

# Thailand

## Visas

Citizens of many countries (including the USA) can visit Thailand without a visa for a maximum of 30 days per entry, and not exceeding 90 days within a 6-month period from the date of first entry. See the link for “Visa Exemption and Visa on Arrival” at <http://thaiembdc.org/visas/> for the complete list of countries and exemption details.

Single-entry tourist visas allow you to stay in Thailand for up to 60 days. These cost \$40USD and take a minimum of 15 business days to process by mail. See <http://thaiembdc.org/consular-services/tourist-visas/category-tr/> for detailed instructions, and related links for other types of tourist, research, study, or business visas.

For all visas, travelers’ passports must have at least six months’ validity.

**Travel-/customs-related note:** when leaving Thailand, you must obtain an export license from the Office of Fine Arts for any antiques, artworks, or newly cast Buddha images (except personal amulets). See <http://www.phuket-travel-secrets.com/buddha-images.html> for details and contact information for the Office of Fine Arts.

## Climate

The climate in Thailand is tropical, and is under the influence of seasonal monsoon winds. These divide the year into three distinct seasons:

Rainy (southwest monsoon)	mid-May – mid-October	79° – 82° F
Winter (northeast monsoon)	mid-October – mid-February	75° – 80° F
Summer (pre-monsoon)	mid-February – mid-May	79° – 84° F

The climate is generally hot and humid, with low temperatures in the winter only reaching as cold as about 65° F, but climbing to over 100° F in the hottest month (April). Inland areas are hottest, whereas sea breezes keep temperatures more moderate on the coasts.

During the rainy season, the southwest monsoon affects the whole of Thailand with abundant rain. The wettest period is August through September. The exception is the southern east coast, where abundant rain persists until the end of the year.

During winter, temperatures are still hot but comparatively milder, especially in upper Thailand. There is still a great amount of rain in the southern east coast, especially during October and November.

The summer is a transitional period between the two monsoons. The weather is warmest during this season, especially in upper Thailand.

## Clothing

With generally high temperatures in the popular locations around the country, lightweight cotton and linen clothing is recommended for most of the year; warmer clothes may be needed for the evenings, which can sometimes be cool, and for strongly air-conditioned venues. Modesty is a general rule in Thailand, so avoid sleeveless and low-cut tops or short shorts in public areas. You will be asked to remove your shoes when visiting Buddhist temples, so consider styles that are easy to remove. Sandals are a good option. It is also best to dress especially modestly at temples, with shoulders and knees covered. Women, consider bringing a sarong that you can wrap around your waist when visiting temples.

## **Budgeting**

### Accommodations and Food

Traveling in Thailand can be very inexpensive. A bed in a dorm-style hostel can be as cheap as \$3-\$6. Double rooms with fans throughout most of Thailand go for around \$6-\$8.50, while double rooms with air conditioning will run \$8.50-\$14.30. The next level up includes hotel-like conditions with air conditioners, refrigerators, and sometimes a safe box; these are \$17-\$28.50 per night. If you're looking to splurge, a very nice hotel room can cost around \$57 per night.

Food is also very affordable. A meal on the street consisting of rice, vegetables, and a little meat on a single plate will cost 85¢-\$1.40. Big meals of street food with a selection of dishes and an entire fish will cost about \$1.70-\$5.70 per person. Meals at indoor Thai-food restaurants with air conditioning can cost \$3-\$6 per person. Full Japanese sushi buffets and other gourmet restaurants cost \$8.50-\$11.50 per person. A 1.5-liter bottle of water will cost less than 50 cents.

### Transportation

Taxis are abundant throughout Bangkok and fares start at 85¢ and go up depending on the distance travelled. Going most places within central Bangkok will likely not cost more than \$4.50. There are elevated (BTS) and underground (MRT) trains in the main center of Bangkok. Fares range from 60¢-\$1.20 per ride depending on the distance. Bangkok's Old City is not accessible by train, and so the scenic river taxis (Chao Phraya Express Boats) are generally recommended; fares vary by route and range from 30¢-\$1.40. Bangkok buses are also quite easy to use, and have the most extensive routes in the city. Fares range from 20¢-60¢ depending on the route and type of bus. If you plan to take buses, it is advisable to purchase a bus map. Some tourists like to take tuk tuks (mechanized three-wheeled taxis) for fun, but taxis are usually cheaper unless you really know how to negotiate. A ride on a tuk tuk will start around 85¢.

There are many options for traveling between cities and throughout the country. Buses are easy and efficient, and there is a big range of transportation classes. A 12-hour

inter-city trip could cost as little as \$10 for a basic ticket, and as much as \$23 for VIP class. A 12-hour trip with a third-class ticket on a train will cost around \$7, while a first-class sleeper ticket (with a bed and air conditioning) for the same trip will likely cost around \$35. Air Asia (<http://www.airasia.com/>) offers the most competitive prices on budget flights. Two months or so in advance, you may be able to get a discounted flight from Bangkok to Phuket for as cheap as \$20. Regular prices for the same route will be closer to \$28-\$43.

As in any crowded area anywhere in the world, there is the potential for pick pocketing when taking public transportation. Be aware of your belongings at all times.

### Tipping

Tipping is not mandatory in Thailand, but small gratuities for excellent service are very much appreciated. All taxis are metered, and locals commonly round up the fare (i.e. 51฿ fare rounded up to 60฿). Most restaurants and hotels include a 10% service charge in the bill that serves as a tip of sorts. Tipping a hotel porter or cleaner (20฿ or so) will be appreciated. In all restaurants it common to leave behind any loose change in coins as a tip. In upscale restaurants, with professional wait staff who provide excellent service, a tip of 5%-10% is customary. It is appropriate to tip masseurs/masseuses more substantially (100฿) because they are paid quite meagerly. Service industry and hospitality workers generally earn very little, and so a small tip goes a long way.

### **Currency**

The basic unit of Thai currency is the baht (THB; symbol ฿), 1฿ is divisible by 100 satang. Coins include 25-satang and 50-satang pieces, and 1฿, 2฿, 5฿, and 10฿ coins. Paper currency is issued in 20฿ (green), 50฿ (blue), 100฿ (red), 500฿ (purple), and 1000฿ denominations. The exchange rate is around 30฿-40฿ to \$1USD.

Although the Thai baht is widely stocked outside Thailand, money can usually be exchanged on arrival for much better rates. FOREX (Foreign Exchange) booths are very common and clearly post their daily exchange rates. These booths accept all major currencies, but be sure to bring only bank notes in good overall condition. Notes that are old, torn, ripped, damaged, or marked will not be accepted. Be sure to count your money for clerical errors before you walk away from the exchange counter.

Major credit cards such as Visa, Mastercard, JCB, and American Express are readily accepted at most hotels, airlines, restaurants, and upscale merchants. When paying by credit card, insist on being billed in Thai baht. Being billed in your home currency (a practice which is becoming more prevalent) involves a hidden surcharge and poor exchange rate.

Thai ATMs will generally charge a 200฿ fee per withdrawal with a foreign card. Your home bank may also charge an additional fee—check with them ahead of time. ATMs are plentiful just about everywhere. Most machines will deliver a maximum of 20

banknotes per withdrawal, so the effective limit of a withdrawal is 20,000฿. NOTE: Many ATMs offer to automatically convert the charge to your home currency. Refuse this option. This will result in a considerably lower exchange rate (about 5-7%) than the rate normally applied by your home bank. So if an ATM asks “Convert to [your home currency]?” just choose “no.”

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** BE RESPECTFUL WHEN HANDLING THAI CURRENCY! All currency in Thailand, paper and coin, bears a portrait of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej or a deceased relative. Thailand has harsh lèse majesté laws that are strictly enforced. These laws prohibit any act—verbal, physical, or written—that shows disrespectful behavior toward the royal family. With this in mind:

- DO NOT step on a coin to stop it from rolling away.
- DO NOT step on a Thai banknote to stop it from blowing away.
- DO NOT throw a note or coin in anger towards another person
- DO NOT tear, burn, or otherwise deface a note or coin

These acts can easily be perceived as disrespectful toward the royal family and may be considered highly offensive to any Thai person who might witness them.

## **Telecommunications**

### **Smart Phones and Internet**

The three main Thai cellular companies are:

- True - <http://truemoveh.truecorp.co.th/?ln=en>
- AIS - <http://www.ais.co.th/en/>
- Dtac - <http://www.dtac.co.th/en/home.html>

You can buy SIM cards from these companies and charge pre-paid cards at cellular operators (often found at big malls) or at 7-Eleven grocery stores. SIM cards may also be distributed free at hotels or airports. If not, the price of the SIM card is symbolic, as the operators want you to use their networks.

With a local SIM card and purchased credit, you can access local 3G and 4G networks. With purchased credit, cellular companies also let you use their wifi networks in locations such as large malls, cafés, airports, and many others. You simply log in with the password you receive with your subscription.

Example of Internet prices is 2016:

- 12GB package through cellular company: 750฿ (\$21.40)
- Using a computer at an Internet café: 40฿ (\$1.15)
- Using wifi in a café or hotel: usually free

Using the Internet via a cellular company's data plan will usually operate at around 42 Mbps. Accessing the Internet via the wifi networks of cellular companies will be closer to 100 Mbps. Free wifi at cafés in the Khaosan area will be 1-5 Mbps.

With such ease of Internet access, it may be easiest to make phone calls via software like Skype or FaceTime. If you prefer traditional cellular voice service, you can buy pre-paid call time when you purchase a SIM card. International calls tend to have fairly reasonable rates.

## **Electricity**

Electrical outlets in Thailand are 220 Volts (the United States' are 120 Volts), and the frequency is 50 Hz (the United States' is 60 Hz). Thai electrical sockets are Types A / B / C (the US uses A and B; 2- and 3-pronged, respectively). Check the voltage limitations of your appliances and electronics for whether you will need a voltage converter. If the frequency of electricity in Thailand (50 Hz) is different from the one in your home country, use your own appliances at your own risk.

## **Vaccinations and Medical Care**

Always consult a doctor or travel clinic before traveling to Thailand – do so about eight weeks before your trip. UM affiliates can visit the University Health Service's travel website (<https://www.uhs.umich.edu/travelhealth>) for more information, travel precautions, and contact information to make an appointment. They will advise you about appropriate vaccinations and disease prevention precautions you should take.

If you take regular medication, you should make sure to have enough for your entire stay. However, the importation of personal medicine may not exceed a 30-day supply. If you plan to purchase more medication while you are in Thailand, bring your doctor's prescription order with you. You may need to have your prescription reordered by a doctor licensed in Thailand before a Thai pharmacy will fill it.

Before you leave, ask your home doctor about prescription-strength medication to treat traveler's diarrhea, and how you should plan to rehydrate if/when you experience symptoms. (Be sure to carry prescription medications in their original marked bottles with a copy of the prescription in case of questioning at customs.)

You should use DEET insect repellent outside of major cities. Tap water is not potable, and it is highly recommended for visitors to consume only boiled or bottled water for drinking and when brushing their teeth.

## **Safety and Security**

There is a fairly high risk to personal safety and security in the southernmost provinces of Narathiwat, Yala, Pattani, and Songkhla because of ongoing politically-motivated and criminal violence, which occurs on an almost daily basis. All tourist and otherwise

non-essential travel to these provinces is highly discouraged. The Thai government warns against tourists traveling to these areas. There is also some risk along the Thai-Myanmar border, and the possibility of military activity near the Thai-Cambodia border.

There is some risk elsewhere in Thailand due to the potential for civil unrest and threat of terrorism. The U.S. State Department advises caution. On 22 May 2014, the Thai military took control of the government in a coup and imposed martial law nationwide. On 1 April 2015, martial law was lifted across most of the country, but replaced by other special measures that continue to allow the military expanded power to enforce order. Under the measures, authorities may restrict movement, public assembly, or political gatherings, and have prohibited the distribution of information considered detrimental to Thailand's national security or public order. Americans throughout Thailand are advised to exercise caution and monitor international and Thai media to stay informed of developments. You should follow instructions or adhere to restrictions issued by the local authorities. Be wary of making political statements in public and on social media, and avoid protests, demonstrations, and large public gatherings.

Crime in Bangkok and other Thai cities is mostly non-violent, but purse-snatching and pick-pocketing are not unheard-of, and there are people who may be out to scam tourists. In crowded places, avoid keeping valuables in back pockets, and be aware of your belongings out in public and on long-distance bus trips. Don't trust someone who approaches you—even if they seem kind, well-dressed, and well-spoken—who tells you a temple is closed, wants to take you to their "friend's restaurant" or "a secret temple," tries to sell you tickets to an event, or tells you about special deal on gems or jewelry. Most likely their entire story is fake. Although it may feel rude, avoid getting into any conversations with strangers who try to get your attention at major tourist attractions. They can be extremely difficult to get away from if you don't simply ignore them from the onset. Gem scams in Thailand are elaborate and notorious. Never buy gems or jewelry from a shop you're taken to by a tuk-tuk. Anyone, Thai or foreign, who tells you about a jewelry-related promotion on its last day is trying to scam you. The Tourism Authority of Thailand receives over a thousand complaints each year from visitors who have been cheated on gem purchases.

### **Some Other Issues to be Aware Of**

- It is required by Thai law that Thai citizens and visitors must carry proper identification at all times. This must be presented upon demand by a police officer or other legitimate government official. It is not always safe, practical, or appropriate to carry your physical passport on you at all times. Passports are valuable and can be the target of theft. Consider keeping your passport locked in your room safe or the primary hotel safe at the reception desk. But make several photocopies of your passport photo/details page, as well as the

stamped arrivals card that was stapled in your passport when you entered Thailand. Carry these copies in your day-pack.

- Violent crimes against foreigners are rare. When they do happen, they are most often at night when the victim has been drinking, and when he/she is out alone or has been separated from traveling companions. Maintain awareness of your surroundings and travel with trusted friends or relatives to reduce the chance of falling victim to crimes of this nature.
- Taxi or tuk-tuk drivers may attempt to charge excessive fares at airports and near major tourist attractions. Before entering a vehicle, request that the driver use a meter or reach an agreement on the fare for your trip. Registered taxi drivers have a yellow placard with their name in English and their photograph on the dashboard of the vehicle. If the photo does not match the driver, be wary of entering the vehicle.
- When arriving at a Thai airport, only use public transportation from the airport's official pick-up and drop-off area, cars from the airport limousine counters, or airport buses. Most major hotels can also arrange to have a car and driver meet incoming flights. Do not enter a cab that has someone besides the driver in it.
- Be aware of common scams involving the rental of motorbikes, jet skis, and cars. Many companies require your passport as a deposit or collateral, which they can then hold until you pay for any damage to the rental vehicle. Do not use your passport as a deposit for such transactions, and if possible, document the vehicle's condition with before and after photos.
- If you drink at a night club, make sure to see the price of beverages beforehand so you don't end up with an outrageous bill. If you are charged unadvertised charges, you should not try to attempt to resolve the problem on your own, but instead pay the price demanded and then seek out a nearby Tourist Police officer for help in getting restitution.
- Do not leave drinks or food unattended, and avoid going alone to unfamiliar venues.
- Prostitution is illegal in Thailand, but bars and other venues may offer fees to take a "bar girl" or "bar boy" out for the evening. Many of these people (adults and children) are themselves victims of trafficking rings. There are serious consequences for choosing to pay for their illicit services, including criminal conviction and imprisonment.
- There are scams involving criminals posing as police officers who threaten to arrest foreigners unless they pay a bribe. If someone claiming to be a police officer demands fine payments from you, request to pay at the police station. Real police may impose fines for up to 1,000฿ per violation at the police station and should provide a receipt. The Thai Criminal Code does not provide police to impose a fine over 1,000฿.

- Thais hold the King and the royal family in highest regard, and it is a serious criminal offense in Thailand to make critical or defamatory comments about them. This crime is punishable by a prison sentence of three to fifteen years. If you use the Internet when committing this crime, you may be subject to additional criminal sanctions of up to seven additional years in prison. Purposely tearing or destroying Thai bank notes may also be considered a lèse majesté offense, as can defiling an official uniform bearing the royal insignia.
- Penalties for possessing, using, or trafficking illegal drugs in Thailand are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines. Some trekking tour companies make drugs available to trekkers. Police in resort areas are especially on the lookout for drugs. Do not accept drugs of any kind as they may be altered and harmful, in addition to illegal.
- Make note that the Thai Tourist Police phone number is 1155, and add it to your cell phone speed dial list. The Thai Tourist Police is a special arm of the National Royal Thai Police and is specifically trained to deal with common situations involving a non-resident tourist. Many speak basic and passable English. If you are confronted with any situation where trustworthy assistance is not close at hand, dial the number!
- Tap water is not safe to drink or to brush teeth; you should always buy bottled water.

### Women Traveling Alone

Women travelling on their own are unlikely to encounter problems. That being said, some local women prefer not to do so for safety reasons. When traveling alone in Thailand, the standard rules apply: don't take unlicensed taxis, don't go home with strangers, and avoid back streets and walking on the beach late at night. Many hostels will have female-only dorms, which may be safer. Drug muggings are known to sometimes happen in Thailand, but these can be easily avoided: don't eat or drink anything a stranger gives you.

Thai people are, generally, conservative people and quite modest dressers. Women may attract unwanted attention if you wear revealing clothing, especially if they already attract attention as ethnically foreign in Thailand. It is advisable to avoid wearing sleeveless tops or short shorts when in public areas. Showing cleavage is considered impolite anytime and anywhere. When visiting temples, wear longer sleeves and a long skirt, pants, or a sarong around your waist.

Women should also not touch Thai monks or give anything to them directly. Instead, place the object (such as alms) on the ground in front of them, or give it to a man to hand to them. Do not sit next to monks on public transit and look out for the monk-only waiting rooms

## **LGBTQ+ Travelers**

There are no laws criminalizing sexual orientation or consensual same-sex sexual conduct between adults in Thailand, some discrimination exists. LGBTQ+ groups report that police tend to downplay sexual abuse or not take harassment claims from LGBTQ+ victims seriously. Some night clubs, bars, and hotels may deny entry or employment to LGBTQ+ individuals.

However, in Thailand, same-sex friends—female especially—are physically more close with one another, so holding hands and other similar gestures of intimacy are common. It may be more common to see males behaving similarly in Bangkok than in other areas. This being said, Thailand is relatively conservative overall, and so LGBTQ+ travelers should follow the same precautions as straight travelers: avoid more explicit displays of affection in public.

## **Accessibility**

Individuals with disabilities may find accessibility and accommodation very different from what they experience in the U.S. Law mandates that newly constructed buildings, transportation facilities, and equipment have accessibility features, but the enforcement and awareness of these laws is not uniform. Wheelchair access is often difficult, impracticable, or non-existent. Facilities for the deaf and vision impaired are sparse and designed primarily for readers and speakers of Thai.

## **Language**

Traveling in major tourist areas, you will have little trouble finding locals who speak a little English, but using even a little bit of Thai can go a long way to getting a friendly reception wherever you go in the country. However, there is considerable difficulty in learning Thai from written English transliterations since they cannot communicate the correct tones. Without knowing the tones or inflections, almost anything you say may make no sense to the Thai ear. You can learn to pronounce words correctly by listening carefully and mimicking. Access a basic Thai language and audio pronunciation guide at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/other/thai/guide/phrases.shtml>).

## **Cultural Differences and Adapting to Thailand**

Although there are many cultural errors it is easy to make inadvertently, people are generally very tolerant providing you are not insulting the monarchy or religion. Here are some of the most important items to be aware of:

- Do not be disrespectful toward the King or the royal family, as it could get you into serious trouble. This includes never making any negative comments about them to anyone, even joking, and being sure to stand during the national anthem (composed by the King) before movies shown in cinemas. Do not step

on coins or bank notes if they happen to fall on the floor, as they have the King's picture on them.

- Dress properly when visiting temples: no shorts or sleeveless shirts. All Buddha images are considered sacred, even if they are old, so do not treat them disrespectfully, such as climb on them for photos.
- The head is considered spiritually (as well as physically) the highest part of the body, and the feet are likewise the lowest. Therefore, do not touch people on the head, and try to keep your feet as inconspicuous as possible—do not use them to point at people or objects, touch someone with them, rest them on tables or chairs, etc.
- Before going into a Thai house or temple, take off your shoes. Some guesthouses and even some shops apply this rule too. Consider bringing shoes and/or sandals that are easy to remove and put back on. Do always wear shoes/sandals outside; it is culturally unacceptable to walk outside barefoot.
- Smile a lot and stay calm. Having a calm composure is highly valued in Thailand, and will get you much farther in case of a problem than shouting and getting aggressive.
- Use your right hand or both hands when giving things to someone, not the left hand alone, which is regarded as dirty.
- Out of tourist areas, it is best to dress fairly tidily and conservatively. Dirty or inappropriate clothes are considered low-class, and you may be treated as such. Being stinky is also considered impolite; be prepared to be contentious about personal hygiene in Thailand's hot and humid climate, and with their garlicky and spicy food.
- Always return a *wai*; that is the common and polite greeting that involves bowing your head and holding your hands in a praying gesture. Everyone you meet will greet you in this way, so always return the gesture with a smile. If you are greeting a monk, you should bend from the waist with your head bowed and hands together.
- Do not point at people as it is considered rude. If you must indicate a person, do so by lifting your chin in their direction. When motioning for someone to come over, rather than using fingers pointed upward, make a patting motion with your fingers straight and palm toward the ground. Pointing at inanimate objects and animals is usually ok, but it is politer to point with your entire hand rather than a single finger.
- Kissing and embracing in public, as well as other displays of affection, should be avoided. In general, physical contact should be minimized between people of

different genders and ages, although it is common to touch a stranger or friend of the same sex while in conversation, especially among females.

- Be prepared to pay more than the locals. Some galleries, museums, and temples charge different prices for Thai nationals and tourists, and both prices are not always listed on the website or in guidebooks. It is sometimes possible to avoid this higher tourist fee if you ask in advance, book with a large group, or go at off-peak times. Don't be surprised if they flatly refuse you, but it is always worth asking.

### Etiquette When Visiting Thai Temples

Thai temples are typically comprised of a courtyard with housing, and small worship areas scattered around. The sheltered areas that contain Buddha statues are known as *bots*, and these are more sacred than other places in the temple. A few rules of etiquette should be followed:

- Remove your shoes before entering.
- Don't get in the way of local people who are actually there to worship.
- Back away from the Buddha statue rather than turning your back.
- Don't touch sacred objects in the worship area.
- Do not raise yourself higher than the image of Buddha (e.g. sitting on the raised platform for a photo).
- Don't point at a monk or Buddha statue, either with your fingers or feet.
- Don't smoke, spit, chew gum, or eat snacks.
- Don't photograph or disturb monks or others who are worshipping.
- Remove hats and sunglasses when entering a worship area.
- Turn off your mobile phone, remove headphones, and lower your voice.
- Step over the wooden threshold of the temple rather than stepping on it.
- Always use your right hand when giving or receiving something from a monk.
- The proper way to sit in a *bot* is to tuck your legs underneath you as worshippers do. You are not a monk's equal, so you should not sit as they do. While sitting, avoid pointing your feet at the image of the Buddha or other people. If monks or nuns come into the *bot* to worship, stand up until they finish their prostrations.
- Dress modestly. While many temples in tourist areas have relaxed their standards due to the crowds of visitors, be different; show respect. Both men and women should not wear sleeveless tops; shorts, pants, or skirts should cover your knees.

### Women in Thai Temples

Women may never touch a monk. Even doing so by accident (i.e. brushing against the robes in a crowded place) requires the monk to perform a lengthy cleansing process. Dress modestly; cover your knees and shoulders when visiting Thai temples. If you must hand a monk something, hand it to a male first, or place the object on the cloth in front of them.

### Giving Donations in Thai Temples

Almost every temple in Thailand has one or more metal donation boxes. Donations are neither required nor expected, but if you took photos and enjoyed your visit, consider dropping 20฿ in the box on your way out.

### Monk Chat

Some temples, particularly in Chiang Mai, have scheduled “Monk Chat” times when tourists are allowed to meet with English-speaking monks for free. You can ask questions about Buddhism or just general inquiries about daily life in the temple. If you sit in a group to talk to the monk, never sit higher than him, and sit with your feet beneath you to show proper respect. Allow the monk to finish talking before you interrupt with a question or comment.

## **Other Useful Information**

### Embassies

Thailand has 128 foreign embassies and consulates. Most of these are located in Bangkok, though there are several in other large cities such as Phuket and Chiang Mai.

U.S. citizens can be served at:

U.S. Embassy Bangkok

95 Wireless Road

Bangkok 10330

Telephone: +(66) (2) 205-4103 (from abroad) or 02-20504103 (within Thailand)

[acsbkk@state.gov](mailto:acsbkk@state.gov)

U.S. Consulate General Chiang Mai

387 Witchayanond (Wichanond) Road

Chiang Mai 50300

Telephone: +(66) (53) 252-633 (from abroad) or 053-252-633 (within Thailand)

[acschn@state.gov](mailto:acschn@state.gov)

### **Public holidays (2016)**

January 1st – New Year's Day

February 8th-10th – Chinese Lunar New Year

February 22nd – Makha Bucha

April 6th – Chakri Day

April 13th-15th – Songkran

May 1st – Labor Day (observed Monday, May 2nd)

May 5th-6th – Coronation Day

May 9th – Royal Ploughing Ceremony Day

May 20th – Misakha Bucha

July 1st – Mid-Year Bank Holiday

July 18th-19th – Asalha Bucha

July 20th – Buddhist Lent Day

August 12th – The Queen's Birthday

October 23rd-24th – Chulalongkorn Day

December 5th – The King's Birthday

December 5th – Father's Day

December 10th – Constitution Day (observed Monday, December 12)

December 31st – New Year's Eve

### **Thailand Time Zone**

The time zone for all of Thailand is UTC/GMT +7 hours. Thailand has no daylight saving – the time remains the same throughout the year.