Reading text: A travel guide

Whether you're travelling to the islands or the mountains of Thailand, you're likely to spend at least one night in its capital city on the way. Bangkok might be noisy and polluted but it's also an exciting city with plenty of things to see and do. Why not make it a longer stay?

Where to stay

The Khao San Road was a famous traveller spot even before Leonardo di Caprio's character in the film The Beach stayed there. But it's noisy, not very pretty and not very Thai. For something more authentic, Phra Kanong offers an alternative place to stay, with its fantastic street markets where everyday Bangkok people eat, work and live. It's not as convenient for the main tourist sites, but it has a Skytrain station so you can be at the Grand Palace in 20 minutes.

How to get around

Bangkok's traffic can be a nightmare. Sure, you can easily take a taxi – if you want to spend hours stuck in traffic jams – but there are two much better ways to get around the city. To explore the temples and historical sites, catch an express boat river taxi or a longtail boat along the Chao Phraya river and the canals. For the modern part of the city, the Skytrain is a fast, cheap way to travel from the river to the shopping malls and nightlife of Sukhumvit, and the famous Chatuchak street market

Where to eat

The simple answer is: everywhere! Thai street food is among the best in the world, and for around $5 you can eat a filling and delicious meal. Some food stands have little plastic seats where you can sit and eat and they cook the same dish over and over, like fried chicken on rice or Pad Thai noodles. Head for Chinatown – Yaowarat Street – and choose whatever looks most interesting from the many excellent Chinese and Thai restaurants and food stands.

What to do

After you've seen the main sites like the Giant Buddha at the temple of Wat Pho and the spectacular Grand Palace, and shopped at Chatuchak market, check out

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the snake farm and watch the live snake show. You can even touch a snake yourself if you want to!

Wat Pho	Khao San Road	Sukhumvit
Yaowarat Street	Phra Kanong	Chao Phraya

Task 1 Match the Bangkok landmarks and places with the descriptions

1. …… a place that you might see in the film The Beach

2. …… a place where local Thai people go

3. …… an alternative route through the city

4. …… a place to go for shopping and bars

5. …… a place to go for food

6. …… an important sightseeing spot

Task 2 Are the sentences true or false?

1. One night is enough time to see Bangkok.

2. Khao San Road is an authentic Thai area of the city.

3. Phra Kanong is further away from the main tourist sites than Khao San Road is.

4. The river boat taxis often get stuck in traffic too.

5. Taking the Skytrain is a faster way to see the city than going by taxi.

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6. You need to choose where to eat carefully, as not everywhere is good.

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