

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Make a point of arriving at Chatuchak Weekend Market as early as possible – around 10am is a good bet – as the crowds are much thinner and the temperatures are slightly lower.

Best Places to Eat

- Chatuchak Weekend Market (p147)
- Yusup (p152)
- Or Tor Kor Market (p151)
- Baan Suan Pai (p152)
- Salt (p152)
- Rosdee (p152)

For reviews, see p152. ➡

Best Drinking & Entertainment

- Cosmic Café (p154)
- Parking Toys (p153)
- Slim/Flix (p153)

For reviews, see p152. ➡

Best Markets

- Chatuchak Weekend Market (p147)
- Talat Rot Fai (p150)
- Nonthaburi Market (p150)

For reviews, see p155. ➡

Explore: Greater Bangkok

Most people come to greater Bangkok with markets in mind – the northern suburbs are home to some of the city's best. Chatuchak Weekend Market, one of the world's largest, draws tens of thousands of shoppers every weekend and is a hectic but must-do Bangkok experience. The Nonthaburi Market is an expansive wet market that shows the city's provincial side, while the retro-themed Talat Rot Fai acts as a magnet for Bangkok's hipsters. Other reasons to visit Bangkok's suburbs include nightlife, with the RCA entertainment strip drawing thousands of partiers.

For the day markets you'll generally want to arrive as early as possible. Set aside at least half a day for Chatuchak. Getting to Nonthaburi Market by boat takes at least an hour; keep in mind that the market has pretty much packed up by 9am. Talat Rot Fai is usually open until around 11pm. Most clubs and live music venues don't get going until 11pm and close at 2am.

Most markets are within easy access of the northern extents of the BTS (Skytrain) and/or MRT (Metro). Reaching other destinations in Bangkok's 'burbs often involves a taxi ride from BTS or MRT terminal stations and a bit of luck. A smartphone with a mapping function will be an invaluable tool for helping you get to the right place and on time.

Local Life

➤ **Chatuchak Weekend Market** It may be a huge draw for tourists, but it's still very much a local affair, with tens of thousands of Thais shuffling between stalls and eating snacks every Saturday and Sunday.

➤ **RCA** For years, the dance clubs, live-music clubs and bars along Royal City Ave have been the first nightlife choice for most young Thais. In recent years the clientele has grown up – slightly, at least – and RCA now hosts locals and visitors of just about any age.

➤ **Local Style** Greasers, cowboys, hippies, punks and mods: Talat Rot Fai is the place to see the various cliques of modern Thai youth.

➤ **Full-Flavoured Eats** Although a bit of a schlep, an excursion to Bangkok's suburbs can be a profoundly tasty experience, with heaps of restaurants that don't tone down their flavours for foreigners. The city's outskirts are also a great place to sample regional Thai cuisine.

Getting There & Away

➤ **BTS** Ari, Bang Chak, Chong Nonsi, Ekkamai, Mo Chit, Ratchathewi, Wongwian Yai.

➤ **MRT** Chatuchak Park, Kamphaeng Phet, Phahon Yothin, Phra Ram 9, Thailand Cultural Centre.

➤ **River ferry** Tha Nonthaburi, Tha Saphan Phra Pin Klao.