

1. Before you fly

Thailand Digital Arrival Card (TDAC): mandatory

Every foreign passport holder needs one for each entry by air, land or sea, including babies and children. Transit passengers who stay airside do not.

- **When:** it can only be filed inside the **72 hours before you land**. Set a reminder for 3 days before the flight.
- **Where:** the Thai immigration portal (free), or tdac.info files it for you with a passport-check and error review, \$29 per traveller, QR code by email, refunded if rejected.
- **Proof:** save the QR code to your phone's Favourites so it opens offline, and print one copy.

Have these ready before you fill the form

- ☐ Passport: name exactly as in the machine-readable line, number, expiry, nationality
- ☐ Flight number and arrival date (the card is tied to both; a rebooked flight needs a new card)
- ☐ Address of your first night: hotel name, street, district, postcode. "Bangkok" alone is refused
- ☐ Purpose of visit, occupation (children: "Child", not "Student"), country of residence, phone, email

Paper beats batteries: print these

- ☐ **Passport** valid 6+ months on arrival, with a blank page
- ☐ **Hotel booking** for night one, plus the address in Thai script (ask the hotel by email) for taxi drivers
- ☐ **Onward or return ticket**, within your permitted stay
- ☐ **Travel insurance** policy number and hotline
- ☐ **Proof of funds** for spot checks: 20,000 THB per person or 40,000 per family in cash or equivalent. Cards are usually not accepted
- ☐ **Yellow fever certificate** only if arriving from a risk country in Africa or South America

Phone and power

- Tell your bank you are travelling. Download offline maps. Install **Grab** (taxi) and **Google Translate** with the Thai pack at home.
- Plugs A, B and C; 220 V. Most two-pin US and European plugs fit.
- Power banks go in **carry-on only**. Up to 100 Wh (about 27,000 mAh) without approval; 100 to 160 Wh needs the airline's approval; no label, no flight.

2. Entry rules at a glance

Visa-free stay	30 days for citizens of 60 countries and territories, since 15 September 2026 (was 60 days).
Extension	One extension of up to 30 days at an immigration office, 1,900 THB, before your stamp expires.
Land borders	Visa-exempt entries by land are capped at 2 per calendar year (Malaysian, Bruneian, Indonesian and Singaporean citizens excepted).
Longer trips	Apply for a 60-day tourist e-Visa before departure. Do not plan on visa runs.
Entry fee	A 300-baht tourist entry fee is approved but not being collected at the time of printing. Nobody should ask you for it at the border.
Overstay	500 THB per day (maximum 20,000). Over 90 days: entry bans of 1 to 10 years.

Not sure if your passport qualifies? Check the country list at tdac.info/thai-visa.

3. At the airport

The walk

At Suvarnabhumi (BKK) the gate-to-immigration walk takes 15 to 25 minutes. Use the toilets before the immigration hall. Mobility issues: book wheelchair assistance with your airline 48 hours ahead.

Auto gates (e-gates) at Suvarnabhumi

NEW

Since about 20 September 2026 travellers from **33 nationalities** can use the arrival auto gates: you need a filed TDAC, a previous visit to Thailand, and visa-free entry. Others use the "Foreign Passport" counters.

At the counter

- Fingerprints (both hands and thumbs) and a photo: glasses and hat off.
- Have the TDAC QR code, passport and hotel booking in hand. Officers may ask about onward travel and funds.
- **No phones or photos** in the immigration hall.

Priority lane: you may skip the queue if age 70 or over · pregnant · travelling with an infant · wheelchair user · business or first class

Forgot the TDAC?

Connect to the airport Wi-Fi (login with passport number), file it on your phone before you reach the counter; it takes about five minutes. Kiosks exist but the queue is slower, especially at Don Mueang.

4. Customs and what is illegal

Green lane if you have nothing to declare. Fines are immediate.

Item	Rule
Alcohol	1 litre per person
Cigarettes	200 (one carton) per person
Vapes, e-cigarettes	Illegal. Confiscation and fines that can reach tens of thousands of baht. Leave them at home.
Cannabis	Medical use only in 2026. Smoking in public: fines up to 25,000 THB. Do not carry it across the border.
Drones	Need NBTC and CAAT registration before flying; weeks of paperwork. No papers, no flight.
Medication	Original packaging plus a doctor's letter for psychotropic drugs (e.g. sleeping pills, ADHD medication).
Fresh food	No fruit, vegetables or meat without a permit.
Gambling	Illegal, including card games in public.

VAT refund: ask shops for the P.P.10 form (passport needed), show goods and forms at the Customs desk *before* check-in on departure.

5. Getting into the city

From Suvarnabhumi (BKK)

Public taxi (metered)

- Go down to **floor 1**, exit at gates 4 to 7. Ignore anyone inside offering a "taxi".
- Press the kiosk button (regular or large taxi), **keep the paper slip**: it carries the driver's ID.
- Walk to the lane number printed on the slip.
- Pay meter + 50 THB airport fee + tolls (cash). Downtown is usually 400 to 550 THB. Carry 100s and 20s; drivers rarely change a 1,000 note.

- Airport Rail Link:** floor B, 45 THB to Phaya Thai (BTS interchange), 30 minutes. Many stations have stairs only: hard with big bags.
- Grab:** book in the app after landing and follow its pickup point. Fixed price, card payment, no haggling.

- Private transfer:** book through your hotel; the driver waits in the arrivals hall with a sign. 1,000 to 1,500 THB.

From Don Mueang (DMK)

- Metered taxi from the official stand outside arrivals; same rules and slip as above. Grab works the same way.
- A1 to A4 buses** (about 30 THB) to the Mo Chit BTS and Chatuchak MRT area, or the **SRT Red Line** from Don Mueang station to Krung Thep Aphiwat (Bang Sue) for the MRT.

Rainy season note (September to October)

Heavy rain floods roads around both airports. Allow **three hours** to reach the airport for an international flight and check the airline's travel alerts; rail lines keep running when roads do not.

6. Money and connectivity

- Exchange:** the bank booths in arrivals give poor rates. The SuperRich booths on floor B (near the train) give the best.
- ATMs:** fine to use, but every foreign withdrawal costs about 220 THB. Withdraw the maximum and always decline the ATM's own conversion.
- Cards:** accepted in malls, hotels and chains; 7-Eleven usually from 200 THB. Street food, taxis and markets are cash.
- SIM:** AIS, True and dtac booths in arrivals (about 800 to 1,000 THB for 2 to 4 weeks unlimited, staff set it up). Cheaper at 7-Eleven (about 300 THB) but you register it yourself. eSIMs can be bought before you fly.
- Airport Wi-Fi:** free; log in with passport number and name.

Tipping

Street food: none. Restaurants: round up or 20 to 40 THB. Massage: 50 to 100 THB to the therapist. Hotel porter: 20 to 50 THB per bag. Taxis: round up.

7. Staying well

- Water:** do not drink tap water; bottled water is 7 to 10 THB at any 7-Eleven. Factory ice cubes are safe.
- Heat:** plan less than you think, drink more than you think, and keep the middle of the day for shade or malls.

- Mosquitoes** carry dengue. Repellent at dawn and dusk; the pink "Soffell" from 7-Eleven works.
- Crossing roads:** cars and motorbikes do not stop at zebra crossings. Wait for a gap, walk steadily, raise a hand; better, cross beside a local.
- Alcohol** is sold 11:00 to 14:00 and 17:00 to midnight only; not on some Buddhist holidays.
- Pharmacies** are everywhere and well stocked; private hospitals are excellent and expensive, which is what the insurance is for.

8. Manners and staying out of trouble

- The wai:** palms together at chest height, slight bow. Use it for hello, thank you and sorry. A smile is enough for staff.
- Polite endings:** men add *khrap*, women add *kha* to sentences.
- Temples:** shoulders and knees covered (carry a scarf), shoes off, never point your feet at a Buddha image, women do not touch monks.
- Head and feet:** never touch anyone's head; do not put feet on seats or point them at people.
- The monarchy** is protected by law. Do not joke about or criticise the royal family, in person or online.
- Common tricks:** "The Grand Palace is closed today", a tuk-tuk tour that ends at a gem or tailor shop, a stranger with perfect English and a great deal. Smile, say no, keep walking. Official temples never close for "ceremonies" announced on the street.

9. Emergency numbers

Tourist Police	1155 (English)
Ambulance	1669
Tourist hotline	1672 (TAT, 24 hours)
Embassy	save its Bangkok number before you fly
TDAC help	support@tdac.info (24/7)

Keep this sheet with your passport. If your flight changes after you filed the arrival card, file a new one or email us the new flight number and date.