

HOW TO SURVIVE IN THAILAND



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THAILAND

your dreamland

Thailand is Asia Pacific's most popular travel destination. Although urbanised, the typical Thai community is still the farming village, and you need not venture far to encounter a more traditional farming scene

Thailand officially referred to as the Kingdom of Thailand, was previously known as Siam.

The country comprises 76 provinces that are further divided into districts, sub-districts and villages. Bangkok is the capital city and centre of political, commercial, industrial and cultural activities.

Evidence of civilisation in dates back to 40,000 years ago according to stone artefacts discovered at Mae Hong Son.

Their social history can be traced back to the Neolithic period, but the country came to be through the alliance of the Lan Na, Sukhothai, and Phayao Kingdoms in the 13th century.

Then, in the 14th and 15th centuries, the Ayutthaya Kingdom emerges and continued until it fell to the Burmese in 1569, again in 1760, and before succumbing in 1767.

Since 1932, Thailand became a constitutional monarchy. It can be quite confusing, especially in recent years as the country continues to move between civilian and military administration – the latest coup in May 2014 resulted in new elections with an end to martial law declared on 1 April 2015.

List of key event:

1932

Absolute monarchy gives way to constitutional monarchy with parliamentary government.

1947

First post-WWII military coup. The military retains power continuously until 1973.

2001

Thaksin Shinawatra becomes prime minister for first time.

2006

Military leaders stage a bloodless coup while Thaksin Shinawatra is at the UN General Assembly.

2011

Pro-Thaksin Pheu Thai party wins a landslide victory in elections. Thaksin's sister Yingluck becomes prime minister.

2014

Army again seizes power.

2016

King Bhumibol Adulyadej dies after 70 years on the throne and is replaced by his son, Maha Vajiralongkorn.



IMPORTANT STATISTICS

(refer to page 37 for more information)

Gross Domestic Product:

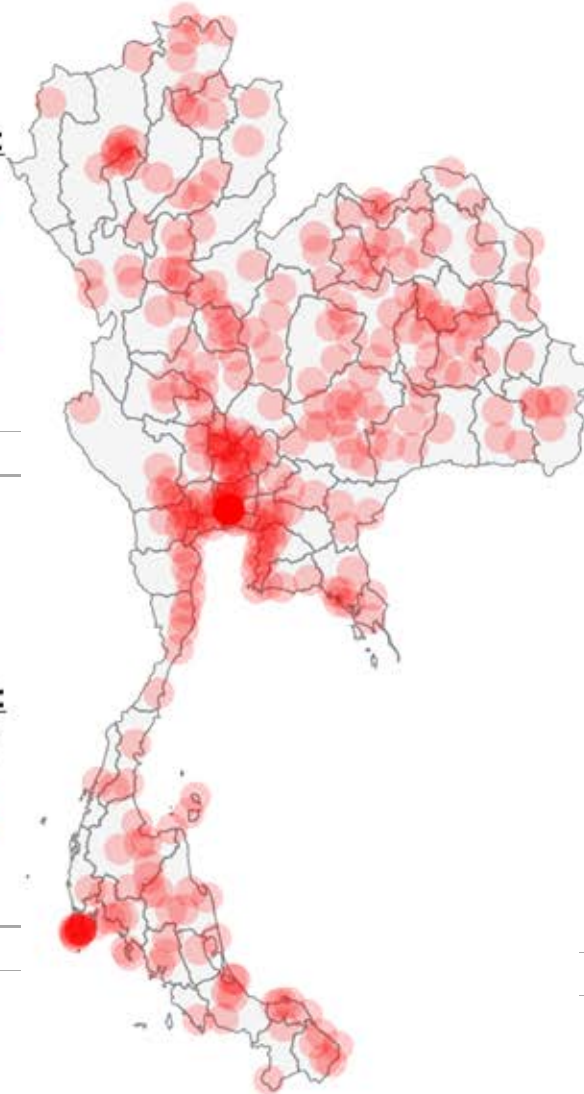
US\$406.8BN
and
US\$5,908P/C

24. Poland	US\$469.5bn
25. Belgium	US\$466.4bn
26. Thailand	US\$406.7bn
27. Nigeria	US\$405.1bn
28. Austria	US\$386.4bn

Total Country Population:

68,297,547
YEARLY NET CHANGE: 0.22%

18. Iran	80,277,428
19. Turkey	79,512,426
20. Thailand	68,297,547
21. United K.	65,788,574
22. France	64,720,690



Climate Information:

26.3°C

Precipitation	1,622 mm
Rainfall Days	11.4 days
Sunshine Hours	7.2 hours
Sea Temperature	29°C

Essential Information:

Country Code	+66
Currency	ThaiBaht
Exchange Rate	S\$1=฿25
Official Language	Thai
Power Plug	A,B,C,F,O
Office Hours	0830-1530

Total Land Area:

513,120 Km²

48. Kenya	580,367 Km ²
49. Yemen	527,968 Km ²
50. Thailand	513,120 Km ²
51. Spain	505,992 Km ²
52. Turkmenistan	488,100 Km ²

Urban Population:



119. Guatemala	51.6%
120. Saint Vincent	50.6%
121. Thailand	50.4%
122. Turkmenistan	50.0%
123. Liberia	49.7%

Population Density:



131.36 / Km²

83. Indonesia	134.26/Km ²
84. Denmark	131.38/Km ²
85. Thailand	131.36/Km ²
86. Togo	126.28/Km ²
87. Cape Verde	126.04/Km ²

Most Populated Province:



Bangkok

1. Bangkok	3,637/Km ²
2. Nonthaburi	1,887/Km ²
3. Samut Prakan	1,257/Km ²
4. Bueng Kan	704/Km ²
5. Buriram	697/Km ²

SAME SAME BUT DIFFERENT

By Alvin Owyong

An indepth analysis of Thailand through Hofstede's glasses.

Geert Hofstede quantitatively analyzed how workplace values are influenced by culture through a large database of IBM employee between 1967 and 1973. Subsequent studies were done to validate the earlier results include an array of respondent groups from different occupation and countries.



1. Power Distance

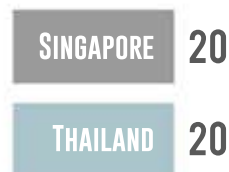


Thailand, with a score of 64, scores slightly lower than the average Asian countries at 71 on PDI Index. Singapore, on the other hand, scored 74. This result shows that, Thailand is a society which inequalities and unequal power distribution the members of the society are generally accepted and not questioned. This also shows that there a strict chain of command and protocol are being observed under a top-down management method.

Generally both Thailand and Singapore are similar to their other Asian counterparts who accept the inequalities in their countries which includes accepting in command, ranking systems and loyalty to the superiors. Moreover, the attitude to the managers is more formal and controlled comparing with the countries that has low rate of power distance.

However comparing with Singapore, Thailand has lower rate of power distance. This meant that as compared to Singaporean, who are stricter to the commands and orders from their superior, Thais are genera

2. Individualism



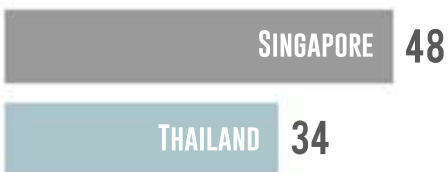
Thailand, with a low score of 20 reflects that it is a highly collectivist country. There is a manifest in a close long term commitment to the members groups. The loyalty to the in-group is paramount, over rides most other societal rules and regulations. The society foster string relation whereby everyone is responsible for each other.

Also, to "save the face" of the Thais, they are not confrontational and a "Yes" from them does not represent an acceptance or agreement. An offence leads to loss of face and Thai are very sensitive not to feel shamed in front of their group. Personal relationship is key to conducting business and it takes time to build such relations thus patience is necessary as well as not openly discuss business on first occasions.

In comparison, both Thailand and Singapore are high in collectivist. Moreover, people tend to be in the group and take care of them in exchange. Also, Thais and Singaporean loyal to the group member and related group member such as family, extended family, or extended relationships.



3. Masculinity



With the score of 34, Thailand is considered to be a feminine society. It shows that the dominant values in the society are caring for each other and quality of life.

It means that the society is one where quality of life as the sign of success and standing out from the crowd is not admirable. Encourages people to do what they like rather than wanting to be the best.

In this aspect, Singapore is very different as compared to Thailand. Singapore with a higher score of 48 is a society that is more driven by competition, achievement and success as compared with Thailand.

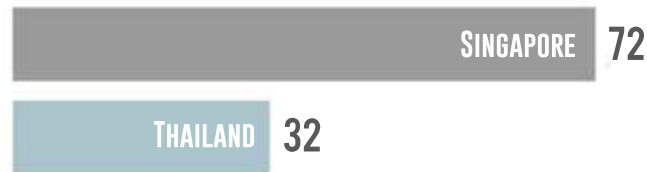
4. Uncertainty Avoidance



Thailand scored a high score of 64 in this field, indicating that it is slightly indicating a preference for avoiding uncertainty.

In order to minimize the level of uncertainty, Thais adopt and implement the use of strict rules, laws, policies and regulations. Their aim is to get everything under control and to eliminate or avoid the unexpected. In this aspect, Singapore with the score of a low 8 index, is very different when compared to Thailand. There is a total of 56 index point difference. This means that Singaporeans are generally ready to accept change and are not risk averse.

5. Long Term Orientation



Thailand scored a low score of 32, indicating that Thai culture is more normative than pragmatic.

This means that the Thais prefer to maintain traditions and norms while viewing societal change with suspicion.

Singapore scored a high score of 72, indicating that the culture in the country is more pragmatic where they encourage thrift and efforts in modern education as a way to prepare itself for future events.

THAILAND HAVE MORE THAN JUST TOURIST ATTRACTIONS



The *Siamese* was what the Thai people were formerly known as. Before the 20th Century, prior to the concept of the Thai nation, King Rama VI imposed the idea of *Thai-ness* to define what was considered *Thai* and *un-Thai*.

The country also incorporates a great deal of influence from India, China, Cambodia, and the rest of Southeast Asia - specifically animism, Indian culture and Buddhism. Today, about 95% of the country are Theravada Buddhist.

However, despite embracing the tourism industry, adequate interactions with the locals is still largely off the tourist trails and to-do list because of their complex language that consist of 44 basic consonants

Thananon Charoenlapsakulsuk - as known as Max, shares with us more about his home country.



Q What does the Thais dislike the most?

Beside the more common ones like using your foot, Thais don't like people who eat very loudly and also traffic jam.

A

Q What does the Thais like the most?

Food! But in terms of culture, it has a lot to do with respecting others. Beside that, we also like to smile. That's why Thailand is also called the "Land of Smile", no matter what happens we are always smiling because we are shy. Welcome to Thailand!

A

Q What do you like most about your country?

I still think that it is the smile or the Thai people. We are easy to get along with like a big family. Another thing is also that we can eat all the time because even if it is like 2am or 3am the street food stalls are still open and we are also allowed to eat almost anywhere other than the skytrain and BTS.

A

Q Is it true that males have to become monks when they're 20?

Yes. But this temporary ordination is much more common in the past as compared to today. Thai families believe that if their son were to become a monk, the entire family would receive virtues in return. However, I think that only about 10% to 20% of the Thai families still carry out this ritual. I'm 20 this year but not prepared to become a monk yet but maybe in the future.

A

Q Is it true that Thais add sugar to all their food?

Yes. Almost 80% of the Thais do that, while I'm the other 20%. This is more common for noodles; normally people will put about 2 to 3 spoonful of sugar. Many of the Thais also add fish sauce to their food but sugar is the more common one.

A

Q Any tips for the student coming over for Tricity this October?

You have to take the initiative to talk to your Thai buddy more because they are quite shy, most of them can understand and speak a little bit of English. Also, almost all Thais are great host, even a random stranger on the street will have high expectation and standards as to how they treat foreigners/tourist.

A

THAILAND'S SEVEN DEADLY SINS



Thailand Buddhist Monks Collecting Alms with Elephant in Chennai, Thailand

TOUCHING HEADS

Unless you are in a intimate relationship, even then, you should not touch or pass things over people's heads.

Thais consider the head to be the cleanest and most holy part of the body, so touching someone's head is seen as disrespectful and will make others uncomfortable. The same applies to statues, especially that of the Buddha.

If you slip up and do this accidentally, apologise as soon as you can and you'll find most Thais will quickly forgive you for it.

WHISTLING AT NIGHT

If you are familiar with the Thai culture, I am sure you know that all Thai people are grown up with superstitious beliefs and taboos.

Here's one of the things not to do in Thailand you might not be aware of. You'll notice that Thais will become very uneasy if they hear a whistle after dark. It is a common superstition amongst the Thais that whistling at night is bad luck because you're calling the evil spirits.

So even if you're feeling like whistling a tune on your evening stroll, please restrain yourself.

LEGS ON TABLE

Among all other act of disrespect in Thailand, using your feet is one of the biggest faux pas. This is because feet are considered the lowest, dirtiest part of the body in many Asian cultures and the head is the highest and sacred.

Any form of point an usage of the feed including holding the door or putting it on the table is extremely impolite. Similarly,

A general rule is that, if you are unsure of what to do, keep a lookout for what others do and follow; isn't a reason not to do otherwise anyways.

PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

When in Rome you may make out on the street, but when in Thailand you shouldn't touch tongues. Most Thais will not even hold hands or hug in public, so we advise that you do not go overboard with your public displays of affection while visiting Thailand. Touching tongues is forbidden, so save your intimate moments for when you're alone in your hotel room or on a deserted beach. Keep it PG in public!

THAILAND'S SEVEN DEADLY SINS

(cont'd)

TOUCHING MONKS

In Thailand there are 61,416 full-time monks and about 32,000 monasteries.

Monks are highly revered in Thailand as over 93.6% of Thais are Buddhist. Therefore, as a mark of respect, avoid standing over or be positioned higher than a monk.

Also, monks are not allowed to touch women. If a monk comes in contact with a woman, he often won't even hand her something directly but place the item down for her to pick up.

Even on public transport, the monks are not allowed to sit directly next to a woman. Hence, if you're a female and sees an unoccupied seat next to a monk, do not take it.

Men, however, are allowed to come in contact with monks, but be careful to keep a respectful distance.

BUDDHA STATUE

Since you will be going to Thailand, it is very likely that you will have the chance to visit at least one of the 40,717 Buddhist temples there.

And with today's technology, it is easy for you to reach for your pocket and snap a photo of multiple Buddhas within seconds. However, it is highly illegal to take or send any pictures of Buddha out of the country without being granted special permission.

There are shop owners who will still try to sell you these pictures, but leave out the detail about this regulations of taking them home.

In addition, standing on a Buddha statue to have your photograph taken is the most disrespectful act you can commit in Thailand, because you are placing the lowest (the feet) upon the highest (Buddha).

THE ROYAL FAMILY

If you have been keeping up with the news, you would have known that on 13 October 2016, Thailand entered into a year-long period of mourning for their late King, Bhumibol Adulyadej who died at the age of 88.

While it would be particularly insensitive to speak negatively of the Royal family in this period, here's another reason why you shouldn't do so.

Lèse majesté in Thailand, based on Thai Criminal Code section 112, making it illegal to defame, insult, or threaten the king, queen, heir-apparent, or regent, has been on the statute books since 1908.

The quintessential example of the consequences was when a man was sentenced 30-years imprisonment for insulting the monarchy on Facebook back in 2015.



KINGDOM KNOWN AS THE LAND OF SMILE

By Chelsea Sim



Shopkeeper Damnoesaduak, Thailand

Many countries have unique nicknames, and for The Kingdom of Thailand, they are famously known as “The Land of Smiles” - and sometimes the Land of Shopping.

The ‘*Thai smile*’ isn’t just a sign of happiness. Thais smile when they are amused, emused, apologetic, annoyed, uncertain, wrong, furious or embarrassed. In fact, there is a Thai smile to cover just about every circumstance.

Generally, the Thai smile is a welcoming one which coincides with the belief that life should be enjoyed. However, it is still common for western tourist to misinterpreted the Thai smile, often as an act of mockery, were left scratching their heads and trying to figure out what is

“It is common for Thai television to show pictures of criminals in handcuffs ... photographed and filmed. Not only do the policemen smile, but so too do the criminals!” said Roy Cavanagh.

THE 13 CHOICES IN THE SMILE LOOKBOOK

By Alvin Owyong

YIM CHUEAD CHUEAN



Bad Guy Smile
“Mwhahaha!”

YIM YAW



Teasing Smile
Can also mean
“I told you so.”

YIM MAI AWK



Beautiful Smile
To express
admiration.

YIM MEE LESSANAI



The Evil Smile
1. Run.
2. Run.

YIM CHEUNCHOM



“I’m Okay” Smile
Heartbroken or
struggling internally.

YIM DOR DHAAN



Nonchalant Smile
“I disagree with you
but go ahead.”

YIM SAO



Sad Smile
:)

YIM HAENG



The Dry Laugh
*When you owe the
person money*

YIM SUU SUU!



All the Best Smile
Fightinggg ;)

YIM YOH YAE



It’s Okay Smile
No point crying
over spilled milk

YIM THANG NAMDAA



Ambiguous Smile
“I’m really sad?”
“I’m really happy?”

FUON YIM



Fake Smile
Bad joke was told

YIM TAAK THAAI



Polite Smile
New phone who
dis?

24 HOURS IN QUARTERS

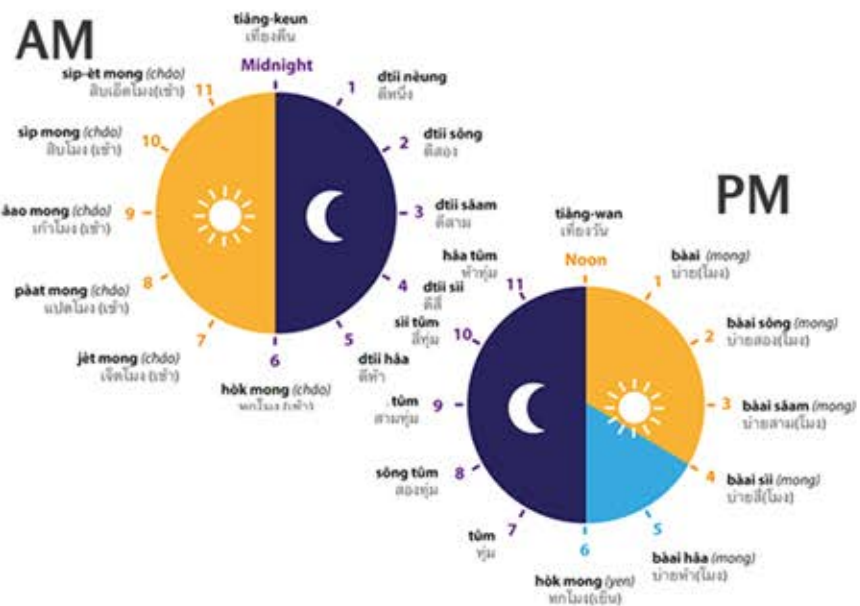
If a Thai tells you that the bus leaves exactly at two o'clock in the afternoon, he could have meant 8am in the morning instead. You may be thinking, "Wait, are the Thais really that bad when it comes to being punctual?"

Indeed, when it comes to time, there is a stereotype of Thai people that suggests they don't worry about time-keeping or being punctual.

However, this major difference is caused by the Thai's unique way of expressing the time - which can be particularly confusing for foreigners who are used to a 12-hour clock; divided by am and pm.

When travelling to Thailand, it is always wise to clarify and double-check the time with your Thai counterparts to avoid any potential misunderstanding.

If you find yourself getting confused with the 6-hour clock but you know the Thai numbers between 1 and 24, you can always fall back on the 24-hour clock which is used by government offices and at train and bus stations. Just add the word *naa-li-gaa* (literally; clock/watch) after the number.



12-hour Clock	6-hour Clock	12-hour Clock	6-hour Clock
1:00 am	1 early-morning	1:00 pm	1 in the afternoon
2:00 am	2 early-morning	2:00 pm	2 in the afternoon
3:00 am	3 early-morning	3:00 pm	3 in the afternoon
4:00 am	4 early-morning	4:00 pm	4 in the afternoon
5:00 am	5 early-morning	5:00 pm	5 in the afternoon
6:00 am	6 early-morning	6:00 pm	6 in the afternoon
7:00 am	1 in the morning	7:00 pm	1 at night
8:00 am	2 in the morning	8:00 pm	2 at night
9:00 am	3 in the morning	9:00 pm	3 at night
10:00 am	4 in the morning	10:00 pm	4 at night
11:00 am	5 in the morning	11:00 pm	5 at night
12:00 pm	Mid-day	12:00 am	Midnight

THAI MARRIAGES



Every culture has their own version of the classic wedding ceremony, deeply rooted with history and tradition, not to mention the trends of the times. Thailand is by no means any exception.

With the influence of merging cultures, some traditions might have been discontinued or replaced. However, here are 14 steps which are considered a must in any Thai marriages.

1. Choosing Dates

Thais believe that there are favourable dates and times for planning significant and important events.

After the marriage proposal is made, a special and important monk with knowledge of astrology is consulted to help decide what date would be best for the union in order to be blessed and the marriage to be strong.

2. Making Merit

Most often, before any important event or holiday, a Buddhist will “make merit” to call good things into one’s life.

There are numerous ways to “make merit,” such as the release of a captive animal or donating money to a temple, but usually, for a wedding, the family will invite monks to bless the bride and groom as well as their home. The monks will chant, as well as offer life lessons, and in return the family will feed them before sending them on their way.

3. Khan Maak Procession

The groom would travel on foot to his bride’s home by a procession of his family and friends. The groom’s paraders would carry offerings for the bride’s family and would sing, play instruments and basically have a traveling party. The offerings they carry all have specific meanings.

4. Gated Approach

When the groom reaches his destination, he will be blocked by a series of gates held up by the bride’s maids and various family members. The gates are commonly made from a necklace or belt made of gold.

5. Sai Monkhon

The bride and groom kneel next to each other. Their arms rest on a small padded table and hands held together in prayer position. An elder from the family – who is considered to have a successful marriage – will place the traditional headpiece, Mong Kol, on the head of both weds.

6. Rod Nam Sang

With the bride and groom seated next to each other and joined by the thread. The two hold their hands together as their honoured guests use a special shell, usually taken from the sea, to pour water over the uniting pair.



THE UNSPOKEN SOCIAL RULES

Children Talking on Can Phone, Thailand

1. Introductions

Thailand is a land of friendliness and hospitality. It is not common to touch someone's hand when greeting them. The typical Thai greeting is called the Wai, and involves pressing your palms together and bowing your head slightly. Typically, the person of lower status offers the Wai. Thais of very high social status, such as monks, are not expected to return the Wai.

Foreigners are not expected to initiate the wai gesture, but it is an insult not to return the wai. It is typically not needed to return the wai to waitresses and strangers on the streets.

Address people by their first name. Often, the title Khun is added before the first name. This is similar to Mr. or Mrs., and is used for both men and women, regardless of marital status. Family names are typically only used in formal settings. People of importance, such as teachers, or monks, the first name should be preceded with 'Ajarn'.

2. Conversation Topics

Taboo Topics:

Thai people are quite sensitive to being embarrassed by questions on their income, the kind of house they live in, or questions of personal nature. Criticism of the royal family must be avoided at all cost since it is not only against the law but Thai people revere their monarchy. About 95% of Thai people are Buddhist and Buddhist monks are held in high esteem. Criticism of their religion and monks, who represent their religion, are considered very bad form. Mockery of one's physical or intellectual deficiencies, though in jest, can also deeply offend.

Humour: Thai people are fun loving in nature. They love having fun and poking fun at one another. They also love good jokes as long as they don't offend or embarrass. Their humour is often related to events, situations, ineptitude of some people or groups of people, or the way things are said or expressed.

3. Visiting Homes

- Arrive close to the appointed time, although being a late will not cause offence.
- Check to see if the host is wearing shoes. If not, remove yours before entering the house.
- Ask another guest to confirm the dress code.
- Step over the threshold rather than on it. This is an old custom that may be dying out with younger Thais, but erring on the side of conservatism is always a good idea.

4. Dining

The people in Thailand pride themselves on their hospitality. As such, there is a good chance that you will be invited to a meal.

- Remove your shoes when you enter someone's home.
- Most Thai food is eaten with a fork and spoon
- Some foods may be eaten with your fingers. Make sure you always use your right hand, though and never lick your fingers.
- Finishing all of the food on your plate indicates that you are still hungry.



THE UNSPOKEN SOCIAL RULES

Children Talking on Can Phone, Thailand

- Never leave rice on your plate as it is considered wasteful. The words for food and rice are the same. Rice has an almost mystical significance in addition to its humdrum 'daily bread' function.

- Seating is often arranged by social hierarchy, so it is best to wait for your host to introduce you and tell you where to sit.

5. Social Interaction

- Do not put your hands in your pockets while talking to someone.

- Never put your arm over the back of the chair in which someone is sitting.

- Don't wave your hands about as you talk, giving Thais the impression that you are angry. Never pass anything with your left hand. Never point with your hand and never, never with one finger.

- Do not cross your legs in the presence of the elderly or monks. To beckon someone, extend your arm with the palm of your hand down and flutter your fingers up

and down.

- Thais always try to keep their heads lower than the head of any person who is older or more important, to show respect

6. Gifts

Gift giving in Thailand is often informal. Except at weddings or other important events, it is not necessarily expected. However, preparing a simple, neatly-wrapped gift is certainly a worthwhile gesture of friendship and appreciation. If you are going to give a gift to a Thai friend or host, there are a few important things to know:

- Don't wrap a gift in black, blue, or green. These are the colors used at funerals, and are associated with mourning. Red is an auspicious color for gifts among Chinese Thais.

- It is not common for Thais to open a gift in front of the giver. Fruit, flowers, candy or chocolates are always safe choices. You may also give

books, liquors, or stationary. Use your best judgment about what your host would find appropriate or useful.

- Do not give marigolds or carnations, as they are associated with funerals.

- Money is the usual gift for weddings and ordination parties.

- If you are invited to someone's home, bringing a gift is not mandatory. However, a small token of gratitude is always appreciated.

- Give a gift with your right hand and receive a gift with your right hand. You should also offer a wai.

TRAVELLING OVERSEAS IS NOT ALWAYS FUN AND LAUGHTER

By Shamyn Christabelle Ong

Many people who travel or live overseas experience what is commonly referred to as "culture shock."

Culture shock is an experience a person may have when moving to a cultural environment which is different from one's own - the personal disorientation when experiencing an unfamiliar way of life.

Despite being a common phenomenon, with proper cultural preparation, it can be avoided.

To save you the trouble of researching, here are six possible things that may "shock" you in Thailand.



Traffic Jam

Thailand leads with the highest average hours spent in congestion (61 hours) six times more than that of Singapore. While, Bangkok is ranked 12th overall among the most congested cities in the world.



Patriotism

The Thais have great respect for king and country. The National Anthem is played publically everyday at 6pm, bringing activity to a one-minute halt. Tourist are usually wandering confused through stationary crowds.



Thai Language

If you were to visit Thailand, the chances are that you will attempt to show-off some of your limited vocabulary in Thai. While it's polite to offer your khob khun kas and krabs, Thai is a ridiculously difficult language to speak and write.



Stomach-Ache

As the saying goes, "If you want to enjoy Thai food, don't look into their kitchen." Unless you have a cast iron stomach, it is very likely that you will be running to the toilet at least a few times a day. But don't worry, it's part of the acclimation process.



The Smile

The Thais have a reputation of smiling in almost every social situation. Most westerners take it as a form of insult to which they react angrily to. To many similar high context countries, the Thai smile may too be interpreted wrongly.



Sharing is Caring

Irregardless of where you eat, will be served in the center of the table with rice and/or noodles. Every utensil will be shared and bare hands will be used to prepare the food.

HOW TO COPE WITH CULTURE SHOCK

By Shamyn Christabelle Ong

To be able to cope with culture shock, you must learn to recognize its symptoms:

1. You feel angry, uncomfortable, confused, frustrated or irritable and lose your sense of humour.
2. You withdraw and spend excessive amounts of time alone, only with Canadians or other foreigners, and avoid contact with the local people.
3. You develop negative feelings about the people and culture of the host country.

4. You eat and drink compulsively or need an excessive amount of sleep.

5. You are bored, fatigued and unable to concentrate or work effectively.

Besides these five symptoms, you should also try look out for and reflect on any changes in lifestyle habit.

Once you realised that you fell victim to culture shock, here are some strategies to negate it:

1. Admit frankly that these impacts exist.

2. Learn the rules of living in your host country.

3. Get involved in some aspect of the new culture.

4. Take time to learn the language. It always helps to understand as much as possible of what people are saying.

5. Take care of yourself. Eat well, exercise and take the time to sleep.

6. Make friends and develop relationships. Getting to know local people will help you overcome cultural differences.





Street food cart in Pratumnam District



Bangkok Skytrain (BTS)



Tourist rides elephant in forest

HOW TO TRAVEL THAILAND WITH JUST \$40 A DAY

By Kitty Oh

It is a common belief that travel is incredibly expensive, and can cost you tens of thousands of dollars. Of course, this depends on the location and travel style, but as you will see, traveling in Thailand on \$1,000 per month is very possible. In fact, with just \$40 a day, you can live like a “king”.

Every bottle of water, bus ride or temple entry fee was taken into account with the figure. As of September 2017, the currency conversion rate is SGD \$1 = THB 24.7 (rounded off to 25).

1. Accomodation

In Thailand, there is three types of accomodations most of their prices are very reasonable and extremely affordable.

Guesthouse:

A private room in a guesthouse in Thailand will only cost you about \$10 per night - flat rates.

Shared Dorms:

If neither privacy nor having your own room is a concern, then you can expect to pay somewhere between \$4 and \$8 a night in shared dorm rooms.

Airbnb:

If you are looking for something more comfortable, there is a range of accomodation options on Airbnb at varying price.

TOTAL: \$7/day or \$49/month

2. Food and Drinks

With most meals consisting of local street food such as noodles but also includes time when you can splurged on \$10 melas.

TOTAL: \$3/meal or \$10/day

3. Transportation

Amongst all other expenses, the cost of transportation is the highest. In Thailand, taxis and buses are your cheapest bet, while there are other options available.

TOTAL: \$10/day or \$70/week

4. Activities / Entertainment

This included everything from temple entry fees to rock climbing to boat cruises, hot springs, trekking in jungles, *Thai Massages* as such will account for at least 1 activity per day.

TOTAL: \$6/day or \$42/week

5. Essentials

This includes items to maintain personal well-being and hygiene; SIM cards, sunblock, laundry, band-aids, WiFi, et cetera.

TOTAL: \$4/day or \$28/week

6. Other Miscellanous

Lastly, if there is a need to, additional money can be spent to purchase gifts, shirts, sandals, shorts for relatives and friends.

TOTAL: \$10/day or \$70/week

SUMMARY

As a general rule, estimations in this article follows a relatively frugal spending patterns.



1 LARGE CITY 6 ATTRACTIONS 24 HOURS

MORNING

Khlong Lat Mayom Water Market

Every weekend, vendors dock their boats to serve delicious Thai food. You can hire a boat to drift down as you relax and enjoy the view.

Getting there: Take the BTS Skytrain to Wang Wian Yai station. From there switch to a taxi, the ride should cost you 100THB.

Wat Arun Temple

If you have the time in Bangkok, climb to the top of the temple on the narrow staircase and peer over Bangkok's Chao Phraya River.

Entrance fee: 20 THB
Opening hours: 7:30am to 5:30pm
Getting there: Hire a taxi directly at Khlong Lat Mayom Water Market which is also in the outskirts.

AFTERNOON

Chatuchak Weekend Market

The massive Chatuchak Market fills up every weekend, but not many know that you can actually come here for some night time shopping

Opening hours: 6:00am to 6:00pm
 (FRI, SAT AND SUN)

Getting there: From Wat Arun, the outskirts, hire a taxi for an hour ride.

Victory Monument

A famous landmark in Bangkok and one of the central transportation hubs with vendors selling cheap Thai street food.

Getting there: From Benjakiti Park, you can walk, or take a short taxi ride to Asoke BTS station. Then take the BTS to Victory Monument station.

NIGHT

Ratchada Night Market

The Rot Fai Market in the Ratchada area is bringing the convivial night bazaar, antiques curios and street foods from its original location

Opening hours: 6:00pm to 12:00am
 (THURS TO SUN ONLY)

Getting there: Cultural Centre MRT Underground Station

Benjakiti Park Nightview

Beautiful flora, fauna and a huge lake make the park extremely scenic. This is a great place to walk around and enjoy some relaxation.

Getting there: From Ratchada Night Market, take the BTS towards Queen Sirikit National Convention Center.

*"Better to see something once,
 than hear it a thousand times."*

CURRENCY CONVERSION TABLE

Thai Baht (THB)	Sing Dollar (SGD)	Thai Baht (THB)	Sing Dollar (SGD)
10	0.40	600	24.00
20	0.80	700	28.00
30	1.20	800	32.00
40	1.60	900	36.00
50	2.00	1,000	40.00
100	4.00	2,000	80.00
200	8.00	3,000	120.00
300	12.00	4,000	160.00
400	16.00	5,000	200.00
500	20.00	10,000	400.00

USEFUL PHRASES

English	Thai
My name is ...	Pom cheu ... (M) Rao cheu ... (F)
Hello	Sa-wat-dee (krap) (ka)
Yes / No / Not	Chai / Chai mai/ Mai chai
I understand	Kao jai laew
I don't understand	Mai khao jai
Where is ...?	... yu tee nai
Thank you	Kop kun (krap) (ka)
Good night	Ra-tree sa-wat
Goodbye	Lah gon na
I would like to order	Sang aa-haan
Delicious	Aroy
How much is this?	Un-nee ra-ka torai? (krap) (ka)
Very expensive	Pa-an mark
Can you give a discount?	Lot ra-ka, dai mai (krap) (ka)
Where is the toilet?	Hong nam u nai
Help!	Cui nu-a!
I need a doctor	Chan. Pom-yak-pob-maw
Stop	Yud!

English	Thai
1	Neu-ng
2	Song
3	Sam
4	See
5	Haa
6	Hok
7	Jet
8	Pear- ed
9	Kao
10	Sib
11	Sib-ed
12	Sib-song
13	Sib-sam
20	Yi Sib
30	Sam Sib
100	Roy
1,000	Phan
10,000	Muun

4 COMMONLY USED PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Bangkok Skytrain

The BTS is undoubtedly the swiftest way to get around, and can whisk you right where you want to be in no time at all. It's a cheap, smooth, cool, clean, fast and scenic way to enjoy Bangkok.



TIPS!

If you will be staying in Thailand for an extended period of time, it is cheaper to buy a 30 Days Pass.

Public Buses

By bus, you can go almost anywhere you want in Thailand. This is the most used public transportation in the country. The price is very affordable especially for public buses and more expensive if you.



TIPS!

Keep the small receipt because sometimes it will be checked.

TIPS!

Fare negotiating and haggling is a must because the price is usually 'inflated rate' if you're a tourist). The trick is to



Tuk-tuks

Tuk-tuks or 'sam lor' (three-wheeled) used to be everyone's favourite way of getting around Bangkok. Originating from an rickshaw during the second World War, a tuk-tuk is essentially a rickshaw with a small engine fitted in.

TIPS!

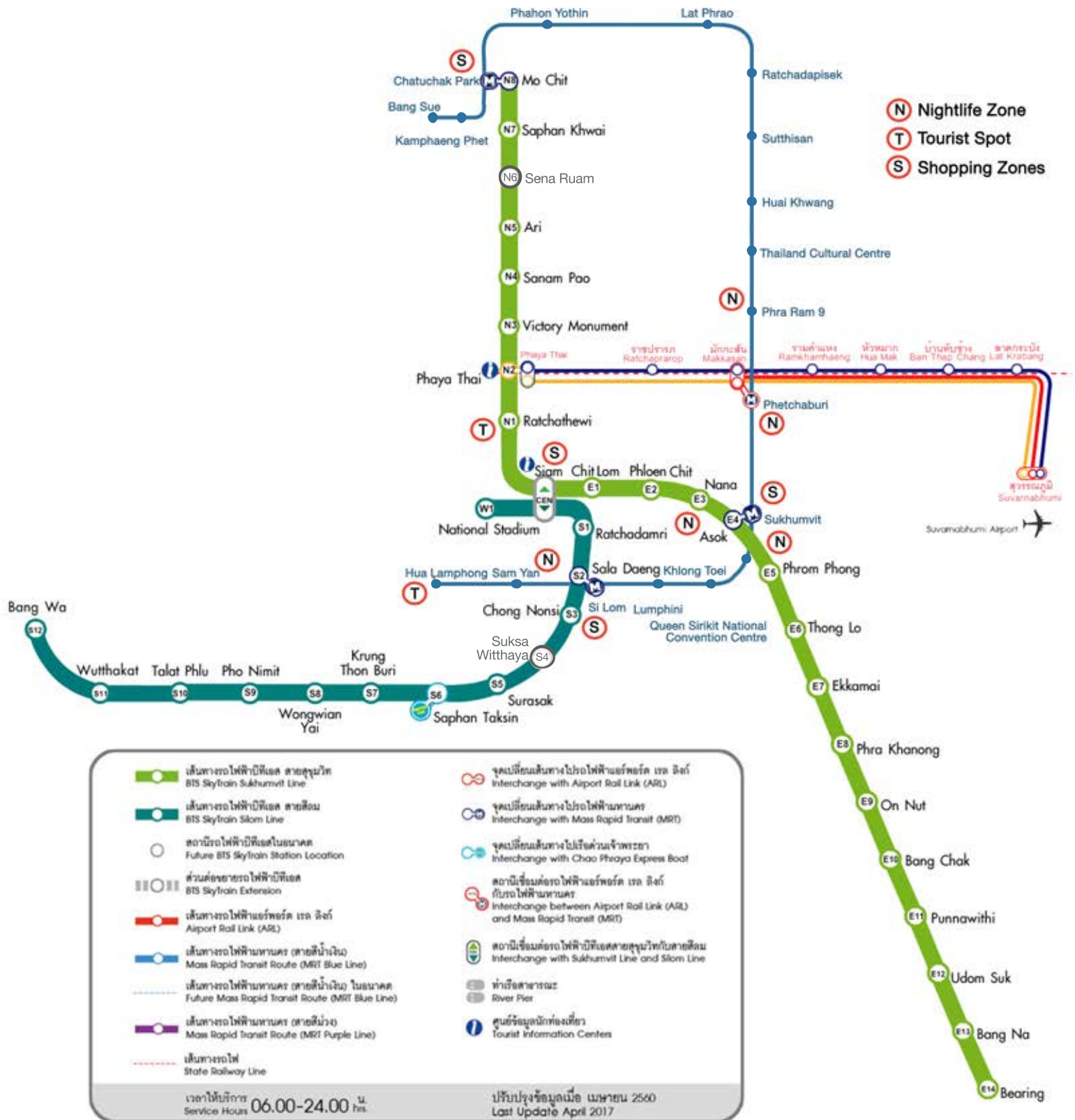
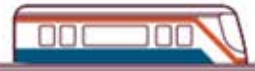
make sure you negotiate prior to the journey, or else you might find yourself paying more than the locals

Motorbike Taxi

Despite the immediate hazards - fearless motorbike taxi drivers will do anything to get you to your destination quickly. Many brave passengers opt for the two-wheeled vehicles to take them all over town.



BANGKOK SKYTRAIN



BANGKOK SKYTRAIN



TYPES OF TICKET AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

1. Single Journey Ticket



- ! This ticket is valid for a single journey, with fare according to chosen destination.
- ! Available for purchase at any Ticketing Machine.

2. One-Day Pass



- ! Valid for unlimited rides on the date of issue or registration only.
- ! Available for purchase at all BTS Ticket Offices with one-time payment of THB 140.

3. Standard Rabbit Pass



- ! A stored value card which is Thailand's own version of the Singapore EZ-Link card
- ! Available at 200 Baht, which includes THB100 issuing fee* and THB100 initial stored value.

INTRODUCTION TO THAI BUDDHISM



Monk Meditation at Wat Chaingtha Ayutthaya, Thailand



Thailand is the world's largest Buddhist nation and it's a country that continues to take its religion seriously. Today, a majority of the locals are a follower of Buddhism (94.6%)

Visitors to Thailand will soon notice numerous temples, spirit houses and Buddhist icons everywhere they look, and indeed modern Thais continue to wrap their daily lives in rituals and beliefs associated with Buddhism.

Buddhist religious sites which are visited by both local and global tourists and these pilgrimage sites are held in high regard by the visitors.

It's unclear just how early in history Buddhism was introduced to Thailand, although it's widely agreed that monks brought it over from Sri Lanka and it took hold during the Sukhothai era.

Modern and sophisticated Thais continues to retain a healthy respect to Buddhist spiritual beliefs and most will make regular visits to temples to pray for various fortuitous turns of events, ancestors, blessings, merit and general show of respect.

The support of the monkhood and temples is central to the harmony among the community. The site of early morning alms bearing monks walking barefoot through neighbourhoods to benefit from local charity is a timeless image of Thailand.

Buddhist Festivals:

- 1. Vesak**
On the first full moon in May.
- 2. Magha Puja**
On the full moon of the 3rd lunar month
- 3. Buddha's Birthday**
Celebrated on the April 8.
- 4. Asalha Puja Day**
On the full moon of the 8th lunar month.
- 5. Uposatha**
New, quarter, full moon every month.
- 6. Kathina Ceremony**
Any day at the end of the Vassa Retreat.
- 7. Abhidhamma Day**
On the full moon of the 7th lunar month.
- 8. Loy Krathong**
On the full moon of the 12th lunar month.
- 9. Madhu Purnima**
Day of full moon in the Bhadro month.
- 10. The Ploughing Festival**
During the half moon in May.
- 11. The Elephant Festival**
On the third Saturday in November.
- 12. Hungry Ghost Festival**
First 15-days of the 8th lunar month.
- 13. Avalokitesvara's Birthday**
On the full moon day in March.

EDUCATION IN THAILAND



By Alvin Owyong

Thai girl teaches foreigner to read Thai, Thailand.

Thailand has been one of the widely cited development success stories, with sustained strong growth and impressive poverty reduction, particularly in the 1980s.

According to Knoema (2015), everything seems to be going well for Thailand as of late, since literacy rate is only 2.4% below their all time high of 96.4%. However, average growth slowed to 3.5 percent over 2005-2015 as the government embarked on an ambitious reform program toward the high-income status.

Furthermore, despite a long tradition of valuing education, with 12 years of free schooling, a high literacy rate and a government that invests substantially in the sector. The educational system is not functioning as well as it should, nor are the resources committed achieving the desired results. In particular, Thailand experienced its first negative growth (-2.83%) in literacy rate in 2013.

However, the government of Thailand is highly focused on reforming education, and has made decisive moves to achieve this. It is also starting to lay foundations for the long term, pushing initiatives that will help education move into the future - such as doubling research spending for education.

Typical age	Thai grades	Level and form of education			
		General education	Vocational education	Other education	
1					
2					
3	N/A	Pri-Primary			
4					
5					
6	P1				
7	P2	Primary			
8	P3				
9	P4				
10	P5				
11	P6				
12	M1	Lower secondary			
13	M2				
14	M3				
15	M4	Upper Secondary	Secondary Vocational		
16	M5				
17	M6				
18		Undergraduate Higher Education	Tertiary Vocational	Short course training	
19					
20					
21	N/A	Graduate Higher Education		Non-formal education	
22					Special education
23					
24					

ECONOMY OF THAILAND



Thai Farmer Working Earnestly, East of Thailand.

Thailand has a mixed economic system with a variety of private freedom, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation. In layman's term it translates to a capitalist who is committed to free trade.

The country experienced rapid economic development in 1960s and 1970s which is slowed by worldwide recession of early 1980s before a strong recovery by 1987.

Today, Bangkok metropolitan area faces a problems of rapid urbanisation and modernization, which resulted in housing shortages and pressure on such basic service sectors as water, sewage, and health care services.

Despite that 50.4% of Thailand's population lives in urbanised areas such as Bangkok and Chiang Mai, the

country is still heavily reliant on their the agricultural industry albeit lower than before.



In 2015, despite contributing to only 8.34% of Thailand's Gross Domestic Product and the agricultural industry continues to employs 32.28% of the country's total population.

Despite having been known as the nation that logs the highest volume of rice shipments abroad. Thailand lost the

three-decades-old title to Vietnam in 2012.

Export - Percentage of GDP:

68.93%

16. Macao	75.74%
17. Lithuania	74.35%
18. Thailand	68.93%
19. Malaysia	67.24%
20. Bulgaria	63.57%

In terms of overall export percentage however, Thailand continues to be ranked as one of the top few countries. With a high 68.93% of their overall GDP coming from export of products such as rice, shrimps, tapioca, rubber and sugar.

The primary export partners are US (10.9 percent of total exports), China (10.6 percent), Japan (10.3 percent).

LANGUAGES IN THAILAND



By Chelsea Sim

Child and Grandmother Using Laptop at Countryside, Thailand.

In Thailand, Thai is the official national language - which is also the most commonly spoken language.

It is also the primary language taught and used in the schools, media and administrative affairs.

Due to the lack of education during the previous generation, it is optimistically estimated that only about 80% of the local population is able to speak Thai. While pessimistically, only 45%.

Thai is classified by linguists as belonging to a Chinese-Thai branch of the Sino-Tibetan family. It is a tonal language, uninflected. The same word can be said in five different ways - normal or middle tone, high, low, rising and falling.

In written format, the Thai language employs an total of 44 alphabet of consonants as well as 32 vowels that are combined to form syllabic sounds.

Besides Thai, English is also a mandatory subject for all Thai students, but is particularly stressed in schools that lie within the borders of Bangkok and other large cities.



Native Thai residents has risen exponentially over the last decade and in 2017 it is estimated that 27.16% of Thai population is able to converse in English. This is particularly true for certain tourist and metropolitan area such as Phuket and Bangkok.

In 2015, Thailand ranks 15th out of 19 surveyed countries, and 56th out of 72nd globally, alongside other very low English proficiency nations such as Egypt and Azerbaijan.

English Proficiency Index:

47.21
(Very Low Proficiency)

54. Kazakhstan	47.42
55. Egypt	47.32
56. Thailand	47.21
57. Azerbaijan	46.90
58. Sri Lank	46.58

English in Thailand is growing in both scope and importance, similar to other developing nations. New technologies, and growing access to the net have resulted in a transitions numerous sectors all of which demands a high proficiency in English.



SOCIAL STRUCTURE IN THAILAND

By Shamyn Christabelle Ong

At the national level, Thailand was stratified at the beginning of the 12th century into three classes - kin of the reigning king and his immediate predecessors, government officials, and by far the largest group, the peasantry. Additionally, Buddhist monks had a special status outside this system. Chinese, who were largely laborers and small traders in the early 12th century also had a separate class. By the 1960s, the military and the bureaucracy included persons from several levels of the social and economic hierarchy. Hereditary nobles retained their high status, but they no longer wielded power and did not match some of the members of the military oligarchy in wealth.

Monkhood remained a source of special status and was an avenue of social mobility for persons of rural origin with talent and a willingness to give part or all of their lives to the Sangha.

As Thailand became more active in world trade and the international community in general, the traditional practice of measuring status by the extent of landholdings became less meaningful. Although the Buddhist sangha and the royal family remained the largest landholders, they were no longer the richest elements in society. Their wealth was often surpassed by that of members of the business community and the bureaucracy.

TOP FIVE

THINGS TO DO IN THAILAND

1. Tour the Ayutthaya Ruins

Ayutthaya Historical Park covers the ruins of the old city of Ayutthaya, Thailand. The city of Ayutthaya was founded by King Ramathibodi I in 1351 and was captured by the Burmese in 1569. Though not pillaged, it lost "many valuable and artistic objects.

2. DreamWorld at Thanyaburi

Opened on 12 November 1993, the park is divided into several zones such as Dream World Plaza, Dream Gardens and Fantasy Land. The interior of the park is filled with over 40 imported thrill rides and family attractions.

3. Amphawa Floating Market

In the past, Amphawa was a small community that prospered in trade and agriculture. Amphawa floating market was used as the communication center of the Samut Songkhram province. A community of people lived by the river. The Amphawa floating market is very natural and there are many old wooden houses. Tourists will see the lifestyle of the locals and you will see the beauty of fireflies at night under the Lampoon trees.

4. Shop at Pratunam Market

Pratunam Market is one of Bangkok's major markets, and is Thailand's largest clothing market. The name Pratunam means "water gate".

The market includes retail stores and outdoor stalls aimed at tourists.

5. Mouth Watering Thai Street Foods

Thailand's street food scene is well renowned, and Bangkok is widely regarded as among the world's best spots – if not the single leading place – for street food gorging. It's no accident that Thailand is home to such rich culinary traditions, or that the variety and quality of dishes offered by its mobile hawkers is so rich – rather, it's the result of foodie traditions and developments that stretch back over decades, if not centuries.



The Ayutthaya Ruin contains hundreds of ruins dating back to the 13th and 18th Century. This ancient capital of Thailand is also popular amongst tourists for its numerous tall prangs.



8 THAI FOOD TIPS FOR BEGINNERS

By Kitty Oh

Thai foods have made a name for itself everywhere. Even if you have never been to Thailand, it's likely you've sampled some version of Thai cuisine in a western restaurant. If you're lucky enough to have the chance to visit Thailand and sample some authentic Thai foods, you will be very surprised at how different the real deal is. As such, here is a guide to all the must-try food when you visit Thailand!



TOM YUM KUNG

This herb-forward broth is often referred to in English-menus as 'sour Thai soup'. The shrimp version is the most lauded, and justifiably so: the combination of fatty prawns and a tart / spicy soup result in an delicious and distinctly Thai amalgam.



SOM TUM

Originating from Thailand's rural northeast, this dish of strips of crunchy unripe papaya bruised in a mortar and pestle with tomato, long beans, chilli, lime and fish sauce, has found a foothold in virtually every corner of the country.



PHAT THAI

Invented in the 1930s by a Chinese-Thai chef, this dish of thin rice noodles stir-fried with egg, tofu and shrimp, and seasoned with fish sauce, sugar, tamarind, vinegar and dried chilli has subsequently reigned as the poster boy for Thai cuisine.



MOO PING

In Thailand, behind almost every turn you make, you will be able to find find this food, Moo Ping - Thai Grilled Pork with sticky rice. You can have it at anytime of the day, breakfast, lunch or dinner as Moo Ping vendors usually sell throughout the day.



MANGO STICKY RICE

Made with coconut milk, fresh mangoes and sticky glutinous rice, this dessert is a delightful contrast of sweet and saltiness. Mango Sticky Rice can be easily found in street vendors and even in upscale restaurants. The fragrant Mango Sticky Rice is simply a must-eat.



TOM KHA GAI

Tom Kha Gai's base is a mild, slightly sweet, creamy coconut milk broth. Added to the base to get the unique Tom Kha taste is ginger, lemongrass, and lime leaves. This unmistakably Thai food is common even in Laos cuisines.



KUAI TIAO

Similar to Chinese cart noodles, Kuai Tiao is also known as Thai Noodle Soup - the most basic food that are widely available everywhere in Thailand. Kuai Tiao, is served as soup or dry, with a variety of noodles to choose from narrow, broad or vermicelli. And prepared with a variety of meats, such as pork, beef, duck, fish, meatballs, fishballs or organ's pig. Including vegetables and bean sprouts.



PHAT KAPHRAO

This street food staple combines meat flash-fried with holy basil (the eponymous kaphrao) and a generous helping of fresh chilli and garlic. Served over rice and often crowned with a fried egg, it's the epitome of the Thai-style one dish meal.



GREEN CURRY

For Thai food novices, there's probably no better starting point than this intersection of a herbal spice paste and rich coconut milk. Remember to do as the Thais and couple the curry with a plate of jasmine rice – it's not meant to be eaten on its own as a soup.

Thai food ain't about simplicity. It's about the juggling of disparate elements to create a harmonious finish.

LAAP

Laap (also known as larb or larp) takes the form of minced meat with roasted rice powder, lime, fish sauce and herbs. It is also regarded as the unofficial national dish of Laos and is also a popular dish in the Isan region of Thailand where the majority of the population is of the Lao ethnicity.



ONE-STOP GUIDE FOR YOUR WARDROBE

Farmer Walking Through Plantation, Outskirts of Thailand.

DO'S

1. Collared Shirts, button-ups, dressier shorts and pants
2. Summer dresses, bohemian-esque skirts
3. Flowy or fitted tops that cover your shoulders' edges and cleavage; T-shirts are alright.
4. Comfortable, flat, closed-toed shoes; preferably waterproof.
5. bathing suit with a cover-up (beach only)
6. Very short shorts and skirts are also acceptable.

DONT'S

1. Tank tops or singlets.
2. Shirts that show cleavage or shorts that show but cheeks.
3. See-through or spaghetti strap shirts, crop tops.
4. Clothing that is holey, tattered, stained or smelly.
5. Shirtless or unbuttoned tops that show your chest or stomach.
6. Hard to clean leather or cloth shoes.
7. Go barefoot
8. Sunbathe nude

SURVIVAL KIT CHECKLIST

	✓	Qty		✓	Qty		✓	Qty	
CLOTHES			Undergarments			Skirts			Belts
			Socks			Sweaters/Jackets			Ties
			Undershirts			Umbrella			Sunglasses
			Sleepwear			Rainwear			Normal glasses
			T-Shirts			Travel day bag			Accessories
			Dress shirts			Laundry kit			Mini sewing kit
			Casual shirts			Laundry bag			Plastic bags
			Jeans			Hats/Caps			Shoe Odour Spray
			Pants			Leisure shoes			Lint roller
			Shorts			Sport shoes			Foldable hanger
		Dresses			Flip-flops			Travel iron	
TOILETRIES			Bath Towel			Hairdryer			Nail clippers
			Toothbrush			Face lotion/etc.			Makeup
			Toothpaste			Sunscreen			Makeup remover
			Dental floss			Moisturiser			Hygiene products
			Soap			Mosquito Repellent			Tweezers
			Deodorant			Contact lenses			Q-Tips
			Shampoo			Contact Solution			Hand sanitizer
			Face cleanser			Shaving supplies			First-aid kit
			Hair Comb			Shower caps			Medications
MISCELLANEOUS			Laptop/Tablet			External storage			Host gifts
			Electronic charger			Camera			Portable fan
			Cables and dongle			Documents copies			Additional luggage
			Voltage adaptor			Luggage locks			Chou chou
CARRY-ON BAGGAGE			Passport/ID			Tissues			Portable Charger
			Paper/Pen			Wet Wipes			House keys
			Valuables			Eye mask			Maps
			Watches			Ear plugs			Guidebook
			Credit/ATM cards			Change of clothes			Medication
			Snacks			Earpiece			Empty bottle
			Travel pillow			Cell phone			Entertainment

12 FUN FACTS ABOUT THAILAND AND THEIR PEOPLE

The full ceremonial name of Bangkok is Krungthepmahanakhon Amonrattanakosin Mahintharayuthaya Mahadilokphop Noppharatchathani-burirom Udomratchaniwetmahasathan Amonphimanawatansathit Sakkathattiya-witsanukamprasit (29 characters more than a Tweet)

It's illegal to *go commando* in Thailand. But, not that this law can be checked or enforced, so you're probably safe



In certain areas of Thailand barbers are closed on Wednesdays as it used to be considered the day of agriculture – a day for growth and prosperity; “cut” is the opposite of “growth”.



In Thai superstition, there are many ways to prevent rain from ruining a well-planned event. The most popular method is simply making a virgin girl pluck some lemongrass from the ground



The annual **Monkey Buffet** is held in front of the Pra Prang Sam Yot temple in Lopburi. Over 600 monkeys are invited to feast on tonnes of food. The locals see it as a thank you to the monkeys that inhabits the village.

Thai believes that if you get to eat the last piece of food when sharing, you will also get a handsome boyfriend or good looking girlfriend.

Thai believes that ghost has the ability to predict your future and the next winning lottery number. A lot of Thai people couldn't wait for the ghost and hence takes the initiative to find the ghost through rituals.

It is a powerful Thai belief that the bigger the size and shininess of the amulets you are wearing, the more powerful it is. These power includes the ability to stop bullets, knives and any illness.

Thailand is the only country in south-east Asia that hasn't been colonised by Europe. The name of the country is Prathet Thai which also means "land of the free."



Legends once said that if you say that the baby is cute, an evil spirit will come to snatch your baby away from you. This gave rise to with nicknames that are highly irrelevant with actual names such as "Poo" (Crab) to confuse the ghost,

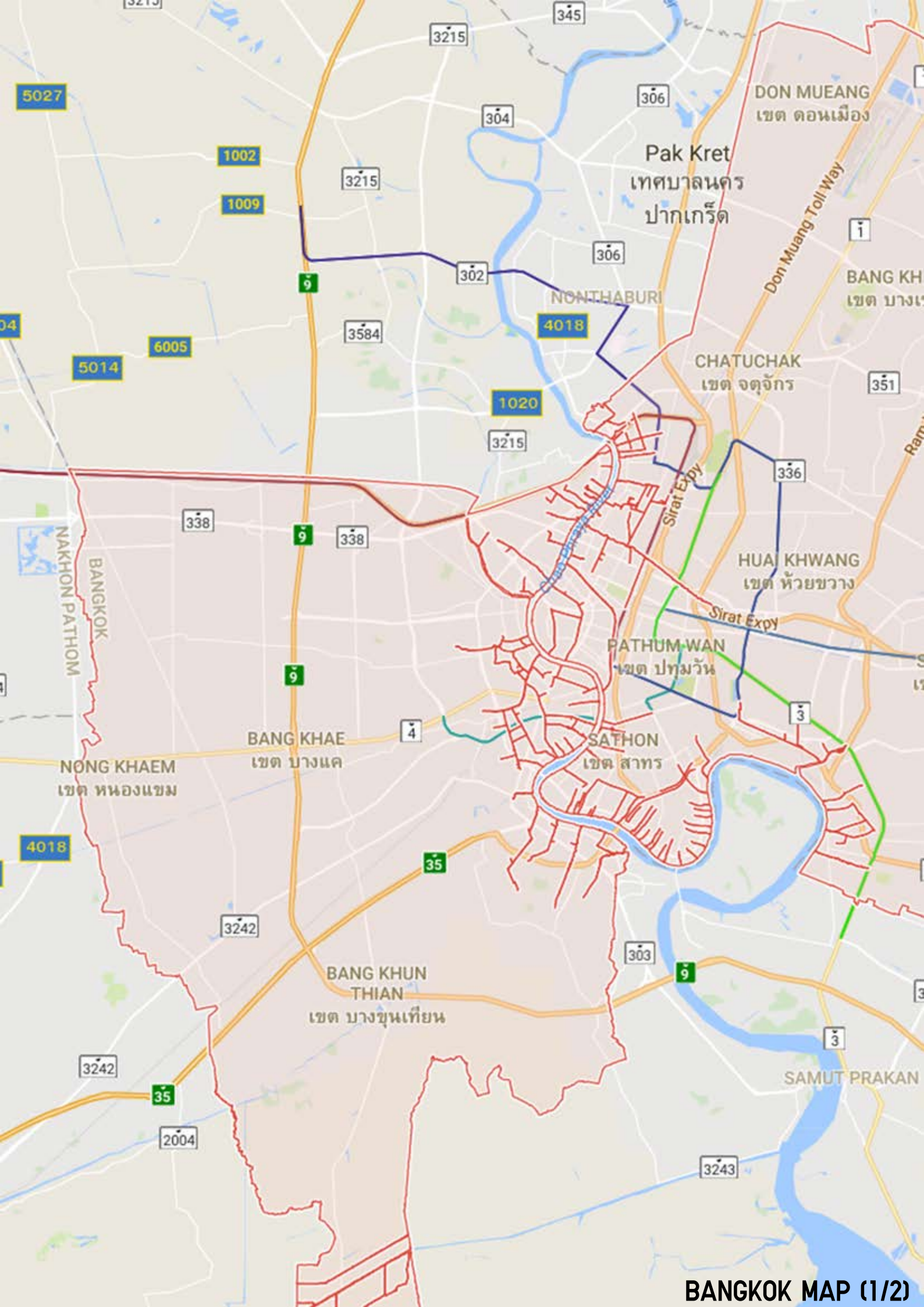


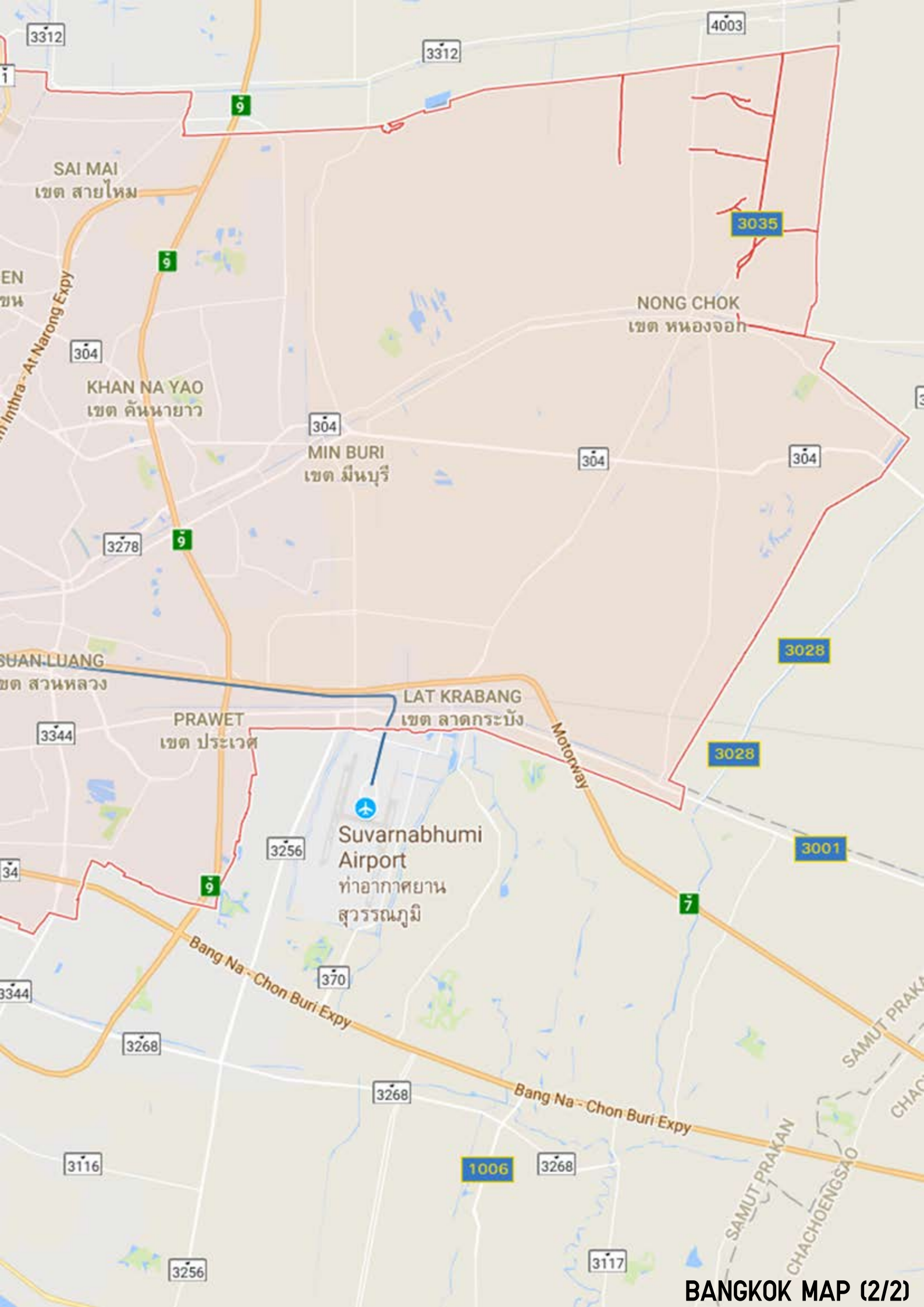
Thailand is home to the world's ninth tallest statue, The Great Buddha of Thailand, at the Wat Muang Monastery in Ang Thong province.

The town of Kanchanburi is home to the famous "Bridge Over the River Kwai", part of the Burma-Siam railway. An estimated 80,000 to 100,000 people died in the course of the project.

KEY DATES TO NOTE

Date	Name	Description
December 31 st – January 1 st	Western New Year	Welcome the new year
Feb 7 th	Makha Bucha (Magha Puja)	Traditional Thai holiday celebrated in the third lunar month, on the night of the full moon.
April 6 th	Chakri Day	The current dynasty in Thailand is the Chakri dynasty. This holiday celebrates the founding of this dynasty, and it is when people throughout the country stop to pay respect to past and current royalty.
April 13 th -15 th	Songkran (Thai New Year)	Songkran is one of the biggest and most important Thai holidays. This holiday is celebrated with parades, religious ceremonies, and festivities throughout the country. Water plays a big part in this holiday. It is associated with purifying things for the new year, bringing rain for a good harvest, and with fertility.
May 1 st	Labour Day	There are no large celebrations
May 5 th	Coronation Day	Celebrates the coronation of Thailand's current king, King Bhumibol.
June 4 th	Visakha Puja	Celebrates the three major events in the Buddha's life: his birth, his enlightenment, and his death.
August 2 nd	Asalha Puja Day	Usually celebrated in July or early August. This day celebrates the day of the Buddha's first sermon.
August 12 th	The Queen's Birthday/Mother's Day	Celebrates the queen's birthday, as well as being Thailand's Mother's Day
October 23 rd	Chulalongkorn Day	Life of King Chulalongkorn is commemorated. King Chulalongkorn played an important part in modernizing Thailand, establishing freedom of religion, and maintaining Thailand's independence in the face of European colonialism.
December 5 th	The King's Birthday/Father's Day	Celebrates the birthday of Thailand's current king, and it is also the national Father's Day.
December 10 th	Constitution Day	The day that Thailand became a constitutional monarchy in 1932. This holiday celebrates the signing of Thailand's constitution.





Buddhist Temple
วัดพระธรรมกาย

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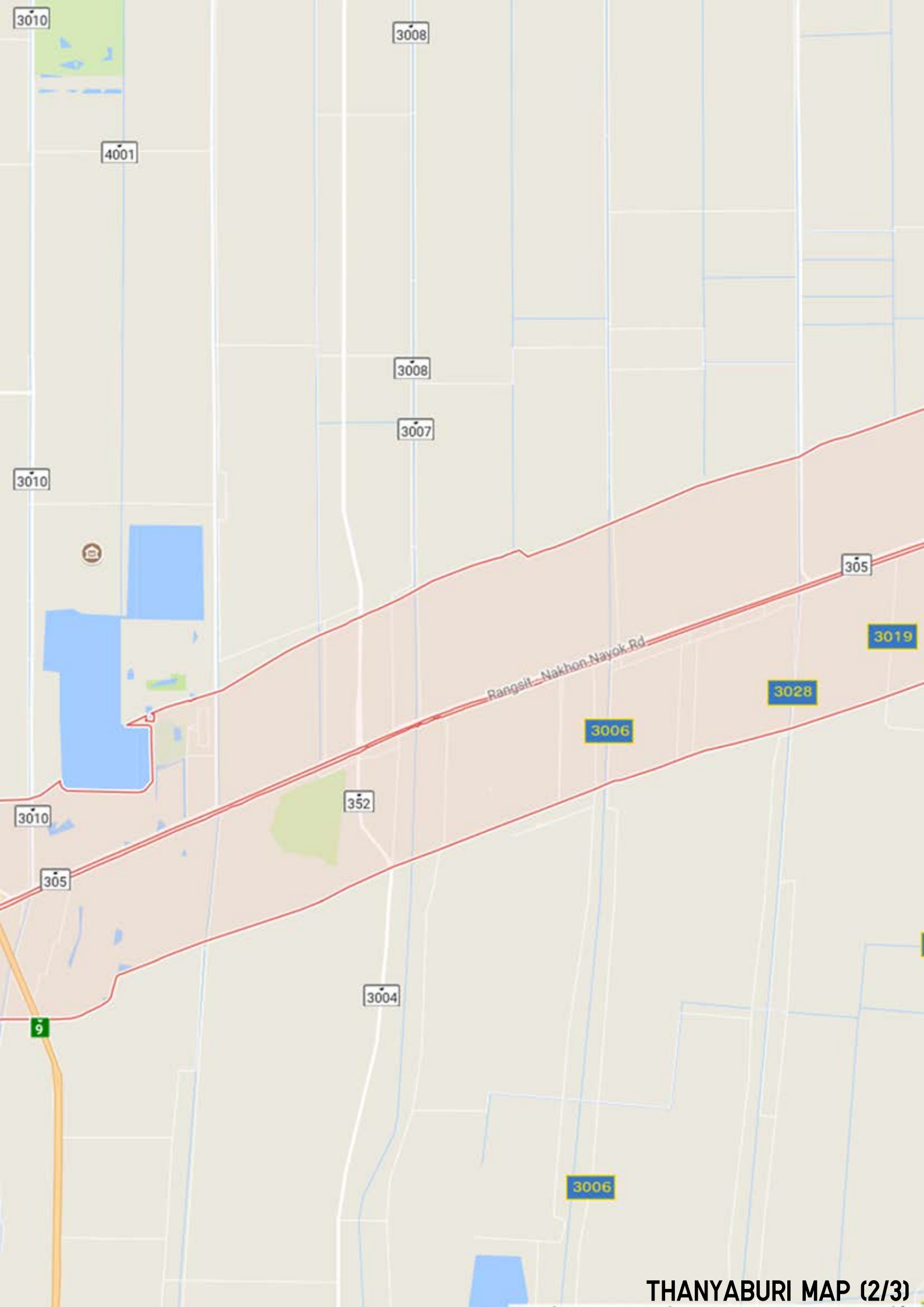
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Rangsit
เทศบาล
นครรังสิต

Dream World
ดรีมเวิลด์

Don Muang Toll Way

11 Rd



3010

3008

4001

3008

3007

3010



305

3019

Rangsit - Nakhon Nayok Rd

3028

3006

3010

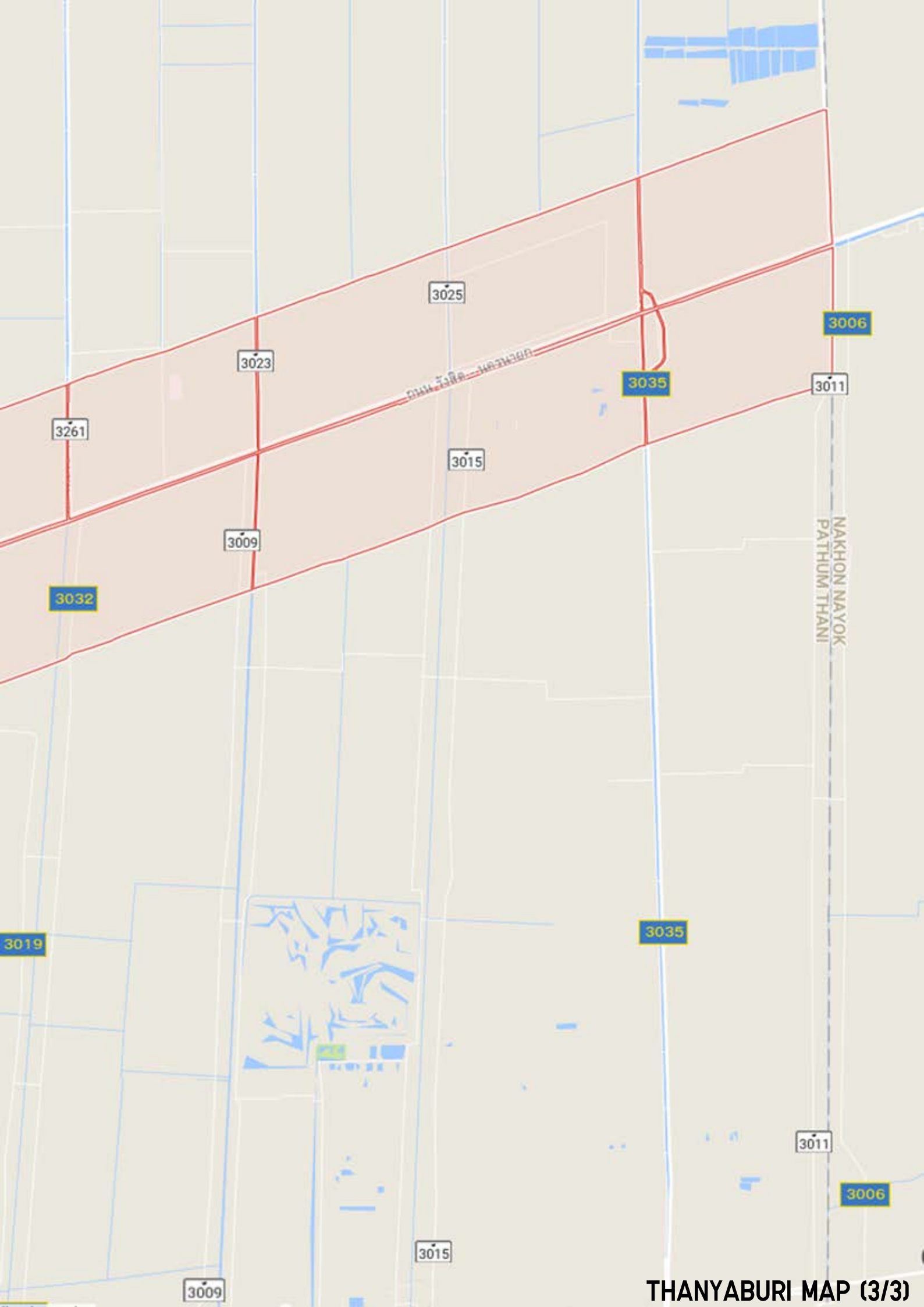
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ถนนสาย 3035

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3032

3006

3011

NAKHON NAYOK
PATHUM THANI

3035

3019

3035

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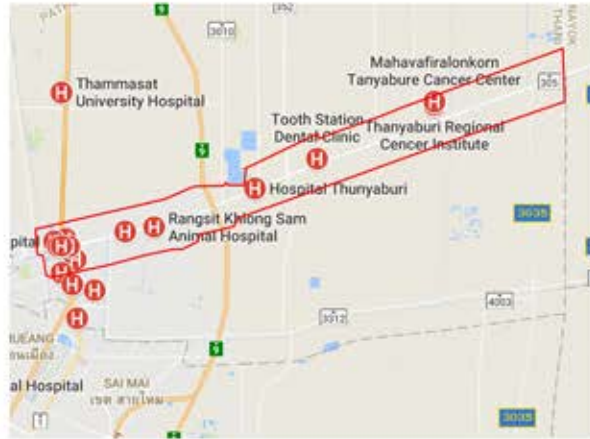
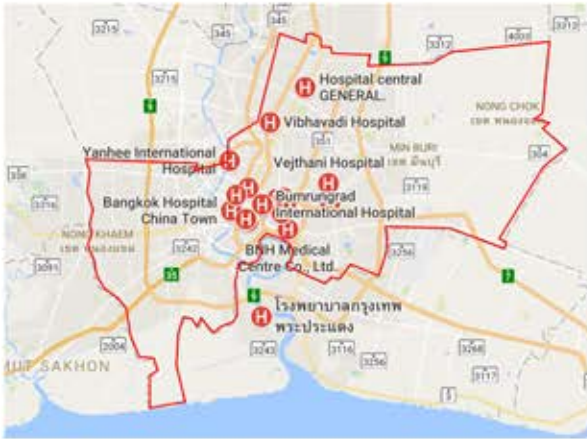
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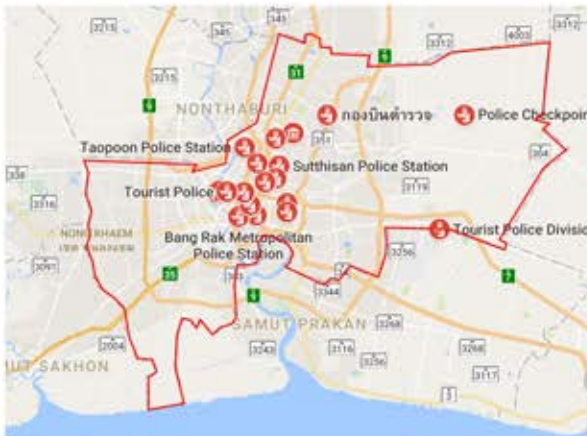
IMPORTANT INFORMATION



HOSPITALS IN BANGKOK / THANYABURI



POLICE STATIONS IN BANGKOK



EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Name	Address	Email	Telephone
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore	Tanglin, Singapore 248163	mfa@mfa.sg	(65) 6379 8000
Embassy of The Republic of Singapore	129 South Sathorn Road Bangkok 10120	singemb_bkk@mfa.sg	001-66-(2) 348-6700
Tourist Police	25/26 Liab Khong Rd., Chong Nonsi Junction New Chan Rd. Thung Mahamek, Sathorn	N/A	1155
Regular Police	N/A	N/A	191
Ambulance and Rescue	N/A	N/A	1554
Crime	N/A	N/A	1195
Fire	N/A	N/A	199

OTHER INFORMATIONS



Family

Not only will the majority of Thais, both male and female, live with their families while in university, they'll often also continue to live with them after graduation, and beyond.

When they get married, a large percentage of Thais still live with one of the couple's parents up to and even after they have children of their own. For a Thai, who is close to their family, it seems alien to think about living away from them.

Usually in a Thai family, several generations live under one roof. They are very filial to their parents and will take care of them when they are old.

There's never a thought about putting elderly parents in a home (they don't really exist much in Thailand), or having someone else take care of their parents. It's just a given that elderly parents will be taken care of by their children and their children won't even feel remotely inconvenienced by it. In fact, they'll likely enjoy it.

Working life

Every culture has a word for fun, but the Thai word, *sanuk*, is freighted with more meaning, more reverence, than most. *Sanuk* is not fun as mindless diversion or frivolity; it's fun as an intrinsically valuable activity.

Walk down any *soi* in Bangkok, those wonderfully kinetic alleyways brimming with life – or step into any office for that matter – and you'll see *sanuk* in action. It might take the form of gentle teasing, clever word play or plain old silliness. It's almost always good-natured and always includes an element of social harmony.

"The translation of 'fun' doesn't do *sanuk* justice," said William Klausner, an American anthropologist who lived in Thailand for decades. "It fails to capture the magic of this rather unique aspect of Thai culture."

"If it's not *sanuk* it's not worth doing," said Sumet Jumsai, one of Thailand's best-known architects, as the glorious madness of Bangkok swirled just outside his office. "People will resign from a good-paying job because it's not fun."

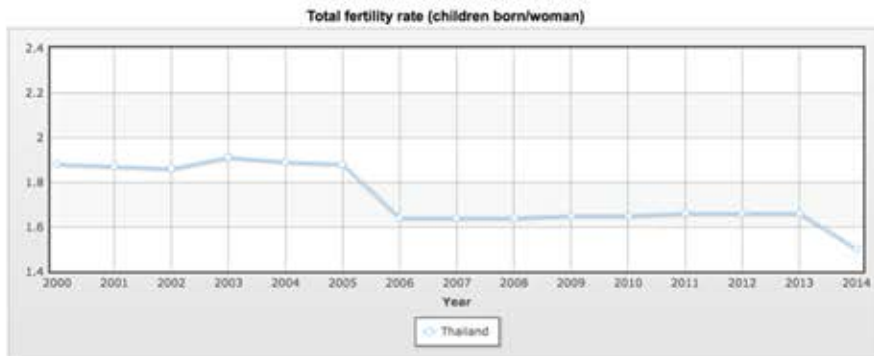
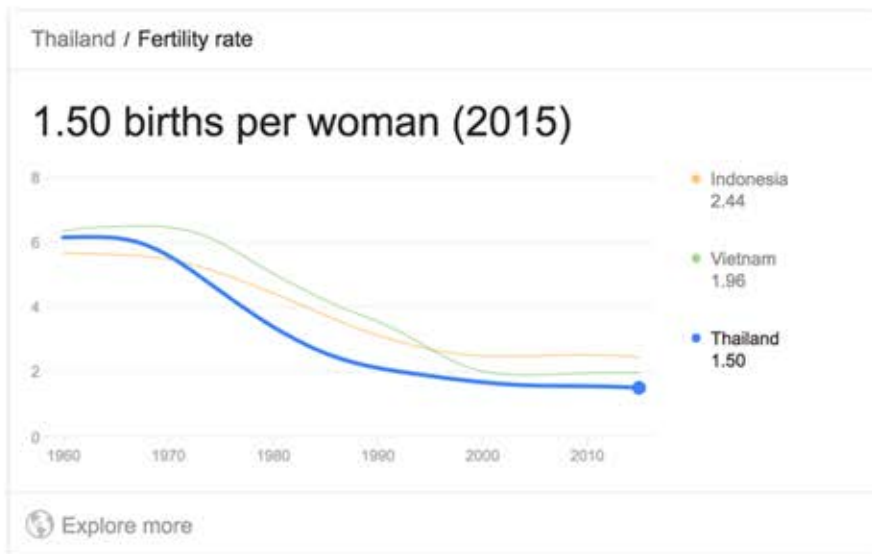
OTHER STATISTICS

Marriage and Divorce

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Marriages (Number)	339,443	345,234	285,944	290,601	280,226	269,319	256,138
Marriage Rates	5.5	5.3	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.8	3.6
Divorces (Number)	70,816	90,688	108,482	109,547	115,137	119,885	123,367
Divorce Rates	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7
Married ('000)	28,415.0	30,870.8	31,921.2	33,223.7	34,036.0	34,470.5	34,604.4
Divorced ('000)	928.4	979.8	988.3	1,011.7	1,021.9	1,023.9	1,019.8
Widowed ('000)	2,774.0	2,980.6	3,048.2	3,173.3	3,254.7	3,310.0	3,346.5
Single ('000)	30,092.9	30,498.2	30,147.4	29,922.9	29,598.3	29,124.4	28,540.3
Unknown ('000)	483.0	534.6	586.9	627.8	670.4	707.9	739.2
Age of Males at First Marriage	24.1	24.7	25.2	25.6	25.8	25.8	25.9
Age of Women at First Marriage	20.9	21.0	21.0	21.2	21.3	21.3	21.4

Source: Euromonitor International from national statistics/UN

Note: Marriage and divorce rates refer to the number per '000 population. Age at first marriage refers to the average age in years.



Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Thailand	1.88	1.87	1.86	1.91	1.89	1.88	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.65	1.65	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.50

OTHER STATISTICS

Gender Inequality Index		Maternal mortality ratio	Adolescent birth rate	Share of seats in parliament	
Value	Rank	(deaths per 100,000 live births)	(births per 1,000 women ages 15–19)	(% held by women)	
2015	2015	2015	2015	^a	2015
0.366	79	20	44.6		6.1

Population with at least some secondary education			Labour force participation rate	
(% ages 25 and older)			(% ages 15 and older)	
Female	Male		Female	Male
2005–2015	2005–2015	^b	2015	2015
40.9	45.8		62.9	80.2

Geography	Category	Categorization Type	2016
Thailand	Total Population	Buddhism	93.6
Thailand	Total Population	Christianity	1.3
Thailand	Total Population	Hinduism	0.1
Thailand	Total Population	Islam	5.0
Thailand	Total Population	Other religions	0.0
Thailand	Total Population	Unknown	0.1

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