

Getting Around

To TCIS

An aircon bus is provided to teachers in Thana City. Pick up time is 6:30 am and 3:45 pm. It takes about 10 minutes to commute from Thana City to school. You may also take a metered taxi for about 65 baht or two trips to and at Bangplee market on motorcycle taxi for 40 baht.

Back to Thana City

Tell the taxi driver “*Thana City, Bangna Trad, kilomet sip see.*” Also if you get lost in the city, take a taxi to some place where you know how to get back home (i.e. skytrain, Secon Square, Central Bangna, etc.)

Skytrain

The newest form of transportation is the BTS Skytrain **or rot fai far**. Fare is from 20 – 40 baht per person. Tickets are easy to buy from machines with English instructions. You can also break paper money at the change booth. Or get a multi-trip ticket (250 – 300 baht) which is good for at least 10 trips for one month and brings down the average price of a trip. The skytrain is a convenient way to get from specific places to other specific places, however, the skytrain's scope is somewhat limited. Often a combination of taxi and skytrain is the best transportation choice. BTS also offers a free shuttle bus to On Nut sky train station from behind Central Bangna, which operates until about 11 pm. Free shuttle bus passes are available with any multi trip ticket.

Taxis

Taxis and private cars share the road with motorcycles, tuk-tuks, busses, bicycles, and even an occasional elephant (though the elephant is generally not a form of transportation). Taxis, allow about 100 baht for trips to / from Central Bangna / Seacon Square, or about 60 baht from

Lotus. Tuk – tuks are dangerous, (not stable) smelly, loud, open to traffic fumes and as expensive as air con taxis. They are for tourists only, avoid them as regular transport, they are also being phased out.

River Taxis

These are a cheap and great way to explore a side of Bangkok, that you might not otherwise see. Take the sky train to Saphan Taksin, there is a river boat stop right near the station. The boats come every few minutes and cruise up the Chao Phraya past the Royal Palace & Wat Phra Kew and Banglampoo (Kao San Rd.) as far as Koh Kret, which has some art communities and is worth a day trip. There is also a cheap boat along the *klong* (canal) from Banglampoo (near Democracy Monument on Ratchdamnern Rd.) past Pantip Plaza & World Trade Center, runs east – west parallel to Petchaburi Rd. to Bang Kapi and Srinakarin Rd. On Sundays and public holidays, boats run from the pier behind the Royal Palace, to the summer palace in Bang Pa – In, via the Queen Sirikit handicraft center for the handicapped. Makes a great whole day trip, or from Bang Pa – In, it is only a short ride to Ayutthaya.

Vans

These are long distance commuter transport for office workers etc. Look for the blue and green BMTA logo on the doors. They are fast, fairly cheap, depart as soon as they are full and go all across town, but finding details will take some investigation. From Seacon Square to Thana City, vans leave out the front of Robinson’s, ask the touts, (20 baht), from the corner of Bangna & Sukhumvit (20 baht.)

From Bangplee to Don Muang airport, (70 baht), catch this one from right next to the footbridge in Bangplee, as you cross over the bridge you will hear the tout on a p.a. calling out the destinations. Most of these vans run until 9.00 pm.

Pick Ups

Run late along Bangna highway, to Chonburi. These cater mostly for local shift workers going home, are cheap and run until about midnight. An interesting way to meet local people.

Motorcycles

Allow for about 10 / kilometer, but prices can double in the rain or downtown during peak hour because at that time of the day they are often the only thing that can move ! These riders are usually poor, and operate only in areas near to their ranks. However they know their local areas very well, are helpful and highly skilled at what they do, which can be quite dangerous in heavy traffic. They will get you to where you want to go, check prices before you get on.

** Beware, according to your contracts you are not covered for medical insurance for any accident on a motorcycle, so for that reason they are best used sparingly and only for short distances.*

Songtaws & Sahmlors

These are local, short distance transport types. *Song taws* means 2 rows of seats. They vary in size, from pick ups to full sized trucks. Usually run up / down sois, like out the front of TCIS, but can also be along major roads, (like in Bangplee) especially in provincial towns. They are very cheap, (5 – 10 baht) and take set routes, from bus to train stations etc.

Sahmlors, (means 3 wheeler) look like tuk – tuks and fill much the same purpose as songtaws. Disappearing from many country towns, but many still be seen all around Ayutthaya for example, where they take on the role of local taxis. Can be hired for day trips, prices negotiable, but often about the same as the cost of a motorcycle taxi (10 – 20 baht / kilometer.).

Local Buses

These can be caught at the nearest footbridge (*sapan loy*) on the other side of the highway. They are usually not air conditioned, but are cheap (about 5 baht, hot, noisy, sometimes smelly and can be dangerous as the drivers often like to race each other along the highway.)

Red # 132. Goes along the highway to Central Bangna, turns left at Sukhumvit and goes to the sky train station at On Nut.

Red # 133, goes along the highway, turns into Srinakarin Rd. past Seri Center (computer software center) and Seacon Square, goes to Prakanong sky train station.

Green # 365, goes along the highway to Central Bangna, turns at Sukhumvit and comes back out again. Sometimes long distance air con buses can also be hailed at the *sapan loy*, these make fewer stops, but go to Central Bangna, On Nut sky train station and terminates at Ekkamai bus station (cost 20 baht.)

On Srinakarin Rd. you can take **Micro bus # 15** (25 baht), or **air con bus # 145** (about 12 baht) direct to Chatuchak market, both terminate at the Northern Bus Station.

On Sukhumvit Rd. (inbound) **Aircon bus # 11**, goes to Kaow Sahn Rd. (back packer central) and the Southern Bus Terminal, # 7 goes past Silom Rd. Hua Lompong railway station, through Chinatown to the Royal Palace and Wat Phra Keaw and the Chao Phraya river, # 13 goes to Don Muang airport, # 1, goes along Sukhumvit, past World Trade Center to Siam Square and MBK (indoor market).

From **Tesco Lotus** on the highway, you can **air con # 139**, along Sukhumvit, the expressway and along Petchaburi Rd. to near the World Trade Center and Pantip Plaza (computer software center) # 38 goes along Sukhumvit, turns right into Asok and left along Petchaburi Rd.

* Remember buses with a yellow sign in the front window, (# 11 / # 13 / # 139) go via the expressway, which can take an hour off most trips.

Useful Thai Phrases

Liu sai – turn left

Liu kwa – turn right

Throng pai – Straight ahead

Cha-cha noi – Slow down

Lau-lau – Speed up

Trong nee – Park right here

Pai On Nut - I want to go to On Nut

Pai Chiang Mai tao rai? - How much to go to Chiang Mai?

Taksi – taxi

Rot may – bus

Rot may air – airconditioned bus

Rot fai - train

Rot fai far – skytrain

Paai rot may – bus stop

Sa thaa nee rot may – bus station

Khon kub rot - driver

Thaa rua – pier

Rua – boat

Rua haang yow – long tailed boat

Rua kharm faak – ferry

Khaa douy sarn – fare

Tuah – ticket

Thee seu tuah – ticket office

Tao rai – how much

Lohng – Get off

Kheun – Get on/board

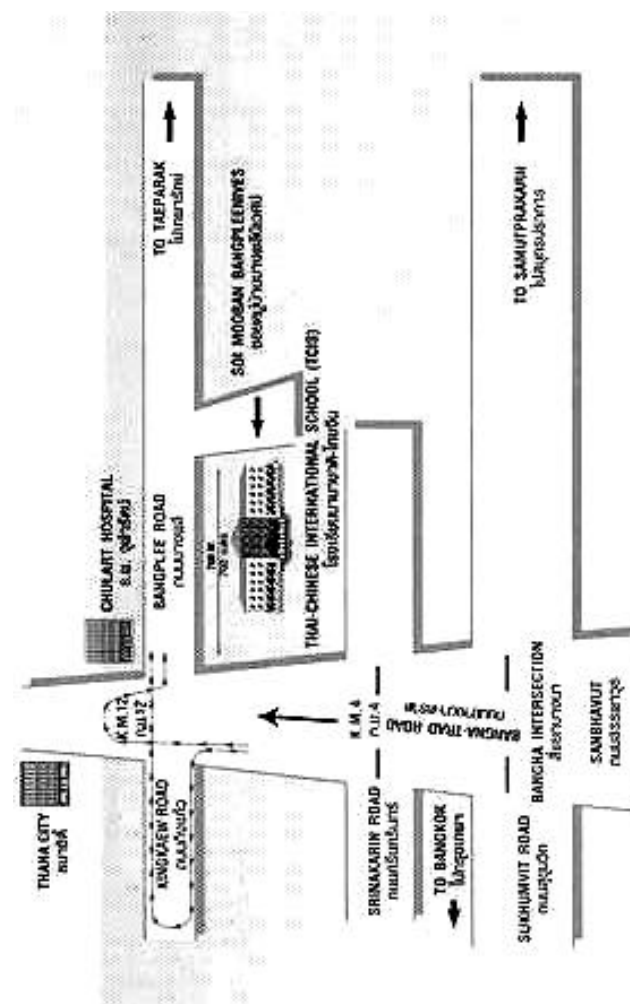
Khor thote (khrub/ka) – excuse me please/I'm sorry

Chai – yes

Mai chai – no

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