

THAILAND

**Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++66**

Tourism Authority of Thailand: Le Concorde Building, 202 Ratchadapisek Road, Bangkok 10310, Thailand Tel: (2) 694 1222 Fax: (2) 694 1220 E-mail: info1@tat.or.th Website: www.tat.or.th

Capital: Bangkok **Time:** GMT + 7

Background: A unified Thai kingdom was established in the mid-14th century; it was known as Siam until 1939. Thailand is the only southeast Asian country never to have been taken over by a European power. A bloodless revolution in 1932 led to a constitutional monarchy. In alliance with Japan during World War II, Thailand became a US ally following the conflict.

Location: Southeastern Asia, bordering the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand, southeast of Burma

Map References: Southeast Asia

Area: total: 514,000 sq km, land: 511,770 sq km, water: 2,230 sq km

Climate: tropical; rainy, warm, cloudy southwest monsoon (mid-May to September); dry, cool northeast monsoon (November to mid-March); southern isthmus always hot and humid

Terrain: central plain; Khorat Plateau in the east; mountains elsewhere

Natural Resources: tin, rubber, natural gas, tungsten, tantalum, timber, lead, fish, gypsum, lignite, fluorite, arable land

Population: 61,230,874 (July 2000 est.)

Nationality: noun: Thai (singular and plural), adjective: Thai

Ethnic Groups: Thai 75%, Chinese 14%, other 11%

Religions: Buddhism 95%, Muslim 3.8%, Christianity 0.5%, Hinduism 0.1%, other 0.6% (1991)

Languages: Thai, English (secondary language of the elite), ethnic and regional dialects

Economy: After enjoying the world's highest growth rate from 1985 to 1995 - averaging almost 9% annually - increased speculative pressure on Thailand's currency in 1997 led to a crisis that uncovered financial sector weaknesses and forced the government to float the baht. Long pegged at 25 to the dollar, the baht reached its lowest point of 56 to the dollar in January 1998 and the economy contracted by nearly 10% that same year. Thailand entered a recovery stage in 1999; preliminary estimates are that the economy expanded by about 4% - most forecasters expect similar growth in 2000. Beginning in 1999 the baht stabilized and inflation and interest rates began coming down. The CHUAN government has cooperated closely with the IMF and adhered to its mandated recovery program, including passage of new bankruptcy and foreclosure laws. The regional recovery boosted exports, while fiscal stimulus buoyed domestic demand. While slow progress has been made in recapitalizing the financial sector, tough measures - such as implementing a privatization plan and forcing the private sector to restructure - remain undone.

Industries: tourism; textiles and garments, agricultural processing, beverages, tobacco, cement, light manufacturing, such as jewelry; electric appliances and components, computers and parts, integrated circuits, furniture, plastics; world's second-largest tungsten producer and third-largest tin producer

Currency: 1 baht (B) = 100 satang

Railways: total: 3,940 km, narrow gauge: 3,940 km 1,000-m gauge (99 km double track)

Highways: total: 64,600 km, paved: 62,985 km, unpaved: 1,615 km (1996 est.)

Waterways: 3,999 km principal waterways; 3,701 km with navigable depths of 0.9 m or more throughout the year; numerous minor waterways navigable by shallow-draft native craft

Ports and Harbors: Bangkok, Laem Chabang, Pattani, Phuket, Sattahip, Si Racha, Songkhla

Airports: 106 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 56, over 3,047 m: 6, 2,438 to 3,047 m: 11, 1,524 to 2,437 m: 17, 914 to 1,523 m: 18, under 914 m: 4 (1999 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 50, 1,524 to 2,437 m: 1, 914 to 1,523 m: 16, under 914 m: 33 (1999 est.)

Heliports: 3 (1999 est.)

Visa: required by all except the following nationals of: British, Australian, Canadian, USA, other EU, other Asian and other Middle East country.

Duty Free: permitted goods: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250g of tobacco; 1 litre of wine or spirits; one still camera with five rolls of film or one movie camera with three rolls of 8mm or 16mm film.

Health: a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from all travellers arriving from infected areas. Malaria risk exists all year throughout the country. Food and water-borne diseases are common.

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

BANGKOK

AMARI ATRIUM HOTEL, 1880 New Petchburi Road, Bangkok 10310, Tel. +66 (0) 2718 2000-1, Fax. +66 (0) 2718 2002, <http://www.amari.com>

BAIYOKE SKY HOTEL, BANGKOK, 222 Rajprarop Road, Rajthevee, Bangkok 10400, Thailand, T: 66 (0) 2656 3000 or 2656 3456, F:+66 (0) 2656 3555 or 2656 3666, <http://www.baiyokehotel.com>

BANYAN TREE BANGKOK, 21/100 South Sathon Road, Sathon, Bangkok 10120, Thailand, Tel: +66 2 679 1200, Fax: +66 2 679 1199, E-mail: bangkok@banyantree.com, <http://www.banyantree.com>

CHATEAU DE BANGKOK, 29 Soi Ruamrudee 1 Ploenchit Road Patumwan, Lumpini 10330 BANGKOK - THAILAND, Tel : (+66)2/6514400 - Fax : (+66)2/6514500, hotel@chateaubkk.com, <http://www.mercure.com>

CONRAD BANGKOK, 87 Wireless Road, Phatumwan, Bangkok, 10330, Thailand | Tel: 66-2-690-9999, Guest Fax: 66-2-690-9000, <http://conradhotels1.hilton.com>

FOUR SEASONS BANGKOK, Bangkok, 155 Rajadamri Road, Bangkok 10330, Thailand, Tel. 66 (0) 2 250-1000 Fax. 66 (0) 2 253-9195, <http://www.fourseasons.com>

GRAND SUKHUMVIT BY SOFITEL, 99 Sukhumvit Road Soi 6, Klongtoey, 10110 Bangkok, THAILAND, reservation@grandsukhumvit.com, <http://www.sofitel.com>

HOTEL NOVOTEL BANGKOK, 392/44 Siam Square Soi 6, Rama I Road Pathumwan, 10330 BANGKOK, THAILAND, Tel (+66)2/2098888, Fax (+66)2/2551824, E-mail reserve@novotelbkk.com <http://www.novotel.com/novotel>

HOTEL WINDSOR SUITES, 8-10 Sukhumvit Soi 20 Sukhumvit Road Bangkok 10110 Thailand, Tel : (66) 0-2262-1234 Fax: (66) 0-2262-1212, <http://www.windsorsuiteshotel.com>

INTERCONTINENTAL BANGKOK, 973 PLOENCHIT ROAD, PATUMWAN • BANGKOK, 10330 • THAILAND, Front Desk: +66-2-6560444 • Fax: +66-2-6560555, <http://www.ichotelgroup.com>

JW MARRIOTT BANGKOK, BANGKOK, 4 Sukhumvit Road, Soi 2, Bangkok, 10110 Thailand, Phone: 66 2 6567700, Fax: 66 2 6567711, Sales: 66 2 6567700 ext. 4360, Sales fax: 66 2 6569831, <http://www.marriott.com>

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MARRIOTT RESORT & SPA, 257 Charoennakorn Road, Samrae Thonburi, Bangkok, 10600 Thailand, Phone: 66 2 4760022, Fax: 66 2 4761120, Sales: 66 2 4760022, Sales fax: 66 2 4770811, <http://www.marriott.com>

MILLENNIUM HILTON BANGKOK HOTEL, 123 Charoennakorn Road, Klonsan, Bangkok, 10600, Thailand, Telephone: 66 (0) 2 442 2000, Fax: 66 (0) 2 442 2020, Email: bangkok@hilton.com, <http://www.hilton.co.uk/bangkok>

RADISSON HOTEL BANGKOK, 92 Soi Saengcham, Rama 9 Road, Huay Kwang, Bangkok 10320, Thailand, Telephone: (662) 641 4777 or (662) 641 4888, Fax: (662) 641 4884, Email: center@radissonhotelbangkok.com, <http://www.radisson.com/bangkokth>

REMBRANDT HOTEL BANGKOK, 19 Sukhumvit Soi 18, Klong Toei, Bangkok 10110, Thailand, Tel: +66 2 261 7100, Fax: +66 2 261 7017, <http://www.hotel.rembbrandtbkk.com>



ROYAL ORCHID SHERATON HOTEL & TOWERS, 2 Charoen Krung Road Soi 30 (Captain Bush Lane), Siphya, Bangrak, Bangkok 10500, Thailand, Phone: (66)(2) 266 0123, Fax: (66)(2) 236 8320, <http://www.starwoodhotels.com>

SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, 89 Soi Wat Suan Plu, New Road, Bangrak, Bangkok 10500, Thailand, T: (66 2) 236 7777, F: (66 2) 236 8579, <http://www.shangri-la.com>

SOFITEL BANGKOK SILOM, 188 Silom Road Bangrak 10500 BANGKOK, THAILAND, (+66)2/2381991 - (+66)2/2381999, H3616@accor.com, <http://www.sofitel.com>

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THE ORIENTAL, Bangkok48 Oriental Avenue, Bangkok, Thailand 10500, Telephone: +66 (2) 659 9000, Facsimile: +66 (2) 659 0000, orbkk-enquiry@mohg.com, <http://www.mandarinoriental.com>

THE PENINSULA BANGKOK, 333 Charoennakorn Road, Klongsan, Bangkok 10600, Thailand, Tel: (66-2) 861 2888, Fax: (66-2) 861 1112, E-mail: pbk@peninsula.com, <http://bangkok.peninsula.com>

THE WESTIN GRANDE SUKHUMVIT, 259 Sukhumvit Road, Bangkok 10110, Thailand, Phone: (66)(2) 207 8000, Fax: (66)(2) 255 2441, bangkok@westin.com, <http://www.starwoodhotels.com>

KOH SAMUI

W RETREAT KOH SAMUI, 4/1 Moo 1 Tambol Maenam, Surat Thani, Koh Samui 84330, Thailand, Phone: (66)(77) 915999, Fax: (66)(77) 915998, <http://www.starwoodhotels.com/whotels>

RESTAURANTS & BARS

BANGKOK

BAAN KHANITHA, 36/1 Soi 23, Sukhumvit Road, Bangkok 10110 Thailand, +66 2 258 4181 / +66 2 258 4128, <http://www.baan-khanitha.com>

BAN KLANG NAM, Fine Cuisine On The River, 288 Rama III, Soi 14, Rama III Road, Bangkok, 10120, Neighborhood: Yannawa/Bangkololaem, Phone: +66 2 292 0175

BISCOTTI, 155 Rajadamri Road, Bangkok 10330 Thailand, +66 2 250 1000, <http://www.fourseasons.com/bangkok>

CABBAGES AND CONDOMS, 6 Soi 12, Sukhumvit Road, Bangkok 10110 Thailand, +66 02 229 4611, pda@pda.or.th, <http://www.cabbagesandcondoms.co.th>

CHARLEY BROWN'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT, 1/23 Sukhumvit Soi 11, Bangkok 10500 Thailand, +66 2 651 2215, charleybrownsbkk@yahoo.com

EAT ME, 20 metres off Convent Road (in Soi Pipat 2), Bangkok 10500 Thailand, +66 02 238 0931, info@eatmerestaurant.com

LEMON GRASS, Traditional Thai in Style, 5/1 Sukhumvit Soi 24, Bangkok, 10110, Neighborhood: Klong Toey, Nearest Train: Phrom Pong, Phone: +66 2 258 8637

RANG MAHAL, 19 Sukhumvit Soi 18, Klong Toei, Bangkok 10110 Thailand, +66 2 261 7100 x7532, reservations@rembrandtbkk.com, <http://hotel.rembrandtbkk.com>



New York Steakhouse
Phone: 66 2 6567700
jwmarriI@ksc.th.com
<http://www.marriott.com>

ZANOTTI, 21/2 Saladaeng Colonnade, Soi Saladaeng, Bangkok 10500 Thailand, +66 2 636 0002, catering@zanotti-ristorante.com, <http://www.zanotti-ristorante.com>



AIRLINES/HELICOPTERS/AIRPORTS

BANGKOK AIRWAYS CI LTD, Region: Asia, Address: 60 Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre, New Rattadpisek Rd Klongtoey Bangkok 10110, Tel: 0066 2 229 34 56, Fax: 0066 2 229 34 54, Web site: www.bangkokair.com, Main Base: Bangkok

BANGKOK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Thailand, 222 Moo 10 Vibhavadi Rangsit Road, Srikan Don Muang, Bangkok 10210, Tel: +66 (0)2 535-1111, Fax: +66 (0)2 535-4061, Email: aopr@airportthai.co.th, Website: www.airportthai.co.th

BANGKOK - SUVARNABHUMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT Bangkok, Suvarnabhumi, Thailand, 999 Moo 7 Racha Thewa, Tel: +66 (0)2 723-0000, Fax: +66 (0)2 723-0010, Email: nbia@bangkokairport.co.th, Website: www.suvarnabhumiairport.com

CHIANG MAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Thailand, 60 Sanambin Road, Changwat Chiang Mai 50200, Tel: +66 (0)53 270222/33, Fax: +66 (0)53 277284, Email: usa@airportthai.co.th, Website: www.airportthai.co.th

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PHUKET INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Thailand, 222 Sanambin Road, Tambol Mai Kwaw, Amphoe Thalang, Phuket 83140, Tel: +66 (0)76 327230/7, Fax: +66 (0)76 327478, Email: info@airportthai.co.th, Website: www.airportthai.co.th

THAI AIRWAYS INTERNATIONAL PLC, Region: Asia, Address: 89 Vibhavadi Rangsit Rd PO Box 1075, Bangkok 10900, Tel: 0066 2 513 01 21, Fax: 0066 2 545 38 91, Web site: www.thaiair.com, Main Base: Don Muang-Bangkok

