



Thai Country Guide

Issued October 26th, 2009

Page 1 of 5. Important Information Prior to Travelling to Thailand

Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Monday, 26 October 2009.

We advise you to exercise a high degree of caution because of the high threat of terrorist attack and because of political instability in Thailand. Pay close attention to your personal security at all times and monitor the media for information about possible new safety or security risks. We continue to receive reports that terrorists may be planning attacks against a range of targets, including tourist areas and other places frequented by foreigners. Demonstrations can develop quickly and turn violent with little warning. Disruption in Bangkok and other parts of Thailand, including to transport and other infrastructure, could occur as a result of major protest action. If you are in an area where demonstrators are gathering, you should leave the area immediately.

There is an ongoing border dispute between Thailand and Cambodia relating to land adjacent to the Khao Pra Viharn temple (Preah Vihear in Khmer). Australians are urged to be particularly vigilant if travelling to these areas and to monitor local media. We strongly advise you not to travel at this time to the southern provinces of Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat and Songkhla or overland to and from the Malaysian border through these provinces due to high levels of ongoing violence in these regions, including terrorist attacks and bombings resulting in deaths and injuries on an almost daily basis. Since January 2004, more than 3,400 people have reportedly been killed and many more injured, including a number of foreigners.

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. References to the H1N1 virus may have been removed. Travellers are encouraged to read the full travel advice, subscribe to updates to this advice and register their travel details at www.smartraveller.gov.au.

Vaccinations and Health Precautions for Thailand

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 travellers 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 all travellers to Thailand. Vaccination against Hepatitis B and Typhoid should also be considered, while persons staying in Thailand for extended periods or visiting certain regions may require immunisation against Tuberculosis, Rabies or Japanese Encephalitis. Cholera is reported in Thailand but vaccination it is not usually recommend for most travellers (care with food and beverage selection is far more important). Malaria and Dengue Fever are present in Thailand, thus insect avoidance measures and Antimalarial drugs may be required depending on the travellers itinerary. All travellers should be up to date with their routine "background" vaccinations. These include vaccinations for Tetanus and Diphtheria (with a booster within the last 10 years), Whooping Cough (which is often combined with the Tetanus and Diphtheria vaccination), Polio (with a booster in adult life), Measles, Mumps and Rubella (two combination vaccinations through life), Chicken Pox and 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 also ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. For further information on insurance please visit the Smartraveller website listed above.

Thai Representation in Australia

Royal Thai Embassy, Canberra

111 Empire Circuit
YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6206 0120
Fax: (02) 6206 0123

Web: <http://canberra.thaiembassy.org>

Royal Thai Consulate General, Sydney

Level 8, 131 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Tel: (02) 9241 2542
Fax: (02) 9247 8312

Web: www.thaiconsulatesydney.org

Thailand also maintains honorary consulates in other cities which can be contacted on the following numbers:

Adelaide	-	(08) 8218 4848
Melbourne	-	(03) 9533 9100
Perth	-	(08) 9221 3237
Brisbane	-	(07) 3846 7771
Hobart	-	(03) 6224 3811

**TRAVELLERS
CHOICE**
A WORLD OF EXPERIENCE



Thai Country Guide

Issued October 26th, 2009

Time Differences between Thailand and Australia

Thailand is Greenwich Mean Time +7. Daylight saving is not observed.

Thailand, 12 noon, Winter (Dec) = Perth 1pm, Darwin 2.30pm, Brisbane 3pm, Adelaide 3.30pm, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 4pm.
Thailand, 12 noon, Summer (Jun) = 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:
011 999 61 1000. 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) - 1699 or 1155
These services may not always have English speaking staff. In this case, you should have a local call on your behalf or contact an Australian mission.

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry copies of all important documents separately to their originals, and to leave a copy of this information with someone in Australia. This includes copies of travellers cheques and 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

37 South Sathorn Road
BANGKOK 10120

Tel: (+66 2) 344 6300
Fax: (+66 2) 344 6310

Email: consular.bangkok@dfat.gov.au
Web: www.austembassy.or.th

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (001 61 2) 6261 3305.

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





Thai Country Guide

Issued October 26th, 2009

Duty Free Allowances

Duty Free limits when entering Thailand:

Alcohol: 1 L of alcoholic beverages
 Tobacco: 200 cigarettes or 250 grams of cigars or tobacco
 Perfume: Reasonable amounts
 Other Tax Free Goods: Up to 10,000 Baht (inc. perfume)

Please go to www.customs.go.th for further details on Thai Customs and Duty Free regulations.

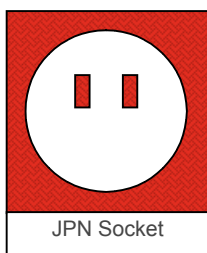
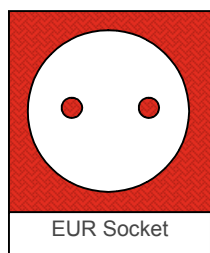
Duty Free limits when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 L
 Tobacco: 250 cigarettes or 250 g of cigars/tobacco products
 Other Tax Free Goods: Up to \$900 (\$450 for minors)

Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply to these and other goods, travellers should familiarise themselves with these restrictions before entry.

Electrical and Telephone Adaptors

Electrical Plug type: European, Japanese
 Voltage: 220-240 volts (same as Australia)
 Modem Plug Type: USA (same as Australia)



Source: Korjo Travel Products. To purchase electrical/modem adaptors, or for further information on this matter, please view the Korjo adaptor guide at www.korjo.com.au.

Thai Holidays 2009

Public Holidays

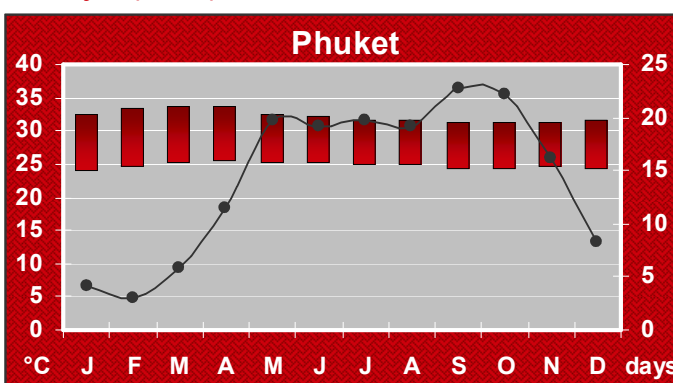
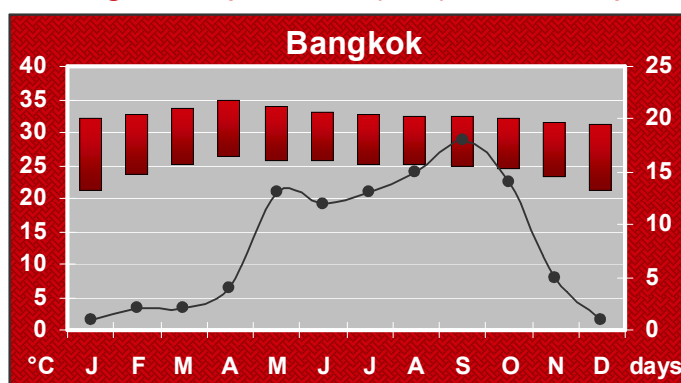
01 Jan: New Year's Day	09 Feb: Makha Bucha Day
06 Apr: Chakri Day	13-15 Apr: Songkran Days
01 May: Labour Day	05 May: Coronation Day
08 May: Visakha Bucha	07 Jul: Buddhist Lent Day
12 Aug: Queen's Birthday	23 Oct: Chulalongkorn
07 Dec: King's Birthday	10 Dec: Constitution Day
31 Dec: New Year's Eve	

School Holidays

Winter:	mid Dec	–	mid Jan
Spring:	early Apr	–	mid Apr
Summer:	Jul	–	mid Aug

School calendars vary according to region.

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



TRAVEL ADVICE COPYRIGHT INFORMATION - Source Document: Travel Advice for Thailand. Author: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Commonwealth of Australia. The Travel Advice information presented in this report is copyright Commonwealth of Australia. This advice is a synopsis only, more information relevant to specific issues is available from the website listed below. This material has been reproduced by permission, but does not purport to be the current official or authorized version. The Commonwealth does not warrant that the information is accurate, comprehensive or up to date, and you should make independent inquiries, and obtain appropriate advice, before relying on the information in any important matter. A current version may be obtained from www.smarttraveller.gov.au.

Source: Thai Meteorological Department. For local forecasts please go to www.tmd.go.th.





Thai Country Guide

Issued October 26th, 2009

Exchange Rate with Thailand

Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 31.06 Thai Baht

100 Thai Baht (THB) = 3.22 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) will buy 29.82 Thai Baht

100 Thai Baht (THB) will cost 3.35 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 26 October 2009. 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.

Purchasing-Power Parity

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 the two currencies.

Big Mac Australia: 3.95 (AUD)

= 123 Thai Baht

Big Mac Thailand: 62 (THB)

= 2.00 Australian Dollars

A Big Mac in Thailand is therefore 49% cheaper than in Australia.

Comparisons are based on 2008 data using current exchange rates. Prices supplied compliments of McDonalds Corp (USA).

Currency Cheat Sheet

5 Baht	=	0.17 AUD			
10 Baht	=	0.33 AUD	100 Baht	=	3.35 AUD
20 Baht	=	0.67 AUD	200 Baht	=	6.70 AUD
30 Baht	=	1.00 AUD	300 Baht	=	10.04 AUD
40 Baht	=	1.34 AUD	400 Baht	=	13.39 AUD
50 Baht	=	1.67 AUD	500 Baht	=	16.74 AUD
60 Baht	=	2.01 AUD	600 Baht	=	20.09 AUD
70 Baht	=	2.34 AUD	700 Baht	=	23.43 AUD
80 Baht	=	2.68 AUD	800 Baht	=	26.78 AUD
90 Baht	=	3.01 AUD	900 Baht	=	30.13 AUD
					1,000 Baht = 33.48 AUD
					2,000 Baht = 66.96 AUD
					3,000 Baht = 100.43 AUD
					4,000 Baht = 133.91 AUD
					5,000 Baht = 167.39 AUD
					6,000 Baht = 200.87 AUD
					7,000 Baht = 234.34 AUD
					8,000 Baht = 267.82 AUD
					9,000 Baht = 301.30 AUD
					10,000 Baht = 334.78 AUD

This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.

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 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.

Value	Face	Reverse	Face	Reverse	Face	Reverse
2 Bht						
5 Bht						
10 Bht						

TRAVELLERS CHOICE
A WORLD OF EXPERIENCE



Thai Country Guide

Issued October 26th, 2009



About Thailand

- Full Name: Ratcha Anachak Thai (Kingdom of Thailand)
- Founding Date: 1238 AD (never colonised)
- Size: 510,890sq km (Approx twice the size of VIC)
- Pop. Density: 125 persons per sq km (Australia 2.84 per sq km)
- Population: 66 Million (3 times that of Australia, 1% of the world's pop.)
- Language: Thai, English and ethnic and regional dialects.
- Demonym: Thai
- Religion: Buddhist 94.6%, Muslim 4.6%, Christian 0.7%.
- Ethnicity: Thai 75%, Chinese 14%, Other 11%
- GDP P/Capita: US\$8,500 (Australia US\$38,100)
- Government: Constitutional Monarchy
- Head of State: King Phumiphon Adunyadet (since June 1946)
- Capital: Bangkok
- Largest Cities:

Greater Bangkok	11,971,000
Bangkok Proper	5,713,000
Hat Yai	157,000
Chiang Mai	146,000
Khorat	145,000
Udon Thani	139,000
Surat Thani	127,000
Khon Kaen	117,000
N. Si Thammarat	109,000

