

Getting Around

Buses: (cheap, slow, and fun)

#132 – Goes up Bagna Trad, past Central City (mall on right), turns north onto Sukhumvit, and ends at On Nut (skytrain station).

Red bus

Cost: 5 baht

Cheapest and quickest (excluding taxis) way to reach skytrain

#133 – Goes up Bagna Trad to Sri Nakarin, turns north (via a 270 degree turn) and goes past Seri Center (computer stores) and Secon Square (huge mall on right), turns west on Patanakan, then south on Sukhumvit 71 ending just short of Ekkamai bus terminal (for buses traveling to eastern parts of Thailand) on Sukhumvit (can catch skytrain here as well).

Red bus

Cost: 5 baht

Secon is a better mall (more stores) than Central City

#365 – Goes up Bagna Trad (past Central City) and then turns south on Sukhumvit (I believe).

Green bus

Cost – 5 to 6 baht

This is a private bus company and is a little slower than the 132 (they wait for passengers to fill up the bus), but is still a good way to get to Central City.

The 132 and 133 are the most commonly used buses for us at Thana City. There are other buses which connect you to just about any place in Bangkok. Some are air-conditioned, some have limited stops, some take the expressway. Brad Cousins is a good person to ask which bus will get you where you'd like to go.

Motorcycle Taxis:

Motorcycle taxis are just for short trips.

Bagna Trad to Novelle- 7 baht

Novelle to sapan loi (crossover) – 15 baht

Novelle to school (if you miss the bus) – 40 baht (I believe)

Taxis:

Taxis are the quickest but most expensive way to get around. However, if there are three or more people sharing the cost, it's not too bad.

Novelle to Central City – about 100 baht

Novelle to Secon Square – about 110 baht

Taxi: phone 878-9998 (ask for 'English please')

If you order a taxi by phone, add 20 baht to the fare. If you have the taxi use the expressway, you pay the toll. Tipping is not that common but I find the drivers are very appreciative for a 10 – 20 baht tip. If you're traveling late at night, some drivers will not use their meters and you have to negotiate a price which will be somewhat more expensive than if the meter were used. Keep looking for a meter taxi or agree to a price before getting in the taxi.

Getting back to Thana City:

Tell taxi driver ‘Thana City, Bagna Trad, kilomet sip see.’ Also, if you get lost in the city, take a taxi to someplace where you know how to get back home (i.e. the skytrain, Secon Square, Central City, etc.).

Getting around the city:

Traffic is pretty heavy all day but is especially jammed during rush hours. Avoid traveling long distances between 4 - 7:00 pm (especially on Friday afternoons!). The skytrain is your best bet if going across town. If in a taxi, it is best to take expressway when possible. Tuk tuks (three-wheeled motorcycle taxis) are available for short trips. Find out price before getting in.

Skytrain:

The skytrain is a great way to beat traffic across town. Fare is from 20 – 40 baht per person. Tickets are easy to buy from machines with instructions written in English. If you don’t have 10-baht coins, you can break paper money at the change booth. This is the best way to get to The Emporium, World Trade Center, Siam Center, Chatachuk Market, and countless other stores, historical sites, and other points of interest.

Buying Stuff:

Stores have set prices. Vendors catering to tourists and outdoor markets are about the only places you’ll need to barter.

General greeting – Sawadee ka/khrap. (women use ‘ka’, men use ‘khrap’)

How much? – Thao rai ka/khrap? (Tao rye)

Thank you – Khob kuhn ka/khrap.

Numbers:

0 = soon

1 = nung

2 = song

3 = saam (sahm)

4 = see

5 = hah

6 = hok

7 = jet

8 = bat

9 = gaow

10 = sip

11 = sip et

12 – 19 = sip + number (i.e. 12 = sip song, 13 = sip saam, etc.)

20 – 29 = yee sip + number (i.e. 21 = yee sip et, 22 = yee sip song, etc.)

30 – 99 = number + sip + number (i.e. 36 = saam sip hok, 75 = jet sip hah, etc.)

100 = nung loy (or ‘roy’)

200 – 999 = number + loy + number + sip + number (i.e. 481 = see loy bat sip et)

1000 – 9999 = (number + paan) + (number + loy) + (number + sip) + number

(You’ve been in the country for just a day and you already know 10,000 Thai words!)