either separately or jointly, whichever they prefer.

Returns – Individuals residing in Thailand are obliged to file an annual income tax return by the end of March to disclose income received in the previous year, with few exceptions. In practice, however, a non-working spouse would not be expected to submit an annual tax return. However, if you derive income from the below, you are required to submit your first half-year return by the end of September of the year in which you received the income and also your annual tax return to report your full year income by the end of March of the following year. Tax paid in the first half-year filing will be creditable against your annual tax.

- Hiring property
- Liberal professions (law, medicine, engineering architecture, accountancy, and fine arts)
- A contract to which a contractor provides essential construction materials excluding tools
- Carrying on commercial or industrial businesses i.e. trading and services

Tax rates

2013 onwards

Taxable Income(baht)	Marginal Taxable income(baht)	Tax Rate (%)
0 - 150,000	150,000	Exempt
150,001 – 300,000	150,000	5
300,001 – 500,000	200,000	10
500,001 – 750,000	250,000	15
750,001 – 1,000,000	250,000	20
1,000,001 – 2,000,000	1,000,000	25
2,000,001 – 4,000,000	2,000,000	30
4,000,001 and over	-	35

Payments – Income tax due on earnings from a Thai employer should be withheld at source by the employer. Any other tax due should be paid at the same time the tax return is submitted to the authorities.

If the tax due amounts to at least Baht 3,000, you may pay the tax in three equal installments. The first installment must be paid upon filing your return; the second and the third installments are each paid one month after the previous one.

Banking

Opening bank accounts

Foreign nationals are able to open bank accounts with any Thai bank once they have a work permit. They can also apply for additional banking services like telephone banking, mobile phone banking and Internet banking. To apply, bring your passport and work permit to one of the branches. Such accounts often come with an ATM card at a low fee of Baht 100. A foreigner who intends to open a current account may have to first hold a savings account with the bank for at least 1-2 months or deposit a minimum of Baht 10,000.

Only some banks allow foreigners to open a bank account ***without*** a work permit. **For example, Bangkok Bank accepts other documents such as driver's licence, student/professor ID, a recommendation letter from an embassy or a bank statement from your home bank in addition to your passport.** Krung Thai and Kasikorn Bank require a document which confirms that you will stay in Thailand longer than 3 months. Each bank has different criteria. **For in-depth information, please visit the bank's website.**

Furthermore, it is common practice in Thailand for all employees to hold bank accounts with the same bank as their employer, and for the expatriate employees to follow suit for ease of salary payments.

Transfer of funds

Before remitting overseas income to Thailand at the start of your assignment, it is important for you to ascertain whether you are to be treated as resident for tax purposes in the year of arrival. If your residence starts in the year of arrival, any remittance of overseas income derived from January 1 of your year of arrival will be subject to Thai personal tax.

Once you receive your income and have paid personal income tax correctly, you may transfer your personal funds out of Thailand. Banks normally allow foreign individuals to transfer a portion of their salaries paid in Thailand for **savings** purposes abroad via SWIFT or online. There is no statutory maximum percentage of salary that can be regarded as available for **savings** and most banks will authorise up to 100% of net salary to be transferred. We have, however heard of instances where banks have imposed a limit of 80% of net salary. There is also a transfer charge which varies between banks for each transaction you make.

Another way to transfer funds abroad is through money transfer services such as Western Union. This method **is secure and fast, plus recipients don't need a** bank account to receive funds. For more information about Western Union services, please contact Tel. 001-800-852-5385 or visit www.westernunion.co.th





VII. You & Your family

Your spouse

Employment opportunities

There are several recruitment agencies that may be able to help your spouse find work. These companies are listed in Appendix 6.

Furthermore, the classified section of newspapers and job search websites may also provide good leads. Some of the websites that may be useful are www.jobbees.com, www.jobsdb.com, and www.careerjet.co.th. However, due to the strict work permit regulations, it may be difficult/impossible for accompanying spouses to find suitable employment in Thailand.

Apart from employment, there are other activities that may be of interest:

Further education

Further education might be another choice to consider. Foreigners may take courses at local Thai universities such as Chulalongkorn University, Thammasat University, or Assumption University (ABAC) where a wide variety of subjects in the English language are offered. Contact the University Information Office or The Office of Higher Education Commission at Tel. 0-2354-5501 ext. 216. Other private schools also offer courses such as foreign languages, cooking, flower arranging, etc. and often advertise courses in the English language press.

Foreign associations and clubs

Spouses can also join associations and clubs. A list is provided in Appendix 7.

Thai language schools

All newcomers to Thailand will benefit from studying the Thai language and there is an abundance of language schools in operation, some of which we have listed. There are also classified advertisements in the newspapers and magazines that offer small classes and language exchange opportunities. Thai language schools are listed below:

AAA Thai Language School

6th Fl., Vanissa Bldg. (Front Bldg.), Chidlom Rd.,
Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330
Tel. 0-2655-5629
www.aaathai.com

AUA Language Center

Chamchuri Square: 21st Fl, Phayathai Rd,
Tel. 0-2657-6411-7
Ratchayothin: 3rd Fl, Elephant Tower A, Phahonyothin
Tel. 0-2937-4597
Muang Thong Thani: Easy Peasy Mall, Popular Rd.
Tel. 0-2980-7771-2
Hua Mark: 5th Fl, BigC Hua Mark, Ramkhanhaeng Rd.
Tel. 0-2318-8725-6
Thonburi: Charansanitwong Rd., Tha Phra
Tel. 0-2864-0362
Srinakarin: 4th Fl, Paradise Park, Srinakarin Rd.
Tel. 0-2746-0648

Bua Thai Language School

19th Fl., Piya Place, 29/1 Soi Langsuan,
Ploenchit Rd., Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330
Tel. 081-378-1020
<http://buathailanguage.com>

Berlitz

Sukhumvit: 2nd Fl, Times square Bldg, Sukhumvit 12
Tel. 0-2255-6070-4
Silom: 5th Fl, United Center Bldg, Silom Rd, Bangrak
Tel. 0-2231-1222
Siam Paragon: Floor 4A, Rama I Rd., Pathumwan
Tel. 0-2610-9735

Chulalongkorn University (Intensive Thai Program)

The Faculty of Arts, Phayathai Rd.
Tel. 0-2218-4886

Everyday Thai Language School

2nd Fl., Prima Sathorn Bldg.,
31 Narathiwat Rd., Sathorn, Bangkok
Tel. 0-2676-2030, 084-094-7585
www.everyday-thai.com

Inlingua

For more information about branches,
please visit www.inlinguabangkok.com
Tel. 0-2642-2084

Jentana & Associates

5/8 Sukhumvit Soi 31, Sukhumvit Rd., Wattana
Tel. 0-2260-6138-9, 081-808-5180
www.thai-lessons.com

Nisa

Sathorn: 32/14-16 Yen Arkard Rd., Sathorn
Tel. 0-2671-3359-60
Emporium: 9th Fl, Emporium Tower, Sukhumvit 24
Tel. 0-2664-8291-3
www.nisathailanguageschool.com

Siripattana Thai Language School

Chidlom: 6th Fl, Maneeya Center Bldg.

Tel. 0-2254-8244, 081-330-8764

Sathorn: 9th Fl, Bangkok Insurance Bldg, Sathorn Tai

Tel. 0-2213-1206, 0-2677-3150

<http://siripattanathai.jimdo.com/english>

Thammasat University

The Faculty of Liberal Arts, Thaprachan Road

Tel: 0-2613-2608, 0-2221-6171

Your children

A vast number of international schools have emerged to meet the needs of the growing expatriate population. Parents can choose to enrol their children in English language schooling either in a British, American, or International curriculum, as the need may be.

Choosing the right school for your children while on assignment is an extremely important factor in helping the assignment become an enjoyable and successful one. Fortunately there are many high quality international schools in Thailand, some of which are listed in Appendix 8. Most, if not all, international schools here are members of the International Schools Association of Thailand (ISAT).

The International Schools Association of Thailand was established in 1994 with a principal purpose to act as a link between international schools which are members of ISAT and the Ministry of Education. ISAT publishes an annual guide to International Schools in Thailand, and it also has a very useful website at www.isat.or.th. We strongly recommend that you visit this website to assist in your school search.

Documents required for enrolment **are usually copies of the parents' and the child's** passports, birth certificate, and previous school records. An application fee is usually required by most of these schools. This, however, does not guarantee acceptance to the school.

Getting married while on assignment in Thailand

The following laws regarding marriage in Thailand may be of interest:

1. The legal age to marry in Thailand is 17 years.
2. A marriage cannot take place if the man or woman is already married to another person.
3. A woman can re-marry when her previous marriage has been terminated for more than 310 days, with the exception of the following:
 - A child has been born during that period
 - The divorced couple remarry
 - There is a certificate issued by a qualified doctor who is a lawful physical practitioner in medicine to show that the woman is not pregnant (the intention of this particular law is to prevent dispute over whether the former or the new husband would be responsible for the child)
 - There is an order from the Court allowing the woman to marry
 - Marriage (in a foreign country) between a Thai person and a foreigner **can be proscribed by either Thai law or the law of the foreign spouse's country.**

In Thailand, marriage can legally take place when a man and a woman agree to take each other as lawful husband and wife, and have the marriage recorded by the Registrar at an Office of Local Administration in any district (or sam-nak-ngarn-kade in Thai). For a Thai citizen, the documents needed are an ID card and his/her house registration papers, and the divorce or death certificate of his/her late spouse. For a foreigner, the documents needed are a passport together with the arrival card, certificate of freedom to marry from the Embassy and the original divorce or death certificate of his/her late spouse.

Once all documents have been approved and certified, the bride and groom may then visit their Local Administration Office to register the marriage. Since English is not commonly used at most government offices, it is advisable to take someone to help with the translation. At least two witnesses are required at a marriage registration. You can either **bring your own**, or have the Registrar arrange this. If the latter is the case, some gratuity is usually expected.

Due to a landmark ruling by the Constitutional Court in mid 2003, married women are allowed to use their maiden name and since 2008, they can keep their title as Ms. instead of having to use Mrs. Marriage registrars no longer have a mandate to force a woman **to adopt her husband's surname** or change her title to Mrs. Children will be entitled to choose the surname of either of their biological parents.

Legal status through marriage

One important question derived as a result of the marriage is that concerning the legal status of the person married to a Thai citizen. According to the Nationality Act B.E. 2508, Thai nationality can be obtained under two of the following circumstances:

1. By birth
2. **By the individual's own intention after birth.**

Under the same Act, a person can be granted Thai nationality by intention in the following two cases:

1. Marriage
2. Naturalisation

Usually, nationality obtained through a marriage will be that obtained with reference to the husband's. Therefore, the Thai law prescribes change of nationality only for women. If a man would like to change his nationality to Thai, he can do so only under the naturalisation regulation of Thailand.

The criteria required for a foreigner to obtain Thai nationality through naturalisation under Section 10 of the above Act are as follows:

1. Aged over twenty years old and has become sui juris (independent) in the country where the foreigner already holds nationality
2. Behave appropriately
3. Hold employment
4. Has lived in Thailand prior to the date of application for naturalisation for over 5 years
5. Knows the Thai Language according to Ministerial Regulations.

If a man married to a Thai woman would like to have permanent residency status, that individual must have lived in Thailand for at least 2 years prior to applying.

Naturalisation service fee

- Application form Baht 5,000
- **Application for the applicant's**
child who has not reached 20 Baht 2,500
years of age

For more information about obtaining Thai nationality, please contact the Royal Thai Police Special Branch at 0-2252-1714, 0-2252-2708.

Restriction on Land Ownership for Foreigners

Some foreigners may wish to purchase their place of residence during their assignment, or to own property that they can visit after their assignment is complete and they have left the country. Depending on the type of property (e.g. house or condominium), it may be possible for foreigners to purchase **and own their own property, but there are many restrictions on foreigner's** owning land in Thailand.

The general rule is that foreigners are restricted from buying land and property in Thailand. There are several exceptions to this rule, most of which apply to ownership of land for commercial purposes rather than residential. Moreover, **Thailand's conveyance system is unique and complicated.** To determine whether the purchase would be allowed by a foreigner and, more importantly, whether the chain of title of a potential property is valid, professional legal advice should be sought.

Foreigners wanting to purchase a condominium will find the procedure less restrictive and more straightforward. Some requirements are still imposed on foreigners when buying condominiums, but these requirements are not prohibitive. Most notable of these requirements is that one may be required to show proof that the purchase was carried out by a designated amount of foreign currency being brought into the country.

Another way is to lease a property. A foreigner can lease an area of land or house for up to 30 years with an option to renew the lease for an additional 30 year period, as referred to as the 2x30 option. He/she can build a residential property upon the land that is leased. All leases longer than 3 years must be registered against the title deed of the property and you must pay taxes on the lease amount.

Medical care

Hospitals

Clinics and hospitals of a relatively high standard are available in Bangkok. Many public and private hospitals are staffed by internationally qualified physicians. Private hospitals, in particular are equipped with modern medical technology. It is not usually necessary to make an appointment to attend the clinics at these hospitals. However, for a specific doctor or specialist, it is advisable to check his/her schedule first. Some of the reputable private hospitals in Bangkok are listed below.

Bangkok Hospital

2 Soi Soonvijai 7, New Petchburi Rd.,
Bangapi, Huay Kwang Bangkok 10310
Tel. 02-310-3000, 1719
www.bangkokhospital.com

BNH (or Bangkok Nursing Home Hospital)

9/1 Convent Rd., Silom, Bangkok 10500
Tel. 0-2686-2700
www.bnhhospital.com

Bumrungrad Hospital

33 Sukhumvit 3 (Soi Nana Nua),
Wattana, Bangkok 10110
Tel. 0-2667-1000, 0-2667-1000 (for emergency)
www.bumrungrad.com

Kasemrad Hospital

950 Prachachuen Rd., Bangsue, Bangkok 10800
Tel. 0-2910-1600
www.kasemrad.co.th

Mission Hospital

430 Pitsanuloke Rd., Siyak Mahanak,
Dusit, Bangkok 10300
Tel. 0-2282-1100, 0-2667-2999 (for emergency)
www.mission-hospital.org

Samitivej Hospital

133 Sukhumvit 49, Klongton Nua,
Wattana, Bangkok 10110
Tel. 0-2711-8181
www.samitivejhospitals.com

Sikarin Hospital

4/29 Srinakarin Rd., Bangna, Bangkok 10260
Tel. 1728, 0-2366-9900
www.sikarin.com

St. Louis Hospital

27 South Sathorn Rd., Yannawa,
Sathorn, Bangkok 10120
Tel. 0-2675-5000, 0-2210-9999
www.saintlouis.or.th

Thai Nakarin Hospital

345 BangNa Trad Rd., Km. 3.5, Kwang Bangna, Khet Bangna, Bangkok 10260
Tel. 0-2361-2727, 0-2361-2828
www.thainakarin.co.th

Thonburi Hospital

34/1 Issaraphap Rd., Banchanglor, Bangkoknoi, Bangkok 10700
Tel. 0-2412-0020, 0-2866-1333
www.thonburihospital.com

Vichaiyut Hospital

114/4 Setthasiri Rd., Samsennai,
Phya Thai, Bangkok 10400
Tel. 0-2265-7777, 0-2618-6200-20
www.vichaiyut.co.th

Divisions of two renowned public hospitals that provide services as private hospital are also listed below.

Siriraj Piyamaharajkarun Hospital

2 Prannok Rd., Siriraj, Bangkok Noi, Bangkok 10700
Call center tel. 1474
www.siphphospital.com

Somdech Phra Debaratana Medical Center

270 Rama VI Rd., (at Ramathibodhi Hospital)
Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400
Tel. 0-2200-3000
www.ra.mahidol.ac.th/sdmc

Medical insurance

Several international medical insurance providers have a base in Thailand as follows:

BUPA Blue Cross

38 Q House Convent Building, Convent Rd.,
Silom, Bangrak, Bangkok 10500
Tel. 0-2677-0000
www.bupa.co.th

Krungthai Axa Life Insurance

2034/116-123, 136-143 ItalThai Tower,
New Petchburi Rd., Bang Kapi, Huay Khwang, Bangkok 10310
Tel. 0-2689-4800, 0-2723-4000
www.krungthai-axa.co.th

LMG Insurance

2 Sukhumvit 23, Lhlongtoey Nua,
Wattana Bangkok 10110
Tel. 0-2661-6000
www.lmginsurance.co.th

Manulife Insurance

364/30 Sri Ayudaya Rd., Phayathai,
Ratani, Bangkok 10400
Tel. 0-2246-7650
www.manulife.co.th

Thai Health Insurance Plc.

121/89 RS Tower Bldg, 31st Fl.,
Ratchadapisek Rd., Dindaeng, Bangkok 10400
Tel. 0-2202-9200
www.thaihealth.co.th

If your company does not provide healthcare cover for you or your family members, these medical insurers may be able to assist you.

Mobile phones & 3G Service

A 3G network was first launched in Thailand at the end of 2009. Major mobile network carriers in Thailand as well as TOT currently provide 3G services and cover most cities in the country. Though, it was only recently that the real 3G service on the international standard 2.1-gigahertz frequency has become available in Thailand. The country's three largest operators, AIS, DTAC and

TrueMove, have just started providing their new 3G services earlier in May 2013.

Same as for calling and texting services, each network provider offers different data plans at different rates. And each varies in signal strength and network coverage, though only slightly. We suggest you look at the promotion from all of the operators to see which one will suit your needs best. With the EMI system disabled, you can now switch service providers without having to purchase a new mobile phone, provided it uses the same system.

If you would like to purchase a Thai registered mobile phone (i.e. monthly contract), the following documents are required:

- Original and copy of passport
- Original work permit
- Letter from employer (not over 3-months old)

An alternative is purchasing a mobile phone with a pre-paid option. However, the international roaming service coverage is more limited. To obtain a list of countries where international roaming service is available, you can check at the Call Centre numbers listed below.

DTAC

Call Centre 1678, 0-2202-7000
www.dtac.co.th

AIS

Call Centre 1175, 0-2271-9000
www.ais.co.th

TrueMove

Call Centre 1331
www.truemove.com

Credit cards

Credit cards are widely used in Bangkok. Most major credit cards e.g. American Express, MasterCard, VISA, Diners Club, etc., are accepted in Thailand. For American Express, you can either visit their office or call them at 0-2273-5500. You can apply for MasterCard and VISA at most branches of major local and international banks. Although the requirements may vary between banks, typically, the following documentation should be provided together with the application form:

- A copy of your passport
- A copy of your work permit
- A copy of your bank account details for the preceding two to six month period (the requirement varies with each bank)

A recent salary statement or a certificate of income

However, please be reminded that it is slightly harder for expatriates to apply for a credit card and most banks often require you to earn a higher level of steady income. Some banks have a minimum of Baht 25,000, though some, for example, Kasikorn Bank requires a minimum of Baht 50,000.

An easier option is to bypass the banks and apply for a Visa or MasterCard at a **reputable store such as Central. The process is the same but they're much more likely to grant the card.**

Payment services

Bills can be paid via banks, ATM machines, 7-Eleven stores and some supermarkets. **Pay@Post** is an online bill payment service available at all branches of the post office. Charges may vary.



Postal service

The postal service is operated by The Thailand Post. Other services such as telegraph services, postal money orders, and P.O. boxes are also available. Normal postal delivery and collection services are made twice a day - morning and afternoon. However, the service is only once a day in some areas. Generally speaking the mail appears to be fairly reliable in Bangkok.

You can send mail/parcels either by regular mail or urgent mail service. Urgent mail/parcels delivery is available via **Express Mail Service (EMS)** to all parts of the world. This service is similar to international courier services. A pick-up service may be available if you call 1545. Tracking can be done by calling the previous number or online at <http://track.thailandpost.com> 24 hours a day.

In addition to EMS, other international courier services are also available, and include the following:

DHL	0-2345-5000
FedEx	1782, 0-2229-8900
TNT	1721
UPS (United Parcel Service)	0-2762-3300, 0-2728-9000

P.O. BOX rental

There is also an **option of renting a mailbox in one of Bangkok's many** shopping malls through Thailand Post or Mail Boxes etc. To rent a P.O. Box, you will need your passport and a permanent address.

Normally, approval can take between one and two weeks. If approved, you will **be contacted for payment. One month's notice is required to terminate this** service. Refunding of the key deposit must take place within one month from the date of termination.

	Rental Fees	
Thailand Post Tel.1545, 0-2831-3600 www.thailandpost.com	One Size	Baht 300/6 months
		Baht 500/12 months
Mail Boxes Etc. Tel. 0-2298-0678-9 www.mbethai.com	Small size	Baht 300/month
	Medium size	Baht 600/month
	Large size	Baht 900/month

Grocery shopping

Almost all department stores in Bangkok have supermarkets. There are also supermarkets that specialise in grocery products as follows:

Big C

Big C operates business in the form of supercenter, a modern retail business. It offers everything from fresh food to household items and has more than 30 branches in Bangkok.

For more information, please call the call centre at 1756 or visit www.bigc.co.th

Foodland

Well-known for having a good variety of western groceries. Foodland has a number of branches which are located in Patpong, New Petchaburi, Hua-Mark, Lard Phrao, Laksi IT Square, Ram Intra, Sukhumvit, Thonglor, Charansanitwong, and Srinakarin. All branches are open 24 hours.

For more information, please call 0-2530-0220

Gourmet

This upscale supermarket has many branches at big department stores such as Siam Paragon, Emporium, K Village and Terminal 21. It sells a wide variety of fresh products as well as imported food and wine.

For more information, please contact 0-2269-1000.

Isetan

This Japanese department store also has a supermarket, located in Central World Shopping Complex on Ratchadamri Road.

For more information, please call 0-2255-9898-9

Makro

A large cash and carry wholesale super store with 26 outlets throughout Thailand.

For more information, please call 0-2723-1000

MaxValu

This up and coming retail store chain from Japan offers fresh products and ready-to-eat food in many locations around Bangkok. It opens 24 hours and is also starting to open its mini branches, MaxValu Tanjai, at condominiums and hotels.

Tesco Lotus

A super store/wholesale chain located in various locations around Bangkok. This large chain offers a wide variety of food products and household items at low prices.

Tesco Lotus Express, its mini store which is open 24 hours, also sells a variety of items. They are located near community areas, highway stops and gas stations across Bangkok.

For more information, please call 1712.

TOPS

Tops have nearly 50 branches both in Central Department stores and stand alone premises. They also offer an online shopping and home delivery service.

For information on branch locations, visit www.tops.co.th or call 0-2831-7300

UFM Fuji Super

Located in Soi 33/1, Soi 39 and Soi 49 on Sukhumvit Rd., this supermarket caters mainly to Japanese clients, but carries many other international groceries as well. Tel. 0-2258-0697-9

Villa Supermarket

Very popular among westerners in Bangkok because of its variety of imported products. Villa Supermarket currently has more than 10 branches in Bangkok. Some locations are for example, Sukhumvit 33, J Avenue Thonglor, Langsuan, Nichida Thani, Silom, Soi Aree, Phloenchit Center and Chaengwattana.

The branch which appears to stock the widest range of imports is that located at Sukhumvit Soi 33.

For more information,
please call 0-2662-1000

Churches

The Thai constitution allows all people to practice their own religion. Most denominations are present in Bangkok. Below are some of the churches and temples frequented by the foreign community in Bangkok. Service times have been included. Updates to some churches can also be found in newspapers or through the website www.catholic.or.th/eng. Please find some churches listed in Appendix 9.

Libraries

Bangkok has a number of libraries containing foreign language texts. The following libraries and institutions offer the opportunity to browse and borrow books.

AUA Library

21st Fl., Chamchuri Square,
Phyathai Rd., Pathumwan 10330
Tel. 0-2657-6411
Open: Mon-Thu 9.00 am – 7.00 pm
Fri 9.00 am – 6.30 pm
Sat-Sun 8.00 – 4.00 pm

British Council Library and Learning Center (Izone)

254 Soi 64 (Chulalongkorn), Siam Square, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330

Tel. 0-2657-5678

Open: Mon-Fri 8.30 am – 7.00 pm

Sat-Sun 8.00 am – 5.00 pm

Chulalongkorn University Central Library

Phayathai Rd., Pathumwan

Tel. 0-2218-2929

Open: Mon-Fri 8.00 am – 9.00 pm

Sat 9.00 am - 4.00 pm

Closed on government holidays

Japanese Cultural Center Main Hall

10th Fl, Sermmitr Tower, 159 Soi 21(Soi Asoke),
Sukhumvit Rd.

Tel. 0-2260-8560-4

Open: Mon-Fri 9.00 am – 7.00 pm

Sat 9.00 am – 5.00 pm

Closed on government holidays

Maruey Knowledge and Resource Center

Contain books mostly on the subject of investment, finance and business.

1st-2nd Stock Exchange of Thailand,

62 Ratchadapisek Rd., Klongtoey

Tel. 0-2229-2063-65

www.maruey.com

Open: Sun-Thu 8.30 am -11.00 pm

Fri-Sat 8.30 am – 12.00 am

Neilson Hays Library

195 Surawong Rd.

Tel. 0-2233-1731

www.neilsonhayslibrary.com

Open: Tue-Sun 9.30 am - 5.00 pm, Closed on Mondays

Siam Society Library

This library specialises in Fine Arts, humanities, Social Sciences and Natural Sciences of Thailand and neighbouring countries.

131 Sukhumvit 21(Soi Asoke), Sukhumvit Rd.

Tel. 0-2661-6470-7, 0-2260-2830-2

www.siam-society.org/library

Open: Tues-Sat 9.00 am -5.00 pm

Closed on Sundays, Mondays, and public holidays

Thailand Knowledge Park (TK Park)

Operating under the concept of a *living library*, TK Park offers more than a hall of books; it marks itself as a creative learning space. It also offers a music and multimedia library as well as an online library.

Level 8, Dazzle zone, Central World Plaza

4 Pathumwan, 10330

Tel. 0-2257-4300

www.tkpark.or.th

Open: Tue-Sun 10.00 am – 8.00 pm, Closed on Mondays

Newspapers & Magazines

Two quality newspapers in English are available in Thailand, as follows:

Bangkok Post

Tel. 0-2616-4444

www.bangkokpost.com

The Nation

Tel. 0-2338-3000, 0-2338-3333

www.nationmultimedia.com

The most well-known daily newspapers published in Thailand are The Nation and The Bangkok Post, which cover national and international news, politics, business, sports, leisure, etc.

For international newspapers, you can call:

Newspaper Direct Thailand Co., Ltd.

Newspapers worldwide can be sent to you on the same day as readers abroad

Tel. 0-2651-3632

www.newspaperdirect-asia.com/bangkok

There are several English language bi-weekly and monthly publications that carry information on special events and highlights of what's happening in and around Bangkok. They can be purchased at Villa, Kinokuniya, Bookazine, Asia Books and other bookstores carrying English magazines.

Bangkok Timeout

A monthly English language magazine featuring listings, travel information, reviews and Bangkok entertainment updates.

BK Magazine

Bi-weekly, English language free publication focusing on lifestyle information in and around Bangkok is available at all major entertainment centres.

Lookeast

A monthly English language magazine featuring events, sightseeing, lifestyle, and cuisine in Thailand.

Metro Magazine

An English language monthly magazine with listings, events and features.

Thailand Tatler

An up-market English language magazine issued monthly with a focus on Thailand's socialites.

The Big Chili

A monthly English language magazine with listings, events, social news, reviews, entertainment and sport updates.

Florists

There are many florists that offer reliable delivery service. The following list contains those that make international and domestic deliveries:

Cattleya Florist Ltd.

2nd Fl, PS Tower, Soi 21 Sukhumvit Rd.
Tel. 0-2260-5655, 089-114-1544
Email: info@cattleya.com
www.cattleya.com

Siam Florists

90/2 Tesabarn Songkro, Prachacheun,
Lardyao, Khet Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900
Tel. 0-2953-8900
www.siamflorist.com

Flower Bangkok

Tel. 0-2552-8116
Email: info@flowerbangkok.com
www.flowerbangkok.com

Forever Florist

Tel. 0-2878-9447

Email: sales@forever-florist-thailand.com

www.forever-florist-thailand.com

Miss Lily

81/25 Soi 21 Ram Intra Rd.,

Bang Khaen, Bangkok 10220

Tel. 0-2970-8000

www.misslily.com

Phuangthong Florist (Interflora)

2/6 Convent Rd.

Tel. 0-2233-2648

www.phuangthong.com

Thailand Florist

Tel. 087- 900-6100

www.thailandflorist.com

Uraiwan Florist

In front of Robinson Bangrak

1522 Charoenkrung Road

Tel. 0-2233-0432, 0-2234-5395, 089-126-9990

www.uraiwanflorist.com

There is also a large flower market called Pak Khlong Talard in the area of the Grand Palace, which is well worth a visit.

Websites and Important Numbers

For a list of useful websites and important numbers to assist you in living and working in Bangkok, please see Appendix 10 and 11 of this guide.



VIII. Leisure activities

Western influence has been crucial in creating new tastes in Thai lifestyle, and this is reflected in sports and entertainment. Western-style clubs, bars, restaurants, and cinemas are numerous in Bangkok. To list the things to do and places to go would be endless. It is a good idea to check for interesting activities in the local newspapers and magazines.

Dining out

Bangkok has a vast variety of restaurants serving just about every national cuisine from the East to the West.

In Bangkok, you can find cheap authentic Thai food at almost every corner. The more popular areas among foreigners are Khaosarn Road Area and China Town. For a more hip restaurant and hang-out spots, opt for Sukhumvit and Thonglor-Ekamai Road as these areas are packed with trendy *and* yummy places!

As there are many Bangkok restaurant guides available, we'll not list the restaurants in this guide. Our suggestion is to collect one of the many free guides from one of the international hotels or just do an online search and start exploring!

General shopping

Bangkok is reputed to be a ***Shopping Mecca*** and almost every conceivable type and size of shop is situated in the city. There are various shopping malls ranging in sizes and locations. Main shopping areas are Siam Square, Siam Paragon, Mah Boon Krong Center (MBK), Central World Plaza, Terminal 21, Platinum Mall, and the Emporium Sukhumvit.

Chatuchak Market, believed to be the largest flea market in Asia, is a place well worth a visit. Whether you're looking for unique clothes, art works, rare antiques, second-hand books or even exotic pets, Chatuchak has it all!

Chatuchak Market opens only on weekends. Department stores are generally open from 10.00 am to 9.00 pm Monday through Sunday. Most major credit cards are accepted at department stores. Many department stores also have indoor playgrounds and game arcades for kids.

Bookshops

There are a number of bookshops carrying foreign language books located in malls and department stores. Also many well-stocked, used books shops are located on Khao San Road, Banglamphu, where there is a high concentration of backpacker accommodation. Please see a list in Appendix 12.

Cinemas

Bangkok offers a wide range of state of the art cinemas. You can enjoy comfortable seats, surround sound system and a huge screens at almost every movie theatre. Here, foreign films are often shown in their native language with Thai subtitles and most Hollywood releases are shown in Thailand. Main cinemas can be found at the following places:

- **Paragon Cineplex, Siam Paragon**
5th Fl., 991 Rama 1 Rd., Pathumwan
- **SF Cinema City, Terminal 21**
6th Fl., Hollywood Terminal, Sukhumvit 19

- **SF World Cinema**
7th Fl., Central World Plaza, 4 Ratchadamri Rd.
- **SFX Cinema Emporium**
6th Fl., The Emporium Shopping Mall,
622 Sukhumvit Rd.
- **SFX Cinema Rama 9**
7th Fl., Central Plaza Rama 9,
702 Ratchadapisek Rd., Din Daeng
- **Major Cineplex, Sukhumvit Ekamai** 221/39 Sukhumvit Rd.
- **Major Cineplex, Rama III, Central Plaza**
Ratchada-Rama III, 7th and 8th Fl., 79/323 Sathupradit Rd.

For those who are fans of independent films, you should check out House Rama RCA on Rama 9 Road. Here, you can watch indy films from all over the world at a very cheap price of only Baht 100. Please visit www.houserama.com for more information and directions.

One custom which foreigners should expect at the movie theatres in Thailand is that the Royal Anthem is played prior to the start of the film. All audience members normally stand during the playing of the Anthem to pay respect to the King. Not standing is very disrespectful and you could be asked to leave the theatre.

For movie show times, check at www.movieseer.com. Information on movies and show times appear to be reliable, more so than newspapers. For SF and Major Cineplex locations and show times, please visit www.sfcinemacity.com and www.majorcineplex.com

Comedy club

Punchline Comedy Club

The Punchline Comedy Club is held at **Sundowner's Bar in The Imperial Queen's Park Hotel**. The club features well-known stand-up comedians from many countries around the world. You can check out their schedule each month and book the ticket in advance by calling Tel. 0-2233-4141, 0-2234-3590 or visit www.punchlinecomedy.com.

Bangkok Hilarious

This newly opened comedy club in Bangkok is hosted by LOL Bangkok Comedy Club. It is located on the 2nd floor of Apoteka Bar & Lounge on Sukhumvit Soi 11, though they often hold special events outside the venue. For more information, please visit their facebook page.

Thai boxing

Thailand has been known for its traditional boxing throughout the world. It is different from Western style boxing in that the boxers can use their knees and feet. They may **also strike any part of the opponent's body**. **Real Thai boxing** can be seen at the following venues:

Lumpini Stadium	Tel. 0-2251-4303
Ormnoid Stadium	Tel. 0-2420-8691
Ratchadamnern Stadium	Tel. 0-2281-4205

If you are interested in learning and practicing Thai boxing, these schools offer training courses for foreigners:

Baan Chang Thai House

38 Ekamai 10/2, Sukhumvit 63, Wattana 10110
Tel. 0-2391-3807, 081-912-8087

Bangkok Fight Club

2nd Fl., 235/3-5 Bldg., Sukhumvit 21 Rd.,
Wattana 10110 (Near BTS Asoke)
Tel. 089-885-1112

Elite Flight Club

10th Fl., The Waterfront Diamond Tower,
Sukhumvit 31, Klongtoey 10110
Tel. 0-2305-6685

Jaroenthong Muay Thai School

Soi Ramkhamhaeng 39, Pracha-Uthit Rd.
Tel. 0-2539-3867, 082-658-6097

Sports activities

Most Western sports, such as golf, tennis, squash, soccer, etc. are played throughout Thailand. For sports that have to be played in teams, you may need to participate in some of the clubs to be a team member. For a more nationality specific group, **contact each country's embassy for more** information. Some groups have sub-groups, such as baseball, golf, or tennis, within the organisation.

Sports that do not need to be played in a team, such as golf, tennis, squash, badminton, cycling, yoga, fitness, etc., can be played at most private clubs. Some of the more popular sports clubs that are open to the general public are listed below:

Golf

Alpine Golf Club

99 Moo 9, Bangkhan-Sathaneevithayu Rd.,
Klong 5, Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120
Tel. 0-2577-3333
www.alpinegolfclub.com

Green Valley

92 Moo3, Bangna-Trad Km. 15,
Bangplee, Samutprakarn 10540
Tel. 0-2312-5883-9
www.greenvalleybangkok.com

Lakewood Country Club

Bangna-Trad Km. 18, Bang Phlee,
Samutprakarn 10540
Tel. 0-2312-6275
www.lakewoodcountryclub.co.th

Muang-Ake Vista

52/999 Moo 7, Phaholythin Rd. Tambol Lak 6,
Amphur Muang, Pathumthani 12000
Tel. 0-2997-8506

Navatanee

22 Navathanee Road (Moo Ban Navatanee),
Kannayao, 10230
Tel. 0-2376-1034-6, 0-2376-1693-5
www.navatanee.com

Pinehurst Golf and Country Club

73 Moo 17 Phaholyothin Rd.,
Klong 1, Pathumtani 12120
Tel. 0-2516-8679-84
www.pinehurst.co.th

Rajpruek Golf Club

100 Moo 3, Vibhavadi-Rangsit Rd.,
Tungsonghong, Laksi 10210
Tel. 0-2955-0055
www.rajpruek.com

Subhapruek Golf Club

102 Moo 7 Bangna-Trad Km. 26,
Bangbor, Samutprakarn 10560
Tel. 0-2705-6262-6, 0-2317-9149-50
www.subhapruekgolf.com

Thana City Golf and Sports Club

100 Moo 4 Bangna-Trad Km. 14,
Bangplee, Samutprakarn 10540
Tel. 0-2336-1968-71
www.thanacitygolf.com

**The Legacy Golf Club
(Natural Park Ram-intra Golf Club)**

18 Moo 7 Liabklongsong,
Klongsamwa 10510
Tel. 0-2914-1930-4

Tennis & Squash

Gusto Sport Club

Soi Anamai Ngarm Charoen 35-37,
Rama 2 Rd., Bang Khuntien 10150
Tel. 0-2405-7088-9

Sivalai Club House

168 Issaraphab Soi 33, Tha Phra 10600
Tel. 0-2412-4000 ext. 205

Soi Klang Racquet Club

Amara 3, Sukhumvit 49/9, Wattana 10110

Tel. 0-2714-7200

(Also includes badminton, squash, swimming, rock climbing, futsal, gym room, ping pong, snooker)

Spin & Slice (The 50 Tennis Club)

Sukhumvit Soi 50, Klong Toey 10260

Tel. 0-2742-8889

Sun Tennis Court

Sukhumvit Soi 40, Sukhumvit Rd., Wattana 10110

Tel. 081-875-9285

Badminton

1-2 Play

Sukhumvit 93, Bangchak, Phrakonong 10260

(Near On-nut BTS Station)

Tel. 0-2742-5745

Conbrio Badminton Court

Rama 2 Rd., Soi 82, Bang Khuntien 10150

Tel. 0-2451-3592, 090-016-1502

Lex Dee Badminton Court

94 Vipawadee-Rangsit Rd., Chatuchuk, 10900

Tel. 0-2953-1726, 083-433-3724

My House by PB Sport

57 Borommaratchachonnani Rd, Talingchan 10170

Tel. 0-2880-7026

Tito Badminton Court

591 Soi Charoennakorn 14, Klongsarn 10600

Tel. 0-2438-9785, 081-647-2056

Cycling

Bangkok Bike Rides

45 (Sub Soi Pannee), Soi Pridi Banomyong 26,

Sukhumvit 71, Wattana, 10110

Tel. 0- 2381 7490, 089-895-5680

www.bangkokbikerides.com

Bike Tour Bangkok

Sathorn Pier (Under Sathon Bridge), Soi Charoennakon 15, Charoennakon Rd., Klongsan, 10600
Tel. 081- 567-9277
www.biketourbangkok.com

Spice Roads

45 (Sub Soi Pannee)
Soi Pridi Banomyong 26
Sukhumvit Soi 71
Klongtan Nua, Wattana
Bangkok, Thailand 10110 **Tel:** +66 (0) 2 381 7490
Email: info@spiceroads.com

Yoga

Absolute Yoga

Absolute Yoga, the biggest player of yoga business in Thailand has a total of 7 studios around Bangkok. Their branches are located in major areas such as Silom and Sukhumvit. For more information about classes and locations, please contact Tel. 0-2252-4400 or www.absoluteyogabangkok.com

Bikram Yoga

Bikram Yoga Bangkok is a licenced franchise of the worldwide Yoga college of India and the only stand alone Bikram Yoga School in Bangkok.
4th Fl., Srisothorn Place, Sukhumvit 23 Rd.
Tel. 0-2664-0984

Yoga Elements Studio

Run by an American trainer from New York, this yoga studio is situated at the heart of the city, just behind Central Chidlom. Here, professional classes on vinyasa and ashtanga are primarily taught.
23rd Fl., Vanissa Bldg., Soi Chidlom, Pathumwan
Tel. 0-2655-5671
www.yogaelements.com

Fitness Centres

Fully equipped fitness centres can be found in most large hotels and condos in Bangkok. Facilities usually include gym equipment, aerobic studios, tennis and squash courts, swimming pools, saunas, Jacuzzi, and beauty parlours. Other popular individually located centres are:

The Aspire Club

348/2 Sukhumvit Rd.

Tel. 0-2229-4114, 080-188-4114

www.aspire.asia

Capitol Club

99/397 Sukhumvit 24, Klongtoey 10110

Tel. 0-2661-1210-26

www.capitolclub.com

Cascade Club

Level 6 and 7, The Ascott Sathorn Bangkok

187 South Sathorn Road, Yannawa 10120

Tel. 02 676-6969

www.cascadeclubandspa.com

Clark Hatch

This is a chain fitness center located in many convenient locations, and also in the Nichada Thani housing compound.

Tel. 0-2260-9512

www.clarkhatchthailand.com

Fitness First

This fitness center is well equipped with international standard exercise equipment and has most locations around Bangkok.

Tel. 0-2789-9997

www.fitnessfirst.co.th

Phillip Wain International

This fitness center is exclusively for women. It is well known for its fitness training program and slimming courses.

Branches: 13th Fl., Central Ladprao Dept. Store

and 19th Fl., Amrin Tower, Ploenchit Rd.

Tel. 0-2541-1555, 0-252-9858

www.phillip-wain.com/th

Piyarom Sports Club

Piyarom offers both indoor and outdoor sports for everyone in the family. It also welcomes kids with many activities and training classes.

3079/23 Sukhumvit Rd., Prakanong 10260

Tel. 0-2747-9800

Sports City

Similar to Piyarom Sports Club, this sport complex has a wide range of activities to offer; it is also a place where all the family members can enjoy. Prachachuen Rd., Pakred, Nonthaburi 11120
Tel. 0-2575-0080

True Fitness

True Fitness combines yoga, fitness, spa and aesthetics all in one big space. It currently has three locations which include Exchange Tower, Central World Plaza and Esplanade Ngamwongwan.
Tel. 0-2663-4999, 0-2610-0999, 0-2831-0999
www.truefitness.co.th



IX. Sightseeing

Museums

Museum Siam

Although this museum only opened in 2008, it has become one of the top tourist attractions in Bangkok. The beautiful cream-colored building of the museum dates back to the 1920s when it was built as the Ministry of Commerce.

The museum presents the history of Thailand from thousands of years ago until today through audio visual displays and interactive screens. Open from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm every day except for Mondays. For more information, please contact Tel. 0-2225-2777 or www.museumsiam.com.

National Museum

Located on Na Phra Tad Road, this museum houses one of the largest collections of Buddhist and Thai arts in Southeast Asia.

Open from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm from Wednesday to Sunday. Admission is Baht 50. Guided tours start at 9.30 am and are available in English, French, German and Japanese. For detailed information, please Tel. 0-2224-1333.

Rattanakosin Exhibition Hall

Situated among other important landmarks on Ratchdamnoen Road is the Rattanakosin Exhibition Hall which was officially launched in 2010. The nine halls present many interesting exhibitions about Rattanakosin City (the historic centre of Bangkok) including its history, art and culture.

The museum is open every day from 10.00 am to 7.00 pm except for Mondays. The last tour session starts at 5.00 pm. For further information, please contact Tel. 0-2621-0044 or go to their website, www.nitasrattanakosin.com.

Museum of Contemporary Art

For those who appreciate Thai art, MOCA or the Museum of Contemporary Art is a must. From traditional Thai arts to contemporary modern pieces, this museum is packed with quality art works from the very own collection of Mr. Boonchai Bencharongkul, the former owner of DTAC. The building of the museum itself is quite a piece of architecture.

Spend a day here to learn more about Thai art and culture or to simply get inspirations. For detailed information, please call 0-2953-1005 or visit www.mocabangkok.com.

Palaces

The Grand Palace

Located in the historic centre in the very heart of Bangkok, the Grand Palace is a large compound where the Temple of the Emerald Buddha is situated. It consists of several buildings with different styles of architecture, both Thai and Western.

Among the four groups of palaces, the Chakri Maha Prasat is the largest; it was built by King Rama V as his own residence. Boromabiman Hall was built by King Rama VI and every king since his reign has lived here at some point.

Nowadays, the palaces are no longer used as the royal residence. Instead, they are used for ceremonial occasions and coronations.

Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall

The throne hall which stands behind the King Rama V Memorial at the end of **Dusit's Royal Plaza** was originally built as a royal reception hall during the reign of King Rama V. It was designed by Italian architects as a place to host and impress foreign dignitaries. Built from Italian white marble, the two-storey building is of Renaissance and Neo Classical styles with a large beautiful dome in the center.

It is now open as a museum with permanent **Arts of Kingdom** exhibition where a wide range of impressive traditional Thai arts and crafts can be found. From time to time, the Throne Hall still serves as a prestigious locale where royal occasions are held.

Temples

Wat Pra Kaew

The Temple of the Emerald Buddha or Wat Phra Kaew in Thai is a royal chapel which situates within the walls of the Grand Palace and is the most visited tourist attraction in Bangkok. The temple is also renowned as the most sacred Buddhist temple in Thailand.

The main building of the temple is called the central Ubosoth where the statue of the Emerald Buddha is enshrined. The Emerald Buddha is regarded as the palladium of the Thai society and no one is allowed to touch the statue except for His Majesty The King. At the changing of every season, the gold garments of the Emerald Buddha are changed by the King of Thailand in an important ritual.

Wat Arun

Located on the banks of the Chao Phraya River, Wat Arun or the Temple of Dawn is one of the most impressive riverside landmarks of Thailand. The temple is named after the Hindu God, Aruna, who is often personified as the radiations of the rising sun.

The central prang (the khmer-style tower) which is the main feature of the temple is decorated with colourful seashells and bits of porcelain. The light reflecting off its surface as the sun rises and sets is a sight to see.

Wat Saket (The Golden Mountain)

Wat Saket is another famous historical temple from the Ayutthaya period. The Golden Mountain or the golden pagoda on the steep artificial hill stands majestically on Chakkaphatdiphong Road and can be seen clearly from Rachadamnoen Road.

To go up top, you must climb up 318 steps that are wrapped around the mountain. Though it sounds like a lot of climbing, the hike is quite easy and pleasant. And the panoramic view up top is surely worth the 15 minutes walking, especially in the evening.

Parks

Benchasiri Park

Located between the Emporium Shopping Centre and Soi 22 Sukhumvit Road, **this park was opened to commemorate her Majesty the Queen's 60th birthday.** There is a sports arena for skateboarding, basketball, volleyball, and a playground for toddlers. This park is an excellent place to relax and get fit. It also has plenty of spots for reading and family picnics.

Chatuchak Park

Chatuchak Park near Chatuchak weekend market is one of the bigger and older parks in Bangkok. It is a good place to sit and relax after shopping in the market. Inside, there is an artificial lake which runs along the park and tracks for jogging along the parameter, as well as tennis courts and soccer fields.

Lumpini Park

Bordered by Rama IV, Wireless Road, Ratchdamri Road, and Sarasin Road, this park is located at the heart of Bangkok. Because of this, Lumpini Park is a popular spot for those who work and live in the city. Many people spend their free time here. You can escape to take a breath of fresh air, to run, or attend aerobics classes early in the morning, or after work.

It is open daily from early morning till late at night. However, beware of unfriendly company late at night.

Rod Fai Park

Another park in Chatuchak area is Rod Fai Park or Railway Park in English. The park is an ideal place for picnic and outdoor activities. Basketball fields, tennis courts, fitness center, and swimming pool can be found in the park. There is also a bike rental service where you can rent a bike for only Baht 20 all day long.

Fun for Kids

Dusit Zoo

Located in the Dusit district, close to Vimanmek Palace on Ratwiti Road, this **is the city's main zoo on a 19**-hectare plot of land. Once a private botanical garden for King Rama V, today it houses a large number of animals and birds. Elephant rides, animal shows, and paddleboats, are available.

Open from 8am to 6pm every day. Admission fee is Baht 100 for adults and Baht 50 for children. To obtain more information, contact Tel. 0-2281-9027-8, 0-2281-2000.

Siam Ocean World

One of the largest and newest aquariums in South East Asia, it covers two underground floors of Siam Paragon Shopping Mall with hundreds of different aquatic species on display.

The aquarium is open daily from 10am to 9pm. The tickets cost Baht 900 for adults and Baht 700 for children. You can find more information by calling Tel. 0-2687-2000 or go to www.siamoceanworld.com.

Other Landmarks

Asiatique The Riverfront

Decorated under the concept of Thai traditional festival market and living museum, this place will bring you back to **Bangkok's glory days during the** period of King Rama V. As the first riverside community mall in Bangkok, Asiatique combines dining, shopping, sightseeing and entertainment all in one place with over a thousand of boutiques and 40 restaurants. It also houses two famous **theatres: Joe Louise's Thai puppets show and the marvellous ladyboy** show, Calypso Cabaret.

Jim Thompson's House

The museum is a compound residence that originally belonged to James HW Thompson, the American businessman and founder of the world-renowned Jim Thompson Thai Silk. This museum is worth visiting to see some of the **country's most precious treasures and marvel at the traditional Thai** architecture which you can rarely find in this city nowadays.

Admission is Baht 100 for the general public, Baht 50 for students under 25, and free for children under 10. English, French, Japanese and Thai-speaking guides are available. The museum opens daily from 9am to 5pm. For more information, you can call 0-2216-7368 or visit www.jimthompsonhouse.com.

Ethnic Mini-towns

Several ethnic mini-towns appear in the city of Bangkok. Their lifestyles are evident by restaurants, shops, supermarkets, and bars. These are now attractions in their own right.

Chinatown

Located on Yaowarat Road, many Chinese immigrants still maintain their traditional Chinese lifestyle.

India Town

Pahurat Road is a street that looks like *Little India*. Many Indian immigrants live here.

Japan Town

Located on Soi 33/1 Sukhumvit and Soi Thaniya on Silom Road, these Sois are effectively *Little Tokyo*.

Korea Town

Between Soi 8 and 10 Sukhumvit is Korea Town. Also many Koreans live on Soi 12 Sukhumvit.

Arabian and African area

Soi 3 and 5 Sukhumvit are renowned for their Arabian and African shops and restaurants.

Appendix 1: List of further reading about Thailand

- Thai Ways by Denis Segaller
- Thailand at Random by Chungsirawat & Grossman
- More Living Thai Ways by Michael Keller
- Mai Pen Rai Means Never Mind by Carol Hollinger.
- Thai World, The Temples, Tattoos, and Other Cultural Encounters by John Hoskin
- The Thai and I: *Successful Living in Thailand* by Roger Welty.
- Bangkok Smart Guide by Insight Guides
- Thailand: *A Short History* by David Wyatt.
- Bangkok: *A Cultural and Literary History* by Maryvelma O'Neil

Appendix 2: Internet service providers

1. **3 Broadband (3BB)**
www.3bb.co.th
2. **A-net Internet**
www.a-net.net.th
3. **CS Lox Info Internet**
www.csloxinfo.com
4. **Internet KSC**
www.ksc.net
5. **Internet Thailand (INET)**
www.inet.co.th
6. **Pacific Internet Thailand**
<http://th.pacnet.com>
7. **Samart Infonet**
www.samarts.com
8. **The Communications Authority of Thailand (CAT Telecom)**
www.catinternet.in.th
9. **Telephone Organization of Thailand (TOT)**
www.tot.co.th
10. **True Internet**
www.trueonline.com

Appendix 3: Severance pay

Employers are obliged to pay severance pay to an employee whose employment is terminated at rates varying according to the service period as follows:

Consecutive service period	Minimum severance pay
1. From 120 days to less than 1 year	30 days' wages
2. From 1 year to less than 3 years	90 days' wages
3. From 3 years to less than 6 years	180 days' wages
4. From 6 years to less than 10 years	240 days' wages
5. From 10 years onwards	300 days' wages

Appendix 4: Car rental agencies

Avis

2/12 Wireless Rd.
Tel. 0-2251-1131-2,
0-2255-5300-4
www.avisthailand.com

Active Car Rent

158-162 Rama III Rd.
Tel. 0-2291-8850-3

Budget Rent A Car

19/23 Royal City Avenue
Tel. 0-2203-9222
www.budget.co.th

Golden Car Rent

35/1 Din Daeng Rd.
Tel. 0-2246-7837-9

Grand Car Rent

Asoke-Din Daeng Rd.
Tel. 0-2248-2991-2

Hertz

72/8-9 North Sathorn Rd.,
Silom
Tel. 0-2266-4666
www.hertzthailand.com

Highway Car Rent

Rama IV Rd., Silom
Tel. 0-2633-9999
www.highway.co.th

Krung Thai Car Rent

Asoke-Din Daeng Rd.
Tel. 0-2246-0089
Rama III Rd.
Tel. 0-2291-8888
www.krungthai.co.th

Lumpini Car Rent

167/4 Wireless Rd.
Tel. 0-2255-1966-8
PM Transervice Ratchaprarop Rd.
Tel. 081-763-2115, 0-2253-4820,
0-2253-1595
www.pmtranservice.com

Sathon Car Rent

North Sathorn Rd., Silom

Tel. 0-2633-8888
www.sathorncarrent.com

Thai International Car Rent

Tesabal Nimitrai Rd., Ladyao
Tel. 0-2954-3201-4,
0-2954-2948
www.thaiintercarrent.com

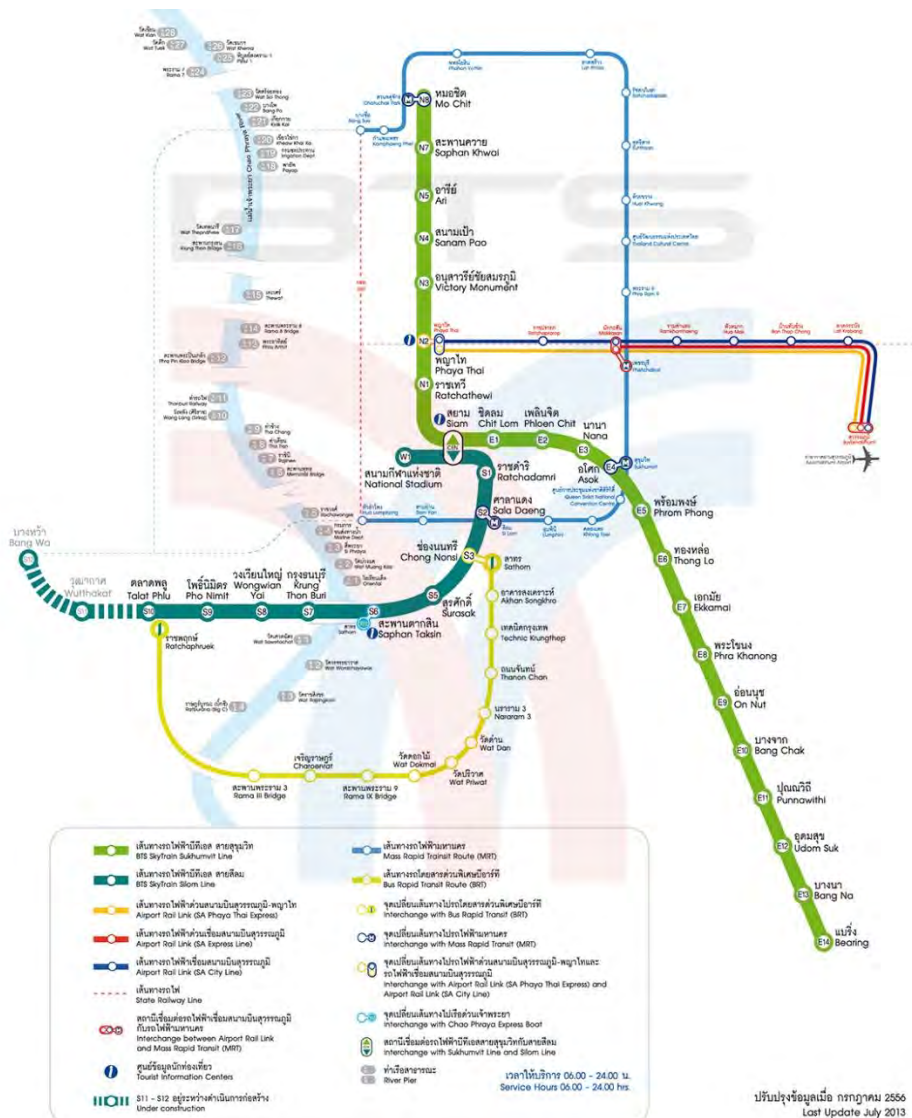
Thai Rent A Car

New Petchburi Rd., Bangkapi
Tel. 0-2737-8888
www.thairentacar.com

White-Red Car Rent

Theparuk Rd.
Tel. 0-2384-1155,
0-2394-5201, 0-2710-1388-9

Appendix 5: BTS, MRT, and BRT route map



Appendix 6: Recruitment agencies

Adecco

0-2636-1950, 0-2298-0170

Advantage Executive Recruitment

Tel. 0-2664-0834

Arthur Andersen

Tel. 0-2658-0661-3

Baker Tilly

Tel. 0-2679-5400

BNB Waite Consulting

Tel. 0-2653-2512-7

Boyden Associates (Thailand) Co.,Ltd.

Tel. 0-2654-0760

Ernst & Young

Tel. 0-2264-0777

Excellent Search Recruitment

Tel. 0-2634-3115-9

Korn Ferry

Tel. 0-2636-1466

KPMG

Tel. 0-2677-2000

Manpower Ltd.

Tel. 0-2634-7273-6

Merc

Tel. 0-2714-8332, 0-2714-8371

Monroe Consulting

Tel. 0-2664-4014

NIS Recruitment

Tel. 0-2641-5794-5

Pacific 2000 International Recruitment

Tel. 0-2654-0300

Pasona

Tel. 0-2108-1250

Personnel Consultant Manpower

Tel. 0-2260-8454-6

Promanser

Tel. 0-2941-0474-6

Search and Consultancy Network

Tel. 0-2642-0256-61

SGS Recruitment & Project Services Ltd.

Tel. 0-2678-1813 ext.1702, 02-6781507

Transearch Asia

Tel. 0-2649-2600

Tricor Executive Recruitment Limited

Tel. 0-2343-1200

Appendix 7: Foreign associations and clubs

American Women's Club

Tel. 0-2712-3380

Australian-New Zealand Women's Group

Contact Australian or New Zealand Embassies
Tel. 0-2344-6300

Bangkok Cosmopolitan Lions Club

Tel. 0-2259-6199

Bangkok Music Society

Tel. 0-2615-0530

Bangkok Women's Forum

Tel. 0-2258-5663

British Club

Tel. 0-2234-0247 or 0-2234-2592

British Women's Group

Contact The British Club
Tel. 0-2234-0247

Community Services of Bangkok

Tel. 0-2258-5652 or 0-2258-4998

Foreign Correspondent's Club

Tel. 0-2652-0580-1

French (Alliance Francaise) Association

Tel. 0-2670-4230

German (Drehscheibe) Association

Contact the German Embassy
Tel. 0-2287-9000

Heritage Club (Business membership club)

Tel. 0-2256-9996-9

International Women's Club of Thailand

Tel. 0-2258-5336

Japanese Association

Tel. 0-2236-1201, 0-2662-4948-9

Korean Association

Tel. 0-2663-4647

Margrethe Klubben (Danish Women's Group in Bangkok)

Contact Royal Danish Embassy
Tel. 0-2343-1100

Pacific City Club

0-2653-2450-63

Siam Society

Tel. 0-2661-6470-7

Samutprakarn International Ladies Club (SILC)

silcthai@gmail.com

The Royal Bangkok Sports Club (Business membership club)

Tel. 0-2652-5000 ext. 111

Appendix 8: International Schools

Bangkok International Prep School

Tel. 0-2260-7890-3

Bangkok Patana School (BPS)

Tel. 0-2398-0200

British School of Bangkok (BSB)

Tel. 0-2656-8224, 0-2656-9961

Didyasarin International School (DIS)

Tel. 0-2261-0330

Harrow International School

Tel. 0-2503-7222

International Community School (ICS)

Tel. 0-2338-0777

International School Bangkok (ISB)

Tel. 0-2963-5800

New International School of Thailand (NIST)

Tel. 0-2651-2065

Rasami British International School

Tel. 0-2644-5291-2

Ruamrudee International School (RIS)

Tel. 0-2791-8900

Sarasas Ektra School

Tel. 0-2213-0117, 0-2212-0157

Shrewsbury International School

Tel. 0-2675-1888

St. Andrew's International School

Tel. 0-2393-3883, 0-2632-1995

St. John's International School

Tel. 0-2513-8575-90

St. Stephen's International School

Tel. 0-2513-0270

Swiss School Bangkok

Tel. 0-2518-0340, 42-44

Thai Japanese Association School

Tel. 0-2314-7334-5, 0-2314-7797-8

The American School of Bangkok

Tel. 0-2620-8600

The Regent School

Tel. 0-2957-5777

Traill International School

Tel. 0-2314-5250, 0-2718-8546

Appendix 9: Churches

Assumption Cathedral

Sunday English Service: 10.00 am
Oriental Lane, close to the Oriental Hotel
23 Charoenkrung 40, Bangrak
Tel. 0-2234-8556.

Calvary Baptist Church

English Service: Sunday Bible study 9.30 am
Worship 10.45 am Mid-week English Service: Bible study and prayer meeting
on Wednesday 7 pm Located at the end of Sukhumvit Soi 2,
Klong Toey
Tel. 0-2251-8278

Christ Church

English worship and bible study
Sunday: 7.30 am, 10.00 am
11 Convent Rd., Bangrak
Tel. 0-2234-3634
www.christchurchbangkok.org

Evangelical Church of Bangkok

Sunday English service: 9.00 am and 11.15 am
Soi 10, Sukhumvit Rd.
Tel. 0-2653-0521
www.ecbbangkok.org

German Speaking Protestant

Sunday German Service 11.00 am
(Except last Sunday of the month)
75 Soi 53 Sukhumvit, Klongton Nua
Tel. 0-2258-7626
www.die-bruecke.net

Holy Redeemer Catholic Church

English service
Monday to Saturday: 7.00 am, 8.00 am, and 5.30 pm
Sunday: 8.30 am, 9.45 am, 11.00 am, and 5.30 pm
123/19 Soi Ruam Rudee, off Wireless Rd.
Tel. 0-2256-6305

International Christian Assembly

Sunday English service: 9.00 am and 11.00 am
French ministry: 2.00 pm
11th Fl., Manoonpon 2 Bldg.,
New Petchburi Rd. near Chan Issara 2
Tel. 0-2718-0603
www.ica-bangkok.org

International Church of Bangkok

Sunday 10.00 am at Bangkok Christian College,
35 Pramuan Rd, Bangrak
Sunday 6.30 pm at Bangkok Christian Guest House,
123 Saladaeng Soi 2
Tel. 0-2637-9020, 0-2233-6303

Jewish Association of Thailand

The Jewish Community of Thailand
121 Soi Sai Nam Thip 2, Sukhumvit Soi 22
Tel. 0-2663-0244
www.jewishthailand.com

Mission Etrangere de Paris

French speaking service
Mon – Sat 7.30 am Sun 7.30 am, 10.30 am
254 Silom Rd. close to Narai Hotel
Tel. 0-2234 –1714

Seventh Day Adventist Church

Soi Pridi banomyong 37, Sukhumvit 71
Tel. 0-2391-3595, 0-2391-0525
<http://www.adventist.or.th/>

Siam Bangkok Church

Sunday English service 7.00 pm
Soi Thawornthawat 1, Ramkhamhaeng Rd.
Tel. 0-2314-5254-5

Somprasong Church of Christ

Sunday: Bible study 11.00 am
Worship 9.00 am and 5.00 pm
Wednesday: Bible study 6.00 pm
Soi 17, Petchaburi, Ratchatewi
Tel. 0-2252-8621, 0-2255-2133

Appendix 10: Useful websites

Here are some useful websites:

About Thailand

www.thailand.com

Good website for information on Thailand e.g. getting around, historical sites, recreation, facts for travellers, festivals & events, maps, other regions, service guides, etc.

AngloINFO Bangkok

<http://bangkok.angloinfo.com>

A site providing guidance and networking for expats in Bangkok. Lots of useful information from the locals.

BK Bangkok

<http://bk.asia-city.com>

A website for the free magazine, BK, presenting the latest news on what's happening around Bangkok as well as restaurant reviews.

Easy Thai Food

www.easy-thaifood.com

Information on Thai food and cuisine: equipment, ingredients and recipes.

Ensogo

www.ensogo.com

A social shopping site that offers daily deals and discounts for restaurants, hotels, spas and more.

Hotel Guide

www.agoda.com, www.asia-hotels.com, www.ethaihotel.com

Into Asia

www.into-asia.com

Bangkok guide and tourist information about Thailand

Job Search

www.jobbees.com, www.jobsdb.com

Living Bangkok

www.livingbangkok.com

Search engine and listings for real properties in Bangkok

Movie Seer

www.movieseer.com

Reviews, times and locations of all movies in Thailand.
In Thai and English

Oanda

www.oanda.com/convert/classic

Currency converter recommended by US IRS

Restaurant Guide for Bangkok

www.bangkokbestdining.com

Recommended restaurants, reviews and recipes

Sawadee

www.sawadee.com

Information on holidays, hotels, etc.

Swiss Society

www.ssb.or.th

List of events and get-togethers by the Swiss Society Bangkok

Thai Airways International

www.thaiairways.com

Thai Air's official website offering travel information, flight schedules and other travel related information.

Thai Cuisine Online

www.thaicuisineonline.com

Description and pictures of some favourite Thai dishes and desserts.

Thai Golfer

www.thaigolfer.com/course

Provide a review of golf courses

Thai Ticket Major

www.thaiticketmajor.com

Offers booking for upcoming concerts, shows, and sport events

Thai Visa

www.thaivisa.com

Useful information about visa and work permit for expats as well as travel forums about Thailand

Thailand Guru

www.thailandguru.com

Another good website providing guide and information on various topics for expats in Thailand.

Thailand Post

www.thailandpost.com

Information on Thailand's post office

Thailand Travel Guide Maps

www.aTHAILAND.com

Thailand Map Provider & Thailand Mapping Solutions; load any of 180 FREE maps online

The Universal Currency Converter

www.xe.com/currencyconverter

Time & Date

www.timeanddate.com

Check future or current times around the globe

Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT)

www.tourismthailand.org/ or <http://www.tat.or.th>

The official website for the Tourism Authority of Thailand offers detailed information on tourist destinations throughout Thailand with tips and advice for the many different types of travelers that visit Thailand.

TrueVisions

www.truevisionstv.com

The TrueVisions website illustrates the cable TV packages available, as well as showcasing the channel selection and listings of what's on.

Appendix 11: Important numbers

Emergency numbers

Fire	199 or 191
Police	191
Water works	1125
Ambulance and Rescue	1554
Medical Emergency	1669
Tourist Police	1155

Ambulance

Bangkok Hospital New Petchaburi Rd.	1719
BNH Hospital Convent Rd.	0-2686-2700
Bumrungrad Hospital Sukhumvit Rd.	0-2667-2999
Kasaemrad Hospital Prachachuen Rd.	0-2910-1600
Mission Hospital Pitsanuloke Rd.	0-2282-1177
Samitivej Hospital Sukhumvit Rd.	0-2712-7007
St. Louis Hospital Sathorn Rd.	0-2210-9914
Thai Nakarin Hospital BangNa Trad Rd.	0-2361-2727 (central number)
Thonburi hospital Issaraphap Rd.	0-2412-0020 ext.2130
Vichaiyut Hospital Rama VI Rd.	0-2265-7777

Embassies

Embassy hours vary from country to country. It is best to call and check ahead. For a listing of the embassy locations and phone numbers in Bangkok, visit the website <http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-in/thailand>.

Appendix 12: Bookshops

Asia Books

Currently has more than 30 branches in Bangkok. Some locations are for example, Sukhumvit, Siam Paragon, Terminal 21, Emporium, Mega Bangna, Crystal Park, Aree, The Mall and Central Department Stores. For the full list of branches, please visit www.asiabooks.com

Tel. 0-2251-8571

Open: Daily 10.00 am – 9.00 pm

B2S

B2S has a small section of English books at most locations. You can find B2S at every branch of Central Department Store and Robinson Shopping Mall.

For the complete list of branches, please visit www.b2s.co.th

Tel. 0-2655-6169, 0-2101-7000

Open: Daily 10.00 am – 9.00 pm

Bookazine

Branches:

10th Fl., Bumrungrad Hospital, Sukhumvit 3

Tel. 0-2667-2769

2nd Fl., Gaysorn Plaza, Ploenchit Rd.

Tel. 0-2656-1039

Hualumphong Train Station, Ronmuang Rd.

Tel. 0-2613-9500

Ground Fl., Samitivej Hospital, Sukhumvit 49

Tel. 0-2712-9530

Life Center, South Sathorn Rd.

Tel. 083-490-6690

www.asiabooks.com

Open: Daily 10.00 am - 9.00 pm

The Book Chest

Branches:

240 Soi 2, Siam Square

Tel: 0-2658-1874

3rd Fl, Pantip Plaza, Petchburi Rd.

Tel: 0-2251-9008, 0-2254-9805 ext: 3354

www.thebookchestonline.com

Open: Daily 9.00 am - 8.00 pm

Chatuchak Weekend Market

Bargainable prices for old and new books, magazines and foreign daily papers

Dasa Book Café

714/4 Sukhumvit Rd. between Soi 26 & 28 (Opposite of Tops Supermarket)

www.dasabookcafe.com

Open: Daily 10.00 am – 10.00 pm

Elite Sun Books

Buy, sell and exchange used books in English, German, French, Russian, Japanese, Chinese and etc.

593/5 Sukhumvit Rd. (Opposite of Emporium shopping complex)

Tel: 0-2258-0221

Open: Daily 10.00 am – 8.00 pm

Kinokuniya

Titles available in Thai, Japanese, English, & Chinese

6th Fl, Isetan (Central World Plaza)

Tel: 0-2255-9834-6

Only English titles

3rd Fl, Emporium

Tel: 0-2664-8554-8

English, Thai and Chinese Titles

3rd Fl, Siam Paragon

Tel. 0-2610-9500

www.kinokuniya.com/th

Open: Daily 10.00 am – 8.00 pm

Odeon Store

218/10-12 Soi 1, Siam Square

Tel: 0-2251-4476

Open: Daily 9.00 am – 8.00 pm

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PwC Thailand is able to offer a comprehensive range of services to individuals and their employers through the International Assignment Services Department, the services of which include the following:

- Tax Compliance and Advisory Services for both Expatriates and Local Hires
- Employee Tax Review and Healthcheck
- Equity Based Remuneration Design
- International Mobility Management
- Global Visa Services

The International Assignment Services team handles the concerns of the expatriate employees of over 500 multi-national companies in Thailand and offers a wide range of outsourcing products.

International Assignment Services Team

Prapasiri Kositthanakorn
Partner

Tel: (66) 2-344 1000 ext. 1228
prapasiri.kositthanakorn@th.pwc.com

Contact Persons

Jiraporn Chongkamanont
Director

Tel: (66) 2-344 1000 ext. 1189
jiraporn.chongkamanont@th.pwc.com

Napaporn Saralaksana
Senior Manager

Tel: (66) 2-344 1000 ext. 1231
napaporn.saralaksana@th.pwc.com

Aiko Kuwaki
Senior Manager

Tel: (66) 2-344 1000 ext. 1186
aiko.kuwaki@th.pwc.com

Hatairat Topiboonpong
Senior Manager

Tel: (66) 2-344 1000 ext. 1263
hatairat.topiboonpong@th.pwc.com

Suppaluk Sudsawang,
Manager

Tel: (66) 2-344 1000 ext. 1206
suppaluk.sudsawang@th.pwc.com

Natchanond Charoenmechaikul
Manager

Tel: (66) 2-344 1000 ext. 1274
natchanond.charoenmechaikul@th.pwc.com

Oranee Temkasarp
Manager

Tel: (66) 2-344 1000 ext. 1266
oranee.temkasarp@th.pwc.com

Wenika Soponsrisuk
Manager

Tel: (66) 2-344 1000 ext. 1201
wenika.soponsrisuk@th.pwc.com

Attayaporn Anuwongsung
Deputy Manager

Tel: (66) 2-344 1000 ext. 1403
attayaporn.anuwongsung@th.pwc.com

Quanchat Watchagama
Deputy Manager

Tel: (66) 2-344 1000 ext. 1411
quanchat.watchagama@th.pwc.com

Jintana Teepasombat
Deputy Manager

Tel: (66) 2-344 1000 ext. 1409
jintana.teepasombat@th.pwc.com

Vipavee Prompreang
Deputy Manager

Tel: (66) 2-344 1000 ext. 1412
vipavee.prompreang@th.pwc.com

Phusanisa Thongdee
Deputy Manager

Tel: (66) 2-344 1000 ext. 1407
phusanisa.thongdee@th.pwc.com

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www.pwcias.com



www.pwc.com/th



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