Soi Map

Bangkok's Hidden Gems

16 places most visitors miss. Show the Thai name to your driver.

01 Kudi Chin & Santa Cruz Church ชุมชนกุฎีจีน

CULTURE · ●●●

A 250-year-old Portuguese-Thai community with a pastel church, narrow lanes and family bakeries still making khanom farang, a Portuguese-style cupcake.

Get there: Cross-river ferry to Wat Kanlayanamit pier, then a 5-minute riverside walk. **When:** Mornings, when the bakeries are fresh **Cost:** Free

02 Khlong Bang Luang & the Artist's House บ้านศิลปิน คลองบางหลวง

ART & DESIGN · ●●○

A 200-year-old canal-side wooden house turned art space, with a free traditional Thai puppet show most afternoons and cafés along the water.

Get there: MRT Bang Phai, then a 15-minute walk or short Grab. **When:** Early afternoon — check puppet show days before you go **Cost:** Free (donations welcome)

03 Bang Krachao, the green lung บางกระเจ้า

GREEN ESCAPES · ●●○

A jungle-covered loop of the river with raised cycle paths, a big botanical park and, at weekends, a laid-back local floating market. Feels a world away from Sukhumvit.

Get there: Longtail ferry from Khlong Toei Nok pier, then rent a bike on the other side. **When:** Weekend mornings for the market; any day for cycling **Cost:** ฿100–200 for bike rental

04 Ko Kret island เกาะเกร็ด

CULTURE · ●●○

A car-free river island of the Mon people, known for terracotta pottery, fried flowers and lazy walks around its 6 km loop.

Get there: Express boat or Grab to Pak Kret, then a ฿3 cross-river ferry. **When:** Weekends, when the market runs **Cost:** Free

05 Ride the express boat to Nonthaburi ท่าน้ำนนทบุรี

MARKETS · ●●○

The cheapest river cruise in Bangkok: an hour upstream past temples and stilt houses to a riverside market and old clock tower.

Get there: Orange-flag Chao Phraya Express from any central pier to the last stop, N30. **When:** Weekday mornings; boats run less at weekends **Cost:** ~฿16 each way

06 Wang Lang market & Siriraj Medical Museum ตลาดวังหลัง

QUIRKY · ●●○

A busy student-and-nurse market with great cheap snacks, next to one of the world's most unusual (and macabre) medical museums.

Get there: Express boat to Wang Lang (Prannok) pier. **When:** Lunchtime; the museum closes one day a week **Cost:** Market free; museum ~฿200

07 Nang Loeng market ตลาดนางเลิ้ง

FOOD · ●●●

One of Bangkok's oldest markets, with wooden stalls selling traditional Thai desserts and curries that have barely changed in a century.

Get there: Grab or taxi; 15 minutes from the Golden Mount. **When:** Weekday late mornings and lunch **Cost:** ฿50–150 to graze

08 Talat Phlu food neighborhood ตลาดพลู

FOOD · ●●●

A Chinese-Thai district where Bangkokians cross the river for famous old-school noodle shops, crispy pork and Thai desserts.

Get there: BTS Talat Phlu, then walk towards the old railway station. **When:** Lunch or early evening **Cost:** ฿60–200

09 Soi Nana in Chinatown

ART & DESIGN · ●●○

Not the Sukhumvit one. A short lane of shophouse galleries and some of the city's most atmospheric small bars.

Get there: MRT Hua Lamphong or Wat Mangkon, 5 minutes' walk. **When:** Evenings, Thursday to Saturday **Cost:** Drinks ฿250–450

10 Lhong 1919 ล้ง 1919

CULTURE · ●○○

A restored 19th-century Chinese trading pier with a Mazu shrine, faded murals and riverside cafés — a quieter alternative to Icon Siam next door.

Get there: Cross-river ferry from Si Phraya pier, or walk from Icon Siam. **When:** Late afternoon into sunset **Cost:** Free

11 Wat Paknam Phasi Charoen วัดปากน้ำภาษีเจริญ

CULTURE · ●○○

A towering 69-metre Buddha and a white chedi hiding a jaw-dropping green-glass ceiling painted with the cosmos.

Get there: MRT Bang Phai, then 10 minutes' walk. **When:** Mornings, before the heat **Cost:** Free

12 Loha Prasat (the metal castle) โลหะปราสาท

CULTURE · ●●○

A tiered temple of 37 metal spires you can climb inside — most tour groups walk right past it.

Get there: Walk from the Golden Mount or Phan Fa canal-boat pier. **When:** Mornings or late afternoon **Cost:** Free

13 Wat Pariwat (the Beckham temple) วัดปริวาสราชสงคราม

QUIRKY · ●●●

Look closely at the altar and you'll find David Beckham, Pikachu and other pop-culture figures carved among the traditional guardians.

Get there: Grab or taxi from Silom or Saphan Taksin, about 15 minutes. **When:** Any time in daylight **Cost:** Free

14 Chao Mae Tubtim shrine ศาลเจ้าแม่ทับทิม

QUIRKY · ●●●

A fertility shrine piled with hundreds of carved wooden phalluses, tucked by a canal behind a five-star hotel.

Get there: BTS Chit Lom or Phloen Chit, then walk along Witthayu Road. **When:** Daylight **Cost:** Free

15 Khlong Lat Mayom floating market ตลาดน้ำคลองลัดมะยม

MARKETS · ●●○

A floating market where Bangkok families actually go: grilled river prawns, boat noodles and garden stalls — without the tourist-trap prices of Damnoen Saduak.

Get there: Grab, about 40 minutes from downtown. **When:** Saturday and Sunday only, morning to early afternoon **Cost:** ฿200–400 to eat well

16 Bangkokian Museum พิพิธภัณฑ์ชาวบางกอก

CULTURE · ●●●

Three wooden houses still furnished as a middle-class Bangkok family lived in the 1930s–50s. Quiet, charming and often empty.

Get there: 10 minutes' walk from BTS Saphan Taksin or Si Phraya pier. **When:** Mid-week; closed some weekdays, so check first **Cost:** Free or a small donation