



Banthat Thong Road

The original section of the road, running from Saphan Lueang to Charoen Phon, was built in the 1910s and formed the southernmost part of Prathat Thong Road, which continued north towards Samsen Water Treatment Plant. Prathat thong is the Thai name for the Quassia amara plant, and the road was named for the plant's appearance as a pattern in Chinese porcelain, as was a common trend at the time.[2] King Vajiravudh renamed the road as Rama VI Road in 1920.

far from residential areas—was ideal for prostitute dens, which at the time were legal and served as a revenue source for the government. However, his opposition came too late for any action to be altered, and prostitution was later criminalized.

Sometime later, the road became split: the section north of Uruphong Intersection continues to be known as Rama VI, while the section south of Charoen Phon became known as Banthat Thong, a corruption of its original name. The road now continues north from Charoen Phon Intersection, crossing Saen Saep Canal at Charoen Phon Bridge toward Phetchaburi Road. From Saphan Lueang to the bridge, the road forms the boundary between Pathum Wan District's Rong Mueang and Wang Mai subdistricts.

In 1912, as preparations were being made for the establishment of the Civil Service College of King Chulalongkorn (later to become Chulalongkorn University) in the area near the then-newly built road, Chao Phraya Yommarat (Pan Sukhum), the Minister of the Capital, voiced opposition to the plan, noting that the location of Prathat Thong Road—secluded yet not





Overview of Banthat Thong Road

Stretching over a distance of 2.2 kilometers, the road is known among the older generation for where to get automobile parts and sports equipment. For the younger generation, it is our Bangkok Thai street food haven!

Recently, the road has become a hotspot where both Thai people and tourists enjoy authentic Thai cuisine which offers delightful street food, and local vendors, who have honed their skills over the years, serve various affordable yet scrumptious dishes. Many well-known and best Thai restaurants in Bangkok are located in this area in which the sight of people queuing up in front of humble stores is very common.

Banthat Thong is also connected to the vibrant Chula-Samyan area, which encompasses university campuses and student apartments. This proximity has made the area immensely popular among Thai teenagers, who flock here to socialize and unwind after their classes or exams. The neighborhood is teeming with a multitude of cafes, bars, and restaurants specifically tailored to cater to the preferences of these young individuals.

Banthat Thong Road served almost no purpose for gourmands in search of culinary plenitude because the lower side of the 2.5km-long Banthat Thong, which officially stretches from Phet Phra Ram intersection in Ratchathewi district to Saphan Lueng intersection in Pathumwan district, runs behind Chulalongkorn University and the National Stadium, the road had long been known as a hub of sporting goods.

Today, however, driving by Banthat Thong promises to easily evoke ones' gastronomic sensations.

With areas surrounding the four-lane thoroughfare being lately modernised and developed by Chulalongkorn, Banthat Thong now enjoys its new image as a rustic backdrop of the brilliantly-landscaped university campus.

For some reason, that has also drawn almost a hundred food vendors into the once uninspiring strip.

What is there to see on Banthat Thong Road ?

Banthat Thong Road is a general road with shop selling things such as sports shop, restuarants, and people's houses. Later it was turned into a walking street similar to Yowarat. There are many restaurants and food that are very famous on Banthat Thong Road. Most of the foreigners have come to visit and take photos. There Chaineese people, Westerners, as well as students. Banthat Thong Road has both restaurants. There is a Chula Centenary Garden. It's a very complete place.

Famous restaurant in Banthat Thong

1. Elvis Suki & Seafood

For more than 50 years, this little eatery has served just one thing: Thai-style sukiyaki, a bowl of stir-fried noodles (with soup or dry) with meat or seafood, greens and a special sauce made from fermented red bean curd to be used as seasoning, a dip for the meat – or both.

What makes this simple dish so enticing as to keep regulars coming back is the stir-frying technique: the super-super-high heat cooks the noodles just right, preventing the dish from becoming either too soggy or too parched.

If you're not the sort to follow the crowd, there are now other items on the menu: we recommend the turnip cake, steamed mussels with herbs, grilled scallops, and stir-fried noodles with chicken.

Tatler Tip: Don't get disheartened by the usual long queue! The service is quick, and you can always walk around and grab a drink or pre-dinner snack while you're waiting for your number to be called.

2. Jeh O

For about 40 years, Jeh O was popular with locals who came for its simple boiled rice served with various side dishes. In recent years, the restaurant took the internet by storm with the newly added menu Mama Oh Ho, a variety of fancy versions of a national favourite: Mama brand instant noodles. Here, they come served with a thick and creamy tom yum base jam-packed with shrimp, squid, ground pork, two egg yolks and a handful of unidentifiable but delicious odds and ends.

Other Chinese-inspired Thai dishes such as duck meat in five spice soup, spicy salad of sweet sausages, blanched blood cockles with seafood sauce, and raw shrimps served with bitter melon and spicy sauce are also hits for a reason. Reservations are highly recommended.

3. Cheng Sim Ei

Nothing caps off a decent meal with a sweet, refreshing note quite like a shaved ice dessert. Set up 65 years ago, serving customers from a simple pushcart with a hand ice-shaving machine, the family business established by the grandparents is now a dessert empire with more than a dozen branches all over town.

Not only it is one the very few places of its kind that opens until late, there is also a massive selection of 50-plus toppings, two facts that make it a huge hit. For each bowl, you can choose three or four toppings, as well as your choice of syrups: palm sugar, logan juice, fresh milk, coconut milk and more. Regular customers know what hits their sweet spot, but if the choices are a bit too overwhelming, there is also a list of recommended combos.

4. Tung Chae Tao Tan

This stir-fried noodle and fried rice joint has been around for more than 60 years. Now run by the third-generation owner, regulars pile in at lunch and dinner to enjoy the somewhat limited but wholesome and satisfying menu.

Recommended dishes are all-time best-sellers pad see ew (flat rice noodles stir-fried with pork, Chinese kale and sweet fermented soy sauce), rad naa (flat stir-fried noodles in thick soup)

6 reasons to visit Banthat Thong Road

1. Accessibility

It's a short walk away from both the BTS and MRT (National Stadium Station and Samyan Station, respectively), and the paths are well-lit and populated almost all the time. If you're dropping by the Siam area, there's also a free bus service provided by the university to get you there. If you drive, the surrounding area is full of parking spaces. And if you have a motorbike, there's even dedicated parking spots.

2. Areas for exercise

On a health kick? Check out the CU Centenary Park. It's a quaint, peaceful park for those who love to jog in the afternoon. There are also recreational areas perfect for picnics, some badminton with your friends, or just to adore the greenery as you escape from the busy city vibes.

3. Co-working spaces

If you're the type to enjoy the company's WFH policy, but actually refuse to do work at home, there are a few co-working spaces in the area. What makes people choose these places is that they have their own coffee shop, along with snacks for you to buy if you're feeling sleepy. They also offer a range of prices depending on the duration of your stay, from a few hours, to a year.

Some places have their own unique spin on co-working spaces. KiddNap has a silent area, where you will be asked to leave if your voice exceeds a certain limit. It's perfect for when you need to concentrate for a deadline. NapLab has a gaming area that allows you to relax after achieving that milestone, with a pingpong table, xbox, and even a sandbag complete with boxing gloves.

4. Dinner spots

We'd be here all day if we were to list every food destination on the street. In fact, this writer spent four years in Chula and hasn't tried all of them yet.

There are Thai-style hotpots, Japanese delis, fried chicken, noodle places, Jok, seafood buffets, Korean barbecue—whatever cuisine you're craving, there's one you can walk to.

Highlights that you cannot miss include Rod Dee Ded, a steakhouse with gorgeous day-aged beef, and Jeh Oh, a down-to-earth eatery, which is famous for its tom-yum noodles. Jeh Oh is even featured in the Michelin Guide.

5. Dessert destinations

Tuay Tung Icecream is a cute little cafe famous for its creamy homemade ice cream slapped in the middle of two manthos (traditional Chinese buns). They also provide a wide array of milk tea, coffee, and other beverages to satisfy your sweet tooth.

Jeh Wan is one of the most well-known dessert places of the area for Thai-Chinese eats. Local favourites include dou huay, glutinous rice balls in coconut milk, and dou huay, tofu pudding in hot ginger water.

Whether you're looking for something to properly end your meal, or just craving something sweet, you'll surely have a great time.

6. Laidback bars

Some people like to catch up with their friends over dinner or some recreational activities. Others bond over alcohol. Banthat Thong has a few hangout spots that will surely hit the spot for many.

If you're into bars, Praya Bar is a great rooftop dining spot with good food and great drinks. They also have live music as you watch over the city below.

SAMYAN is a local go-to for draft beers and cocktails, with great food to match—from cheeseburgers to Thai-style yum.

Chick Chat is a great hangout destination for students and graduates alike. They offer delicious Korean-style fried chicken, with promotions on alcoholic drinks running very occasionally.