Asia Concierge

THE ART OF TRAVEL DESIGN



THE CULTURAL COMPANION

THAILAND

BOOKS, FILMS AND SERIES TO ENJOY BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

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Long before you land in Bangkok, Thailand can begin to unfold on the page and on screen. From a classic saga of palace life to the prisoners of war who built the Death Railway near the River Kwai, these are the books, films and series we recommend to help you arrive already a little in love with the Land of Smiles.

TO READ

FICTION



The Beach · Alex Garland · 1996

A backpacker follows a hand-drawn map to a hidden lagoon in the Gulf of Thailand, where a secret traveller community slowly unravels.

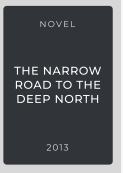
UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



Four Reigns · Kukrit Pramoj · 1953

A beloved Thai classic following a woman raised in the Grand Palace through four reigns of change, from the 1890s to the 1940s.

UK AMAZON
USA AMAZON



The Narrow Road to the Deep North · Richard Flanagan · 2013

The Booker Prize-winning novel of an Australian surgeon held as a prisoner of war on the Thai–Burma "Death Railway".

UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
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Sightseeing · Rattawut Lapcharoensap · 2005

Warm, funny short stories told by young Thais living alongside the tourist trade, from Bangkok side streets to the islands.

UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



Bangkok 8 · John Burdett · 2003

A stylish crime novel featuring a devout Buddhist detective navigating the city's nightlife, temples and back alleys.

UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



The Sad Part Was · Prabda Yoon · 2017

Playful, inventive short stories from one of Bangkok's most original contemporary writers.

UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS

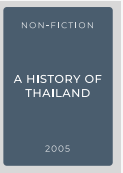
NON-FICTION



The Railway Man · Eric Lomax · 1995

A British officer's extraordinary memoir of forced labour on the railway and, decades later, meeting one of his captors.

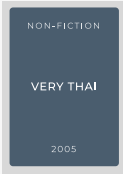
UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



A History of Thailand · Chris Baker & Pasuk Phongpaichit · 2005

A clear, readable account of how the kingdom of Siam became modern Thailand.

UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



Very Thai · Philip Cornwel-Smith · 2005

A colourful, photo-rich guide to everyday Thai popular culture: street food carts, spirit houses, tuk-tuks and much more.

UK AMAZON
USA AMAZON



Bangkok Found · Alex Kerr · 2010

Thoughtful essays on the hidden logic and charm of the Thai capital.

UK AMAZON
USA AMAZON

TO WATCH

FILMS & SERIES



The White Lotus: Season 3 · Mike White · 2025

The award-winning satire checks into a luxury wellness resort on Koh Samui, with Bangkok and Phuket also on screen.

UK HBO MAX · SKY GO
USA HBO MAX · AMAZON



The Railway Man · Jonathan Teplitzky · 2013

Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman star in the film of Eric Lomax's memoir.

UK APPLE TV · AMAZON
USA APPLE TV · AMAZON



Thirteen Lives · Ron Howard · 2022

A gripping drama about the 2018 rescue of a youth football team trapped in the flooded Tham Luang cave in Chiang Rai.

UK PRIME VIDEO · APPLE TV
USA PRIME VIDEO · APPLE TV



How to Make Millions Before Grandma Dies · Pat Boonnitipat · 2024

A tender, funny Thai family drama set in a Bangkok Chinese neighbourhood, a box-office hit across Asia.

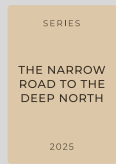
UK NETFLIX · APPLE TV
USA NETFLIX · APPLE TV



The Bridge on the River Kwai · David Lean · 1957

The seven-time Oscar-winning classic about British prisoners of war forced to build a railway bridge near Kanchanaburi.

UK NETFLIX · APPLE TV
USA APPLE TV · AMAZON



The Narrow Road to the Deep North · Justin Kurzel · 2025

Jacob Elordi stars in the acclaimed series adaptation of Richard Flanagan's novel.

UK BBC IPLAYER
USA PRIME VIDEO · APPLE TV



Bad Genius · Nattawut Poonpiriya · 2017

A slick, hugely entertaining Thai heist thriller about a brilliant student running an exam-cheating ring.

UK APPLE TV
USA NETFLIX · APPLE TV

DOCUMENTARIES & TRAVEL SERIES



The Rescue · Chai Vasarhelyi & Jimmy Chin · 2021

The real story of the Tham Luang cave rescue, told by the British cave divers at its heart.

UK DISNEY+
USA DISNEY+



Rick Stein's Far Eastern Odyssey · BBC · 2009

Rick Stein explores the cooking of Southeast Asia, from Bangkok's street food to the south.

UK SKY GO · U (UKTV)
USA PRIME VIDEO



Street Food: Asia · Netflix · 2019

The Bangkok episode follows Michelin-starred street cook Jay Fai and her famous crab omelette.

UK NETFLIX
USA NETFLIX

YOUTUBE CHANNELS TO FOLLOW



Paddy Doyle · @PaddyDoyleYT

British vlogger based in Thailand, famous for riding his motorbike through every Thai province.

WATCH YOUTUBE



Mark Wiens · @MarkWiens

Bangkok-based food vlogger, famous for his joyful street-food videos across Asia.

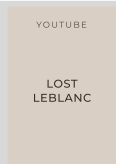
WATCH YOUTUBE



Gary Butler · @GaryButler

Travel vlogs from around Thailand.

WATCH YOUTUBE



Lost LeBlanc · @LostLeBlanc

Christian LeBlanc's cinematic travel films from across Asia.

WATCH YOUTUBE

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WE KNOW ASIA INTIMATELY.

ASIA KNOWS US.

VIETNAM · CAMBODIA · LAOS · THAILAND
INDONESIA · SINGAPORE · JAPAN · CHINA

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