



Welcome to the first module of the Thailand E-Learning Program. This module will help you provide customers with detailed information about visiting Thailand, including facts and figures on Thailand's climate, currency and culture, so your customers will be fully prepared.

Also, the information on available transportation to travel around Thailand as well as the calendar of Thai festival 2017 are also mentioned here.

## Let's start now !

### Course Process

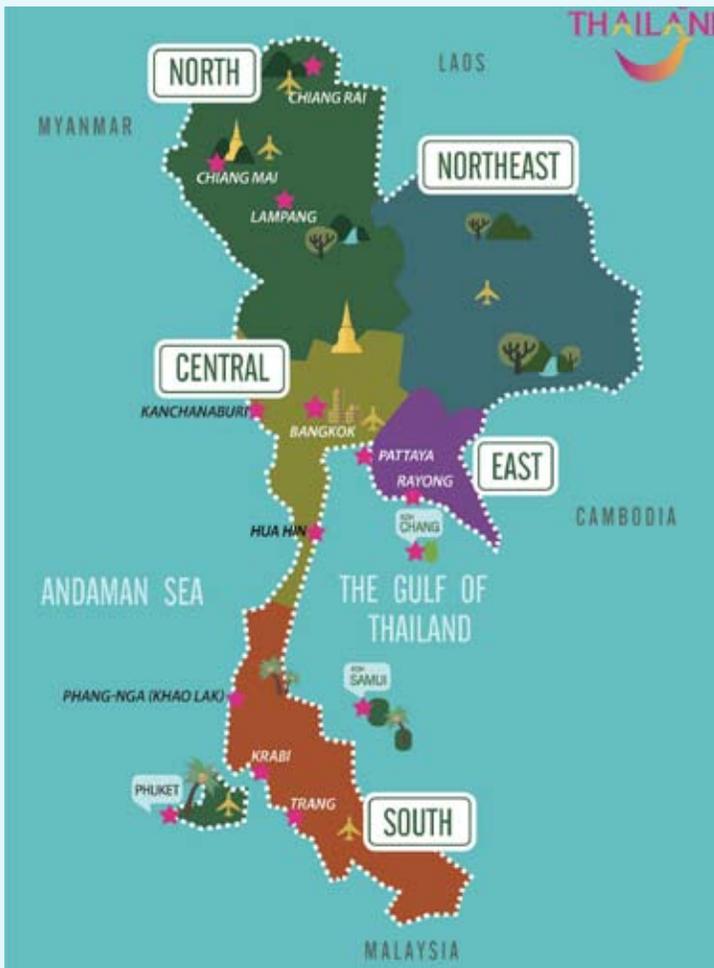
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## Where is Thailand?

Thailand is located at the center of South East Asia which is not very far from India. The country shares borders with the four countries i.e. Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar and with Vietnam in close proximity, it is the obvious hub for travellers who want to undertake multi-destination itineraries.

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2. Central i.e. Bangkok, Kanchanaburi, Hua Hin
3. North i.e. Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Lampang
4. North-East i.e. Nakornratchasima (Khaoyai)
5. East i.e. Pattaya, Rayong, Trat
6. Southern Thailand i.e. Phuket, Khao Lak, Krabi, Koh Samui, Trang





Thailand, officially The Kingdom of Thailand, and formerly known as Siam, is a country at the centre of the Indochina peninsula in South East Asia. The country is never been colonised by any country in the world.

With a total area of approximately 198,000 sq mt, Thailand is the world's 50th-largest country. It is the 21st most populous country in the world, with around 68.3 million people.

Thailand is a monarchy headed by His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun, Rama X.

He is the tenth king from the House of Chakri and has recently succeeded the former Late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who is world renowned.

India and Thailand share a warm and distinct relation since decades. Every year millions of travellers from India travel to the 'Land of Smiles'.

### Quick Facts:

- **Capital City:** Bangkok
- **Currency:** Thai Baht (divided into 100 satang) ; 1 THB = 1.90 INR
- **Population:** 68.3 Million
- **Prominent Religion:** Buddhism (95%)
- **Dialing code:** +66
- **Official Language:** Thai
- **Time Difference:** 1 ½ Hours ahead of India

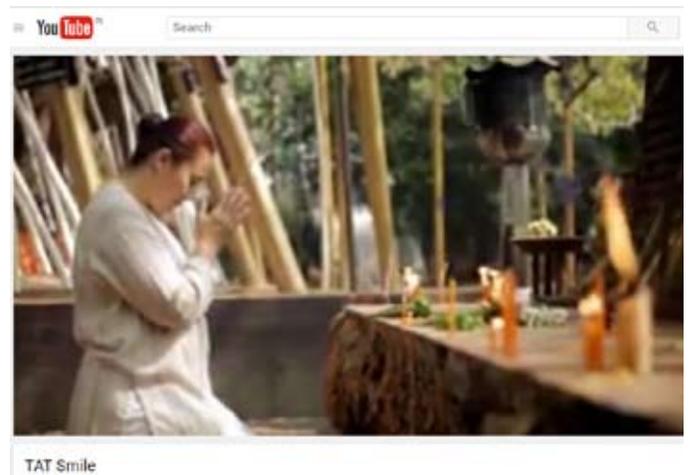


## Why travel to Thailand

Thailand is one of the most desired travel destinations for Indian travellers in the world. It is a land of truly amazing contrasts and unforgettable experiences.

**There are reasons why Thailand stands on the top heart of Indian tourists**

- Quality & Luxury Holidays
- Value for Money
- Women friendly destination
- Beautiful Beaches
- Proximity to India
- Spas & Wellness centers
- Friendly and hospitable
- World class hotels & Resorts at a reasonable cost
- Similar culture which creates comfort level
- Visa on Arrival



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The amazing images uploaded weekly speak for themselves.





*Suvarnabhumi Airport*

## Flying to Thailand

Thailand is very accessible to Indian tourists; Bangkok is connected with all the major towns of India like New Delhi, Kolkata, Jaipur, Varanasi, Gaya, Mumbai and many other cities. It takes less than 4 hours to reach the most fascinating wonderland of South East Asia.

Bangkok is the main entry point for most tourists, and from here travellers generally head to other parts of Thailand.

**Suvarnabhumi Airport** (BKK) serves as the primary international airport in Thailand along with **Don Mueang Airport**. For more information about Thailand airport and view their maps, please visit <http://www.suvarnabhumiairport.com/> , <http://donmueangairportthai.com/en/landings/flightinfo>

Below is the flight information to Thailand; separated by 4 countries of origin as follow

## Flights from India to Thailand

- ✦ Delhi - Thai Airways (3flights), Jet Airways, Air India
- ✦ Kolkata - Thai airways, Indigo (2 flights), Tashi Air, Spice jet
- ✦ Thai Smile - Jaipur, Lucknow, Varanasi, Gaya – Bangkok (Suvarnabhumi)
- ✦ Malindo Air: Amritsar - Kuala Lumpur – Bangkok (Don Muang)
- ✦ Tiger Air: Lucknow – Singapore – Bangkok, Phuket, Krabi, Chiang Mai, Hat Yai
- ✦ Scoot: Jaipur – Singapore – Bangkok, Phuket, Trang, Krabi, Koh Samui, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, etc.
- ✦ Scoot: Amritsar – Singapore – Bangkok, Phuket, Trang, Krabi, Koh Samui, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, etc.
- ✦ Thai Air Asia: Bangkok (Don Muang) - Kolkata – soon

## Flights from Bangladesh to Thailand

- ✦ Bangkok Airways - daily
- ✦ Thai Airways - daily
- ✦ Biman Bangladesh - daily
- ✦ Regent Airways - 4 times a week

## Flights from Nepal to Thailand

- ✦ Kathmandu - Thai Airways - daily

## Flights from Bhutan to Thailand

- ✦ Druk Air - Daily flight - The flight may have a stopover in Guwahati or Dhaka.
- ✦ Bhutan airways



## Visas

Visitors from India and Bhutan can get their visas on arrival. However, tourists from Bangladesh and Nepal have to get their visas prior to their arrival.

Citizens of India and Bhutan when applying visa between 1st Dec 2016 and 28th Feb 2017 don't need to pay visa fees (a category of before arrival) for a Thai tourist visa at the VFS office or consular offices and pay only THB 1,000 for a category of visa on arrival.

**For more information on visa application, kindly visit the following link**

- More info for Visa from India - <http://www.vfs-thailand.co.in/>
- More info on Visa From Bangladesh - <http://www.vfsglobal.com/Thailand/Bangladesh/>
- More info on Visa From Bhutan - <http://www.royalthaiconsulate.bt/>
- More info on Visa From Nepal - <http://www.thaiembnepal.org.np/?do=services&index=visa&lang=en>
- More info for On Arrival Visa - <http://www.suvarnabhumiairport.com/en/907-visa-on-arrival>
- Online Visa Application - [http://www.vfs-thailand.co.in/Delhi/Online\\_Visa\\_Application\\_Form.html](http://www.vfs-thailand.co.in/Delhi/Online_Visa_Application_Form.html)

Generally speaking, tourists are required to apply for a Thai visa through a VFS or Consulate-General.



*Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok(Hotel)*

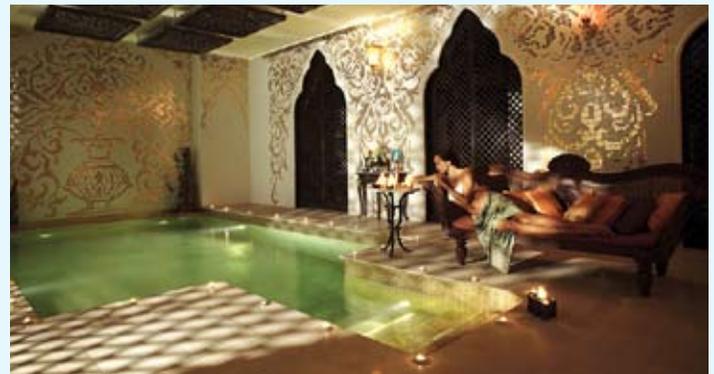


## Accommodation in Thailand

### Hotels and Resorts

Thailand features not only some of the finest hotels and resorts in the world, but also arguably the greatest variety of accommodation to choose from. The accommodation options range from rural home stays to luxurious five-star spa-resorts and nearly everything in between.

**Hotels in Thailand:** The selection of hotels available to visitors to Thailand is immense. Most international brands have a presence in the Kingdom, and are joined by a host of modern Thai-owned brands at all levels.



*Watsu Pool*



*Fine Dine*

*Chiva Som Pool*



**Resorts in Thailand:** Jungle retreats, beach resorts, holistic wellness centers, luxurious spas: Thailand features some of the most spectacular resorts and spas in the world

**Boutique Hotels:** Along with traditional properties, a vast and growing number of boutique hotels operate in Thailand and usually have four to five star ratings.

**Villas:** There are many options for visitors looking for a villa in Thailand or other private luxury accommodation, these are particularly popular in the Southern Thailand Island destinations.



*Jungle Resort*

**Tents and Camping:** There are many national parks that allow visitors to go camping in Thailand, both with or without requiring visitors to bring along their own tents.

**Homestays:** Thailand Homestays are just what they sound like, staying as a guest in the home of a Thai family. These unique cultural experiences are available throughout Thailand.

## Getting Around Thailand

For visitors, travelling in Thailand is very convenient; Thailand transportation infrastructure is modern and well-organised, and exploring the country is a very straight forward experience.

Whether your travel preference is air, rail, bus, road, or water, most modes of schedule transportation are used to cater to the foreign visitors and have frequent departures.

### Flights

The majority of international travellers will take short domestic flights around Thailand. Domestic flights are easy and convenient within Thailand, cutting down on journey times and often costing less than travel by car or rail. View the map of all [Thailand's Airports](#).

Examples of the low cost airline options within Thailand are:



### Train Journeys

Rail lines laid throughout Thailand create a 4,000 km system that is both efficient and comfortable. Popular train routes include Bangkok to Chiang Mai and Bangkok to Surat Thani, the launching point for boats to Koh Samui. Visit [www.railway.co.th](http://www.railway.co.th)



### Bus and Coach

The Thailand bus network is arguably the number-one mode of transportation both in and around Bangkok, as well as for long distance travel, particularly for the budget travellers. Click here for detailed information on [Bus and Coach Travel](#).



## Driving in Thailand

Thailand has a good network of well maintained roads and highways between all the provincial capitals and major towns and cities in between. For more detailed information visit: [Driving in Thailand](#).

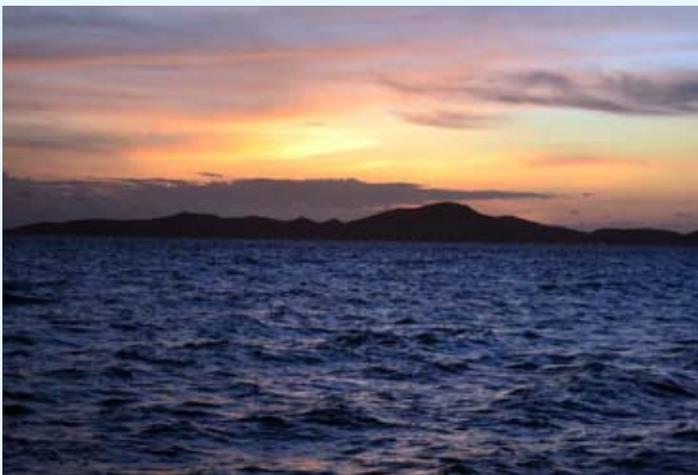
## Weather in Thailand

The climate in Thailand is controlled by tropical monsoons and the weather in Thailand is generally hot and humid across most part of the country almost throughout the year. While Thailand's seasons are generally divided into the Hot season (March- June), Cool season is mostly in Northern regions (Nov-Feb), and Rainy season (July-Oct), in reality it is relatively hot most of the year.

The southern, coastal region of Thailand in reality has only two seasons – rainy season and dry season. Fortunately, for those planning a beach holiday, Thailand's two coasts have slightly different rainy seasons, allowing visitors to find sunny beaches nearly year round.

On the Andaman or west coast, where Phuket, Krabi, and the Phi Phi Islands lie, the southwest monsoon brings heavy storms from April to October, while on the Gulf of Thailand or east coast, where Koh Samui, Koh Phangan, and Koh Tao lie, most rainfalls are between September and December.

You can access weather forecast in Thailand by visiting this webpage: <http://www.tourismthailand.org/About-Thailand/Weather>



## Thailand Festival Calendar

In each month there are numerous festivals being celebrated throughout the kingdom. The following are just a few of major festivals in Thailand.

**Songkran Festival (13-15 April )** – During this Thai New Year, people pour scented water into the hands of parents and the elderly and ask for their blessings. Water is splashed on others as a “gesture of good luck”. Be prepared to get wet.

**Loi Krathong Festival (Full moon. Twelfth Lunar Month)** – This most charming of all Thai celebrations usually falls in November. People launch Krathongs, lotus-blossom-shaped vessels made of banana leaves, containing candles, incense sticks, flowers, and coins on to the river to pay respect to the goddess of water.

**New Year’s Eve (31 December & 1 January)** - Celebrations across the country to ring in New Year. For more events and festivals in Thailand, click here <http://www.tourismthailand.org/Events-and-Festivals>



## Food

Thailand is one of the most visited South-East Asian nations, and has a high tourist influx. What makes Thailand so special is that it has managed to keep up with the modern world, while still staying traditional and in touch with its roots.

Thai cuisine is one of the most popular cuisines in the world. Thailand's cuisine is astoundingly diverse, with dishes changing in form and flavour just about every time they cross a provincial border. Bangkok, by far Thailand's largest city and a melting pot of people and food, is no exception to this diversity, and the city can lay claim to its own distinct cuisine.

### **There's no doubt Indian food in Thailand is growing in popularity!!**

From high-end eats to street-side snacks, North Indian, South Indian, Gujarati, Mughal, Tandoor, Bengali, Maharashtrian and many more mouth watering Indian cuisines are available here and there are the places serving authentic, regional halal cuisine too.

It's true that Indian restaurants are easily available in Bangkok, Pattaya, Phuket, Krabi, Samui, Chiang Mai, Hua Hin, Koh Chang, Rayong, etc. You may collect the Indian food (veg & non veg) guide from TAT New Delhi Office.

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