



Thai Country Guide

Page 1 of 5 Important Information Prior to Travelling to Thailand Tourist Entry Requirements

Australian ordinary passport holders visiting Thailand for tourist purposes can usually enter the country without a visa for a period of up to 30 days (15 days if entering overland). Those entering via land borders can only do so twice per calendar year without a visa. Travellers are recommended to have at least six months validity on their passport from the date they expect to leave Thailand. Travellers should also be able to prove their ability to financially maintain themselves during their visit and be able to show confirmed onward/return tickets. Additional conditions may apply to minors. Travellers are recommended to contact a Thai mission on the details below for further information and to ensure their specific circumstances make them eligible to enter Thailand without a visa.

Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a traveller's individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to Thailand. Frequent or long stay travellers should consider vaccination against hepatitis B and rabies (particularly if working with animals). Vaccination against typhoid should be considered particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene. Care with food and beverage selection is recommended. Japanese encephalitis is present in Thailand and vaccination should be considered by travellers spending more than four weeks in rural areas of the transmission zones. There is a medium risk of malaria in Thailand; dengue fever and widespread transmission of the Zika virus also occurs. Insect avoidance measures and anti-malarial medication may be necessary depending on a traveller's itinerary; pregnant women should consider postponing travel to Thailand.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations, including a recent annual influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures.

Australians travelling to Thailand should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas, the Zika virus and other issues please visit www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips.

Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

Exercise a high degree of caution in Thailand due to the possibility of civil unrest and the threat of terrorist attack, including in Bangkok and Phuket. Pay close attention to your personal security at all times. Do not travel to the southern provinces of Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat and Songkhla or overland to and from the Malaysian border through these provinces. There are high levels of ongoing violence in these areas, including attacks and bombings that result in deaths and injuries on an almost daily basis. Martial law is in place in a number of districts, mostly in border regions. Public order and security incidents, including terror attacks, continue to pose risks throughout Thailand. Terrorists have attacked several locations frequented by tourists in recent years, resulting in deaths and injuries. See [Safety and security](#). Avoid demonstrations, political events, rallies, processions and large-scale public gatherings as they can turn violent. See [Safety and security](#).

Severe storms and widespread seasonal flooding, including flash floods, can occur without warning in Thailand. The wet season in north and central Thailand runs from May to October. In Koh Samui and the south east of the peninsula, the wet season runs from November to March. Monitor the media and weather services, and follow the instructions of local authorities. See [Natural disasters](#).

Motorcycle accidents are common and cause the majority of road deaths and serious injuries. Always wear a helmet. Check your insurance cover carefully if you intend to ride a motorcycle, particularly if you are not licensed to ride one in Australia. Penalties for drug offences are severe and include the death penalty. The possession of even small quantities of 'soft drugs' for recreational purposes can result in lengthy jail sentences. See [Laws](#).

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in Thailand at www.smartraveller.gov.au.

Thai Representation in Australia

Royal Thai Embassy, Canberra

111 Empire Circuit
YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6206 0120
Web: <http://canberra.thaiembassy.org>

Royal Thai Consulate General, Sydney

Level 8, 131 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Tel: (02) 9241 2542
Web: www.thaiconsulatesydney.org

Thailand also maintains honorary consulates in the following cities:

Brisbane:	-	(07) 3493 6464
Adelaide	-	(08) 8231 1333
Melbourne	-	(03) 9533 9100
Perth	-	(08) 9226 2288
Hobart	-	(03) 6224 3811



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Time differences between Thailand and Australia

Thailand is Greenwich Mean Time +7 hours. Daylight saving is not observed. The applicable time zone in Thailand is called Indochina Time (ICT).

Thailand, 12 noon, December = Perth 1pm, Darwin 2:30pm, Brisbane 3pm, Adelaide 3:30pm, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 4pm.
Thailand, 12 noon, June = Perth 1pm, Darwin, Adelaide 2:30pm, Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney, 3pm.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Thailand: +66
To Dial Australia Call: 001 61 <City> <Number>
Australian Reverse Charges Direct:
1800 006 110. Not available from payphones
Travelex Card Services: 001 800 442 056
Visa Global Assistance: 001 800 441 3485
MasterCard: 001 800 11 887 0663
American Express Travellers Cheques:
001 800 441 0193
Local Tourism Contacts:
Tourism Authority of Thailand - 1672
Bangkok Tourist Bureau - 0 2225 7612 4
Emergency Services:
Ambulance - 191
Fire - 199
Police - 191
Tourist Police (English) - 1155

These services may not always have English speaking staff. In this case, you should have a Thai speaker call on your behalf or contact an Australian mission.

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _
Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Credit Cards

Name: _____ Institution: _____
Card Number: _ _ _ _ _
Name: _____ Institution: _____
Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Travel Insurance

Name: _____ Institution: _____
Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____
Name: _____ Institution: _____
Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation in Thailand

Australian Embassy, Bangkok

181 Wireless Road
BANGKOK 10330
Tel: (+66 2) 344 6300
Fax: (+66 2) 344 6593
Web: www.thailand.embassy.gov.au

Australian Honorary Consulate, Chiang Mai

Tel: (+66 91) 857 6996
Australian Consulate General, Phuket
Tel: (+66 76) 317 700
Web: <http://phuket.consulate.gov.au>

Australian Honorary Consulate, Koh Samui

Tel: (+66 93) 584 7074

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians in Thailand are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian Embassy in Bangkok, or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



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Page 3 of 5 General Destination Information for Thailand

Duty Free Allowances for Thailand and Australia

Allowances when entering Thailand:

Alcohol: 1 L of alcoholic beverages.
 Tobacco: 200 cigarettes or 250 grams of cigars or tobacco.
 Other Goods: Up to 10,000 Baht.

Allowances when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 L.
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
 Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting Thailand and Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For information on Thai customs please visit www.customs.go.th, or for information on Australian customs please visit www.border.gov.au.

Electrical Adaptors and Voltage

Electrical socket: Japanese (type A) and European (type C) sockets are the most common in Thailand. The US (type B, grounded version of type A) socket may be found in some areas.

Supply: 220-240 V, 50 Hz (same as Australia).

A voltage converter will not usually be required to use appliances designed for Australian use. A socket converter is generally all that is required for Australian appliances.



Thai Holidays 2018

Public Holidays

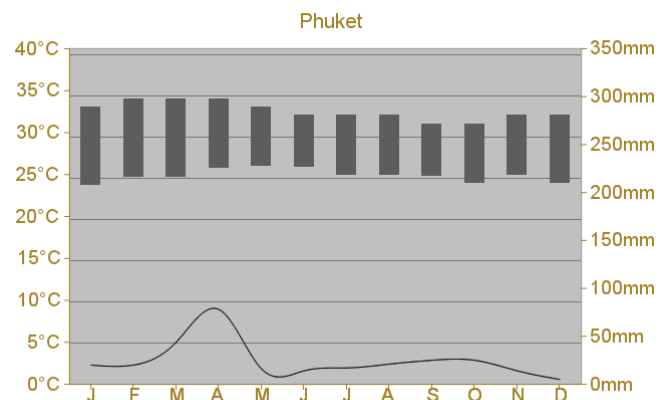
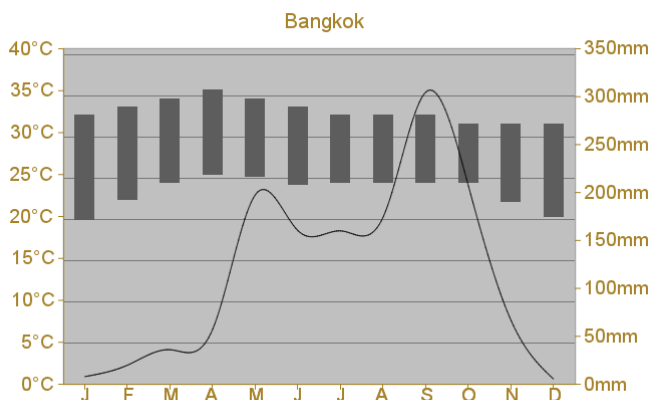
01-02 Jan:	New Year's Day	28/30 Jul:	King's Birthday
01 Mar:	Makha Bucha Day	12/13 Aug:	Queen's Birthday
06 Apr:	Chakri Day	13/15 Oct:	King's Memorial Day
13-16 Apr:	Songkran Days	23 Oct:	Chulalongkorn
01 May:	Labour Day	05 Dec:	Birth of King Bhumibol
29 May:	Wisakha Bucha	10 Dec:	Constitution Day
27 Jul:	Asarnha Bucha	31 Dec:	New Year's Eve

School Holidays

Winter:	mid Dec	-	early Jan
Spring:	early Apr	-	mid Apr
Summer:	mid Jun	-	mid Aug

School calendars vary according to region.

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Thailand



For local forecasts please go to the Thai Meteorological Department at www.tmd.go.th.

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Page 4 of 5 Thai Currency Information and Cheat Sheet Exchange Rate with Thailand Purchasing Power Parity

Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 23.61 Thai Baht
 100 Thai Baht (THB) = 4.23 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) will buy 22.71 Thai Baht
 100 Thai Baht (THB) will cost 4.40 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" takes 4% off the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging these currencies. These currency rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

The following is a purchasing-power comparison of the Thai Baht and the Australian Dollar, using the Big Mac as a common good. While it does not present a faultless comparison, it is a useful indicator of the purchasing power of each currency.

Big Mac Australia: \$5.95 (AUD) = 141 Thai Baht
 Big Mac Thailand: 119 (THB) = 5.04 Australian Dollars

A Big Mac in Thailand is therefore 15% less expensive than in Australia.

This comparison is based on 2018 prices using current exchange rates. Prices may not include variations by locality or local taxes.

Currency Cheat Sheet

50 Baht = \$2.20 AUD		This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.	
100 Baht = \$4.40 AUD	1,000 Baht = \$44.04 AUD	10,000 Baht = \$440.41 AUD	
200 Baht = \$8.81 AUD	2,000 Baht = \$88.08 AUD	20,000 Baht = \$880.82 AUD	
300 Baht = \$13.21 AUD	3,000 Baht = \$132.12 AUD	30,000 Baht = \$1,321.23 AUD	
400 Baht = \$17.62 AUD	4,000 Baht = \$176.16 AUD	40,000 Baht = \$1,761.64 AUD	
500 Baht = \$22.02 AUD	5,000 Baht = \$220.20 AUD	50,000 Baht = \$2,202.04 AUD	
600 Baht = \$26.42 AUD	6,000 Baht = \$264.25 AUD	60,000 Baht = \$2,642.45 AUD	
700 Baht = \$30.83 AUD	7,000 Baht = \$308.29 AUD	70,000 Baht = \$3,082.86 AUD	
800 Baht = \$35.23 AUD	8,000 Baht = \$352.33 AUD	80,000 Baht = \$3,523.27 AUD	
900 Baht = \$39.64 AUD	9,000 Baht = \$396.37 AUD	90,000 Baht = \$3,963.68 AUD	
		100,000 Baht = \$4,404.09 AUD	

Notes and Coins

The legal currency of Thailand is the Baht (singular or plural), which is usually abbreviated using the symbol ฿ or more commonly the letters "Bht" (for example 100 Bht). The currency code of the baht is "THB". The subunit of the baht is the satang, of which there are 100 in every baht. The following units of currency are the most common however other units are also in circulation. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images prior to travelling.





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About Thailand

Full Name: Ratcha Anachak Thai (Kingdom of Thailand). Formally Siam.

Size: 513,120 sq km (65% the size of NSW).

Population: 68 million (nearly 3 times larger than Australia). Bangkok - 9 million.

Ethnicity: Thai 96%, Burmese 2%.

Language: Thai 91%, Burmese 1.3%.

Religion: Buddhist (official) 93.6%, Muslim 5%, Christian 1.2%.

GDP Per Capita: US\$14,400 (Australia US\$46,600).

Government: Constitutional Monarchy.

Significant Dates:

- Prior to 1,000 AD - The area is populated by Mon, Khmer and Malay peoples.
- c1,000 AD - Thai people begin to move into the region from southern China.
- 1238-1448 - The Thai Sukhothai Kingdom rules much of modern Thailand.
- 1350-1767 - The Thai Ayutthaya kingdom becomes the dominant power.
- 1767 - Burmese defeat the Ayutthaya.
- 1782 - The Chakri (current) dynasty begins ruling the nation of Siam.
- 1904 - Britain and France declare Siam a neutral territory between their colonies in Indochina.
- 1917 - Siam becomes a British WW1 ally.
- 1932 - A bloodless coup ends the absolute monarchy. Constitutional monarchy with a parliament begins.
- 1939 - Siam changes its name to Thailand.
- 1941 - Japanese forces land in Thailand to attack neighbouring British colonies.
- 1942 - Thailand declares war on US & UK.
- 1947-73 - A military junta rules Thailand.
- 2004 - Indian Ocean coast hit by tsunami.
- 2014 - Following months of protests the military take power in a coup. This is at least the 20th coup since 1932.