Soi Map BANGKOK

# Bangkok Quick-Start Guide

Everything you need for your first days in the city — on four pages.

SOI MAP / CITY ATLAS

TAP A PLACE TO EXPLORE ↗




**01**
Your first 24 hours & getting around

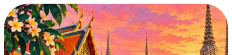
**02**
Neighborhoods, money & what things cost

**03**
Etiquette, scams & useful Thai

ILLUSTRATED NEIGHBORHOOD MAP · NOT TO SCALE

13.7563° N / 100.5018° E





YOUR NEXT CORNER OF THE CITY

01

# Your first 24 hours

- ☐ Install an eSIM before you fly — data from the moment you land
- ☐ Download Grab, Bolt, Google Maps and LINE
- ☐ Withdraw cash at a bank ATM (fee ~฿220 per foreign card) or bring cash to exchange
- ☐ Break big notes at 7-Eleven — taxis rarely have change for ฿1,000
- ☐ Buy a bottle of water and sunscreen; the heat is serious
- ☐ Keep your hotel's address in Thai on your phone

### ✈ Suvarnabhumi (BKK)

**Airport Rail Link** to Phaya Thai or Makkasan, ฿15–45, ~30 min, until ~midnight. **Taxi** from the Level 1 queue: meter + ฿50 fee + tolls, usually ฿350–550.

### ✈ Don Mueang (DMK)

**SRT Red Line** to Krung Thep Aphiwat, then MRT. **Taxi** from Level 1: meter + ฿50 fee + tolls, usually ฿250–450.

# Getting around

| How | Cost | Know this |
|---|---|---|
| **BTS Skytrain & MRT** | ฿17–65 | Fastest in rush hour. Tap a contactless card at the gate or buy a token. |
| **Chao Phraya Express boat** | ฿16–33 | Orange flag = commuter boat. Best way to reach the Old Town. |
| **Grab / Bolt** | ฿80–250 | Fixed price before you book. Surges when it rains. |
| **Metered taxi** | ฿35 + ~฿7/km | Insist on the meter. Pink, green-yellow or blue cars. |
| **Motorbike taxi** | ฿10–60 | Orange vests at the end of every soi. Great for short hops. |
| **Tuk-tuk** | ฿100–300 | Agree the price first. Fun, never the cheapest. |

💡 Avoid road travel 7–9am and 4–8pm. In rush hour the train beats a taxi almost every time.

02

# Neighborhoods at a glance

**Old Town** รัตนโกสินทร์

Temples, palaces and Khao San after dark. Best for first-timers who want the big sights.

**Chinatown** เยาวราช

Neon, street food and gold shops. Best for food lovers.

**Riverside** เจริญกรุง

Grand hotels, galleries and river sunsets. Best for couples.

**Siam** สยาม

The city's crossroads — malls and Skytrain. Best for families.

**Silom & Sathorn** สีลม

Rooftops, Lumphini Park and after-work buzz. Best for business travelers.

**Sukhumvit** สุขุมวิท

Hotels, nightlife and the expat hub. Best for first-timers who want convenience.

**Thonglor & Ekkamai** ทองหล่อ–เอกมัย

Cafés, cocktail bars and trendy Bangkok. Best for repeat visitors.

**Ari** อารีย์

Leafy lanes, cafés and local life. Best for slow travelers.

# What things cost

| | |
|---|---|
| Street-food dish (pad thai, kaphrao, noodles) | ฿50–100 |
| Mango sticky rice | ฿100–150 |
| Fresh coconut | ฿50–80 |
| Thai iced tea / coffee from a stall | ฿30–60 |
| Café latte | ฿80–150 |
| Bottle of water (7-Eleven) | ฿7–15 |
| Beer at 7-Eleven (large Chang/Leo) | ฿55–75 |
| Beer at a bar | ฿100–200 |
| Cocktail at a rooftop bar | ฿400–650 |
| Main course, mid-range Thai restaurant | ฿150–350 |
| Thai massage, 1 hour | ฿300–500 |

**฿50** — A quick street snack
Grilled pork skewers (moo ping) with sticky rice

**฿100** — A proper street-food meal
Pad kaphrao (holy basil stir-fry) with a fried egg, on rice

**฿200** — A feast for one, the local way
Two street dishes, fresh fruit and a drink

**฿500** — A sit-down Thai dinner
Curry, stir-fry, rice and a beer at a mid-range Thai restaurant

**฿1,000** — A night out
Dinner with wine at a well-reviewed modern restaurant

💡 Restaurant prices marked "++" add 10% service and 7% VAT. Tipping isn't expected, but rounding up is appreciated.

03

# Etiquette in one minute

### ✓ Do

- Cover shoulders and knees in temples
- Take shoes off where others do
- Stand for the royal anthem before films
- Smile — it solves most things

### ✗ Don't

- Criticise the monarchy — it's a serious crime
- Touch anyone's head or point your feet
- Raise your voice or lose your temper
- Touch monks (women) or hand things to them directly

# Scams to recognise

| | |
|---|---|
| **"The palace is closed today"** | It isn't. The friendly stranger's tuk-tuk tour ends at a gem shop. |
| **The ฿20 tuk-tuk tour** | Cheap because the driver earns commission at tailors and jewelers. |
| **Taxi with no meter** | Flat prices are 2–3× the meter. Wave down the next one. |
| **Surprise bar bills** | In Patpong and Nana go-go bars, check drink prices first and pay per round. |
| **Gem "investment"** | Thai gems sold to tourists are never worth what you paid. |

# Useful Thai

Men end polite phrases with **khrap**, women with **kha**.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Hello | **sa-wat-dee khrap / kha** | สวัสดี |
| Thank you | **khop khun khrap / kha** | ขอบคุณ |
| How much? | **tao rai?** | เท่าไหร่ |
| Not spicy, please | **mai phet** | ไม่เผ็ด |
| A little spicy | **phet nit noi** | เผ็ดนิดหน่อย |
| Delicious! | **a-roi!** | อร่อย |
| The bill, please | **check bin** | เช็คบิล |
| Meter, please | **perd meter duay** | เปิดมิเตอร์ด้วย |
| No bag, thanks | **mai ao toong** | ไม่เอาถุง |
| Never mind / no worries | **mai pen rai** | ไม่เป็นไร |

**1155** Tourist Police (English)

**1669** Ambulance

**191** Police

**199** Fire