

Thailand Land of Smiles

The country's name was Siam until June 24th 1939 then again in 1945 until 11th May 1949. The word Thai means freedom in the Thai language.

Thai boxing muay thai is the national sport in Thailand there are two venues in Bangkok for this sport Ratchadamnoen Stadium and Lumpini Stadium. The muay thai institute was founded in 1997. However association football has taken over muay thai position as most widely viewed and liked sport in Thailand.

Thai cuisine blends five fundamental tastes spicy sour sweet salty and bitter. Some common ingredients used in Thai cuisine are lemon grass garlic lime juice fish sauce and chillies. The staple food in Thailand is rice which is included in many meals. Thai is the largest rice exporter of rice in the world over 5000 varieties of rice from Thailand are stored in rice gene banks.

There are numerous Thai Chinese and English newspapers in circulation and Thailand is the largest newspaper market in South East Asia. Thailand has more visitors than any other country in South East Asia. It has many temples and ruins of ancient kingdoms, breathtaking beauty and robust cuisine. Thailand is known as the land of smiles offering something for every traveller and is a sightseer paradise.

Nakhon Pathom is regarded as the oldest city in Thailand and is home to the tallest Buddhist monument in the world. In the south you will discover waterfalls lakes limestone cliffs caves and lots of wildlife.

Bangkok

Bangkok is divided by the Chao Phraya River and is one of the biggest cities in the world. Bangkok has the glittering nightlife and colourful markets. Explore the city by visiting the Grand Palace.

Bangkok has a modern monorail called the sky train and an underground system. The national transport for Thais is the tuk-tuk. There is also long tail boats for island hopping. Trains and coaches link Bangkok with other main cities.

Thailand has monsoons in July and last until late November (rainy season). They can be uncomfortably and sticky. Next is the dry cool time from November until February then comes the higher temperature from March until June. The best time to visit is February to March. If you visit in the low season the rates are cheaper and the rooms cheap.

Thai currency is the Baht. The main language is Thai but English is commonly used.

A visa is not needed if your stay is for 30 days but your passport must be valid for at least 6 months.

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About the Author

Douglas Scott works and writes for <http://www.carrentals.co.uk> and has written a brief description about travelling around Thailand.