

An Itinerary About Thailand Tour

Visa Application:

It's easy to apply for Thai visa through an intermediary, like a travel agent or an agency. I did mine through a familiar agency. It's called "Heritage Air Express" (<https://www.facebook.com/heritageairexpressbd/>). They have office at Motijheel C/A Area, which is pretty convenient from my home. However, if you reside anywhere near Mohammadpur, you can apply for the visa through "TripMaker" (<https://www.facebook.com/tripmaker.travel/>). They're a very well-known and familiar agency that I've known for years. Each Thai tourist visa should cost between 5000-6000 BDT per person. I did mine during the Ramadan of 2024 and it took me 5500 BDT. Talk to the agency representative first and learn what documents do they need for issuing a Thai tourist visa. I'd suggest applying for the visa as soon as you can, so that you can move on to the next step- booking flight tickets.

Flight Tickets:

The most easiest and cheapest option to book flight tickets is by yourself. Once you've made plans regarding your tour- or at least where you're going to start from, and where you'll be returning from, you can visit websites to buy tickets yourself. For me, I searched GoZayaan, ShareTrip, FlightExpert to find cheapest but good enough tickets for my flights. At last I settled on GoZayaan. GoZayaan had several discount offers: 14% discount on Intl. base fare on payment through AMEX, EBL, etc. or 10% discount on Foreign Domestic flights through Lotto privilege club, etc.

International Round Trip:

I'd suggest going for US Bangla Airlines or Biman Bangladesh for DAC-BKK-DAC round flight. Here's a trick: purchasing a round trip costs less than purchasing tickets individually. I went for US Bangla for DAC-BKK-DAC flight. It took us 70,050 BDT for two adults (including discount).

Thailand Domestic One Way:

Now that we purchased tickets for the international flight, it was time to purchase internal flights inside Thailand. We purchased two flights: one for BKK-HKT (Bangkok to Phuket) and another one for KBV-BKK (Krabi to Bangkok). Here's an important point- you'll find many airlines like Thai Airways that have flights from DAC to BKK and BKK to HKT. You can opt for those, however the price for the tickets will be a lot. Instead, purchasing individual tickets will be better in this case. For these flights, my Lotto privilege card came in handy. The BKK-HKT flight took 13,528 BDT for two adults (including discount) and the KBV-BKK flight took 21,628 BDT for two adults (including discount). Note that, you can also pay for these flights using MFS like bKash, Rocket, etc. even if you don't have a credit card.

One advice regarding purchasing flight tickets: do it early and do it fast. In that way, you might be able to save cost. In our case, we purchased the tickets only 10 days before the journey. If we had done it a month ago, we could've saved more.

Trip Schedule:

Following is the plan we had for our Thailand trip in a summary.

Day 1: Dhaka to Bangkok. Bangkok to Phuket. Go to hotel. Visit nearby locations.

At the morning at 10 AM around, we went to Hazrat Shahjalal Intl. Airport and had breakfast there. We checked in with our luggages and boarded the plane on time. After reaching Bangkok, we passed the immigration, bought two Thailand sim at 300 THB/pc, and received our luggages. After getting out, we worked our way up to the departure terminal to board the Bangkok-Phuket flight. We checked in our luggage and passed the security check. Inside the waiting area, we had lunch at KFC, and strolled the airport till it was time for our flight. After arriving at Phuket, we checked out, received luggages, and bought two microbus tickets on our way out- those cost 180 THB/pc. The bus driver stopped at a place for a break and asked us to write our hotel name on a page while another woman was trying to sell us some tours (at a very high price). After figuring the route, the driver dropped us one by one in front of the hotel. After checking-in at the hotel and freshening up, we went out to explore Patong Beach night life. We had a dinner at an Indian restaurant and it was a piece of shit. We basically wasted a lot of money there. Indian restaurants aren't recommended, Turkish ones are really good.

Day 2: Phuket Old Town and other locations.

At the morning, we woke up and had breakfast at a local 7-11 - the food was 9/10. After that, we bought ferry tickets to Phi Phi Islands from a local travel desk. The tickets were 600 THB/pc. Also, they'll pick you up from your hotel by a microbus and will drop you off at the pier with your ferry tickets. This service was very good. If you can, try to bargain the ferry ticket price. After buying ferry tickets, we took a Tuktuk and went to Phuket Old Town. There we visited the town, bought a few things, and had lunch at an AMAZING cafe called "Masha Halal Cafe". The food was amazing, basically 10/10 with a very reasonable price. Also, there's a cafe called "Mad Hog Tavern" at Phuket Old Town if you wanna try "Butter Beer"- it's non-alcoholic. Before the evening, we called a Grab and returned to Patong Beach. After freshening up, we went to Banzan Fresh Market to try sea food. We bought a fresh lobster and asked them to cook it up. They also served some big shrimps with them. The price is reasonable if you can bargain well. After that, we went to Bangla Road and visited an Irish pub and enjoyed live music.

Day 3: Phuket to Phi Phi Islands. Phi Phi Islands roaming.

We woke up early in the morning, and checked out from the hotel. We waited at the lobby for the bus driver to pick us up. After picking up, the driver drove to a few more hotels and finally took us to the pier where he gave us wristbands that work like ferry tickets. We wore them, and boarded the ferry for Phi Phi Islands.

After reaching Phi Phi Islands, we had to pay 20 THB/pc to the local authority as an "island fee" that helps to keep the island clean. Then we walked the whole way to our hotel since there's no road vehicle in Phi Phi. After checking in at the hotel, we had a lunch at "Chao Koh Coffee House" (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/CF2gp2LCehvwpThj6>). The restaurant had a wide variety of items with a reasonable price. At the evening after a nap, we strolled the island on our foot, and went to the west side to enjoy the beach. After spending time at the beach, we went to a travel desk called "Tayika Tour" (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/23BxbiBh5w9aJtwF9>) to buy tickets for island tour and ferry. I found this travel agent from some reviews that I read on blog posts, he offers the cheapest price for boat tours and travels without sacrificing quality. How he does that? By making low commission on tickets. We bought Seven Islands Boat Tour by Longtail boat and ferry tickets to Ao Nang, Krabi. The islands tour cost 500 THB/pc and the Krabi ferry ticket took 450 THB/pc.

After buying tickets, we had our dinner at a Turkish Doner Kebab shop and went to the north side beach to explore its festivities. It's a whole different life out there. You'll find fire shows, disco there with people partying their life out.

Day 4: Seven islands boat tour. Phi Phi Islands roaming.

We woke up at the morning, had breakfast from a 7-11 and juice from a local juice bar. Beware of buying smoothies- they contain almost 50% ice. Instead just ask them for juice with ice on top. After the breakfast, we went to the travel agent's shop from there he took us to the jetty for our island tour. After everyone had reached, we boarded the boat and started our journey. I'd suggest to sit inside the boat shade since the heat's too much. The boat will take you to islands to islands and stop at several places for snorkelling. The lunch and light snacks were provided by the boat people- egg fried rice, juice box, etc.

At the afternoon, the boat took us to the "Maya Bay" where we had to pay an entry fee of 400 THB/pc. It's the most beautiful beach I had ever seen- even though swimming is prohibited there. After the island tour, the boat dropped us off at the jetty at the evening. After reaching the hotel and freshening up, we went out to have dinner and explore Phi Phi as usual.

Day 5: Phi Phi Islands to Ao Nang Krabi. Visit Railay beach, explore Ao Nang night life.

At the morning, we checked out from our hotel and went to the jetty. The ferry was late, so we had our breakfast from 7-11. After waiting and killing time, finally we boarded the ferry and said goodbye to Phi Phi Islands. After a deep sleep, the ferry staff woke us up to let us know that we'll be reaching Ao Nang shortly. After anchoring, we got down from the ferry and showed our ticket to the ferry's staffs on the ground. They told us to board their bus (a big leguna basically) and they'll be dropping us off near our hotel at Krabi. After getting down from the bus, we checked in at our hotel and went out to had lunch. We had lunch at a local, family restaurant near our hotel which also had the best food. After returning to room, we freshened up and headed for the Ao Nang beach. At the Ao Nang beach, we bought boat tickets to Railay beach. The ticket prices are fixed and there's no way to bargain.

After it was time, we boarded the boat and headed for Railay Beach. We spent our noon, afternoon there. We hiked for 40-50 minutes to reach the topmost point of Railay Beach where we found a posh resort called "Railay Great View Resort & Spa". The swimming pool of the resort took away our tiredness under the scorching heat. On our way back, we visited the Diamond cave, and The Princess Cave. After returning to the shore, we waited for our boat. Once it was filled, we headed back to Ao Nang. After reaching Ao Nang, we went back to the hotel, freshened up, and headed for the Ao Nang night market. We visited two night markets- those were pretty close from our hotel. The night market is a great place for trying out different street foods.

After buying some stuffs from the night market, we had our dinner at a Turkish restaurant on our way back. The food there was pretty good- though the price was a bit much. After the dinner, we took some of our clothes to the nearest laundry and got it washed and dried up within a few minutes. Once we were done with our chores, we returned to the hotel and called it a night.

Day 6: Krabi to Bangkok. Explore Bangkok city and markets.

We had to wake up early in the morning to catch a bus to airport. The day before, while checking-in the hotel, we purchased two tickets for airport shuttle. A microbus came to receive us from our hotel and dropped us off at Krabi International Airport (KBV). From there, we checked-in our luggages and waited for the plane. After reaching Bangkok, and

checking out our luggages, we called a Grab and headed to our hotel.

After reaching the hotel and having a lavish meal at an Indian-Pakistani fusion Muslim restaurant, we took a taxi to the Chatuchak weekend market. After shopping there, we took a TukTuk taxi to return to the hotel. The weekend market is a great place- considering products' value for money. At night, we had our dinner at a local Indian restaurant- the food was somewhat good but the overall experience wasn't that better. Surely, the Indian restaurants weren't great as much as they used to be 10 years ago.

Day 7: Bangkok to Dhaka.

It was our final day at Bangkok. We booked a taxi from Grab and started for the airport. Before our flight, we had lunch at the airport. After a while, it was our time to leave- we said goodbye to Thailand and boarded the plane- hoping to return again.

Hotel Details:

Phuket: Kiwi Boutique Hotel, Patong Beach, Phuket (**RECOMMENDED**)

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/BtQLPPXVC5MPUYkn6>

Phi Phi Islands: Phi Phi Andaman Sea Resort (**9/10**)

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/G7vXAtfagxKLeoxn7>

Krabi: Aonang Eco Inn Krabi (8/10)

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/1qrQi7AGWwA9vpgRA>

Bangkok: Hotel Indra Regent Hotel (6/10)

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/nL1xrWGpiJgQ4He48>

Estimated Cost:

Basic Expenses: 24,500 THB

It includes hotel stay cost (except one night at Bangkok), meals, refreshments, transportation, ferry tickets, tour tickets, etc for 2 persons. **It doesn't include shopping expenses.** We took 32,000 THB and USD 400 in cash with us.

Some Tips:

1. Buy a local sim and install Grab app on your phone, it's the Asian version of Uber. Grab rides cost less than usual taxi. And you can find and call TukTuk taxi through them too. Also, let's say you called but didn't find any Grab car available. In that case you have to call a taxi. Check the estimated fare using Grab app and bargain with the taxi driver based on that.

Also, if you land at **Phuket** airport, you'll find some Grab brochures on your way out- grab one of them, they contain promo codes for travellers.

2. At different exits of airports, you'll find concierge desks for taxi and buses. They'll drop you off at your hotel at a very reasonable price. Look out and use those services to save cash.

3. The 7-11 stores are pretty convenient. They have decent breakfast items including

halal food.

4. It's better to buy Thai Baht from Bangladesh instead of carrying US Dollar. The overall exchange rate of BDT-THB is much better than BDT-USD-THB. However, if you end up carrying USD, you may want to exchange USD for Baht from Phuket than Bangkok. The rate was higher there.

5. Buy your own snorkelling gear from Bangkok/Phuket if you want to try snorkelling during island tours. The one's provided by the boat aren't of best quality. Buy a waterproof phone cover too.

6. Buy a sunscreen from 7-11 or some medical stores. There's a yellow-orange colored spray one which works like a charm. I'd recommend you to buy that.

7. Buy crocs from Phuket/Bangkok. It'll help you in the island tours and at the beach.

8. Use sites like Booking.com and Agoda to book hotels beforehand. You'll find lots of hotels that can be booked in advance without paying a single penny- or even adding details about your card.