

Thailand

Climate:

Thailand's monsoons arrive around July and last into October (the 'rainy season') and can be quite uncomfortable to deal with. This is followed by a dry, cool period from November to mid-February, followed by much higher relative temperatures from March to June. Nationwide, temperatures are relatively steady throughout the year, averaging between 77° and 84° F (25° and 29° C). The greatest fluctuations are in the north, where frost may occur in December at higher elevations; conversely, maritime influences moderate the climate in the south. The cooler, drier air of the northeast monsoon produces frequent morning fogs that generally dissipate by midday in the north and northeast regions.

Currency: The local currency is the Thai Baht. Changing money in Thailand is fairly simple. Banks or legal moneychangers offer the best rates. For buying Baht, US dollars are the most readily acceptable currency, though traveler's' checks get a slightly better rate than cash. Credit cards are increasingly acceptable in quality shops, hotels and restaurants. Visa is the most useful, followed by MasterCard. ATMs which accept Visa and other credit cards are easily found in the larger cities, and many exchange booths will give you a cash advance on your credit card. Go to finance.yahoo.com/currency?u for current exchange rates.

Immunizations: Although no vaccinations are required for travel in SE Asia, we recommend you consult your physician about tetanus, polio, typhoid, gamma globulin, Hepatitis A & B and malaria. For current information, check directly with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a traveler's clinic or other medical authority. Visit <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/Travel/destinationList.aspx#P>

Visas: Travelers to Thailand must have a valid passport. A visa is **not** needed if your stay is 30 days or less. If your trip exceeds 30 days, you must obtain a visa from the Thai Embassy in the US before your trip or on arrival. Please contact our office to discuss the details for this.

Tipping Guideline: Drivers - \$5-\$8 pp per day
Mainland guides - \$10-\$20 pp per day
For trekking trips: Cooks - \$5pp per day
Porters and other trekking staff - \$3-4pp per day

Budget: You will need to analyze your spending habits and decide how much extra money to bring for alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, gratuities, souvenirs, and laundry. For a ten day trip, budget at least \$200 - \$300pp above and beyond tips for additional expenses. A rule of thumb: take half the clothing and twice the money you thought you would need!



Dialing Code: 66

Time Zone: GMT/UTC + 7

Electricity: 220V ,50Hz

Additional Country Information: More country specific information can be found on our website. Go to the Travel Center page (<http://www.mythsandmountains.com/2000/travel/center.cfm>) and then scroll down to the bottom of the page. There you will find links to various websites from the CIA Factbook to travel films.

"A mind that is stretched by a new
experience can never go back to its
old dimensions."
-Oliver Wendell Holmes

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See the Longitude Books website: <http://www.longitudebooks.com/> for more book ideas.

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