



Bangkok

**“All you’ve got to do is decide to go
and the hardest part is over.**

So go!”

TONY WHEELER, COFOUNDER – LONELY PLANET

THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

Austin Bush

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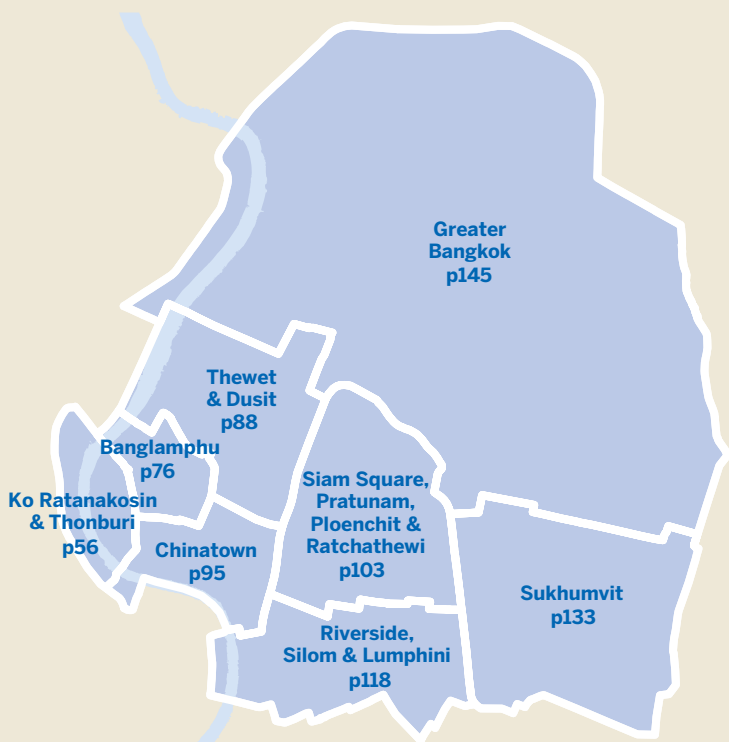
(left) **Wat Phra Kaew**
p58 Join the pilgrims at
the Emerald Buddha.

(above) **Chinatown p95**
Explore bustling streets
and markets.

(right) **Noodle soup**
p214 Sample Thai
delicacies.



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Top Itineraries

Day One

Ko Ratanakosin & Thonburi (p56)



Get up as early as you can and take the Chao Phraya Express Boat north to Tha Chang to explore one of Ko Ratanakosin's museums such as the **Museum of Siam**, as well as one of its must-see temples, such as **Wat Pho**.



Lunch Plunge into authentic Bangkok-style street food at Pa Aew (p73).

Riverside, Silom & Lumpini (p118)



Refresh with a spa treatment at **Health Land** or soothe those over-worked legs with a traditional Thai massage at **Ruen-Nuad Massage Studio**. After freshening up, get a new perspective on Bangkok with rooftop cocktails at **Moon Bar**.



Dinner nahm (p127) serves what is arguably the best Thai food in Bangkok.

Riverside, Silom & Lumpini (p118)



If you've still got it in you, get dancing at **Tapas Room** or head over to **Telephone Pub** or any of the other bars in Bangkok's lively gaybourhood. For a night that doesn't end until the sun comes up, bang on the door at **Wong's Place**.

Day Two

Siam Square, Pratunam, Ploenchit & Ratchathewi (p103)



Take the BTS (Skytrain) to National Stadium and start your day with a visit to the popular and worthwhile museum that is **Jim Thompson House**. Follow this by exploring nearby **Baan Krura** or by making a wish at the **Erawan Shrine**.



Lunch The MBK Food Island (p110) is an ideal introduction to Thai food.

Siam Square, Pratunam, Ploenchit & Ratchathewi (p103)



Walk, or let the BTS escort you, through Bangkok's ultramodern commercial district, stopping off at linked shopping centres including **MBK Center**, **Siam Paragon** and **Siam Square**. Make time for a sweet snack at **Gourmet Gallery** or an afternoon cuppa at the **Erawan Tea Room**.



Dinner Try Thai food with a modern twist at Sra Bua (p111).

Greater Bangkok (p145)



If it's Tuesday, Friday or Saturday, consider catching a Thai boxing match at **Lumpinee Boxing Stadium**, or make a point of schlepping over to eastern Bangkok's RCA (Royal City Avenue) to check out fun clubs such as **Cosmic Café** or **Slim/Flix**.



Ancient City (Muang Boran; p150)

Day Three

Ko Ratanakosin & Thonburi (p56)



Take the Chao Phraya Express Boat to Tha Chang and set off on a **long-tail boat tour** of Thonburi's canals. Alternatively, combine canals and the culinary arts with a visit to **Amita Thai Cooking Class**.



Lunch Enjoy the air-con and spicy noodles at Coconut Palm (p74).

Banglamphu (p76)



Spend the afternoon shopping at the **Th Khao San Market** and visiting the surrounding sights such as the **Golden Mount** and **Wat Suthat**. Or, if you've got energy to spare, book an afternoon or night bike tour of the area



Dinner Take a temporary break from Thai food at Nasir Al-Masri (p138).

with **Velo Thailand** or **Grasshopper Adventures**.

Thanon Sukhumvit (p133)



End the night with a Thai-themed cocktail at a cosy local such as **WTF** or **Badmotel**, or a street-side Singha at **Cheap Charlie's**. If it's still too early for you to turn in, extend the night with a visit to nightclubs **Grease** or **Arena 10**.

Day Four

Greater Bangkok (p145)



If it's a weekend, take the BTS north for a half-day of shopping at the **Chatuchak Weekend Market**. Otherwise, consider a half-day excursion outside the city to the provincial-feeling **Non-thaburi Market**, the man-made island of **Ko Kret** or the recreated ruins at **Ancient City** (Muang Boran).



Lunch Chatuchak Weekend Market (p147) has cheap and tasty food stalls.

Chinatown (p95)



Recover from the market in the relative cool of the late afternoon before taking the MRT (metro) to Chinatown to visit the home of the Golden Buddha, **Wat Traimit**, and the Chinese-style **Wat Mangkon Kamalawat**. Consider popping over to **Phahurat** to sample that neighbourhood's South Asian feel, or if



Dinner Follow our walking tour (p100) of Chinatown's best street eats.

you're there after dark, the flower market at **Pak Khlong Talat**.

Banglamphu (p76)



Make the brief taxi ride to Banglamphu and begin the evening with drinks at **Madame Musur**, followed by a rowdy live music show at **Brick Bar** or dancing at **Club**. If bedtime is irrelevant, head for the shishas (water pipes) and dance floor of **Triple-D**.



Our Story

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

Our Writer



Austin Bush

Coordinating Author Austin Bush came to Thailand in 1999 as part of a language study program hosted by Chiang Mai University. The lure of city life, employment and spicy food eventually led Austin to Bangkok. City life, employment and spicy food have managed to keep him there ever since. Austin is a native of Oregon, and a writer and photographer who often focuses on food; samples of his work can be seen at www.austimbushphotography.com.

Read more about Austin at:
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