

Thailand

Continent: Asia

Languages Spoken: Thai

Population: 70,000,000

Currency: Thai Baht (THB)

Area: 513,120

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Grand Palace', 'writeup': 'A historic royal residence in Bangkok, known for its intricate architecture and the Emerald Buddha.'}
- {'name': 'Ayutthaya Historical Park', 'writeup': 'Ruins of the ancient capital city, showcasing temples and palaces from the 14th to 18th centuries.'}
- {'name': 'Phi Phi Islands', 'writeup': 'Famous tropical islands known for clear waters, coral reefs, and vibrant marine life.'}
- {'name': 'Wat Arun', 'writeup': 'The Temple of Dawn, a riverside Buddhist temple noted for its towering spires decorated with colorful porcelain.'}
- {'name': 'Doi Inthanon National Park', 'writeup': "Home to Thailand's highest peak, featuring waterfalls, hiking trails, and diverse flora and fauna."}

Head of State / Government:

King Maha Vajiralongkorn (Rama X)

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Songkran Festival', 'writeup': 'Thai New Year celebrated with water fights, religious rituals, and family gatherings in April.'}
- {'name': 'Loy Krathong', 'writeup': 'Festival of lights where people float decorated baskets on water to pay respects to the water spirits.'}
- {'name': 'Yi Peng Lantern Festival', 'writeup': 'Celebrated mainly in northern Thailand, releasing lanterns into the sky for good luck.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Thai cuisine is known for its balance of sweet, sour, salty, and spicy flavors, featuring dishes like Pad Thai, Tom Yum soup, and green curry, often using fresh herbs and spices.

Brief History:

Thailand, formerly Siam, has a history dating back to the 13th century with the Sukhothai Kingdom. It is unique in Southeast Asia for never having been colonized by a European power. The country transitioned from absolute monarchy to constitutional monarchy in 1932.

Important People:

- King Rama IX (Bhumibol Adulyadej) - revered former king
- King Maha Vajiralongkorn (Rama X) - current monarch

- Thaksin Shinawatra - former Prime Minister
- Prem Tinsulanonda - influential former Prime Minister and Regent

Current Conflicts:

Thailand faces ongoing political tensions and occasional protests related to governance and monarchy reforms, but no active armed conflicts.

Youtube Links:

- Discover Thailand: Culture, Food & Travel Guide
- Top 10 Places to Visit in Thailand
- Thai Festivals: Songkran and Loy Krathong Explained
- A Day in Bangkok: Exploring Thailand's Capital
- Thai Cuisine: Traditional Dishes You Must Try