

**GOLDEN
GUIDE**

**to
South and East
Asia**

1961

Taiwan

304

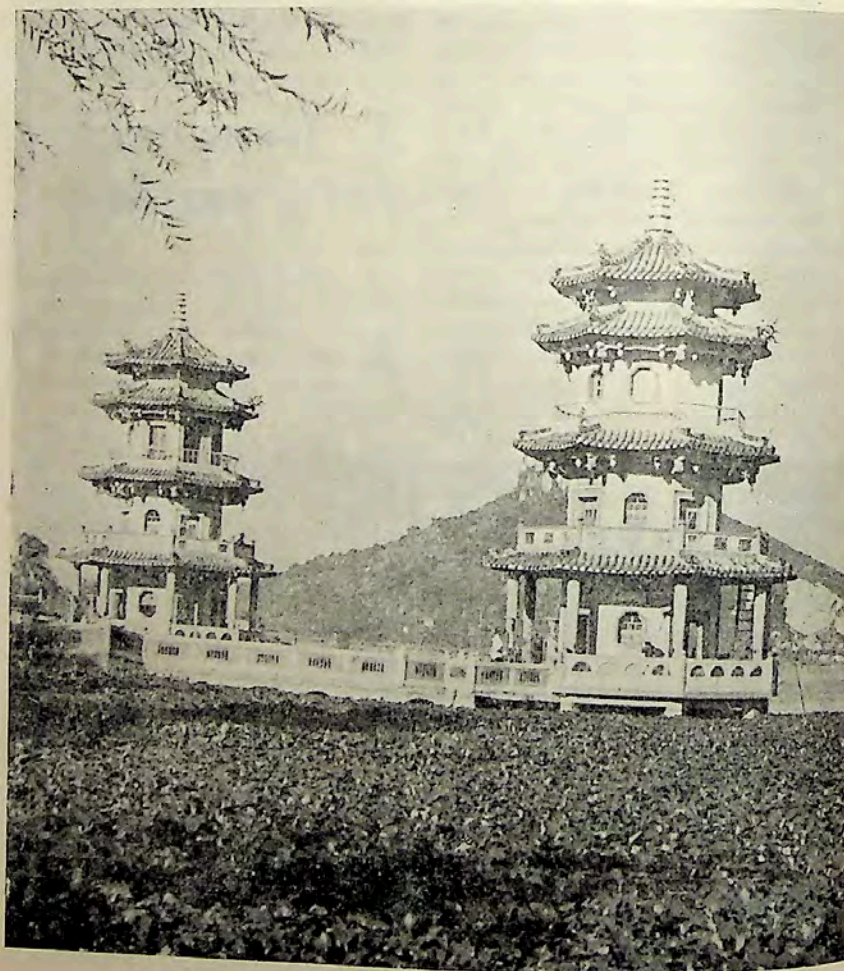
are moderate. Small taxis charge a minimum of NT\$6 for the first 1½ kilometres.

III. SHAVING: electricity supply is 110 volts, 60-cycles.

IV. HOLIDAYS: National Day on October 10 and Taiwan Restora-

tion Day on October 25.

V. FURTHER INFORMATION: contact Mr. Kao Ta-ching, Executive Secretary, Tourism Council of Taiwan, 130 Chung Shan North Road, 2nd Section, Taipei, Taiwan.



Spring and Autumn Towers, Kaohsiung.

305

Thailand

THAILAND

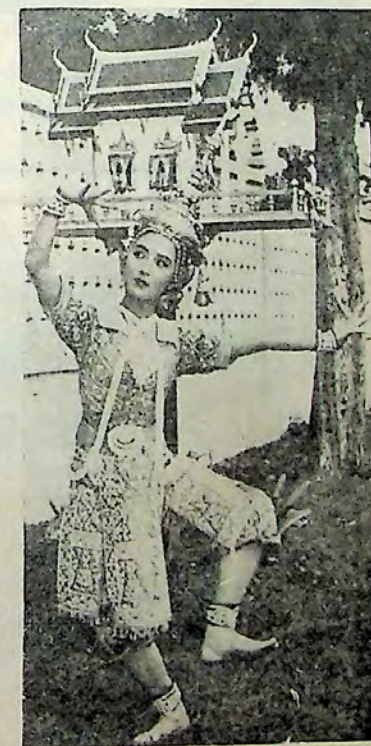
THE Thai people are the heirs of an ancient civilisation but they are also appreciative of modern comfort. You can find in Bangkok temples with gilded roofs glittering in the sun within a few minutes of your airconditioned hotel. You can spend the morning buying shimmering Siamese silk, the afternoon at Thai boxing (in which the fighters use their feet as well as hands) and the evening, if you wish, in an elegant night club.

Or you might prefer the free entertainment of watching kite flying in the cool season or (if you are young and adventurous) taking a slightly rickety bus into the countryside to make the acquaintance of a village abbot who may well ask you to stay the night to discuss Buddhism—in English.

In all the varied delights of a holiday in Thailand, there is one constant factor—the hospitality and kindness of the Thai people. There is no fawning civility but a genuine pleasure in seeing other people enjoy themselves. If you are lucky enough to have introductions to Siamese or to foreigners living in Thailand, use them. They like to show off the country's charms and you may be invited to taste the delicious, spicy and peppery Thai food which is at its best in private homes.

But allow time for a leisurely

schedule. Thailand has such a wealth of scenery and Buddhist temples that it is worth seeing them the way the Siamese do. You may bring away a gift more valuable than anything you could buy in the shops—how to accept life as it is and take pleasure in everything.

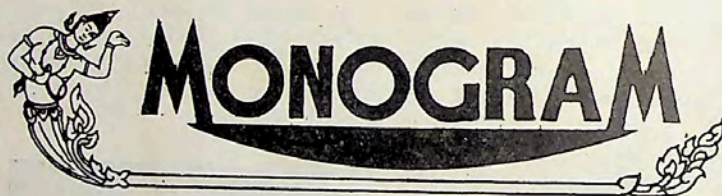


Thai classical dance

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Erawan Hotel Arcade
BANGKOK



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1. Entry

BANGKOK, the capital of the Kingdom of Thailand, is a major travel centre in the Orient and there is no need of directions there. More than twenty airlines and a number of steamship lines serve it—luxury cruises from the U.S. also call. From Hongkong a leisurely way of getting to Thailand is by cargo boat, usually with Scandinavian officers and Chinese crew, taking four or five days.

You can also enter by train from Penang in Malaya (it has a first class sleeper service) and from Phnom Penh in neighbouring Cambodia (though this involves considerable delay and inconvenience at the border). Road entry is also possible.

I. VISAS: you need a valid passport visaed by a Thai diplomatic or consular office unless you are an American citizen, in which case you need no visa. Tourist stays are normally limited to thirty days, but extension can be applied for at the Immigration Department.

Thai consular and diplomatic offices exist in Canberra, Sydney, Buenos Aires, Melbourne, Vienna, Rangoon, Kengtung, Phnom Penh, Toronto, Vancouver, Taipei, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Paris, Marseilles, Bonn, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Munich, New Delhi, Calcutta, Djakarta, Rome, Genoa, Milan, Turin, Tokyo, Fukuoka, Kobe, Nagoya, Osaka, Yokohama, Vientiane, Kuala Lumpur, Penang, the Hague, Oslo, Karachi, Manila, Macao, Djeddah, Barcelona, Madrid, Lisbon, Oporto, Stockholm, Berne, Durban, Moscow, Cairo, London, Glasgow, Hull, Liverpool, Gibraltar, Valletta, Hongkong, Singapore, Washington, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco and Saigon.

II. HEALTH: valid smallpox and



Buddha at Lopburi

cholera vaccination certificates are required.

III. MONEY: the unit of currency is the *tical*, better known as the *baht*, at present worth about 21 to the US\$ and just under 60 to the £ sterling. Prices tend to be rather high in Bangkok. Most bills include a service charge but you should add some small change. Give your room-servants about 10 to 20 *baht* per night to share between them, but do not tip taxi drivers.

IV. CUSTOMS: usual regulations. If you wish to take out real antiques more than 50 years old you need an export certificate from the Fine Arts Department—the shop will arrange this for you.

V. THE MOTORIST: you can bring your car in if you have a *carnet* from the Royal Thai Automobile Club (142 Chakrepet Road, Bangkok). Ayudhia and other places of interest are easily accessible by road in all seasons, but conditions in many parts of Thailand vary with repairs and rainfall. The Shell Company of Thailand will offer up-to-date information.

IN BANGKOK THE ERAWAN HOTEL



The Erawan is one of the finest hotels in Asia. Large, luxurious rooms are fully air-conditioned and most have spacious balconies overlooking beautiful panorama. Located in best residential district. Across boulevard from Royal Sports Club and Race Course. Near best business district.

Plan an extended stay in Thailand, one of Asia's most interesting countries. Many interesting sightseeing trips . . . ancient cities . . . gorgeous temples . . . color, pleasant people . . . visit "floating market" on Klongs . . . see classic dancing in exotic costumes . . . Thailand is wonderful!

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THE ERAWAN HOTEL

WERNER KELLER
Manager

BANGKOK
THAILAND

Cables:
ERAWAN

The road from Aranya Prathet (on the Cambodian border) to Bangkok is quite good except at the end of the rainy season when it may be flooded. If you come from Malaya it is best to send your car by train (accompanying it yourself if possible) from Haadyai to Chumporn at a cost of about 1,140 *baht*—after Chumporn the road is good.

Repair facilities for the better known makes are good and there are many petrol stations, petrol costing 1.89 *baht* per litre for ordinary quality, 2.06 *baht* for premium grade in Bangkok. Self-drive cars are now available through Speedboat Co. (507 Rajvithi Road, Telephone 70352).

can arrange your own boat to go where you like at about 100 to 120 *baht* for three hours.

The Grand Palace (open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays only and requiring coat and tie) and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha (Wat Phra Keo) are important to visit. The latter trip can be combined with the Temple of the Sleeping Buddha (Wat Po), where you can buy temple rubbings that look superb mounted in Siamese silk.

Thai boxing and dancing should not be missed. Boxing takes place at the Lumpinee or Rajdamnern stadiums on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays in the afternoon. The contestants do a fascinating ritual in honour of their trainers before action-packed fights in which feet and elbows as well as fists are used.

Performances of classical and regional dancing are given every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evening at the Phakavali Dance Institute—book your ticket through your hotel or travel agent. In classical dancing the fingers and feet are used with great expressiveness by superbly bejewelled and costumed dancers. Most of the regional dances are more rapid and ferer. The enthusiast should see the Silapakorn performances of full-length classical dance dramas staged by the Fine Arts Department.

There are several good hotels (prices exclude meals, all those listed serve European food and also usually either Thai, Indian or Chinese).

2. Where to go

BANGKOK IS still the most fabulous city in the East, though it is now also a vast commercial centre. Thailand was about the only country of the region to retain its independence during the wave of European colonialism, and this gives Bangkok a distinctively individual, proud flavour. Its temples and cultural offerings are immense.

Many travel agents will arrange guided tours to the famous beauty spots of the vast city, a morning tour costing about 60 *baht*. You must take the river trip as early as possible in the morning, seeing in this way the richly decorated Royal barges, the romantic Temple of the Dawn (Wat Aroon) and, above all, the authentic river life of the Thai people. If you have time go up the Bangkok Noi canal and through the fruit farms of Thonburi. At the Oriental Hotel you

IN BANGKOK

ORIENTAL HOTEL

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ERAWAN HOTEL (Siyeck Rajaprasong, Telephone 58051-58069, Cables ERAWAN). Streamlined and efficient in the Hilton style with excellent European food in the Chalet Restaurant, 175 rooms at 270 *baht* (single), 330 (double), up to 700 (suite), all airconditioned, night club, swimming pool. Breakfast *baht* 12, lunch 36, dinner 45.

ORIENTAL HOTEL (48 Oriental Lane, Telephone 34941-52, Cables ORIENTHOTEL). Great charm and character in superb riverside location — best views from the old-fashioned 250 *baht* non-airconditioned old wing suites. 91 rooms at 110 *baht* to 300 (single), 250 to 330 (double), some rooms airconditioned, including Continental breakfast. Breakfast 20 *baht*, lunch 30, dinner 35.

TROCADERO HOTEL (Surawongse Road, Telephone 30462, 30603, Cables TROCADERO). Central for shopping & airline offices etc., friendly lobby service. 84 rooms at 95 *baht* to 220 (single), 160 to 290 (double), 300 to 350 (suites), some rooms airconditioned. Breakfast 16 *baht*, lunch 25, dinner 35.

RATANAKOSIN HOTEL (Rajadamnern Avenue, Telephone 24641-5, Cables RATHOTEL). Convenient for temples and river sightseeing, with French *maitre-de-cuisine*. 60 rooms at 96 *baht* to 240 (single), 172 to 390 (double), 370 (suite), some rooms airconditioned. Breakfast 10 *baht*, lunch 30, dinner 30.

PRINCESS HOTEL (Charoenkrung Road, Telephone 31311-3, Cables PRINCESS). 64 rooms at 160 *baht* (single), 200 to 250 (double), all airconditioned. Breakfast 12 *baht*, lunch 30, dinner 32, swimming pool.

RAMA HOTEL (Silom Road, Telephone 31010, Cable RAMOTEL). The newest, opening December, 1960, with 180 rooms at 220 *baht* (single), 270 to 360 (double), 590 to 790 (suite), all airconditioned including Continental breakfast with

fruit & fruit juices. Lunch 40 *baht*, dinner 45.

GRAND HOTEL (Rama I Road, Telephone 34991, Cable GRANDHOTEL). 46 rooms at 180 *baht* (single), 260 (double), 300 to 340 (suite), all airconditioned. Breakfast 12 *baht*, lunch 25, dinner 35.

NEW PLAZA (37/13-17 Patpong Road, Telephone 34931-4, Cables PLAZA). 70 rooms at 200 *baht* (single), 280 (double), 330 (suite), all airconditioned. Breakfast 12 *baht*, lunch 35, dinner 35.

METROPOLE (56 Suriwongse Road, Telephone 30936-9, Cables METROPOLE). 42 rooms at 65 *baht* to 176 (single), 105 to 242 (double), some rooms airconditioned. Breakfast 17 *baht*, lunch 25, dinner 30.

KING'S HOTEL (31, South Sathorn Road, Telephone 36941-9, Cables KINGSHOTEL). 105 rooms at 160 *baht* (single), 240 (double), 350 to 420 (suite), all airconditioned. Breakfast 12 *baht*, lunch 27, dinner 40.

PACIFIC HOTEL (600 Siphya Road, Telephone 31386-7, Cables PACIFIC). 32 rooms at 80 *baht* to 160 (single), 160 to 220 (double), some rooms airconditioned. Breakfast 15 *baht*, lunch 22, dinner 27.

SURIYONOND HOTEL (Rajadamnern Avenue, Telephone 24627-8, Cables SURIYA). 37 rooms at 88 *baht* to 143 (single), 132 to 193 (double), some rooms airconditioned. Breakfast 16 *baht*, lunch and dinner 22.

CORONET HOTEL (Sarasin Lane, Telephone 33906-7, Cables CORONET). Central location, 28 rooms at 75 *baht* to 145 (single), 110 to 160 (double), some rooms with airconditioning. Breakfast 15 *baht*, lunch 26, dinner 31. Motel style.

ATLANTA HOTEL (541/3 Sukhumvit, Soi Phasuk, Telephone 57867, Cables ATLANTAHOTEL). 25 rooms at 110 *baht* to 143 (single), 165 to 192 (double), 200 (suite), some rooms airconditioned. Breakfast 16 *baht*, lunch and dinner 25.

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operating from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Daily
Sub Office: Ploenchit Court, next to Erawan Hotel

VIENGTAI (42 Tanee Road, Bangkok, Telephone 26885, 27628-9, Cables **VIENGTAIHOTEL**). Recommended among the cheap hotels, 60 rooms at 45 *baht* to 120 (single), 80 to 140 (double), some rooms airconditioned. Breakfast 10 *baht*, lunch and dinner 20.

EUROPE HOTEL (1199 Charoenkrung Road, Telephone 31356, Cables **EUROPHOTEL**). 40 rooms at 60 *baht* to 150 (single), some with air-conditioning, 180 (double). Breakfast 15 *baht*, lunch and dinner 23.

There are even cheaper hotels, mostly Chinese, which the shoe-string traveller can try.

Two good whole day trips from Bangkok are the ancient capital of Ayudhia (including the nearby summer palace of Bang Pa-in) and Nakorn Pathom with its famous Pathom Chedi or pagoda. You can either take a picnic or try a local restaurant (where language will be your main problem). The cost will depend on the size of the car.

For a weekend by the sea, visit Hua Hin, 4 hours by road. There is also a special train leaving Bangkok on Friday evenings at 6 p.m., returning on Sunday afternoon. This takes 5 hours and costs only 98.30 *baht*. Rooms at the Railway Hotel cost 70 *baht* (single) and 120 to 180 (double) during the season.

Completely different is the northern capital of Chiangmai, where you will find a picturesque provincial atmosphere in a district renowned for arts and crafts. On the hill of Doi Suthep, affording splendid views, you will meet hill tribes people in colourful costume with heavy silver ornaments round their necks. Bungalows are avail-

able from the Railway Hotel. The return air fare is 740 *baht*, and the return train fare 448.80 *baht* (first class), 548.80 (with sleeper). A good way is to go by train (leaving Bangkok at 5 p.m., the journey taking 17 hours) and return by air.

3. General Information

I. WEATHER: the temperature remains fairly constant around 85°F except in the cool season, but humidity varies considerably. The best visiting time is mid-November to mid-January. April and May are very hot, and in the rest of the summer there is rain, about two hours a day in July-October.

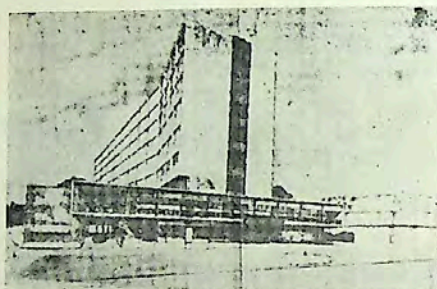
II. FOOD: THAI food should be tried, preferably in private homes. In Bangkok the Salinee and Theparos are good and inexpensive, and you should order *mee-krob* (fried, crispy noodles), *hau-mok* (curried fish) and, for something spicy, *tom-yum*. If you are hesitant about how to order, the Plaza Hotel has a good Thai *table d'hôte*.

For EUROPEAN food go to Le Chalet in the Erawan, expensive but good (particularly *fondus*). Nick's No. 1 has great character and the food (some with a Hungarian flavour) is chosen with care by the skilful Nick Gero, who will advise you. Also recommended is the Normandie Restaurant on the top floor of the Oriental (superb view and dainty fish with aromatic herbs).

For CHINESE food go to the Golden Dragon or the White House (both near the British Embassy) and the Blue Restaurant (See-fah) at Rajprasong near the Erawan.

III. DRINK: the excellent local Singha beer costs 16 *baht* in a bar, imported brands 24. A whisky soda in a night club costs about 25 *baht*.

BANGKOK



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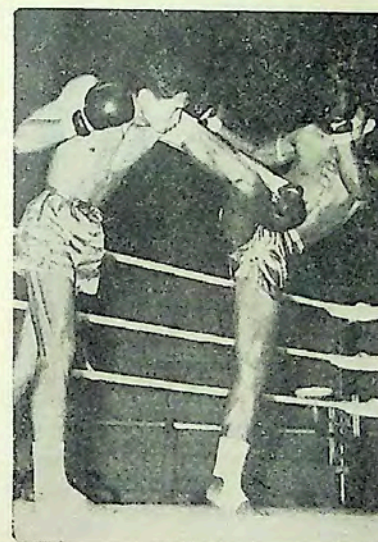
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Thai Boxing

IV. TRANSPORT: train and air services have been mentioned in connection with going upcountry. Buses are enthusiastic and can be used to advantage by the young and intrepid. Taxis in Bangkok vary in price. The basic rate for a small taxi is 5 baht minimum up to 25 for an hour, but if you hire one outside your hotel with an English-speaking driver you will be charged more. Do not hesitate to bargain beforehand, this is part of the fun for Thai people.

Motor-trishaws are a little cheaper. Bangkok is a sprawling place and you will spend much time on the congested city roads.

V. SHOPPING: the best local buy is Siamese silk, the finest display probably being Jim Thompson's, near the Trocadero. You may, incidentally, like to check with him what day his beautiful Siamese house, with its superb antique collection exquisitely arranged, is open. For Thai antiques, Buddha

heads and curios, we recommend The Monogram Shop in the Erawan arcade and the nearby Thai Antiquarium (Dhada collection).

You can also browse, if you have time, in the so-called Thieves' Market (Nakorn Kasem). Reputable dealers will advise you on export regulations. The famous Siamese melio, silver and lacquer ware is seen at its best in Chiangmai but it can be purchased at many small shops along the new road.

VI. HOLIDAYS & FESTIVALS:

New Year (December 31 to January 1) is a time for entertainments in front of the Grand Palace, including typical Thai sports; Songkran (April 13) is the Buddhist New Year now chiefly celebrated upcountry, especially at Chiangmai, but water-throwing is practiced everywhere; Visakha Buja Festival (May 11) commemorates Buddha's Birthday, enlightenment and Nirvana—temples are illuminated. Usual Government office hours are 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday only.

VII. LANGUAGES: Thai is the national language, but English is the most commonly-spoken foreign language with French also spoken in the larger hotels.

VIII. NIGHTLIFE: in Bangkok visit the Ambassador Club (Erawan Hotel, cabaret), the Bamboo Bar (Oriental Hotel, no cabaret but pleasant atmosphere), the top floor of the Hoi Thien Lao Restaurant in the Chinese quarter (good food in the restaurant below, no cabaret but dancing hostesses, relatively inexpensive), and the Sani Chateau (near the Erawan). Chinese and Thai entertainers predominate.

IX. FURTHER INFORMATION: the best known tourist bureaux are World Travel Service (1053 Charoen Krung Road) and Boon Vanit Travel Agency (8-12 Burapa Road). The new Tourist Organisation of Thailand is helpful.

