



Ten essential visits

Thailand's capital is a wonderful city, unforgettable for its visitors. Below you can find 10 must-go places.

1. **Grand Palace and Temple of the Emerald Buddha.** The Grand Palace in Bangkok is a large palatial complex that includes the famous Wat Phra Kaew, better known as the Temple of the Emerald Buddha. It is a very busy place, but the visit is overwhelming and its beauty is worth the effort.

2. **Temple of the Reclining Buddha.** Wat Pho, close to the Grand Palace, is another place to see in Bangkok. Above all it is known for hosting a huge figure of a Reclining Buddha, but offers more attractions.

3. **Temple of the Dawn.** The Wat Arun, on the other side of the river, completes the triangle of must-see in Bangkok. It stands out for its steep and gorgeous central stupa, from which beautiful views of the city are contemplated.

4. **Khao San Road.** It is the most famous street in Bangkok. Here meet backpackers from all over the world who stay in hostels



The Chao Phraya River (above) and Khao San Road (below), with cheap and noisy hostels and hotels.





Previous page: Palace and Temple of the Emerald Buddha.
Left: Temple of the Reclining Buddha.
Below: Jim Thompson House.

and hotels as cheap as noisy (and sometimes ruinous). But Khao San Road is pure show, for the good and for the bad. Among the bustle you will find everything: massages, beer terraces, shops with cheap clothes, Thai food stalls, street shows, lively nightlife... Maybe it is not the quietest street in the city, but it's worth a walk and get carried away by his madness.

5. Chao Phraya. More than a river, the Chao Phraya looks like a highway. Or, rather, a junction of highways. Ships of all sizes sail in any direction and at all times. Chao Phraya is needed as a means of transport on more than one occasion, but if you want to live it intensely, take the Tourist Boat or even look for a ship with a restaurant on board.

6. Lumpini Park. Away from the historic center -in a much more modern area- is the Lumpini Park, a small version of New York's Central Park, with its lake and huge buildings surrounding it. If you like reptiles, there you can see the famous lizards, some very large ones. In the immediate vicinity is the Rajadamnern Stadium, where many tourists attend Muay Thai fighting. <https://rajadamnern.com/>

7. Baiyoke Tower II. One of our best experiences in Bangkok is to see the city from the top of the Baiyoke Sky Hotel, the tallest building in Thailand and one of the 50 tallest skyscrapers in the world. From 84th floor of the Baiyoke Sky Tower II there is a spectacular observatory that rotates 360°. The entrance includes a drink. The most famous views of the city, however, are those of the Sirocco Sky Bar. It is more expensive but also more glamorous and allows to contemplate Chao Phraya chaos (the Baiyoke is quite far from the river).

8. Jim Thompson House. This traditional Thai style construction is a small complex of very coquettish houses surrounded by gardens. It lodges an interesting collection of works of art, mainly local and Asian. It is interesting to previously investigate the figure of Jim Thompson, an American architect and designer who decisively promoted the silk business in Thailand and who disappeared-

mysteriously. An original way to arrive or leave is through the barges that circulate through a nearby klong (channel).

9. Chinatown. On Yaowarat Road and its surroundings is located Chinatown, the neighbourhood where Chinese community arrived at the end of the eighteenth century after being expelled from the area that should occupy -and occupy- the Grand Palace. The flea markets, the lively daily life and the street food stalls are some of their big claims. As for visits, do not miss the Wat Traimit, with its famous Golden Buddha, and the Mangkon Kamalawat Temple, built in classical Chinese style.

10. Flea markets, floating markets and shopping centres. Buying in Bangkok is a unique experience in its various forms. It is possible to buy everything, anywhere and at any time, day or night. Do not miss several sites, even if you only wish to have a look. The Chatuchak Weekend Market is one of the most famous and large outdoor markets in the world. The MBK, located next to other major shopping centres in the Siam area, is the most popular in terms of fakes. As for the picturesque floating markets, those preferred by tourists are Damnoen Saduak and Amphawa, although is also recommended the unknown Khlong Lat Mayom, smaller perhaps, but closer to Bangkok and, above all, practically free of tourists. In addition to shopping and eating, it is essential to ride a boat and make the trip through the channels. Extremely genuine!

