

## UPDATES ON THAILAND'S TOURISM

Thailand, also known as "the country of smiles", is a swarm of constant back-and-forth transit of tourists and adventurers who decide to escape from their daily routine and seek refuge in a different environment, where the pagodas, the giant Buddhas, the hypnotic architecture of its buildings or the ruins of its ancient capital enchant anyone who visits them.



Every year, hundreds of thousands of tourists choose Thailand as a destination for many different activities, such as diving, Thai language courses, volunteering, gastronomic tourism routes, luxury tourism or to spend an unforgettable honeymoon.

Thailand is a treasure from north to south. For those who prefer to get away from the coast and go deep into the heart of the ancient kingdom of Siam, they can visit the northern provinces of Chiang Rai, Nan or Sukhotai.



The three provinces share a natural environment, characterized by the colour green of its landscape. In **Chiang Rai**, architecture stands out, represented by Buddhist temples of great beauty. In addition, it is a perfect destination for sports and physical activity lovers due to its hiking and bicycle routes. The hospitality of its people and the quality of the tourist accommodations, among other things, have made it a popular destination within Thailand.



The province of **Nan** is known for the relation of its inhabitants with art, culture and craftsmanship. Going into this northern province involves discovering the lifestyle of more indigenous and traditional communities. Nature lovers can enjoy visits to national parks such as Doi Samer Dao, the fishing village of Ban Pak Nai or have fun at the boat racing festival.



Slightly further south lies **Sukhothai**, which hosts important historical legacies, such as the Si Satchanalai National Park. This province also stands out for its craftsmanship, such as *hat siao* weaving or gold and silver jewelry.



For those who prefer a more paradise-looking environment could go to the south of Thailand as an alternative and, more specifically, to the province of **Nakhorn Si Thammarat**, whose enviable climate invites to take a swim in its magnificent beaches at any time of the year. On the other hand, Nakhorn Si Thammarat offers visitors the possibility of discovering some more traditional tribes, which invite them to share and discover their day to day.



In addition to the individual appeal of each province, Thailand offers many other charms, such as cuisine, so exotic, irresistible and varied that is able to satisfy even the most gourmet mouths.



Finally, it is worth mentioning some of the festivals that take place throughout the year. On the one hand, there is the **Songkran festival**, which this year will be held from 11 to 13 April. Songkran is the festival that commemorates the Thai new year. Within the festival, water battles stand out, which is why this festival is known as the water festival.





On the other hand, there is the Loy **Krathong festival**, in which Thai people make small boats with flowers to express their gratitude to the goddess of the river. This festival is especially known in Sukhotai, and this year it will take place on November 11.



There is no doubt that Thailand is, as a whole, a great adventure and that its doors are open to all those who want to know a different, welcoming and, above all, smiling culture. (:





## **MARKETS IN THAILAND, a shopper's Paradise**

Many tourists say they visit Thailand and return with full suitcases, almost over weight limit, and lighter wallet. In addition to visiting beautiful attractions in Thailand, tourists cannot miss shopping for their loved ones back home, or for themselves. Thai products are well known for their beauty, quality, as well as the price that is friendly to tourists' wallets. Below are recommended products that should not be missed to buy/try when visit Thailand.

1. Thai silk: one of the must-buy products. The Thais are proud of their beauty, uniqueness and high quality of Thai silk, which as been considered as an important handicraft that reflect local wisdom passed on from through generations. Famous Thai silk production regions the north and northeast of Thailand, namely the provinces of Surin, Kon Kaen, Srisaket, Lamphoon. Upscale, premium quality Thai silk can be purchased from the shops of Foundation for the Promotion of Supplementary Occupations and Related Technique of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand. It can be also be purchased at the Jim Thompson shops.

2. Thai fabric and clothing: in addition to Thai silk, Thai fabric i.e. cotton that has been woven using different techniques are interesting options for souvenirs. Different regions have different style of fabrics to offer and worthy to explore, i.e. *pah sin* ผ้าซิ่น *pah khao mah* ผ้าขาวม้า *pah madmee* ผ้ามัดหมี่ . Several



provinces in the northeast and the north, and some province in the south (Surat Thani, Nakhon Sri Thammarat) are well known for their fabrics.

3. Thai handicrafts: there are wide ranges of Thai handicrafts to choose, ranging from small decorations for home to fashion accessory. Dining table mats made from Thai fabric or Thai plants, Thai ceramic (*benjarong*), clay pottery, hand-painted umbrella, woven products are samples of household products to keep an eye on; as for fashion accessories, look for silver products i.e. earring, belt and necklace, as well as leather products or plant products i.e. coconut shells.

4. Food products: while there is restriction of bringing fresh products to EU, tourists can still bring packaged preserved food products to try. Those include instant noodles, curry

paste sachets, packaged desserts and snacks i.e. seasoned peanuts, banana crisp, dry sweet tamarinds.



5. Thai tea: Thai tea is well known for its unique taste. It can be served hot or cold in the form of lemon tea or tea with milk. The Thai tea can be bought in leading

supermarket or convenient store. In addition to traditional Thai tea, tourists can opt for tea made from Thai herbs i.e. citronella (lemongrass) tea, jasmin tea, pandanus tea.

6. Thai rice: While the Thai jasmine rice is well known to the world, Thailand has many other types of rice to offer i.e. riceberry rice, which is known for its nutritional qualities,

glutinous rice, which is consumed widely in the north and northeastern regions. Thai rice can be purchased in local markets, supermarkets and also convenient stores.

As for those who has not visited Thailand, fortunately, thanks to globalization and advanced transportation, several Asian food shops and leading supermarkets in Spain offer Thai products, especially food products for people to try and enjoy. Here is some recommended list:

1. Thai rice: not that difficult to find in Spain as several leading Spanish supermarkets and Spanish importers have stocked Thai rice to sell in their gourmet markets. Look for jasmine rice to be sure the rice provides the fragrance and soft texture quality.
2. Coconut juice: There are a few Spanish brand that offer Thai coconut juice in Spain. Look for Genuine Coconuts or Coco Wilson; they can be bought in top supermarkets in Spain.
3. Canned fruit: while it is quite difficult finding Thai fruits in Spain, canned fruit is an alternative way to enjoy Thai fruits. Look for canned rambutans stuffed with pineapples, longans, jackfruits and many others canned fruit in top Asian food stores.
4. Instant noodles: the well-known Thai brands are Mama, yum-yum and wai wai. These instant noodles come in several flavours i.e. tom yum kung, grilled duck, pork, and even green curry.
5. Curry paste sachets: For those who are keen in trying to cook Thai curry themselves. Curry paste sachets provide some cooking instruction to follow. The well-known ones are green curry, masman curry, yellow curry and panaeng curry.
6. Thai condiments: For those who are keen to cook Thai food, Thai condiments are necessary. Look for fish sauce (*nam pla*), oyster sauce (*nam mun hoy*), shrimp paste (*kapi*). For fried food, try Thai chilly sauce to add a bit of spiciness.



Souvenirs bring back good memory to tourists, at the same time, they open the world to those back home, allowing them to appreciate the culture and tradition far away. Thailand opens her door to all visitors, at the same time, we thank all importers who have brought our products to Spain and hope to invite the people of Spain to appreciate our products.

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**A S E A N**  
**T H A I L A N D 2 0 1 9**  
ADVANCING PARTNERSHIP  
FOR SUSTAINABILITY

## **Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2019: Advancing Partnership for Sustainability**

**The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, was founded in 1967 by Bangkok Declaration. Since its founding, this regional grouping has helped create an environment of peace and stability in Southeast Asia and beyond.**

Its stability has facilitated the region's economic growth, sustainable development and cooperation in all areas of mutual interest. In 2017, ASEAN was the sixth richest economy in the world with GDP of 2.3 trillion Euros. It is expected that the region will become the fourth largest single market by 2030.

The Chairmanship of the ASEAN Community rotates annually by alphabetical order of the member countries' name in English. In 2019, it will be Thailand's turn to hold the Chairmanship of this growing regional economy. Last November

in Singapore, General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of Thailand, the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest economy of ASEAN, spoke at the Closing Ceremony of the 33<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits and Handing Over of the ASEAN Chairmanship to Thailand of the country's theme for its Chairmanship in 2019, which is “**Advancing Partnership for Sustainability**”. The theme seeks to promote ASEAN and its Partners to move forward together to promote “**Stability of Things**” (SOT) or sustainability in all dimensions.



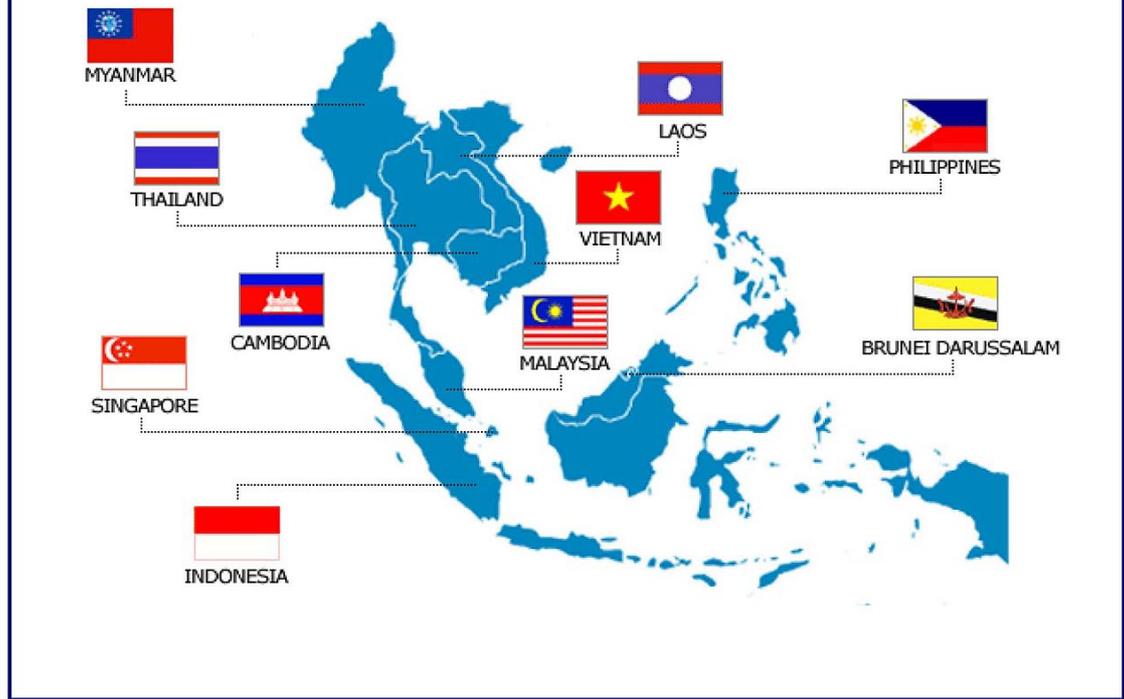
Talking in details about the theme of the incoming Chair of ASEAN, for **Advancing**, ASEAN will look towards the future and move forward together dynamically, making use of technological advances from the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution, and enhance its competitiveness.

ASEAN will advance

towards a Digital ASEAN with immunities from disruptive technologies and future challenges. For **Partnership**, both within ASEAN and with Dialogue Partners and the international community, ASEAN will strengthen “ASEAN Plus One” and reinforce the ASEAN-centered regional architecture, increase economic cooperation with all countries and enhance its role at the international stage in addressing important global challenges.

One of the most important drivers in the strengthening of ASEAN's various partnership is the promotion of connectivity in various dimensions, including infrastructure, rules and regulations, and people-to-people links. Equally important is connecting the various connectivity strategies within the region, to ASEAN's efforts to become a Seamless ASEAN. For **Sustainability**, ASEAN will build sustainability in all dimensions, including sustainable security, sustainable economic growth, inclusive and green economy, sustainable development and sustainable human security. The region's goal is moving towards a Sustainable ASEAN.

## ASEAN Member Countries



In terms of institutions, the new Chair of ASEAN wishes to provide continuity and sustainable deliverables that will endure beyond its term of Chairmanship. In this regard, Thailand has proposed the establishment of an ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue and a Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation.

Also, the country has worked constructively towards developing platforms to better address emerging issues affecting the ASEAN Community such as cybersecurity, military medicine coordination, disaster emergency logistics system, and social welfare. For Thailand, its strategic goal with regard to ASEAN is to promote the development of a people-centered ASEAN Community that leaves no one behind and that looks to and is prepared for the future.

What about ASEAN's relations with Spain? In terms of economic relations, the ASEAN-Spain trade in goods totalled 11.4 billion euros while FDI flows from Spain to ASEAN totalled over 435 million euros in 2017. Infrastructure, Logistics, Renewable Energy, Agroindustry and Services are among dynamic ASEAN economic sectors that are waiting for Spanish investors. Spanish

companies are strongly encouraged to look into plenty opportunities ASEAN offers.



Lately, there is a group of Spanish private sector who has realized of such opportunities and, therefore, decided to establish Spain-ASEAN Business Association. Officially launched last November, the main objective of the Association is to further enhance economic ties between Spain and the Southeast Asian countries.

In 2019, the newly born Association plans to organize seminars in ASEAN countries and Spain to promote business opportunities among Spanish and ASEAN private sectors. Such endeavours are firmly supported by the ASEAN Embassies in Madrid, including Thailand, the new ASEAN Chair.

Ms. Natenapa Kongsri, Chargé d'affaires, a.i., Royal Thai Embassy in Madrid, mentioned in her speech on Thailand's National Day Reception on 4 December 2018 that "As the chair of ASEAN for 2019, by "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability," Thailand is committed to enhance greater cooperation between ASEAN and Spain, especially regarding the two-way trade and investment".

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# **Thailand's Eastern Economic Corridor: Connecting the Various Connectivity and Promoting a Seamless ASEAN**

**As a founding member of ASEAN, Thailand has been an active promoter of the ASEAN economic integration. The country always places importance on improving the region's physical and institutional connectivity.**

Successful with the implementation of ASEAN Free Trade Area or AFTA as well as the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community, Thailand foresees a Seamless ASEAN under its current Chairmanship. The Seamless ASEAN, hence, becomes an opportunity that no one can overlook.

Like other governments in Southeast Asia, Thailand is attracting foreign investors to its economies. The Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), a central part of Thailand's Seamless ASEAN, has been established as a prime location for the world's top companies wishing to expand their investments in the Southeast Asia region. The EEC, a special economic zone covering 3 provinces; Chachoengsao, Chonburi, and Rayong, is envisioned as a modern metropolitan

area, a competitive place for trade and investment, a base for regional transportation and logistics, a hub for human resources, a tourist attraction and most importantly, a modernised gateway to Asia.

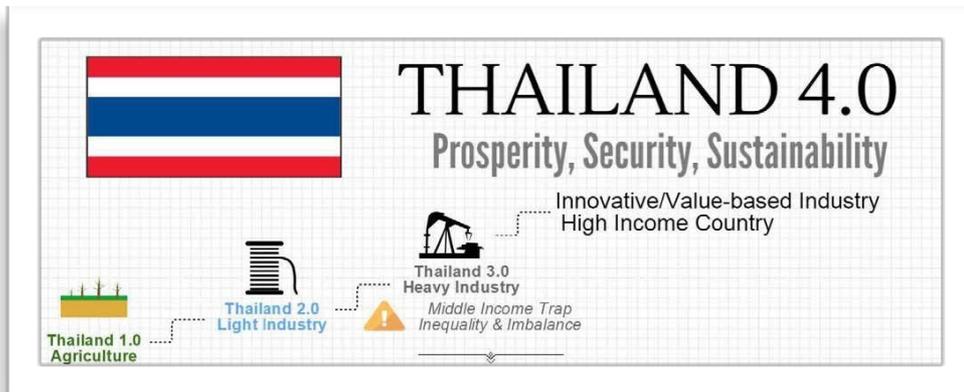


Since November 2018, all key infrastructure projects in the EEC, namely, High-Speed Rail Linking 3 Airport Project, 3rd phase development of Laem Cha Bang Port, 3rd phase expansion of Map Ta Phut Port, Dual-track railway from Chacheongsao - Klong Sib Kao - Kang Koi, U-Tapao international airport development as the 3rd full-scaled commercial airport of Thailand and Bangkok-Chonburi-Pattaya Laem Cha Bang Motorway, and Laem Cha Bang - Nakorn Ratchasima Motorway, have opened for international bidding and it is expected that all contracts could be signed within April 2019.

Under the Thailand 4.0 model, the country seeks to attract foreign investment in 12 innovative target industries, namely, Next-Generation Automotive, Smart

Electronics, Affluent, Medical and Wellness Tourism, Agriculture and Biotechnology, Food for the Future, Robotics, Aviation and Logistics, Medical

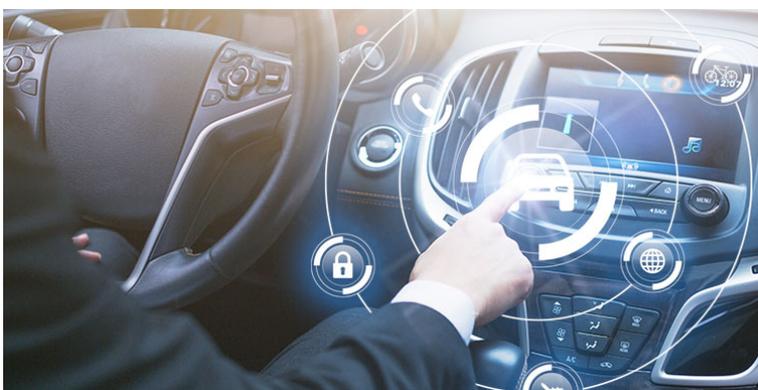
Hub, Digital Economy, Biofuels and Biochemicals, Defence Industry and Human Resources Development and Education, to the EEC. Those foreign investors who invest in the zone will receive special privileges



including, (a) exemption from corporate income tax for up to 15 years and 17% personal income tax which is the lowest in ASEAN, (b) matching grants for investment, R&D, innovation, human resource development for targeted industries, (c) land ownership for BOI promoted projects and lease rights to state's land for 50 years, renewable upon approval for a further 49 years, and (d) issuance of a smart visa for a 4-year period.

Holders of smart visa will not require a work permit and will be given an extension from 90-day reporting to annual reporting. Dependents (spouse and children) of the smart visa holders are given the right to live and work in Thailand equivalent to the visa holder.

The Thai government goes further to assist and uplift industries in the EEC, by launching the EECi (innovation) and Digital Park Thailand (EECd) to support technological advancement and innovation, which are instrumental to the development of existing industries and the creation of new industries, as well as to provide a nurturing environment for digital platforms for commerce and digital innovation. Additionally, in parallel with infrastructure development, the three provinces of Chachoengsao, Chonburi and Rayong will be equipped with leisure and lifestyle facilities that rival any modern metropolis.



Based on the philosophy of sustainable urbanisation, inhabitants in the economic zone will live in an environment that encourages a work-life balance, with thriving tourism and wellness industries. These initiatives make Thailand, especially the EEC, become very attractive for foreign investors. According to an official source, the total applications for investment in the area reached \$6.2 billion USD during January and September 2018, accounting for 67% of the country's total investment.



Given's Spain expertise and experiences in agriculture, food technology, infrastructure development and defense industry, Thailand's EEC is one of the ideal choices for business in ASEAN.

Investing in the land of smile, Spanish companies is equipped with a powerful export base with an abundance of developed industries and supply chains, and access to ASEAN market of 642 million consumers.

Now, the door is widely open for Spanish business to explore the economic opportunities Thailand and the Seamless ASEAN has to offer.

Contact points **for further information on trade and commercial opportunities in Thailand** are:

1. Royal Thai Embassy in Madrid  
Calle Joaquin Costa, 29  
28002 Madrid  
Tel: (34-91) 563-2903, 563-7959, 411-5113  
Fax: (34-91) 564-0033, 562-4182

Email: [madthai@temb.e.telefonica.net](mailto:madthai@temb.e.telefonica.net)

2. Office of Commercial Affairs, Royal Thai Embassy in Madrid

Calle Segre 29, 2ºA

28002 Madrid

Tel: (34-91) 563-0190, 563-0196

Fax: (34-91) 5638-090

Email: [info@thaitradespain.com](mailto:info@thaitradespain.com)

3. Thailand Board of Investment, Paris Office

8 Rue Greuze 75116 Paris , France

Tel: 33(0)1 56 90 26 00-01

Fax: 33(0) 1 56 90 26 02

Email: [par@boi.go.th](mailto:par@boi.go.th)

For **more information on EEC**, please visit [www.eeco.or.th](http://www.eeco.or.th)



# Ten essential visits

By Juan David Latorre

**Thailand's capital is a wonderful city, unforgettable for its visitors. Below you can find 10 must-go places.**

**1. Grand Palace and Temple of the Emerald Buddha.** The Grand Palace in Bangkok is a large palatial complex that includes the famous Wat Phra Kaew, better known as the Temple of the Emerald Buddha. It is a very busy place, but the visit is overwhelming and its beauty is worth the effort.

**2. Temple of the Reclining Buddha.** Wat Pho, close to the Grand Palace, is another place to see in Bangkok. Above all it is known for hosting a huge figure of a Reclining Buddha, but offers more attractions.

**3. Temple of the Dawn.** The Wat Arun, on the other side of the river, completes the triangle of must-see in Bangkok. It stands out for its steep and gorgeous central stupa, from which beautiful views of the city are contemplated.

**4. Khao San Road.** It is the most famous street in Bangkok. Here meet backpackers from all over the world who stay in



The Chao Phraya River (above) and Khao San Road (below), with cheap and noisy hostels and hotels.





On the previous page: Palace and Temple of the Emerald Buddha, and to the left: figure of the Temple of the Reclining Buddha. Below, the Jim Thompson House.

hostels and hotels as cheap as noisy (and sometimes ruinous). But Khao San Road is pure show, for the good and for the bad. Among the bustle you will find everything: massages, beer terraces, shops with cheap clothes, Thai food stalls, street shows, lively nightlife... Maybe it is not the quietest street in the city, but it's worth a walk and get carried away by his madness.

**5. Chao Phraya.** More than a river, the Chao Phraya looks like a highway. Or, rather, a junction of highways. Ships of all sizes sail in any direction and at all times. Chao Phraya is needed as a means of transport on more than one occasion, but if you want to live it intensely, take the Tourist Boat or even look for a ship with a restaurant on board.

**6. Lumpini Park.** Away from the historic center -in a much more modern area- is the Lumpini Park, a small version of New York's Central Park, with its lake and huge buildings surrounding it. If you like reptiles, there you can see the famous lizards, some very large ones. In the immediate vicinity is the Rajadamnern Stadium, where many tourists attend Muay Thai fighting. <https://rajadamnern.com/>

**7. Baiyoke Tower II.** One of our best experiences in Bangkok is to see the city from the top of the Baiyoke Sky Hotel, the tallest building in Thailand and one of the 50 tallest skyscrapers in the world. From 84th floor of the Baiyoke Sky Tower II there is a spectacular observatory that rotates 360°. The entrance includes a drink. The most famous views of the city, however, are those of the Sirocco Sky Bar. It is more expensive but also more glamorous and allows to contemplate Chao Phraya chaos (the Baiyoke is quite far from the river).

**8. Jim Thompson House.** This traditional Thai style construction is a small complex of very coquettish houses surrounded by gardens. It lodges an interesting collection of works of art, mainly local and Asian. It is interesting to previously investigate the figure of Jim Thompson, an American architect and designer who decisively promoted the silk business in Thailand and who disappeared-

mysteriously. An original way to arrive or leave is through the barges that circulate through a nearby klong (channel).

**9. Chinatown.** On Yaowarat Road and its surroundings is located Chinatown, the neighbourhood where Chinese community arrived at the end of the eighteenth century after being expelled from the area that should occupy -and occupy- the Grand Palace. The flea markets, the lively daily life and the street food stalls are some of their big claims. As for visits, do not miss the Wat Traimit, with its famous Golden Buddha, and the Mangkon Kamalawat Temple, built in classical Chinese style.

**10. Flea markets, floating markets and shopping centres.** Buying in Bangkok is a unique experience in its various forms. It is possible to buy everything, anywhere and at any time, day or night. Do not miss several sites, even if you only wish to have a look. The Chatuchak Weekend Market is one of the most famous and large outdoor markets in the world. The MBK, located next to other major shopping centres in the Siam area, is the most popular in terms of fakes. As for the picturesque floating markets, those preferred by tourists are Damnoen Saduak and Amphawa, although is also recommended the unknown Khlong Lat Mayom, smaller perhaps, but closer to Bangkok and, above all, practically free of tourists. In addition to shopping and eating, it is essential to ride a boat and make the trip through the channels. Extremely genuine!





The typical Pad Thai.

# Wandering wonderful Thai Street food

**Gin kao reu yang? (have you eaten?) is one of the most used greeting words the Thais use when meeting friends or guests. The phrase implies not only hospitality but also the of food, which has been defined as one of the pivotal parts of the Thai way of life. For a long time, the art of cooking and the balance of tastes have been passed on from generations to generations in Thailand.**

**Different regions of the country have contributed to diverse style of tastes that linger to memories.**

For a long time, Thailand has firmly established herself to be one of the rich kitchens to the world. Upon arriving to the country, tourists can enjoy Thai food almost 24/7. From basic-but-tasty street food, to more sophisticate restaurant food. In this article, we will recommend the Thai street food which can satisfy you no less than restaurant food.

**1. Som Tam (green papaya salad):** one of the most well-known appetizer/salad dishes. This salad is a blending of shredded green papaya, tomatoes, peanuts, dried shrimps, seasoned with fish sauce, lime juice and palm sugar. It is a mouth-watering dish much loved by Thai ladies, for their believes in nutritional value and low in calories.

**2. Moo ping (grilled pork skewers):** all time's favourite food for all ages. This is a good option for kids and

those who opt for less spicy and food with strong taste. The sizzling pork that is marinated with soy sauce, palm sugar and coconut milk, creating a soft, sweet and salting texture of pork tastes better with glutinous rice.

**3. Pad Thai (stir-fried thin rice noodles):** can be considered the most well know Thai dish.

The noodles are stir-fried with tamarind sauce, tofu, shrimp or chicken, crushed peanuts. Freshness is added by bean sprouts and a tad of lime juice. It is a must-try Thai dish and it is a good option for kids.

**4. Hoy Tod (fried mussels pancake):** usually sold along with Pad Thai. The battered mussels are fried till crispy. Then bean sprouts are added for freshness. The pancake is best when tried with sweet chili sauce.



Moo ping (grilled pork skewers)



Som Tam (green papaya salad).

**5. Pad See-Ew (stir-fried thick rice noodles):** thick noodles, seasoned with dark soy sauce, stir fry with vegetables, beef, pork or chickens, and eggs. The dish yields different taste from Pad Thai. Its salty yet sweet, yet made gentle with egg and fresh vegetables is a good option for kids.

**6. Kao Krapao (rice topped with stir-fried minced meat and basil):** A bit more advanced dish for visitors. This is all-time favourite dish among the Thais. It is a basic dish to order when nothing come to their mind. The neutral taste of jasmine rice goes along with salty, a tad of sweet and spicy chicken or mean sauce. The highlight of the dish is the aroma from basil, which is known to have medicinal value.

**7. Cha Thai (Thai Tea):** This milky red tea not only crunches thirst, it also satisfies taste buds by its aromatic tea leave and rich milk. Those aim to reduce dessert intake can opt for this option instead of dessert, for it is fulfilling and refreshing.

**8. Oliang (Thai Coffee):** Its thick, dark and sweet contents offer new way to drink coffee. Its bitter and sweet tastes boosts energy to last longer for more attractions.

**9. Kaoniew Mamuang (Glutinous rice with mangoes):** most well-known Thai dessert. Glutinous rice is cooked with coconut milk. It is eaten with ripe sweet mangoes. A tad of salty, rich rice is well balanced with the sweetness of mangoes.

**10. Fresh fruits:** Thanks to its tropical climate, Thailand provides fruits that tourists can enjoy all year round. In addition to cooked meal, prepared fresh fruits are well liked by tourists.

Those that must be tried include pineapples (sapparos), dragon fruits (kaew mang-korn), jackfruits (ka-noon), rambutans (ngo), pomelo (som-o).

Having tried all in the list will take you a step further to be a veteran for Thai food! What you need to keep

in mind, though, is to be take care of yourselves. Choose shops that have quite a number of customers to guarantee a good circulation and freshness of ingredient, as well as a guarantee of taste. Choose food that are newly cooked or hot and that vendors appears clean.

To many people, food says a lot about people who cook and those who consume it. Trying Thai food and appreciating the Thai ambiance is one way to understand a Thai way of life, thus enriching your experience in Thailand.

Lastly, the word that cannot missed, "Aroy," meaning, delicious. It is a word that will surely bring a smile to the vendors, and motivate them to serve yummy food Thai food.



Kao Krapao.



Kaoniew Mamuang (Glutinous rice with mangoes)