

## make the most of this phrasebook ...

Anyone can speak another language! It's all about confidence. Don't worry if you can't remember your school language lessons or if you've never learnt a language before. Even if you learn the very basics (on the inside covers of this book), your travel experience will be the better for it. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain when the locals hear you making an effort.

### finding things in this book

This book is divided into five chapters – for ease of navigation, each chapter has its own colour and all chapters have the same structure. The sound system of each language and the most important grammar rules are explained at the start of the chapter in Pronunciation and the Phrase-builder. For each language we've provided you with practical phrases for basic travel situations, as well as conversational phrases so you can get to know people. Local dishes are listed in the Menu readers and the most important health and police phrases are included too, just in case. Remember the colours of each chapter and you'll find everything easily; or use the comprehensive Index. Otherwise, check the traveller's Dictionaries included at the end of each chapter for the word you need.

### being understood

Throughout this book you'll see coloured phrases on each page. They're phonetic guides to help you pronounce the language – you don't even need to look at the language if you're not familiar with the script. For ease of pronunciation, we've split up the words in syllables with dots for Burmese, Khmer and Vietnamese – for Lao and Thai we've used hyphens instead, and dots to further divide the vowel sound combinations. For Vietnamese we've sometimes given examples of both the northern and southern dialect – the two options are marked as **Ⓝ** and **Ⓢ**.

### abbreviations used in this book

<b>a</b>	adjective	<b>m</b>	masculine
<b>adv</b>	adverb	<b>n</b>	noun
<b>excl</b>	exclusive of listener	<b>pl</b>	plural
<b>f</b>	feminine	<b>pol</b>	polite
<b>incl</b>	inclusive of listener	<b>sg</b>	singular
<b>inf</b>	informal	<b>v</b>	verb

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**Burm Khm Lao Thai Viet**

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# language map



burmese  
 khmer  
 lao

thai  
 vietnamese

For more details, see the relevant introduction.