

Thailand Travel Guide

March 2025



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VISAS

The Thai government relaxed [visa rules](#) in May 2024 by increasing the number of days most passport holders can travel visa-free to 60. Thailand recently launched a new 5-year digital nomad visa; [this video](#) does a great job explaining it (just skip over the overly long intro).

CLIMATE

Some say that Thailand's seasons are "hot, hotter, and hottest", but November is the true start of the "cooler" season when temperatures drop to an average of 30C/86F during the day and a balmy 24C/75F at night. That said, indoor locations are air-conditioned, so you might want a hoodie or jumper to keep warm in a shopping mall or movie theatre. The hottest time of year is March to May when temperatures and humidity are both very high. The rainy season is June to October, when it's still hot and humid, and most days will see some rain, but very rarely does it rain all day. More information can be found on all Thailand-related topics at the [TAT website](#).

GOING OUT CLOTHES

While casual bars and restaurants do not have a dress code, nicer restaurants and higher-end nightclubs do. Generally, this means no shorts and no open-toe shoes. Of course, mini-skirts and high-heels are allowed, but cargo shorts and flip-flops are not.

TIPPING

Tipping in Thailand is similar to tipping in Europe. I usually leave 10% in restaurants and the same with taxis. More expensive restaurants will include a 10% service charge, in which case it's customary to leave an additional 20-50 THB in cash with the bill. Taxis will often just round up, if the ride costs 52 THB and you hand the driver 60 THB, he probably won't offer you change. He's not ripping you off, it's just the way things are.

CASH & ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS

Thai currency comes in 20, 50, 100, 500, and 1000 THB denominations; 1 USD is worth 32-37 THB. Department stores, hotels, and nicer restaurants all accept credit cards, but smaller places do not. Most food stalls, street vendors, smaller restaurants, and taxis accept cash and a QR payment system that only works with Thai bank accounts. For smaller purchases, many vendors will not have change for 1000 THB. If you find yourself with a wallet full of big bills, go buy something cheap at one of the thousand 7/Eleven stores around town; they serve as a de facto bank for changing large bills.

ATMs

A warning: Thai ATMs have the worst user design in the world. They give you cash before returning your card, which has led to many friends forgetting their card in the ATM. Be mindful.

TRANSPORTATION

General

The key to maintaining (relative) sanity in [Bangkok](#) is to avoid getting in a car at all costs. Traffic in Bangkok is next-level horrible. The ride-sharing app [Grab](#) may tell you your destination is 1 km away, but that could still take you hours at peak times. Instead, take the [Skytrain \(BTS\)](#), [subway \(MRT\)](#), and [Airport Rail Link \(ARL\)](#). [The exception to the avoid-cars rule is when you're out late at night when the roads should be mostly ok.]



Ride-sharing

Download the Grab app; you can use it for a [car](#) like Uber (Grab bought Uber in Southeast Asia), and also order food, schedule delivery, and get groceries.

Airport Transportation

From Suvarnabhumi Airport (BKK), you can either wait in the taxi queue or take the [Airport Rail Link](#) (ARL) train into the city. The ARL connects to BTS Phaya Thai station, and from there you can get anywhere. A taxi is fine if you get in late at night or mid-day. I recommend the ARL if you arrive at peak travel times.

Taxis

Taxis are required by law to use the meter; most will, and some won't. Taxis are required by law to take you wherever you want; most will, and some will just outright refuse to go places where the traffic is bad. If you find yourself dealing with a difficult driver, you can try arguing, but I advise you find a new cab. Arguing with a Thai taxi driver (especially in English) is a Sisyphean task.

Motorcycle Taxis

Motorcycle taxis are a popular and efficient way to get around Bangkok, especially for short distances. They are great for navigating through the city's notorious traffic jams. You'll see them at designated stands with riders wearing numbered orange vests. These drivers are very knowledgeable about the small shops and local spots in their areas. If you're taking public transport to a restaurant, it's common to get off and take a motorcycle taxi the rest of the way. If you're wearing a skirt, you can sit side-saddle. If you're tall, be extra careful when they cut through traffic as you could whack your knees on a passing car.

HOTELS

Higher-end

1. [Kimpton Maalai](#) (BTS Ploenchit)
2. [Sindhorn Midtown](#) (BTS Chitlom)
3. [SO/Bangkok by Sofitel](#) (MRT Lumpini)
4. [Metropolitan](#) by Como (MRT Lumpini)
5. [W Hotel](#) (MRT Chong Nonsi)

Mid-range

1. [The Standard](#) (BTS Chong Nonsi)
2. [Moxy Ratchaprasong](#) (BTS Chitlom)
3. [Public House](#) (BTS Asok)
4. [Urbana Sathorn](#) (BTS Saint Louis)
5. [Ibis Bangkok Siam](#) (BTS National Stadium)

Hostels

These three hostels are located near the final station of the Airport Rail Link train that runs into the city from the airport, near BTS Phaya Thai station. Khaosan Road is also famous for hostels, but those hostels are mostly full of partying backpackers. If you want a chiller hostel vibe, check out these places instead.

1. [MovyLodge](#)
2. [SleepLab](#)
3. [Poshtel](#)

RESTAURANTS

Higher-end

1. [Paste Bangkok](#)
2. [Nahm](#)
3. [Saawaan](#)
4. [Eat Me](#)

Mid-range

1. [The Local](#)
2. [Khua Kling Pak Sod](#)
3. [Sri Trat](#)

Casual and Street Food

1. [Somtum Der](#)
2. [Yaowarat](#) (Chinatown)
3. [Lay Lao](#) (Ari and Silom)
4. Feel like exploring? [Check this out.](#)

Places for Group Dinners

1. [Baan Khanitha](#) (Sathorn): Great Thai food in an old-fashioned house. They can make vegan, vegetarian, and Muslim-friendly dishes.
2. [Fatboy Izakaya](#): Fatboy Izakaya is a trendy, modern spot with communal tatami seating, making it perfect for groups. The menu is packed with creative dishes like wagyu rolls with truffle oil, and their cocktails are equally innovative, featuring flavors like yuzu and passionfruit.
3. [Baan Tepa](#): Baan Tepa offers a fine dining experience with a focus on sustainability and zero waste. The 12-course tasting menu is a culinary journey through Thailand, showcasing seasonal ingredients and Chef Tam's influences from across the country.
4. [Potong](#): Housed in a historic, multi-story building, Potong is a culinary gem that blends Thai-Chinese traditions with modern, experimental flavors. Chef Pam's 20-item tasting menu reimagines classic dishes, making it a top choice for special occasions. The Opium Bar on the rooftop is also worth a visit with a lovely view of Yaowarat (Chinatown).

Food Courts

Unlike the USA, where mall food courts are filled with Sbarro, McDonald's, and other fast-food chains that might leave you questioning your life choices, Bangkok's mall food courts are really nice. You'll find lots of healthy, delicious options, typically priced under \$2 USD for a full meal.

While most vendors don't speak English, they often display food in trays or on signage, making it easy to point and choose your meal. Almost every food court has at least one vegan stall and multiple halal food stalls. The [Terminal 21](#) food court is located at the junction of BTS Asok and MRT Sukhumvit stations. I highly recommend grabbing a quick meal there.

Some Regular (and Delicious) Restaurants

If you want to get a feel for the Thai food I eat regularly, head to these restaurants and try these recommended dishes. These spots are within a 10-minute walk from the BTS Skytrain, and meals cost around \$7-10 per person. I've listed the Thai names so you can just show them to the waiter and dig in.

[Krua Taksin](#) (Southern Thai food) - BTS Ratchathewi

- ใบเหลียงผัดไข่ (Pan-fried liang leaves with egg)
- สะตอ ผัดพริกแกงกุ้งสด (Sataw vegetable with curried prawns)
- ยำถั่วพู (Long bean salad with minced pork)
- กุ้งแช่น้ำปลา (Shrimp cooked in fish sauce)
- แกงเขียวหวาน (Green curry)
- ต้มยำกุ้งน้ำข้น (Tom yum shrimp)

Somtam Nua (Isaan Food) - BTS Siam

Somtum is a national dish, served on the street, in fancy restaurants and at this restaurant. The standard recipe is green papaya, fish sauce, and dried shrimp, but it can be made vegetarian too. Somtum Nua is known for their variations, including options with pork and more.

- ผัดขนมจีน (Stir fried noodles)
- ไก่ทอดดำน้ำ (Isaan style fried chicken)
- ลาบหมู (Minced pork salad) น้ำตกหมู (Grilled pork salad)

Porwa (Northern Thai Food) - BTS Phaya Thai

- ตำขม (Jackfruit salad with minced pork)
- ข้าวซอย (Northern style curry noodles)
- ไส้อั่ว (Northern style pork sausage)
- แกงโฮะ (Northern style curry)
- ข้าวเหนียว (Sticky rice)

Koko Siam Square (Central Thai Food) - BTS Siam

- เต้าหู้ผัดฉ่า or เห็ดนางฟ้าทอดผัดฉ่า (Tofu or mushrooms stir-fried with peppercorns)
- ทะเลผัดฉ่า (Seafood stir-fried with peppercorns)
- เห็ดหอมทอดแดดเดียว ผัดกระเพรา (Fried mushroom with chili and Thai basil)
- ปลาหั่นทึบทอดลادنํ้าตก (Deep fried whole fish with spicy sauce)
- ก๋วยเตี๋ยวคั่วไก่ (Noodles with chicken)
- คอหมูย่าง (Grilled pork shoulder)
- แพนงหมู or แพนงเต้าหู้ (Penang curry with pork or tofu)

BARS AND CLUBS

Rooftop Bars

1. [Bar.Yard](#) (Kimpton Maa-Lai Hotel)
2. [Sky Beach Bangkok](#) (The Standard Mahanakhon)
3. [Brewski](#) (Radisson Blu)
4. [Octave Rooftop Bar & Lounge](#) (Bangkok Marriott)
5. [Above Eleven](#) (Fraser Suites)
6. [Red Sky](#) (Centara Grand Central World)
7. [Moon Bar](#) (Banyan Tree Hotel)
8. [Scarlett](#) (Pullman Bangkok Hotel G)

Cocktail Bars

1. [Vesper](#)
2. [Smalls](#)
3. [Havana Social Club](#)
4. [Maggie Choo's](#)

Nightclubs

1. [Top 10 Best Bangkok Nightclubs](#) (Thaiger)

LGBT Bars & Drag Shows

1. [Rush BKK](#)
2. Circus
3. [House of Heals](#)
4. [The Stranger Bar](#)

Cool Places to Check Out

Soi Nana area (NOTE: This is Soi Nana in Chinatown, not Nana Plaza in the red light district)

1. [Teens of Thailand](#)
2. [Tep Bar](#)
3. More in [this guide](#) from Time Out

Riverfront:

4. [Baan Rim Naam](#) (Great on weekend afternoons. To get there you have to walk down a bunch of small alleys that twist and turn, it may seem like you're looking for Brigadoon, but if you follow Google Maps, you'll get there.)

Night & Weekend Markets:

5. [Jodd Fairs](#) (Trip Advisor)
6. [Chatuchak Market](#)
7. [Train Night Market Ratchada](#) (TAT)

SHOPPING

Thailand is the land of malls. One part of Sukhumvit Road has several giant malls in a row. In malls, you'll find everything from Lamborghinis to McDonald's, movie theaters with assigned

seating, and Michelin-starred restaurants. Enjoy the respite from the heat, but also check out the many outdoor street markets where you'll experience a more authentic version of Thai culture.

1. [Chatuchak Weekend Market](#): If you're here on a weekend, don't miss this giant outdoor market with everything from unique clothes to reptiles to housewares. Take the BTS to the Mo Chit station and follow the crowds. It gets hot, though, so I like to go at the start or end of the day when the sun is milder.
2. [Siam Paragon](#): You'll find just about anything here, from designer imports to local clothes.
3. [Siam Center](#): Many local Thai designers have boutiques here, not to be missed if you like fashion.
4. [ICON Siam](#): Located on the river, this mall has a Thai architectural influence and is filled with shops inspired by Thai culture.
5. [Apple Stores](#): We've got four of them and prices may or may not be cheaper than in your country.

SIGHTSEEING & CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

1. [Bangkok Green Mile and Benjakitti Forest Park](#)
2. [Canal boat tour](#)
3. [River City](#) (art galleries)
4. [Grand Postal Building](#)
5. [Asiatique](#) (markets, restaurants, Ferris Wheel)
6. [Bangkok Thai Cooking Academy](#) (cooking class)
7. [Bangkok Forensic Museum](#) (Siriraj Hospital)
8. [Museum of Siam](#)
9. [Wat Pho](#) and the Reclining Buddha
10. [Grand Palace](#) and Temple of the [Emerald Buddha](#)
11. [Bangkok National Museum](#)
12. [Jim Thompson House](#) Museum
13. [Wat Arun](#) (Temple of Dawn)
14. Find more museums at [this link](#)

CANNABIS CULTURE

Cannabis is (basically) fully legal in Thailand and is sold everywhere. There's talk the government will change the laws, but that won't happen until sometime in 2025 (if ever). Smoking in public is still illegal, though; either smoke on your hotel balcony or in a smoking room at a dispensary or bar. Some bars will have outdoor weed smoking areas, if you see locals smoking weed somewhere, it's (probably) safe to light up; otherwise, don't.

1. [Cannabis Twins](#) (Silom & Phloen Chit)
2. [Fat Buds Bangkok](#) (Sathorn, Sukhumvit, On Nut)
3. [Plantopia - Weed City](#) (Khao San Road)

SIDE TRIPS

Things to do in 1-3 days via car

It's both easy and affordable to rent a car and driver for the day in Thailand. Depending on your fuel usage, you can expect to pay around \$100/day. You can arrange this through the Grab app or by asking your hotel to assist.

1. [Koh Samet](#): A popular island getaway about 2-3 hours south of Bangkok, often visited by locals on long weekends. If you're looking for a lively atmosphere with beach parties and dancing, [Silver Sands](#) is the place to stay. For a more relaxed experience, consider the quieter vibe of [Vimarn Resort](#).
2. [Ayutthaya](#): The former capital of Thailand and a UNESCO World Heritage site, Ayutthaya makes for a fascinating day trip from Bangkok. The ancient temples and towering stupas have a quiet, haunting beauty that feels timeless. As the day winds down, the golden light of sunset casts long shadows and a warm glow over the ruins, making the red brick structures seem to come alive. The way the light plays off the intricate carvings and weathered stone creates a serene atmosphere. You can hire a Grab car for a round-trip, allowing you to explore the ancient ruins and temples at your own pace.
3. [Pattaya](#): Located just a few hours from Bangkok, Pattaya is a convenient beach destination, though not the most picturesque. The southern area is known for its nightlife and red-light district, while the central and northern parts are more family-friendly. I recommend staying at [Siam@Siam](#) for a good balance of style and comfort.
4. [Khao Yai National Park](#): Located about three hours northeast of Bangkok, Khao Yai National Park offers a refreshing escape into nature. It's Thailand's first national park and a UNESCO World Heritage site, home to diverse wildlife, including elephants, gibbons, and over 300 species of birds. You can hike through lush trails leading to beautiful waterfalls like Haew Narok and Haew Suwat. If you're into stargazing, Khao Yai's clear skies at night offer incredible views of the stars.
5. [Kanchanaburi](#): About three hours from Bangkok, it blends history and nature. Famous for the Bridge over the River Kwai, built by POWs during WWII, it's a must-visit for history buffs. You can explore the "Death Railway" and Hellfire Pass to reflect on the past. For a unique stay, try a floating raft hotel on the river. Options like [The Float House](#) and [Jungle Rafts](#) let you sleep on the water, surrounded by serene jungle. Activities include kayaking,

swimming, and visiting nearby waterfalls, making it a perfect nature escape with a historical twist. Information on transportation [here](#).

PHUKET, KRABI & THE SOUTH (Beaches)

Phuket and Krabi are stunning. The dramatic limestone karsts of Krabi and the vibrant beaches of Phuket offer some of the most breathtaking natural beauty you'll find anywhere. Whether it's exploring hidden coves by boat or watching the sunset over the Andaman Sea, there's something magical about the way nature surrounds you in these places. Koh Samui is in the Gulf of Thailand off the coast of Surat Thani. You can fly directly to Samui, but it's often pricey. An alternative is to fly to Surat Thani and take a boat, but it takes a long time. Samui is the second largest island after Phuket and is easily explored on a scooter.

Phuket ([TAT information](#))

1. [The Slate](#)
2. [Como Point Yamu](#)
3. [Amanpuri](#)
4. [Baba Beach Club](#)
5. [Sripanwa](#)
6. [Rosewood](#)

Krabi ([TAT information](#))

1. The ShellSea Krabi
2. [Centara Grand](#)
3. [BlueSotel](#) (Adults only)

Koh Samui ([TAT information](#))

1. [Four Seasons](#)
2. [OZO Chaweng Samui](#)

CHIANG MAI & THE NORTH (Mountains)

Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai are stunning, especially at the end of the year when the rainy season has just passed, leaving the hills lush and vibrant green. The cooler weather makes it perfect for exploring, whether you want to relax in a luxury hotel or head into the mountains for trekking adventures. You can even stay with hill tribe villagers, experiencing their way of life up close. It's an incredible contrast between the natural beauty of the hills and the cultural richness you'll find in both cities.

1. [Anantara Chiang Mai Resort](#)

2. [Melia Chiang Mai](#)
3. [Four Seasons Chiang Rai](#) (Luxury tree houses!)
4. [Tong Tem Toh](#) (for excellent Northern Thai food)

DOMESTIC AIRLINES

Any of these are fine, and the prices are all pretty competitive. I usually pick the one with the best timing. Most domestic flights are out of the older Don Meung airport (DMK), but some are out of the newer Suvarnabhumi airport (BKK). If you are planning a domestic flight to line up with an international flight, I'd aim for the BKK airport; otherwise, DMK is better (faster).

- [Nok Air](#)
- [AirAsia](#)
- [Thai Airways](#)
- [Thai VietJet](#)

ELEPHANT TOURISM

Elephants have played a significant role in Thailand's history, once used in warfare and appearing on the national flag during the reign of King Rama V. Unfortunately, many modern elephant tourism activities like riding, football, and painting are cruel and harmful to the animals. The only ethical way to experience elephants is by visiting a sanctuary, where you can volunteer by paying a small fee. These sanctuaries offer a magical experience up close and personal with these majestic creatures.

1. [Elephant Nature Park](#) (Chiang Mai)
2. [Bukit Elephant Park](#) (Phuket)
3. [Bangkok Elephant Care Sanctuary](#) (Outside of Bangkok)
4. [Following Giants](#) (Krabi & Ko Lanta)
5. [Somboon Legacy Foundation](#) (Kanchanaburi)
6. [Bless](#) (Sukhothai)
7. [Kindred Spirit Elephant Sanctuary](#) (Chiang Mai)
8. Isara Foundation (Chiang Mai)
9. [Bees](#) (Chiang Mai)

RELIGION IN THAILAND

- Buddhism: 94%
- Islam: 4%
- Christianity: 1%

- Other: <1%

BUDDHISM

Buddhism is the predominant religion in Thailand, and you'll find many temples (wats) throughout Bangkok. These temples are great places to escape the madness of the city and do some sitting or walking meditation. Remember to take off your shoes when entering, look for a place with a pile of shoes as a sign. Thai monks follow 227 precepts, including not touching women, so female visitors should be aware of this. Other than that, there's no separation by sex.

Here are some temples you might want to visit:

- [Wat Pathum Wanaram Ratchaworawihan](#): Located near Siam Paragon on royal land, it's a great place for a very local experience. There's a big meditation sala that can be used, and also a nice walking meditation area.
- [Grand Palace](#): This is the most famous temple complex in Bangkok. It's huge and magnificent. The [dress code](#) is strict: no shorts, no mini-skirts, and no exposed shoulders.
- [Wat Pho](#): One of my favorites! The reclining Buddha is a work of art, especially the mother of pearl inlay on his feet.
- [Wat Arun](#): Another favorite. I love how understated and simple it is. Fun fact: the Chinese statues all over were originally used as ballast on Chinese trade ships.

CHRISTIANITY

Christianity, including both Protestant and Catholic denominations, makes up a small portion of the Thai population. However, there are several notable churches in Bangkok:

- [Holy Redeemer Church](#): Regularly used by the local Catholic community, this church is known for its beautiful architecture and serene atmosphere.
- [Assumption Cathedral](#): Located near the Chao Phraya River, this historical Catholic church dates back to the early 19th century and features stunning stained glass windows.
- [Christ Church Bangkok](#): An Anglican church established in the early 20th century, known for its active community and welcoming atmosphere.
- [Santa Cruz Church](#): A beautiful Catholic church with a long history, located in the Thonburi district. It's one of the oldest churches in Bangkok.

ISLAM

Thailand is known for its hospitality and respect for different religions, so finding halal food is very easy. There is a large Middle Eastern neighborhood with hundreds of restaurants and hotels. Most bars will have a large selection of mocktails as it's common for Thais to eschew alcohol.

either because they're allergic, or because of the Buddhist proscription on getting drunk (which some people interpret to mean abstaining from all alcohol).

Here are some mosques to visit:

- [Darul Aman Mosque](#): Located near the Ratchathewi BTS stop, this mosque is over 100 years old and is situated in a small, local Muslim community full of street food and small halal restaurants.
- [Haroon Mosque](#): One of the oldest mosques in Bangkok, located near the Chao Phraya River. It has a rich history and is central to the local Muslim community.
- [Tonson Mosque](#): The oldest mosque in Bangkok, with a history dating back over 300 years. It's a beautiful place to visit and learn about the history of Islam in Thailand.
- [Bang Uthit Mosque](#): Another notable mosque known for its community activities and welcoming atmosphere.

LGBT+ TRAVELERS

Thailand is a very safe and welcoming place for LGBT+ travelers, and recently became the [first country in Southeast Asia](#) with marriage equality. Thai culture and the Thai language have long understood gender to be fluid and non-binary.

SOLO WOMEN TRAVELERS

As usual, with a big city, it's a good idea to keep your wits about you, but Bangkok is generally a safe destination for solo travelers. In my 14 years, the only horror story I heard from a solo female driver was a purse snatching when she was on a motorcycle taxi. Crime in general is very low; it's usually too damn hot.

VEGETARIAN & VEGAN FOOD

It's easy to find vegetarian and vegan food in Thailand. Thailand is predominantly Buddhist, and while some people take the Buddha's teaching of "not killing" literally, meaning they shouldn't fish or hunt, many people understand it to mean that one should not eat meat either. While this doesn't mean that the country is predominantly vegetarian, it does mean there is a lot of respect for those who eat vegetarian food. While vegetarian food is easy to get anywhere, you may want to watch out for fish sauce. Sometimes if you order a plate of vegetables from a street vendor they'll come cooked in fish sauce unless you say ไม่เอาน้ำปลา (mai-ao-naam-pla).

- [Amarin Plaza](#) Food Court
- [Terminal 21](#) Food Court (near Queen Sirikit Convention Center)
- [Bamboo Garden](#): Soi Ari Vegan Street Food

- [KoKo Siam Square](#)
- [Broccoli Revolution](#)

SPICY FOOD

Yes, Thai food is spicy, but it doesn't have to be. Plenty of dishes are traditionally not made with chillies, and you can (generally) ask for food to be made not spicy. Of course, you'll have no problem if you love spicy food.

CULTURE NOTES

Eating Out

Thai food is served family style. When going to a restaurant, it's customary for the server to seat you, bring menus, and then just stand there and wait for people to start ordering. Generally, people will just start yelling out dishes, which will be cooked and served in whatever order the kitchen feels like. As it's assumed everyone will share everything, it is not common for dishes to be served simultaneously. In Thai culture, it's customary for the oldest (or sometimes richest) person at the table to pay the bill. That said, if you have a business meal with a Thai person and they offer to pay, it's polite to let them, even if they're younger. If splitting the bill with multiple people, be prepared to use cash. Don't ask the server to split the bill between 5+ cards; they won't do it.

The Monarchy

Thailand has a [very strict lese-majeste law](#) that applies equally to foreigners. Take this VERY seriously, you could find yourself spending years in jail for something like insulting the monarchy and there is nothing your embassy will be able to do to help.

Feet

Feet are considered dirty and should be used only for ambulatory purposes. Always take off your shoes when entering someone's home (and many businesses), do not use your feet to point things out, and if you ever drop a coin on the ground do not step on it to stop it from rolling.

MASSAGES & ONSENS

Thailand is famous for traditional Thai massage, and you'll find small massage places on virtually every street where you can get a Thai massage or a foot massage for \$5-10. Yunomori is a Japanese-style onsen where you can get a massage, soak in hot water, take a sauna and steam, and escape from the madness of the city.

1. [Health Land Spa](#)
2. [Yunomori Onsen](#)
3. [Let's Relax Massage & Onsen](#)

MEDICAL & DENTAL

Thailand is a hub for medical tourism and has world-class healthcare. Private hospitals are very affordable, and you'll find doctors who speak English, Arabic, Tagalog, and Mandarin.

HEALTH CHECKUPS & EMERGENCIES

A full-on, super-everything annual medical checkup will run you 400-1000 USD, depending on age and gender. Most places only require you to book it the day before.

1. [Bumrungrad](#)
2. [Samitivej](#)
3. [BNH Hospital](#)

DENTAL WORK

Dental work is VERY affordable in Thailand. A cleaning will cost you around \$20 USD and filling cavities is about the same. You can also get laser teeth whitening for a few hundred USD.

1. [Bumrungrad](#)
2. [Bangkok Smile](#) (Silom)

DERMATOLOGIST

There are dermatologists everywhere in Bangkok, which is (partially) why everyone in town has amazing skin (that and the ever-present humidity).

1. [Bumrungrad](#)

LINKS

Here are a few links that might be helpful for your trip planning:

1. *The 20 Best Things to Do in Bangkok* [[Condé Nast Traveler](#)]
2. *2025 Destination of the Year: Thailand* [[Travel + Leisure](#)]
3. *Move over London and Paris – Bangkok is the definitive city of the 2020s* [[The Telegraph](#)]
4. *All About Songkran (Thai new year in April)* [[Tourism Authority of Thailand](#)]