

# Banglamphu

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Visiting **Th Khao San** (p85): more than just backpackers with dreadlocks in fisherman pants, it is a unique cultural melting pot with something for (almost) everyone.
- 2 Taking in the panoramic views of old Bangkok from **Golden Mount** (p83).
- 3 Tasting classic Bangkok-style nosh at old-school restaurants such as **Krua Apson** (p84).
- 4 Dancing on the tables with Thai hipsters at **Brick Bar** (p89).
- 5 Sitting and gazing at the huge Buddha and sky-high murals in **Wat Suthat** (p80).



For more detail of this area see Map p268 →

## 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 cold Chang, giving the area an entirely different vibe. There are enough restaurants and bars here that there's no need to consider another destination for the night.

Despite being one of Bangkok's best areas for accommodation, sights, eating and nightlife, Banglamphu is not very well linked up with the rest of the city by public transport networks. During the day, a good strategy is to approach the area via the river ferry at Phra Athit/Banglamphu Pier – most of the sights are within walking distance. At night, most of the action is centered on and 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.

➔ **Streetside Shopping** Goods available in this district range from backpacker staples along Th Khao San to delicious Thai curry pastes and high-quality handicrafts in the more traditional areas nearby.

➔ **Pop & Lock** Most evenings the wide expanse in front of Bangkok's City Hall becomes a place for youngsters who meet to practise their break-dancing moves.

➔ **Les Champs Élysées de Bangkok** 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 Thai royalty.

➔ **Lucky Number** Because the national lottery office has its office nearby, both sides of Th Ratchadamnoen Klang east of the Democracy Monument (p81) are often clogged with vendors selling lottery tickets.

## Getting There & Away

➔ **River boat** Phra Athit/Banglamphu Pier.

➔ **Taxi** From the BTS stops at National Stadium or Phaya Thai, or from the MRT stop at Hua Lamphong.

➔ **Klong boat** Phanfa Leelard Pier.

➔ **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 Express and *klong* boats – are a steady, if slow, way to reach Banglamphu, but remember that most only run until about 7pm.

### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Krua Apsorn (p84)
- ➔ Jay Fai (p87)
- ➔ Shoshana (p85)
- ➔ Thip Samai (p84)

For reviews, see p84. ➔

### Best Drinking & Entertainment

- ➔ Hippié de Bar (p87)
- ➔ Brick Bar (p89)
- ➔ Madame Musur (p87)
- ➔ Phra Nakorn Bar & Gallery (p87)

For reviews, see p87. ➔

### Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Thanon Khao San Market (p89)
- ➔ Heritage Craft (p90)
- ➔ Nittaya Thai Curry (p90)

For reviews, see p89. ➔