



Asia Concierge

THE ART OF TRAVEL DESIGN



COUNTRY INFORMATION, FACTS & ADVICE

Thailand



Asia Concierge

THE ART OF EVENT DESIGN

● ARRIVING INTO THAILAND

Passport and Visa

As of June 2024, travellers from 93 countries are able to stay in Thailand for up to 60 days without prior approval, or a visa.

To find out if your country is included on this visa exemption list please check the below link.

[Thailand Visa Exemption.](#)

Entry Information

All travellers can freely travel to Thailand by air, sea and land. However, travel insurance is highly recommended for the duration of your entire trip.

Note: Travellers must check with the airlines for any travel requirements in case they transit a country before arriving in Thailand.

Useful tips:

- Check your passport expiry date and ensure it is valid for more than six months beyond the date of your expected return to your country.
- Ensure you have at least two blank pages in your passport prior to arrival in each country of your journey.
- Print all important documents and keep them handy, such as airline tickets and visa approval letters.
- If your passport is lost or stolen overseas, please contact your local Asia Concierge representative or hotel staff. They will assist you in contacting the relevant embassy or consulate.

Whilst we do our best to provide the most up-to-date information, visa requirements may change at short notice. Obtaining the correct visa is the responsibility of each guest. Therefore, we recommend that you check with your consulate or embassy for current visa information before leaving home.

● KEEPING HEALTHY IN THAILAND

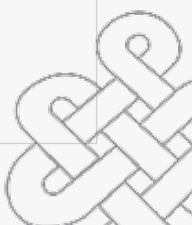
Vaccinations

Staying up-to-date with your vaccinations is a crucial part of your pre-holiday planning and it is important to seek professional medical advice for your specific requirements. If you are traveling to remote areas, you may also consider preparing a medical kit.

Special Requirements

If you are on prescribed medication, ensure that you take a copy of your prescriptions in case of loss of supply. Be sure to pack enough medication in your hand luggage for the duration of your trip as it may not be available locally. It is important to keep it in its original packaging. Check with the relevant embassy or consulate that your medication is legal in the countries you plan to visit and find out whether you need to take a doctor's letter with you.

Please advise an Asia Concierge Travel Designer of any special dietary requirements or allergies at least four weeks prior to departure. Every effort will be made to comply with your request. Travellers with physical disabilities and those who require frequent or on-going medical attention should advise Asia Concierge of their situation at the time of booking or at the earliest possible opportunity.





Asia Concierge

THE ART OF EVENT DESIGN

● TIPPING

Tips are not expected in Thailand, however providing a little extra can go a long way for those in the service industry. Generally, adding 10% to bills in restaurants and rounding taxi fares up is a good way to show the appreciation. If stay in a hotel with room service, it is a good idea to leave a dollar or two per day for the housekeeping staff and bell boys. It also polite to leave a donation when visit any of the wats (temples).

Type of Service (USD)	1	2	3	4	5-9	10 >
Guide (or Trip Leader)	15.00	12.00	10.00	8.00	6.00	5.00
Driver (or Tour Assistant)	8.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	2.50
Hotel Porters			1.00 per service			
Local Service Providers			1.00 per service			

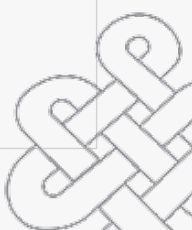
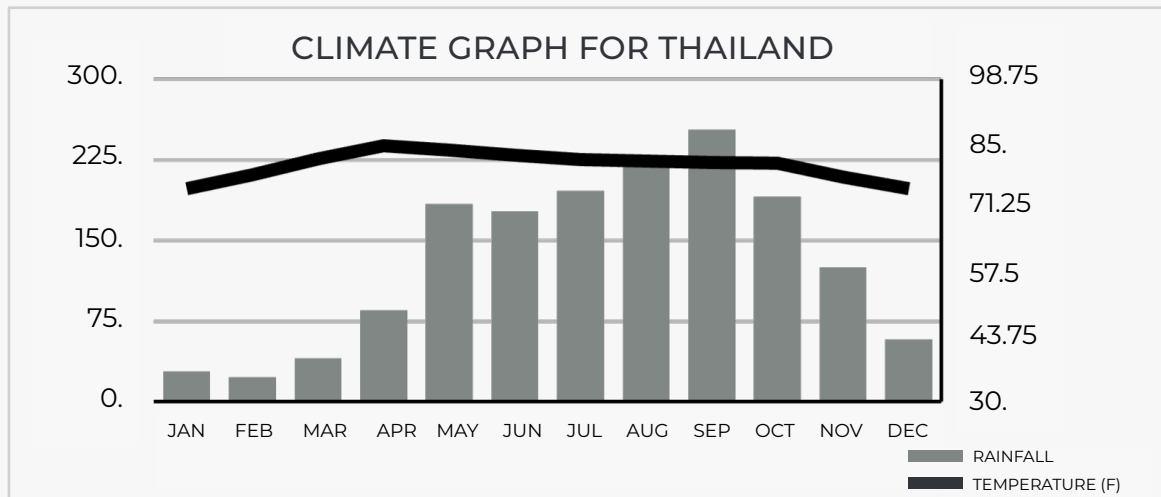
The above tipping guidelines are recommendations only and are not compulsory. Please use your own discretion in tipping based on quality of service.

● WEATHER

Thailand can best be described as tropical and humid for most of the country throughout the year. The area of Thailand north of Bangkok has a climate determined by three seasons while the southern peninsular region of Thailand has only two.

In northern Thailand the seasons are clearly defined. Between November and May the weather is mostly dry, however this is broken up into the periods November to February and March to May. The later of these two periods has the higher relative temperatures as although the northeast monsoon does not directly affect the northern area of Thailand, it does cause cooling breezes from November to February. The other northern season is from May to November and is dominated by the southwest monsoon, during which time rainfall in the north is at its heaviest.

The southern region of Thailand really has only two seasons - the wet and the dry. These seasons do not run at the same time on both the east and west side of the peninsula. On the west coast the southwest monsoon brings rain and often heavy storms from April through to October, while on the east coast the most rain falls between September and December.





Asia Concierge

THE ART OF EVENT DESIGN

● WHAT TO PACK

Light and comfortable cotton or linen clothing is recommended for the summer months, while warmer clothes for the winter months are recommended. Good walking shoes or sandals for touring are also beneficial.

For women, shorts are acceptable, however keep in mind that the Vietnamese tend to dress conservatively, and very revealing clothing may be frowned upon outside of the cities. Smart/casual dress is adequate for dinner restaurants.

A hat, sunscreen, sunglasses and regular sun protection are recommended to protect against the sun and heat, particularly if you are planning to spend a lot of time visiting the many interesting sites which are outdoors.

When visiting temples and shrines, it is best to dress conservatively as visitors may be refused entry if not dressed appropriately. It is often a requirement to wear a long skirt or trousers that cover the knees as well as long sleeves to cover the arms and shoulders. Avoid any see-through clothing. You may also be required to remove any footwear, so sandals may be more convenient. Your travel expert will always be on hand to advise in such situations.

It is recommended to bring along a universal travel adaptor. The voltage supply in Thailand is 220v 50Hz. Sockets are sometimes fit for two or three round prongs and sometimes two parallel blades.

● MONEY

Currency & Exchange

Thailand's currency is the Thai Baht (THB). Denominations include 20, 50, 100, 500, and 1,000 in notes. It is recommended to have some local currency at hand.

You may also choose to purchase currency in advance, though it's possibly not necessary as it is not common to pay with a credit card at restaurants, cafes or shops for small purchases and if you do often there will be a surcharge applied or minimum charge required. It's advisable to request bank notes in smaller denominations, as it can sometimes be hard to get change from large notes and smaller notes are handy for smaller purchases and gratuities.

Credit Cards

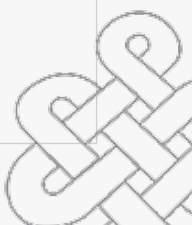
Visa, MasterCard and American Express are accepted in most major shopping centres, restaurants and hotels. Discover and Diners Club are far less commonly accepted

Traveler's Checks

Traveller's Cheques are not recommended as they're often difficult to exchange and incur high fees.

Banks & ATMs

Exchange Counters are generally open 07.00am to 20.00pm. Euros, British Pounds, US Dollars and other major currencies can be exchanged at banks or exchange offices located throughout the cities. ATMs can be found everywhere with the exception of the hill tribe areas of Chiang Rai and if en-route between Chiang Rai and Chiang Khong border if crossing to Laos.





Asia Concierge

THE ART OF EVENT DESIGN

● TIME ZONE

Thailand Standard Time (THA) is GMT + 7 hours, Pacific time + 15 hours, and Eastern Time + 12 hours. Daylight saving is not observed.

● SHOPPING

Offering a mix of contemporary and traditional shopping opportunities, Thailand has an excellent reputation for providing top quality items at low prices as well as having a notorious trade in 'copies' or fake goods. Items for which Thailand is famous include Thai silk, tailored clothing, colourful hill-tribe artefacts and finely crafted silver jewellery. Even the smallest Thai town has a market offering fresh produce with larger ones selling everything from household items to crafts and artefacts.

Bangkok itself has several famous markets, including the vast Chatuchak market held each weekend with more than 6,000 stalls selling everything from seafood to second-hand jeans to antiques, textiles and food. Take the opportunity to visit the wonderfully aromatic stalls of the Pakklong Talad (Flower) market and visit any one of the many night markets including Khao San, Patpong and Sukhumvit.

Negotiating

Prices in department stores are fixed, however, in markets bargaining is expected. If bargaining, figure out what the going rate is so that your starting offer is not embarrassingly low. Once bargaining has started, there is an expectation that you intend to purchase the goods and are not just bargaining for 'fun'. Remember to keep a smile on your face the whole time and do not get stressed or aggressive with the vendor. If the price hasn't dropped enough to suit your budget, simply walk away. If the vendor wants the sale he will chase after you, if not, you are likely to be able to find the same thing elsewhere for cheaper.

Duty Free Allowance

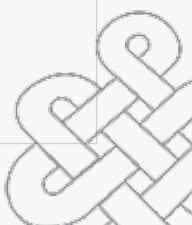
Travellers are permitted to bring into Thailand: 200 cigarettes or 250g of cigars or tobacco, 1 litre of alcohol, Goods to the value of USD 288.

The following are banned from bringing into Thailand: Obscene and pornographic objects and publications, goods displaying the Thai national flag, narcotics, counterfeit currency, fake Royal/official seals, and pirated and counterfeit goods. Restricted imports include drugs, food, weapons and ammunition, antiques, artworks, and endangered species.

Useful tips :

- Take your purchases home with you wherever possible to avoid complications with additional shipping fees, customs duties and regulations. Also, airfreight and shipments can sometimes take months to arrive.
- Avoid purchasing expensive items unless you are certain of its quality and value. Some vendors may overstate the value of their goods, even in shops recommended by Asia Concierge. While our guides will try to assist wherever possible, they are not authorities on antiques or rare items.
- Take the time to read credit card slips and calculate the exchange rate before signing.
- Retain receipts of your purchases as you may be asked to provide proof of purchase to local officials when exiting the country. You may also need to present it to customs on your return home.

Your travel expert may suggest vendors for specific items as a courtesy. This is not an endorsement. All purchases are your responsibility. Asia Concierge is not liable for product issues or shipping problems.





Asia Concierge

THE ART OF EVENT DESIGN

● LOCAL FOOD & DRINK

Due to the vast numbers of tourists that head to Thailand every year, food hygiene standards have risen to accommodate the requirements of foreigners. Restaurants that look clean and aren't abnormally empty will generally serve good, safe food and street food is also usually fine to eat provided the food hasn't been sitting in the sun for extended period while being exposed to open air. Be wary of meat and fish that might not have been cooked properly and insist that it is served hot before consuming. Be assured that your travel expert will only serve or recommend food that is safe to eat.

Drinking Water

Tap water in Thailand is not considered safe to drink. It's recommended to only drink bottled mineral water, which is readily available in hotels, shops and restaurants; or purified water, also avoid ice in your drinks unless it is made from clean water. When eating or drinking with your travel expert he/she will ensure that all food and drink is safe and will inform you otherwise. Exercise caution when eating and drinking outside reputable hotels and restaurants, and please dine at places recommended by your Asia Concierge travel expert or representative as many local restaurants do not follow typical food hygiene practices.

**Please advise Asia Concierge Travel Designer of any special dietary requirements or allergies at least four weeks prior to departure **

● CUSTOMS, ETIQUETTE & USEFUL INFORMATION

Visiting Temples

When entering temples in Thailand it is important to remember to take shoes off beforehand. Women wearing trousers or a short skirt will usually be required to put a long skirt on over the top. These are available to borrow at most temples. It is never acceptable to touch somebody on the head in Thailand as it is the highest point of the body and therefore considered the most important and holy. On the other hand, feet are the lowest part of the body and gesturing with them will often be considered disrespectful.

Travelling During Public Holidays

Many Thais celebrate public holidays by visiting friends and relatives that live in other provinces so, during these times, many hotels and trains will be fully booked. In addition to certain national holidays the most important holiday is Thai New Year (Songkran) 13-15 April every year. If your travel plans coincide with any major festivals, it is best to make sure you book everything in advance to avoid disappointment. If you are travelling on the roads, be aware that the traffic might be much heavier than usual.

Thailand

