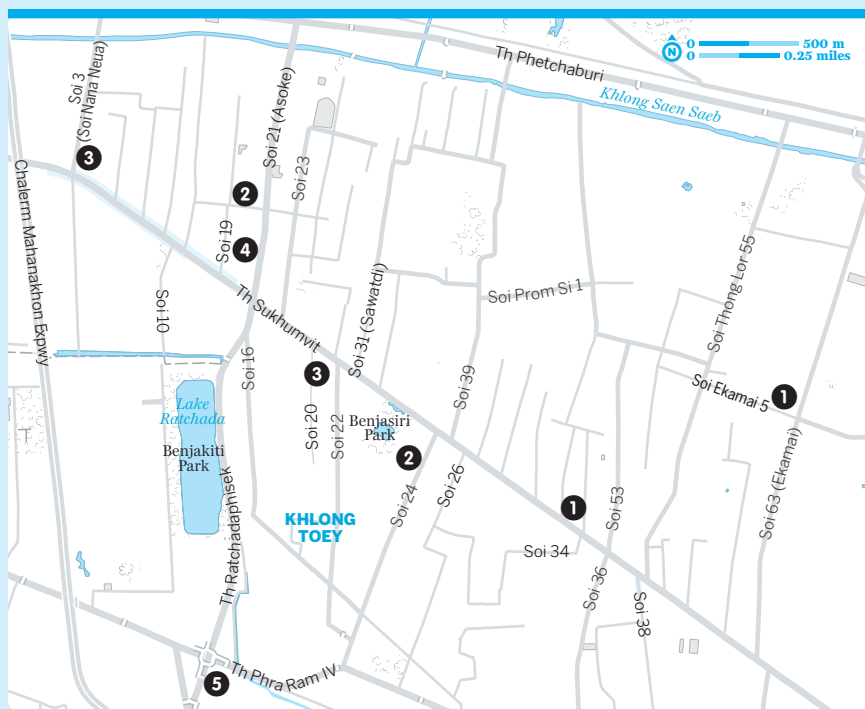


New Bangkok: Thanon Sukhumvit

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1** Spending a night out at **Soi Ekamai 5** (p136), **WTF** (p136) and other buzz-worthy clubs and bars the in-crowd would approve of.
- 2** Rejuvenating at one of Th Sukhumvit's excellent-value spas, such as **Health Land** (p140) or **Asia Herb Association** (p140).
- 3** Sampling Th Sukhumvit's spread of international restaurants, from **Nasir Al-Masri** (p131) to **Bei Otto** (p132).
- 4** Witnessing a corner of northern Thailand in modern Bangkok at **Ban Kamthieng** (p132).
- 5** Getting lost in **Khlong Toey Market** (p131), the city's largest.



For more detail of this area, see Map p270 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

All odd-numbered soi branching off Th Sukhumvit head north, while even numbers run south. Unfortunately, they don't line up sequentially (eg Soi 11 lies directly opposite Soi 8; Soi 39 is opposite Soi 26). Also, some larger soi are better known by alternative names, such as Soi Nana (Soi 3), Soi Asoke (Soi 21), Soi Thong Lor (Soi 55) and Soi Ekamai (Soi 63).



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Bo.lan (p131)
- ➔ Boon Tong Kiat Singapore Hainanese Chicken Rice (p131)
- ➔ Nasir Al-Masri (p131)
- ➔ Rang Mahal (p135)
- ➔ Khua Kling + Pak Sod (p132)



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ WTF (p136)
- ➔ Soul Food Mahanakorn (p132)
- ➔ Cheap Charlie's (p136)
- ➔ Bar 23 (p136)



Best Dance Clubs

- ➔ Soi Ekamai 5 (p136)
- ➔ Bed Supperclub (p133)
- ➔ Q Bar (p137)

Explore: Sukhumvit

You'll probably spend more time on Th Sukhumvit eating, drinking and perhaps sleeping (there's a high concentration of hotels here), rather than sightseeing. Thankfully the BTS (Skytrain) runs along the length of Th Sukhumvit. BTS stops are also a convenient way to define the street's various vibes. Lower Sukhumvit, particularly the area around Nana BTS station, is a discombobulating mix of expats and Middle Eastern tourists; street markets and touts make this a frustrating zone to navigate. Middle Sukhumvit, around BTS Asok/MRT Sukhumvit, is dominated by midrange hotels, upscale condos, international restaurants and businesses meant to appeal to both tourists and resident foreigners. Starting at BTS Phrom Phong is where you'll find the well-concealed compounds of wealthy Thai residents and tidy Japanese enclaves, while extending east from BTS Ekkamai, the feel becomes more provincial and more Thai.

Local Life

- ➔ **Hi-So Hangouts** Th Sukhumvit is Bangkok's ritziest zone, and is *the* area to observe hi-so (high society) Thais in their natural environment: chatting at a wine bar on Soi 55 (Thong Lor) or topping up on Fendi bags at Emporium (p139).
- ➔ **International Dining** Th Sukhumvit's various ethnic enclaves are a logical destination if you've grown tired of Thai food. Known colloquially as Little Arabia, Soi 3/1 is home to Middle Eastern restaurants, while a handful of Korean restaurants can be found at Soi 12 and several Japanese restaurants are located near BTS Phrom Phong.
- ➔ **Club Alley** The streets that extend from Th Sukhumvit are home to many of Bangkok's most popular clubs. Ravers of uni age tend to head to Soi 63 (Ekamai), while the pampered elite play at Soi 55 (Thong Lor) and expats head to the clubs around Soi 11.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **BTS** Nana, Asok (interchange with MRT Sukhumvit), Phrom Phong, Thong Lo, Ekkamai, Phra Khanong, On Nut, Bang Chak, Punnawithi, Udom Suk, Bang Na and Bearing.
- ➔ **MRT** Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre, Sukhumvit (interchange with BTS Asok), Phetchaburi.
- ➔ **Klong boat** Tha Asoke, Tha Nana Neua and Tha Nana Chard.
- ➔ **Bus** Air-con 501, 508, 511 and 513; ordinary 2, 25, 30, 48 and 72.