



THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO TANTALIZING THAILAND

(1/19/2012 updated)

Thank you for choosing RITZ TOURS!!!

PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED THE FOLLOWING TOUR DOCUMENTS:

1. Day-by-Day Itinerary with Hotel Information and Emergency Contact Phone Numbers
2. US domestic and international airline tickets (if applicable)
3. Your Flight Schedule (if applicable)
4. Vouchers (if applicable)
5. Ritz Tours Badge
6. Luggage Tag
7. A Copy of "Tantalizing Thailand - Things to Know Before You Go"
8. Travel Insurance Policy (if applicable)
9. Questionnaire

Upon arrival in Thailand, please go through Customs and Immigration on your own. After exiting the Custom area, please look for Ritz Tours representative who will be holding a sign with "Ritz Tours". Please make sure that you wear your Ritz Tours badge for easy identification.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE ON TIPPING:

Please note that gratuities are not included in your tour cost. They are customary, and their purpose is to encourage and reward quality service. Our tour conductors, local guide, drivers, hotel porters and other service personnel do their utmost to make your trip smooth and pleasant. Gratuities are a way of showing your appreciation and also constitute a large part of their monthly income. However, tips are NEVER mandatory.

Ritz Tours suggests tipping in the following manner (US dollars):

\$6 per person per day (except free day) – to be distributed between driver & guide

Most restaurants will add a 10% service charge to the bill, but if no, a 10% tip is customary. Tipping is not customary in Thailand but loose change is happily accepted.

Again, thank you for choosing Ritz Tours as your partner-in-travel. We are confident that your trip will be happy and rewarding. If you need further information, please contact your travel agent or Ritz Tours.



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Travel Documentation:

U.S. Passport must be valid for at least 6 months on the return date of your trip. No visa required for stay up to 30 days. For non-U.S. citizen, please check with the Thailand Tourism Board for requirement.

Electrical Requirement:

Electrical outlets are rated at 220 volts, 50 cycles, and accept flat-pronged plugs. Since many do not accept three-pronged grounded plugs, it is best to bring an adaptor or purchase one in a Thai department store.

Shopping:

Although local guides will be happy to assist you with any shopping requirements, Ritz Tours does not assume responsibility for any items purchased at shops while on tour. You are never required to purchase any items while on tour and thus must be responsible for your own purchases. Any after sales correspondence must be between the passenger and the shop in question.

Baggage:

Cathay Pacific Baggage allowance:

Economy class:

- Maximum weight 50lbs per bag,
- maximum number of checked bags: Two;
- Maximum Dimensions per bag: 158cm (62in)
Length+height + width
- Maximum number of carry-on bags: One
- Maximum weight: 15 lbs
- Maximum Dimensions per bag: 22in (L)x14in(H)
x 9 in (W)

Infant ticket holder maximum number of checked bags is ONE, maximum dimensions per bag: 115cm (45in).

Thailand domestic airlines:

Bangkok- Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai – Bangkok
The baggage allowance is **44lbs per person (subject to change)**.

DO NOT pack medicine, valuables and other personal necessities in checked luggage. Keep them in your carry on bag.

Health & Medical Matter:

No vaccinations are required for your trip with the exception of anyone traveling from or via an infected area. Due to the length of the trip and local traveling conditions, it is advised that you consult your doctor for existing medical / dental conditions before departure. If you are taking prescription medicine, pack (in your hand luggage) sufficient quantity for the duration of the trip. It may also be useful to bring aspirin, over-the-counter medicine for flu, indigestion, motion sickness, etc. In case of illness during the trip, please immediately notify your tour conductor and

local guide for assistance. You can also contact the Center for Disease Control (C.D.C.) for updated information at 404-639-3534.

Currency:

As of January 2012, the following exchange rate applies: 1.00 USD=31.73 THB (Thailand Baht)

Clothing:

Clothes should be light and loose; natural fibers or blends are best. Sunglasses are essential; light hats are advisable. Shorts are taboo for men and women at temples and mosques. Shoes must be removed upon entering temple buildings, so non-laced shoes (but not sandals without back straps) are best. Winter nights in the North can be chilly and a sweater will be welcome in the evenings and early mornings. Choose light clothes for Phuket's balmy weather. Many visitors save luggage space by buying inexpensive vacation clothes after arriving in Thailand, leaving them behind when they return home.

Climate & Weather:

Thailand's tropical climate is hot and humid, but there are regional and seasonal temperature variations.

Bangkok enjoys three seasons: Hot (March to mid-June; 27-35 C i.e. 80-95 F), Rainy (June to October; 24-32 C i.e. 75-90 F), and Cool (Nov. to Feb; 18-32 C i.e. 65-90 F), although the humidity is considerably lower.

Chiang Mai & Chiang Rai in the far North is somewhat cooler with winter temperatures ranging between 13 and 28 C (56 and 83 F); in rare instances, temperatures in the hills can drop as low as 2 C (36 F). As in Bangkok, the heaviest rains fall in September and city streets often flood in October and early November.

In the South, temperatures on the island of **Phuket** can warm to 34 C. (92 F) in the hot season but the water temperature never drops below 20 C. (68 F). During the monsoon (May to late October) the undertow can be quite strong; look for red warning flags on the beaches. In all regions, nighttime temperatures are often only four degrees Celsius lower than daytime highs and the humidity often runs above 70%.

Seasons (may vary by up to one month):

Cool: Oct-Feb
Hot: Mar-Apr
Rainy: May-Sep



THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Useful Thai Phrases

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Yes | Chái |
| No | Mái cháí |
| Thank you | Khàp khun |
| No, thank you | Mái ao khàp khun |
| Hello | Sawàt dii |
| How are you? | Sabai dee rue? |
| I'm fine | Sabàay dee |
| Excuse me | Khǎw thòht |
| Please | Karuna |
| When? | Mêu-arai? |
| Today | Wan ní |
| Tomorrow | Phrûng ní |
| I do not understand | Mái Khào jai |
| How old are you? | Ah yoo thao rai? |
| I like you! | Phom chawp koon |
| I cannot speak Thai | Poot passat Thai mai dai |
| Can speak a little Thai | Poot passat Thai nit noy |
| No smoking/don't smoke | Haam soop buree |

Average Temperatures

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Bangkok | 80 | 83 | 85 | 87 | 86 | 85 | 85 | 84 | 84 | 83 | 81 | 79 |
| Chiang Rai | 67 | 71 | 76 | 81 | 82 | 81 | 80 | 80 | 79 | 77 | 73 | 68 |
| Chiang Mai | 70 | 74 | 79 | 84 | 84 | 82 | 81 | 81 | 81 | 80 | 76 | 71 |