Metropolitan is an oasis of cool in Thailand. Page h7

TRAVEL

BANGKOK mellows out

World's most-visited city adds romantic, wholesome attractions

BANGKOK has been on the upswing for years in the travel world, but there's more to the Thai metropolis than just the shopping. The city has a rich history and a vibrant culture, with a mix of modern and traditional elements. From bustling markets to tranquil temples, there's something for everyone in Bangkok.

Bangkok has a reputation for its night life, but there's also a lot to do during the day. Whether you're looking for adventure or relaxation, Bangkok has it all. From the Grand Palace to the Wat Arun, there's plenty to explore.

IF YOU GO:

Bangkok is a great place to visit anytime of the year. The best time to visit is from November to March when the weather is cool and the humidity is low. The city can get very hot and humid from April to June, so it's best to avoid these months.

In Bangkok, the sky is often covered in smog and pollution, so it's important to wear a mask when walking outdoors. The air pollution can affect your health, so it's best to avoid being outside for long periods.

The best way to explore Bangkok is by tuk-tuk or by foot. Tuk-tuks are a fun and affordable way to get around, and they're also a great way to see the city from a local perspective.

The best way to explore Bangkok is by tuk-tuk or by foot. Tuk-tuks are a fun and affordable way to get around, and they're also a great way to see the city from a local perspective.

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48 HOURS in Bangkok

Bangkok need not be a mere transit point to and from Thailand’s other stunning destinations. There’s an intoxicating mix of old and new to discover, from world class restaurants and glamorous cocktail bars to awe inspiring temples and cultural sites. With 48 hours in this buzzing metropolis — and an urge to splurge! — you can start your Thailand holiday in style.

WORDS: Tanya Jolin

FRIDAY NIGHT:
Check into Hotel Muse, situated in one of Bangkok’s loveliest neighbourhods, Langsam, about 400 metres from the Chit Lom BTS station. I loved the 1920s feel of the hotel, from the staff’s outfits to the swirling wrought-iron decorations and the claw-foot bathtubs. You won’t need to go far tonight, with Hotel Muse boasting one of the city’s funkiest rooftop bars — The Speakeasy. Very popular with Thai trendsetters, The Speakeasy takes you back to a time of illicit liquor and mobsters, serving up top-shelf spirits, daring cocktails and a large selection of wine and sparkling wine. Local and international DJs ensure the vibe is as funky as the view is awe inspiring.

SATURDAY AM:
Many of Thailand’s famous cultural sites are located right here in Bangkok, so it is a good idea to include at least a couple of them. Get to the temples early, before the crowds and the heat of the day become overwhelming.

We hired a guide (Tour with Tong tourwthong@yahoo.com) to take us on a tour of a few of Bangkok’s highlights, and recommend doing this only to understand the broader story and history behind these incredible sites.

If you are a bit of a culture-vulture, get your tour guide to take you out of the city to the Floating Markets first thing in the morning. Here you’ll get a fascinating look into the life in old Thailand, when much of the day-to-day trading and living centred around the major river which starts in Northern Thailand and goes through Bangkok before dispersing into the Gulf of Thailand.

Then head to the most visited temple in Bangkok, Wat Phra Kaew or ‘The Temple of the Emerald Buddha’. Considered one of Thailand’s most sacred sites, it’s set within the grounds of the Grand Palace and boasts some of the finest examples of Buddhist sculpture, painting, and architecture. And don’t miss a visit to the Temple of the Reclining Buddha, not far from the Grand Palace – this mammoth Buddha lies serenely at 15 metres high and 43 metres long!
SATURDAY LUNCH
Be daring and grab some street food – just be sure there are plenty of locals eating there (always a good sign) and that the food is cooked freshly for you.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON
Shopping is always on the menu in Bangkok! Start with the Siam area for a range of shopping malls where prices are spread from one end of the scale to the other. MBK is a favourite with tourists, locals and expats alike and is home to more than 2000 stores. Then check out Siam Centre – one of the city’s first malls, or head to Siam Paragon, the piece-de-resistance of the Siam area (which is dubbed the ‘battleground of shopping malls’).

SATURDAY NIGHT
Lebua Bangkok offers an incredible night out! Start at Eslite – part smoking lounge, with its outdoor cigar terrace, part DJ spin and part restaurant with its own oyster bar – for a pre-dinner drink. Then head on to Mezzaluna for a romantic degustation menu and finish with a post-dinner drink at the world’s highest open-air bar Sky Bar. Where you can enjoy the best views of Bangkok and mingle with the city’s chic set.

SUNDAY MORNING
Head to the Chatuchak Weekend Markets – a must-see, even for non-shoppers, due to the atmosphere and ‘local’ prices (you will find something you never knew you needed). The sheer scale is mind-boggling – 35 acres, more than 200,000 visitors a day and a range of products that includes everything from animals to funky clothes and jewellery. Easy to reach via the Skytrain.

SUNDAY NIGHT
Head back to your gorgeous hotel and enjoy the luxurious surrounds and respite it offers after a crazy afternoon at the markets. Be sure to make a dinner booking at Hotel Muse’s Medici Kitchen, the hotel’s highly regarded, multi-award winning Italian restaurant.

Get a reasonably early night because tomorrow your Thailand adventure continues. Where will you be flying to? Chiang Mai for zip-lining and some highland culture? Phuket with its luxury resorts and gob-smackingly beautiful beaches? Romantic Samui to check into a five-star resort and enjoy the chilled out island vibe? Or perhaps Krabi or Koh Lanta, for an even quieter pace?

 BOOK Hotel Muse at hotelmusebangkok.com

queenslandhomes.com.au
4 HOT COCKTAILS TO TRY NOW

Going Out

Weekend Style

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Ultimate Sunset Dinner
With Tui Teerapat

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Noen minutter seinere kommer en dansende robot inn i restauranten

Er byens kuleste, og opplevelsen er viktigere enn smaken.

RUNNAR LARSEN
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Gastronomisk guide
Gatemykken som dukker opp på samme sted hver ettermiddag er de lokals favoritt, men for en vanlig turist kan det virke skummelt å begi seg ut på et hotell midlertidig til steder hvor språket er fremmet og menyen ikke finnes.

Da er det smart å bli med på en guidet tur med en av byens kunnskapsrike og hyggelige matguider.

Taste of Thailand Food Tours har små gruppeturer ledet av lokale guider som snakker flytende engelsk, og kan dessuten sikrere deg en gastronomisk undergang etter dine behov.

Læs mer: www.tasteoffoodthailandfoodtours.org

DEN GODE HJÆLPER: Gatemykken er en av lokals favoritter. For å finne frem i byen, er det smart med en guide. Foto: RUNNAR

LADFEST: Et frokostparti og små dej og måltid i hånden. Foto: SKY BAR
Travel

Buzzing Bangkok

From malls to markets, temples to towers, Andrea Mache visits the beating heart of Thailand to uncover what this metropolis has to offer.

Get the ultimate Hangover experience at Lebua hotel.

Next stop was the legendary Lebua at State Tower Hotel, where I'd been staying for the past three nights. Made famous by the hit movie Hangover II, scenes were filmed within the hotel's custom-made suite and its iconic Sky Bar on the 33rd floor.

I was staying in the Tower Club Riverview Suite, which while not the same cavernous size as the movie set a few floors above (a staggering 200 square meters), was still astonishingly spacious with warm honey beige decor and breathtaking views of the city skyline and the Chao Phraya River winding its way through buildings below. I instinctively wanted to wander on to the white colonnaded balcony to take photos of the panoramas, but found the door locked. I called reception and was told that only once a disclaimer had been signed would staff open the doors, and in rooms where children were staying, they must remain locked at all times.

With no time to sign my life away, I quickly showered and headed down to try the buffet brunch in Cafe Mizu, located poolside on the 11th floor. With 120 different dishes, fusion of Thai, Middle Eastern and Western cuisine, deciding what to top my plate with was tough. But I'll always remember the fresh fish tacos, an almost perfect replica of the famous fish taco from LA.

Next on the agenda was an exploration of the local area. Silom Street is famous in Bangkok as a financial district and is often dubbed the Wall Street of Thailand. Despite this, its streets are bustling with stalls and stalls and shopping centres are a mere 10 minutes away by tuk-tuk. Be warned, the incorrigible drivers of these extended motorcycles will often try to con you with tourist prices, from the Lebua to the historic city, for example you shouldn't pay more than 100 bath (about 3.50 USD). An open-air journey on the tuk-tuk with its rackety din, along
Breathtaking Views of Bangkok from the Sky Bar at Sirocco

Located along the Chao Phraya River in Bangkok, Sirocco is the world's largest open-air restaurant and bar. High up on the 61st floor of the State Tower, the second tallest building in Thailand, the views are truly amazing. It's unarguably one of Bangkok's most iconic venues and you may even recall seeing it in the film 'Hangover 2'. The bar, perched 217 meters from the world below, changes colors every 90 seconds, providing a soothing ambiance at this "most stunning rooftop bar you'll ever see" (New York Times).

From open to sun-dappled, relaxed Al-fresco sets up to a multitude of creative signature cocktails, including the popular Longwinski. Pay your respect with a beautiful sunset and you'll get the makings of an unforgettable date night. I wonder how many one-kiss proposals happen here every week?

While the Sky Bar's famous views undoubtedly draw crowds, don't forget that the restaurant, Sirocco, also has those same breathtaking views and boasts an authentic Mediterranean menu. Recently named One of Thailand's Best Restaurants, Sirocco is also the only restaurant in all of Thailand to receive a perfect 10 score in 2012 by the Thailand Tatler. The menu at the highest all-bistro restaurant in the world was created to feature fresh ingredients from farmers across the world. If you want to truly get the full experience, try the Chef's Tasting Menu - featuring a seven course meal hand designed by Chef Gonzalo Ruiz. Other options are the Heritage Menu, Oysters and Caviar Selections, or an A La Carte Menu of starters, main courses and desserts.

Chef Gonzalo has been mastering the culinary arts since the age of six and has worked for luxury Mediterranean Night Hotels, clubs, hotels, brasseries and Michelin-starred restaurants, including a stint as Head Chef de Partie at the grand five-star Hotel Majestic in Barcelona.

Website: http://www.surfandsunshine.com/sirocco-sky-bar/
Article: Sirocco and Sky Bar / USA
Date: October 2, 2014
48 HOURS IN BANGKOK

Thailand is one of those destinations that seems to appeal to all. From the highlands of Chiang Mai to the islands of Koh Samui and Phuket in the south, and the temples of Thailand’s ancient city Ayutthaya to its modern capital of Bangkok, there truly is something for everyone to discover in this fascinating country.

Saturday night:

You see Hangover Part 2 and want to party it up like the boys? Even those of us not looking to go crazy in Bangkok will absolutely love an evening at the new (of)famous Sky Bar, the world’s highest open-air bar. But don’t just go for a drink – Lebua Bangkok offers an incredible dining experience at the stunning Mezzaluna restaurant. Start at Lilst – part smoking lounge with its outdoor cigar terrace, part DJ spin and part restaurant with its own oyster bar – for a pre-dinner drink. Then head on to Mezzaluna for a romantic degustation menu you will never forget, and finish with a post-dinner drink at Sky Bar and enjoy the best views of Bangkok. Or, just come to be seen and mingle with Bangkok’s chic set at one of the city’s coolest hang-outs.
5 địa điểm vui chơi lý tưởng ở Bangkok

Ghé phép đến Pat Pong xem sex show, du thuyền trên sông Chao Phraya hay lên Lebua Sky Bar ngắm thành phố là những lựa chọn hay nếu bạn muốn khám phá Bangkok về đêm.

Du khách có thể ngắm nhìn toàn cảnh thành phố ngay từ Lebua Sky Bar. Ảnh: Pose.

Nằm bên sông, Bangkok mang bố do纽约 của Á hậu những ngày chăm sóc vui tươi nhiều như những ngày trong phố và những ngày đông. Bên cạnh những người ngoài nước, những người lokal cũng có những ngày vui vẻ thư giãn như những người trong nước.

1. Lebua Sky Bar - Giải trí tối đa

Với vị trí trung tâm phố, quán bar này nhộn nhịp từ khi đón đầu đến cuối ngày. Đặc biệt là lúc hoàng hôn khi đèn hoa đăng bắt đầu lên, quầy bar dưới đáy mang đến cho bạn một không gian yên tĩnh. Quán bar này nổi tiếng với nhiều loại uống cũng như các món ăn ngon, đặc biệt là các món ăn Pháp và Nhật Bản.

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Sirocco & Sky Bar
USA
Date: October 2, 2014

“Hangover II” Cocktails & Spectacular Bangkok Views

By Bonnie Carroll

Sirocco Restaurant, located in Lebua Hotel & Resort, on the corner of Charoen Krung and Silom roads near the venerable Chao Phraya River, is set regally below the renowned golden Dome at Lebua overlooking all of Bangkok and is a must see for visitors to the historic city. The Sirocco restaurant is quite impressively done in white marble and gold with an entrance bridge to Breeze framed by an exquisite circular glass window that has become a popular photo backdrop for guests.

At night the lighted gold dome of this iconic venue can be seen for miles, and is a beacon to visitors for fine food and a sophisticated atmosphere. Mezzaluna (65th floor) is the fine dining restaurant that serves modern innovative cuisine, and the Distill lounge serves many items not available anywhere else in Thailand; some included are Perrier-Jouet, Bisco, Rose, Martell cognac, Royal Salute 100 whiskey and more.

With a view from the top floor of the property visitors can enjoy a panoramic look of the entire city, which is possibly the best in Bangkok, and a stroll down the historic staircase to enjoy dinner or pre-dinner cocktails at the Sky Bar. The Lebua’s fine dining restaurant, and Distill Lounge on the 64th floor, are modern and offer buffet breakfast, lunch and high tea in the afternoon, as well as dinner, hors d’oeuvre and evening cocktails.

Along with a bevy of excellent private suite options the Tower Club at Lebua showcases the hangover thriller, where scenes from the movie of the same name were filmed. Private club floors offer fine food service options, gym facilities and additional special services. On the first floor is
Sirocco & Sky Bar / USA
Date: October 2, 2014

Sirocco Restaurant, located in Lebua at State Tower Hotel, on the corner of Charoen Krung and Silom roads near the venerable Chao Phraya River, is set regally below the renowned golden Dome overlooking all of Bangkok, and is a must see for visitors to the city. The outdoor Sirocco restaurant is quite impressively done in white marble and gold with an entrance bridge framed by an exquisite circular glass window that has become a popular photo backdrop for guests.

At night the lighted gold dome of this iconic venue can be seen for miles, and is a beacon to visitors for fine food and a sophisticated atmosphere. With a view from the 33rd floor of the iconic property visitors can enjoy a panoramic look at the entire city, which is possibly the best in Bangkok, and a stroll down the historic staircase to enjoy dinner or pre-dinner cocktails. The Lebua’s fine dining restaurant, and Distill lounge on the 64th floor, are modern and offer buffet breakfast, lunch and High tea in the afternoon, as well as hors d’oeuvre and evening cocktails.

Along with a bevy of private suite options the Tower Club at Lebua showcases the Hangover II suite, where scenes from the movie of the same name were filmed. Private club floors offer free food service options, gym facilities and additional special services. On the first floor is a vibrant Indian restaurant and bar with a pool view. They also have a charming private lounge and dining area on the lobby level that is quiet and provides a fine meeting place for intimate tea or luncheon meetings.
Hangover Part II at lebua / USA

October 2, 2014

These 5 Hotels are Hollywood Stars

The Hangover Part Two: Lebua at State Tower, Bangkok

After re-creating Vegas’ famous Caesar’s Palace in the first installment of this hilarious series the lavish hotel room was actually filmed on set, the guys from The Hangover made their way to Thailand and of course, debauchery ensued. Many scenes during the guys’ stay in Bangkok were filmed at the Lebua at State Tower and, in fact, the cast and crew stayed in a three-bedroom suite at the exclusive all-suite Lebua Tower Club while filming at the hotel. Scenes were shot at the iconic staircase entrance to the Saroos restaurant on the tower’s 60th floor, where you can poach one of Bangkok’s best views (if you adhere to the strict dress-code).

The suite the cast stayed in is now known as the Hangover Suite and is available for rent by those who wish to recreate the film, though hopefully with less destruction and general mayhem. The suite boasts four private balconies, two king and one twin bedroom, a living room, dining room and, of course, a free mini-bar. Your stay also comes with a complimentary “Hangover” wine, available in-suite or at the Lebua’s impressive SkyBar. Suites at the Lebua Tower Club, made up of a select few floors within the larger Lebua at State Tower, enjoy amenities like a pillow selection menu, washer and dryer, a kitchenette, in-suite dining and limo service. Guests can also take a break from Bangkok at the Lebua’s outdoor pool or spa.