

## Tips for Travellers

### BANGKOK

#### Accommodation

---

Many hotels have full-service business centres, which provide computer internet access, as well as printing, copying, fax, and message services. A hotel car is recommended for first time travellers or for people with several meetings to attend in one day, as waving down taxis on the sidewalk can be hot and frustrating and not all taxi drivers speak English (refers taxi section).

All hotels attract a 10% service charge + 7% VAT.

#### **Centre Point Wireless Road**

100 Wireless Road  
Lumpini, Pathumwan  
Bangkok 10330  
Phone: 0066 2 659 5000  
Fax: 0066 2 659 5100  
Email: [cpsales@centrepoin.com](mailto:cpsales@centrepoin.com)  
Website: [www.centrepoin.com](http://www.centrepoin.com)  
Rate: From US\$62.00

#### **Conrad Bangkok**

All Seasons Place  
87 Wireless Road, Bangkok 10330  
Phone: 0066 2 690 9999  
Fax: 0066 2 690 9000  
Email: [walailuck@conradbangkok.com](mailto:walailuck@conradbangkok.com)  
Website: [www.ConradHotels.com](http://www.ConradHotels.com)  
Rate: From US\$105.00

#### **Plaza Athenee Bangkok**

Wireless Road  
Phone: 0066 2 650 8800  
Fax: 0066 2 650 8500/3  
Email: [bangkok@hotel-plazathenee.com](mailto:bangkok@hotel-plazathenee.com)  
Website: [www.hotel-plaza-athenee.com](http://www.hotel-plaza-athenee.com)  
Rate: From US\$140.00

#### **Sheraton Grand Sukhumvit**

250 Sukhumvit Road  
Bangkok 10110  
Phone: 0066 2 649 8888  
Fax: 0066 2 649 8000  
Email: [grande.sukhumvit@luxurycollection.com](mailto:grande.sukhumvit@luxurycollection.com)  
Website: [www.starwoodhotels.com/bangkok](http://www.starwoodhotels.com/bangkok)  
Rate: From US\$125.00

## Transport

---

Don Muang is the International Airport in Bangkok City. It is:

- 16 km from the centre of Bangkok City.
- 30 minutes from the airport to recommended hotels – this may extend to 45 minutes or more in rush hours.
- Some onward tickets should be re-confirmed by ringing the relevant Airline Company in order to avoid having the reservations cancelled (see below).
- The average taxi fare from the airport to downtown Bangkok is between NZ\$15 – NZ\$20 (including expressway tolls). Please look for authorised metered taxis which can be found at the public taxi stands outside the arrival hall. If you travel by expressway, you will be asked to supply cash for the toll fees separately to the taxi fare. An Airport Limousine service is also available at approximately NZ\$32.50.
- Bangkok International Airport has 2 terminals. Therefore, if you are being met by someone, it is important to let them know your flight details if you are not certain which terminal your plane will be landing at.
- Check in at your departure terminal in advance as the airport can get very crowded at certain times of the year.

### Useful Airline contact numbers:

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| ▪ Air New Zealand            | Domestic Phone: 0 2 254 8440/9                   |
| ▪ United                     | Domestic Phone: 0 2253 0558                      |
| ▪ Qantas Airways             | Domestic Phone: 0 2626 1747                      |
| ▪ Thai Airways International | Domestic Phone: 0 2 628 2000 Airport 0 2535 2084 |
| ▪ Singapore Airlines         | Domestic Phone: 0 2236 0222                      |
| ▪ Emirates Airline           | Domestic Phone: 0 2664 1040                      |

### Taxis

Domestic call: 0 2319 9911 - fluent English spoken.

Very few drivers understand even simple English instructions so it is a good idea to show the driver the address and map of your destination. All addresses should be written in Thai.

The average rate for a taxi varies depending on the distance and hour of travel. However, first kilometre flagfall is charged at THB 35.

Normally taxis are easily flagged down except in wet weather and during peak hours when some difficulties could be experienced.

Please make sure you have small notes as taxi drivers often do not have change for large notes.

Taxi drivers change shift at about 4.00pm, and may not accept you unless your destination is convenient for them.

### Tuk Tuk

Three-wheeled open-air vehicles that offer an 'interesting' ride. Best used for shorter trips during off-peak hours when the pollution is not so bad. Settle the fare before proceeding. Unless you are a local, you will pay more for a tuk tuk ride than for the equivalent journey by metered taxi.



In wet weather, riding in a tuk tuk is very dangerous and should be avoided.

## Tips for Business

---

- Make the effort to learn some simple Thai phrases, particularly greetings. Although English is usually spoken in business circles, Thai is generally used. Thais will appreciate any efforts by a foreigner to learn some of their language.
- Thai names consist of a given first name and a family last name. Khun, is the Thai non-gender term equivalent to Mr, Mrs, Ms, or Miss. When introduced to a Thai, 'Khun' is placed before the first name and it is appropriate to refer to the person as 'Khun [first name only]'.
- Buddhism is important in Thailand. Religious artefacts in general and Buddha statues in particular are sacred. The head is the most important part of the Buddha statue and should not be touched. Any disrespectful handling of a Buddha statue is considered desecration, which results in severe criminal penalties.
- The Royal family are revered and respected. Jokes about royalty are absolutely not tolerated.
- When sitting, ensure that the soles of your feet are never pointed toward anyone, particularly a monk or Buddha image. The feet are considered the lowliest part of the body.
- Smile a lot. Smiling is equated with patience and Thais greatly admire those who are patient. Thais avoid violence, conflict and confrontation. Losing your composure means losing respect in Thailand. Do not be surprised to encounter situations where an obvious injustice or abuse is tolerated with an outwardly submissive attitude, for the sake of not losing face.

## Telephone Numbers

---

### Calls within Thailand

You are required to dial the city or provincial area code before the phone number. The Bangkok area code is a two digit number 02 and the phone number is seven digits. For example, if you are calling 254 1610 from within Bangkok, you will need to dial 02 254 1610. Dialling to other provinces also requires the area code which is normally a 3-digit figure with the phone number 6 digits. For example calling 123 456 in Chiang Mai, requires the Chiang Mai area code 053 before the number.

### Calling New Zealand from Thailand

From private phones (commercial or residential) dial: 001 64 + city code + phone number in New Zealand.

Telephone cards for public phones can be purchased from nearby shops. These offer a much less expensive alternative to heavily surcharged hotel phones.

Collect calls to NZ can be made through the international operator at 100 or by dialling NZ Direct on 001 999 64 1066.

New Zealand cell phones can be used in Thailand if you have global roaming.

International telephone operators understand some English.

## Useful phrases

---

I need a taxi	Kor taxi *kha/krup
Go to the New Zealand Embassy	Pai sataantut New Zealand
I need the bill	Checkbin kha/krup
I do not understand	Mai khaojai
Good morning/Good afternoon	Sawadee kha/krup
Goodbye	Lakorn / Sawadee kha/krup
Thank you	Khob khun kha/krup
I am unwell and need a doctor	**Dichun/pom mai sabai tongkarn mor
Pleased to meet you	Yindee tee dai ruu jak



Note:

\* kha is used for a female speaking, krup for a male

\*\* Dichun is used for a female speaking, Pom for a male

Sawadee is a general greeting phrase which can be used for both Hello and Goodbye.

### **Tips from the industry**

---

If you have any tips that you can share with your fellow industry members, please email them to [educationnz@educationnz.org.nz](mailto:educationnz@educationnz.org.nz)

Information correct as at 7 September 2006.

---