

ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK

1-5 NOVEMBER

BANGKOK, THAILAND



CIVICUS HUB

25 Owl Street,
Auckland Park 2092,
Johannesburg, South Africa
PO Box 933, Southdale 2135,
Johannesburg, South Africa
Tel +27-11-833-5959
Fax +27-11-833-7997

info@civicus.org

1775 Eye Street
NW Suite 1150
Washington, DC 20006
Tel+1 202 331 8518
Fax+1 202 331 8774

ASIA DEMOCRACY NETWORK

Signature Tower West Wing
PO1026,
Cheonggyecheon-ro 100,
Jung-gu, Seoul, Korea (04542)

DN@adnasia.org

WELCOME PACK



**WELCOME TO
BANGKOK!**

Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK
1-5 NOVEMBER
BANGKOK, THAILAND

**WE'RE ABSOLUTELY DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU TO BANGKOK —
THE VIBRANT HEART OF THAILAND!**

We're thrilled that you'll be joining us for our Youth Assembly on 31 October and/or International Civil Society Week (ICSW) from 1–5 November 2025. This is set to be an inspiring week of connection, collaboration, and change-making — and we can't wait to share it with you.

This Welcome Pack has been designed to help all participants prepare for your time with us. Please take a few minutes to read through it carefully, as it includes essential information about:

- OUR CODE OF CONDUCT AND EVENT GUIDELINES
- TRAVEL PREPARATION AND ARRIVAL TIPS
- KEY LOGISTICS AND ON-SITE DETAILS
- PRACTICAL ADVICE ON CURRENCY, WEATHER, TRANSPORTATION, HEALTH, AND TOURIST ACTIVITIES DURING YOUR STAY IN BANGKOK

We hope this guide helps you feel confident, prepared, and excited for the unforgettable days ahead.

Welcome once again — we're so happy to have you here! 🌍 ✨

Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK
1-5 NOVEMBER
BANGKOK, THAILAND

1

CREATING A SAFE SPACE TO COME TOGETHER

ICSW 2025 is committed to promoting **diversity and inclusion**. We welcome participants regardless of race, colour, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, or disability. We are committed to creating a safe, respectful, and inclusive space for everyone, and are guided in this by our **CIVICUS Code of Conduct**, which is applicable to all registered participants throughout the event.



OUR SHARED VALUES IN ACTION

CIVICUS is committed to upholding the following values in our daily interactions:

- **Accountability:** Acting with integrity, transparency, and openness.
- **Diversity:** Embracing and respect differences across cultures, identities, and perspectives.
- **Inclusion:** Ensuring every voice is heard and respected.
- **Global solidarity:** Committing to collective action and fair and equitable power-sharing.
- **Systems change:** Challenging harmful systems and practices, including discrimination and patriarchy.

Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK
1-5 NOVEMBER
BANGKOK, THAILAND



GENERAL CONDUCT

We thus urge all those who engage with us to:

- Uphold the highest standards of ethical and professional behaviour.
- Respect others regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, and any other identity.
- Foster safe and inclusive spaces – online, in-person, and in partnerships.
- Avoid harmful behaviour, including harassment, bullying, discrimination, or abuse (verbal, physical, or digital), circulation of offensive or derogatory materials, misuse of power or privilege, and sexual harassment, exploitation, or abuse.

CIVICUS maintains a zero-tolerance policy for harassment, exploitation, abuse, and discrimination. Participants are expected to always uphold the highest standards of conduct and not engage in any behaviour that degrades or demeans anyone. CIVICUS will not be held liable in cases of arrest, detention, hospitalisation, or any legal or medical incidents arising from individual actions or non-compliance with local laws and regulations.



REPORTING CONCERNS

If you experience or witness behaviour that goes against our agreed Code of Conduct, please tell one of the ICSW event staff at the Help Desk or wearing a reflective vest. Alternatively, you can email conduct@civicus.org. We will handle all reports privately and make sure you feel safe and supported.

Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK
1-5 NOVEMBER
BANGKOK, THAILAND

2

AT A GLANCE: YOUR STAY IN BANGKOK



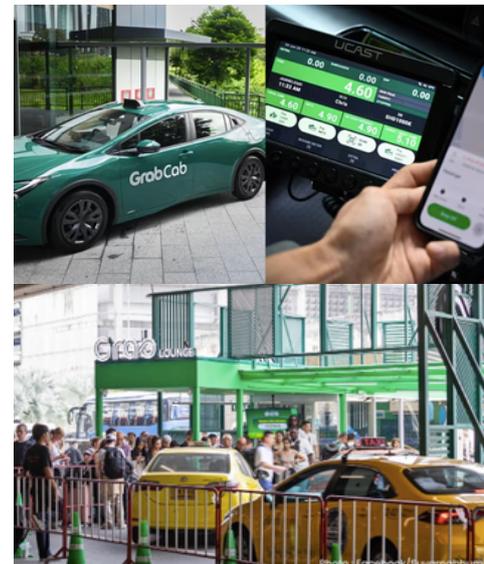
ARRIVING IN BANGKOK

Most travellers will arrive at **Suvarnabhumi International Airport**. You will need to get a **Bolt** or **Grab** rideshare or a **taxi** to your hotel. We recommend bringing a small amount of cash to cover this cost – the average fare from the airport to hotels near the event venue is ฿1250. (approximately USD 40). Other more affordable public transport options are detailed below.

For **Grab**, there are two designated pick-up areas right outside the airport on the 1st Floor (Arrivals). After exiting the arrival gates on the 2nd floor, take the escalator or elevator down to the 1st floor and exit the airport. Pickup Points A and B are in the parking area across the road behind the taxi rank and are clearly marked. These are the standard points you can indicate to your Grab driver for collection.

Taxis are available on Level 1 (Ground Floor). Make sure the driver uses the meter (starting fare: ฿35). Airport surcharges and tolls apply.

Look for the ICSW volunteers and signage at arrivals if you need assistance.



Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK
1-5 NOVEMBER
 BANGKOK, THAILAND



GETTING TO YOUR EVENT

The Youth Assembly will take place at **Mahidol University** on the 31 October (see map at the end of the Welcome Pack).

ICSW will take place at **Thammasat University** from the 1-4 November (see map at the end of the Welcome Pack).

Closed event venues on the 5 November will be advised by the organisers.

2025

November

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| ✓ ² | ✓ ³ | ✓ ⁴ | ✓ ⁵ | | | |



Shuttle buses will be available from the hotels in the mornings (0730am), and from the university venues in the evenings (1800pm). Schedules will be posted at the hotels.



Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK

1-5 NOVEMBER

BANGKOK, THAILAND

3

GETTING READY FOR YOUR TRIP

November is an ideal time to visit Bangkok, marking the start of the cool, dry season. Expect daytime temperatures around 32°C (90°F) and pleasant evenings near 23°C (73°F), with roughly eight hours of sunshine per day and only occasional light rain (about six days throughout the month).



WHAT TO PACK

To stay comfortable:

- Pack lightweight, breathable clothing. Bring a light layer for air-conditioned venues and cool evenings.
- Carry an umbrella or light rain jacket.
- A refillable water bottle is always a good idea.
- Don't forget essentials like toiletries and medication. Carry prescriptions for chronic medication.

The purchase or possession of cannabis in Thailand is restricted to those with a medical prescription. There are heavy penalties if you are found in possession without one. Please be mindful of this if you use CBD for pain/anxiety relief – bringing any of these products into Thailand is illegal.

- Pack an anti-diarrhoeal, anti-nausea, and travel probiotics just in case of **traveller's diarrhoea**. You can get these at a 7-Eleven or local pharmacy if needed.



Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK

1-5 NOVEMBER

BANGKOK, THAILAND



WHAT TO PACK

If you plan to explore the city:

- Slip-on shoes are convenient, as some temples and businesses require you to remove footwear.
- Carry a shawl or cover for your shoulders when visiting temples.
- Don't forget sunscreen and insect repellent.
- Consider bringing face masks, as Bangkok has moderate air pollution and is currently experiencing an [influenza outbreak](#) (see 'Staying safe' section). Sanitiser stations with face masks will be available at the venues.



ELECTRICAL OUTLETS

Thailand uses **Type A, B, and C plugs** with a standard voltage of 220V and a frequency of 50Hz.

- Type A and B are similar to US-style plugs, while Type C is European-style.
- Most modern hotels and venues accept multiple plug types.
- If your devices are not dual voltage (common in the US at 110V), bring a voltage converter along with an adapter.



Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK
1-5 NOVEMBER
BANGKOK, THAILAND



WHAT TO PACK

Travel essentials checklist

- Passport valid for at least 6 months.
- Printed flight itinerary and hotel confirmation.
- Visa and [digital arrival card](#) (to be completed 3 days in advance of arrival).
- Health/travel insurance certificate.
- Relevant vaccination cards, for example if you are travelling from or through a [Yellow Fever-affected area](#), you may need to show your vaccination certificate.
- Emergency contacts saved on your phone.
- Adapter and charger.
- E-sim or local sim for data.

Keep copies of all key documents stored securely online and offline.



Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK

1-5 NOVEMBER

BANGKOK, THAILAND

4

CURRENCY AND MONEY EXCHANGE



You may wish to exchange a small amount of currency before your travel, or after you arrive in Bangkok. Thailand's official currency is the Thai Baht (THB).

- Banknotes: ฿20 (green), ฿50 (blue), ฿100 (red), ฿500 (purple), and ฿1,000 (grey).
-
- Coins: ฿1, ฿2, ฿5, and ฿10 denominations are commonly used.

We recommend carrying at least ฿500–฿1,000 (\$13–\$27USD) in small notes each day for convenience.



CREDIT CARDS AND CASH USE

Credit and debit cards (Visa, Mastercard, UnionPay, JCB) are widely accepted at hotels, shopping malls, major restaurants, and tourist attractions.

However, cash is still essential for:

- Street food stalls and night markets.
- Small local restaurants and cafés.
- Local transportation (tuk-tuks, motorcycle taxis, songthaews).
- Certain temples or small entrance fees.



Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK

1-5 NOVEMBER

BANGKOK, THAILAND



CURRENCY EXCHANGE

Thailand has a strong network of reliable and competitive money changers. The most popular include:



SUPERRICH THAILAND
(ORANGE OR GREEN BRANCHES)
Typically offers the best exchange rates



VASU EXCHANGE
NEAR NANA BTS)
Long-established and trusted.



SIAM EXCHANGE
Good central location and fair rates.

Major banks (Bangkok Bank, Kasikorn Bank, Siam Commercial Bank [SCB], Krungthai Bank) also provide exchange services. Their rates are slightly less favourable than private exchanges but are safe and transparent.

Banking hours: Monday–Friday, 0830am – 1530pm (some branches in malls stay open until 1900pm–2000pm.)

⚠️ Avoid exchanging money at airports, hotels, or unlicensed vendors to get a good rate and prevent fraudulent transactions.



ATM

ATMs are everywhere in Bangkok and throughout Thailand. They usually provide better rates than exchange counters, but most charge a foreign withdrawal fee:

- ฿220 (≈ US \$6) for most Thai banks
- ฿150 (≈ US \$4) at Aeon Bank ATMs
- (lower fee, but a ฿20,000 limit per transaction)

ATM tips:

- 🏠 Use ATMs inside banks or malls for better security.
- 💰 Withdraw larger amounts less frequently to reduce fees.
- ❌ Decline the “Dynamic Currency Conversion” offer — always choose to be charged in Thai Baht (THB), not your home currency.
- 📄 Keep receipts and check withdrawal limits before confirming transactions.

- ✓ EXCHANGE A SMALL AMOUNT AT THE AIRPORT (JUST ENOUGH FOR YOUR FIRST TAXI AND MEAL).
- ✓ USE SUPERRICH OR VASU EXCHANGE ONCE YOU REACH THE CITY FOR THE BEST RATES.
- ✓ KEEP SMALL BILLS FOR TAXIS AND FOOD STALLS — MANY VENDORS DON'T HAVE CHANGE FOR LARGE NOTES.

Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK

1-5 NOVEMBER

BANGKOK, THAILAND

5 ARRIVING IN BANGKOK



Bangkok has two main international airports — both well connected to the city and easy to navigate:



SUVARNABHUMI AIRPORT (BKK)

Main international airport — about 30 km from the city centre. Most international flights arrive here.

Travellers are advised to organise their own transport to their hotel using either Grab or Bolt. Other options are also shared below to get to the city:

-  **Grab or Bolt (Rideshare Apps):** Book through the app; Bolt is often slightly cheaper, but Grab is more widely available.
-  **Taxi:** Available on Level 1 (Ground Floor). Make sure the driver uses the meter (starting fare: ฿35). Airport surcharges and tolls apply.
-  **Airport Rail Link (ARL):** Fast and affordable train to Phaya Thai BTS Station (connects to the Skytrain). Trains run roughly 0600am – midnight.



DON MUEANG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (DMK)

Serves budget airlines and domestic flights, around 21 km from the city centre.

Travellers are advised to organise their own transport to their hotel using either Grab or Bolt, other options are also shared below to get to the city:

-  **Taxi / Grab / Bolt:** The fastest and easiest option if you have luggage or arrive late at night.
-  **SRT Dark Red Line:** Walk 10–15 minutes from the terminal to Don Mueang Station, then take the train to Bang Sue Grand Station for MRT and BTS transfers.



Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK
1-5 NOVEMBER
BANGKOK, THAILAND

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (AS OF 2025)



- **Digital Arrival Card (TDAC):** Starting 1 May 2025, all travellers must complete the Thailand Digital Arrival Card online within 3 days before arrival. ✉️ Apply via the **official website** only.



- **Passport:** Must be valid for at least 6 months after your arrival date.
- **Visa:** Most visitors can stay up to 30 days visa-free, but please confirm based on your nationality.



- **Vaccination certificates:** If you are travelling through or from a Yellow Fever affected country, please bring your vaccination certificate.



ARRIVAL ASSISTANCE

CIVICUS staff and volunteers will be stationed at Suvarnabhumi Airport on 30–31 October to welcome you and assist with transportation to your hotel. Look for the CIVICUS sign in the arrivals hall. If you can't find our team, and need assistance, contact icsw@civicus.org.

Keep your passport, visa, and hotel booking in your hand luggage — you may be asked to show them several times before exiting the airport.



IMMIGRATION

Before you travel, print and carry:

- Thailand Digital Arrival Card (TDAC) confirmation
- Invitation letter
- Travel insurance
- Flight ticket (return)
- Hotel booking confirmation

You may need to present these documents to immigration officers on arrival.

Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK

1-5 NOVEMBER

BANGKOK, THAILAND



LOST LUGGAGE OR FLIGHT DELAYS

If your luggage is delayed or missing, visit the Airline Baggage Service Counter before leaving the arrivals area.

It's always a good idea to carry a spare set of clothes and basic toiletries in case of lost or delayed luggage. There are also shops and 7-Elevens near the hotels to buy basic supplies if needed.



SIM CARD AND CONNECTIVITY

For easy mobile connectivity, consider purchasing an **eSIM** before your trip through providers like Airolo. This allows you to have data ready as soon as you arrive. Make sure your phone is eSIM-compatible.

Buying a Thai SIM card is quick and affordable. True will be offering very discounted sim cards to ICSW participants, that will be available at the airport when people arrive, and at the venue - and you won't have to show your ID/Passport to buy.

true 5G CIVICUS

Your Travel Must-Have
New! Eco Travel SIM

7-days validity
for Only 249 Baht

Special Price
180 bath

Internet Max Speed*
35 GB

WiFi
Free

Pick up Sim Card

Name Store : 4Wifi
Suvarnabhumi Airport
4th floor Gate4

Pay Cash Only

Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK

1-5 NOVEMBER

BANGKOK, THAILAND

6 MEALS



Breakfast is provided by most hotels. **Lunch** and **free flowing tea, coffee and water** will be provided at the event venue (Mahidol University for Youth Assembly or Thammasat University for ICSW).

Bangkok is considered the street food capital of the world. If a street vendor has local customers, you can usually trust that it's safe. Look for stalls with high turnover and freshly cooked food.

There are many excellent restaurants near the event venue in Pinklao area. We have curated 10 affordable / local-favorite restaurants, malls or markets in or around Pinklao with addresses or notes to help you find them. (Note: "affordable" in Bangkok context means mid-to-cheap, not always ultra-cheap street food.)



| NAME | HIGHLIGHTS | APPROX PRICE RANGE (THB->USD) | LOCATION |
|--|--|-------------------------------|---|
| ครัวจาร์ฮอ (Khrua Jarn-Oh) | Local Thai / Isaan food (rice plates, curries) | ฿40-80 → \$1.10-\$2.20 | Under Lumpini Condo Pinklao, opposite Central Pinklao |
| ตะบันตำ ต้าถาด บันสิ้อโลก บันเกล้า (Taban Tam – Tam Thad Bunnlealok) | Isaan food / spicy salads / ต้าถาด platters | ฿60-120 → \$1.60-\$3.20 | Near Borommaratchachonnani Rd., short walk from Central Pinklao |
| ส.หมูจุ่ม บันเกล้า (S. Moo Joom Pinklao) | Thai-style hotpot / grill | ฿100-200 → \$2.70-\$5.40 | Opens around 4:45 PM, casual open-air vibe |
| Jade Garden บันเกล้า (Jade Garden Pinklao) | Chinese / dim sum / family dining | ฿100-250 → \$2.70-\$6.80 | On the way to Rama VIII Bridge, near Pinklao area |
| Kumpoon – Central Pinklao | Thai restaurant (mall dining) | ฿120-200 → \$3.20-\$5.40 | Inside Central Pinklao, upper floors |
| MK Restaurants – Central Pinklao | Thai suki / hotpot chain | ฿150-250 → \$4.00-\$6.80 | Inside Central Pinklao Mall |
| Hongmin – Central Plaza Pinklao | Chinese / dim sum / Cantonese | ฿150-250 → \$4.00-\$6.80 | Inside Central Pinklao Mall |
| สุกี้ตีน้อย (Suki Tee Noi) – The Sense Pinklao | All-you-can-eat suki / shabu | ฿259-299 → \$7.00-\$8.10 | The Sense Pinklao (small community mall nearby) |
| บุญตงกี้ (Boontongkee) – Central Pinklao | Hainanese chicken rice / Chinese-Thai | ฿100-180 → \$2.70-\$4.90 | Inside Central Pinklao Mall |

Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK

1-5 NOVEMBER

BANGKOK, THAILAND

STREET FOOD AND MARKETS



| PLACE | OVERVIEW | TYPICAL PRICE RANGE (THB → USD) |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| Indy Market Pinklao | Big night market , tons of street food, desserts, and local snacks. | ฿30–80 → \$0.80–\$2.20 |
| Lotus's Pinklao Food Court | Local-style food court inside Tesco Lotus | ฿40–70 → \$1.10–\$1.90 |
| Food Park – Central Pinklao (5th floor) | Clean, air-conditioned food court in mall | ฿50–100 → \$1.40–\$2.70 |



TIPS AND ADDITIONAL SPOTS



✓ **THE SENSE PINKLAO MALL HAS A CLUSTER OF RESTAURANTS (8+ OPTIONS) INCLUDING THE ONES LISTED ABOVE LIKE SUKI TEE NOI, ETC. SEE: [RYOIIREVIEW.COM](https://ryoiireview.com)**

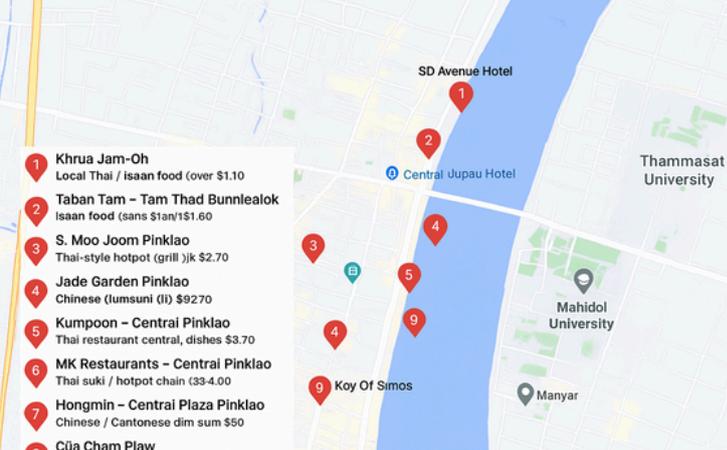
 **ON BOROMMARATCHACHONNANI ROAD AND AROUND THE SIDE ALLEYS, YOU'LL FIND MANY SMALL LOCAL THAI FOOD/NOODLE SHOPS THAT DON'T ALWAYS MAKE BIG LISTINGS BUT ARE EXCELLENT FOR CHEAP EATS.**

 **WHEN IN A MALL LIKE CENTRAL PINKLAO OR MAJOR PINKLAO, HEAD TO THE FOOD COURT LEVELS (FOOD PARK, ETC.) FOR THE WIDEST AND CHEAPEST RANGE.**

 **TO STAY HYDRATED, WE RECOMMEND DRINKING BOTTLED WATER. ALTHOUGH TAP WATER IS TREATED ACCORDING TO WHO STANDARDS, PIPES CAN BE OLD AND DIRTY, LEADING TO CONTAMINATION. FOR VISITORS, BOTTLED WATER IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**

You can bring or purchase hydration powder (available at 7-Eleven stores) to help manage the heat and humidity. We will have waterpoints at the event venue to refill bottles.

MAP OF EVENT VENUES, ACCOMMODATION, AND LOCAL FOOD OPTIONS



Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK

1-5 NOVEMBER

BANGKOK, THAILAND

7

EXPLORING BANGKOK

Bangkok's traffic can be challenging, but the city's public transportation system is modern, affordable, and covers most major areas.

For any exploring you wish to do, here's how to move around efficiently:



MASS TRANSIT SYSTEMS

BTS Skytrain (elevated train): The BTS is clean, safe, fast, air-conditioned, and one of the best ways to avoid traffic. It connects many key downtown destinations, shopping areas, and business districts.

MRT (underground metro): Opened in 2004 and continually expanding, the MRT complements the BTS by serving additional neighbourhoods and linking to major transport hubs.

Both systems operate daily from 0600am to midnight. They are separate networks, so you'll need to buy a new ticket or tap card when transferring between them.

Major interchange stations include:

- BTS Asok ↔ MRT Sukhumvit
- BTS Sala Daeng ↔ MRT Si Lom
- BTS Mo Chit ↔ MRT Chatuchak Park

Payment options:

- *For the MRT, tap in and out with a credit/debit card or buy single-trip tokens at vending machines.*
- *For the BTS, you can purchase a Rabbit Card (rechargeable) online or at any station to save time queuing.*



Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK
1-5 NOVEMBER
BANGKOK, THAILAND



BOATS ON THE CHAO PHRAYA RIVER

Bangkok's river boats are scenic, affordable, and often faster than taxis during rush hour.

The Chao Phraya Express Boat runs between 0600am and 1900pm, stopping at piers roughly every 10 minutes during peak times.

- *Look for the blue flag boats — these are ideal for tourists, offering hop-on hop-off service at the main sightseeing stops (such as Wat Arun, Wat Pho, and the Grand Palace).*



RIDESHARE AND TAXIS

Grab or Bolt (Rideshare Apps): Book through the app; Bolt is often slightly cheaper, but Grab is more widely available.

- *Taxis are plentiful, but it's best to insist on the meter being used to avoid overcharging.*



HELPFUL RESOURCE

For detailed maps, fare guides, and connection routes, visit [TransitBangkok.com](https://www.transitbangkok.com) — a comprehensive guide to all of Bangkok's public transportation options.

Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK

1-5 NOVEMBER

BANGKOK, THAILAND



TIPPING

Tipping is not mandatory in Thailand but is appreciated for good service:

- Many restaurants automatically include a 10% service charge on the bill. For additional gratuity, small tips of 20-50 THB are welcome at restaurants and bars. At street food stalls, tipping is not expected.
- For services like massage, hotel housekeeping, or tour guides, 50-100 THB is appropriate.
- Taxi and rideshare drivers do not expect tips, but you can round up the fare.



LOCAL ETIQUETTE

Beyond dressing modestly at temples, be aware of these important customs:

- Remove your shoes when entering homes, some restaurants and temple buildings.
- The traditional Thai greeting is the 'wai' (hands pressed together with a slight bow) and while not required from foreigners, it is appreciated when greeting older people or in formal situations.
- Pointing feet toward people or Buddha images is considered rude, as is touching someone's head.
- Public displays of affection should be minimal.
- Show respect during the daily national anthem played at 0800am and 1800pm in public spaces.



CULTURAL EVENTS

On 6 November, a major cultural festival, the Thai Festival of Lights, [Loy Krathong Festival](#), takes place to honour the Goddess of Water. It involves releasing beautiful lotus-shaped baskets with candles and flowers onto rivers.

[Lumpini Park](#) is the best place for Loy Krathong, offering a peaceful setting. Other key locations include Asiatique - Riverfront with cultural shows, and the [Chao Phraya River](#). Taking a cruise on the river is a nice way to enjoy the festival, and you can visit famous temples such as [Wat Arun](#), [Wat Saket](#), [Wat Pariwat](#), or [Wat Yannawa](#) to release Krathongs into the Chao Phraya River.

Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK

1-5 NOVEMBER

BANGKOK, THAILAND



TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

- [Grand Palace](#) at Na Phra Lan Road, Phra Borom Maha Ratchawang, Phra Nakhon.
- The [Giant Swing](#) in the middle of the busy square in front of [Wat Suthat](#) is one of Bangkok's most eye-catching sights, standing at 27m high.
- [Wat Arun's](#) towering silhouette is one of the most recognised in Southeast Asia.
- Check out the [National Museum and Wang Na Palace](#) at Na Phra That Road.
- [Chatuchak Market](#) is the largest in the world, with 15 000 stalls. Open from Wednesday to Sunday.



NIGHTLIFE

- [Khao San Road](#) is one of the most popular for bars, places to eat, nightclubs, live music, and massages.
- For the music enthusiasts, [Royal City Avenue](#) is the place to be.
- [Ekkamai](#) is quickly becoming known as one of Bangkok's hipster hangouts.

Beware of drink spiking: Only drink at reputable, licensed premises, and never leave your drink unattended. Stay with people you trust in bars/night clubs. Seek urgent medical attention if you think someone has been drugged.

Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK

1-5 NOVEMBER

BANGKOK, THAILAND

SHOPPING

Shopping malls are everywhere around the city but for a unique experience, don't miss out on a trip to the markets:

- Floating markets are [Taling Chan Market](#), [Bang Ku Wiang Market](#), [Tha Kha](#), and [Damnoen Saduak](#).
- [Khao San](#), [Patpong](#), [Talad Rot Fai Market](#) are all night markets.
- [Pratu Nam](#) is well-known among locals as the wholesale fashion district, or for a 'cool' place to shop, look no further than [Siam Square](#). There's also nothing quite like Bangkok's [ChinaTown](#).



TAXIS MAY BE DIFFERENT COLOURS, BUT THEY ALL CHARGE THE SAME, THOUGH IF YOU ASK ANY BANGKOKIAN THEY PROBABLY HAVE THEIR OWN THEORIES ABOUT WHICH COLOUR IS THE 'BEST'.

BANGKOK IS ORIENTED AROUND MAJOR STREETS AND CANALS.



YOU ARE NEVER MORE THAN A BLOCK AWAY FROM AN ATM.

SUSHI IS AS EASY TO FIND AS PAD THAI BUT BE BRAVE AND TRY SOME OF THE LOCAL DISHES - 'PET' = SPICY AND 'MAI PET' = NOT SPICY. 'AROY' = DELICIOUS!

YOU MUST TRY THE STREET FOOD! FAVOURITES INCLUDE COCONUT PUDDING, THE GRILLED MEAT SKEWER OF YOUR CHOOSING, BANANA ROTI, DEEP-FRIED INSECTS, OR A CRISPY OYSTER OMELETTE.

IF YOU LIKE MESSAGES, YOU CAN GET ANYTHING FROM 100-BAHT-PER-HOUR REFLEXOLOGY TO DAY PACKAGES THAT COST HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS. TRY THE GOWABI APP FOR DISCOUNTED SPA TREATMENT BOOKINGS.



Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK

1-5 NOVEMBER

BANGKOK, THAILAND

8

USEFUL TRAVEL PHRASES FOR BANGKOK

Thai people really appreciate when visitors try a few local words, even simple ones like Sawatdee and Khorb koon. We have curated a list of key phrases and when to use them to help you navigate your visit. And don't forget to smile — it's considered part of communication in Thailand! 😊

| ENGLISH PHRASE | THAI TRANSLATION | NOTES |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Hello / Hi (Male Speaker) | Sawatdee krup (สวัสดีครับ) | Men end phrases with krup (polite particle) |
| Hello / Hi (Female Speaker) | Sawatdee kaa (สวัสดีค่ะ) | Women end phrases with kaa |
| How are you? | Sabai dee reu? (สบายดีหรือ?) | A friendly greeting |
| I'm fine, thank you. | Sabai dee, khorb koon. (สบายดี ขอขอบคุณ) | |
| What is your name? | Khun chue arai? (คุณชื่ออะไร?) | |
| My name is... | Phom chue... (ผมชื่อ...) - male / Chan chue... (ฉันชื่อ...) - female | |
| Thank you | Khorb koon krup/kaa (ขอบคุณครับ/ค่ะ) | |
| Goodbye | La-gon (ลาก่อน) | Often replaced with "Sawatdee krup/kaa" again |
| Yes / No | Chai (ใช่) / Mai chai (ไม่ใช่) | |
| Excuse me / Sorry | Kor toht krup/kaa (ขอโทษครับ/ค่ะ) | Use when bumping into someone or getting attention |
| How much is this? | Ra-ka tao-rai? (ราคาเท่าไร?) | Useful when shopping |
| Too expensive! | Paeng mak! (แพงมาก!) | Common and friendly bargaining phrase |
| Can you give me a discount? | Lot noi dai mai? (ลดหน่อยได้ไหม?) | Said politely when bargaining |





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK

1-5 NOVEMBER

BANGKOK, THAILAND

USEFUL TRAVEL PHRASES FOR BANGKOK

| ENGLISH PHRASE | THAI TRANSLATION | NOTES |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Where is the bathroom? | Hong nam yoo tee nai? (ห้องน้ำอยู่ที่ไหน?) | |
| I would like this one. | Ao an-nee krup/kaa (เอาอันนี้ครับ/ค่ะ) | <i>Use when ordering or pointing</i> |
| Delicious! | Aroi mak! (อร่อยมาก!) | <i>Great for food stalls and restaurants</i> |
| Not spicy, please. | Mai phet krup/kaa (ไม่เผ็ดครับ/ค่ะ) | <i>Useful if you can't handle spicy food</i> |
| A little spicy. | Phet nit noy (เผ็ดนิดหน่อย) | |
| Where is...? | ... yoo tee nai? (...อยู่ที่ไหน?) | <i>e.g., Wat Arun yoo tee nai? (Where is Wat Arun?)</i> |
| Help! / Please help me! | Chuay duay! (ช่วยด้วย!) | <i>Emergency use only</i> |
| I don't understand. | Mai kao jai krup/kaa (ไม่เข้าใจครับ/ค่ะ) | |
| Do you speak English? | Khun poot pasa ang-grit dai mai? (คุณพูดภาษาอังกฤษได้ไหม?) | |

Add krup (ครับ) if you're male or kaa (ค่ะ) if you're female — this makes any sentence polite.



ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK

1-5 NOVEMBER

BANGKOK, THAILAND

9

STAYING SAFE DURING YOUR VISIT



GENERAL SAFETY

Bangkok is considered a very safe city for tourists. Violent crime against foreigners is extremely rare, and Thai people are known for being kind, helpful, and polite. Catcalling and street harassment are uncommon, as such behaviour goes against Thai cultural norms.



CULTURAL RESPECT

- Dress modestly, especially when visiting temples or religious sites (shoulders and knees covered).
- It is essential to always show the utmost respect to the Thai Royal Family. Any form of criticism or negative remarks about the monarchy is strictly prohibited by law and carries severe penalties. Participants and team members should be reminded not to make comments, jokes, or gestures that could be perceived as disrespectful.
- Thai people generally prefer not to engage in political discussions as criticism of the government can lead to serious legal consequences.
- Conversations related to Thailand's relations with neighbouring countries—particularly Cambodia—as well as issues concerning refugees or the situation in Myanmar are considered sensitive subjects that may cause discomfort or offence.
- Always be calm and courteous; public arguments or displays of anger are frowned upon.



TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

Traffic in Bangkok is heavy, and road safety is the most significant risk for visitors.

- Exercise caution when crossing streets — motorbikes may drive through red lights or on sidewalks.
- For Tuk-Tuks, always agree on the fare before your ride. A short trip within central Bangkok typically costs no more than 120 THB.

Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK

1-5 NOVEMBER

BANGKOK, THAILAND



HEALTH AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Pharmacies: These are widely available throughout Bangkok, including international chains such as Boots and Watson's, which stock common medications. Most pharmacists speak basic English and can assist with minor ailments. If you require prescription medication, please bring an adequate supply, as specific brands may not be available locally.

During event hours: The Thammasat University Medical Centre will be available to assist ICSW participants during business hours. For directions, please see the map at the end of the Welcome Pack, visit the ICSW Help Desk at the event, or contact the centre directly: ☎ +66 2 926 9999 or + 66 2 564 4440-59 (ext. 1274, 1275, 1999).

There is also the Thammasat Virtual Clinic, an online telemedicine platform for basic consultations. ICSW participants can check with the Help Desk for assistance in connecting with Thammasat's on-campus medical team during the event.

After hours and emergencies: Bangkok has several private hospitals with English-speaking staff, offering high-quality medical care and modern facilities (a list near the SD Avenue Hotel is shared below). In case of an emergency or if medical attention is needed outside of event hours, you will be able to access excellent healthcare services.

Before visiting any medical facility, please notify your travel insurer (if possible) to confirm that the facility is pre-approved under your coverage.



THONBURI HOSPITAL (APPROXIMATELY 3 KM / 10 MINUTES BY CAR)

34/1 ITSARAPHAP ROAD, BANGKOK NOI
TEL: 02-487-2000

A PRIVATE HOSPITAL OFFERING 24-HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICES WITH FULL FACILITIES AND ENGLISH-SPEAKING STAFF.



CHAO PHRAYA HOSPITAL (APPROXIMATELY 3 KM / 10 MINUTES BY CAR)

85 SOMDEJ PHRA PINKLAO ROAD, ARUN AMARIN
TEL: 02-433-5666

PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL SERVICES AND 24-HOUR EMERGENCY CARE.



BANGKOK INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL

2 SOI SOONVIJAI 7 NEW PETCHBURI ROAD BANGKAPI,
HUAY KHWANG
TEL: +66 (2) 310 3000 OR 1719



SUKHUMVIT HOSPITAL

1411 SUKUMVIT ROAD (EKKAMAI BTS STATION) PRAKANONG NUA,
WATTANA DISTRICT
TEL: +66 (2) 391 0011

Please note that local Thai medical clinics (เวชกรรมคลินิก) are generally not ideal for urgent cases, as most close around 1700-1800pm, often have long queues, and lack emergency or inpatient facilities. They may also not be covered by your travel insurance.

Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK

1-5 NOVEMBER

BANGKOK, THAILAND

DENGUE FEVER



- Dengue fever is common in Bangkok, especially during the rainy season (May–October).
- It spreads through mosquito bites, mainly from *Aedes* mosquitoes that bite during the day.

Prevention:

- ✓ Use insect repellent with DEET or picaridin on exposed skin.
- ✓ Wear long sleeves and pants, preferably light-coloured clothing.
- ✓ Stay in air-conditioned or screened rooms; use mosquito nets if needed.
- ✓ Empty or cover containers holding standing water (flower pots, buckets, etc.).

If you feel unwell

⚠ **Symptoms:** high fever, headache, muscle/joint pain, rash, nausea, or fatigue.

- **Take paracetamol** (acetaminophen) for fever or pain.
- **Avoid aspirin or ibuprofen** (they can increase **bleeding risk**).
- **Drink plenty of fluids and seek medical care if symptoms worsen** (e.g. persistent vomiting, bleeding, or severe abdominal pain).

Protect yourself from mosquito bites — it's the most effective way to prevent dengue.

INFLUENZA ALERT



- There has been a sharp rise in influenza cases due to seasonal weather changes (end of rainy season to winter). It spreads through coughing, sneezing, or contact with droplets from infected individuals. Common symptoms include high fever, cough, sore throat, runny/stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue, and sometimes vomiting or diarrhoea. You can have influenza without a fever.

Prevention:

- ✓ Avoid close contact with sick people. If ill, stay isolated for at least 24 hours after your fever ends.
- ✓ Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing; dispose of tissues properly.
- ✓ Wear a mask to protect yourself and others.
- ✓ Wash hands often with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitiser.
- ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- ✓ Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- ✓ Ensure good ventilation indoors.
- ✓ Get enough rest and maintain a healthy immune system.
- ✓ Supplements (e.g., vitamins, zinc) can support but not replace these measures.

Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK

1-5 NOVEMBER

BANGKOK, THAILAND



WHEN TO SEEK MEDICAL HELP

High-risk groups should seek prompt care if symptoms develop:

- Adults 65+
- People with chronic conditions (asthma, heart disease, lung disease, weak immune system)
- Ensure good ventilation indoors.
- Get enough rest and maintain a healthy immune system.
- Supplements (e.g., vitamins, zinc) can support but not replace these measures.

| SERVICE | DESCRIPTION | WHEN TO CALL |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Thai Emergency Services | Police: 191, Medical: 1669 | Immediate emergency response |
| Tourist Police | 1155 | Foreigner-specific police assistance |
| Embassy Network | Participant home country embassies – ask at the Help Desk for the contact list. | Diplomatic support and protection |
| Legal Support | Thai Legal Network (Partners) | Immediate legal guidance |
| Medical Facilities | Local Hospitals and clinics (see list above) | Medical emergency response |
| Security Services | Professional security firm provided by University. | Event security coordination |

Co-organised by





ICSW 2025

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK

1-5 NOVEMBER

BANGKOK, THAILAND

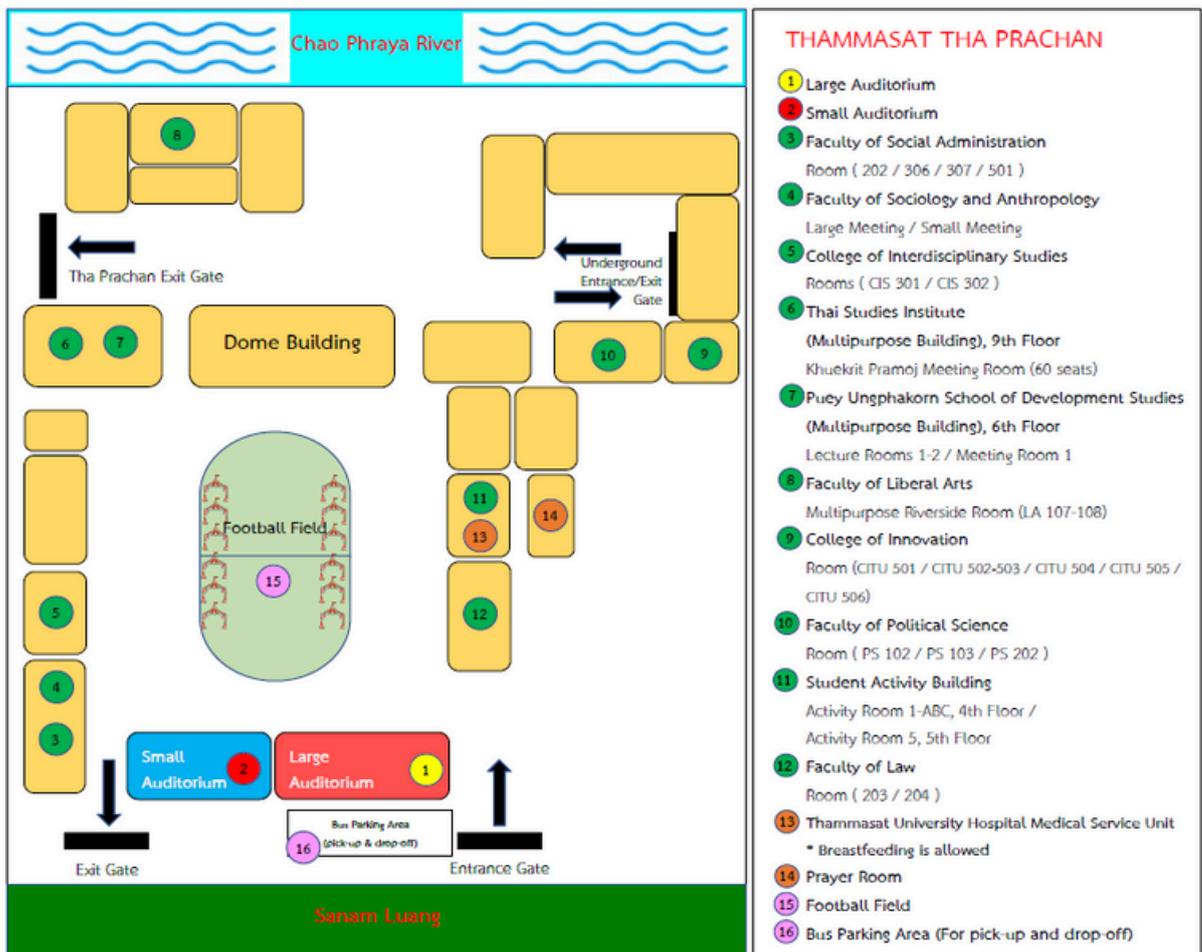
10

EVENT PROGRAMME AND MAP

The event programme and maps can be accessed via the [Whova event App](#) (scroll down on the site page to find the link), or on [our website](#). Please download and check Whova for the most up-to-date programme information.

Maps are provided for easy reference below.

MAP OF THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY VENUES



Co-organised by





**ENJOY
YOUR
EXPERIENCE!**

ICSW 2025
INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK
1-5 NOVEMBER
BANGKOK, THAILAND

Co-organised by

