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Bangkok Starter Pack 2025

👋 Welcome to The Basecamp by GaganTV! ✈️

This is the *free version* of my Bangkok Starter Pack.

Inside you'll find the essentials: airport arrival tips, SIM cards, neighborhoods, budgets, scams to avoid, and must-have apps.

👉 If you want to go deeper, **subscribing to my [Kick stream](#) unlocks all of my premium guides + access to The Basecamp — my sub-only [Discord community](#).**

Inside, you'll be able to:

- Chat directly with me and ask questions about Thailand, visas, housing, or streaming.
- Connect with other like-minded travelers, nomads, and streamers.
- Get support from people going through the same journey.
- Be part of future **meetups in Thailand** as the community grows.

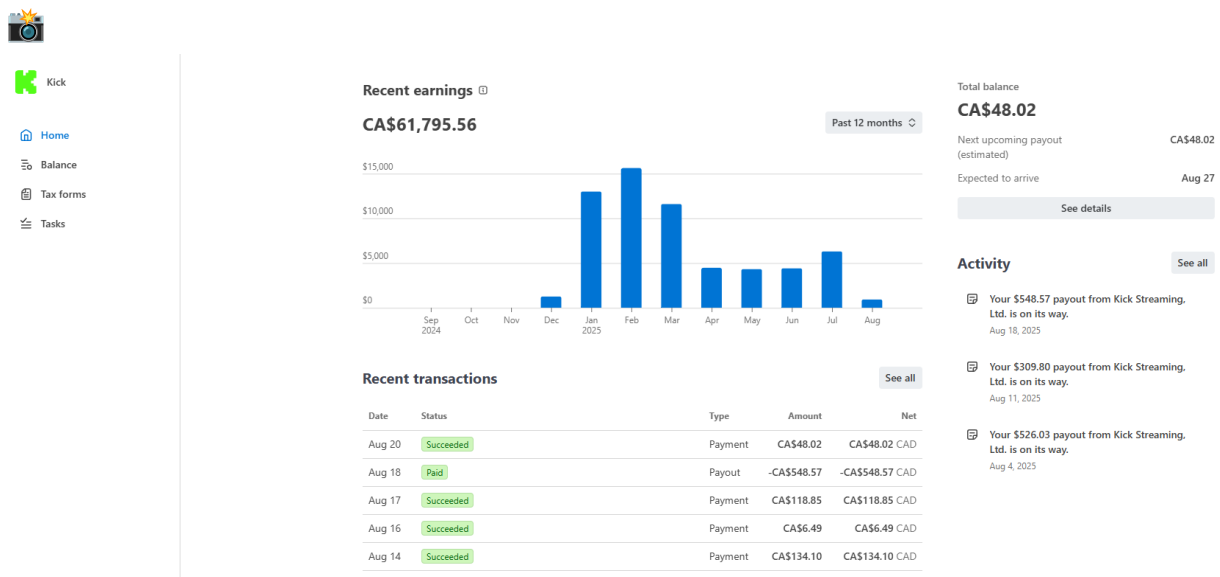
And most importantly, you'll unlock my **full library of premium guides** covering:

- 🏠 Housing (renting condos, deposits, agents).
- 🛂 Visas (Digital Nomad Visa, extensions, hacks).
- 🍸 Nightlife, dating & social life (uncensored tips).
- 🏋️ Fitness & health abroad.
- 🎥 **How to start IRL streaming from scratch — the exact way I stream (25 page guide)** from hardware to apps, to setting up your server and getting the relay working with overlays/alerts, so you can go live smoothly anywhere.

⚡ Proof it Works

A lot of people talk about “making money online” — I’ll show you mine upfront so you know this is real.

💬 *From Jan–Aug 2025, my Kick Stripe payouts totaled **\$61,795 CAD**. On top of that, with sponsorships, tips, and media, I cleared **over \$70,000 CAD in just 8 months** — all while streaming mostly in Asia.*



“Stripe payouts Jan–Aug 2025: \$61,795 CAD (Kick streaming only). With sponsorships + tips, I passed \$70k CAD in 8 months. Proof this lifestyle pays off if you commit.”

💡 Why I Made This Guide

This isn’t a **paid course**. I’m not trying to sell you some overpriced program or scam “coaching.” This guide you’re reading is **free for everyone** — I wanted to motivate people and share the basics.

But for those who support me by subscribing on [Kick](#), I wanted to give back more than just the usual sub-only AI TTS. **Whether you’re a direct sub or even just lucky enough to**

get a gifted sub, you still unlock all of the guides, knowledge, and community I've built to make this lifestyle possible.

👉 My goal is to give back to my subs and community — not just with content, but with resources that actually help: the premium guides, the community to ask me questions directly, and eventually real meetups in Thailand.

The bigger picture? I genuinely want to create and be part of a community of like-minded people — travelers, streamers, and digital nomads — helping each other grow, learning how to live abroad, and exploring the future of the digital nomad lifestyle together.

☀️ **Now let's dive into the guide itself.**

This is the step-by-step starter guide I wish I had when I first landed in Bangkok. Here are the **core essentials you'll need from the moment you land in Bangkok** — starting with airports, transport, and SIM cards.

✈️ **Arrival at the Airport**

Bangkok has **2 airports**:

- **Suvarnabhumi (BKK)**: main international hub.
- **Don Mueang (DMK)**: budget airlines (AirAsia, Nok, Lion).

Thailand Digital Arrival Card (TDAC)

- As of May 2025, all non-Thai nationals must complete the **Thailand Digital Arrival Card (TDAC)** online before entering Thailand.
- Submit it **within 3 days (72 hours) before your arrival date**.
- It's free, and replaces the old paper TM-6 form.
- You'll need passport details, flight info, and your accommodation address in Thailand.
- After submitting, you'll get a QR code confirmation — save it to your phone or print it.
- Fill it out here: 👉 tdac.immigration.go.th

Transport into the city:

- **Bolt (like Uber):** cheapest, usually 100–300 THB from the airport.
 - **Grab:** reliable but 20–30% pricier.
 - **Airport taxi (metered):** 250–350 THB if they actually use the meter — avoid flat-rate scams.
 - **Airport Rail Link:** 45 THB, connects into BTS/MRT. Great if traveling light.
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SIM Cards & Data

- Top providers: **AIS, True, DTAC**
- **Airport SIMs** = convenient but more expensive
- **City SIMs** = cheaper at 7-Eleven or malls
- For streamers: choose **DTAC 5G** or **AIS 5G unlimited**



My recommendation:

Always go for a **physical SIM** card — it's cheaper, more reliable, and better for streaming.

If your phone is **eSIM-only** or you prefer the convenience, you can use [Airalo](#). It works well for short-term data, though it's usually a bit pricier than physical SIMs.

👉 Use my code [GAGAND8329](#) when signing up for Airalo to get a discount - you'll save approx \$5 on your first purchase.

I know that there are cheaper alternatives to eSIM's but I have used Airalo for my eSIM needs since I started travelling years ago and have had no issues at all. I can definitely vouch for them.



 COVERAGE	Thailand
 DATA	Unlimited
 CALLS	Unlimited
 VALIDITY	15 Days
 PRICE	\$28.50 CAD

BUY NOW



 COVERAGE	Thailand
 DATA	Unlimited
 CALLS	Unlimited
 VALIDITY	30 Days
 PRICE	\$49.50 CAD

BUY NOW



TRUE 5G Unlimited SIM for 30 days (1199 Baht) - If you need unlimited, eg for streaming



Neighborhood Snapshots (Where to Stay & Hang Out)

First and foremost, almost always if you're trying to lease a condo or apartment, they will require **1 year contract minimum**. 6 months if you're lucky, but the gold standard is **1 year**. Pricing below reflects 1 year contracts.

Onnut (BTS On Nut)

- Great balance between affordability and convenience.
 - Condos: modern 1-bedrooms **10–15k THB/month**.
 - Feels local but still very expat-friendly.
 - **Lotus/Big C, Century Mall, street food stalls, cheap gyms.**
 - 30–40 minutes to reach central nightlife.
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Bang Chak / Punnawithi (BTS Punnawithi)

- Just below Onnut, a fast-growing area with the massive **True Digital Park** (tech hub + cafés + co-working + restaurants).
 - Condos: **8–12k THB/month** for decent buildings, newer towers at **15–20k THB/month**.
 - Quieter than Onnut but easy BTS access into Sukhumvit.
 - Perfect for digital nomads who want chill living, cheaper rent, and still around 30-40 minutes to nightlife.
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Phrom Phong (BTS Phrom Phong)

- Upscale expat neighborhood.
 - Malls: **EmQuartier + Emporium** (luxury shopping, gourmet food courts).
 - Packed with trendy cafés, Japanese/Korean restaurants, and spas.
 - Condos: **20–35k THB/month**.
 - Good mix of luxury and convenience.
-

Asok (BTS Asok / MRT Sukhumvit)

- Major transport hub where BTS and MRT intersect.
- Landmark mall: **Terminal 21** (with the famous Pier 21 food court = cheapest good eats in Bangkok malls).

- Tons of condos, hotels, and nightlife options within walking distance.
 - Condos: **20–30k THB/month** in high-rises with gyms/pools.
 - Very central → 5–10 mins to Nana or Thonglor.
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Sukhumvit Soi 11

- One of Bangkok's **most famous nightlife streets**.
 - Packed with clubs (Levels, Sugar), rooftop bars, lounges, and late-night restaurants.
 - Hotels and Airbnbs everywhere, but limited residential condos compared to Onnut/Phrom Phong.
 - Perfect for short-term stays if you want to **party every night** without worrying about transport.
 - Expect higher nightly rates (hotels **1,200–2,500 THB/night**) since it's a prime tourist zone.
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Nana (BTS Nana)

- Famous nightlife area (Nana Plaza, Soi 4, Soi 11).
 - Lots of mid-range hotels, short-term rentals, serviced apartments.
 - Condos: **15–25k THB/month** but can be noisy if you're in the middle of the action.
 - Best if you want nightlife at your doorstep.
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Thonglor / Ekkamai (BTS Thong Lo / Ekkamai)

- Trendy, upscale neighborhoods with the most stylish nightlife.
 - Rooftop bars, speakeasies, craft cocktail lounges, luxury condos.
 - Condos: **25–40k THB/month** for modern 1-beds in prime spots.
 - **Ekkamai Gateway Mall, co-working spaces, cafés everywhere.**
 - The place to be if you want the **“Bangkok elite expat” lifestyle** and don't mind higher rent.
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Silom / Sathorn (BTS Sala Daeng / MRT Silom)

- Business district by day, nightlife area by night.
 - Home to **Patpong Night Market** and rooftop bars like **Sky Bar at Lebua (Hangover 2)**.
 - Condos: **20–30k THB/month**, high-rise offices and expat apartments.
 - Feels more “city hustle” than Sukhumvit areas.
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Budget Examples

People ask me all the time: *“How much does it cost to live in Thailand, especially Bangkok?”*

Honestly, there are **10+ different lifestyle tiers** depending on who you ask — backpackers, expats, digital nomads, luxury retirees... everyone spends differently.

But to keep it simple, I’ll sum it up in 4 main tiers:

Absolute Minimum:

(~550 THB / ~\$17 USD / ~\$23 CAD) daily

(~16000 THB / ~\$500 USD / ~\$700 CAD) monthly

- Housing: Basic studio/room (small Thai-style apartment, 4,000–7,000 THB/month).
- Food: Mostly street food (~80 THB per meal).
- Transport: BTS/MRT only (15–60 THB per ride). Walking/buses when possible.
- Lifestyle: No nightlife, minimal extras, mostly cooking simple groceries or eating cheap stalls.
- Reality: Bare-bones survival budget. Enough to live day-to-day in Bangkok but very limited comfort, privacy, or flexibility.
- Can get a solo room but would be in an old building, eg, clean washrooms but look old.
- This would be the tier for absolute minimum I would say. You would have to be very frugal and watch what you’re doing. Essentially camping your building without doing much. If you really had to budget and make your money last.

Frugal / Budget conscious:

(~1,200 THB / \$35 USD / \$50 CAD) daily

(~36,000 THB / ~\$1,000 USD / ~\$1,350 CAD) monthly

- Street food (80 THB per meal)

- BTS/MRT for transport (15–60 THB per ride)
- Grab food/bike sometimes
- Misc. extra money for Nightlife once a week or sightseeing
- Decent/Good Condo (could even be a modern close to luxury condo depending where you live) (8k-11k THB a month)
- I've seen modern condos in this range with very nice gyms and pools, but small rooms. Though it would be on the outskirts of Bangkok.
- Location drastically changes your condo budget

Upper Middle / Very comfortable

(~2000 THB / \$60 USD / \$83 CAD) daily

(~57000 THB / ~\$1800 USD / ~\$2,500 CAD) monthly

- Condo (~15–20k THB/month)
- Condo would be located in a good, central expat location.
- Mix of street food + restaurants
- Nightlife 2–3 times per week (rooftop bar or modern nightclub drinks ~300 THB each)
- Comfortable, balanced lifestyle with some indulgences
- This type of lifestyle in the western world would cost probably 3-4x this amount
- Can be seen as a luxury modern lifestyle

Elite luxury

(3,000+ THB / \$100 USD / \$133 CAD) daily

(90000+ THB / ~\$3000+ USD / ~\$4000+ CAD) monthly

- Modern condo with pool/gym (~25–35k THB/month)
- I'm talking about living in the heart of the high-society location, a huge spacious condo in Thong Lor.
- Eating out at nice luxury restaurants, delivery apps
- Regular taxis/Grab/Bolt for convenience
- Bottle service at clubs occasionally, Rooftop bars frequently
- Gym membership, luxury shopping
- This type of lifestyle would be the elite-level lifestyle, not having to care about where you're spending money or budgeting at all. Obviously there can be people spending more (shopping, expensive luxury nightclubs, 1k on bottles a day...) but that's not what I'm talking about here.

NOTE: (this of course does not include your flight, health insurance, visa costs/extensions/runs)

Condo prices are based on 1 year rentals (1 year is typically the minimum), you can get 6 if you're lucky.

To rent a condo: most places want a 2 month security deposit (refunded at the end of the year), and 1 month advance. So a total of 3 months of rent payment on day 1 of moving in.

My Lifestyle (GaganTV):

What you see on my streams is usually the **higher mid-end lifestyle**. I don't go full "luxury expat" — instead, I **invest heavily into my content** (streaming gear, nightlife streams, IRL travel setups).

That means:

- Staying in nice condos or hotels when it makes sense for streaming.
- Nightclubs, Rooftop bars, and other nightlife often for content.
- Using Bolt/Grab often for convenience.
- Mixing street food with restaurants depending on the day.

Basically, I sit in the **upper mid-tier range**, balancing comfort + experiences, while putting most of my budget into creating content you see live.

“Well Gagan, how much do I realistically need in a month to live in Bangkok?”

If you want to live super comfortably — renting a nice modern condo with amenities, eating a mix of street food + good restaurants, going out a few nights a week, and using Bolt/Grab for convenience — you're looking at about:

 **~\$1800 USD per month**

 **~\$2500 CAD per month**

That keeps you in the **higher mid-tier lifestyle** you see on stream — not crazy luxury, but very comfortable to enjoy Bangkok while also putting money into content, nightlife, and travel. Note this is quite on the higher end as to not disappoint anyone. You can easily live super comfortably for **under 2k CAD** or **1.5k USD** a month too. However, I'm going based on the streams you see.

Monthly Bangkok Budget

Core

- Condo + utilities: **13,000–15,000 THB**
- Food (20 CAD/day): **14,400 THB**
- Phone plans (2 lines): **2,000 THB**
- Travel insurance (60 CAD): **1,440 THB**

Subtotal core = **30,840–32,840 THB**

Lifestyle (Nightlife / Sightseeing / Activities)

- $3 \times \text{per week} \times 2,000 \text{ THB} \times 4 \text{ weeks} = \mathbf{24,000 \text{ THB}}$
($\approx 80 \text{ CAD per outing, total } \sim 960 \text{ CAD/month}$ — *whether spent on nightlife or sightseeing*)

Miscellaneous

- 4,800 THB ($\sim 200 \text{ CAD}$)
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Final Totals

- THB: **59,640–61,640 THB/month**
- CAD: **$\sim 2,485\text{--}2,565 \text{ CAD/month}$**

You could easily go out less times per week and that would significantly decrease your monthly budget. Also, 20 cad a day on food is generous, you could have a 10 cad budget and still get 3 meals a day with street food/cheaper options.

Common Scams to Avoid

- **Tuk-tuks offering “special tours”** → they’ll take you shopping and overcharge.
 - **Jewelry/gem shop tricks** → “special deal” gems that aren’t worth anything.
 - **Taxis refusing to use the meter** → always insist or use Bolt/Grab.
 - **Fake nightclub bills** → always check prices before ordering, especially around tourist zones.
 - **Tailor scams** → “free suit fitting” that turns into overpriced upsells.
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Essential Apps

- **Bolt** → cheapest ride-hailing app, more cost-effective than Grab.
 - **Grab** → rides + food delivery, very reliable.
 - **LINE** → the #1 messaging app in Thailand (everyone uses it).
 - **Wise** → cheap, fast international money transfers.
 - **Google Maps** → navigation, BTS/MRT routes.
 - **Google Translate** → quick language help.
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Malls (Bangkok is mall heaven)

- **Terminal 21 (Asok)** → themed floors (Tokyo, London, Paris). Famous **Pier 21 food court** = best cheap eats in the city.
ICONSIAM → luxury riverside mega-mall with an indoor floating market.
MBK Center → bargain shopping + electronics.
 - **EmQuartier / Emporium (Phrom Phong)** → luxury malls with amazing food courts.
 - **CentralWorld** → massive shopping complex with events, cinema, and nightlife nearby.
-

Night Markets

- **Jodd Fairs (Rama 9)** → modern night market with food, fashion, bars.
 - **Rod Fai Market (Train Market)** → retro antiques, bars, vintage vibes.
 - **Chatuchak Weekend Market** → iconic market with 10,000+ stalls, open Sat–Sun.
 - **Asiatique the Riverfront** → touristy but nice riverside atmosphere.
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Places to Go / Touristy Must-Sees

- **Grand Palace & Wat Phra Kaew** → Bangkok's #1 landmark. Gold everywhere, very strict dress code (cover shoulders & knees).
- **King Power Mahanakhon Tower** → Tallest building in Bangkok. SkyWalk with a glass floor overlooking the city (great content spot).

- **Wat Pho** → The Reclining Buddha. Also home to Thailand's traditional massage school.
 - **Wat Arun (Temple of Dawn)** → Beautiful riverside temple, looks amazing at sunset.
 - **Chao Phraya River Cruise** → Cheap way to see temples + skyline from the water.
 - **Chatuchak Weekend Market** → 10,000+ stalls of food, clothes, and souvenirs. Open Sat–Sun.
 - **Bangkok Slums (Klong Toei)** → Raw, authentic side of Bangkok. Not “touristy,” but some guides and walking tours exist. Great if you want to understand real local life outside the shiny malls.
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Nightlife Hotspots

- **Sukhumvit Soi 11** → Party central. Packed with clubs (Levels, Sugar Club for Hip-hop), rooftop bars, lounges, late-night restaurants. Expat friendly.
 - **Nana Plaza (Soi 4)** → Famous adult nightlife zone. Wild energy, “working girls”.
 - **Asok** → Central hub with Terminal 21 nearby, plus good rooftops and bars.
 - **Thonglor / Ekkamai** → Trendy, upscale nightlife. Rooftops, speakeasies, craft cocktail bars. The “high-society” scene.
 - **Silom** → Rooftops like **Lebua Sky Bar** (Hangover II), Patpong Night Market
 - **Khaosan Road** → Backpacker central. Loud, chaotic, filled with bars, buckets of alcohol, cheap eats, and people partying every night of the week.
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Next Steps

That's it for the **Bangkok Starter Pack (Free Version)** — these are the essentials you need to land, get connected, move around, eat well, and start exploring the city.

But this is just scratching the surface. If you want the full playbook — how to actually rent condos, secure long-term visas, dive into Thailand's nightlife & dating scene, stay fit abroad, or even build your own IRL streaming setup like mine — that's all waiting inside my sub-only guides.

👉 **Subscribe to my [Kick](#) channel** 🧑🏻 and unlock:

- The full Basecamp guide library (housing, visas, nightlife, dating, fitness, streaming).
- Access to **The Basecamp** [Discord community](#) → a private space where subs (including gifted subs) can ask me questions directly, get support, and connect with other digital nomads, streamers, and travelers.
- Future plans for **real meetups in Thailand** as our community grows.

This is just the start — the real value is in the community and the deeper guides where we get into all the uncensored, practical details.