



SHOPPING IN BANGKOK

Bangkok is one of Southeast Asia's most popular shopping centers. Locally produced products are the best buys: hill tribe embroidered cottons, wood carvings, jewelry, CDs/DVDs, watches, porcelain, silk and tailoring of clothes are most popular. If you can't buy it in Thailand, you can't buy it!

Shopping Areas:

- **Silom Village:** 286 Silom Road near Rama IV. Charming shopping plaza with handicrafts, silk, clothes, antiques, shows.
- **Mah Boon Krung Center:** Phayathai and Rama 1 Rd. Clothes and accessories. Tokyo Dept Store, two cinemas and fast-food places.
- **River City Shopping Center:** Adjacent to Royal Orchid Sheraton, connected by a short bridge. 2370077-8. Arts, antiques, tailors, hair salon, jewelers.
- **Siam Centre/Discovery Centre:** Siam Square, Rama 1 and Phayathai Rds. Two connected plazas. A 10-15 minute walk from Central World Plaza (formerly World Trade Center).
- **Seacon Square:** Srinakarin Rd, other side of the city. One of the largest shopping plazas in Asia. Robinson's, Lotus department stores, YOYO Land, indoor amusement park, food court, supermarket and 14 theaters! Dry cleaners in the basement.
- **Baiyoke Plaza & Pratunam Market:** Near Indra Regent Hotel, Pratunam. Great clothes bargains, cheapest t-shirts in Bangkok.
- **Emporium:** Sukhumvit Rd next to Queen Sirikit Park. Newish and one of the 'glitziest' shopping centers in Bangkok. Small designer outlets, a big department store and supermarket.
- **Gaysorn Plaza:** Ploenchit Rd, opposite World Trade Center. Upmarket plaza with well-known designer stores and good restaurants. Planet Hollywood next door.
- **Oriental Place:** Soi Charoen Krung 38. 2660186-95. Behind Oriental Hotel, worth going for arts and antiques. Chitralada, one of the best Thai handicrafts outlets, is located here.
- **Central World Plaza (formerly World Trade Center):** Radjadamri Rd. Eight floors of shops, two department stores, Thailand Duty Free Shop and Tower Records. Gaysorn Plaza is opposite.

Silk:

Many shops are along lower Silom Road, New Road and at the River City Shopping Center, adjacent to the Royal Orchid Sheraton. Call first to confirm address and operating hours.

- **Jim Thompson:** Surawongse Rd and Rama IV. Finest silk, ready-made clothing, and gift items. A bit more expensive but reliable. Check out their two factory outlets! The "Jim Thompson House" is also interesting to tour. Ask the hotel's Concierge for information.
- **Shinawatra:** 67 S. Sathorn Rd, near Soi Suan Plu. 286-9991--4. Silk materials and ready-to-wear. Neckties, handkerchiefs, scarves. 9:00am-9:00pm Mon-Sat.

Tailors:

- **James Fashion:** Ms Tiew, manager, mobile: 081-312-7718.
- **Alex's Fashion:** 117-121 New Rd, Bangrak 44 (beside Shangri-La Hotel), 237-3229, 237-3216
- **Queen Thai Silk:** 199 Sukhumvit Road, near Soi 15, three-minute walk from the Asok BTS station, Ruamchitt Plaza, beside Clinton Plaza. 02-2651-0082-3. Quality ladies' wear in hand-woven Thai silk

and cotton, excellent workmanship.

- **Kingston Tailor:** (formerly 'Gift Thai Silk') 166/2-3 Silom Rd, 233-6450
- **Marty's:** 178/1 Sukhumvit Rd, opposite Ambassador Hotel. 251-1669, 252-6290. (Mon-Sat 10-8pm, closed Sun)
- **Sin Do Tailor:** 1294-96 New Rd, between the Shangri-La & Oriental Hotels. 233-5070
- **Nice Silk Ltd:** No.111 River City Shopping Center, 1st floor, 237-0077, ext. 111
- **Mazzaro Tailors:** 9/1 Soi Wat Suan Plu, Charoen-krung Road, near the Shangri-La Hotel (near New Road), 235-3626, 233-8925, 630-6643---4, mazzaro@thai.com

Jewelry:

New Road between the Sheraton and the Shangri-La Hotel and lower Silom Road are full of jewelry stores. Ask for a certificate of authenticity. Gold is sold by the "Baht" (not the currency), equal to 15.16 grams. Charge for workmanship is added. Call to ask if free transport is provided. Calling first to confirm location and opening hours is recommended.

- **Bongkot Gems:** In Rivercity Shopping Centre adjacent to the Royal Orchid Sheraton. Store No. 203. 2-237-0077---78, Ext. 203. Ms Cindy & Ms Nisa.
- **Gems Gallery:** 198/23-24 Rama VI Road, Samsen Nai. 279-3127--9, 279-2917--8. The world's largest gems and jewelry wholesaler—huge showroom.
- **Charlie's Reliable Jewelers:** 5/2-3 Sukhumvit Soi 4. 251-4376, 252-5448
- **Chartered Gems:** 292 Silom Rd. 233-9320
- **Mee Seng Gemcutters:** 1282/2-3 New Rd. 233-7840
- **Master Gems:** 1299 New Rd. 233-0283. Mr Anon.
- **New Universal Gems Ltd:** 1144-46 New Rd. 234-3514
- **Supermarket of Gems:** 919 Silom (near Holiday Inn)
- **Ulthai Gems:** 28/7 Soi Ruam Rudee, Ploenchit Rd. 253-8582
- **Alex and Co:** 14/1 Oriental Lane. 234-3908
- **Johnny's Gems:** 199 Fueng Nakorn Rd (off New Rd). 222-1756. Call for free transport.

Markets & Street Vendors:

- **Patpong at Night:** Handicrafts, clothes, watches, t-shirts, CDs/DVDs. You must bargain.
- **Soi La Lai Sap:** On Soi next to Bangkok Bank on Silom. Great prices on clothes, tapes, etc.
- **China Town:** Sampeang Lane, 15-min tuk-tuk ride. Stroll Sampeang Lane. Also: Nakorn Kasem (Theives Market) and Pahurat (Indian Market).
- **Chatuchak Weekend Market (open until dark):** Adjacent to Chatuchak Park and Skytrain stop. Clothes, produce, "antiques", pets, plants, Thai crafts and housewares at Asia's largest open-air market.

Handicrafts:

- **Chitralada:** Under the auspices of the Foundation of Queen Sirikit to promote indigenous handicrafts. Outlets in Bangkok: Oriental Place, Royal Thai Decoration Pavilion, Grand Palace, Bangkok International Airport, Vimanmek Mansion, Amporn Palace, Thaniya Plaza, Silom Road, Royal Garden Riverside Hotel Plaza, Charoen Nakorn Road, Amari Watergate, Petchburi Rd.
- **Golden Tortoise Antiques & Golden Deco:** 4 Sukhumvit, Soi 49-4. 391-2842, 259-6641
- **Narayana Phand:** Narayana Phand Pavilion Building, Radjadamri Rd, 2524670-9. The biggest Thai handicrafts center. Reasonable prices. Open 10:00-8:00pm.
- **Rasai Siam:** 23 Sukhumvit Rd. Elegant arts and crafts in a traditional Thai house at fair prices.

DINING OUT IN BANGKOK

Thai food, contrary to popular myth, is not fiery hot (although some dishes are spicy). Its beauty is the variety and assortment of flavors: rich curries and tangy soups, spicy salads, stir-fried dishes and succulent seafood—all eaten with liberal helpings of fragrant rice. Restaurant and night spot suggestions are below. Calling first to confirm location, operating hours, etc, is recommended.

Pubs and Bars:

- **Sky Bar:** This open-air bar on the 63rd floor of the imposing State Tower building is the hottest spot in Bangkok for drinks and views of the city. 1055 Silom Road, Tel. 2-624 9999, 6:00pm-1:00am. No shorts or sports sandals! ([Click here](#) for more nightlife spots with great city views.)
- **Spasso's:** Grand Hyatt Erawan Hotel, Rajadamri Rd. Up-market bar, Italian restaurant and night-spot with live music. Pricey, but it's the place to 'be seen' weekends.
- **Saxophone:** 3/8 Phayathai Rd, Victory Monument, 246- 5472, 248-2100. Jazz and blues music. Serves food.
- **About Cafe:** Maitree Jid Road. One of the 'coolest' places, full of artists and photographers.
- **Brown Sugar:** Soi Sarasin. Popular, cozy jazz bar with entertaining 'jamming' sessions nightly and spicy Thai food.
- **Bull's Head:** Sukhumvit Soi 35. Pub with 'beer and cigarette' feel; popular with Brits, but locals enjoy authentic decor.
- **Delaney's:** Soi Convent. Bangkok's first Irish pub. Richly decorated in "authentic" Irish decor and memorabilia.
- **Bourbon Street:** Washington Square, Soi 22 Sukhumvit. 259-0328
- **Henry J. Bean's:** Amari Watergate Hotel, Petchburi Road. Good food. 653-9000, ext. 350
- **TGI Friday:** Sukhumvit, Soi 1. Pub with good food. **Cheers Pub:** Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, 981 Silom. Also serves food. 238-4300

Thai Restaurants:

Recommended by NESA's friends in Bangkok. Call first to confirm address and operating hours:

- **Cabbages and Condoms:** Soi 12 Sukhumvit. 251-5552. Great food. Profits go to family planning for hilltribes. Nice handicraft shop.
- **Ban Chiang:** 14 Sriveng Rd (next to Silom Club, behind Holiday Inn, near Shangri-La) 236-7045, 266-6994. Traditional Thai house converted into restaurant. Delicious Thai food. Reservations necessary.
- **Baan Khanitha:** Soi Ruam Rudee, off Wireless Road. The building used to be the Egyptian Embassy! Some of the best Thai food—go for the "Tom Yum Soup". Reservations needed. 01-258-4181, 02-258-4128
- **Blue Elephant:** Housed in a century-old building, elegant, serves traditional Thai cuisine with a twist. Offerings cooking classes. 233 South Sathorn Road, Kwaeng Yannawa, Khet Sathorn. Lunch & dinner. 2-673-9353
- **Curries and More:** 63/3 Soi Ruamrudee 3 Ploenjit Road, Lumpini (near the Conrad Hotel). Owned by the Baan Khanitha restaurant group. Antique-modern oriental house, with restaurant and art gallery. Open daily 11-2pm, 6-11:00pm. www.curriesandmore.com. Call for reservations: 02-253-5408--9
- **Thon Krueng:** 239 Soi Thonglor 13 (Sukhumvit 55), near Skytrain stop "Thong Lo". Great Thai, Chinese and sea- food. 391-8703 / 8719 / 8720 / 3227
- **Sala Rim Naam:** Riverside, opposite Oriental Hotel. Bangkok's best Thai dinner and dance show. Operated by Oriental Hotel. Classical Thai dances, lively atmosphere. Diners sit at low tables and must remove shoes. Good food. Reservations needed.
- **Thaanying:** Genuine, 'royal' Thai cuisine, 10 Pramuan Rd, off Silom, 236-4361, 235-0371
- **Lemongrass:** 5/1 Soi 24, Sukhumvit. 258-8637
- **Bussaracum:** 35 Soi Pipat 2 (off Convent Road). 235-8915
- **Celadon Thai:** Sukhothai Hotel, South Sathorn Road. 287-0222
- **Spice Market:** Regent Hotel, Rajadamri Road. 251-6127
- **Thai Room:** 30/37 Patpong Rd. 233-920. One of Bangkok's oldest restaurants. Also Mexican, Chinese and European food
- **Noodle Hut:** 148 Silom Road
- **Seafood Market Corner:** Soi 16 Sukhumvit. 258-0218. Select your own and have it cooked to your taste.

Other Restaurants:

- **Himali Cha Cha:** 1229/11 Charoen Krung Rd, (between Silom & Surawong Rds), 235-1569, 630-6358. Muglai Muslim, north Indian and vegetarian food, since 1979.
- **D.P. Cafe:** Soi Lang Suan. Art deco, casual eating, drinks. Next door is "DP Wardrobe", the only boutique stocking Vivienne Westwood clothing.
- **Bobby's Arms:** Patpong Rd. Reasonably-priced drinks, good British-style food and lively ambiance. Quite popular.
- **Whole Earth Restaurant:** 93/3 Soi Lang Suan, Ploenchit Rd. 252-5574. Vegetarian cuisine, classical guitar in the evenings.
- **Planet Hollywood:** Next to Gaysorn Plaza, Ploenchit Rd. Well-known restaurant attracts youngish crowd and tourists, because of the huge portions!
- **Riva's:** Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit Soi 12. Emulating Spasso's, interesting nightclub and slightly eccentric restaurant.
- **Hard Rock Cafe:** Siam Square. Usual format - popular, loud and lively atmosphere.
- **One Convent Road:** Convent Road. Stylish restaurant with warm, pleasant atmosphere, good food.
- **Moghul Room:** 1/16 Soi 11 Sukhumvit. 253-4465. Good Indian food.
- **Shangarila Restaurant:** 154/4-7 Silom. 234-9147. Good Chinese food.
- **Silver Palace:** 5 Soi Pipat, Silom. 235-5118. Good Chinese dim sum lunch.
- **Lord Jim's:** In Oriental Hotel. 236-0400. Excellent lunch buffet.

