[Template:Redirect](/wiki/Template:Redirect" \o "Template:Redirect) [Template:Pp-semi-protected](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi-protected) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:EngvarB](/wiki/Template:EngvarB) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Refimprove](/wiki/Template:Refimprove) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country) [Template:Contains Thai text](/wiki/Template:Contains_Thai_text) **Thailand** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) [Template:Respell](/wiki/Template:Respell) or [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) [Template:Respell](/wiki/Template:Respell);[[1]](#cite_note-1) [Template:Lang-th](/wiki/Template:Lang-th), *Paiboon transliteration*: "bprà-têet tai", [Template:RTGS](/wiki/Template:RTGS)); [Template:IPA-th](/wiki/Template:IPA-th), officially the **Kingdom of Thailand** ([Template:Lang-th](/wiki/Template:Lang-th), *Paiboon transliteration*: "raa-chá aa-naa-jàk tai", [Template:RTGS](/wiki/Template:RTGS); [Template:IPA-th](/wiki/Template:IPA-th)), formerly known as **Siam** ([Template:Lang-th](/wiki/Template:Lang-th); [Template:RTGS](/wiki/Template:RTGS)), is a country at the centre of the Indochinese peninsula in [Mainland Southeast Asia](/wiki/Mainland_Southeast_Asia). It is bordered to the north by [Myanmar](/wiki/Myanmar) and [Laos](/wiki/Laos), to the east by Laos and [Cambodia](/wiki/Cambodia), to the south by the [Gulf of Thailand](/wiki/Gulf_of_Thailand) and [Malaysia](/wiki/Malaysia), and to the west by the [Andaman Sea](/wiki/Andaman_Sea) and the southern extremity of Myanmar. Its maritime boundaries include [Vietnam](/wiki/Vietnam) in the Gulf of Thailand to the southeast, and [Indonesia](/wiki/Indonesia) and [India](/wiki/India) on the Andaman Sea to the southwest.

Thailand is governed by the [National Council for Peace and Order](/wiki/National_Council_for_Peace_and_Order) that took power in [the May 2014 coup d'état](/wiki/2014_Thai_coup_d'état).[[2]](#cite_note-2) [Its monarchy](/wiki/Monarchy_of_Thailand) is headed by [King Bhumibol Adulyadej](/wiki/Bhumibol_Adulyadej), who has reigned since 1946 as *Rama IX*, as he is the [ninth monarch](/wiki/List_of_monarchs_of_Thailand) of the [Chakri Dynasty](/wiki/Chakri_Dynasty). He is currently the world's [longest-serving head of state](/wiki/Current_reigning_monarchs_by_length_of_reign) and the country's [longest-reigning monarch](/wiki/List_of_longest-reigning_monarchs);[[3]](#cite_note-3) he has reigned for [Template:Age in years and days](/wiki/Template:Age_in_years_and_days).

With a total area of approximately [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), Thailand is the world's [51st-largest country](/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_area). It is the [20th-most-populous country](/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_population) in the world, with around 66 million people. The capital and largest city is [Bangkok](/wiki/Bangkok), which is Thailand's political, commercial, industrial, and cultural hub. About 75–95% of the population is ethnically [Tai](/wiki/Tai_peoples), which includes four major regional groups: [central Thai](/wiki/Central_Thailand), [northeastern Thai](/wiki/Isan_people) (Khon [Lao] Isan),<ref name=McCargoHong/> [northern Thai](/wiki/Northern_Thai_people) (Khon Mueang); and [southern Thai](/wiki/Southern_Thai). [Thai Chinese](/wiki/Thai_Chinese), those of significant Chinese heritage, are 14% of the population,[[4]](#cite_note-4) while Thais with partial Chinese ancestry comprise up to 40% of the population.[[5]](#cite_note-5) [Thai Malays](/wiki/Thai_Malays) represent 3% of the population, with the remainder consisting of [Mons](/wiki/Mon_people), [Khmers](/wiki/Khmers) and various "[hill tribes](/wiki/Hill_tribe_(Thailand))". The country's official language is [Thai](/wiki/Thai_language) and the primary religion is [Theravada Buddhism](/wiki/Theravada), which is practised by around 95% of the population.

Thailand experienced rapid economic growth between 1985 and 1996, becoming a [newly industrialised country](/wiki/Newly_industrialised_country) and a major exporter. Manufacturing, agriculture, and [tourism](/wiki/Tourism_in_Thailand) are leading sectors of the economy.[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[7]](#cite_note-7) Among the ten [ASEAN](/wiki/Association_of_Southeast_Asian_Nations) countries, Thailand ranks third in quality of life.[[8]](#cite_note-8) and the country's [HDI](/wiki/Human_Development_Index) is rated as "high". Its large population and growing economic influence have made it a [middle power](/wiki/Middle_power) in the region and around the world.[[9]](#cite_note-9)

## Contents

* 1 Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]
  + 1.1 Etymology of "Siam"[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]
  + 1.2 Etymology of "Thailand"[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]
* 2 History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]
  + 2.1 20th century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]
  + 2.2 World War II[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]
* 3 Politics and government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]
  + 3.1 Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]
  + 3.2 Agriculture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]
  + 3.3 Energy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]
  + 3.4 Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]
* 4 Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]
  + 4.1 Ethnic groups[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]
  + 4.2 Population centres[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]
  + 4.3 Language[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]
  + 4.4 Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]
* 5 Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]
  + 5.1 Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]
  + 5.2 Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]
  + 5.3 Units of measurement[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]
* 6 Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=45)]
  + 6.1 Sporting venues[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=46)]
  + 6.2 Host city[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=47)]
    - 6.2.1 Universiade[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=48)]
    - 6.2.2 Asian Games[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=49)]
    - 6.2.3 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=50)]
    - 6.2.4 Asian Beach Games[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=51)]
    - 6.2.5 Southeast Asian Games[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=52)]
    - 6.2.6 ASEAN Para Games[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=53)]
    - 6.2.7 ASEAN University Games[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=54)]
    - 6.2.8 ASEAN School Games[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=55)]
* 7 International rankings[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=56)]
* 8 See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=57)]
* 9 References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=58)]
  + 9.1 Bibliography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=59)]
* 10 External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=60)]

## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

### Etymology of "Siam"[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

The country has always been called [*Mueang Thai*](/wiki/Mueang#Thailand) by its citizens.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) By others[Template:Who](/wiki/Template:Who), it is known by the [exonym](/wiki/Exonym) *Siam* ([Template:Lang-th](/wiki/Template:Lang-th) [Template:RTGS](/wiki/Template:RTGS), [Template:IPA-th](/wiki/Template:IPA-th), also spelled *Siem*, *Syâm*, or *Syâma*).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) The word *Siam* has been identified[Template:By whom](/wiki/Template:By_whom) with the [Sanskrit](/wiki/Sanskrit) *Śyāma* ([श्याम](/wiki/Wikt:श्याम), meaning "dark" or "brown"). The names [*Shan*](/wiki/Shan_people) and *A-hom* seem to be variants of the same word. The word *Śyâma* is possibly not its origin, but a learned and artificial distortion[Template:Clarify](/wiki/Template:Clarify).[[10]](#cite_note-10) [thumb|*SPPM Mongkut Rex Siamensium*,](/wiki/File:King_Mongkut_(Rama_IV)_of_Siam_Signature_(English).svg) [King Mongkut's](/wiki/King_Mongkut) signature The signature of King [Mongkut](/wiki/Mongkut) (r. 1851 – 1868) reads *SPPM* (Somdet Phra Poramenthra Maha) *Mongkut King of the Siamese*, giving the name "Siam" official status until 23 June 1939 when it was changed to Thailand.[[11]](#cite_note-11) Thailand was renamed Siam from 1945 to 11 May 1949, after which it again reverted to Thailand.

### Etymology of "Thailand"[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

According to [George Cœdès](/wiki/George_Cœdès), the word *Thai* ([ไทย](/wiki/Wikt:ไทย)) means "free man" in the Thai language, "differentiating the Thai from the natives encompassed in Thai society as serfs."[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) A famous Thai scholar argued that Thai ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)) simply means "people" or "human being", since his investigation shows that in some rural areas the word "Thai" was used instead of the usual Thai word "khon" ([คน](/wiki/Wikt:คน)) for people.[[12]](#cite_note-12) While Thai people will often refer to their country using the polite form *prathet Thai* ([Template:Lang-th](/wiki/Template:Lang-th)), they most commonly use the more colloquial term *mueang Thai* ([Template:Lang-th](/wiki/Template:Lang-th)) or simply *Thai*, the word [*mueang*](/wiki/Mueang), archaically a city-state, commonly used to refer to a city or town as the centre of a region. *Ratcha Anachak Thai* ([Template:Lang-th](/wiki/Template:Lang-th)) means "kingdom of Thailand" or "kingdom of Thai". Etymologically, its components are: *ratcha* (Sanskrit [*raja*](/wiki/Raja) "king, royal, realm") ; *-ana-* ([Pali](/wiki/Pali) *āṇā* "authority, command, power", itself from an [Old Indo-Aryan](/wiki/Indo-Aryan_languages#Old_Indo-Aryan) form *ājñā* of the same meaning) *-chak* (from Sanskrit [Template:Linktext](/wiki/Template:Linktext) *cakra-* "wheel", a symbol of power and rule). The [Thai National Anthem](/wiki/Thai_National_Anthem) ([Template:Lang-th](/wiki/Template:Lang-th)), written by [Luang Saranupraphan](/wiki/Luang_Saranupraphan) during the extremely patriotic 1930s, refers to the Thai nation as: *prathet Thai* (Thai: ประเทศไทย). The first line of the national anthem is: *prathet thai ruam lueat nuea chat chuea thai* ([Template:Lang-th](/wiki/Template:Lang-th)), "Thailand is the unity of Thai flesh and blood."

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) There is evidence of human habitation in Thailand that has been dated at 40,000 years before the present, with stone artefacts dated to this period at [Tham Lod Rockshelter](/wiki/Tham_Lod_Rockshelter) in [Mae Hong Son](/wiki/Mae_Hong_Son). Similar to other regions in Southeast Asia, Thailand was heavily influenced by the [culture and religions of India](/wiki/Indianized_kingdom), starting with the [Kingdom of Funan](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Funan) around the 1st century CE to the [Khmer Empire](/wiki/Khmer_Empire).[[13]](#cite_note-13) Thailand in its earliest days was under the rule of the [Khmer Empire](/wiki/Khmer_Empire), which had strong Hindu roots, and the influence among Thais remains even today.

[thumb|250px|The ruins of](/wiki/File:WatChaiwatthanaram_2295b.JPG) [Wat Chaiwatthanaram](/wiki/Wat_Chaiwatthanaram) at [Ayutthaya](/wiki/Phra_Nakhon_Si_Ayutthaya_Province). Indian influence on Thai culture was partly the result of direct contact with Indian settlers, but mainly it was brought about indirectly via the Indianized kingdoms of [Dvaravati](/wiki/Dvaravati), [Srivijaya](/wiki/Srivijaya), and Cambodia.[[14]](#cite_note-14) E:A Voretzsch believes that Buddhism must have been flowing into Siam from India in the time of the Indian Emperor [Ashoka](/wiki/Ashoka) of the [Maurya Empire](/wiki/Maurya_Empire) and far on into the first millennium after Christ.[[14]](#cite_note-14) Later Thailand was influenced by the south Indian [Pallava dynasty](/wiki/Pallava_dynasty) and north Indian [Gupta Empire](/wiki/Gupta_Empire).[[14]](#cite_note-14) According to George Cœdès, "The Thai first enter history of [Farther India](/wiki/Farther_India) in the eleventh century with the mention of *Syam* slaves or prisoners of war in" [Champa](/wiki/Champa) epigraphy, and "in the twelfth century, the [bas-reliefs](/wiki/Bas-relief) of [Angkor Wat](/wiki/Angkor_Wat)" where "a group of warriors" are described as *Syam*. Additionally, "the [Mongols](/wiki/Mongols), after the seizure of Ta-li on January 7, 1253 and the pacification of Yunnan in 1257, did not look with disfavor on the creation of a series of Thai principalities at the expense of the old Indianized kingdoms." The [Menam](/wiki/Menam) Basin was originally populated by the Mons, and the location of [Dvaravati](/wiki/Dvaravati) in the 7th century, followed by the [Khmer Empire](/wiki/Khmer_Empire) in the 11th. The *History of the* [*Yuan*](/wiki/Yuan_dynasty) mentions an embassy from the kingdom of Sukhothai in 1282. In 1287, three Thai chiefs, [Mangrai](/wiki/Mangrai), Ngam Muang, and [Ram Khamhaeng](/wiki/Ram_Khamhaeng) formed a "strong pact of friendship".[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

After the fall of the Khmer Empire in the 13th century, various states thrived there, established by the various [Tai peoples](/wiki/Tai_peoples), [Mons](/wiki/Mon_people), [Khmers](/wiki/Khmer_people), [Chams](/wiki/Chams) and [Ethnic Malays](/wiki/Ethnic_Malays), as seen through the numerous archaeological sites and artefacts that are scattered throughout the Siamese landscape. Prior to the 12th century however, the first Thai or Siamese state is traditionally considered to be the Buddhist [Sukhothai Kingdom](/wiki/Sukhothai_Kingdom), which was founded in 1238.

Following the decline and fall of the Khmer empire in the 13th–15th century, the Buddhist Tai kingdoms of Sukhothai, [Lanna](/wiki/Lanna), and [Lan Xang](/wiki/Lan_Xang) (now Laos) were on the rise. However, a century later, the power of Sukhothai was overshadowed by the new [Kingdom of Ayutthaya](/wiki/Ayutthaya_Kingdom), established in the mid-14th-century in the lower [Chao Phraya River](/wiki/Chao_Phraya_River) or [Menam](/wiki/Menam) area.

[thumb|250px|](/wiki/File:3_Chedis_of_Wat_Phra_Sri_Sanphet.JPG)[Stupas](/wiki/Stupa), [Ayutthaya Historical Park](/wiki/Ayutthaya_Historical_Park). Ayutthaya's expansion centred along the Menam while in the northern valleys the Lanna Kingdom and other small Tai city-states ruled the area. In 1431, the Khmer abandoned [Angkor](/wiki/Angkor) after Ayutthaya forces invaded the city.[[15]](#cite_note-15) Thailand retained a tradition of trade with its neighbouring states, from China to India, [Persia](/wiki/Persia), and [Arab](/wiki/Arab) lands. Ayutthaya became one of the most vibrant trading centres in Asia. European traders arrived in the 16th century, beginning with the [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_people), followed by the French, Dutch, and English. The [Burmese–Siamese War (1765–1767)](/wiki/Burmese–Siamese_War_(1765–1767)) left Ayutthaya burned and sacked by King [Hsinbyushin](/wiki/Hsinbyushin).

After the fall of Ayutthaya in 1767 to the Burmese, [Taksin](/wiki/Taksin) moved the capital to [Thonburi](/wiki/Thonburi) for approximately 15 years. The current Rattanakosin era of Thai history began in 1782 following the establishment of [Bangkok](/wiki/Bangkok) as capital of the Chakri Dynasty under King [Rama I](/wiki/Rama_I) the Great. According to the [Encyclopædia Britannica](/wiki/Encyclopædia_Britannica), "A quarter to a third of the population of some areas of Thailand and Burma were [slaves](/wiki/Slave) in the 17th through the 19th centuries."[[16]](#cite_note-16)[[17]](#cite_note-17) Despite European pressure, Thailand is the only Southeast Asian nation to never have been colonised.[[18]](#cite_note-18) This has been ascribed to the long succession of able rulers in the past four centuries who exploited the rivalry and tension between [French Indochina](/wiki/French_Indochina) and the [British Empire](/wiki/British_Empire). As a result, the country remained a [buffer state](/wiki/Buffer_state) between parts of Southeast Asia that were colonised by the two colonial powers, Great Britain and France. Western influence nevertheless led to many reforms in the 19th century and major concessions, most notably the loss of a large territory on the east side of the [Mekong](/wiki/Mekong) to the French and the step-by-step absorption by Britain of the Shan and Karen people areas and [Malay Peninsula](/wiki/Malay_Peninsula).

### 20th century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

As part of the concessions which the [Chakkri Dynasty](/wiki/Chakkri_Dynasty) offered to the British Empire in return for their support, Siam ceded four predominantly ethnic-Malay southern provinces to the British Empire in the [Anglo-Siamese Treaty of 1909](/wiki/Anglo-Siamese_Treaty_of_1909). These four provinces (Kelantan,Tringganu, Kedah, Perlis) would later became [Malaysia's](/wiki/Malaysia) four northern states.

In 1917, Siam joined the [Allies of World War I](/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_I) and is counted as one of the victors of [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I).

In 1932, a [bloodless revolution](/wiki/Siamese_revolution_of_1932) carried out by the [Khana Ratsadon](/wiki/Khana_Ratsadon) group of military and civilian officials resulted in a transition of power, when King [Prajadhipok](/wiki/Prajadhipok) was forced to grant the people of Siam their first constitution, thereby ending centuries of [absolute monarchy](/wiki/Absolute_monarchy).

In 1939, the name of the kingdom, "Siam", was changed to "Thailand".

### World War II[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) During World War II, the [Empire of Japan](/wiki/Empire_of_Japan) demanded the right to move troops across Thailand to the Malayan frontier. The [Japanese invasion of Thailand](/wiki/Japanese_invasion_of_Thailand) on 8 December 1941 occurred in co-ordination with attacks throughout Asia and engaged the [Royal Thai Army](/wiki/Royal_Thai_Army) for six to eight hours before [Plaek Phibunsongkhram](/wiki/Plaek_Phibunsongkhram) ordered an [armistice](/wiki/Armistice). Shortly thereafter, Japan was granted free passage, and on 21 December 1941, Thailand and Japan signed a military alliance with a secret protocol, wherein Tokyo agreed to help Thailand regain territories lost to the British and French.[[19]](#cite_note-19) Subsequently, Thailand declared war on the United States and the United Kingdom on 25 January 1942, and undertook to "assist" Japan in its war against the Allies, while at the same time maintaining an active anti-Japanese [Free Thai Movement](/wiki/Free_Thai_Movement). Approximately 200,000 Asian labourers (mainly [romusha](/wiki/Romusha)) and 60,000 [Allied](/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_II) prisoners of war (POWs) worked on the [Burma Railway](/wiki/Burma_Railway), which is commonly known as the "Death Railway".[[19]](#cite_note-19) After the war, Thailand emerged as an ally of the United States. As with many of the developing nations during the [Cold War](/wiki/Cold_War), Thailand then went through decades of political instability characterised by a number of [coups d'état](/wiki/Coup_d'état), as one military regime replaced another, but eventually progressed towards a stable, prosperous democracy in the 1980s.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) <gallery> File:BlackCeramicBanChiangCultureThailand1200-800BCE.jpg|Pottery discovered near [Ban Chiang](/wiki/Ban_Chiang) in Udon Thani Province, the earliest dating to 2100 BCE. File:Pimai1.jpg|[Phimai](/wiki/Phimai), Prasat Phimai is the largest temple in the country from the [Khmer Empire](/wiki/Khmer_Empire). File:วัดพนัญเชิงวรวิหาร by Pholtograph.jpg|The immense [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) gilded statue of a seated Buddha in [Wat Phanan Choeng](/wiki/Wat_Phanan_Choeng), the latter from 1324, pre-dates the founding of the city of [Ayutthaya](/wiki/Phra_Nakhon_Si_Ayutthaya_(city)) File:Wat Si Chum in Sukhothai.jpg|A [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) Buddha image in [Sukhothai](/wiki/Sukhothai_(city)), Phra Achana , built in the 13th century File:Iudea-Ayutthaya.jpg|Painting of Ayutthaya, ordered by the [Dutch East India Company](/wiki/Dutch_East_India_Company), 1665. File:Siamese envoys at Versailles.jpg|[Kosa Pan](/wiki/Kosa_Pan) present King Narai's letter to Louis XIV at Versailles, 1 September 1686. </gallery>

## Politics and government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The politics of Thailand is currently conducted within the framework of a [constitutional monarchy](/wiki/Constitutional_monarchy), whereby the [Prime Minister](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Thailand) is the [head of government](/wiki/Head_of_government) and a [hereditary monarch](/wiki/Hereditary_monarchy) is [head of state](/wiki/Head_of_state). The [judiciary](/wiki/Judiciary) is supposed to be independent of the executive and the legislative branches, although judicial rulings are suspected of being based on political considerations rather than on existing law.[[20]](#cite_note-20) Thailand is the second largest consumer of pick-up trucks in the world, after the US.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) In 2014, pick-ups accounted for 42% of all new vehicle sales in Thailand.[[94]](#cite_note-94)

### Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[thumb|Statue of a mythical](/wiki/File:Kinnon_Wat_Phra_Kaew.jpeg) [*Kinnon*](/wiki/Kinnara), [Wat Phra Kaew](/wiki/Wat_Phra_Kaew), Bangkok [Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) Tourism makes up about 6% of the economy. Thailand was the most visited country in Southeast Asia in 2013, according to the World Tourism Organisation. Estimates of tourism receipts directly contributing to the Thai GDP of 12 trillion baht range from 9 percent (1 trillion baht) (2013) to 16 percent.[[95]](#cite_note-95) When including the indirect effects of tourism, it is said to account for 20.2 percent (2.4 trillion baht) of Thailand's GDP.<ref name=WTTC-2014>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>[Template:RP](/wiki/Template:RP)

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) uses the slogan "Amazing Thailand" to promote Thailand internationally. In 2015, this was supplemented by a "Discover Thainess" campaign.<ref name=TAT-History>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

Asian tourists primarily visit Thailand for Bangkok and the historical, natural, and cultural sights in its vicinity. Western tourists not only visit Bangkok and surroundings, but in addition many travel to the southern beaches and islands. The north is the chief destination for trekking and [adventure travel](/wiki/Adventure_travel) with its diverse ethnic minority groups and forested mountains. The region hosting the fewest tourists is [Isan](/wiki/Isan) in the northeast. To accommodate foreign visitors, the Thai government established a separate tourism police with offices in the major tourist areas and its own central emergency telephone number.[[96]](#cite_note-96) [thumb|left|"Amazing Thailand" – Thailand Tourism booth at a Travel and Tour Expo](/wiki/File:Thai_wiki.JPG) Thailand's attractions include [diving sites](/wiki/Diving_in_Thailand), sandy beaches, [hundreds of tropical islands](/wiki/List_of_islands_of_Thailand), nightlife, archaeological sites, museums, [hill tribes](/wiki/Hill_tribe_(Thailand)), flora and bird life, palaces, [Buddhist temples](/wiki/List_of_Buddhist_temples_in_Thailand) and several [World Heritage](/wiki/List_of_World_Heritage_Sites_in_Asia_and_Australasia#Thailand) sites. Many tourists follow courses during their stay in Thailand. Popular are classes in Thai cooking, [Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism) and traditional [Thai massage](/wiki/Thai_massage). Thai national festivals range from Thai New Year [Songkran](/wiki/Songkran_(Thailand)) to [Loy Krathong](/wiki/Loy_Krathong). Many localities in Thailand also have their own festivals. Among the best-known are the "[Elephant Round-up](/wiki/Surin_Elephant_Round-up)" in [Surin](/wiki/Surin,_Thailand), the "[Rocket Festival](/wiki/Rocket_Festival)" in [Yasothon](/wiki/Yasothon) and the "[Phi Ta Khon](/wiki/Pee_Ta_Khon)" festival in [Dan Sai](/wiki/Amphoe_Dan_Sai). [Thai cuisine](/wiki/Cuisine_of_Thailand) has become famous worldwide with its enthusiastic use of fresh herbs and spices.

Bangkok [shopping malls](/wiki/List_of_shopping_malls_in_Thailand) offer a variety of international and local brands. Towards the north of the city, and easily reached by [skytrain](/wiki/BTS_Skytrain) or [underground](/wiki/Bangkok_Metro), is the ["Chatuchak Weekend Market"](/wiki/Chatuchak_weekend_market). It is possibly the largest market in the world, selling everything from household items to live, and sometimes endangered,[[97]](#cite_note-97) animals. The "[Pratunam Market](/wiki/Pratunam_Market)" specialises in fabrics and clothing. The night markets in the [Silom](/wiki/Si_Lom) area and on [Khaosan Road](/wiki/Khaosan_Road) are mainly tourist-oriented, selling items such as T-shirts, handicrafts, counterfeit watches and sunglasses. In the vicinity of Bangkok one can find several [floating markets](/wiki/Markets_in_Bangkok) such as the one in [Damnoen Saduak](/wiki/Amphoe_Damnoen_Saduak). The "Sunday Evening Walking Street Market", held on Rachadamnoen Road inside the old city, is a shopping highlight of a visit to [Chiang Mai](/wiki/Chiang_Mai) up in northern Thailand. It attracts many locals as well as foreigners. The "Night Bazaar" is Chiang Mai's more tourist-oriented market, sprawling over several city blocks just east of the old city walls towards the river.

[Prostitution in Thailand](/wiki/Prostitution_in_Thailand) and sex tourism also form a *de facto* part of the economy. Cultural milieu combined with poverty and the lure of money have caused prostitution and sex tourism in particular to flourish in Thailand. One estimate published in 2003 placed the trade at US$4.3 billion per year or about 3% of the Thai economy.<ref name=legal>[Thailand mulls legal prostitution.](http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2003/11/26/1069825832486.html?oneclick=true) [*The Age*](/wiki/The_Age), 26 November 2003</ref> According to research by [Chulalongkorn University](/wiki/Chulalongkorn_University) on the Thai illegal economy, prostitution in Thailand in the period between 1993 and 1995, made up around 2.7% of the GDP.[[98]](#cite_note-98) It is believed that at least 10% of tourist dollars are spent on the sex trade.[[99]](#cite_note-99)

### Agriculture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|300px|Thailand had long been the](/wiki/File:Rice_farmers_Mae_Wang_Chiang_Mai_Province.jpg) [largest rice exporter in the world](/wiki/Rice_production_in_Thailand). Forty-nine percent of Thailand's labour force is employed in agriculture.<ref name=ODI1/> Forty-nine per cent of Thailand's labour force is employed in [agriculture](/wiki/Agriculture_in_Thailand).<ref name=ODI1/> This is down from 70% in 1980.<ref name=ODI1/> Rice is the most important crop in the country and Thailand had long been the world's leading exporter of rice, until recently falling behind both India and Vietnam.[[100]](#cite_note-100) Thailand has the highest percentage of arable land, 27.25%, of any nation in the [Greater Mekong Subregion](/wiki/Greater_Mekong_Subregion).[[101]](#cite_note-101) About 55% of the arable land area is used for rice production.<ref name=IRRI\_Thailand>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Agriculture has been experiencing a transition from labour-intensive and transitional methods to a more industrialised and competitive sector.<ref name=ODI1>Henri Leturque and Steve Wiggins 2010. [Thailand's progress in agriculture: Transition and sustained productivity growth](http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/details.asp?id=5108&title=thailands-progress-agriculture-transition-sustained-productivity-growth). London: [Overseas Development Institute](/wiki/Overseas_Development_Institute)</ref> Between 1962 and 1983, the agricultural sector grew by 4.1% per year on average and continued to grow at 2.2% between 1983 and 2007.<ref name=ODI1/> The relative contribution of agriculture to GDP has declined while exports of goods and services have increased.

### Energy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) 75% of Thailand's electrical generation is powered by [natural gas](/wiki/Natural_gas) in 2014.[[102]](#cite_note-102) Coal-fired power plants produce an additional 20% of electricity, with the remainder coming from biomass, hydro, and biogas.[[102]](#cite_note-102) Thailand produces roughly one-third of the oil it consumes. It is the second largest importer of oil in SE Asia. Thailand is a large producer of natural gas, with reserves of at least 10 trillion cubic feet. After Indonesia, it is the largest coal producer in SE Asia, but must import additional coal to meet domestic demand.

### Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear) Thailand had a population of 66,720,153[[103]](#cite_note-103) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of). Thailand's population is largely rural, concentrated in the rice-growing areas of the central, northeastern, and northern regions. Thailand had an urban population of 45.7% [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), concentrated mostly in and around the [Bangkok Metropolitan Area](/wiki/Bangkok_Metropolitan_Area).

Thailand's government-sponsored family planning program resulted in a dramatic decline in population growth from 3.1% in 1960 to around 0.4% today. In 1970, an average of 5.7 people lived in a Thai household. At the time of the 2010 census, the average Thai household size was 3.2 people.

### Ethnic groups[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [Ethnic Thais](/wiki/Thai_people) make up the majority of Thailand's population, 95.9% in 2010. This number includes [Thai Chinese](/wiki/Thai_Chinese), a historically and economically important minority. The remaining 4.1% of the population are Burmese (2.0%), others 1.3%, and unspecified 0.9%.<ref name=CIA/>

Thailand is home to a large immigrant community of around 200,000 foreigners.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Some 41,000 Britons alone live in Thailand.[[104]](#cite_note-104) Increasing numbers of migrants from neighbouring Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia, as well as from Nepal and India, have pushed the total number of non-national residents to around 3.5 million [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), up from an estimated 2 million in 2008, and about 1.3 million in the year 2000.[[105]](#cite_note-105)

### Population centres[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

[Template:Largest cities of Thailand](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities_of_Thailand) [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Language[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Historical populations](/wiki/Template:Historical_populations) The official language of Thailand is [Thai](/wiki/Thai_language), a [Tai–Kadai language](/wiki/Tai–Kadai_languages) closely related to [Lao](/wiki/Lao_language), [Shan](/wiki/Shan_language) in Myanmar, and numerous smaller languages spoken in an arc from [Hainan](/wiki/Hainan) and [Yunnan](/wiki/Yunnan) south to the Chinese border. It is the principal language of education and government and spoken throughout the country. The standard is based on the dialect of the central Thai people, and it is written in the [Thai alphabet](/wiki/Thai_alphabet), an [abugida](/wiki/Abugida) script that evolved from the [Khmer alphabet](/wiki/Khmer_alphabet). Several other dialects exist, and coincide with the regional designations. [Southern Thai](/wiki/Southern_Thai_language) is spoken in the southern provinces, and [Northern Thai](/wiki/Northern_Thai_language) is spoken in the provinces that were formerly part of the independent kingdom of [Lan Na](/wiki/Lan_Na).

Thailand is also host to several other minority languages, the largest of which is the [Lao](/wiki/Lao_language) dialect of [Isan](/wiki/Isan_language) spoken in the northeastern provinces. Although sometimes considered a Thai dialect, it is a Lao dialect, and the region in where it is traditionally spoken was historically part of the Lao kingdom of [Lan Xang](/wiki/Lan_Xang). In the far south, [Kelantan-Pattani Malay](/wiki/Kelantan-Pattani_Malay) is the primary language of Malay Muslims. Varieties of Chinese are also spoken by the large [Thai Chinese](/wiki/Thai_Chinese) population, with the [Teochew dialect](/wiki/Teochew_dialect) best-represented.

Numerous tribal languages are also spoken, including many [Austroasiatic languages](/wiki/Austroasiatic_languages) such as [Mon](/wiki/Mon_language), [Khmer](/wiki/Khmer_language), [Viet](/wiki/Vietnamese_language), [Mlabri](/wiki/Mlabri_language) and [Orang Asli](/wiki/Aslian_languages); [Austronesian languages](/wiki/Austronesian_languages) such as [Cham](/wiki/Cham_language) and [Moken](/wiki/Moken_language); [Sino-Tibetan languages](/wiki/Sino-Tibetan_languages) like [Lawa](/wiki/Lawa_language), [Akha](/wiki/Akha_language), and [Karen](/wiki/Karen_languages); and other [Tai languages](/wiki/Tai_languages) such as [Tai Yo](/wiki/Tai_Yo_language), [Phu Thai](/wiki/Phu_Thai_language), and [Saek](/wiki/Saek_language). [Hmong](/wiki/Hmong_language) is a member of the [Hmong–Mien languages](/wiki/Hmong–Mien_languages), which is now regarded as a language family of its own.

English is a mandatory school subject, but the number of fluent speakers remains low, especially outside cities.

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Thailand's prevalent religion is [Theravada Buddhism](/wiki/Theravada_Buddhism), which is an integral part of Thai identity and culture. Active participation in Buddhism is among the highest in the world. According to the 2000 census, 94.6% of the country's population self-identified as Buddhists of the Theravada tradition. [Muslims](/wiki/Islam_in_Thailand) constitute the second largest religious group in Thailand, comprising 4.6% of the population.<ref name=CIA/>[[106]](#cite_note-106) Islam is concentrated mostly in the country's southernmost provinces: [Pattani](/wiki/Pattani), [Yala](/wiki/Yala_Province), [Satun](/wiki/Satun_Province), [Narathiwat](/wiki/Narathiwat_Province), and part of [Songkhla](/wiki/Songkhla_Province) [Chumphon](/wiki/Chumphon_Province), which are predominantly [Malay](/wiki/Malays_(ethnic_group)), most of whom are [Sunni Muslims](/wiki/Sunni_Muslim). Christians represent 0.7% of the population, with the remaining population consisting of [Sikhs](/wiki/Sikhism_in_Thailand) and [Hindus](/wiki/Hinduism_in_Thailand#Thailand), who live mostly in the country's cities. There is also a small but historically significant [Jewish community in Thailand](/wiki/Jews_and_Judaism_in_Thailand) dating back to the 17th century.

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Phutthamonthon_Buddha.JPG)[Theravada Buddhism](/wiki/Theravada_Buddhism), highly practised in Thailand. Thai culture has been shaped by many influences, including Indian, Lao, Burmese, Cambodian, and Chinese.

Its traditions incorporate a great deal of influence from India, China, Cambodia, and the rest of Southeast Asia. Thailand's national religion, Theravada Buddhism, is central to modern Thai identity. [Thai Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism_in_Thailand) has evolved over time to include many regional beliefs originating from [Hinduism](/wiki/Hinduism), [animism](/wiki/Animism), as well as ancestor worship. The [official calendar](/wiki/Thai_solar_calendar) in Thailand is based on the Eastern version of the [Buddhist Era](/wiki/Buddhist_calendar) (BE), which is 543 years ahead of the [Gregorian (Western) calendar](/wiki/Gregorian_calendar). Thus the year 2015 is 2558 BE in Thailand.

Several different ethnic groups, many of which are marginalised, populate Thailand. Some of these groups spill over into Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Malaysia and have mediated change between their traditional local culture, national Thai, and global cultural influences. [Overseas Chinese](/wiki/Overseas_Chinese) also form a significant part of Thai society, particularly in and around Bangkok. Their successful integration into Thai society has allowed for this group to hold positions of economic and political power. Thai Chinese businesses prosper as part of the larger [bamboo network](/wiki/Bamboo_network), a network of [overseas Chinese](/wiki/Overseas_Chinese) businesses operating in the markets of Southeast Asia that share common family and cultural ties.[[107]](#cite_note-107) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Khon_Thammasat_20090306_01.jpg)[Khon](/wiki/Khon) Show is the most stylised form of Thai performance. The traditional Thai greeting, the [*wai*](/wiki/Thai_greeting), is generally offered first by the younger of the two people meeting, with their hands pressed together, fingertips pointing upwards as the head is bowed to touch face to fingertips, usually coinciding with the spoken words "sawatdi khrap" for male speakers, and "sawatdi kha" for females. The elder may then respond in the same way. Social status and position, such as in government, will also have an influence on who performs the *wai* first. For example, although one may be considerably older than a provincial governor, when meeting it is usually the visitor who pays respect first. When children leave to go to school, they are taught to *wai* their parents to indicate their respect. The wai is a sign of respect and reverence for another, similar to the [namaste](/wiki/Namaste) greeting of India and Nepal.

As with other Asian cultures, respect towards ancestors is an essential part of Thai spiritual practice. Thais have a strong sense of hospitality and generosity, but also a strong sense of social hierarchy. Seniority is paramount in Thai culture. Elders have by tradition ruled in family decisions or ceremonies. Older siblings have duties to younger ones.

Taboos in Thailand include touching someone's head or pointing with the feet, as the head is considered the most sacred and the foot the lowest part of the body.

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [Thai cuisine](/wiki/Cuisine_of_Thailand) blends five fundamental tastes: sweet, spicy, sour, bitter, and salty. Common ingredients used in Thai cuisine include garlic, chillies, lime juice, lemon grass, [coriander](/wiki/Coriander), [galangal](/wiki/Galangal), palm sugar, and [fish sauce](/wiki/Fish_sauce) (*nam pla*). The staple food in Thailand is rice, particularly [jasmine variety rice](/wiki/Jasmine_rice) (also known as "hom Mali" rice) which forms a part of almost every meal. Thailand was long[Template:When?](/wiki/Template:When?) the world's largest exporter of rice, and Thais domestically consume over 100 kg of milled rice per person per year.<ref name=IRRI\_Thailand/> Over 5,000 varieties of rice from Thailand are preserved in the rice gene bank of the [International Rice Research Institute](/wiki/International_Rice_Research_Institute) (IRRI), based in the Philippines. The king of Thailand is the official patron of IRRI.[[108]](#cite_note-108)

### Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) Thai society has been influenced in recent years by its widely available multi-language press and media. There are some English and numerous Thai and Chinese newspapers in circulation. Most Thai popular magazines use English headlines as a [chic](/wiki/Chic_(style)) glamour factor. Many large businesses in Bangkok operate in English as well as other languages.

Thailand is the largest newspaper market in Southeast Asia with an estimated circulation of over 13 million copies daily in 2003. Even upcountry, out of Bangkok, the media flourish. For example, according to Thailand's Public Relations Department Media Directory 2003–2004, the nineteen provinces of [Isan](/wiki/Isan), Thailand's northeastern region, hosted 116 newspapers along with radio, TV, and cable. Since then, another province, Bueng Kan, was incorporated, totalling twenty provinces. In addition, a military coup on 22 May 2014 led to severe state restrictions on all media and forms of expression.

### Units of measurement[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) Thailand generally uses the [metric system](/wiki/Metric_system), but [traditional units of measurement](/wiki/Thai_units_of_measurement) for land area are used, and [imperial units](/wiki/Imperial_units) of measurement are occasionally used for building materials, such as wood and plumbing fixtures. Years are numbered as B.E. ([Buddhist Era](/wiki/Thai_solar_calendar)) in educational settings, the civil service, government, and on contracts and newspaper datelines. In banking, and increasingly in industry and commerce, standard Western year (Christian or Common Era) counting is the standard practice.[[109]](#cite_note-109)

## Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=45)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [right|thumb|](/wiki/File:Muay_Thai_match_in_Bangkok,_Thailand.jpg)[Muay Thai](/wiki/Muay_Thai), Thailand's signature sport [Muay Thai](/wiki/Muay_Thai) ([Template:Lang-th](/wiki/Template:Lang-th), RTGS: Muai Thai, [Template:IPA-th](/wiki/Template:IPA-th), lit. "Thai boxing") is a native form of kickboxing and Thailand's signature sport. It incorporates kicks, punches, knees and elbow strikes in a ring with gloves similar to those used in Western boxing and this has led to Thailand gaining medals at the Olympic Games in [boxing](/wiki/Boxing).

[Association football](/wiki/Association_football) has overtaken muay Thai as the most widely followed sport in contemporary Thai society. [Thailand national football team](/wiki/Thailand_national_football_team) has played the [AFC Asian Cup](/wiki/AFC_Asian_Cup) six times and reached the semifinals in [1972](/wiki/1972_AFC_Asian_Cup). The country has hosted the Asian Cup twice, in 1972 and in [2007](/wiki/2007_AFC_Asian_Cup). The 2007 edition was co-hosted together with [Indonesia](/wiki/Indonesia), [Malaysia](/wiki/Malaysia) and [Vietnam](/wiki/Vietnam). It is not uncommon to see Thais cheering their favourite English Premier League teams on television and walking around in replica kit. Another widely enjoyed pastime, and once a competitive sport, is [kite flying](/wiki/Kite_flying).

[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:RajamangalaStadium.jpg)[Rajamangala National Stadium](/wiki/Rajamangala_National_Stadium)

[Volleyball](/wiki/Volleyball) is rapidly growing as one of the most popular sport. The [Women team](/wiki/Thailand_women's_national_volleyball_team) has often participated [World Championship](/wiki/FIVB_Volleyball_Women's_World_Championship),[World Cup](/wiki/FIVB_Volleyball_Women's_World_Cup),and [World Grand Prix](/wiki/FIVB_Volleyball_World_Grand_Prix) [Asian Championship](/wiki/Asian_Championship). They also won [Asian Championship](/wiki/Asian_Volleyball_Championship) twice and [Asian Cup](/wiki/Asian_Cup_Volleyball_Championship) once. By the success of the women team, the [men team](/wiki/Thailand_men's_national_volleyball_team) has been growing as well.

[Takraw](/wiki/Takraw) (Thai: ตะกร้อ) is a sport native to Thailand, in which the players hit a rattan ball and are only allowed to use their feet, knees, chest, and head to touch the ball. [Sepak takraw](/wiki/Sepak_takraw) is a form of this sport which is similar to volleyball. The players must volley a ball over a net and force it to hit the ground on the opponent's side. It is also a popular sport in other countries in Southeast Asia. A rather similar game but played only with the feet is [Buka ball](/wiki/Buka_ball).

[Snooker](/wiki/Snooker) has enjoyed increasing popularity in Thailand in recent years, with interest in the game being stimulated by the success of Thai snooker player [James Wattana](/wiki/James_Wattana) in the 1990s.[[110]](#cite_note-110) Other notable players produced by the country include [Ratchayothin Yotharuck](/wiki/Ratchayothin_Yotharuck), [Noppon Saengkham](/wiki/Noppon_Saengkham) and [Dechawat Poomjaeng](/wiki/Dechawat_Poomjaeng).[[111]](#cite_note-111) Rugby is also a growing sport in Thailand with the [Thailand national rugby union team](/wiki/Thailand_national_rugby_union_team) rising to be ranked 61st in the world.[[112]](#cite_note-112) Thailand became the first country in the world to host an international 80 kg welterweight rugby tournament in 2005.[[113]](#cite_note-113) The national domestic Thailand Rugby Union (TRU) competition includes several universities and services teams such as [Chulalongkorn University](/wiki/Chulalongkorn_University), [Mahasarakham University](/wiki/Mahasarakham_University), [Kasetsart University](/wiki/Kasetsart_University), [Prince of Songkla University](/wiki/Prince_of_Songkla_University), [Thammasat University](/wiki/Thammasat_University), [Rangsit University](/wiki/Rangsit_University), the [Thai Police](/wiki/Thai_Police), the [Thai Army](/wiki/Thai_Army), the [Thai Navy](/wiki/Thai_Navy) and the [Royal Thai Air Force](/wiki/Royal_Thai_Air_Force). Local sports clubs which also compete in the TRU include the British Club of Bangkok, the [Southerners Sports Club (Bangkok)](/wiki/Southerners_Sports_Club_(Bangkok)) and the Royal Bangkok Sports Club.

Thailand has been called the golf capital of Asia[[114]](#cite_note-114) as it is a popular destination for golf. The country attracts a large number of golfers from Japan, Korea, Singapore, South Africa, and Western countries who come to play golf in Thailand every year.[[115]](#cite_note-115) The growing popularity of golf, especially among the middle classes and immigrants, is evident as there are more than 200 world-class golf courses nationwide,[[116]](#cite_note-116) and some of them are chosen to host PGA and LPGA tournaments, such as [Amata Spring Country Club](/wiki/Amata_Spring_Country_Club), Alpine Golf and Sports Club, Thai Country Club, and Black Mountain Golf Club.

Basketball is a growing sport in Thailand, especially on the professional sports club level. The Chang Thailand Slammers won the 2011 [ASEAN Basketball League](/wiki/ASEAN_Basketball_League) Championship.[[117]](#cite_note-117) The [Thailand national basketball team](/wiki/Thailand_national_basketball_team) had its most successful year at the [1966 Asian Games](/wiki/Basketball_at_the_1966_Asian_Games) where it won the silver medal.[[118]](#cite_note-118) Other sports in Thailand are slowly growing as the country develops its sporting infrastructure. The success in sports like [weightlifting](/wiki/Powerlifting) and [taekwondo](/wiki/Taekwondo) at the last two summer Olympic Games has demonstrated that boxing is no longer the only medal option for Thailand.

### Sporting venues[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=46)]

Thammasat Stadium is a multi-purpose stadium in Bangkok. It is currently used mostly for football matches. The stadium holds 25,000. It is on Thammasat University's Rangsit campus. It was built for the [1998 Asian Games](/wiki/1998_Asian_Games) by construction firm Christiani and Nielsen, the same company that constructed the Democracy Monument in Bangkok.

[Rajamangala National Stadium](/wiki/Rajamangala_National_Stadium) is the biggest sporting arena in Thailand. It currently has a capacity of 65,000. It is in Bang Kapi, Bangkok. The stadium was built in 1998 for the 1998 Asian Games and is the home stadium of the [Thailand national football team](/wiki/Thailand_national_football_team).

The well-known Lumpini Boxing Stadium will host its final Muay Thai boxing matches on 7 February 2014 after the venue first opened in December 1956. Managed by the Royal Thai Army, the stadium was officially selected for the purpose of muay Thai bouts following a competition that was staged on 15 March 1956. From 11 February 2014, the stadium will relocate to Ram Intra Road, due to the new venue's capacity to accommodate audiences of up to 3,500. Foreigners typically pay between 1,000–2,000 baht to view a match, with prices depending on the location of the seating.[[119]](#cite_note-119)

### Host city[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=47)]

#### Universiade[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=48)]

* [24th Summer Universiade](/wiki/2007_Summer_Universiade), [Bangkok](/wiki/Bangkok) 2007

#### Asian Games[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=49)]

* [5th Asian Games](/wiki/1966_Asian_Games), [Bangkok](/wiki/Bangkok) 1966
* [6th Asian Games](/wiki/1970_Asian_Games), [Bangkok](/wiki/Bangkok) 1970
* [8th Asian Games](/wiki/1978_Asian_Games), [Bangkok](/wiki/Bangkok) 1978
* [13th Asian Games](/wiki/1998_Asian_Games), [Bangkok](/wiki/Bangkok), 1998

#### Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=50)]

* [1st Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games](/wiki/2005_Asian_Indoor_Games), [Bangkok](/wiki/Bangkok) 2005
* [3rd Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games](/wiki/2009_Asian_Martial_Arts_Games), [Bangkok](/wiki/Bangkok) 2009

#### Asian Beach Games[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=51)]

* [4th Asian Beach Games](/wiki/2014_Asian_Beach_Games), [Phuket](/wiki/Phuket_Province) 2014

#### Southeast Asian Games[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=52)]

* [1st Southeast Asian Games](/wiki/1959_Southeast_Asian_Peninsular_Games), [Bangkok](/wiki/Bangkok) 1959
* [4th Southeast Asian Games](/wiki/1967_Southeast_Asian_Peninsular_Games), [Bangkok](/wiki/Bangkok) 1967
* [8th Southeast Asian Games](/wiki/1975_Southeast_Asian_Peninsular_Games), [Bangkok](/wiki/Bangkok) 1975
* [13th Southeast Asian Games](/wiki/1985_Southeast_Asian_Games), [Bangkok](/wiki/Bangkok) 1985
* [18th Southeast Asian Games](/wiki/1995_Southeast_Asian_Games), [Chiang Mai](/wiki/Chiang_Mai) 1995
* [24th Southeast Asian Games](/wiki/2007_Southeast_Asian_Games), [Nakhon Ratchasima](/wiki/Nakhon_Ratchasima) 2007

#### ASEAN Para Games[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=53)]

* [4th ASEAN Para Games](/wiki/2008_ASEAN_Para_Games), [Nakhon Ratchasima](/wiki/Nakhon_Ratchasima) 2008

#### ASEAN University Games[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=54)]

* [1st ASEAN University Games](/wiki/1981_ASEAN_University_Games), [Chiang Mai](/wiki/Chiang_Mai) 1981
* [5th ASEAN University Games](/wiki/1988_ASEAN_University_Games), [Pattaya](/wiki/Pattaya) 1988
* [10th ASEAN University Games](/wiki/1999_ASEAN_University_Games), [Bangkok](/wiki/Bangkok) 1999
* [15th ASEAN University Games](/wiki/2010_ASEAN_University_Games), [Chiang Mai](/wiki/Chiang_Mai) 2010

#### ASEAN School Games[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=55)]

* [1st ASEAN School Games](/wiki/2009_ASEAN_School_Games), [Suphanburi](/wiki/Suphanburi) 2009
* [8th ASEAN School Games](/wiki/2016_ASEAN_School_Games), [Chiang Mai](/wiki/Chiang_Mai) 2016

## International rankings[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=56)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organisation** | **Survey** | **Ranking** |
| [Heritage Foundation](/wiki/Heritage_Foundation) | [Indices of Economic Freedom](/wiki/Index_of_Economic_Freedom) | 60 of 179 |
| [A.T. Kearney](/wiki/A.T._Kearney)/[Foreign Policy Magazine](/wiki/Foreign_Policy) | [Global Services Location Index 2011](http://web.archive.org/web/20131203023241/http://www.atkearney.com/research-studies/global-services-location-index) | 7 of 50 |
| [Reporters Without Borders](/wiki/Reporters_Without_Borders) | [Worldwide Press Freedom Index, 2014](/wiki/Reporters_Without_Borders#World_Press_Freedom_Index) | 130 of 180 |
| [Transparency International](/wiki/Transparency_International) | [Corruption Perceptions Index](/wiki/Corruption_Perceptions_Index) | 80 of 179 |
| [United Nations Development Programme](/wiki/United_Nations_Development_Programme) | [Human Development Index](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_Human_Development_Index) | 89 of 187 |
| [World Economic Forum](/wiki/World_Economic_Forum) | [Global Competitiveness Report](/wiki/Global_Competitiveness_Report) (2008) | 34 of 134[[120]](#cite_note-120) |
| [World Gold Council](/wiki/World_Gold_Council) | [Gold reserve](/wiki/Gold_reserve) (2010) | 24 of 111 |
| [HSBC International](/wiki/HSBC) | [Expat Explorer Survey (2012)](/wiki/Expatriate#Expat_Explorer_Survey_(2012)) | 2 of 30[[121]](#cite_note-121) |

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=57)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal) [Template:Wikipedia books](/wiki/Template:Wikipedia_books)

* [Outline of Thailand](/wiki/Outline_of_Thailand)
* [Index of Thailand-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Thailand-related_articles)
* [Royal Thai Police](/wiki/Royal_Thai_Police)
* [Law of Thailand](/wiki/Law_of_Thailand)
* [Telecommunications in Thailand](/wiki/Telecommunications_in_Thailand)
* [Thai ceramics](/wiki/Thai_ceramics)
* [Thai temple art and architecture](/wiki/Thai_temple_art_and_architecture)
* [Transport in Thailand](/wiki/Transport_in_Thailand)
* [Corruption in Thailand](/wiki/Corruption_in_Thailand)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=58)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

### Bibliography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=59)]

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=60)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links) [Template:Commons category](/wiki/Template:Commons_category)

Government

* [Thaigov.go.th](http://www.thaigov.go.th/) Government of Thailand
* [Chief of State and Cabinet Members](http://web.archive.org/web/20081210073951/https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/world-leaders-1/world-leaders-t/thailand.html)
* [Mfa.go.th](http://www.mfa.go.th/) Ministry of Foreign Affairs
* [Thailand Internet Information](http://internet.nectec.or.th/webstats/internetmap.current.iir?Sec=internetmap_current) National Electronics and Computer Technology Center
* [Ministry of Culture](http://www.m-culture.go.th/english/)

General information

* [Template:CIA World Factbook link](/wiki/Template:CIA_World_Factbook_link)
* [Thailand](http://countrystudies.us/thailand/) entry in [Library of Congress Country Studies](/wiki/Library_of_Congress_Country_Studies). 1987
* [Thailand](http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/for/thailand.htm) from *UCB Libraries GovPubs*
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Thailand](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-15581957) from the [BBC News](/wiki/BBC_News)
* [Thailand](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/589625/Thailand) *Encyclopædia Britannica* entry
* [Template:Wikiatlas](/wiki/Template:Wikiatlas)
* [Longdo Map](http://map.longdo.com/en) On-line Thailand maps in English and Thai
* [Key Development Forecasts for Thailand](http://www.ifs.du.edu/ifs/frm_CountryProfile.aspx?Country=TH) from [International Futures](/wiki/International_Futures)
* [2010 Thailand population census by Economic and Social statistics Bureau](http://popcensus.nso.go.th/file/popcensus-20-12-54.pdf)

Travel

* [Template:Wikivoyage-inline](/wiki/Template:Wikivoyage-inline)
* [Tourism Authority of Thailand](http://www.tourismthailand.org/) Official tourism website

Other

* [Thailand Country Fact Sheet](http://www.commonlanguageproject.net/?page_id=41#Thailand) from the Common Language Project[Template:Dead link](/wiki/Template:Dead_link)
* [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)

[Template:Geographic location](/wiki/Template:Geographic_location)

[Template:Thailand topics](/wiki/Template:Thailand_topics) [Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes) [Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Category:Thailand](/wiki/Category:Thailand) [Category:Kingdoms](/wiki/Category:Kingdoms) [Category:Member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations](/wiki/Category:Member_states_of_the_Association_of_Southeast_Asian_Nations) [Category:Member states of the United Nations](/wiki/Category:Member_states_of_the_United_Nations) [Category:Southeast Asian countries](/wiki/Category:Southeast_Asian_countries)