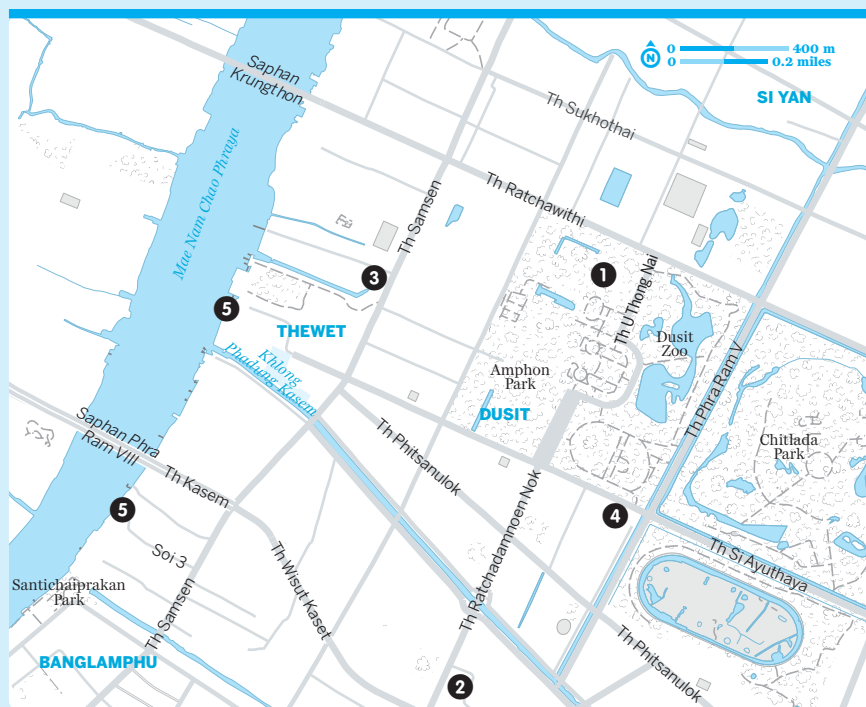


# Dusit Palace Park & Around: Thewet & Dusit

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- ➊ Witnessing Victorian sense and Thai sensibilities merge in the former royal enclave of **Dusit Palace Park** (p86).
- ➋ Cheering on Thai boxing – the sport that makes Steven Seagal look as soft as a pillow – at **Ratchadamnoen Stadium** (p90).
- ➌ Sampling homestyle Thai food good enough for royalty at **Krua Apsorn** (p89).
- ➍ Wondering what country you're in while among the Carrara marble, European-style frescoes and red carpet of **Wat Benchamabophit** (p88).
- ➎ Enjoying the breezy, tasty riverside dining at **Ka-loang Home Kitchen** (p89) or **Khinlom Chom Sa-Phan** (p90).



## Explore: Thewet & Dusit

Thewet, particularly the area near Th Samsen, has the hectic, buzzy feel often associated with Bangkok: relentless traffic, throngs of civil servants and schoolkids, and a soggy market. The adjacent river is the only respite from the action, and most sights and restaurants are a short walk from the river ferry pier. Plan to visit at lunch or dinner time to take advantage of the riverside restaurants.

Dusit, on the other hand, is possibly Bangkok's most orderly district, home to the kind of tree-lined avenues and regal monuments you'd expect to find in Paris. Set aside a few hours – ideally in the morning – for the area's gems: Dusit Palace Park and Wat Benchamabophit.

The two districts are a brief walk apart, one made more difficult by the Bangkok sun. Dusit's sights are relatively far apart and are best reached by taxi or *túk-túk*.

## Local Life

➔ **Riverside Eats** The primary culinary draw to Thewet is the almost rural-feeling riverside setting, with restaurants that drink in the cool river breeze and grill whole fish for communal picking.

➔ **Local Hero** Visit the Rama V (King Chulalongkorn; r 1868–1910) Memorial (p88) on any Tuesday (the day of the monarch's birth) to witness worshippers make offerings of candles, flowers, incense and bottles of whisky. A larger celebration is held on 23 October, the former monarch's birthday.

➔ **Boxing Day Dinner** If you're heading to a Thai boxing match at Ratchadamnoen Stadium (p90), follow the example of the locals: as a pre-match warm-up, grab a plate of *gàl yáhn* (grilled chicken) from the restaurants surrounding the stadium, such as Likhit Kai Yang (p90).

➔ **Royal Digs** Dusit is home to Chitlada Palace (p88), the official residence of the royal family. The compound is generally closed to the public – at the time of writing the king was living at Sirirat Hospital in Thonburi – but it's worth taking a peek through one of the gates.

## Getting There & Away

➔ **River boat** The easiest way to approach the Thewet and Dusit areas is via the river ferry stop at Tha Thewet. From here it's a brief walk to the riverside restaurants or a short *túk-túk* or taxi ride to Dusit Palace Park.

➔ **Bus** Air-con 505, 510 and 510; ordinary 3, 16, 18, 32, 53, 70 and 72.

➔ **Skytrain** An option best attempted outside of rush hours is to take the BTS to the stop at Phaya Thai before continuing by taxi.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

If you're keen to see a Thai boxing match at Ratchadamnoen Stadium, aficionados say the best-matched bouts are reserved for Thursday nights.

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Krua Apsorn (p89)
- ➔ Kaloang Home Kitchen (p89)
- ➔ Khinlom Chom Sa-Phan (p90)

For reviews, see p89 ➔

## Best Drinking & Entertainment

- ➔ River Bar Café (p90)
- ➔ Post Bar (p90)
- ➔ Ratchadamnoen Stadium (p90)

For reviews, see p90 ➔

## Best Historical Structures

- ➔ Vimanmek Teak Mansion (p86)
- ➔ Wat Benchamabophit (p88)
- ➔ Abhisek Dusit Throne Hall (p87)
- ➔ Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall (p88)

For reviews, see p88 ➔