

Thailand Capitals: Bangkok and Ayutthaya

Presentation by
Paul Pacter
Collier County Library



- The top 20 international visitors for 2016**
- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Bangkok – 21 million | 11. Hong Kong – 8 |
| 2. London – 20 | 12. Barcelona – 8 |
| 3. Paris – 18 | 13. Amsterdam – 8 |
| 4. Dubai – 15 | 14. Milan – 8 |
| 5. New York – 13 | 15. Taipei – 7 |
| 6. Singapore – 12 | 16. Rome – 7 |
| 7. Kuala Lumpur – 12 | 17. Osaka – 7 |
| 8. Istanbul – 12 | 18. Vienna – 7 |
| 9. Tokyo – 12 | 19. Shanghai – 6 |
| 10. Seoul – 11 | 20. Prague – 6 |
- Also Chiang Mai – 5

- Brief History of Thailand**
- Before 1238: Collection of city-states with their own kings.
 - 1238 United by King Sri Indraditya.
 - 1238 to 1700s prosperity.
 - 1700 Ayutthaya is largest city in the world!
 - 1767 Conquered by Burma.
 - 1782 Kingdom reunited.
 - 1932 Constitutional monarchy.

- Political History of Thailand**
- 1238 to 1932 Absolute monarchy. No parliament.
 - 1932 Democratic revolution. First constitution plus monarchy.
 - 1933 Uprisings by communists, poor, students. Military coup.
 - 1932 to today: 20 constitutions each following military coups.
- US has generally supported the military coups because they brought stability.**

- The Thai Monarchy**
- Rama 1 (First King) united Thailand in 1782.
 - Kings are revered in Thailand.
 - Lèse-majesté - offense against the dignity of a reigning sovereign.
- "Whoever defames, insults or threatens the King, Queen, the Heir-apparent or the Regent, shall be punished with imprisonment of three to fifteen years."**

- The Last Four Thai Kings**
- Rama VII 1925-1935. Last absolute monarch and first constitutional monarch. Constant fighting with parliament. Finally abdicated 1935.
 - Rama VIII 1935-1946 Ananda Mahidol. When he became king he was a 9 year old boy living in Switzerland. Returned to Bangkok 1945. Died age 19 of gunshot in palace. His brother Bhumibol was last person to visit him.
 - Rama IX Bhumibol Adyuledej 1946-2016. Reigned 70 years. Revered.
 - Rama X Vajiralongkorn 2016 to present.



- Some Facts about Thailand – 1**
- Population 68 million (USA 320 million)
 - Area 190,000 sq mi (USA 3,718,000 sq mi)
 - Ethnic groups
 - Ethnic Thai 74%
 - Thai Chinese 14%
 - Others (Malay, Hill Tribes) 12%
 - Capital Bangkok

- Some Facts about Thailand – 2**
- Money: Thai Baht, around 31 = 1 US\$
 - Language: Thai
 - Religion:
 - Buddhism 93%
 - Islam 6%
 - Others 1%
 - Drive on the left



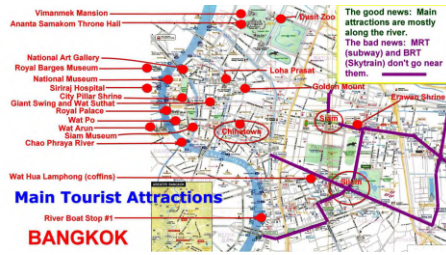
- Thai Government Today**
- **Officially:** One-house parliamentary constitutional monarchy.
 - **De facto:** Military junta rule (since 2014).
 - **King:** Maha Vajiralongkorn (Rama X) since 2016.
 - **Prime Minister:** Prayut Chan-o-cha ("Interim" PM since military took power in 2014).



- Bangkok Facts**
- **Population:** 8.3 million (metro 14.6 million).
 - **Area:** 606 sq mi (very large).
 - **On the Chao Praya River:**
 - Many canals throughout Bangkok.
 - **Flat land:** All sea level. Prone to flooding.
 - **Tropical climate:** Mean temperature 82 degrees F 12 months a year.
 - **Rainy season:** May through October. Other six months very dry and sunny.

Transportation in Bangkok:

- There is a subway (MRT) and Skytrain (BRT) – **PURPLE LINE** on next slide – but they do **NOT** go near most tourist attractions [red ● dots].
- Tuk tuks **MUST** agree a price in advance!
- Taxis actually cheaper than tuk tuk. Just be sure driver turns on the meter.
- Riverboats are fun and cheap and get you near most tourist attractions.



Bangkok Taxis

- Many colors (green and yellow an example)
- Required to turn on meter, but some will try for fixed fee.
- Airport to city: About 300 - 400 Baht.
- In town: 35 Baht first 3km.
- Tipping: No, but round up.
- Change: Bring small notes.



Buses in Bangkok
Not convenient for tourists



Transportation - Bangkok Buses
Not convenient for tourists



Songthaew - Pickup truck shared taxi
Not convenient for tourists in Bangkok



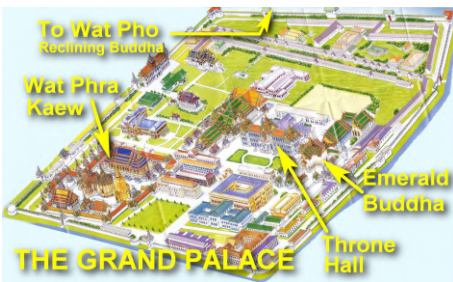
Exterior wall of Grand Palace, Bangkok

- Grand Palace has been the official residence of the King since 1782.
 - A large complex of buildings, rather than one palace building.
 - Wat Pho is next door.
- If you visit only one attraction in Bangkok, this must be it!



Outside the Grand Palace

Reminder: Security checkpoints outside Grand Palace ask to see government photo ID (passport or driver's license). I used copy of passport on my phone.
Also: Dress modestly.



To Wat Pho
Reclining Buddha

Wat Phra Kaew

Emerald Buddha

THE GRAND PALACE

Throne Hall



Bangkok Tourist Police - Dial 1155
Must show photo ID to get into Royal Palace
Palace admission fee 500 Baht



Grand Palace
Wat Phra Kaew
1784
Most sacred temple in Thailand



Grand Palace
Golden Chedi



Wat Phra Kaew - 1789
Houses 14th century
Emerald Buddha



Wat Phra Kaew
Grand Palace
Bangkok

Mythical character called Kinnara - half man and half bird (or half horse)



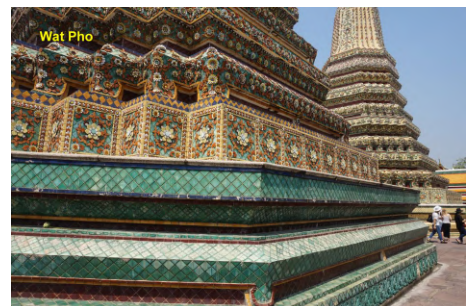
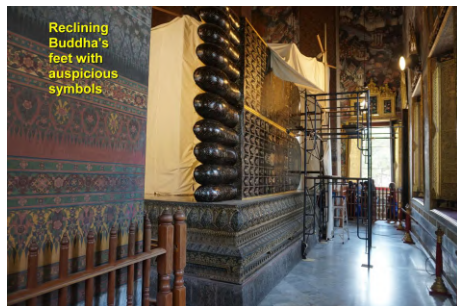
Grand Palace
Bangkok



Grand Palace
Wat Phra Kaew
Bangkok



Model of Cambodia's Angkor Wat Temple.
1860 Cambodia was under Thai rule.
King Rama IV sent 2000 soldiers to dismantle Angkor Wat and bring it to Bangkok. Unable to do it, he built a model.





Wat Pho



Wat Pho



Buddha Images in Cibister of Wat Pho



Wat Pho



Phra Rabiang Cibister
at Wat Pho



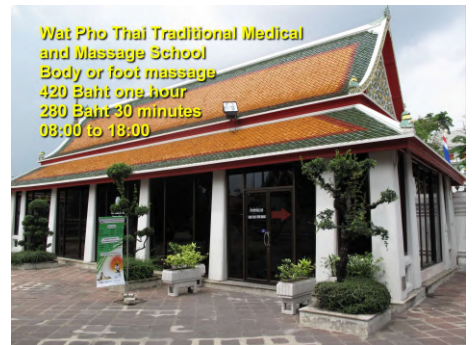
Interior of prayer hall
at Wat Pho



Wat Pho



Chinese Gate Guardians
at Wat Pho



Wat Pho Thai Traditional Medical
and Massage School
Body or foot massage
420 Baht one hour
280 Baht 30 minutes
08:00 to 18:00

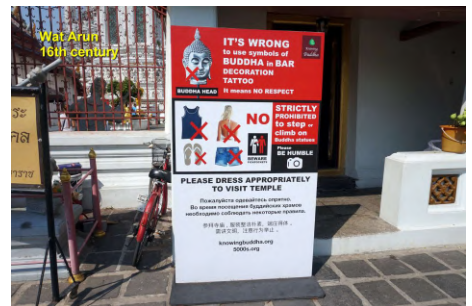


Sightseeing Near the Grand Palace

- National Art Gallery
- National Museum
- Wat Mahatat
- City Pillar
- Emerald Buddha
- Grand Palace
- Giant Swing-Golden Mt.
- Wat Pho
- Siam Museum
- Wat Arun
- Chinatown



Wat Arun - 16th century
(aka Temple of Dawn)
Oldest temple in Bangkok



Wat Arun
16th century

IT'S WRONG
to use symbols of
BUDDHA in BAR
DECORATION
TATTOO

STRICTLY PROHIBITED
to step on
climb on
BODHISATVA
STATUE

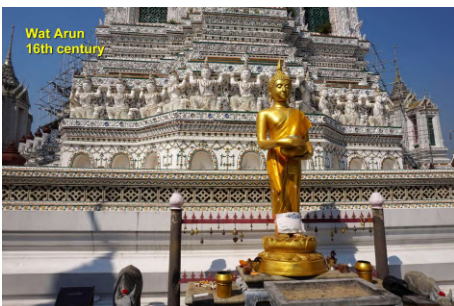
**PLEASE DRESS APPROPRIATELY
TO VISIT TEMPLE**

กรุณาอย่าใช้สัญลักษณ์ของ
พระพุทธเจ้าในป้ายโฆษณา
บาร์ ตกแต่งตัวสัก
รอยสัก

ห้ามเหยียบ
ห้ามไต่
ห้ามปีน
ห้ามขึ้น
รูปพระพุทธรูป
รูปพระโพธิสัตว์

กรุณาแต่งกายให้เหมาะสม
ก่อนเข้าชมพระอาราม

www.bangkok.go.th
80061010



Wat Arun
16th century



Wat Arun
16th century



Wat Arun
Notice mourning bunting
for King Bhumibol



Wat Arun
Prayer Hall



Memorial to
King Dhumbol
at Wat Arun



Wat Arun
15th century



Wat Arun
18th century



Wat Arun
16th century



Wat Arun
18th century



Wat Arun
16th century



Graves for ashes
Wat Arun



Gate Guardians
Wat Arun



National Museum Collection Includes:

- Thai history gallery.
- Archaeological and art history collections.
- Pre-history gallery.
- Sculptures from 6th to 18th centuries.
- Decorative arts and ethnology collection: gold, treasures, precious stones, costumes, textiles, ceramics, ivory, royal transportation, weapons.
- Non-Thai Asian art – especially Indian, Chinese, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Cambodian.
- Several historic buildings moved to museum site.

Minimum half-day, easily full day
Important: closed Monday and Tuesday



National Museum
Gallery of Thai History



National Museum
12th C Vishnu Lintel



National Museum
Female Musicians
8th C





Chatuchak Market - 7,000 stalls! Sat & Sun.
Food and Drink Books Antiques Handicrafts
Clothing Pets Used Clothing Gardening
Furniture Art Ceramic Other



Chatuchak Market - 7,000 stalls! Sat & Sun.
To get there — either:
BTS (metro) to Mochit — or
Skytrain to Chatuchak Park



Chatuchak Weekend Market



Chatuchak Weekend Market



Chatuchak Weekend Market



Chatuchak Weekend Market



Chatuchak Weekend Market



Chatuchak Weekend Market



Chatuchak Weekend Market



Chatuchak Weekend Market



Chatuchak Weekend Market



Chatuchak Weekend Market



Chatuchak Weekend Market

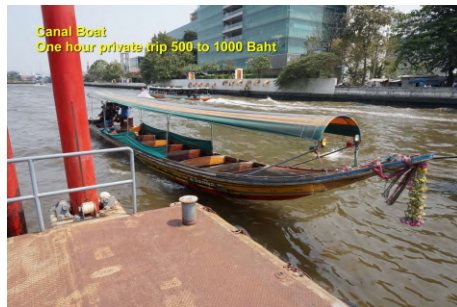


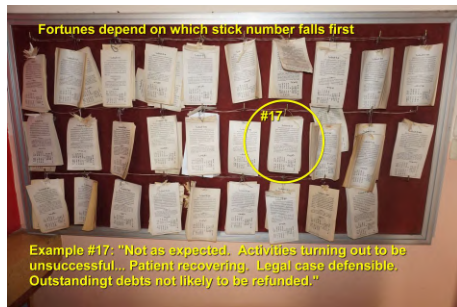
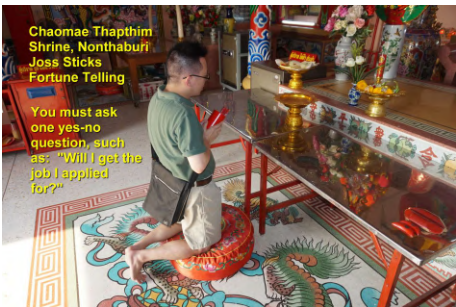
Chatuchak Weekend Market



Chatuchak Weekend Market









Siriraj Medical Museum



Oddly, Siriraj Hospital also has a Railway Museum



Chinatown Street Food - Sausages



Chinatown shop making pork floss
Pork is first stewed, then dried,
then shredded, then dry roasted in vat



Pork Floss - Topping for Soups,
Filling for Buns, Snack by Itself



Kwan Yim Temple
Chinatown - 1902



Kuan Yim Temple
Chinatown, 1902



Guangdong Clan House, Bangkok
Chinatown



Guangdong Clan House, Bangkok



Chinatown
Coffins for sale



Chinatown
Dried foods



Chinatown Restaurant Menu

Crocodile
Meat
Soup

Stir-fried
Crocodile and
Ostrich



Chinatown - Pomegranate Juice



Chinatown - grilled bananas



Chinatown - Fried Rice



Bangkok - Ride in a Tuk-tuk
Always negotiate the price before you get in!
100 to 150 Baht for most trips in center of town



Chinatown - Desserts



Chinatown - Street Food
Fruit vendor



Chinatown - Market



Chinatown Market
Crabs and Tiny Clams



Chinatown Market
Durians

ASK Smithsonian

Why Does the Durian Fruit Smell So Terrible?

Scientists examine what chemicals make the Asian fruit smell like "garbage and onions, garnished with a gym sock."



NO Durians allowed inside!



Chinatown Market
Grilled fish



Chinatown - Bangkok
Chua Tute Temple



Chinatown - Bangkok
Chua Tute Temple



Chinatown Market



Chinatown - Bangkok
Pork drying in the sun



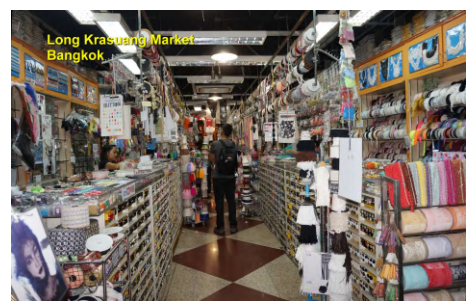
Chiu Ying Temple - Bangkok
Bhayangkara area



Chiu Ying Chinese Temple
Bangkok



Chiu Ying Chinese Temple
Bangkok





Museum of Siam
What are these trees?



Assumption Cathedral
Roman Catholic
Bangkok, 1919



Assumption Cathedral
Bangkok, 1919
Bangrak (Sathorn)
District



Traditional Thai Village
(near Golden Mount)



Traditional Thai Village



Traditional Thai Village



Traditional Thai Village



Young boy busking



Ministry of Defence
(British spelling)
Next to City
Pillar Shrine



Motorcycle
Brush
Seller



Thai Mail Box



Bangkok is a Shopper's Paradise



Bangkok is a Shopper's Paradise



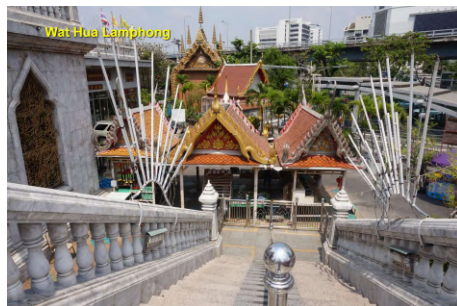
Bangkok Traffic



Squat Toilet

Water

Fill with water for flushing





Donating a coffin for the poor at Wat Hua Lamphong
These are simple coffins



Donating a coffin for poor at Wat Hua Lamphong
Write your personal details on paper, put glue on back



Donating a coffin for the poor at Wat Hua Lamphong
Glue paper onto coffin



Certificate for Coffin Donation
4 / 3 / 60
March 4, 2560



Wat Dibavavari Vihara



Wat Dibavavari Vihara



Wat Dibavavari Vihara



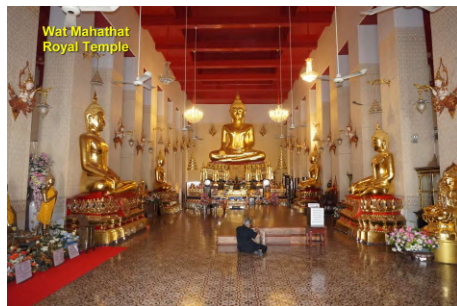
Wat Dibavavari Vihara



Wat Dibavavari Vihara



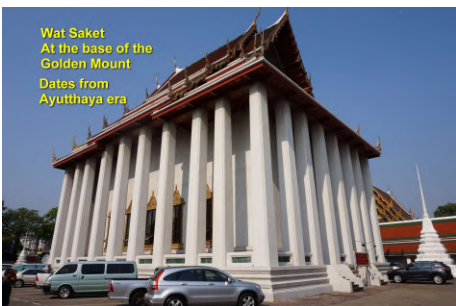
Wat Mahathat - 1700s



Wat Mahathat
Royal Temple



Wat Mahathat
Royal Temple



Wat Saket
At the base of the
Golden Mount
Dates from
Ayutthaya era



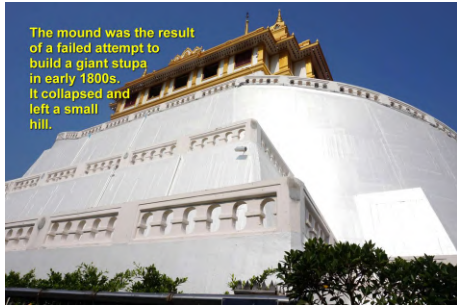
Wat Saket
Effigy of former
Head Monk



Wat Saket



Golden Mount
Wat Saket
Artificial hill



The mound was the result of a failed attempt to build a giant stupa in early 1800s. It collapsed and left a small hill.



Shrine at the base of the Golden Mount



Golden Mount - Wat Saket
300 steps



View from Golden Mount
New Wat Saket below



Shrine at top of Golden Mount



Wat Ratchanadda - 1846
(near Golden Mount)



Wat Ratchanadda
1846



Wat Ratchanadda



Wat Ratchanadda



The Loha Prasat (Metal Castle)
at Wat Ratchanadda
Early 19th century



The Loha Prasat (Metal Castle)
at Wat Ratchanadda



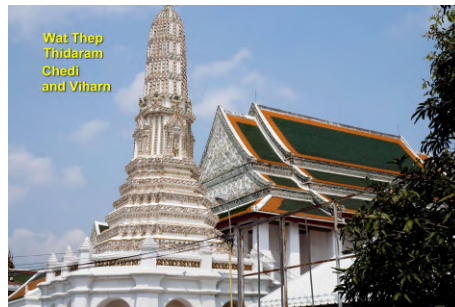
Wat Mangkon Kamalawat - 1871
Most important Chinese Buddhist temple in Bangkok



Wat Mangkon Kamalawat - 1871




Wat Mangkon Kamalawat
Offerings



Thai Cuisine

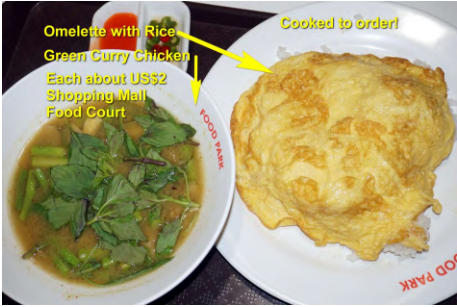
- Aromatic
- Spicy
- Sour or sweet
- Salty
- Bitter

Oh yes -- did I mention spicy?



Wikipedia:
"Seven of Thailand's popular dishes appeared on the list of the 'World's 50 Most Delicious Foods (Readers' Pick)' — a worldwide online poll of 35,000 people by CNN Travel. Thailand had more dishes on the list than any other country."







Coca Cola



McDonald's

McPork Porridge - US 90 cents

McChicken Porridge - US 90 cents



A Familiar Friend



Street Food
Salt-crusted
grilled fish
Will be served with
salad and sauces



Street Food
OK to eat grilled chicken, pork, sausage



Very good, if not elegant



Thai Breakfast Sweets



Thai "custards" for steamed breads

Ayutthaya
 About 80km north of Bangkok.
 Settled 1300s.
 Became a huge and prosperous trading city.
 By 1700, population of Ayutthaya was 1,000,000.
 — Largest city in the world!
 — Bigger than London, Paris, Rome.
 Ayutthaya was a warring state. Conquered many surrounding regions, including Sukkothal, Chiang Mai, Cambodia, Laos, and Malaysia.
 Ayutthaya and Burma had many wars.
 Finally Burma conquered Ayutthaya 1767.
 — Ayutthaya was completely destroyed.
 — Ruins are now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Wikipedia: "Largest cities throughout history"
 In 1700, Ayutthaya was the largest city in the world!

Year	City	Population
1500	Beijing	1,000,000
1550	Beijing	1,000,000
1600	Beijing	1,000,000
1650	Beijing	650,000
1700	Ayutthaya	1,000,000
1750	Ayutthaya	1,000,000
1800	Ayutthaya	1,000,000
1850	Ayutthaya	1,000,000
1900	Ayutthaya	1,000,000
1950	Ayutthaya	1,000,000
2000	Ayutthaya	1,000,000

Question: Why did Beijing drop from 1,000,000 in 1600 to 650,000 in 1700?
 Answer: The Plague

Brief History of Thailand - 2
Thonburi (1768 to 1782)
 One year after sacking of Ayutthaya, King Taksin retook Bangkok area and made Thonburi the Thai capital.
Bangkok (1782 to present)
 King Rama I moved capital to Bangkok. Built "City Pillar" (marker). Advantages of both Thonburi and later Bangkok were:
 — Military: Ability to defend against the Burmese.
 — Commercial: Nearness to sea trade ports.

Brief History of Thailand - 3 - Political History
 1238 to 1932: Thailand was an absolute monarchy. No parliament. King made the laws. Ruled with absolute power.
 1932 "Democratic revolution": First constitution. Thailand became a constitutional monarchy.
 1933 First military coup: First constitution was removed and replaced by a second one. It has been that way ever since! Uprisings by communists, poor people, students. Followed by military coups.
 Since 1932: Thailand has had 20 constitutions — an average of one roughly every four years — many adopted following military coups. Political instability. After each coup, military regimes cancelled constitutions and issued new ones.
 US has generally support the military coups because they brought stability.

The Thai Monarchy

Rama I (1737 – 1809):

- Founder and the first monarch of the reigning House of Chakri of Thailand.
- Ascended the throne in 1782.
- Founder of Rattanakosin, (now Bangkok) which became capital of the reunited kingdom in 1782.

Kings are revered in Thailand.

Lèse-majesté: Offense against the dignity of a reigning sovereign. Thai laws very strict:

"Whoever defames, insults or threatens the King, the Queen, the Heir-apparent or the Regent, shall be punished with imprisonment of three to fifteen years."

Kings of Thailand:

- Rama I, the Great:** 1782–1809, Phutthayotfa Chulalok (27 years)
- Rama II:** 1809–1824, Phutthaloetla Naphalai (15 years)
- Rama III:** 1824–1851, Nangklao (27 years)
- Rama IV:** 1851–1868, Mongkut (17 years)
- Rama V, the Great:** 1868–1910, Chulalongkorn (42 years)
- Rama VI:** 1910–1925, Vajiravudh (15 years)
- Rama VII:** 1925–1935, Prajadhipok (10 years)
- Rama VIII:** 1935–1946, Ananda Mahidol (11 years). When he became king he was 9 year old boy living in Switzerland. Died age 19 of gunshot in the Palace. Last person to visit him was his brother, who became King Bhumibol.
- Rama IX, the Great:** 1946–2016, Bhumibol Adulyadej (70 years)
- Rama X:** 2016–present, Maha Vajiralongkorn



King Bhumibol - Rama IX

King Bhumibol and then Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn

King Vajiralongkorn - Rama X



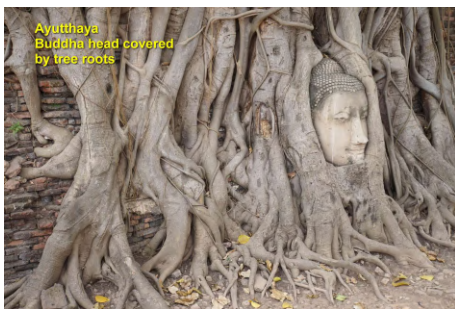
Ruins of Ayutthaya
Capital of Thailand
1350-1767
Sacked by Burma
Wat Mahathat



Ruins of Ayutthaya
UNESCO Heritage Site
About 50 miles
north of Bangkok



Ayutthaya
This kind of tower
is called a prang.
Wat Mahathat



Ayutthaya
Buddha head covered
by tree roots



Ayutthaya
Meditation Chamber



Ayutthaya
Wat Naphramane
1503

Not destroyed in 1767 because
Burmese used it as their army
headquarters



Ayutthaya
Wat Naphramane
1503



Ayutthaya
Wat Naphramane
1503

People stick thin
pieces of gold foil
in the statues for
good luck.



Wat Naphramane
Phra Khantharat Buddha
Around 1600
6 metres high



Ayutthaya
Reclining Buddha, 1500s
Wat Lokayasutharam
37 metres long, 8 metres high



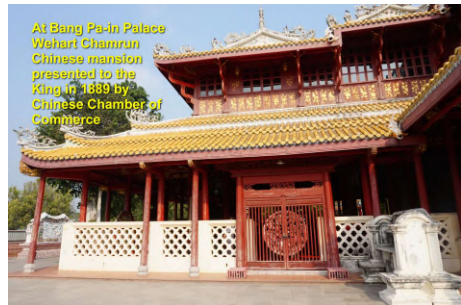
Ayutthaya
Wat Lokayasutharam



Lunch on two-hour river cruise
Ayutthaya to Bangkok

Bang Pa-in Royal Palace
Also called Summer Palace

- Ayutthaya Province
- Built 1632
- Fell into ruins in mid-1700s
- Restored late 1800s
- Used by Royal Family for special occasions

**Bangkok, Ayutthaya,
Bang Pa-in**

The End

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