

# Greater Bangkok

## Neighbourhood Top Five

**1** Getting lost in **Chatuchak Weekend Market** (p158), one of the world's largest markets and a must-do Bangkok experience.

**2** Partying at the bars and clubs on RCA/Royal

City Ave, such as **Route 66** (p165).

**3** Travelling back in time at retro-themed market **Talat Rot Fai** (p161).

**4** Ditching the smog and traffic and heading to **Ko Kret** (p162).

**5** Experiencing the charms of provincial Thailand at **Nonthaburi Market** (p161).



For more detail of this area see Maps p286 and p287 →

## Explore: Greater Bangkok

There are several reasons to visit greater Bangkok, but most people come for the markets: the northern suburbs are home to some of the city's best. Chatuchak Weekend Market draws tens of thousands of shoppers and is a hectic but must-do Bangkok experience. Nonthaburi Market is an expansive wet market that shows the area's provincial side, while retro-themed Talat Rot Fai is a Bangkok-hipster magnet. Other reasons to visit Bangkok's suburbs include nightlife, with the RCA/Royal City Ave entertainment strip drawing thousands of weekend partiers.

For the day markets you'll 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 1am. Most clubs and live-music venues don't get going until 11pm and close at 2am.

Most of the markets are located 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 is an invaluable tool for helping you arrive at 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 thousands of Thais shuffling between stalls.
- ➔ **RCA** For decades, the dance clubs, live-music venues 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 every age.
- ➔ **Local Style** Tattoo dudes, hipsters, hippies, punks and mods: Talat Rot Fai is the place to witness the various cliques of modern Thai youth.
- ➔ **Full-Flavoured Eats** 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, Bang Na, Bearing, Chong Nonsi, Ekkamai, Mo Chit, Phra Khanong, Udom Suk.
- ➔ **MRT** Chatuchak Park, Huay Khwang, Kamphaeng Phet, Lat Phrao, Phetchaburi, Phra Ram 9, Sutthisan, Thailand Cultural Centre.
- ➔ **River ferry** Nonthaburi Pier.
- ➔ **Klong Boat** Asoke-Phetchaburi Pier.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

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

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Chatuchak Weekend Market (p158)
- ➔ Yusup (p163)
- ➔ Khua Kling Pak Sod (p163)
- ➔ Puritan (p163)
- ➔ Or Tor Kor Market (p162)
- ➔ Taksura (p165)

For reviews, see p163. ➔

## Best Drinking & Entertainment

- ➔ Parking Toys (p164)
- ➔ Lumpinee Boxing Stadium (p164)
- ➔ Route 66 (p165)

For reviews, see p164. ➔

## Best Markets

- ➔ Chatuchak Weekend Market (p158)
- ➔ Talat Rot Fai (p161)
- ➔ Nonthaburi Market (p161)

For reviews, see p158. ➔