PORS (Pacific Orientation Relocation Services Co., Ltd.) would like to welcome you to Bangkok and Thailand. We hope you and your family will really enjoy this wonderful opportunity to experience life in one of the most beautiful countries in the world. There are many challenges living as an expatriate, Thailand is no exception. However, we are confident that with time, you will see this move as one of the best experiences you have ever had.

This handbook is concise and briefly covers the current issues you may face and need to know about Bangkok. However, the book is recommended for using as a quick reference only.

The Bangkok Guide, written by the Australian-New Zealand Women’s Group is significantly more comprehensive. It is a good guideline which elaborates more about living in Bangkok. Thus, it is valuable as your companion during your stay here.
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PRE-MOVE COUNTDOWN ACTIVITIES

- Arrange a complete physical and receive the required inoculations a month before departure. Hepatitis B, Typhoid is recommended for Bangkok.
- Complete host country resource reading and company orientation material.
- Consider making arrangements for “Power of Attorney”.
- Have any necessary adjustments made in insurance policies.
- Notify local charge accounts of address change or have them cancelled.
- Notify local post office of mailing address changes and provide six to eight weeks’ notice of change to magazines.
- Once departure date is known, inform home delivery services, utilities, etc.
- Secure and become familiar with samples of Thai currency. Familiarize family members.
- Secure the following:
  - Passport – keep with your passport a written record of all immunizations and vaccinations with dates and physicians’ signatures. Immunization, school and local health authorities often require this information.
  - Separate passport for each family member.
  - Birth certificate(s) and marriage certificate.
  - Children’s school records.
  - Letter of credit, reference and competence.
  - Universally accepted credit cards, such as American Express, Master card or Visa card.
  - Travellers Cheques (in home and host country currency). Have cash availability for settling in purposes.
  - Letter from current auto insurer referring to driving record and insurance history.
  - An account in a bank that has Bangkok branches or an open transactional relationship with a Bangkok bank.
  - Large safe-deposit box.
  - Copy of your most recent prescription for glasses, contact lenses and medicines and a spare pair of glasses/lenses.
  - A supply of prescription medicines adequate until local medical contacts can be established.
  - High school certificate, University transcripts/diplomas and employee letters of recommendation.
☐ Arrange for your home country to send pertinent publications to you on a timely basis

☐ Communicate with your receiving office (and us) as to your exact date of arrival in Bangkok and your employment starting date

☐ Receive tax counseling from an experienced international tax expert

☐ Obtain medical and dental records for you and your family

☐ Obtain original or certified copies (translated) of your university degree(s) and transcripts (record of grades). These are often necessary for continuing your education or employment

☐ Execute a will

☐ Make arrangement for support obligations of family members remaining at home

☐ For children, choose a legal guardian. In case of you and your spouse’s unexpected death, the legal guardian will be the only one permitted to take your children back to your home country

☐ Vital documents should be recorded on a checklist with a separate record kept of them. Give a copy of the record to a home country resident, relative or friend and place a copy in your safe deposit box with originals.

☐ Bring all legal documents in your personal luggage – do not send them with your shipment

☐ Prepare a detailed inventory list for the insurance company with photographs, for proper coverage.
Personal and official documents should be brought with you to Bangkok. The following informal checklist could be used as a guide:

- Signed and notarized Power of Attorney executed by each spouse on behalf of the other
- Joint checking account details
- Current copy of will(s)
- List of family members, social security numbers, bank account numbers, insurance policy details, passport numbers with dates of issue
- Family medical records and prescriptions, immunization records, eyeglass prescriptions
- Up to date household inventory
- Children’s school records
- Past tax records and information necessary for filling your future tax return
- Bring and use your existing credit cards while in Bangkok. Birth and marriage certificates
- Past employment records, resumes, letters of recommendation
- List of your home country doctor, dentist, lawyer and other professionals
- Mortgage records, deeds, bonds etc.
- Updated address books - business and personal
- Travelers cheques, bank book, cheque book and cash
- List of assets and liabilities
The population of Thailand is over 66 million, and consists of an ethnic diversity such as Cambodians, Chinese, Indians, Laotians, Malaysians, Vietnamese and also several hill tribes. It is a region which is home to a rich diversity of peoples, languages, cultures, and beautiful landscapes.

Not only Thailand is often portrayed as a traditional kingdom in the abundance of cloaked monks, tropical rain forests and agricultural products, but also as a country bursting with modernity. Thailand's rapid economic growth has achieved the acclaim of many businessmen and international bankers.

However, Bangkok can be a frustrating city. The population is over 12 million. The traffic congestion is at times terrible. The intense heat, noise, pollution and general chaos of the city can be overwhelming, but with preparation and patience, this perplexing place may remain the ‘village of the wild plum’.

The Thai nation began in the 13th Century. During the 18th Century, the country was known as Siam and was ruled by a king in a monarchy until 1932, when King Rama VII instituted a constitutional monarchy. In 1939, Siam was officially renamed Thailand, as it is known as today.

Although Thailand was occupied by the Japanese during World War II, they continued to fight against Communism after the war and increased its ties to the United States. Since 1946, King Rama IX has ruled Thailand.

Whilst there have been a number of military dictators running the government since the war, change came in the early 1990s when a non-military government was formed by King Rama IX with a Prime Minister.

Climate

Temperatures in Thailand vary with the time of year and the region you are in. In most of the country, temperatures are generally hot and humid, with a cooler season between November and February. March to June is a hot season, with an approximate only two percent of Thailand's rainfalls during this time. In contrast, between July to October, Thailand sees as much as 98 percent of its annual rainfall.

Time

There is only one Time Zone in Thailand. The local time is 7 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time and there is no daylight saving time.

The Culture

Thai people are famous to the world for being relaxed, courteous and hospitable. Buddhism is the dominant religion and is the dominant influence on Thai culture. The concept of wai, a way to say hello without using words, is used throughout society as an overall method of paying respect. The physical action of bowing one's head to meet the thumbs of
two pressed palms, *wai* is the most significant social action and has a lot to say about Thai values and customs.

There are several ways to use *wai* in daily life. These include:

1. Between equals -- hands close to the body with fingertips reaching just above neck level, but not higher than the chin.
2. Between superior and inferior -- hands held similar to those above, with head straight or slightly inclined.
3. Between inferior and superior -- head lowered with fingertips just above the tip of the nose.

*Wai* is used throughout daily life to illustrate different forms of respect to people and objects. When in the presence of a superior, such as a boss or elder, an individual will initiate the *wai* to place him/herself at their mercy. In most cases, the superior will not return the *wai*. Another way to view *wai* is as an expression of inequality. By *waiing* an individual rather than shaking his/her hand, you are expressing your feeling of inequality in their great presence.

*Wai* is not reserved just for people. You will find many Thais *wai* temples and important places of worship. In addition, many Thais *wai* to express thanks and gratitude. Until you grow accustomed to *wai*, it may be wise to offer a handshake or a polite smile and nod. This will prevent any embarrassment for all involved.

Westerners are greeted with a traditional handshake, and people should be addressed using “Mr.,” “Mrs.,” or “Miss” followed by their last name. Thais commonly address each other by using the word “Khun” followed by the person’s first name. A last or family name is not normally used unless it is for a formal occasion.

Thais tend to be very reserved, but have a good sense of humor and great importance is attached to laughter and a smiling face. In fact, smiling is actually a way of life. It is even used when covering embarrassment or defusing conflict.

Always show respect for the King and Queen, as they are the most respected and revered people in Thailand. It is against the law to make fun or reference to the Royal Family in less than a favorable light. Good advice is to avoid discussions about politics, drugs, health related issues, religions or the Monarchy.

If you are invited by Thai people into their home, be sure to take off your shoes before entering. When sitting, sit cross-legged, or tuck your legs beside you; do not stretch them out in front of you as this is considered rude. Whilst it is not obligatory to bring a gift when visiting them, consider bringing gifts like flowers, books or fruit baskets.

**Language**

The biggest problem confronting foreign nationals in Thailand is a language barrier. Since there are so many different ethnic groups in Thailand, not everyone speaks the same language. The official language of the country is Thai. The use of English will be predominantly restricted to your workplace. Although it is necessary for all students wishing to attend university to pass an entrance examination in English, this does not mean that the person will be fluent in English. In addition, several Thais may be rather shy about speaking English. Therefore, your conversations in English will be restricted to those in
your office or other foreigners. 

Some aspects of Thai-English are the habit of pronouncing an English word with a vowel between each consonant. For example, satem is stamp, sanwit is sandwich and twenty is twenty. In addition, some consonants are used interchangeably--t, v, r and l being the most common--and certain syllables are often ignored.

Religion

Buddhism has a major influence on the daily lives of Thai people, and is practiced in the normal course of life. The Buddhist principle teaches one to follow a middle path, avoiding anything extreme and making sure that your well-being is more important than material items or career achievement. Foreign nationals visiting a Buddhist temple or a sacred place should behave oneself in an appropriate manner, as Thai people may consider some actions as sacrilege. As always, the best course of action may be to follow examples set by the Thais.

Public Holidays 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Year's Day</td>
<td>(1, 2 January)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makha Bucha Day</td>
<td>(4 March)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chakri Memorial Day</td>
<td>(6 April)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Songkran Festival Day</td>
<td>(13-15 April)</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Labor Day</td>
<td>(1 May)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coronation Day</td>
<td>(5 May)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Ploughing Ceremony</td>
<td>(13 May)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visakha Bucha Day</td>
<td>(1 June)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asarnha Bucha Day</td>
<td>(30 July)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.M. The Queen's Birthday</td>
<td>(12 August)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chulalongkorn Memorial Day</td>
<td>(23 October)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.M. The King's Birthday</td>
<td>(7 December) (in lieu of)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitution Day</td>
<td>(10 December)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Year's Eve</td>
<td>(31 December)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EVERYDAY LIFE

Thai is spoken everywhere, with only slight deviations from North to South. In Bangkok and the other major cities, you will usually find someone who can speak a little English. However, it is common to find yourself in a situation where people do not understand much English and it is useful to know at least some basic expressions in Thai. Be aware that your hands are a mean of expressing yourself; try to keep them at your side and avoid putting your hands in your pockets.

Media

Two English-language dailies of Thailand are The Bangkok Post and The Nation; the weekly Friday supplements are also Lifestyle “Guru” Entertainment in the Bangkok Post and the “Weekend” in the Nation. There are also three English-language business journals available - Business Review, Business in Thailand and The Investor.

Bangkok Post Tel: +66 (0) 2616-4444 www.bangkokpost.com

The Nation Tel: +66 (0) 2338-3000 or +66 (0) 2338-3333 www.nationmultimedia.com

Several local newsstands also provide international publications, including the Wall Street Journal Asia, International Herald Tribune, Financial Times, Newsweek and Time.

Metro Magazine and Big Chilli include a monthly calendar of social activities in Bangkok.

Also, Guide of Bangkok and BK Magazine are FREE.

Bookstores

Asia Books

www.asiabooks.com
Call centre : +66 (0) 715-9000

The list of branches as following:

Sukhumvit
221 (Near Robinson Department Store), Sukhumvit Rd. (Between Soi 15-17) Tel. +66 (0) 2252-7277, +66 (0) 2651-0428 Email: abbk-sk@asiabooks.com
Skytrain: Asoke 9.00 am - 9.00 pm

Landmark
1st Floor, Landmark Hotel, Sukhumvit Rd. (Between Soi 4-6) Tel. +66 (0) 2252-5839 Email: abbk-lm@asiabooks.com
Skytrain: Nana 9.30 am - 7.30 pm
**Thaniya Plaza**  
3rd Floor, Thaniya Plaza Building, (Next to Soi Patpong 2), Silom Rd.  
Tel. +66 (0) 2231-2106-7  
Email: abbk-tn@asiabooks.com  
Skytrain: Sala Daeng  
11.00 am - 8.00 pm

**Central City Bangna**  
3rd Floor, Central City Bangna, Bangna-Trad Rd.  
Tel. +66 (0) 2361-0743-4  
Email: abbk-bn@asiabooks.com  
Mon-Fri: 11.00 am - 8.30 pm, Sat-Sun: 10.00 am - 8.30 pm

**Seacon Square**  
2nd Floor, Seacon Square (From The Main Atrium, Towards Lotus), Srinakarin Rd.  
Tel. +66 (0) 2721-8867-8  
Email: abbk-sc@asiabooks.com  
Mon-Fri: 11.00 am - 8.00 pm, Sat-Sun: 10.00 am - 8.00 pm

**Siam Discovery Center**  
4th Floor, Siam Discovery Center (Near the connecting walkway to Siam Centre), Rama1 Rd.  
Tel. +66 (0) 2658-0418-20  
Email: abbk-sd@asiabooks.com  
Skytrain: Siam  
10.00 am - 9.00 pm

**Siam Paragon**  
Level 2, Siam Paragon (North Zone), Rama Rd  
Tel. +66 (0) 2610-9609-14  
Email: abbk-sp@asiabooks.com  
Skytrain: Siam  
10.00 am - 9.00 pm

**Emporium**  
3rd Floor, Next to the main entrance to Emporium Dept.Store, Sukhumvit Rd.  
(Between Soi 22-24)  
Tel. +66 (0) 2664-8545-7  
Email: abbk-em@asiabooks.com  
Skytrain: Phrom Phong  
10.00 am - 9.30 pm

**Bookazine**

Tons of magazines and books. The list of stores as following:

**Bumrungrad Hospital**  
10th Fl. BIC Building, Sukhumvit Soi 3 (Nana Nua)  
Tel: +66 (0) 2667-2769  
Skytrain: Nana

**Gaysorn**  
2nd fl. Gaysorn Plaza  
Tel: +66 (0) 2656-1039  
Skytrain: Chid Lom
Samitivej Hospital
Ground Fl. Sukhumvit 49
Tel: +66 (0) 2712-9530  Skytrain: Phrom Phong

Kinokuniya
www.kinokuniya.com

Emporium
3rd Fl. Sukhumvit 24
Tel: +66 (0) 2664-8554-8  Skytrain: Phrom Phong

Siam Paragon
3rd fl. Siam Paragon
Tel: +66 (0) 2610-9500  Skytrain: Siam

Isetan Department Store, CentralWorld
6th Fl. Rajdamri Road
Tel: +66 (0) 2255-9834  Skytrain: Siam or Chid Lom

Television

Television and Cable TV.

There are 6 main channels: 3,5,7,9,11 and ThaiPBS which are free TV channels. Programmes broadcasted are local variety shows, newscasts, and live coverage of special events, all in Thai.

TrueVisions - (formerly known as UBC) is a pay-cable TV provider of global media entertainment. There is a wide range of local and international channels showing various kinds of programmes, including CNN, CNBC, BBC World News, Bloomberg, Discovery Channel, National Geographic, the History Channel, Animal Planet, ESPN, Star Sports, TrueSport - HBO, MGM, Star Movies, Hallmark and more. For more information, contact +66 (0) 2725–2525, 24 hours daily or visit www.truevisionstv.com

Satellite Dishes

Samart Engineering - provides Satellite dishes which can receive 250 channels.
Tel: +66 (0) 2516-8711-4  or visit www.samart-eng.com

JSAT TV - a satellite television service and solution for expat community
Tel: +66 (0) 2714-3551, +66 (0) 81 830-6401  or visit www.jsat.tv

INFOSAT
Tel: +66 (0) 2961-9161-2  or visit www.infosats.com

Radio

Short-wave radio stations include the BBC World Service, Voice of America, Radio Moscow and other foreign broadcasts. The BBC World Service's Dateline East Asia
provides probably the best news and views on Asia, and also with a strong Asian focus is the ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation).

There are numerous radio stations in Bangkok offering a wide range of service, both in Thai and English. Popular local English stations are FM 88, 105.5 and 107.

**Telephones**
The quality of telephone lines in Thailand is very reliable. You can subscribe for your own telephone line directly with the telephone provider.

*TOT Public Co., Ltd. (TOT)*
Contact Tel: 1100 Website: www.tot.co.th

*True Corporation*
Contact Tel: +66 (0) 2900-9000 Website: www.truecorp.co.th

The telephone provider will normally grant you a line within 1 to 2 weeks. International calls are charged on a timed, destination rate, and on a timed, distance based rate for domestic long distance calls. However, local calls are not timed, but are charged at 3 Baht per call.

Home telephones are billed monthly for local calls and rental, and twice monthly for overseas calls. Local telephone charges can be paid at banks, convenient store 7 Eleven or post offices, and overseas charges paid at banks, post offices or by mail. If a telephone bill is not paid before the due date, it must be paid direct to the telephone company, as late payments will not be accepted at post offices or banks. If you live in an apartment, check with your building manager or reception as some of them will pay utility bills on your behalf.

Mobile phones are all the rage in Bangkok though they are quite expensive. Here you pay for the phone unlike in many countries where the cost of the phone is minimal but the service charge is high. You can subscribe for a monthly mobile phone account with an original passport and sometimes work permit/residency is required. It is possible to purchase a ‘pay as you go’ or ‘pre-paid’ sim card, which you can top up as much as you require. This will work in any ‘sim free’ mobile phone and you do not need any identification to obtain it.

International Direct Dialing (IDD) is available. There are 2 operators:

*CAT Telecom PCL (CAT)* controls the international communications gateway.
Tel. +66 (0) 2104-1000 or Call centre 1322 (Daily 24 hours)
Website www.cattelecom.com

*TOT PCL (TOT)*
Tel. 1100 or +66 (0) 2251-1111
Website www.tot.co.th

The choice of provider is made by dialing an international prefix code:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider</th>
<th>Prefix Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAT (standard)</td>
<td>001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT (discount)</td>
<td>009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOT (standard)</td>
<td>007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOT (discount)</td>
<td>008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mobile phone service providers include:

AIS Tel: 1175 www.ais.co.th
DTAC Tel: 1678 www.dtac.co.th
True Move Tel: 1331 www.truemove.co.th

Internet

Internet access (dial up and broadband) is available through various service providers and in many internet cafes. Pre-paid internet starter kits are widely available in bookstores, department stores, supermarkets, 7-Eleven, and etc.

Broadband internet is a popular internet package nowadays. Contact an ISP directly to arrange a set up. Some apartment buildings provide broadband internet. Some shops and buildings provide a Wi-Fi service.

Internet Service Providers

Loxinfo
Tel: +66 (0) 2263-8222
www.csloxinfo.com

True
Tel: 1686
Tel: +66 (0) 2900-9000
www.trueinternet.co.th

Internet KSC
Tel: +66 (0) 2979-7000
www.ksc.net

Internet Thailand (INET)
Tel: +66 (0) 2257-7111
www.inet.co.th

TOT
Tel: 1100
www.tot.co.th
Postal Service

Normal postal delivery and collection services are made twice a day – morning and afternoon. However, in some areas the service is only once per day. Post offices are open from Monday to Saturday (half day).

Post office Service hours:

- **Nana**: Mon-Fri. 8:00 am – 6:00 pm, Sat-Sun. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
- **Phrakanong**: Mon-Fri. 8:00 am – 6:00 pm, Sat. 8:00 am -12:00 pm
- **Klongtoey**: Mon-Fri. 8:30 am – 5:00 pm, Sat. 9:00 am -12:00 pm

- Generally speaking the mail is fairly reliable in Bangkok.
- Letters are charged by weight, the maximum weight allowed for letter rate is 2 kilograms.
- Sending postcards costs Baht 2 each (local) and Baht 9-15 each (international).
- Aerogramme for both local and international destinations costs Baht 15 each.
- Small package delivery service is available for international destinations. The maximum weight limit is 2 kilograms.
- Parcel delivery service is also available. The maximum weight limit is normally 20 kilograms, but is 5 or 10 kilograms for some destinations. Please check with the post office for details.
- There are also other postal services, e.g. Express Mail Service (EMS), Telegraph, P.O Box Service, Postal Money Order, Pay at Post Service (Account payment for electricity, telephone and other services), etc.

For more information, call +66 (0) 2831-3131
Email: postalcare@thailandpost.co.th
Website www.thailandpost.com

International Courier services are provided by the following:

- **GDA** www.gda.co.th Tel: +66 (0) 2712-4300 to 19
- **DHL** www.dhl.co.th Tel: +66 (0) 2345-5000
- **FedEx** www.fedex.com/th Tel: 1782
- **TNT** www.tnt.com Tel: 1721
- **UPS** www.ups.com Tel: +66 (0) 2762-3300

Pets

If you are bringing pets with you, there will be documentation required for customs clearance. Take your pet to the local veterinarian for an examination. You will need a health certificate and a certificate of vaccination against rabies. These documents must not be older than 30 days prior to your arrival. You will also need to present your airway bill to the customs officers.

Try to arrange to have your pet sent during the daytime. If your pet arrival is after 4:00 p.m., special customs clearance may be arranged only if the flight details are recognized at least
48 hours in advance.

Your pet will be subject to duties by the Thai government. If you send your pet as "excess baggage", there may or may not be customs clearance or a duty fee.

There are a number of pet shops in Bangkok and pet supplies are not difficult to find. In addition, there are also many good veterinarians.

Vets

Charoensuk Animal Hospital
24 Hrs, Ekkamai Soi 5, Pet shop & parlor adjoined
Tel: +66 (0) 2391-9707 Website: www.cah.co.th
Services: general, surgery, ultra sound, hairdressing, bathing.

Thonglor Pet Hospital
24 Hrs, between Thonglor Soi 9 and 11 (Next to Kasikorn Bank)
Tel: +66 (0) 2712-6301 to 4 Website: www.thonglorpet.com
Services: hairdressing, bathing, general treatments, surgery, birth control, vaccinations.

Animal Farm Vet Hospital
709/52-53 Sukhumvit 77, Soi Onnuch 7/1 Bangkok
Tel: +66 (0) 2331-8146 to 7
Open: 08.00-20.00 (Mon-Sat) and 09.00-18.00 (Sun)

Ekkamai Vet Clinic
102-102/1 Sukhumvit 63 (Ekkamai between soi 10-12) Sukhmvit Rd., Bangkok
Tel: +66 (0) 2392-2008
Open: 09.00-21.00 daily

Kanchana Animal Clinic
59/289 Muangthong Thani
Tel: +66 (0) 2982-9187
Open: (Sat-Mon) 10.00-21.00, (Tue-Fri) 17.30-21.00
DOING BUSINESS

The younger generation in Thailand generally does business in the Western manner, but older persons still expect respect from younger people. Maintaining harmony is important throughout the Thai culture, especially in the business world. Thais dislike confrontation; so always present calm demeanor at business and in social gatherings.

Language will most likely not be a problem in the Bangkok business community as English is widely spoken. You may, however, need an interpreter for business negotiations outside Bangkok. Again, it would be useful to learn some simple Thai vocabularies and expressions.

Business Customs & Etiquettes

The use of business cards is essential in Thai business. Present these to everyone you meet when attending a business meeting. It may also be a good idea to have the card translated into Thai on the reverse side. This will not only be considerate of your colleagues and associates, but will also express your willingness to operate as part of their culture. Many expatriates make a mistake by assuming that their Thai counterparts will adjust to their business methods rather than trying to understand the Thai business cultures and to adapt to each other.

Try to maintain good body posture, and try to use your wai when meeting superiors. If you are not comfortable with this, politely smile and nod your head when you are introduced to someone. Try not to shake people's hands too frequently as personal contact is not readily welcomed.

When you are in a meeting, do not cross your legs or point the soles of your feet toward Thai people. You should also refrain from pointing your feet at a portrait of the Royal Family or any image of the Buddha. In fact, any offensive remarks or gestures toward the Monarchy can be construed as slander and are therefore thought of as dangerous. To avoid any conflict, it is best not to discuss the Thai Royal Family, religion or other national institutions unless they directly concern the business. It is also imperative that one does not thump on the table, raise one's voice, or express anger in any other manner during a meeting. There is much contempt for such behavior.

Punctuality is not a Thai trait. Although you must make an appointment beforehand, expect your counterpart to be late. However, you should not expect the associate to be late. By arriving early or on time for your meeting, you will earn the respect from your associate. When in a meeting, it is crucial you do not touch Thai people on their head, or slap them on the back, even in the friendliest manner, as physical contact like that is not welcomed or appreciated.

Business Dress

Business dress tends to be formal: a dark suit, polished shoes and tie for men and business suit or dress for women.
Entertaining

Entertainment is a part of doing business in Thailand. Business colleagues usually enjoy a drink outside the office and they often make a night of it. Informal toasts are drunk to "success and friendship." Business entertaining is generally conducted in hotels and restaurants. Smoking is more prevalent in Thailand than in most countries, but prohibited on buses and in some public places. In a social setting, it is appropriate if the host smokes first.

Gift Giving

Flowers, a box of chocolates or a fruit basket are some good examples of gifts. Avoid presenting anything too extravagant as it can be misinterpreted as bribery. Gift giving is an exceptionally nice gesture if you are invited to an associate's home for dinner. Do not feel insulted if the host/hostess does not readily open the gift. This does not mean they do not like it but it is just the way to show courtesy.

Business Hours

Traditional business hours in Bangkok are Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CONTACTS:

American-ATCC
7th Floor, GPF Wireless (Withayu) A,
93/1 Wireless Road, Lumpini,
Tel: +66 (0) 2254-1041
E-mail: service@amchamthailand.com
Website: www.amchamthailand.com

Australian-ATCC
Unit 203, 20th Floor, Thai CC Tower
889 Sathorn Tai (South) Road.
Tel: +66 (0) 2210-0216
E-mail: office@auschamthailand.com
Website: www.austchamthailand.com

British-BCCT
7th Floor, 208 Wireless Road, Lumpini
Tel: +66 (0) 2651-5350-3
E-mail: greg@bccthai.com
Website: www.bccthai.com

Danish-DTCC
9th Floor, CP Tower A
34 Phayathai Rd, Bangkok
Tel: +66 (0) 2354-5220
E-mail: contact@dancham.or.th
Website: www.dancham.or.th
Japanese-JCC
19th Floor, CRC Tower (All Seasons Place)
Wireless Road, Lumpini
Tel: +66 (0) 250-0700
E-mail: info@jcc.or.th
Website: www.jcc.or.th

German-GTCC
25th Floor, Empire Tower 3
195 Sathorn Tai (South)
Tel: + 66 (0) 2670-0600
E-mail: info@gtcc.org
Website: www.gtcc.org

Thai Chamber of Commerce
150 Rajabopit Road
Bangkok 10200
Tel: + 66 (0) 2622-1860 to 75
E-mail: tcc@thaichamber.org
Website: www.thaichamber.org
EDUCATION

There are many International Schools located in the Bangkok area. These are privately run facilities, and work on tuition fee basis. There are many expatriates in Bangkok looking for places for their children in these schools and there are many local Thais who also wish to enroll their children in these schools, so competition is high. If you wish to enroll your child in one of the International Schools, be sure to do so as early as possible.

The International Schools in Bangkok usually offer either an American or British education, and are taught in English. In addition to the US and UK systems, there are International Schools that provide educational trainings that result in the International Baccalaureate degree, and there are nationality-based schools that teach in the child's homeland language.

All schools are considered private facilities and charge tuition fees. Some people consider these fees rather high, and they may need to have their company assist them with the yearly fees. Most of the schools are located in the outskirts of Bangkok, and may involve a long road trip.

Prior to your moving, it is suggested that you and your family will have to enquire about the school your child will attend. It is important to obtain information about the curricula, education systems and facilities of the school to help you make a qualified decision.

Listed below are some of the more popular schools in Bangkok. However, this does not mean that the other schools should not be considered. http://www.isat.or.th is a useful webpage giving further information about education options in Thailand. In addition, there is a very comprehensive section on education and schooling in the Bangkok Guide.
Kindergartens and Pre-Schools

Early Learning Centre Family of Schools
There are four sites: three in Sukhumvit and one in Nonthaburi.

The City School, Sukhumvit 49/4: Tel +66 (0) 2381-2919, +66 (0) 2391-5901
Email: cityschool@elc-bangkok.com

Chez Noodles (Toddler Centre), Sukhumvit 39: Tel +66 2 (0) 2662-4570-1
Email: cheznoodles@elc-bangkok.com

The Purple Elephant (Toddler Centre), Sukhumvit 53: Tel +66 (0) 2662-7653-4
Email: purpleelephant@elc-bangkok.com

The Country School, Nonthaburi: Tel +66 (0) 2588-1063, +66 (0) 2952-4147
Email: countryschool@elc-bangkok.com
Website: www.elc-bangkok.com

First Step International Pre-School
58/2 Sukhumvit Soi 31, Bangkok 10110
Tel +66 (0) 2260-3152, Fax +66 (0) 2260-3154
Email: info@thefirststeps.ac.th
Website: www.thefirststeps.ac.th

IPC International Kindergarten
313 Soi 31 Sukhumvit Rd, Bangkok 10110
Tel +66 (0) 2258-8105 Fax +66 (0) 2622-2721
Email: info@ipcthai.com
Website: www.ipcthai.com

Kiddy Kare International Kindergarten
59/34 Sukhumvit 26, Bangkok 10110
Tel +66 (0) 2665-6777 Fax +66 (0) 2665-6774
Email: kkare@kiddykare.ac.th
Website: www.kiddykare.ac.th

St. Michael Kindergarten and Nursery School
400 Sukhumvit Soi 79, Bangkok 10260
Tel +66 (0) 2332-7890, Fax +66 (0) 2311-7412
Website: www.smibilingual.com
Schools

The American School of Bangkok

Bangna Campus:
900 Moo 3, Bangna-Trad Km.15, Bangplee, Samutprakarn 10540
Tel +66 (0) 2312-5660-2 Fax +66 (0) 2312-5797
Email: info@asb.ac.th
Website: www.asb.ac.th

Sukhumvit Campus:
59-59/1 Sukhumvit 49/3, Wattana, Bangkok 10110
Tel +66 (0) 2620-8600 Fax +66 (0) 2261-0330
Email: info@asb.ac.th
Website: www.asb.ac.th

Australian International School Bangkok

Sukhumvit Campus:
162/2 and 164 Sukhumvit Soi 20, Bangkok 10110
Tel +66 (0) 2260-4575, +66 (0) 2663-5495-7 Fax: +66 (0) 2258-1450
Email: admin@australian-isb.com
Website: www.australian-isb.com

Ramintra Campus:
999 Watcharapol Ramintra Road, Bangkhen, Bangkok 10230
Tel/Fax +66 (0) 2509-4276
Email: info@australian-isb.com
Website: www.australian-isb.com

Bangkok Patana School

643 La Salle Rd., Sukhumvit 105, Bangna, Bangkok 10260
Tel +66 (0) 2785-2200 Fax +66 (0) 2785-2399
Email: reception@patana.ac.th
Website: www.patana.ac.th

Harrow International School Bangkok

45 Soi Kosumramjai 14, Sikan, Don Muang, Bangkok 10210
Tel +66 (0) 2503-7222 Fax. +66 (0) 2503-7223
Email: admissions@harrowschool.ac.th
Website: www.harrowschool.ac.th

International School Bangkok

39/7 Soi Nichada Thani, Samakee Road, Pakkret, Nonthaburi 11120
Tel +66 (0) 2963-5800 Fax +66 (0) 2583-5432
Email: register@isb.ac.th
Website: www.isb.ac.th
NIST International School
36 Sukhumvit 15, Wattana, Bangkok 10110
Tel +66 (0) 2651-2065 Fax +66 (0) 2253-3800
Email: nist@nist.ac.th
Website: www.nist.ac.th

Ruamrudee International School
6 Ramkhamhaeng 184, Minburi, Bangkok 10510
Tel +66 (0) 2791-8900 Fax +66 (0) 2791-8901
Email: info@rism.ac.th
Website: www.rism.ac.th

St. Andrew’s International Schools in Thailand
Website: www.standrews-schools.com

Sukhumvit 107 Campus
7 Sukhumvit 107 Road, Bangna, Bangkok 10260
Tel +66 (0) 2393-3883
Email: sukhumvit@standrews-schools.com

Sathorn Campus
9 Sathorn Soi 4, North Sathorn, Bangrak, Bangkok 10500
Tel +66 (0) 2632-1995
Email: sathorn@standrews-schools.com

Rayong Campus
Moo 7, Banchang-Makham Koo Road, Banchang, Rayong 21130
Tel +66 (0) 3803-0701
E-mail: greenvalley@standrews-schools.com

The Regent’s School
Website: www.regents.ac.th

The Regent’s (Pattaya)
33/3 Moo 1, Banglamung, Chonburi 20150
Tel +66 (0) 3841-8777 Fax +66 (0) 3841-8778
Email: info@regents-pattaya.co.th

The Regent’s (Bangkok)
601/99 Pracha-uthit Road, Wangtonglang, Bangkok 10310
Tel +66 (0) 2957-5777 Fax +66 (0) 2957-5777 ext 555
Email: enquiry@regents.ac.th
HEALTH CARE

Thailand is hot and humid. The heat can be exhausting. Heat exhaustion and dehydration are common, and can be prevented with the intake of salt and by drinking lots of water. However, tap water is not recommended for drinking; bottled water, which is readily available, is the safest alternative.

The main large hospitals in Bangkok offer excellent services and facilities; unlike, the quality of hospitals located away from the city centres can be very poor.

Bumrungrad, Samitivej and Bangkok Nursing Home (BNH) are the main international hospitals used by the expatriate community. The International SOS Helpline (Tel: +66 (0) 2205-7777) is a worldwide network which provides 24hrs assistance for evacuation and medical emergencies.

Health insurance is recommended for all expatriates relocating to Thailand.

Following are three insurance agencies located in Thailand:

**International SOS**
11 Floors, GPF Witthayu Towers
93/1 Wireless Road,
Lumpini, Pathumwan
Bangkok 10330
Tel: +66 (0) 2205-7777        Fax: +66 (0) 2254-0272

**BUPA Health Insurance (Thailand) Ltd.**
9th Floor, Q House Convent Bldg
38 Convent Rd, Silom
Bangkok 10500
Tel: +66 (0) 2232-8555        Fax: +66 (0) 2234-1396
www.bupathailand.com

**LawtonAsia Ltd.**
5th Floor, M Thai Tower
All Seasons Place, 87 Wireless Rd,
Bangkok 10330
Tel: +66 (0) 2654-1150        Fax: +66 (0) 2654-1151
www.lawtonasia.com
Vaccinations

There are no vaccinations required for entrance into Thailand, but it is advisable to consider the following vaccinations: typhoid, tetanus, tuberculosis, rabies, Japanese encephalitis, and hepatitis A and B.

Vaccination Centres include:

**TRAVMIN Bangkok Medical Centre**
8th Floor Alma Link Building
25 Soi ChidLom (next to the Central Department Store)
Tel: +66 (0) 2655-1024-5 Fax: +66 (0) 2655-1026

**International Travel Medicine Clinic**
BNH Hospital, 1st Floor
9/1 Convent Road, Silom
Tel: +66 (0) 2686-2700 ext.4428
Email: info@bnh.co.th
Website: www.bnhhospital.com

In addition, the major international hospitals can also advise and provide a vaccination programme.

List of Hospitals

Below is a list of the three main hospitals used by expatriates. There are, of course, quite a few other hospitals. Please see the *Bangkok Guide* for further information.

Please note that when people need to visit a doctor in Bangkok, they generally go to the hospital where they will be immediately referred to the relevant specialist rather than a general practitioner.

**BNH Hospital (Bangkok Nursing Home)**
9/1 Convent Rd, Silom
Tel: +66 (0) 2686-2700 Fax: +66 (0) 2632-0577 to 79
E-mail: info@bnhhospital.com
www.bnhhospital.com

**Bumrungrad Hospital**
33 Sukhumvit 3, Wattana
Tel: +66 (0) 2667-1000 Fax: +66 (0) 2667-2525
E-mail: info@bumrungrad.com
www.bumrungrad.com
List of Dentists
Like hospitals, there are many dental clinics around the city - some better than others.

Bangkok Hospital Dental Centre
Tel: +66 (0) 2310-3000 Fax: +66 (0) 2310-3327
Email: info@bangkokhospital.com
Website: www.bangkokhospital.com

BNH Dental Clinic
Tel: +66 (0) 2686-2710-2, +66 (0) 2686-2700
Email: info@bnh.co.th

Bumrungrad Hospital Dental Clinic
Tel: +66 (0) 2667-2300

DC-one Clinic
31 Yen-Arka Road, Sathorn
Tel: +66 (0) 2240-2800
Website: www.dc-one.com

Dental Hospital, Sukhumvit 49
Tel: +66 (0) 2260-5000 to 15 Fax: +66 (0) 2260-5026
Email: dental@loxinfo.co.th
Website: http://dentalhospitalbangkok.com

Phyathai Hospital 2 Dental Clinic
Tel: +66 (0) 2617-2444 # 4221 - 23
Email: onestop@phyathai.com
Website: www.phyathai.com
Samitivej Dental Clinic
Sukhumvit, Building 2, 4th Floor
Tel: +66 (0) 2711-8989-90, +66 (0) 2711-8181 Fax: +66 (0) 2391-1290
Email: info@samitivej.co.th
Srinakarin, Main Building, 3rd Floor
Tel: +66 (0) 2378-9121-2, +66 (0) 2378-9000 Fax: +66 (0) 2731-7044
Email: info@srinakarin@samitivej.co.th
FINANCIAL ISSUES AND BANKING

The Thai currency is the Baht (THB), which is divided into 100 Satang. Thai notes are in denominations of 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1,000, with Satang coins available in denominations of 25 and 50. There are also one, two, five and ten Baht coins.

Banks are generally open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. from Monday to Friday, except Bank Holidays. Many banks now have outlets in major department stores. These outlets are open for longer hours and on weekend. There are ATMs (Automatic Teller Machines) just about everywhere, from all the major shopping centres, at the Sky Train and Underground stations, and in many street corners. Most of them take all international cards.

Major credit cards such as American Express ® Card, Carte Blanche, MasterCard and VISA are accepted in leading hotels, restaurants and department stores. Generally, VISA and MasterCard are more widely accepted than American Express.

Banking institutions in Thailand are a combination of public and private banks, with the Bank of Thailand (BOT) serving as the central bank for the country. The BOT has revised several of the banking policies, relaxed banking controls and reduced interest rates considerably over the past four years.

One of the most important changes made to the banking system was the introduction of Bangkok’s International Banking Facility (BIBF), which allows banks to engage in foreign exchange. International banking facilities are on the rise.

Requirements for opening an account

All banks require several forms of identification, i.e., birth certificate, passport, current credit cards, etc. and most banks will request a letter of introduction from your employer along with details of your current visa status. It is better to ring the bank to check which documents are required. Also, you will need to show your “Work Permit”. Usually, without a work permit, you may be able to open only a “Savings Account” in some banks, provided there is an Employment Certificate issued by the Employer.
List of Banks

**ANZ Bank** - 19th Floor, Athenee Towers,
63 Witthayu (Wireless) Road,
Tel: +66 (0) 2168-8777 to 8, Fax: +66 (0) 2256-6347
www.anz.com/thailand

**Bank of America** - All Seasons Place, CRC Tower, 33rd Floor
87/2 Wireless Road, Pathumwan
Tel: +66 (0) 2305-2900  Fax: +66 (0) 2305-2999
www.bankofamerica.com/th

**Bank of Ayudhaya** - 1222 Rama III Road
Tel: 1572, +66 (0) 2296-2000
www.krungsri.com

**Citibank** - 82 Sathorn Nua (North) Road
Tel: 1588, +66 (0) 2232-2484
www.citibank.co.th

**Deutsche Bank** - Athenee Tower, Levels 27-29, 63 Wireless Road
Tel: +66 (0) 2646-5000
www.db.com/thailand

**HSBC** - HSBC Bldg, 968 Rama 4 Road, Silom
Tel: +66 (0) 2673-7733  Fax: +66 (0) 2632-4818 to 9
www.hsbc.co.th

**Kasikornbank** - 1 Soi Kasikornthai, Rat Burana Road
Tel: +66 (0) 2888-8888  Fax: +66 (0) 2888-8882
Email: info@kasikornbank.com
www.kasikornbank.com

**Siam Commercial Bank** - 9 Rachdapisek Road, Jatujak
Tel: +66 (0) 2777-7777
www.scb.co.th

**Standard Chartered Bank** - Sathorn Nakorn Tower, 90 Sathorn Nua (North)
Tel: 1595, +66 (0) 2724-7050
www.standardchartered.co.th
Credit Cards

Credit Cards are widely accepted in Bangkok and in large regional centres. Most business display stickers for the cards they will accept but not in small shops or outdoor markets. It is possible to get credit cards in Thailand as well.

To avoid problems with lost/stolen credit cards, register your card with Credit Card Sentinel (www.sentinelcardprotection.com) - offices in Australia, New Zealand, UK, Canada and USA.

American Express - SP Bldg., 388 Phahonyothin Road
Customer Service Tel: +66 (0) 2273-5544
After hours for report lost/stolen card Tel: +66 (0) 2273-5522
www.americanexpress.co.th

Diners Club - 12th Floor, Silom Complex, 191 Silom Road
Tel: +66 (0) 2232-4100 (24-Hour Phone Service)
www.dinersclub.co.th

MasterCard - 11/F Sermmit Tower, 159 Asoke Road, Sukhumvit 21
Tel: 001-800-11-887-0663 (24-Hour Emergency Services Toll-free number)
Master Card Bangkok Tel: +66 (0) 2673-7555  Fax: +66 (0) 2677-7459
www.mastercard.com/sea

VisaCard : Local banks and some foreign banks issue Visa Card.
Visa Global Customer Assistance Tel:
001-800-441-3485 (Toll-free number available 24 hours a day)
www.visa-asia.com
GETTING AROUND

Getting around Bangkok, especially during peak hours, can be frustrating. Transport system in Thailand, nonetheless, is fairly well developed and efficient. Most Thais do not own their own cars and, as a result, public transportation is prominent and varied. Bangkok lies at the heart of Thailand transport network so all trains and buses end up here and it is possible to reach anywhere in the country from the capital. The Skytrain (BTS) is a new public transport system that has been operating since 1999. It is punctual and convenient, and provides access through most of the central parts of Bangkok. In 2004, the new MRT Subway, Bangkok’s first underground rail system, was opened.

Taxis

All registered taxis have meters with an illuminated TAXI-METER sign on the roof. Passengers will usually also find taxi stands in front of shopping malls, where they can sit and wait for a taxi. However, there are a number of unmarked, unofficial taxis that tend to be found near tourist sights, outside hotels or even at the airport. Unofficial taxis such as these charge outrageous fares to travel only a couple of blocks. Taxi drivers who do not turn on the meter should be avoided.

The initial fare is THB35 for a journey of two kilometers or less. After the initial two kilometers, it will cost from THB4.50 to 5.50 per kilometer. It should cost about THB40 to THB100 for most trips in the city but it also depends on traffic conditions. If the speed at which your taxi travel is less than six km/hr, a surcharge of THB1 per minute is automatically added. Due to Bangkok's traffic problems, this additional fee is always a possibility. Note that taxi drivers should not be tipped and always be aware that foreigners are often considered an easy prey for scammers. It is also possible to call or book a taxi in advance, for a surcharge of THB20. Taxi Service Centre Tel: 1681, 1661 or +66 (0) 2880-0888.

Motorcycle Taxis

Motorcycle taxis are also available and are very useful for crossing downtown quickly. Motorcycle taxi drivers wear brightly colored vests. These taxis are probably the fastest way to get from point A to point B in Bangkok’s gridlock. However, be careful as accidents are common. Expect to pay THB10 to THB20 or more, depending on the distance.

Trains

The State Railway of Thailand provides train services to the Northern, Northeastern, Eastern and Southern parts of the country. It is a safe way to travel long distance, and most trains are clean as well as comfortable. Your choices are as follows: first-class, air-conditioned compartments, second-class sleepers, and second-class, air-conditioned sit-ups with reclining chairs and third-class sit-ups. First and second class is more expensive than when traveling by bus, but is considerably more comfortable. Traveling third class by train is the most economical way to travel long distance in Thailand.

Express trains are known as "rot duan", special trains as "rot duan phiset" and rapid trains as "rot raew." Express and rapid trains are faster because they make fewer stops. Timetables can be picked up at Hua Lamphong Railway Station, and condensed versions are available in English.
Alternatively, the information is on the following website at www.railway.co.th. You can also make an online ticket reservation at www.thairailwayticket.com or call +66 (0) 2220-4444.

Skytrain

Today, the population in Bangkok is increasing rapidly and Bangkok has become one of the busiest cities in the world. Traffic congestion in the city is so great that the problem cannot be solved without diverting road users to other means of transport. To solve this problem, an efficient mass transit system has been constructed which will prove vital to the continued economic growth of the city. This initiative includes the new Bangkok Skytrain.

The Bangkok Mass Transit System (BTS) is currently comprised of two lines: the Sukhumvit Line and the Silom Line with a total distance of approximately 55 kms consisting of 25 stations.

BTS Sukhumvit Line (1)

The Sukhumvit Line starts from the East at Bearing (Bangna) and ends at the Mo Chit Bus Terminal in the North. It passes along Sukhumvit Road, Ploenchit Road, Rama I Road, Phaya Thai Road, Victory Monument and Phaholyothin Road. This line is in length with 22 Stations including one common interchange station, the Central Station on Rama I Road (Siam).

BTS Silom Line (2)

The Silom Line starts at Bang Wa on the Thon Buri side (the Silom Line extension from Saphan Taksin station). This route runs across the Chao Phraya River and ends East of Banthat Thong Road near the National Stadium. From Krung Thon Buri Road, it proceeds to Sathorn Road and progresses North to Naradhiwas Rajanagarindra Road (the junction with Klong Chong Noonsi) where it turns East to join Silom Road before running along Ratchadamri Road and Rama I Road. This line is in length with 12 stations including the common interchange station (Siam).

The skytrain service runs daily from 6:00 a.m. to midnight.

Stored value tickets (multi-trip) can be purchased at the ticket office for 100-2,000 Baht (plus a 50 baht deposit on the ticket). The automatic gate returns the ticket and the cost of each journey is deducted as you exit (the remaining balance is displayed on the exit gate). One person per trip can only use the stored value ticket. These tickets can be refilled at any ticket office. It is also possible to buy a single trip ticket and other ticket packages, such as-

**Single Journey Ticket**
- Fare varies with destination, between 15-42 Baht.
- Good for a single one-way trip only.
- This ticket will be kept at the exit gate.

**Sky SmartPass / Stored Value Ticket**
- Minimum of 150 Baht (plus 50 Baht non-refundable deposit) for your first purchase.
- Valid for 5 years from date of issue.
- Stored value is valid for 2 years from date of last refill.
- The ticket is refillable.

30-Day Pass
- Suitable for multiple-trip journeys.
- 30 Baht issuing fee for new SmartPass
- Must be used within 30 days from date of first use.

30-Day Adult Pass:

15 Trips, 405 Baht
(27 Baht per trip)
25 Trips, 625 Baht
(25 Baht per trip)
40 Trips, 920 Baht
(23 Baht per trip)
50 Trips, 1,100 Baht
(22 Baht per trip)

One Day Pass
- 130 Baht
- Must be used within a single day.
- Good for unlimited trips.

Fares for the single Journey ticket are based on the number of stations you travel and currently range between 15 and 42 baht. Children under 90 centimeters tall travel free. Comprehensive maps are available at all stations for free of charge. For more details, visit www.bts.co.th or call +66 (0) 2617-6000.

Subway (MRT)

The Mass Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand (MRTA) and The Bangkok Metro Public Company Limited (BMCL) launched the MRT Chaloem Ratchamongkhon Line – the first underground railway ever in Thailand – on July 2004.

The journey begins at Hua Lamphong, then proceeds through Sam Yan, Silom, Lumpini, Klong Toey, Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre, Sukhumvit, Petchaburi, Rama IX, Thailand Cultural Center, Huay Khwang, Sutthisarn, Ratchadaphisek, Lat Phrao, Phaholyothin, Jatujak Park and Kamphaeng Phet to Bang Sue station – a total of 18 stations. In all, the journey from Hua Lamphong to Bang Sue takes just 30 minutes, operating daily between 6 a.m. – midnight, the trains run every six minutes during regular hours and every three minutes during rush hours. (6 a.m. – 9 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.)
Fare Rates:

**Single Journey Token**

- Adult : 16-42 Baht
- Child/Senior : 8-21 Baht

**Stored Value Card** (Minimum of 230 Baht, including 30 Baht for issuing fee and 50 Baht for non-refundable deposit)

- Adult : 16-42 Baht
- Student : 14-38 Baht
- Child/Senior : 8-21 Baht

**Ticket package**

1 Day pass : 120 Baht
3 Day pass : 230 Baht
30 Day pass : 1,400 Baht

Stations are well-equipped with numerous facilities, including elevators and escalators, air-conditioning, retail shops, ATMs, telephones and ticket vending machines. There is also a Park & Ride for 2,200 cars at Lat Phrao station and 200 cars at Thailand Cultural Centre station for those using cars who would like to continue their journey on the underground.

Apart from the MRT Chaloem Ratchamongkhon Line, the MRTA is planning to expand its routes to cover a larger area of the city for the benefit of Bangkokians. Planned additional lines include the MRTA Extension and New Lines between year 2004 and 2010. For more details, visit www.bangkokmetro.co.th. Customer Relations Centre Tel: +66 (0) 2624-5200.

**Buses**

Traveling by bus in Bangkok is the cheapest way to get around town, but be aware that they are often rather crowded.

The standard non-air-conditioned buses cost 7-8 Baht and 11-25 Baht for air-conditioned buses. The drivers and money collectors work largely on commission. As a result, they pack many people in and race to the next stop to beat the competition. If you hang on tight to the vehicle and your belongings, you should be fine. You can visit Bangkok Mass Transit Authority website - www.bmta.co.th.

Private and state-run bus services are also available, and they leave Bangkok from three main bus terminals; Northern, Northeastern and Southern destinations and travel to major towns in Thailand. The buses range from inexpensive, non-air-conditioned buses linking all provincial and district towns, to various grades of air conditioned buses up to luxury VIP coaches. Visit www.transport.co.th.
Airport - Transportation

Suvarnabhumi Airport is situated 30 kilometers east of the city centre. Airport of Thailand (AOT) operates 8 types of 380 limousines (contact Limo Service Counter 24 hours at Arrival Hall on Level 2, get on at Level 2-outer curb). One can also arrange for a Public Taxi with AOT certified driver at the Public Transportation Centre with additional THB50 fee (at the temporary counter on Level 1, Gate 4). The average cost of metered taxi from central business area to the airport using the express way (excludes THB50 and Expressway tolls fee) is THB180-240. There are also 4 routes of Airport Express Bus from Suvarnabhumi to downtown cost THB150 (Airport Express Counter Level 1, near Gate 8). The economical way to get into town or some other provinces is using Bangkok Public Bus with different routes from the Bus Terminal at Level 1. The bus fare is 35 Baht for Bangkok routes and the service is 24 hours.

Moreover, there is Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Airport Rail Link from Suvarnabhumi Airport to the City Air Terminal in Makkhasan areas in the city. For the operate lines, there are Suvarnabhumi Airport City Line runs the distance of 28 kms. starting from Phayathai Station through Suvarnabhumi Station Rajprarop, Makkasan, Ramkamhaeng, Huamark, Baan Tab Chang, Lardkrabang and Suvarnabhumi. The whole journey takes about 30 minutes. Suvarnabhumi Airport Express runs the distance of 25 kms. starting from Makkasan Station through Suvarnabhumi station without any stop. It takes about 15 minutes for the whole journey.

Airport Rail Link Price

- Suvarnabhumi Airport City Line 15 - 45 Baht / trip
- Suvarnabhumi Airport Express 150 Baht

Other

A motorized scooter known as tuk-tuk (because of the engine sound) operates in Bangkok and in other large towns. The tuk-tuk is a small three-wheeled cart that offers inexpensive fares and efficient, yet bumpy, service. The fare should be negotiated for as well as agreed upon before the travel begins. Drivers are readily available and often provide local information.
TYPES OF DRIVING LICENCES

1. A temporary driving licence for a car or motorcycle - the validity is one year following the initial application.

2. A five-year driving licence for a car or motorcycle - issued on application after holding a temporary licence.

3. An international driving licence for a car or motorcycle - the validity is one year. The applicant must hold a five-year driving licence.

QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS

1. The applicant must have reached the age of 18 years.

2. The applicant must be a Resident, or hold a Non-Immigrant Resident Visa.

3. The applicant must not have any physical or mental disability that will prevent them from driving safely.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE
to be attached to the application for a driving licence

1. A signed copy of your passport, showing that a valid Non-Immigrant Visa is held and also of the front page of your passport.

2. The original passport must be shown as evidence to the licensing officer at the time of submitting the application.

3. The original and a signed copy of your work permit or a letter from your Embassy/Consulate (not over one year), certifying your address in Thailand in full included District and Sub-district (in English or Thai language).

4. A medical certificate certifying that the applicant is not insane or suffering from mental problems or diseases that would be a danger when driving. There is a specific form for this purpose. Contact and obtain from a medical clinic or a hospital.

5. Your original current international or overseas licence (for exemption of written test and driving test) with the signed copy one. In case your current licence is not written in English, you are required to have a copy of your current licence translated into English with the certified stamp from your Embassy/Consulate.

6. Fee : THB 205

7. Your presence

8. Someone who reads and speaks Thai to fill out the application forms which need to be completed in Thai.
Where to Submit an Application

There are five places in Bangkok where an application can be submitted. Hours of operation: Monday-Friday 8.30 a.m.-3.30 p.m.

- **Department of Land Transport**, located at 1032 Phaholyothin Road (opposite Jatujak Market), Lardyao sub-district, Jatujak district. Tel: +66 (0) 2271-8888 # 4201 - 4

- **Transport Office Area 1**, located at Soi Wathuakrabue at km 4.5, Bangkunthien – Shaithalae, Thakham sub-district, Bangkhuntien district, Bangkok 10150. Tel: +66 (0) 2415-7337 # 204 - 205

- **Transport Office Area 2**, located at 51 Moo.5 Suanphak Road, Chimplee sub-district, Talingchan district, Bangkok 10170. Tel: +66 (0) 2433-4773

- **Transport Office Area 3**, located at Sukhumvit Soi 62/1. Tel: +66 (0) 2333-0035

- **Transport Office Area 4**, located at 34 Moo 6, Ruampattana Road, Lumtoiting sub-district, NongJork district, Bangkok 10530. Tel: +66 (0) 2543-5512

An application for an International Driving licence should be submitted at

- **The Department of Land Transport**, located at 1032 Phaholyothin Road (opposite Jatujak Market), Lardyao sub-district, Jatujak district. Tel: +66 (0) 2271-8888
  (The licence will be granted on the same day of the application.)

- **Transport office Area 1, 2, 3, 4.** (The licence will be sent to the applicant later by mail.)

How To Apply For a Driving Licence

Procedures

1. Fill in the application form. This form is issued in Thai language only and is available at the registration office. It is recommended that you get help with filling out the form.

2. Attach the required documentary evidence as described above.

3. Join a class for instruction on the driving regulations and laws, and how to drive safely in Thailand. The class is for two hours. Two classes are held daily, Monday to Friday, at 9:00 and 13:30, at the Department of Land Transport in Bangkok or at the provincial Transport Office. A comprehensive and well-written manual of Thailand traffic rules is available in English for non-Thai readers.

4. Take a color blindness test.

5. Take a written test, in English or Thai on the rules of driving and also a driving test. (Exception for those who have an original current international or overseas licence.)

6. Pay the licence fee. The licence will be issued on the same day your application is
accepted by the licensing officer.

Fees

*Temporary driving licence (One year):*
- Car - Baht 205
- Motorcycle - Baht 155

*Five-year driving licence:*
- Car - Baht 605
- Motorcycle – Baht 250

*International driving licence (One year):*
- Personal car or motorcycle – Baht 500

Renewal of a Driving License

You renew your license after one year of your first Thai driving license expired. When you renew it, you will be issued with a five-year license. As for the procedure, you will need your existing license, a signed copy of the passport, showing that a valid Non-Immigrant Visa is held, the original and a signed copy of your work permit or a letter from your Embassy/Consulate (not over one year), and your presence. There is 505 Baht for the five-year renewal.

Renewal of a Lost Driving License

*Documentary evidence to be attached to the application for renewal of a lost driving licence*

1. The original and a signed copy of your passport, showing the visa and the front page.

2. The original and a signed copy of your work permit or a letter from your Embassy/Consulate, certifying your address in Thailand.

3. A medical certificate certifying that the applicant is not insane or suffering from mental problems or diseases that would be a danger when driving. There is a specific form for this purpose. Contact and obtain from a medical clinic or a hospital.

4. Pay the license fee. The license will be issued on the same day your application is accepted by the licensing officer.
HOUSING AND YOUR HOME

Housing in Bangkok comes in the form of apartments, townhouses, condominiums, and some freestanding homes with gardens. In addition, some accommodation, especially apartments come partly or fully furnished.

There has been a substantial increase in the availability of housing in Bangkok, with new residential areas still under construction. This has driven most rental rates down to a competitive rate. On average, you are expected to pay about THB60,000 to THB150,000 per month for a three-bedroom home with garden. Apartment rental fees are slightly less, and fees can be negotiated if you consider paying several months rent in advance.

What to Consider

There are certain things that you should keep in mind when looking for accommodation in Bangkok. For example, is there any excessive noise in your accommodation? Although this is a less problem for freestanding homes and town-houses, some apartment complexes in the heart of Bangkok suffer from high levels of noise. Moreover, are there internet connection and cable TV available? Is there a telephone installed?

As you travel around looking for accommodation, take a map with you and mark on the map for the places you have visited. This will help you orientate yourself and give you a visual picture of where the accommodation is in relation to your location such as work or school. You should also keep a checklist of questions or things you need to ask yourself. In addition, do not just accept answers from the owners or the housing agents. If possible, ask other tenants and colleagues for advice.

This list should include:

- How far is the accommodation from your place of business? Is it close to any schools? How far from the expressway?
- Are there any problems with utilities? Is there a power outage? Does the water flow all day long?
- Is it likely to flood in your accommodation area? Does the roof leak? (This is important especially during September and October - the downpours can be extremely heavy.)
- Are there security bars on the windows? Are the windows installed mosquito screens?

Most foreign nationals reside in Sukhumvit or Sathorn, or in one of the several housing estates just outside Bangkok, such as Nichada where the International School of Bangkok (ISB) is located.

When looking for housing, do not hastily decide on an area without considering other residential areas. Although many expatriates like Sukhumvit because of its great facilities and shopping centres, you may not want to restrict yourself to the expatriate community. However, if your language skills are less than adequate, you may consider sticking to your familiar areas.

You may also consider using a service real estate agent to help you sort out and view potential accommodations. Most companies provide these services to their employees, and if not, there are local companies that provide the service. These companies are often listed
in the English-language dailies and weeklies. Alternatively, you can use a housing agent. They earn their money from commission received from the Landlord.

Try to stay away from new constructions as well as areas that tend to flood. Flooding during the rainy season can be extremely devastating homes.

When viewing properties, bear in mind that many matters are negotiable and your own style, choices and priorities can be taken into consideration. The most important overall objective is that you find a home that meets your complete satisfaction.

These items are normally a standard part of all tenancy agreements:

- Interior walls will be painted or “touched-up” as required.
- Existing curtains will be cleaned.
- Existing appliances are in good working order.
- Air-conditioners work properly and are in good condition.
- Basic cleaning will be done throughout the property.

Once you have found a suitable place to live; maybe it is an older property; the ideal size and in the right location. Although you feel it is a little run down, it would be just perfect for you and your family if only you could have certain things renovated or changed. Before you decide to take the property, ask your realtor to try to negotiate your “wish-list” into the lease agreement.

Examples of property upgrading:

- Lighting fixtures added or changed.
- Replacement of curtains/sheets-often the owner will provide samples for you to choose from.
- Replacement of major appliances (washer, dryer & refrigerator).
- Flooring: carpeted rooms can be replaced with parquet flooring or ceramic/marble tiles. Also, a replacement of worn or damaged carpet and tiles.
- Bathroom cabinets: changing existing or building new cabinets under bathroom sinks.
- Replacement of damaged/outdated cabinet doors.
- Furniture: property owners may be willing to provide a budget for you to purchase furniture or give a choice of furniture from their own supplies.
- Closets: addition of built-in or freestanding closets for bedrooms.
- Addition of shower doors.
- Air – conditioners: addition or replacement of old units.
- Counter top replacement for kitchen or bathrooms.
- Renovations of kitchen and bathrooms - upgrading outdated fixtures.
- Installation of additional electrical outlets.
- Maintenance fees for pool and garden can sometimes be negotiated into the monthly rental.
- Installation of above ground pool.
- Wallpaper removal and wall repainting.
Mattress Sizing

It is a good idea to check the size of your mattress to fit with the bed linen. Mattress and bed linen sizes vary a great deal from country to country.

Bed sheets are not cheap in Thailand. Therefore, it would be better to import and bring in what you need.

**ASIAN MEASUREMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mattress Size</th>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Conversion</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>90 cm x 190 cm</td>
<td>(3’ x 6’3&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super single</td>
<td>105 cm x 190 cm</td>
<td>(3’6&quot; x 6’3&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen</td>
<td>152 cm x 190 cm</td>
<td>(5’ x 6’3&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King</td>
<td>183 cm x 198 cm</td>
<td>(6’ x 6’6&quot;)</td>
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**U.K. MEASUREMENT**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>90 cm x 190 cm</td>
<td>(3’ x 6’3&quot;)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Double</td>
<td>133 cm x 190 cm</td>
<td>(4’6” x 6’3’)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queen</td>
<td>152 cm x 198 cm</td>
<td>(5’ x 6’6&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King</td>
<td>183 cm x 198 cm</td>
<td>(6’ x 6’6&quot;)</td>
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**U.S.A. MEASUREMENT**

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<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Conversion</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>98 cm x 190 cm</td>
<td>(3’3” x 6’3”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double</td>
<td>133 cm x 190 cm</td>
<td>(4’6” x 6’3”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double</td>
<td>133 cm x 198 cm</td>
<td>(4’6” x 6’6”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen</td>
<td>152 cm x 190 cm</td>
<td>(5’ x 6’3&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen</td>
<td>152 cm x 203 cm</td>
<td>(5’ x 6’8&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King</td>
<td>183 cm x 198 cm</td>
<td>(6’0” x 6’6”)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Super King</td>
<td>198 cm x 198 cm</td>
<td>(6’6” x 6’6”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California King</td>
<td>198 cm x 203 cm</td>
<td>(6’6” x 6’8”)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Guidelines on Furniture Prices** from Local Dealer

- Dining table with 4 side and 2 armchairs 12,000-20,000 Baht
- Dining table with 6 side and 2 armchairs 18,000-35,000 Baht
- Dining table with 8 side and 2 armchairs 30,000-50,000 Baht
- 1 seater sofa, 2 armchairs 12,000-20,000 Baht
- 2 seater sofa, 2 armchairs 18,000-30,000 Baht
- 3 seater sofa, 2 armchairs 22,000-40,000 Baht
- 1 coffee table 5,000-15,000 Baht
- Drop lid desk with 2 drawers 15,000-30,000 Baht
- Buffet sideboard 20,000-35,000 Baht
Home Appliances

The cost is an AVERAGE cost in Thai Baht (30 Baht =US$ 1) for the following (high standard) electrical appliances in a major household appliance store. Specifications are noted below in some categories:

REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER

Top freezer/bottom refrigerator (good standard), 15 m$^3$ (cubic meters)  
= 40,000 Baht
Double standing doors with ice crusher (higher quality level), 24 m$^3$  
= 95,000 Baht

COOKING STOVE

60cm wide: 32,000 Baht - this size is standard in most apartments & houses.
90cm wide - preferable for foreign cooks, not usually available in the appliance shop.

WASHING MACHINE/DRYER

Washer:
Front-loading (5 kg) = 25,000 Baht
Top-loading (10 kg) = 30,000 Baht

Dryer
Front-loading (5 kg) = 22,000 Baht

Combination Washer/Dryer = 27,000 Baht

MICROWAVE

Microwave Oven:
these are combination specials -
Sharp convection (25 litre) = 15,500 Baht
Whirlpool VIP (35 litre) = 22,280 Baht

Simple Microwave Only (25 litre) = 6,000-8,000 Baht

OTHERS

Plasma TV (50 inches) = 50,000 Baht
LCD TV (40 inches) = 30,000 Baht
VCR = 10,000 Baht
Vacuum cleaner = 5,000 Baht
A/C 12,000 BTU = 31,000 Baht   (for standard 24m$^3$ room)
Electrical Appliances

Electric power in Thailand is 220 volts x 50 cycles. Most electrical appliances can be used here with an adaptor or when fitted with a two-pin plug.

All the appliances you will need are sold here and many brands are available. However, electrical goods attract a high import duty so bring all electrical equipments with you. Electrical appliances purchased in Thailand may need to be earthed when you return to your home country. Gas barbecues are very expensive in Thailand.

Landlords usually supply stoves and refrigerators, but other items such as washing machines or clothes dryers may be negotiable. Most homes are equipped with air-conditioners.

For brands not listed below, check the Yellow Pages for the appropriate service centre or contact one of the recommended Handymen/Electricians below.

**Electrolux** - Tel: +66 (0) 2725-9000 (24 hours). Check www.electrolux.co.th

**General Electric** - Tel: +66 (0) 2704-6414. Check www.ge.com/th

**Hitachi** - Tel: +66 (0) 2335-5455. Check www.hitachi-th.com

**JVC** - Tel: +66 (0) 2204-3004, +66 (0) 2260-1249 to 51. Check www.jvc.co.th

**National Panasonic** - Tel: +66 (0) 2729-9000, Check www.panasonic.com/th

**NEC Corporation (Thailand) Ltd** - Tel: +66 (0) 2204-9600. Check www.nec.co.th

**Sharp (Thailand) Co Ltd** - Tel: +66 (0) 2352-4949. Check www.sharpthai.co.th

**Sony Thai Co Ltd** - Tel: +66 (0) 2715-6100. Check www.sony.co.th

**Toshiba Thailand Co Ltd** - Tel: +66 (0) 2511-7777. Check www.toshiba.co.th

**LG** - Tel: +66 (0) 2878-5757. Check www.lg.com/th

**Samsung** - Tel: 1800-29-3232 (Toll-free) or +66 (0) 2689-3232. Check www.samsung.com/th
Handymen/Electricians

**Air-Conditioner Specialist** - 77/169 Soi13, Ramintra Road.
Khun Montri Tel: +66 (0) 2578-4724. Washing machine, gas stove and water heater repair. Service available from Monday to Friday.

**Khun Somchai** - Tel: +66 (0) 2915-9228, +66 81 633-9234. Washing machine, dryer, dishwasher, microwave and vacuum cleaner repair. Good service, Thai speaker needed.

**Nana Cooling** - 6/2 Sukhumvit Soi 63/12 (Soi Charoenjai), Ekamai. Contact Khun Viroj & Khun Somboon Tel: +66 (0) 2391-2743, +66 81 452-5591. Reliable; English spoken; specialized in fixing air conditioners, washing machines and electrical items.

**New Victory Engineering** – Contact Khun Yoosin Tel: +66 (0) 2246-0090. Excellent service and some staff speak English.

**House Doctors Handyman Service**
Contact Khun Chairat Piroonhapat Tel: +66 (0) 2919-5400.
Email: hdoctors@bangkok.com
Skilled handymen for all house jobs. All with one call and at a much lower cost!

**ServiceGenie Company Limited**
General home repair, leak repair, electrical repair and service, air-conditioning repair and service, plumbing repair and more.
Tel: +66 (0) 2238-1400, +66 86 702-7414 (After hour)
Visit www.servicegenie.com

**Bangkok Home Services Co., Ltd**
Installations, repairs, maintenance and renovation.
Tel: +66 (0) 2742-7323
Visit www.bangkokhomeservices.com

**Krungthep Naphawan Co., Ltd**
General home repair, leak repair, electrical repair and service, air-conditioning repair and service, plumbing repair, maintenance, and renovation.
Good service with over 20 years experience, Thai speaker needed. 24-hrs service.
Contact Khun Maew Tel: +66 81 493-3339, +66 83 774-0936, +66 (0) 2973-0651-2
SERVICED APARTMENTS

In Bangkok, there are many serviced apartment buildings available to the expatriates, most of which are only a few years old. Many expatriates may choose to reside in a serviced apartment due to its amenities and conveniences. Serviced apartments are usually fully furnished, and offer such amenities as dishes, linen and appliances. As well as having all the modern conveniences of home, serviced apartments also offer the convenience and luxury of a top hotel. With gourmet restaurants and maid services, these accommodations are ideal for the short-term expatriate.

Here are examples of serviced apartments:

**Cape House**  www.kasemkij.co.th / www.capehouse.com
43 Soi Lang Suan, Ploenchit Rd.
Skytrain: Chit Lom. Tel: +66 (0) 2658-7444

**Centre Point**  www.centrepoint.com

Sukhumvit Soi 10 - 30 floors/162 rooms. Aimed at top executives, living surrounded by lush natural garden with overlooking the splendid lake of Queen Sirikit Convention Centre.
Skytrain: Nana. Tel: +66 (0) 2653-1783

Silom - 26 floors/140 rooms. Located in Bangkok’s main business and entertainment districts. The Building overlooks the magnificent scenery of Chao Phraya River.
Skytrain: Saphan Taksin. Tel +66 (0) 2266-0521 to 49

Langsuan - 26 floors/178 rooms. Stylish building located near the green oasis of Lumpini Park. It would be ideal home for those who are a nature lover.
Skytrain: Chit Lom Tel: +66 (0) 2657-2400 to 29

Petchburi 15 - 30 floors/266 rooms. Located in the heart of the city, easy to reach to grand shopping districts and many entertainment attractions.
Skytrain: Phraya Thai. Tel: +66 (0) 2653-6690 to 8

Wireless Road - 31 floors/277 rooms. Luxury Thai style decoration, close to major department stores, Embassies and the business community.
Skytrain: Ploen Chit. Tel: +66 (0) 2659-5000

Saladaeng - 9 floors/69 rooms. Modern decoration, located at a very convenient location as the central business, entertainment and shopping districts central lie in close proximity to the apartment, plus the Lumpini Park.
Skytrain: Saladaeng. Tel: +66 (0) 2267-5500

Ratchadamri - 50 floors/472 rooms. Luxury living exclusively in the heart of Bangkok, prime business areas, and a premier shopping and lifestyle district.
Skytrain: Ratchadamri. Tel: +66 (0) 2670-5000

Sukhumvit – Thong Lor - 11 floors/156 rooms. Living in elite traditional of Thai style with all the essentials of modern living. It is the most expatriates’ favorite living area!
Skytrain: Thong Lor. Tel: +66 (0) 2365-8300
**Chateau De Bangkok**  www.accorhotels-asia.com
29 Ruamrudi Soi 1, Ploenchit Road.
15 floors/135 rooms. With a superb location right in the heart of Bangkok, constructed and luxuriously furnished to the highest standards.
Skytrain: Ploen Chit.  Tel: +66 (0) 2651-4400

**Emporium Suites**  www.emporiumsuites.com
Emporium Tower, 662 Sukhumvit Rd (cnr Soi 24)
Skytrain: Prom Phong.  Tel: +66 (0) 2664-9999

**Floraville Suan Luang**
Soi Pattanakarn 51, 14 Srinakarin Intersection
Tel: +66 (0) 2722-4080

**Oakwood**  www.oakwood.com

**Oakwood City Residence**  (Short term or long term rent)
291 Naradhiwas Rajanagarindra 24, New Sathorn Road, Bangkok 10120
Tel: +66 (0) 2672-0200

**Oakwood Residence Sukhumvit 24**
15 Sukhumvit Soi 24  Klong Toey, Bangkok 10110
Tel: +66 (0) 2612-5777

**Oakwood Residence Thong Lor**
113 Soi Thonglor 13 Sukhumvit 55 Road, Klongton Nua, Wattana, Bangkok 10110
Tel: +66 (0) 2713-9500

**Yellow Ribbon Hills**  www.yellowribbon.co.th  (Short term or long term rent)
33/3 Soi Prapinij, South Sathorn Road, Bangkok 10120
Tel: +66 (0) 2287-0431
DOMESTIC HELP

Whilst there may not be difficult in finding household help, you should be careful when choosing one. If you want one who can speak some English, this will usually cost you double the amount of one who does not.

Make sure you clarify the following:

- Salary
- Working hours
- Work to be done
- Days off
- Are accommodations and food included?

In addition to salary, most maids also get a small bonus gift during New Year’s day, Thai New Year and their birthday. They usually get one day off a week, plus religious Thai holidays, but not necessarily all national holidays. It is a good idea to incorporate time off and holidays off to make decent working hours or flexibility. Many maids want to visit their hometown during Songkran Festival (Thai New Year) and New Year’s day. Again, this is something you should discuss and make an agreement in advance.

How to Find a Maid

Your house or apartment may come with a maid. However, you should be careful and take her on a trial basis only. What suits someone else, may not suit you.

Guidelines to find a maid as followings:

- Advertisement at Villa Supermarket (Sukhumvit Soi 33).
- Online classifieds like www.bambiweb.org or Thailand English-language newspapers and magazines such as Bangkok Metro Magazine.
- Ask your colleagues, friends or contacts from your child’s school.
- Try Maid Agencies:

  **Maid To Order** - run by an expatriate (John Ellis)
  Tel: +66 (0) 2874-0210, +66 (0) 87 983 5565 Email: getmaids@gmail.com
  Webpage: www.getmaids.com

  **Maid Service**
  Tel: +66 (0) 2942-0706, +66 (0) 86 310-1013
  Email: nuch_engchem206@yahoo.com

  **Nanny and Maid**
  Tel: +66 (0) 2457-8588, +66 (0) 83 123-1688
  Email: yaowarin@nannyandmaid.com
  Webpage: www.nannyandmaid.com
Perisko Care Centre
Tel: +66 (0) 2947-3599, +66 86 361-7070
Email: perisko_care@hotmail.com
Webpage: www.perisko.com

Kid’s Home & Family Services Co., Ltd
Tel: +66 (0) 2656-7024-5, +66 (0) 89 170-7025
Email: info@thaikidshome.com
Webpage: www.thaikidshome.com

Thai Nanny
Tel: +66 (0) 2656-7020    Email: info@thainanny.com
Webpage: www.thainanny.com
SHOPPING/GROCERIES/DEPARTMENT STORES

Bangkok is a shopper’s paradise. The range is immense, from finest fashion stores, global brands and all kinds of luxury designer lifestyle goods in modern and air-conditioned stores to alternative bargain shops on bustling street markets or fake goods on vendor stalls.

There are a number of department stores and supermarket chains in Bangkok in various locations around the city. (Please see Bangkok Guide for greater detail)

**Superstores and Supermarkets:** Tesco, Carrefour, BigC, Makro, Tops, Foodland and Villa Market.

**Department Stores:** Central, Emporium, Zen, Isetan, The Mall, Robinson, Siam Paragon.

**Others:** In addition to the main superstores, supermarkets and departments stores, there are a few shopping centres where you will find a wide range of products and smaller chains stores within them. Check out for MBK (a shopping mall with plenty of bargains here), Siam Centre (a mall of fashion centre and teenage trends), Pantip Plaza (IT shops) and more. Moreover, there is Jatuchak Market (J.J. Market) – a weekend market which is the largest outdoor market in the world. The market offers a wide variety of products including household items, clothing, Thai handicrafts, religious artifacts, collectibles, foods, and live animals.
### USEFUL WEBSITES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.anzwg-bangkok.org">www.anzwg-bangkok.org</a></td>
<td>Australian-New Zealand Women's Group</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.bangkok.go.th">www.bangkok.go.th</a></td>
<td>Bangkok Metropolitan Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.tourismthailand.org">www.tourismthailand.org</a></td>
<td>The Official Website for Tourism in Thailand</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.bangkok.com">www.bangkok.com</a></td>
<td>Travel and business information</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.sawadee.com">www.sawadee.com</a></td>
<td>Good travel guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://bangkok.angloinfo.com">http://bangkok.angloinfo.com</a></td>
<td>Useful updated guide for expats; business, foreign embassies in Thailand links, and more</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.mfa.go.th">www.mfa.go.th</a></td>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kingdom of Thailand</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.suvarnabhumiairport.com">www.suvarnabhumiairport.com</a></td>
<td>Suvarnabhumi Bangkok Airport</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.railway.co.th">www.railway.co.th</a></td>
<td>State Railway of Thailand</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.bts.co.th">www.bts.co.th</a></td>
<td>BTS Skytrain</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.bangkokmetro.co.th">www.bangkokmetro.co.th</a></td>
<td>MRT Underground</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.isat.or.th">www.isat.or.th</a></td>
<td>International Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.bangkokpost.com">www.bangkokpost.com</a></td>
<td>Bangkok Post online</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.nationmultimedia.com">www.nationmultimedia.com</a></td>
<td>The Nation online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://backend.movieseer.com">http://backend.movieseer.com</a></td>
<td>Movie times and cinema locations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.yellow.co.th">www.yellow.co.th</a></td>
<td>Online Thailand Directory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.foodbyphone.com">www.foodbyphone.com</a></td>
<td>Bangkok restaurants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency Telephone Numbers

Ambulance and Rescue: 1554
Police Fire Brigade: 199
Emergency Police Service: 191
Highway Patrol: 1193
Tourist Police Emergency (English, French and German spoken): 1155
Medical Evacuation & Ambulance Service: 02-255-1133

Hospital Telephone Numbers
(Emergency Numbers)

Bangkok Hospital 1719
BNH Hospital 02-686-2700
Bumrungrad Hospital 02-667-2999
Samitivej Sukhumvit 02-712-7007
Samitivej Srinakarin 02-378-9090
St Louis Hospital 02-675-5222

Other Useful Telephone Numbers

Directory Assistance: 1133
Suvarnabhumi Airport Information:
Call Centre 02-132-1888
Help Desk 02-132-3888
Flights Information 02-132-0000
Airport Information Counter (Departure) 02-132-9324-7
Airport Information Counter (Arrival) 02-132-9328-9
Immigration Bureau Office 1178
BOOKLIST – FOR NEWCOMERS TO THAILAND

- Bangkok Guide: Australian-New Zealand Women’s Group
- Working with The Thais
- Start Up & Stay Up Entrepreneurs in Thailand, Roy Tomizawa
- The Thai & I
- The Bangkok Expat Handbook
- Do’s and Don’ts of Living in Thailand
- Insight Guides, Fodor’s, Lonely Planet: Thailand
- International School in Thailand: The Complete Guide
- Simple Etiquette in Thailand
- Berlitz Thai Phrase Book
- Culture Shock – Thailand
- Mai Pen Rai means “never mind”
- Cooking Thai Food in American Kitchens
- Thai Ways
- Treasure from The National Museum Bangkok
- Behind The smile
- Doing Business in Thailand
- Thai Mean Business
- Starting and Operating a Business in Thailand
- Starting up / Staying Up in Thailand

Publications:
- Metro Magazine (Bangkok City Guide monthly activities)
- Sawasdee (The American Women’s Club cultural magazine)

Maps:
- Map: Bangkok: Nellers Map
- Map: Nancy Chandler’s Map of Bangkok
- Map: Groovy Map & Guide: Bangkok By Day, Bangkok By Night