

Bangkok 99 Tips For Tourists: The Ultimate Backpacker's Thai Travel Guide

Planning a trip to Bangkok? Get ready to immerse yourself in a city of vibrant culture, mouthwatering cuisine, ancient temples, bustling markets, and unforgettable experiences. As a tourist or backpacker, it's crucial to be armed with helpful tips and tricks to make the most out of your adventure in the Thai capital. In this comprehensive guide, we've compiled 99 valuable tips that will ensure your trip to Bangkok exceeds all expectations. So, strap on your backpack and get ready for an epic journey through the heart of Thailand!

1. Learn a Few Basic Thai Phrases

When visiting any foreign country, it's always helpful to learn a few basic phrases to communicate with locals. In Thailand, greeting someone with a simple "Sawasdee-kha" (Hello) and saying "Khop khun" (Thank you) can go a long way in breaking the ice and showing respect for the local culture.

2. Dress Modestly When Visiting Temples

Thailand is known for its breathtaking temples, and when visiting these religious sites, it's important to dress appropriately. Ensure your shoulders and knees are covered and remove your shoes before entering temple grounds as a sign of respect.

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3. Stay Hydrated in the Hot Climate

Bangkok's tropical climate can be scorching, especially during the summer months. Stay hydrated by carrying a reusable water bottle and drinking plenty of fluids throughout the day. You'll find several 7-Eleven stores around the city where you can conveniently refill your bottle.

4. Use Tuk-Tuks for Short Trips

No trip to Bangkok is complete without a ride in a tuk-tuk. These three-wheeled vehicles are not only a fun way to experience the city, but they're also perfect for short trips around busy areas like the Khao San Road or Sukhumvit. Remember to negotiate the fare before hopping in.

5. Take Advantage of Street Food

Bangkok is a street food lover's paradise, offering an array of mouthwatering dishes at incredibly affordable prices. From pad Thai and mango sticky rice to savory satay and flavorful curries, make sure to explore the food stalls and markets for a truly authentic culinary experience.

6. Explore the Floating Markets

Step into a scene straight out of a postcard by visiting one of Bangkok's famous floating markets. Take a boat ride through the waterways and immerse yourself in the colorful chaos of vendors selling fresh fruits, vegetables, and local delicacies.

7. Visit the Grand Palace

The Grand Palace is a must-visit attraction in Bangkok and it's easy to see why. This architectural marvel showcases intricate details and stunning craftsmanship, serving as the official residence of the Kings of Siam since 1782. Marvel at the Emerald Buddha, the palace's most revered and iconic statue.

8. Take a River Cruise

See the city from a different perspective by hopping aboard a river cruise. Enjoy breathtaking views of Bangkok's skyline, pass by majestic temples, and witness the different facets of local life along the Chao Phraya River.

9. Get a Thai Massage

After a long day of exploring the city, treat yourself to a traditional Thai massage. Known for its therapeutic benefits, this ancient practice will leave you feeling relaxed and rejuvenated. Numerous massage parlors can be found throughout Bangkok, catering to all budgets.

10. Embrace the Nightlife

Bangkok is renowned for its vibrant and diverse nightlife scene. From trendy rooftop bars and lively nightclubs to night markets and street performances, there's never a dull moment after sundown. Experience the city come alive and party the night away!

11. Visit the Chatuchak Weekend Market

Shopaholics, rejoice! The Chatuchak Weekend Market is a paradise for bargain hunters, offering over 15,000 stalls selling everything from clothing and accessories to home decor and local handicrafts. Get lost in the endless lanes and discover unique treasures.

12. Take a Day Trip to Ayutthaya

Escape the hustle and bustle of Bangkok and journey back in time by visiting Ayutthaya, an ancient city located just a few hours away. Marvel at the impressive ruins of temples and palaces, each with its own captivating story to tell.

13. Visit Wat Arun at Sunset

Wat Arun, also known as the Temple of Dawn, is a breathtaking sight that should not be missed. Climb to the top of this iconic temple during sunset for panoramic views of the cityscape and the Chao Phraya River.

14. Take a Cooking Class

Immerse yourself in Thai cuisine by taking a cooking class during your stay in Bangkok. Learn the secrets of preparing authentic dishes like a pro and impress your friends and family back home with your newfound cooking skills.

15. Explore Chinatown

Bangkok's Chinatown is a vibrant and bustling neighborhood that offers a blend of Chinese and Thai culture. Sample delectable street food, shop for souvenirs, and immerse yourself in the sights, sounds, and smells of this vibrant district.

16. Take a Day Trip to the Damnoen Saduak Floating Market

If you've already visited a floating market in Bangkok, explore the iconic Damnoen Saduak Floating Market located just outside the city. Hop on a longtail

boat and navigate through the labyrinth of canals while enjoying the experience of a traditional floating market.

17. Experience Muay Thai Boxing

Don't miss the opportunity to witness Thailand's national sport, Muay Thai, in action. Catch a live match at the famous Rajadamnern Stadium or Lumpinee Boxing Stadium for an adrenaline-filled evening.

18. Marvel at The Golden Mount

Climb the 344 steps to the top of The Golden Mount for panoramic views of Bangkok's skyline. This sacred temple offers a peaceful respite from the chaos of the city and is particularly beautiful during sunrise or sunset.

19. Visit the Jim Thompson House

Explore the fascinating life of Jim Thompson, an American businessman who played a significant role in establishing the Thai silk industry. Marvel at his beautiful house-turned-museum, showcasing a collection of Southeast Asian art and antiques.

20. Take a Ride in the Bangkok Skytrain

Get around the city quickly and efficiently by hopping on the Bangkok Skytrain, also known as the BTS. This convenient mode of transportation connects major attractions and shopping centers, making it a popular choice among locals and tourists.

21. Take a Day Trip to the Bangkok Art and Culture Center

For art enthusiasts, a visit to the Bangkok Art and Culture Center is a must. This contemporary art museum showcases a diverse range of exhibitions,

performances, workshops, and galleries, providing a glimpse into the city's thriving creative scene.

22. Visit the Erawan Shrine

Paying homage to the Hindu god Brahma, the Erawan Shrine is a popular religious site in the heart of Bangkok. Witness devotees offering prayers, burning incense, and performing traditional dances to seek blessings and good fortune.

23. Explore the Bangkok National Museum

Delve into Thailand's rich history and culture by visiting the Bangkok National Museum. With a vast collection of artifacts, sculptures, and artwork, this museum offers a comprehensive insight into the country's heritage.

24. Attend a Traditional Thai Puppet Show

Experience the magic of traditional Thai puppetry at the Aksra Theatre. Delight in the intricate puppet designs and be transported to a world of enchantment as skilled puppeteers bring ancient stories to life.

25. Wander Through Lumpini Park

Escape the chaos of the city and find tranquility in Lumpini Park. This expansive green space offers a peaceful retreat where you can relax, exercise, or even join an outdoor yoga class.

26. Take a Day Trip to the Maeklong Railway Market

Experience the unique spectacle of the Maeklong Railway Market, also known as the "umbrella pulldown market." Watch as vendors quickly retract their stalls and awnings to make way for passing trains.

27. Attend a Thai Cooking Class

If you're a foodie at heart, join a Thai cooking class and learn how to whip up classic dishes like tom yum soup and green curry. You'll pick up valuable skills and take home the flavors of Thailand.

28. Explore the Bangkok Art Biennale

If you happen to visit Bangkok during the Bangkok Art Biennale, immerse yourself in a celebration of contemporary art. This international art festival showcases works by renowned artists from Thailand and around the world.

29. Discover the Siam Paragon Shopping Mall

Dive into a world of luxury shopping at the Siam Paragon Shopping Mall, one of Bangkok's premier shopping destinations. Explore high-end fashion brands, dine at world-class restaurants, and catch a movie at the IMAX cinema.

30. Take a Food Tour in Chinatown

Embark on a culinary adventure in Bangkok's Chinatown by joining a food tour. Discover hidden gems, sample a myriad of flavors, and gain insider knowledge about the neighborhood's history and culture.

31. Visit the Museum of Contemporary Art

Art enthusiasts shouldn't miss the opportunity to visit the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA). With an extensive collection of paintings and sculptures created by Thai artists, this museum offers a unique perspective on contemporary art in Thailand.

32. Experience Bangkok's Rooftop Bars

Elevate your Bangkok experience by visiting one of the city's stunning rooftop bars. Sip on refreshing cocktails while enjoying breathtaking views of the city's skyline. Don't forget your camera to capture Instagram-worthy shots.

33. Take a Yoga Class

Unwind and reconnect with your mind, body, and soul by taking a yoga class in Bangkok. Numerous studios offer a range of yoga styles, from traditional hatha to dynamic vinyasa, catering to practitioners of all levels.

34. Visit Wat Pho

Famous for its giant reclining Buddha statue, Wat Pho is one of Bangkok's oldest and largest temples. Marvel at the intricate details of the golden Buddha and explore the serene temple grounds filled with ornate structures and beautiful gardens.

35. Catch a Traditional Thai Dance Performance

Experience the grace and elegance of traditional Thai dance by attending a performance at the Thailand Cultural Centre. Be captivated by the intricate hand and facial movements, colorful costumes, and enchanting music.

36. Explore the Thonburi Area

Cross the Chao Phraya River and explore the charming Thonburi area. Ride a bicycle along the narrow alleyways, visit local markets, and catch a glimpse of traditional Thai way of life that's distinct from the bustling city center.

37. Marvel at the Bangkok Art & Culture Centre

The Bangkok Art & Culture Centre (BACC) is a vibrant hub for contemporary art in Bangkok. Experience rotating exhibitions, workshops, performances, and film screenings that showcase the diversity and creativity of Thai artists.

38. Escape to the Green Lung of Bangkok

Explore the "Green Lung" of Bangkok, also known as Bang Krachao. A short boat ride away from the city center, this lush oasis is perfect for cycling, kayaking, and immersing yourself in nature away from the crowds.

39. Discover Street Art in Bangrak

Venture into the Bangrak neighborhood and discover a vibrant street art scene. Wander through narrow alleys adorned with colorful murals and graffiti, showcasing the creative spirit of local and international artists.

40. Experience the Loy Krathong Festival

If you're lucky enough to be in Bangkok during the Loy Krathong Festival, immerse yourself in the cultural celebration. Float a beautifully decorated krathong (a small handmade boat) on the water, make a wish, and witness the sky illuminating with floating lanterns.

41. Explore the Diverse Neighborhoods of Bangkok

Bangkok is a city of contrasts, with each neighborhood offering a unique experience. From the hipster vibes of Ari and Thonglor to the historical charm of Old Town and the luxury of Sathorn, explore the diversity that defines the city.

42. Take a Canal Tour

Explore Bangkok's intricate canal system, also known as khlongs, by taking a canal tour. Cruise along the waterways, witness local life, and experience a different side of Bangkok that's often missed by tourists.

43. Discover Hidden Temples

Beyond the famous temples like Wat Phra Kaew and Wat Arun, Bangkok is home to numerous hidden gems. Explore lesser-known temples like Wat Saket and Wat Ratchabophit and marvel at their unique architecture and serene ambiance.

44. Attend the Bangkok International Film Festival

If you're a film enthusiast, plan your visit to coincide with the Bangkok International Film Festival. Experience a diverse selection of films from around the world, attend Q&A sessions with directors, and discover emerging talents.

45. Go Shopping at Pratunam Market

Shopaholics cannot miss a visit to Pratunam Market, one of Bangkok's largest wholesale clothing markets. With countless stalls selling clothing, accessories, and textiles, you'll find plenty of bargains to add to your wardrobe.

46. Take a River Taxi

Experience Bangkok's local transportation system by taking a river taxi along the Chao Phraya River. It's an affordable and scenic way to navigate the city while avoiding traffic jams.

47. Visit the Golden Buddha at Wat Traimit

Marvel at the world's largest solid gold Buddha statue at Wat Traimit. Weighing a staggering five and a half tons, this impressive statue is a testament to the city's rich cultural and religious heritage.

48. Explore the Bangkok Corrections Museum

For a unique and offbeat museum experience, visit the Bangkok Corrections Museum. Housed in a former prison, this museum offers a glimpse into Thailand's judicial system and the history of incarceration.

49. Take a Dip in a Rooftop Pool

Cool off from Bangkok's heat by taking a dip in a rooftop pool. Many hotels and rooftop bars offer this luxurious amenity, allowing you to relax and enjoy

panoramic city views at the same time.

50. Attend a Traditional Thai Music Concert

Immerse yourself in Thailand's rich musical traditions by attending a traditional Thai music concert. Be enchanted by traditional instruments like the khim (a hammered dulcimer) and traditional songs performed by talented musicians.

51. Explore the Talad Rot Fai Night Market

Step into a retro wonderland at the Talad Rot Fai Night Market, also known as the Train Market. Browse through vintage clothing, antiques, and an array of quirky collectibles while savoring delicious street food.

52. Take a Day Trip to the Elephant Nature Park

If you're passionate about animal welfare, take a day trip to the Elephant Nature Park. This ethical sanctuary provides a safe haven for rescued elephants, allowing visitors to observe them in their natural habitat without riding or exploiting them.

53. Explore the Bangkok Flower Market

Indulge your senses at the Bangkok Flower Market, also known as Pak Khlong Talat. Marvel at the vibrant colors and intoxicating scents as you stroll through this bustling market filled with fresh flowers and ornamental plants.

54. Ride a Long-Tail Boat along the Khlongs

Experience the charm of Bangkok's khlongs by riding a long-tail boat along the canals. Witness local life along the waterways, pass by stilted houses, and explore hidden corners of the city that are inaccessible by road.

55. Visit Bangkok's Art Galleries

Discover Bangkok's thriving art scene by visiting its numerous art galleries. From contemporary art spaces to small artist-run galleries, there's something for every art lover.

56. Explore the Bangkok Forensic Museum

If you have a fascination for the macabre, visit the Bangkok Forensic Museum. Uncover the history of forensic science in Thailand and explore exhibits on forensic pathology, toxicology, and anthropology.

57. Take a Day Trip to Koh Kret

Escape the urban jungle and take a day trip to Koh Kret, a peaceful island located in the Chao Phraya River. Explore the island's pottery village, sample local delicacies, and admire the craftsmanship of the Mon people.

58. Attend a Thai Boxing Lesson

If you're up for a challenge, try your hand in a Thai boxing lesson. Learn the basic moves, practice with a professional trainer, and experience the intensity and discipline of this martial art.

59. Take a Bike Tour

Discover Bangkok on two wheels by taking a bike tour. Pedal through narrow alleyways, visit local markets, and explore hidden corners of the city that are inaccessible by car. It's a fun and eco-friendly way to see the sights.

60. Visit the Bangkok Planetarium

Treat your inner



★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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There's actually a lot more than 99 tips in the book. Once I got started I couldn't stop, but I suppose that's just typical of me. Its also typical of Bangkok too. It never stops - and that is no exaggeration. While some of us are staggering out of late night dance clubs, many of the early morning markets are in full-throttle already. Just when you think there may be a bit of respite, the entire city wakes up - and so begins another day in the City of Angels.

Bangkok is rated the best tourist location in the world, and in the years that it doesn't win it, it comes in the top three. That's the years when there's some type of disturbance on the streets, or possibly even a military coup as we saw last year. It's amazing to think that a city could be in the grip of a coup, and still be voted into the top three tourist locations in the world. So why would that be? Quite simple, the place is a blast. Bangkok can be whatever you want it to be - maybe with the exception of being quiet, its not known for being quiet.

Would you like to party twenty-four hours a day? no problem. Or maybe have a family vacation, visit seven-hundred year old temples, fill your boots up with

incredible bargains at the markets and malls - no problem. Eat? you've never seen a range of food like this in your life - cheap, incredible, varied food. And for those of you that think it may all well be a bit "too foreign," for you - don't worry, there's Western amenities on every corner.

Most tourists and backpackers move through the city relatively quickly, only spending two or three days there as they go on to see other parts of Thailand. That's a pity as the city deserves more than that. So what I've done is - I've honed in on the things that are relevant to people on a short-break or city trip. Even then, it would take you the best part of a month to even have a chance of seeing all the things I suggest. So I'll point you in the direction of the must-do's, then you can pick and choose the other things to suit your interest and time frame.

I've also included an extensive list of travel advice, additional travel tips, accommodation booking and safety advice at the end of the book. A lot of these things you can do before you leave home to cut down on expense, and possible aggravation when traveling. The ninety-nine tips are all the fun things to do, the "bonus," the dry, but useful "technical," stuff.

You'll also see plenty of images in the book, because as they say, a picture is worth a thousand words. By the time you've finished reading you'll be able to work out a fabulous itinerary, book good value accommodation, and make your way quickly around the city.

So go ahead and download [Bangkok, 99 Tips for Tourists & Backpackers](#) now, and lets get started planning your outstanding visit to the city.



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