

# THAILAND TRIP NOTES

*Thailand, the 'Land of Smiles' boasts tropical beaches, mountain jungles, quaint villages and bustling cities. In Bangkok, a 21st-century playground, the scent of spicy street food fills the air, and the Grand Palace recalls the country's ancient traditions. Outside the capital, the wonders of the countryside enchant, whether you are trekking in the northern hills, exploring Ayutthaya's splendid ruins, or diving in the waters of the idyllic southern coast. From the golden temples that are as accessible as the home of a friend, to the islets that dot the coast like charms on a bracelet, Thailand is a destination that beckons visitors back time and time again.*

## **TRAVEL DOCUMENTS**

U.S. citizens carrying a tourist passport and in possession of an onward or return airline ticket do not require a visa to enter Thailand. The passport must have at least six months' validity remaining. Upon entry, Thai immigration officials will place an immigration stamp in the passport permitting a 30-day stay in Thailand if arriving by air, or a 15-day stay if arriving by land. This is subject to change without notice. People of other nationalities must inform your travel agent, who will advise on your requirements.

## **MEDICATIONS & INNOCULATIONS**

No medication or vaccinations are required for entry to Thailand. There are no covid-related requirements for entry to Thailand.

## **CURRENCY**

The baht - sign ฿; code: THB - is the currency of Thailand. It is subdivided into 100 satang. A convenient currency converter can be found at <http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

## **CREDIT CARDS**

Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted, American Express less so. Cash is needed for shopping at markets. ATMs are easily found but fees can be high. Check with your US bank to see if they have a low fee partner bank in Thailand



## TIME DIFFERENCE

Bangkok is 11 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time, 14 hours ahead of Pacific Standard Time.

## SHOPPING

Thailand is known for gemstones, rice paper products, pottery, lacquerware and Thai silk.

## ELECTRICITY

Thailand plug type: A, B; C, F. Residential voltage is 220 volts Frequency is 50 Hz.

For more information on plugs and voltage, please visit

<http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/>

## LANGUAGE

Thai is the official language of Thailand. English is widely spoken among those in the tourism industry, but less so by others. Simple, polite questions prefaced by "Excuse me, ..." are most likely to be understood and responded to.

## CLIMATE

November to February: Temperature ranges from 66 to 94 degrees F in Bangkok, while in northern and northeast Thailand, temperatures can get quite cool with morning temperatures as low as 46 degrees , with the occasional 70 degree day.

March to June is hot and humid. Temperatures in Bangkok average around 98 degrees, but can often reach 110 degrees with humidity levels of 75%. April is the hottest month across the country. July to October is the monsoon, when most of Thailand's annual rainfall is accumulated and flooding can occur. The humidity averages just under 90%, with temperatures averaging around 88 degrees in very wet and rainy Bangkok.

## TIPPING GUIDELINES

Generally speaking, there is no custom of tipping in Thailand; give Rp.10,000 to Rp.20,000 for porters and housekeepers at a hotel if you would like to. There is no need to leave a tip at restaurants as most of them usually already include a service charge on your bill.

## ETIQUETTE

**Act modestly** Thai locals are far more conservative than most Westerners; they frown on public displays of affection. So when in or near Thai temples or in villages, avoid public displays of affection.

**Dress modestly** Away from the beach, dress as modestly as possible. Flip-flops are acceptable.

**Temple attire** When paying a visit to a temple, both men and women are expected to wear shirts that cover shoulders and part of the upper arms. Legs must also be covered, a sarong will suffice.

This information is provided as a guideline to the country you will be visiting, and is up to date to the best of our knowledge. Further information is available to you on the official Tourism Authority of Thailand website - <http://na.tourismthailand.org/home>