

THAILAND

Location

South-East Asia.

Area

513,115 sq km (198,115 sq miles).

Population

65 million (2007).

Population Density

126.7 per sq km.

Capital

Bangkok.

Population: 9.4 million, including Thon Buri (UN estimate 2005).

Government

Constitutional monarchy.

Language

Thai is the official language. English is widely spoken, especially in establishments catering for tourists.

Religion

The vast majority adhere to Buddhism (Theravada form), 5% are Muslim and there are Christian and Hindu minorities.

Time

GMT + 7.

Electricity

220 volts AC, 50Hz. Two-pin plugs are standard.

Head of Government

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva since 2008.

Head of State

HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX) since 1946.

Telephone

Country code: 66.

Mobile Telephone

Roaming agreements exist with many international mobile phone companies. There is good coverage, especially around main towns.

Internet

There are plenty of Internet cafes, some even found in remote areas visited by tourists.

Media

While the government and military control nearly all the national terrestrial TV networks and operate many of Thailand's radio networks, the print media is largely privately run.

Post

Airmail to Europe takes up to one week.

Post office hours: The General Post Office in Bangkok (on Charoen Krung Road) is open Mon-Fri 0800-2000, Sat-Sun and holidays 0800-1300. Post offices up-country are open Mon-Fri 0800-1630, Sat 0900-1200.

Press

• Many daily and weekly Thai newspapers are available, including *Thairath*. The English-language dailies are *Bangkok Post* and *The Nation*.

Radio

• *Radio Thailand* and *MCOT* are operated by government agencies, while *Army Radio* is controlled by the Royal Thai Army.
• There are more than 60 stations in and around the capital.

Note

* The religious festivals are determined by the Buddhist lunar calendar and therefore are difficult to predict. The dates provided here are estimates.

** Date to be confirmed.

Below are listed Public Holidays for the January 2011-December 2011 period.

1 Jan *New Year's Day.*

1 Feb **Magha Bucha Day.*

6 Apr *Chakri Day.*

15 Apr *Songkran (Thai New Year).*

28 Apr *Visakha Bucha.*

1 May *Labor Day.*

5 May *Coronation Day.*

1 Jul *Mid Year Bank Holiday.*

1 Jul **Khao Phansa Day (Buddhist Lent).*

12 Aug *HM The Queen's Birthday.*

23 Oct *Chulalongkorn Day.*

5 Dec *HM The King's Birthday.*

10 Dec *Constitution Day.*

31 Dec *New Year's Eve.*

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