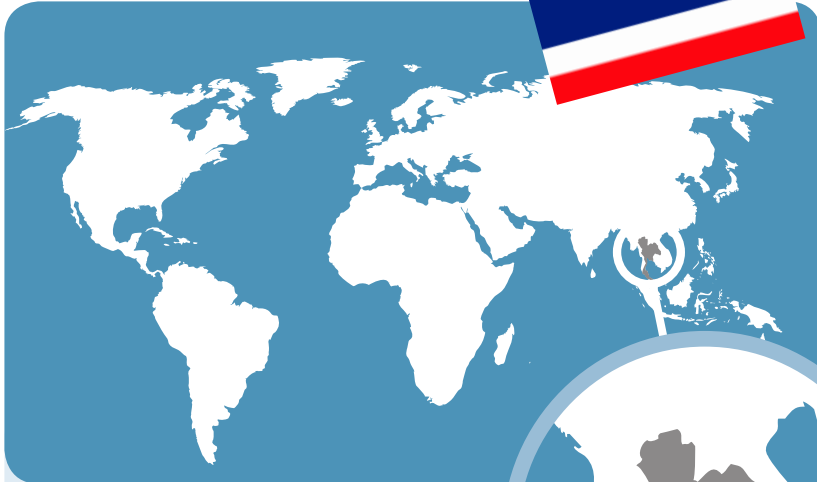


Fairtrade: a World of Difference

Country factfile: Thailand page 1 of 2

Thailand, Green Net, Rice

Thailand



Geography: Known for centuries as Siam, Thailand is almost equidistant from India and China and is bordered by Myanmar in the west and north, Laos in the northeast, Cambodia in the east and Malaysia in the south. Approximately the size of France, Thailand is divided into 7 regions, the central of these which includes the capital, Bangkok is known at “Thailand’s Rice Bowl”.

Bangkok City itself has a population of nearly 6 million. The Thai landscape is very mountainous and there is a large river in the North East of the country called the Mekong River, where the world’s oldest Bronze Age civilization flourished 5,00 years ago.



Religion Buddhism 95%, Muslim 3.8%, Christianity 0.5%, Hinduism 0.1%, other 0.6%

Did You Know?

Thai boxing is the national sport of Thailand.



Quick Thai lesson: how to say “hello.”

Say “*sawatdee kaa*” to greet a female.

Say “*sawatdee khrab*” to greet a male.

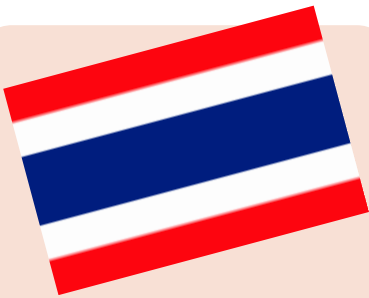
Language

Thai is the main language spoken in Thailand. Other languages spoken are Chinese (Mandarin/Cantonese), Lao, Malay and Mon-Khmer.

Fairtrade: a World of Difference

Country factfile: Thailand page 2 of 2

Thailand, Green Net, Rice



Meaning of Flag

The Thai flag has five horizontal stripes. The red stripes represent the blood spilt to maintain Thailand's independence. The white stands for purity and is the colour of Buddhism, Thailand's main religion. Blue is Thailand's national colour, symbolising the Thai monarchy.

Population:
67.38 million

Population
Density: **132**
people per sq km

Literacy: **93.5%**

Children
enrolled
in Primary
Education: **95%**

HIV/AIDS
prevalence
in population
(15-49 years
old): **1.4%**



Climate

Thailand's climate is tropical and dominated by monsoons. It is also generally very hot, particularly between March and May. The monsoon season runs from June to October, when the climate is still hot and humid with torrential rains. From November to February it is a cooler season, with the lowest temperatures hitting in December and January.

History

2000 BC	300 BC	1000	1200	1529	1782	1833	1868
Bronze Age civilisation in what becomes modern day Thailand	Buddhism brought to Siam	Siam taken over by Cambodia and becomes part of the Khmer Empire	Siam becomes independent from Khmer Empire	War with Burma 1529 - 1569	Beginning of the Chakri dynasty under King Rama I	Siam - Vietnam War	Reign of King Chulalongkorn
1932	1939	1964 - 67	1995	1997	2004	2007	
Revolution. Absolute monarchy abolished and constitutional government set up	Siam changes its name to Thailand ('Land of the free')	Thailand threatened by communism in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Supported by Americans	Government collapses	Asian financial crisis	Thousands of people are killed in Asian Tsunami on Boxing Day	General elections mark the first major step towards a return to civilian rule	

Statistics from www.worldbank.org