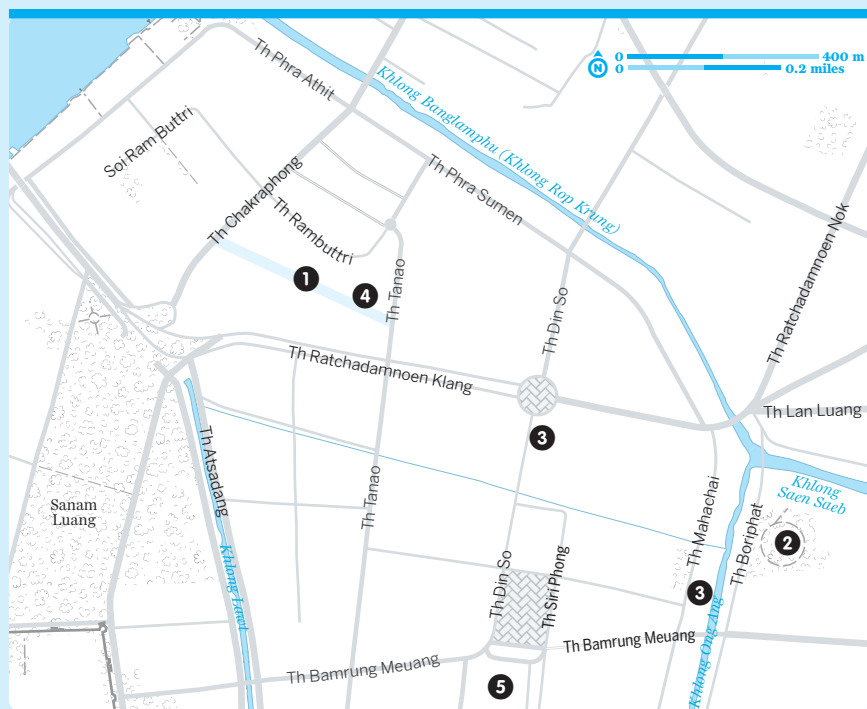


# Old Bangkok: Banglamphu

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- ➊ Visiting Th Khao San: more than just freaks in dreadlocks and fisherman pants, it's a unique cultural melting pot with something for (almost) everyone (p82).
- ➋ Taking in the panoramic views of old Bangkok from **Golden Mount** (p78).
- ➌ Tasting classic Bangkok-style nosh at old-school restaurants such as **Krua Aporn** (p76) and **Jay Fai** (p76).
- ➍ Dancing on the tables with Thai hipsters at **Brick Bar** (p80).
- ➎ Sitting and gazing at the huge Buddha and sky-high murals in **Wat Suthat** (p77).



For more detail of this area, see Map p254 ➔

## Explore: Banglamphu

Antique shophouses, classic restaurants, ancient temples...Banglamphu is old Bangkok encapsulated in one leafy, breezy district. If you've come for the sights, arrive early while the heat is still tolerable and the touts few. It's worth sticking around Banglamphu for lunch, as this is when the majority of the area's street stalls and shop-house restaurants are operating. Come evening, young locals flood the area in search of a cheap meal and a beer, giving the area an entirely different vibe, but there are enough restaurants and bars here that there's no need to consider another destination for the night.

Despite being one of the city's best areas for accommodation, sights, eating and nightlife, Banglamphu is also among Bangkok's most impenetrable 'hoods. During the day, a good strategy is to approach the area from the river ferry pier at Tha Phra Athit (Banglamphu) – most of the sights are within walking distance. At night, most of the action is centered around Th Khao San, which can be accessed via taxi from the BTS stop at National Stadium or the MRT stop at Hua Lamphong.

## Local Life

- ➔ **Local Cuisine** Bangkok's most traditional district is not surprisingly one of the best places to try authentic central Thai and Bangkok-style food.
- ➔ **Street-side Shopping** The spectrum of goods available in this district ranges from backpacker staples along Th Khao San to Thai curry pastes and quality handicrafts in the more traditional areas nearby.
- ➔ **Pop & Lock** Most evenings the wide expanse in front of Bangkok's City Hall becomes a gathering place for kids who meet to practice their break-dancing.
- ➔ **Bangkok's Champs Élysées** The royal boulevard of Th Ratchadamnoen Klang serves to link the Grand Palace in Ko Ratanakosin with newer palaces in Dusit, and is suitably adorned with billboard-sized pictures of the king, queen and other royal family members.
- ➔ **Lucky Number** Because the national lottery office has its office nearby, both sides of Th Ratchadamnoen Klang east of the Democracy Monument are often clogged with vendors selling lottery tickets.

## Getting There & Away

- ➔ **River boat** Tha Phra Athit (Banglamphu).
- ➔ **Taxi** From the BTS stops at National Stadium or Phaya Thai.
- ➔ **Klong boat** Tha Phan Fah.
- ➔ **Bus** Air-con 44, 79, 503 and 511; ordinary 2, 15, 49, 59, 60, 69 and 70.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Boats – both the Chao Phraya River Express and the *klong* (canal, also spelt *khlong*) boats – are a steady, if slow, way to reach Banglamphu, but remember that they only run until about 8pm on weekdays, 7pm on weekends.

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Krua Apsorn (p76)
- ➔ Jay Fai (p76)
- ➔ Shoshana (p77)
- ➔ Hemlock (p77)

For reviews, see p76 ➔

## Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Hippie de Bar (p79)
- ➔ Phranakorn Bar (p79)
- ➔ Club Culture (p79)
- ➔ Madame Musur (p79)

For reviews, see p79 ➔

## Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Th Khao San Market (p80)
- ➔ Nittaya Curry Shop (p82)
- ➔ Taekee Taekon (p82)

For reviews, see p80 ➔