

Thewet & Dusit

Neighbourhood Top Five

- ❶ Witnessing Victorian sense and Thai sensibilities merge in the former royal enclave of **Dusit Palace Park** (p93).
- ❷ Seeing Thai boxing – the sport that makes Steven Seagal look as soft as a pillow – at **Ratchadamnoen Stadium** (p98).
- ❸ Enjoying the breezy, tasty riverside dining at restaurants such as **Khinlom Chom Sa-Phan** (p98).
- ❹ Wondering what country you're in while wandering among the Carrara marble, European-style frescos and red carpet of **Wat Benchamabophit** (p95).
- ❺ Sampling homestyle Thai food good enough for royalty at **Krua Apsorn** (p97).



For more detail of this area see Map p270 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

If you're keen to see a Thai boxing match at Ratchadamnoen Stadium, go on a Thursday night, when aficionados say the best-matched bouts are on.



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Likhit Kai Yang (p97)
- ➔ Krua Apsorn (p97)
- ➔ Nang Loeng Market (p97)

For reviews, see p97. ➔



Best Drinking & Entertainment

- ➔ Post Bar (p98)
- ➔ Ratchadamnoen Stadium (p98)
- ➔ Khinlom Chom Sa-Phan (p98)

For reviews, see p98. ➔



Best Historical Structures

- ➔ Vimanmek Teak Mansion (p93)
- ➔ Wat Benchamabophit (p95)
- ➔ Abhisek Dusit Throne Hall (p94)
- ➔ Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall (p95)

For reviews, see p93. ➔

Explore: Thewet & Dusit

Thewet, particularly the area near Th Samsen, has the hectic, buzzy feel often associated with Bangkok: relentless traffic, throngs of civil servants and school kids, and a soggy market. The adjacent river is the only respite from the action, and it also functions as a good point from which to approach the area, as most sights and restaurants are a short walk from the river ferry pier. Plan to visit this area at lunch or dinner time to best take advantage of the riverside restaurants.

Dusit, on the other hand, is possibly Bangkok's most orderly district, home to the kind of tree-lined avenues and regal monuments you'd expect to find in Paris. Set aside a few hours – ideally in the cool morning – to visit the area's gems: Dusit Palace Park and Wat Benchamabophit.

In theory, the two districts are within walking distance of each other, although this is made difficult by the harsh Bangkok sun. Dusit's sights are relatively far apart and are best approached by taxi or *túk-túk* (pronounced *dúk dúk*).

Local Life

➔ **Local Hero** Visit the Rama V Memorial (p96) on any Tuesday (the day of his birth) to witness worshippers making offerings. An even larger celebration is on 23 October, the anniversary of the former monarch's death.

➔ **Boxing Day Dinner** Planning to watch Thai boxing at Ratchadamnoen Stadium (p98)? Do as the locals do: grab a plate of *gài yàhng* (grilled chicken) beforehand from the restaurants surrounding the stadium, such as Likhit Kai Yang (p97).

➔ **Royal Digs** Chitlada Palace (p97) is the official residence of the royal family. The compound is generally closed to the public, and you're not likely to see any royals, but it's worth taking a peek through the gates.

➔ **Time Machine** Nang Loeng Market (p97) provides a glimpse into Bangkok's yesteryear. Particularly emblematic is the market area's wooden movie theatre, allegedly the city's oldest and slated to be renovated in time for its 2018 centenary.

Getting There & Away

➔ **River boat** One way to approach the Thewet and Dusit areas is via the river ferry stop at Thewet Pier. From here it's a brief walk through shady walkways to the riverside restaurants, or a short *túk-túk* or taxi ride to Dusit Palace Park and other attractions.

➔ **Bus** Air-con 505, 510 and 510; ordinary 3, 16, 18, 32, 53, 70 and 72.

➔ **Skytrain** An option best attempted outside of rush hours is to take the BTS to Phaya Thai before continuing by taxi.