Timezone: GMT+7 **Currency: Baht**

First steps in Bangkok

Arrived. 17 hours flight with 2 hours layover was exsausting. Bangkok greeted me with humid, hot wheather and exotic, well, everything.

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กรุงเทพมหานคร

First thing in the morning I went exploring the surrounding area and I had my first ever breakfast in local Thai cafe. Thai cuisine is relatively vegetarian friendly.

The streets in Bangkok are narrow, crowded and noisy. Huge greyish buildings, decorated with splash of colors and funny looking canopies. Fresh laundry, dried fruits, plants, old pots, wires - all these elements are part of Bangkok street view. They look in place and together create special vibe of the city.

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Bangkok is a city of contrast: traffic jams, polluted air, humid wheather.

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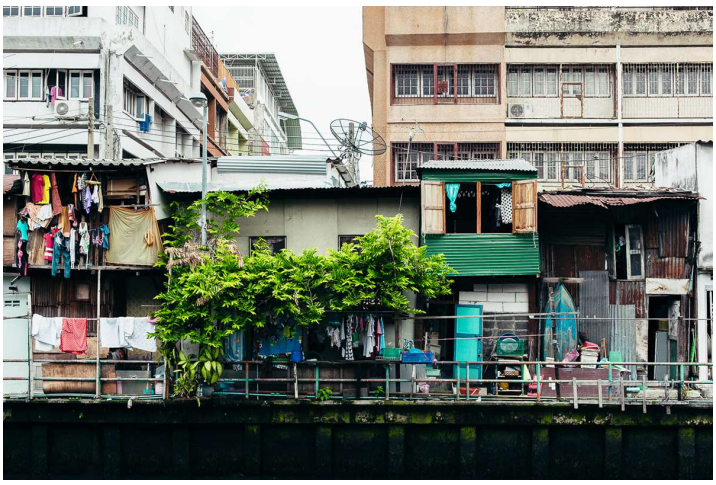

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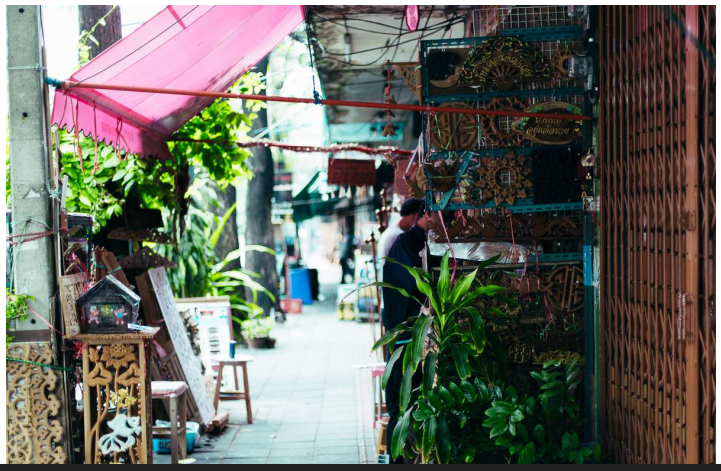
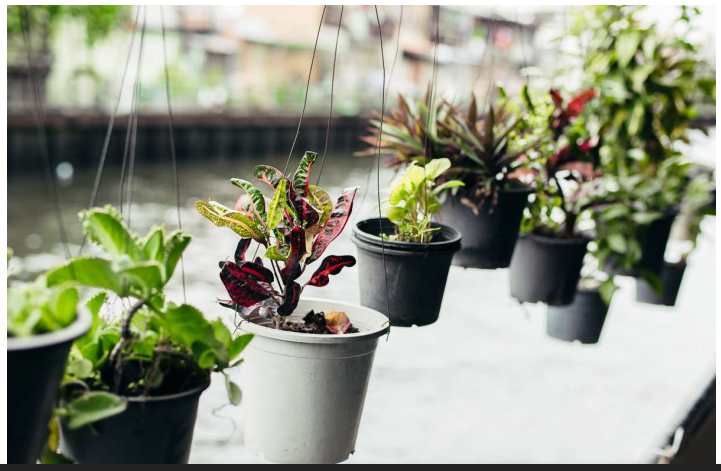
Steel buildings stand next to shiny temples, beautiful flowers dangling from the mirrors of old buses and tuk tuks.





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The tiny tuk-tuk is a vehicle of choice for Thai people and tourists. It's a hybrid of a motocycle, car and cabriolette.

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Not the safest choice you could go with but no doubt, the most entertaining one in the city (except for, maybe, elephants). Of course, we took a ride!

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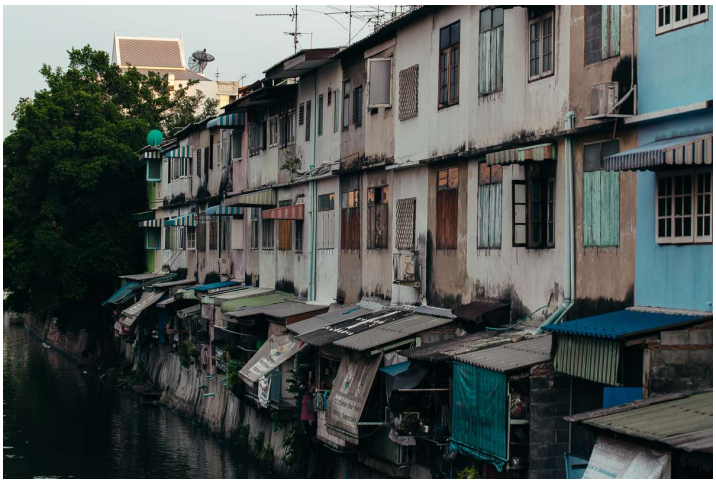

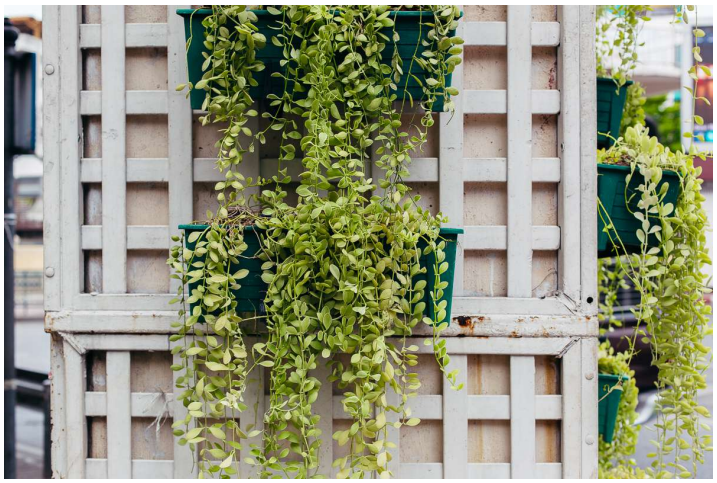

Khao San Road

Relatively close to my place there is Khao San Road, I decided to walk through it to get a taste of local culture. Quite literally. The famous Thai street food is incredible and you'll find yourself wondering around not recognizing half of weird looking fruits and vegetables including smelly Durian (ทุเรียน) and Longan (ลำไย).

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⚓ Khao San Road

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Chang is the most popular beer in Thailand. It's everywhere - every bar, breakfast place or restuarant offers it. The multitude of shops, Tattoo studios and divercity of tourist population completes the picture of Khao San Road.

Grand Palace

One of the must visit places in Bangkok is Grand Palace. For more than 150 years it was the home of the Thai King, the Royal court and the administrative seat of government.

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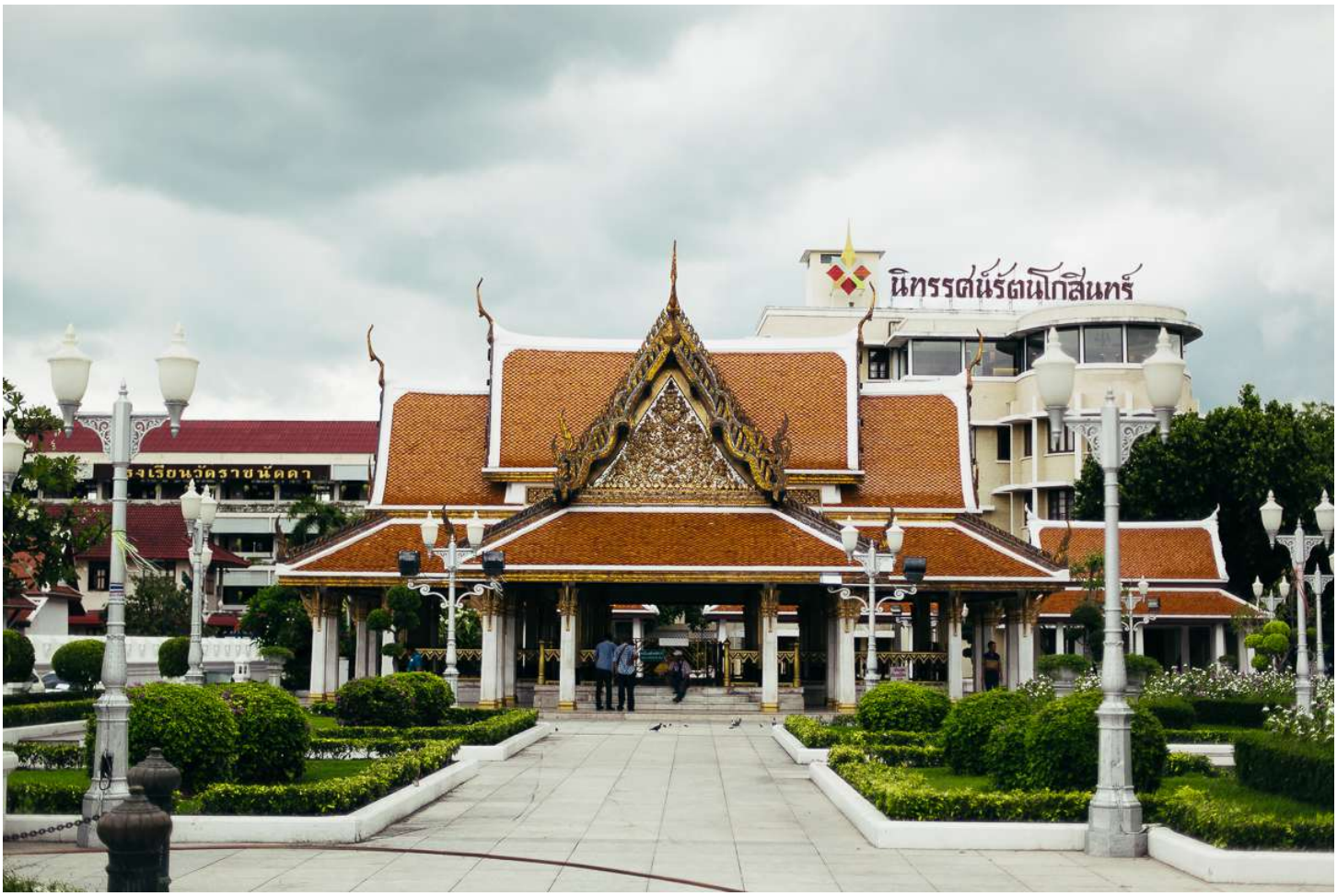

⚓ **Grand Palace**

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Royal Reception Hall is impressive with its architecture, style and details.

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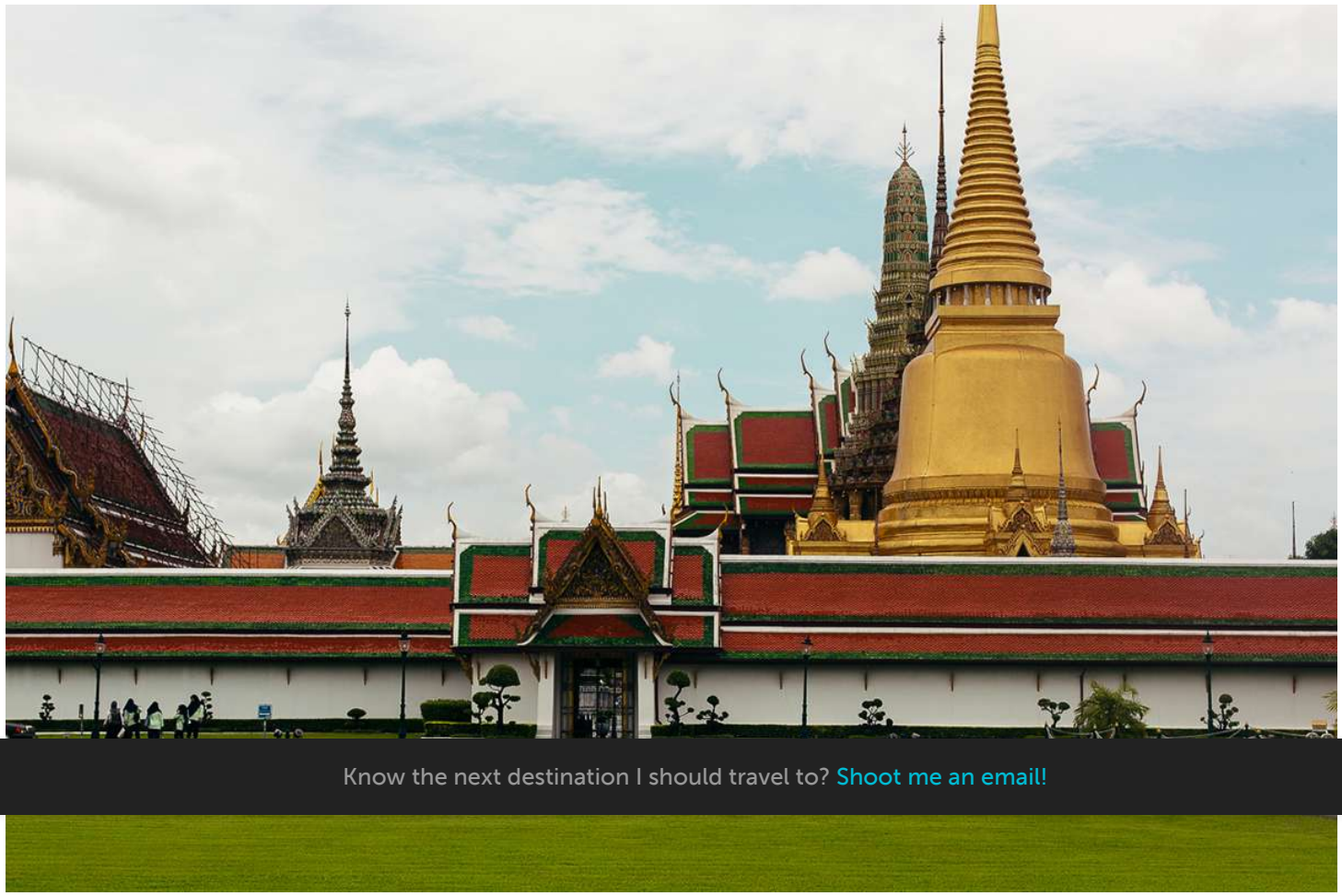
Wat Pra Kaew (Temple of Emerald Buddha)

Wat Phra Kaew is a part of the Grand Palace. It contains the famous Emerald Buddha that dates back to the 14th century.



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⚓ **Wat Pra Kaew**

The main building is the central hall, where the Emerald Buddha resides - the most important icon for Thai people.

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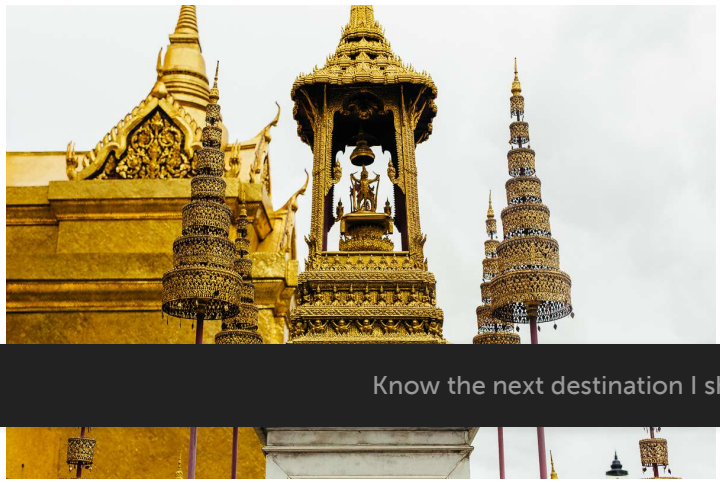
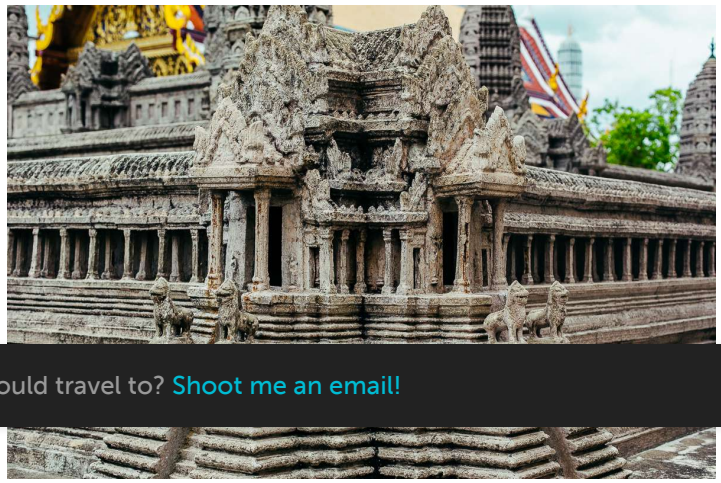
Phra Kaew includes a model of Angkor Wat, which was built under the order of King Rama IV when Cambodia was under Siamese control. The model was later recreated in plaster at the behest of King Rama V to celebrate the first centenary of the Royal City.





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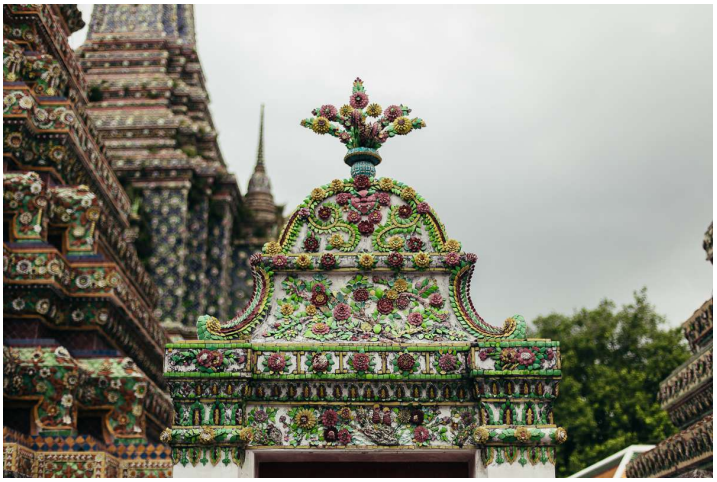
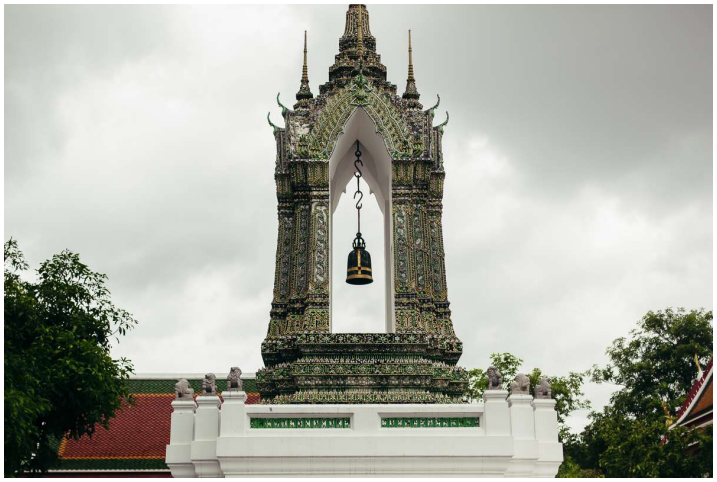
The entrance is guarded by a pair of yakshis.





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The Emerald Buddha deified in the Wat Phra Kaew is deeply revered and venerated in Thailand as the protector of the country.

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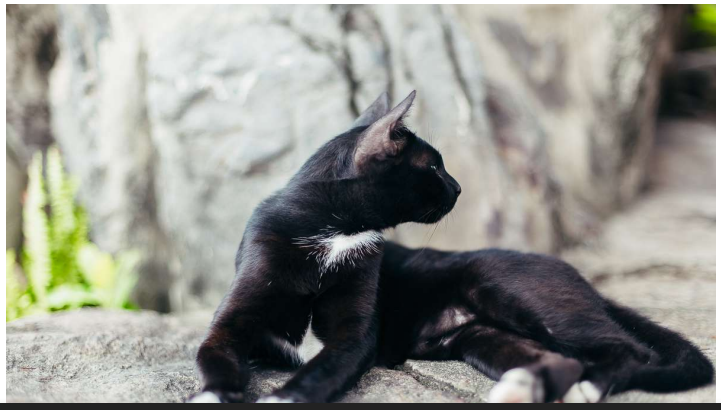
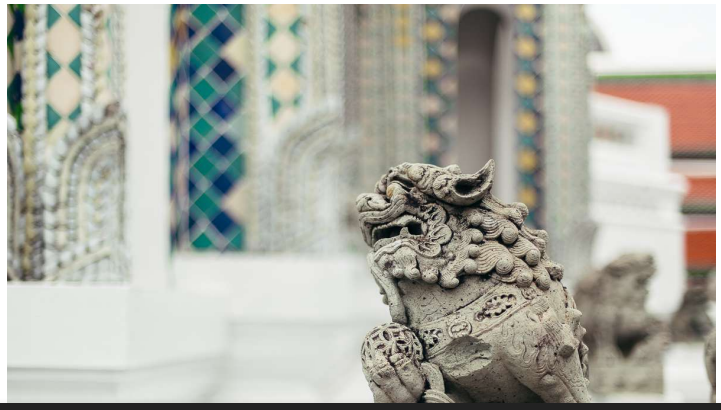
By the way, the legendary history of this Buddha image is traced to India, five centuries after Gautama Buddha attained Nirvana, until it was finally enshrined in Bangkok at the Wat Phra Kaew temple in 1782.





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Wat Phra Kaew (Thai: **วัดพระแก้ว**, English: Temple of the Emerald Buddha; full official name Wat Phra Si Rattana Satsadaram, Thai: **วัดพระศรีรัตนศาสดาราม**, is regarded the most sacred Buddhist temple in Thailand.

Wat Pho (Temple of the Reclining Buddha)

Wat Pho (Thai: **วัดโพธิ์**) is one of the oldest temples in Bangkok. The image of Reclining Buddha is gigantic - 15m high and 43m long with his right arm supporting the head with tight curls on two box-pillows.

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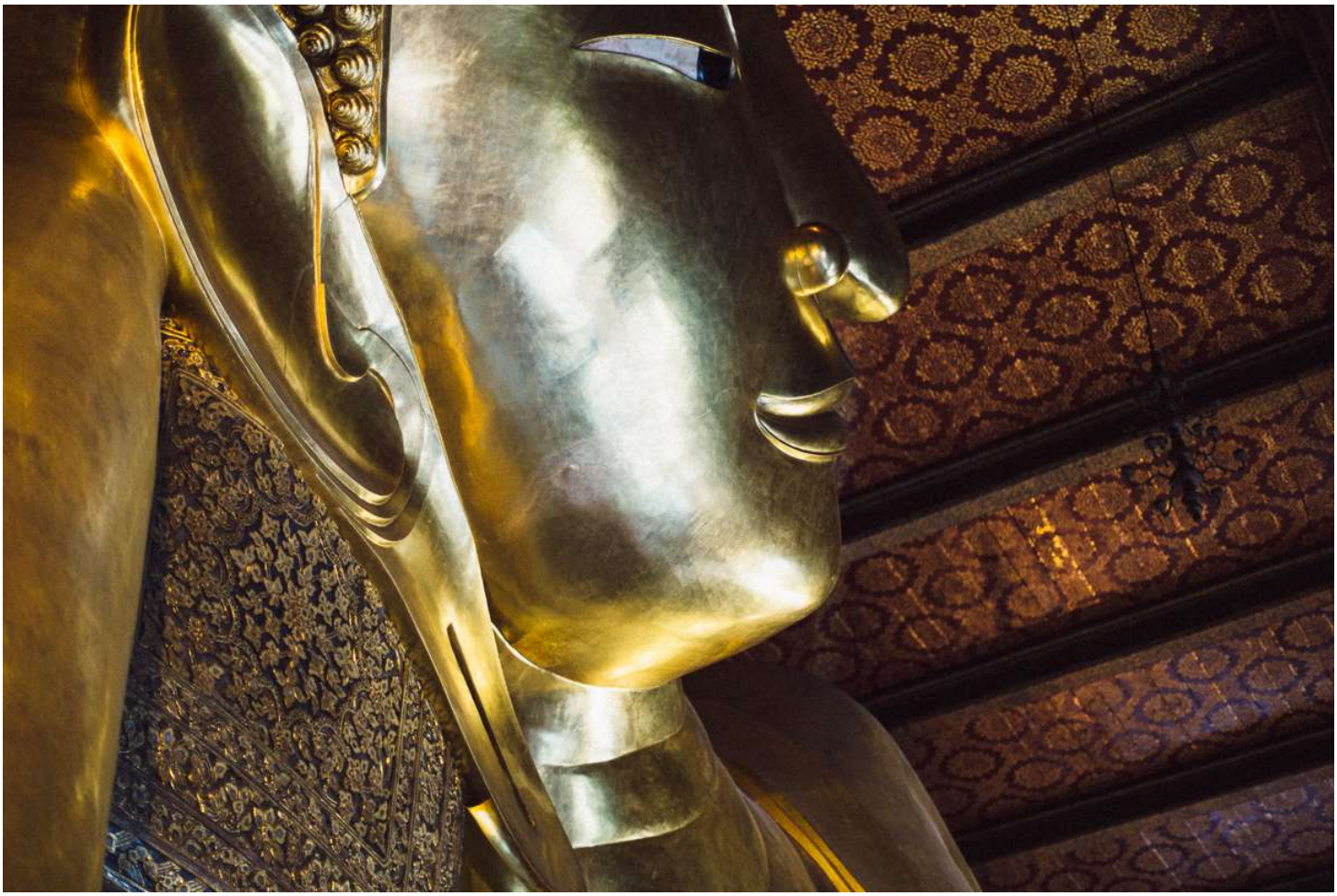

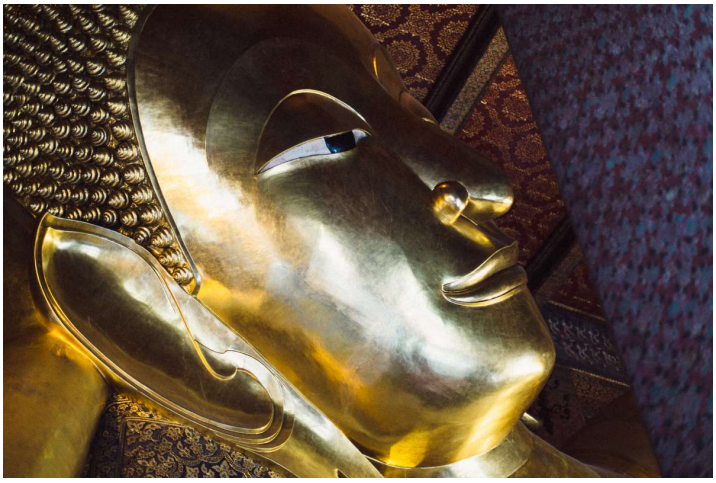

⚓ Wat Pho

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Chakri Maha Prasat

The Phra Thinang Chakri Maha Prasat (พระที่นั่งจักรีมหาปราสาท) is located on what used to be a garden. It's a throne hall for Thai kings.

Phra Thinang Chakri Maha Prasat is a blend of Thai traditional architecture and a combination of 19th-century European styles.

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Carefully cut grass, round shaped trees, sculptures and vases, modern decorations - all these are signs of European influence on Thai culture reflected in a way we see Grand Palace.

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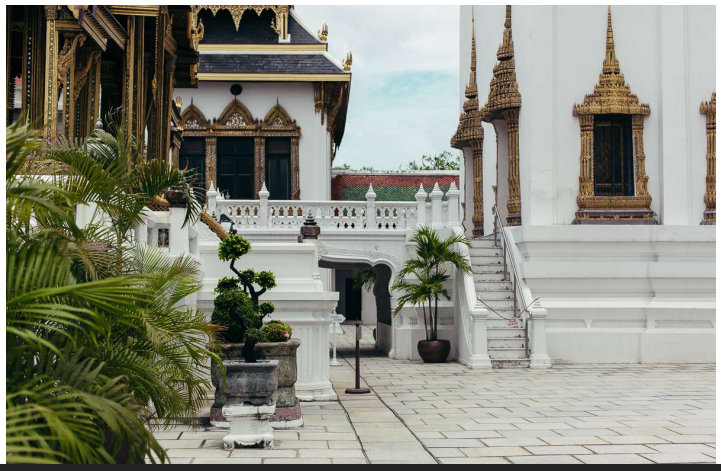
Can easily imaging Thai Kings walking within these walls in the sunny humid afternoon thinking about the future of Thai people.



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