



Mahidol University
Faculty of Pharmacy

**Essential Information
For Exchange Students
Faculty of Pharmacy
Mahidol University**

**International Relations Unit
Faculty of Pharmacy, Mahidol University
2019**

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Overview

Faculty of Pharmacy, Mahidol University



The Faculty of Pharmacy, Mahidol University at present time

At present time, the Faculty offers pharmacy education at every level ranging from undergraduate to graduate (both Master and Doctoral levels) degrees in almost every aspects of pharmacy profession. For undergraduate study, a 6-year curriculum is currently offered. For graduate study, we offer a wide range of Master and Doctoral degrees encompassing almost every stages of the entire drug development process. For more information, please visit <http://www.pharmacy.mahidol.ac.th/eng/>

Facilities

The current facility of the faculty consists of 2 buildings. Thepparat Building (construction completed in February 1991) and Ratcharat Building (construction completed in June 2000) are the two main buildings of the faculty. In 1991, Princess Sirindhorn presided in a ceremony to officially open Thepparat building for use. The building was also named after the Princess's name.

Thepparat Building, a 7th floor building, houses a 300-seat auditorium (3rd floor), two 150-seat lecture rooms (2nd floor), small lecture rooms (2nd floor), 7 large laboratories, the Faculty Drug Store (1st floor), Muslim prayer room (4th floor), part of central research laboratory, Office of the Dean, and other supporting units such as documentation office, finance and procurement officer, undergraduate student office, graduate student office, students affair office, and international affair office.

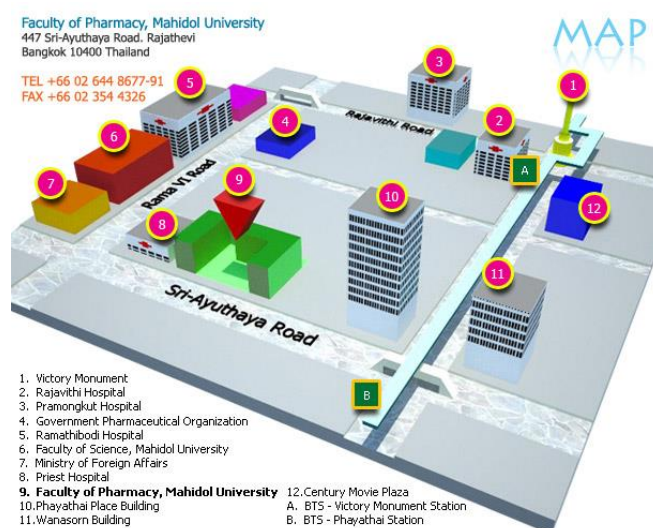
Ratcharat Building, an 8th floor building, houses a cafeteria (1st floor), a faculty library (2nd floor), Medicinal Plant Information Center (3rd floor), Drug Information Center (3rd floor), Center of Analysis for Product Quality (CAPQ) (5th floor), a central computer center (7th floor) and part of central research laboratory. In addition, there are two 150-seat lecture rooms (2nd floor), small and medium-size lecture rooms, 10 departmental offices, and laboratories for graduate and undergraduate studies.

Department/Center

Currently, the Faculty comprises of 10 departments and 3 centers, as the followings:

- Department of Biochemistry
- Department of Manufacturing Pharmacy
- Department of Pharmaceutical Botany
- Department of Pharmacognosy
- Department of Pharmacy
- The Medicinal Plant Information Center
- Drug Information Center
- Department of Food Chemistry
- Department of Microbiology
- Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry
- Department of Pharmacology
- Department of Physiology
- Center of Analysis for Product Quality

Contact



Faculty of Pharmacy, Mahidol University

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Tel: +662 354 4317 (General inquiries) Fax: +662 354 4326

Tel: +662 354 7502 (International Relations Unit)

Email: intermupy@gmail.com

Visa

Apply for your visa

With the Letter of Admission, a photocopy of your passport (which must be valid for at least 6 more months), and recent passport-size photographs, you now can apply for your student visa at a Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate in your country.

If you are already in Thailand when you receive your Letter of Admission (for example, you applied in person), be careful. Citizens of some countries can enter Thailand without a visa; citizens from other countries get a 60-day visa. If you arrive in Thailand without any visa, be prepared that you need to leave the country in order to apply for a non-immigrant ED visa from outside the country.

If you are in Thailand with a 60-day tourist visa, you can change your visa without leaving the country within the first 30 days of your visa - the other 30 days might be needed for processing your non-immigrant ED visa. **The tourist visa must be valid for at least 21 days in any case.**

The photocopies need to carry your signature. Make sure to sign with blue ink to highlight that your signature is original and not photocopied as well.

On the photographs, don't carry anything what might change your face, such as sun glasses or a baseball cap. Don't smile too much either. Although Thai people love to smile so often that many call Thailand 'The Land of Smiles', any official photograph is a serious thing. A look on a Thai ID card will show you that no one smiles. To be on the safe side, don't smile on these photographs, which have to show your full face (no profile or half-profile, please).

The number of photographs to submit is not clear. Some embassies say two Galleries, some say four. With four photographs, you'll be fine. Don't worry; you'll need more for any paper and permission you will request in Thailand. Fortunately, getting passport Galleries is very cheap in Thailand. Experienced foreigners always carry some photographs in different sizes with them, where ever they go.

Your first one-year visa is valid only 90 days

The Kingdom of Thailand doesn't mind to give you a full one-year visa based on papers showing that you will study at least one semester at a Thai university, college.

Be aware, however, that your application alone doesn't make you a student. Therefore, the student visa is only valid for 90 days when you get it the first time.

Within these 90 days, you need to register and pay your tuition fee for the respective semester. With a confirmation letter about your registration, you can then apply for extension to the full period of time. During this time, you don't need to leave the country in order to 'refresh' your visa. Even extension for the next year of study is a simple technicality, which needs the same documents as named above.

Due to several questions, let's make clear what you can do with a non-immigrant ED visa: You can study. It's not a teaching visa, and it does not permit working in Thailand in any way. It allows you to learn (study) here, nothing else.

The idea to finance your studies by jobbing around is therefore, at least following Thai laws, not a safe way. Reportedly, there are cases of students who, for instance, teach in order to finance their studies. Please be aware that this is illegal even if doing so is possible.

The 90 Days Notification

Independent of how long you stay in Thailand, you need to notify the Immigration Bureau every 90 days and tell them your current address. It's a simple form you need to fill in, and there is no fee. You get a slip from this form noting the next date when you have to do it tagged into your passport.

For this notification, you can go from 7 days before the date. If you miss the date and come only one day later, then you will have to pay a fine of 5,000 Baht (that's about 100 Euro or 150 USD). If that happens more than once or twice, you risk your visa. So, be careful. You can go to any immigration bureau anywhere in Thailand for the 90 days notification. There is no need to return to the location where your visa was originally issued. You can even do it by mail. That, however, means to send you passport per mail to the immigration bureau – something experienced foreigners in Thailand would never do. Too many letters never arrive.

Here you apply for your visa or visa extension:

Government Center Chaengwattana Building B

No. 120, Moo 3, Chaengwattana Road, Tungsonghong, Laksi, Bangkok 10210

Tel: 0-2141-9889 Fax: 0-2143-8228

Forms for download:

<https://www.immigration.go.th/download/>

Embassies

British Embassy: 14 Wireless Road Lumpini, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330.

Telephone: 02 305 8333

Embassy of Japan: 177 Witthayu Road, Lumpini, Pathum Wan, Bangkok 10330

Telephone: 0 2696 3000 / 0 2207 8500

Embassy of Malaysia: 33-35 South Sathon Road, Thung Mahamek, Sathon,

Bangkok 10120 Telephone: 0 2629 6800

Embassy of the Republic of Austria: 14 Soi Soi Nantha Mozart, off Soi 1, South Sathorn Road Rd., Thung Maha Mek, Sathon, *Bangkok* 10120 Telephone: +662-303-6257 / +662-303-6258

Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia: 600-602 Petchburi Road Ratchatewi,

Bangkok 10400 Telephone: (66-2) 2523135-40

Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines: 760 Sukhumvit Road, Corner Soi Philippines (Sukhumvit 30/1), Phra Khanong, Bangkok 10110 Telephone: (+662) 259-0139/40 or (+662) 258-5401

Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam: 83/1 Wireless Road, Lumpini,

Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330 Telephone: 0-2251-5836-8/ 0-2251-7202/ 0-2251-3552

French Embassy: Communication Authority of Thailand Tower (CAT), 23rd Floor,

72 Charoen Krung Road, Bang Rak, Bangkok 10500 Telephone: [66] (0)2 657 5100 / 627 2100

U.S. Embassy Bangkok: 120-22 Wireless Road, Bangkok, Thailand 10330

Telephone: 02 205 4000

Emergency Numbers

Ambulance 191

Fire 199

Police 191

Tourist Police 1155

Police Services

The emergency number is 191. For Phayathai Police Station, please call 02 354 6958.

For the tourist police, call 1155 who speak English and will be most helpful.

Lost Property

Suvarnabhumi/Don Mueang Airport Call Center 1722

Buses call center 1348

BTS Skytrain Hotline 02 617 6000-1

If you lose your credit card the local numbers are: **American Express** 02 273 5500, or

Master Card 02 260 8573, or **Visa** 02 256 7324

Hospitals

Hospitals are excellent and now treat people from all over the world. Bangkok is a good place to have a check-up and offered at very reasonable prices. The medical system is based on an American model.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Ramathibodi Hospital | Telephone 02 201 1000 / 02 200 2819 |
| • Hospital for Tropical Diseases | Telephone 02 306 9199 |
| • Dental Hospital (MUDT) | Telephone 02 200 7764 |
| • Rajavithi Hospital | Telephone 02 354 8108 |
| • Phramongkutklao Hospital | Telephone 02 763 9300 |
| • Paolo Hospital | Telephone 02 271 7000 |
| • Bangkok Adventist Hospital | Telephone 02 281 1422 |
| • Bangkok Christian Hospital | Telephone 02 233 6981 |
| • Bangkok Hospital | Telephone 02 310 3456 |
| • Bumrungrad Hospital | Telephone 02 667 1000 |
| • St. Louis Hospital | Telephone 02 675 5000 |

Travel Guide from the Suvarnabhumi Airport to Inner City Area

All international flights arrive at Suvarnabhumi Airport. Arrivals are on the 2nd level and Departures are on the 4th level of the terminal building. The terminal has 24 hours currency exchange, left luggage facility, first aid and pay phones. After clearing customs at the airport, you may convert your foreign currency in Thai Baht at currency exchange facilities in the airport. You will need Thai currency to pay for your travel expense from the airport to the hotel, no matter which means of travel you use. Limousine, metered taxi, rail, and bus services are readily available at the airport. If you don't have too many heavy luggage more than you can handle by yourself, the recommended travel mode to the inner city is via the Airport Link (Railway). For more information about Suvarnabhumi Airport, please visit <http://www.suvarnabhumiairport.com/>

Mode 1: Airport Link + Bangkok SkyTrain System (BTS)

The Airport Link conveniently connects downtown Bangkok and Suvarnabhumi airport. It takes only 30 minutes for the City Line (45 baht) to reach the final station, Phaya Thai station. At the Phaya Thai station, passengers can walk directly and get on the Bangkok SkyTrain System (BTS) to their respective hotel destination. Another option is to use the Express Line which is 150 baht/trip. The Airport Link's City Line will run every 15 minutes. The Express Line has a maximum speed of 160 kilometres per hour. The City Line will make 8 stops across the capital, starting from the Suvarnabhumi airport; it will stop at Lat Krabang, Ban Thap Chang, Hua Mak, Ramkhamhaeng, Makkasan, Ratchaprarop and will end at the last stop of Phaya Thai station, where it is directly connected to the Bangkok SkyTrain System. The city line operates from 6 am to midnight. Please follow the following steps if you plan to use this mode of travel.

1. Once you retrieve your belongings from the Baggage Claim area (2nd Floor), use either an elevator or escalator to go down to (Level B).
2. Follow the sign "Railway"; you will be led to the entrance of the Airport Link.
3. Pay the fees (45 baht for City Line, 150 baht for Express Line). The teller will give you a special coin to be used to pass the automatic gate.
4. Once you pass the automatic gate, go down 1 floor to the deck level where you can wait to get on the train. The waiting time depends on the train schedule (every 15 minutes for the City Line).

5. When the train arrives, get on the train and beware of your belongings as a general precaution since large crowd could gather depending of the time of your arrival.

6. Be on the train until you reach the final station, Phaya Thai station.

7. Once you arrive at the Phaya Thai station, get off the train and go down two floors.

8. Walk toward a connecting walk way to the Bangkok SkyTrain System (Phaya Thai Station; BTS Station Code: N2).

9. Purchase a card to travel to your respective hotel destination. For the 21 Living Place, you will need to go to the Victory Monument Station (BTS Station Code: N3).

10. Once you get off the train at the Victory Monument Station, please take Exit number 2. Use the stair to get down to the street level.

11. Once you are down on the street level, walk straight further for about 20 meters. You will see Rangnam Road on your left hand side, turn left onto Rangnam Road.

12. Walk straight on Rangnam Road for about 150 meters. Look for a small street called Soi Chavakul which is located on your left hand side, directly across a shopping center called “King Power”. Turn left onto Soi Chavakul. Walk for another 50 meters and you will see 21 Living Place, a 5 storey building, on your left hand side.

Mode 2: Metered Public Taxi

Using a metered public taxi, the journey from the airport to the hotel will take 40 to 60 minutes, depending on traffic. This mode of travel is the most appropriate in case that you bring many heavy luggage more than you can handle through stairs and street walk which is required if you use the Airport Link / BTS. Taxi fare to the hotel will cost around 350-400 Baht plus a 50 Baht airport surcharge and toll fees. The 1st toll fee costs 45 Baht and the 2nd toll fee costs 25 Baht. Make sure you have enough Thai Baht (in small change bills – 100 Baht notes or smaller) before you get into your taxi. Currency can be exchanged in the airport arrivals area once you have come through customs. Once you retrieve your belongings from the Baggage Claim area (2nd Floor), use either an elevator or escalator to go down to Level 1. Follow “Public Taxi” sign which will lead you to the Taxi counter. Give the name and address of the hotel to the person at the counter and the taxi will bring you there. Here is the street address of the 21 Living Place.

21 Living Place: 21/44 Soi Chavakul, Rangnam Road, Phayathai, Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400 Thailand

Email: 21livingplace@gmail.com Tel: +662 6409494

Mobile: +6687 3495477 Fax: +662 2452325

In Thai language, please show this message to the driver.

อพาร์ทเมนต์ ชื่อ 21 Living Place เลขที่ 21/44 ซ.ชวกุล (ตรงข้าม King Power Duty Free) ถ.รางน้ำ เขตราชเทวี กทม. 10400 โทร. 02-640-9494 หรือโทรศัพท์มือถือ 087-349-5477

If the taxi driver does not ask you as soon as you get into the taxi, please tell the driver to take the HIGHWAY/EXPRESSWAY. This will make your journey to the hotel faster, but the driver will want you to pay the expressway fee as you reach the toll booths. The 1st toll fee costs 45 Baht and the 2nd toll fee costs 25 Baht.

Getting Around In Bangkok

Bangkok's traffic is notorious - with good reason. It's very easy to get caught up in gridlock traffic any time of the day or night, and waste a lot of valuable time in the process. However, with excellent and modern public transport systems in place, Bangkok is surprisingly easy to navigate your way around. The SkyTrain (BTS) and underground (MRT) rail systems connect the main shopping, entertainment and business areas of the city, while river taxis and express boats can be used to explore many historic sites and attractions at the riverside. Taxis are cheap and appear on virtually every corner at almost any time. Motorbike Taxis - if in a hurry or late for a tour then motorbike taxis are quick. You must, by law, wear a helmet which the driver will supply. They are spotted easily due to the colored vests and the way they collect at certain points. Fix the price first. Tuk-Tuks, once a big Bangkok attraction, are slowly disappearing in favor of more comfortable transport, but are still worth a ride at least once.

BANGKOK BTS SkyTrain

This Bangkok BTS Route Guide has been designed to help you discover all the interesting sites and activities surrounding each station so that you can get more out of your BTS-hopping experience through Bangkok. THERE ARE TWO BTS LINES: SILOM LINE runs west to south, between the National Stadium in the Siam shopping area to Talad Plu in Thonburi (across the river), while SUKHUMVIT LINE runs north to east from Mo Chit to Bearing. The two lines meet at Siam Station, and also interconnect at two points with the underground (MRT) – at Sala Daeng and Asok stations. A new train arrives every 3 - 6 minutes or so between 06:30 and midnight. The last train leaves between 23:30 and 23:50. Fares start at 15 baht for one stop. Note that trains can get pretty full during peak hours

(07:00 - 09:00 and 16:00 - 19:00), as the BTS has become the choice mode of transport for people living and working in Bangkok.

BANGKOK MRT (UNDERGROUND)

Fast and efficient, the Mass Rapid Transit network (MRT) serves 18 stations and stretches for 20 km in a horseshoe shape from Hua Lamphong in the South (near Chinatown) to Bang Sue in the north. Trains arrive every 5-7 minutes, and connect to the BTS SkyTrain at Sukhumvit and Silom stations. Stops of particular interest to visitors include Kampaengphet (Chatuchak Weekend Market, Or Tor Kor Market and Rod Fai Market), Sukhumvit (Asok BTS SkyTrain), Silom (Saladaeng BTS SkyTrain, Pat Pong Night Market and Lumpini Park) and Hua Lamphong (Chinatown and Central Railway Station). The Petchaburi Station is about 300 m from the Airport Rail Link's Makkasan Interchange Station, where you can board the express train to Suvarnabhumi International Airport.

BANGKOK AIRPORT LINK

The much-awaited Airport Rail Link (06:00-midnight) that connects downtown Bangkok with Suvarnabhumi International Airport is a smart alternative to the airport's express buses or taxis. The two SA Express routes can get you to the airport (or downtown) in 15-18 minutes, so rest assured that you will make it to the boarding gate right on time. The City Line makes six stops between downtown (Phaya Thai Station) and the airport, completing each run in 30 minutes, which is also a great option for those with little luggage and who are not in a rush. The Airport Rail Link connects you to the MRT underground at Makkasan City Interchange Station (MRT Petchaburi Station) and the BTS SkyTrain at Phaya Thai Station. If you travel via Thai Airways International or Bangkok Airways, you can also check in your luggage at Makkasan. From Bangkok International Airport (Suvarnabhumi), the entrance to the Airport Rail Link service is on the First Floor.

How to get to Faculty of Pharmacy, Mahidol University

If you are starting from 21 Living Place, then walk out from Soi Chavakul for 99 m and turn right to Soi Rangnam. Walk straight on Rangnam Road for about 280 m, then turn left to Phaya Thai Road. Walk straight on Phaya Thai Road for about 450 m, and you will see Wannasorn Building, so turn right to Sri Ayutthaya Road where you can see the Baptist Student center (BSC) on your right hand side and C.P. Tower 3 on your left hand side. Walk

straight on the Sri Ayutthaya Road for about 750 m then you are arrived the Faculty of Pharmacy, Mahidol University where located opposite Amnuay Silpa School and near Priest Hospital.

If you are starting from BTS Phaya Thai, then just get off the station on the C.P. Tower3 side and walk along Sri Ayutthaya Road for about 600 m or around 7 minutes until you see Phaya Thai School, then cross the road by using the footbridge, turn left and continue walking for about 140 m, then you will arrived the faculty. For more convenience, when you go down from the station to footpath, you can get on the taxis or the motorbike taxis that will be on the corner in front of C.P. Tower3, it will cost 20 Baht to get to Faculty of Pharmacy, Mahidol University.

How to purchase a Thailand SIM card

The easiest and cheapest way to stay in touch when studying and traveling in Thailand is to use a Thailand SIM Card. You can put the card into your existing phone, however if you are from America you will need to make sure your phone is compatible with the networks, and uses a SIM card. Some US carriers, like Sprint do not. In that case you will need to purchase a cheap international phone before you leave. Once you get to Thailand, you can purchase a Thai SIM almost anywhere. Most big shopping malls have an entire floor dedicated to electronics and mobile phones. You may also be able to find them at 7-Eleven, Family Marts. If this is your first time, it is probably best to go to a phone store where they can activate the number for you. There are several makers of Thailand SIM cards; just like in your home country they have several mobile companies. For instance, AIS 1-2-Call, DTAC Happy SIM and True Move-H are the three most popular. Your new Thai SIM is a prepaid card, so you will need to purchase some minutes to get you going. They usually come on cards of 50, 100, 300, or 500 Baht. Depending on how much you will be using your Thai mobile will determine how much you should purchase. The top up cards are fairly easy to use, and the instructions are printed on the back. You open the card, scratch off the protective coating over your activation number, follow the directions, and once completed you will receive an SMS with your account balance. If you are using a 1-2-Call SIM card, you can check your balance at any time by texting *121# send. You can top up anytime by purchasing a new card. That's pretty much it, you can start making calls and sending SMS to your friends. Purchasing a Thailand SIM Card is easy, convenient way to make calls on your next trip.

Telephones

You must dial the full number in Thailand and so, in Bangkok, dial the 02 as part of the number. The international dialing code for Bangkok is 66. For overseas dial 00 and then the number, drop the initial zero. Public call boxes accept coins and cards. Pre-paid mobile phone SIM cards are available and mobiles work well in Bangkok. For directory enquiries call 1133 for Bangkok, 183 for the Provinces and 100 for International. For operator assistance call 13.

Electricity

Electricity is 220V and uses flat or round two pin plugs without an earth.

Time

Bangkok is seven hours ahead of GMT. In the winter this means that Bangkok is seven hours ahead of London and 12 hours ahead of New York.

Banks

Banking hours are from 08.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Exchange booths are opening much longer and available around Bangkok. ATMs are everywhere but do sometimes fail.

Money

The currency is the Thai baht. Bank notes are brown (10 baht); green (20 baht); blue (50 baht); red (100 baht); purple (500 baht) and grey for the largest bank note at 1,000 baht. Prices are generally good and a lot cheaper than most countries for the same goods. For example, a metered taxi will cost about 300 baht from the airport to the central areas and a reasonable dinner might cost about 350 baht, however there is a lot of variance and it is possible to eat for 100 baht.

Internet

Bangkok has internet cafes everywhere and very good value at about one baht per minute and sometimes less. They are mostly open until very late. Actually, many hotels and restaurants in Thailand offer free Wi-Fi to their guests, but some places are still charging for Wi-Fi access as well.

Shopping Centers & Malls

Amarin Plaza: A modern plaza on Ploenchit Road near the Erawan Shrine and mainly selling imported name products. 496-502 Ploenchit Road. BTS: Chit Lom. Telephone: 02 256 9111

Big C Ratchadamri: The biggest of the many Big C's with an EGV Metropolis and good food court. Located opposite Central World Plaza. BTS: Chit Lom. Telephone: 02 250 4888

Siam Paragon: a project that was created with a budget of more than 15,000 million and an area of over 500,000 square meters, complete with shops leading Thailand and international brands around the world, with over 250 stores covering the needs of our customers and all visitors. It is the center of fashion jewelry and watches, beauty centers, restaurants and entertainment centers. Also, it is a center for the arts and culture of Thailand and International Center for Arts and treatment, and technology center. There is also a good Paragon Department Store. Supermarkets Gourmet Market Convention and the International Exhibition “Royal Paragon Hall” entertainment and travel to such cinema world class “Paragon Cinema-plex” and “Siam Ocean World” on the first aquarium in the center of the city.

Central World Plaza: A huge, recently renovated mall. Zen department store and Isetan department stores are located in the Central World Plaza. Upmarket food court on the 7th floor with eat in, take away and supermarket. Inside the Central World Plaza are cinemas and many restaurants. Corner of Rama I and Rajadamri Roads, BTS: Chit Lom. Telephone: 02 255 9400

Emporium Bangkok: A popular mall with department store and many other quality shops. There is a cinema on the sixth floor and food court on the fifth floor. The top floor has a free Thailand design exhibition presented in English and Thai. Connected to BTS SkyTrain station at Phrom Phong and located at 622 Sukhumvit Road. Telephone: 02 664 8000

MBK: Lots of small shops in a market style but in air-conditioned comfort. Full range of goods and good prices to be had. Tokyu Department store is located inside MBK. Located at Siam Square, use BTS National Stadium Station.

Panthip Plaza: A huge computer mall that sells everything to do with computers at great prices and lots of software and DVDs. Located near the Pratunam market on Petchaburi Road.

Platinum Fashion Mall: This fashion mall is ONE STOP wholesale shopping and modern fashion mall at center on water gate, opposite the Amari Watergate Hotel. BTS: Ratchathewi Station.

Siam Center: A modern "hip" mall that wants to be trendy, being promoted as "the magical glass box". 979 Rama I Road, next to Siam Discovery Center opposite Siam Square.

Siam Discovery Center: Modern home decorations, bookshop and fashion in a well laid out mall at Siam Square and connected to the Siam Centre. Children's play area on the top floor. Cinema with love seats. 989 Rama I Road and next to Siam Center opposite Siam Square. BTS: Siam.

Siam Square: Not a mall as such but a collection of popular shops and restaurants and cinemas. Rama I Road opposite Siam Center. BTS: Siam.

Silom Complex: A large mall in the central business District. Silom Road. BTS: Sala Daeng Station. Telephone: 02 632 1199

Terminal 21: A one floor one theme shopping mall. The concept is market streets of the world. It is decorated based on well-known streets in cities such as Rome, Paris, Tokyo, and London. BTS: Asok

Markets

Chinatown: To the south-east of the old city and west of Hualampong Station lies an extensive and interesting Chinatown full of crowded, narrow streets. Many of the Chinese shops deal in gold and jewelry but there are also fabric merchants, food stores, Chinese hotels and many other types of businesses. The largest Chinese temple is Wat Mangkon Kamalawat.

Khao San Road: Famous amongst backpackers and good for CDs, second-hand books and excitement. Starts from about 1pm and becomes very lively late at night.

Memorial Bridge Night Market: Located at the Memorial Bridge in Chinatown, it has clothing and lots of other goods. It starts about 7 pm and closes at 2 am.

Pratunam Market: Next to the Indra Hotel on Ratchaprarop Road, the place to buy bargain clothes amongst the tight alley ways. It is a wholesale market so buy in volume and save lots of cash.

Suan Chatuchak Weekend Market: This area, near the Northern Bus Terminal (Morchit), is open land during the week but is a vast market at the weekend. The prime commodity is clothing but almost everything is sold there and it is well worth a visit. It opens from about 8 am every Saturday and Sunday and closes around 5 pm. Easy to reach by Sky Train.

Taling Chan Floating Market: The real floating market, best reached by long-tailed boat, operates on weekend only.

Thai Culture

The Wai

Thais respect each other. This is demonstrated using the wai where respect is shown to superiors. Foreigners are not expected to use the wai and Thais will extend a hand. However, to us the wai is appreciated and is done by pressing your palms gracefully together, fingers pointing upward and tilt your head forward. Don't wai maids, children or others who might be lower in the social order first, wait until they wai you and then wai in return.

Addressing People

The word "*khun*" is the best way to address someone; it means Mr., Mrs. or Miss and is used in front of the name. You will then hear your name as *khun David*. The polite term "*krab*" and "*kha*" is used often.

Monarchy

The current King His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX) has ruled since 1946 and has unanimous popularity within the kingdom. The King has total respect and visitors need to be aware that to show disrespect to the King is a very serious issue. The National Anthem is played in cinemas, radio and TV and everyone stands to attention.

Festivals

Festivals are part of Bangkok life and include three New Year celebrations: the Western New Year, the Chinese New Year in February and the Thai New Year in April.

H.M. The King's Birthday Celebration: Thai's have great respect for His Majesty and, on 5th December, lights and decorations are found all around the Grand Palace area and along Ratchadamnoen.

H.M. The Queen's Birthday Celebration: On 12th August, Bangkok, particularly around the Grand Palace, is decorated with many lights to celebrate the Queen's Birthday.

Loy Krathong: Held normally in November when there is full moon in the 12th lunar month. The festival is celebrated by Thai people making candlelit floats and placing them on the river or in water. Fireworks are also let off at the same time.

Songkran: This festival, which celebrates the Thai Lunar New Year during the period 13th to 15th April, is a great experience if you do not mind getting wet. Basically everyone throws water around and you get wet! It is limited in Bangkok and more widely celebrated in Chiang Mai.

Food

A typical Thai meal includes four main seasonings: salty, sweet, sour, and spicy. Indeed, most Thai dishes are not considered satisfying unless they combine all four tastes. When eating out, a group of Thai diners would order a variety of meat and/or fish dishes, plus vegetables, a noodle dish, and possibly also soup. Dessert may consist simply of fresh fruit, such as pineapple, or something more exotic, such as colorful rice cakes, depending on the region.

Language

Thai language is based on tones. A slight change in tone changes the meaning. A common word 'kau' means rice, white, mountain or even news depending on the tone used. Some phrases that might help are shown below and Thais will appreciate your efforts.

Some phrases showing the tones:	
Hello (male)	Sawaddee-krup
Hello (female)	Sawaddee-ka
I want to go	Chan yak pai
My name is (male)	Pom che (make the o and the e with a falling tone)
My name is (female)	Dee-chan che (second e low tone; last e and the a falling tone)
Never mind	Mai pen rai (a falling tone on the first a)
Please call the police	Chuai riak tam-ruat duay (falling tones except first u a low tone)
Thank you (male)	Khob khun krap (o with a low tone)
Thank you (female)	Khob khun ka
Where is the ...?	...Yu tee nai? (first u low tone; first e and on the a use falling tone)
Where is the toilet?	Hong Nam yu tee nai? (falling tones except second u a low tone)

Other common words and phrases:			
Airport	Sanam bin	How many?	Gii?
Bank	Tanakan	How much?	Tao rai
Beef	Neua	I am a vegetarian	Gin jae
Bottled water	Nam kwad	No	Mai
Bus	Rot-meh	Rice	Kao

Numbers:	
0	Soon
1	Neung
2	Sorng
3	Sarm
4	Sii
5	Har
6	Hok
7	Jed
8	Pad
9	Gao
10	Sip
20	Yee-sip
100	Roy
1000	Pun
10000	Muen

Cheap	Took	Shop	Raan
Chicken	Gai	Stop	Yut
Enough	Phaw- laew	Tea	Naam-cha
Expensive	Paeng	Turn right	Liaw-khwaa
Go	Pai	Turn left	Liaw-saai
Help	Chuay	Water	Naam
How long?	Naan thao rai?	Yes	Chai