

# Sight-seeing



## TEMPLES / SHRINES

### TEMPLE OF DAWN



Arunamarin Rd., Bangkok Yai  
**TEL.** 02-891-1149  
**8:30 am.-5:30 pm.**

One of the oldest temples in Bangkok, clearly visible across the Chao Phraya River almost opposite the Grand Palace, Wat Arun was the royal temple of King Taksin during the Thonburi period. The pagoda, 79m-high, covered with multicolored glass and Chinese porcelain embedded in cement, provides a beautiful view of Wat Arun from the Bangkok side of the river at sunset.

### ERAWAN SHRINE



Rajdamri Rd., Near Grand Hyatt Erawan  
**TEL.** 02-222-0933

Erawan Shrine is one of the most visited sites in Bangkok, and very popular with photo buffs. The beautiful Golden Shrine of Lord Brahma is laden with garlands of sweet-scented jasmine and roses. The shrine is always filled with the strains of Thai music and is open day and night. Thai classical dancers perform around the shrine for a small fee, offering prayers to make merit for wishes granted by the deity to his devotees.

### TEMPLE OF THE EMERALD BUDDHA

Naphralan Road near Sanam Luang  
**TEL.** 02-222-0094, 02-222-6889  
**8:30 am.-3:30 pm.**

The most spectacular Buddhist architecture is found at Bangkok's Wat Phra Kaew (Temple of the Emerald Buddha), which contains more exquisite carving and decoration per square centimeter than



any comparable site in the world. The entire surrounding cloister is covered with a mural depicting the Ramakien, wherein demons swallow armies, gods fly in celestial chariots and monkey warriors slink past sleeping demon guards. Marble slabs adorning pillars in front of the paintings bear poetic descriptions of each episode. Wat Phra Kaew was founded by King Rama I, the first king of the present dynasty. The temple is renowned as the most beautiful and important Buddhist temple in Thailand and houses Phra Kaew Morakot, the highly revered Buddha image carved from a single block of fine jade.

### THE GOLDEN MOUNT



Chakkraphatdiphong Rd., Satturphai  
**TEL.** 02-233-4561, 02-6221-0576  
**7:30 am.-5:30 pm.**

The Golden Mount is a major landmark of Bangkok, which houses the sacred ashes of Gautama Buddha that were brought from India in 1899. Wat Saket is situated at the bottom of the Mount. The panoramic view of Bangkok is rewarding after climbing 318 steps. November hosts the annual temple fair in the grounds below.

### WAT PO: TEMPLE OF THE RECLINING BUDDHA



Chetuphon and Thiwong Road  
**9 am.-5 pm.**

Wat Po, one of the oldest and largest temples, is also known as Wat Chetuphon. The temple was built by King Rama I 200-years-ago to provide public education on

literature, archaeology, astrology and medicine. The temple compound holds many different attractions. The major attraction is the 46-m long and 15-m high gold-plated Reclining Buddha with feet inlaid with mother of pearl, depicting the 108 signs of the Buddha. The headquarters for the Traditional Medicine Practitioners of Bangkok is situated at the temple. Various ailments and methods of massage and meditation are inscribed on stone plaques in the beautiful grounds of Wat Po. Wat Po epitomizes the ideal Thai monastery wherein the religious, spiritual and educational harmoniously co-exist. Often referred to as "Thailand's first university," Wat Po's researched information is available on yoga, therapeutic massage, clinical explanations of anatomical ailments and traditional Thai herbal-medicinal treatment, meditation techniques, astrology, literature, morality, military defense, and archaeology.

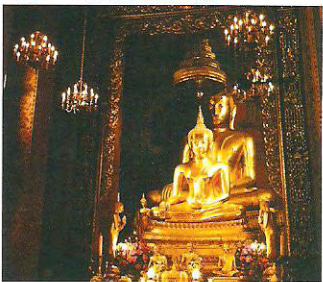
### THE MARBLE TEMPLE



Rama 5 Rd., Dusit  
**TEL.** 02-281-3277, 02-282-7413  
**8 am.-5 pm.**

Wat Benchamabopit is the newest of the Royal temples in Bangkok, designed by Prince Naris, a great Thai artist and son of King Mongkut. Graceful and tranquil, it is famous for the main chapel built in white Carara marble. The courtyard surrounding the temple houses Buddha images representing the periods of Thai Buddhist art, as well as images from China, India, Japan and Tibet. The intricate beams decorated with lacquer and gold work and the bronze Buddha images within the grounds of the temple are the main attraction for the many who visit this temple.

### WAT BOVORNIVET



Phrasumen Rd., Phranakorn  
**TEL.** 02-281-2831  
**8 am.-5 pm.**

Usually known as Wat Boworn, the temple is of special importance because King Rama VI, King Rama VII and HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej were all ordained here.

### WAT RATCHANATDARAM WORAWIHAN



Mahachai Rd., Phranakorn  
**TEL.** 02-224-8807, 02-225-5769  
**9 am.-4 pm.**

This temple was originally called "Wat Ban Phrayakrai Suanluang." King Rama IX ordered its construction as a gift to HRH Prince Aporn-sudadhep.

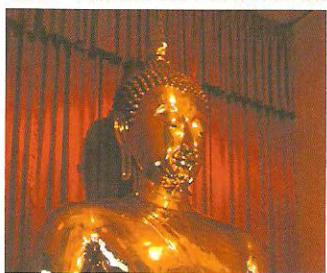
### WAT SUTHAT THEPWARAM



Bamrung Muang Rd., Phra Nakorn (facing the Giant Swing).  
 Enter from Ti Thong/Ban Din So Rd.  
**TEL.** 02-222-9632, 02-224-9845  
**9 am.-5 pm.**

Built between 1824 and 1851, Wat Suthat is admired for its beautiful murals and its collection of gilded Buddha images, including one immense, seated Sukhothai Buddha image. The enormous "bot" (ordination hall) is said to be the tallest in Bangkok. The Giant Swing facing Wat Suthat is a relic of a unique Brahmin ceremony.

### WAT TRIMITWITTHAYARM



Formerly called Wat Samjeantai, this temple was built around 150 years ago. It was restored in 1937 and given the name of Wat Trimitthayaram. The main attraction is the five-ton, three-meter-tall Sukhothai-style Buddha image in the "Subduing Mara" position made of solid gold known as the Golden Buddha. The image was once believed to be of ordinary stucco until it fell from a crane while being moved to a new building and the gold inside was revealed. As theory goes, the covering was a means of protecting it from the Burmese while the capital of Ayutthaya was under siege.

## PALACES

### ANANTASAMAKHOM PALACE



Uthong Nai Rd., Dusit.

Anantasamakom Palace was primarily used to hold important royal and state ceremonies and for Parliamentary meetings. After the new Parliament building was built at the back of the Palace, Parliament meetings were transferred there. Ceremonial openings of the first session, graciously presided over by His Majesty the King, are still conducted at the Anantasamakom Palace.

### THE GRAND PALACE



8:30 am.-12 am., 1 pm.-3:30 pm.  
TEL. 0-2222-0094, 0-2224-3273  
FAX. 0-2222-2099

One of the most visited attractions in Bangkok, the Grand Palace is a complex of many buildings dating from 1782 to the late 19th century. The huge compound of the Grand Palace, which includes Wat Phra Kaew, is enclosed by a high fortress that occupies an area of about one square mile. The Grand Palace was built as the residence for the Chakri Kings but today is used only for royal ceremonies and state occasions. Inside the Royal Grand Palace is the Maha Monthien group of buildings. The most striking features are the late 18th century Chakri Throne Hall built in traditional Thai style and the Dusit Throne Hall designed with a combination of European and Thai Styles. The entrance ticket includes admission to Wat Phra Kaew, the Royal Thai Decorations and Coin Museum, and The Vimanmek Mansion Museum. A guidebook to the Grand Palace is provided free of charge.

### VIMARNMEK PALACE



Ratchawithi Rd., Dusit  
TEL. 0-2281-1569, 0-2280-5928  
9:30 pm.-3:30 pm.

The ticket to the Grand Palace also entitles you to visit the Vimarnmek Palace within two weeks of its

purchase. A four-storey "Castle in the Clouds" built by King Rama V, it stands by a tranquil lake that is in the shaded grounds. The palace is the world's largest teakwood building, and is intricately designed. Impressive collections of paintings, artwork, and jewelry are on display. Visitors must wear suitable clothing (No shorts).

### WANG SUAN PAKKAD



Sri Ayutthaya Rd., Rajchathewi  
9 am.-4 pm.

The Museum started as an exhibition of Maj. Gen. HRH Prince Chumbhotpong Paripatra of Nagor Svarga and his consort MR Panthip's superb collection of antiques for friends and acquaintances in the Thai-style houses. Artifacts on display date from prehistoric times to the Ratanakosin period, and include pieces from other Asian nations.

## MUSEUMS

### ANCIENT CITY



Sukhumvit Highway Km 33  
TEL. 02-224-1057, 02-226-1936  
8 am.- 5 pm.

Essentially an open-air museum, this more than 200-acre complex contains scale replicas of religious complexes, monuments and buildings found throughout Thailand. The Ancient City's office in town also organizes day tours to the museum.

### BANGKOK DOLL MUSEUM

Ratchataphan  
TEL. 02-245-3008  
Mon-Sat 8 am.- 5 pm.

This museum exhibits dolls from many countries including Thai dolls in both classical and tribal costumes.

### BANGKOK NATIONAL MUSEUM



Na Phra That Rd  
TEL. 02-224-1404, 02-224-1333  
Wed-Sun 9 am. - 4 pm.  
Closed Monday, Tuesday and National

Holidays. Admission Fee: 40 Baht. Near the Royal field, Thammasat University and National Theatre. The Bangkok National Museum is dedicated to preserving the national cultural heritage through collections of art, archaeological and cultural objects in the Palace of Wang Na compound near the Grand Palace. The Gallery of Thai History is located in the Sivamok-Haphiman Hall, with the Prehistory Gallery at the rear of the building. The History of Art collection is displayed in the South and North Wings and the Minor arts, Royal Cremation Chariots and Ceremonial Objects are exhibited nearby in other buildings within the palace compound. Service: Guided Tours begin at 9:30am Wednesday-English, French, Japanese. Tuesday-English, German information leaflet.

### CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY MUSEUM

Kamphaengphet 4 Rd., Chatuchak  
Tue-Fri 9 am.- 6 pm.  
Sat-Sun 10 am. - 7 pm.

(Except Monday)  
This museum was built as part of H.M. the Queen Sirikit's garden foundation.

### HALL OF RAILWAY HERITAGE

North of Chatuchak Park  
TEL. 02-243-2037-9  
Every Sun 5 am. - 12 am.

This is a train museum where steam engines, train models, and miniature trains are exhibited along with the story of world railway systems. It is located on the western side of Chatuchak Park adjacent to Kamphaengphet Road.

### HOME MUSEUM OF STUPA STUDY

Baan Dvara-Prateep  
53/3 Moo 5, T. Koh Kred,  
A. Pak Kred, Nonthaburi  
TEL. 02-538-4212

Study stupas and cetiya, the body of Buddhist philosophy. Examine models and learn about the architecture and style of pagodas while meditating and experiencing Thai culture. Appointment recommended.

### JIM THOMPSON HOUSE



9 Surawongse Road, Bangkok 10500  
TEL. 02-632-8100  
FAX. 02-612-3741  
Daily 9 am.-5 pm.

[www.jimthompson.com](http://www.jimthompson.com)

An authentic Thai-style house built by a remarkable Thai-American who came here after World War II, and revived the native silk industry, before "disappearing" mysteriously in the jungles of Malaysia in the late sixties. Thompson was a connoisseur who filled his house tastefully with rare and wonderful works of Eastern art. Therein lies his fame, in addition to the exquisite silk woven and sold under his banner at several outlets, many in important hotels and shopping complexes today. Their main showroom is at 9 Surawongse Road Tel. 0-2632-8100. No tourist can afford to miss visiting both the showroom and the House on the Klomg.

### M. R. KUKRIT'S HOME

Sathorn Rd  
Sat-Sun 10 am. - 5 pm.



M.R. Kukrit's home is a good manifestation of the owner's background and complex personality. All the buildings are authentic traditional Thai houses from the central plain of Thailand, that are over 100 years old.

### MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND PLANETARIUM



Next to the Eastern Bus Terminal (Ekamai), Sukhumvit Rd  
TEL. 02-392-5953, 02-390-2301  
Daily except Mon and Public holidays 8:30 am. - 4:30 pm.  
This is an exhibition center featuring a variety of scientific knowledge including astronomy, communication technology, and biology. Visitors can also enjoy seeing an interesting aquarium, a computer world, a planetarium, as well as other devices dedicated to education. Admission fee is 30 Baht for adults

### PHILATELIC MUSEUM

1st Fl., Metropolitan Postal Bureau,  
Saphan Kwai  
TEL. 02-506-3344  
Tue-Sat 9 am. - 4 pm.

Admission is free. Thai and foreign stamps of the past are on display. Collections of post books in both Thai and foreign languages are available at the library. Stamps and accessories for stamp collection are on sale.

### PRASART MUSEUM



Krungthep Kreetha Rd  
TEL. 02-379-3601, 02-379-3607  
Tue-Sun 10 am. - 3 pm.

This museum houses a vast collection of artifacts from prehistoric to Bangkok periods.

### SHED OF THE ROYAL BARGES



80/1 Rim Klomg Bangkok Noi,  
Arun Amarin  
TEL. 02-424-0004  
Daily 9 am. - 5 pm. Admission fee is 30 Baht.