

RIVERSIDE | SILOM | LUMPHINI

For more detail of this area see Maps p277, p278 and p280

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Getting out on Mae Nam Chao Phraya is a great way to escape Bangkok's traffic. So it's fortunate that the city's riverside hotels also have some of the most attractive boats on the river (technically for hotel guests, but staff don't check). In most cases these free services run from Sathon/Central Pier to their mother hotel, departing every 10 or 15 minutes. There's no squeeze, no charge, and a uniformed crew will help you on and off.



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ nahm (p135)
- ➔ Eat Me (p132)
- ➔ Muslim Restaurant (p130)
- ➔ Kai Thort Jay Kee (p134)
- ➔ Chennai Kitchen (p131)
- ➔ Never Ending Summer (p131)

For reviews, see p130. ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Moon Bar (p136)
- ➔ Smalls (p135)
- ➔ DJ Station (p138)

For reviews, see p135. ➔



Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Asiatique (p139)
- ➔ Everyday by Karmakarnet (p139)
- ➔ River City (p139)

For reviews, see p139. ➔

Explore: Riverside, Silom & Lumpini

Th Silom, with its towering hotel and office buildings, is Bangkok's de facto financial district, while adjacent Th Sathon is home to many of the city's embassies. Incongruously, lower Th Silom functions as Bangkok's lush gaybourhood. There's a dearth of proper sights in this part of town, so unless you're heading to Lumpini Park – at its best in the early morning – take advantage of the area's street stalls and upmarket restaurants and combine your visit with lunch or dinner. The BTS stop at Sala Daeng and the MRT stop at Si Lom put you at lower Th Silom, perfect jumping-off points for either Lumpini Park or the area's restaurants and sights.

The Riverside area is significantly less flashy, and is great for an aimless wander among old buildings. This stretch of Mae Nam Chao Phraya was formerly Bangkok's international zone, and today retains a particularly Chinese and Muslim feel. Most of the sights in this area can be seen in a morning; the BTS stop at Saphan Taksin is a good starting point.

Local Life

➔ **Halal 'Hood** The area around the intersection of Th Silom and Th Charoen Krung is home to a few Thai-Muslim and Indian restaurants.

➔ **Rainbow Flag** Lower Th Silom, particularly the strip from Soi 2 to Soi 4, is Bangkok's pinkest district, and is popular with both local and visiting gay men.

➔ **Good Morning** Pretend you're Thai-Chinese by getting up at 5am and taking part in the early morning stretching rituals at Lumpini Park. Or you can just show up at a slightly saner hour and watch.

➔ **Art Attack** Those looking for a painting by a contemporary Burmese artist or an Ayuthaya-era Buddhist manuscript cabinet will undoubtedly find something interesting in one of the Th Silom area's numerous art galleries and antique shops.

Getting There & Away

➔ **BTS** To Riverside: Saphan Taksin. To Silom: Sala Daeng (interchange with MRT Si Lom). To Lumpini: Ratchadamri, Sala Daeng, Chong Nonsi and Surasak.

➔ **MRT** To Silom: Si Lom (interchange with BTS Sala Daeng). To Lumpini: Lumpini.

➔ **River boat** To Riverside: River City Pier, Si Phraya Pier, Oriental Pier and Sathon/Central Pier. To Lumpini: Sathon/Central Pier.

➔ **Bus** To Silom: air-con 76 and 77; ordinary 1, 15, 33 and 27.