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## CITY

Bangkok is a bustling metropolis located in the central part of Thailand. It is the capital city and largest urban center in the country, with a population of over 10 million people. Bangkok is known for its vibrant street life, cultural landmarks, and thriving economy, making it one of the most exciting and dynamic cities in Southeast Asia.

There are many popular tourist attractions all around Bangkok. One of the most popular is the Grand Palace, a complex of buildings that once served as the official residence of the Kings of Siam. We explored the stunning architecture, intricate details, and rich history of this magnificent palace, which includes the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, one of the most sacred sites in Thailand.

Another must-see destination in Bangkok is Wat Pho, the Temple of the Reclining Buddha. This impressive temple complex houses the largest reclining Buddha statue in the world, measuring 46 meters long and 15 meters high. We took a look at the expansive grounds of Wat Pho, which feature beautiful gardens, ornate buildings, and impressive pagodas.

For those interested in shopping, Bangkok is home to some of the largest and most diverse markets in the world. The Chatuchak Weekend Market is one of the most popular destinations for tourists and locals, offering a wide range of products from clothing and accessories to furniture and electronics. Other markets worth checking out include the Damnoen Saduak Floating Market, the Maeklong Railway Market, and the Pak Khlong Talat Flower Market.

Bangkok is also famous for its food, with a diverse range of street food stalls and restaurants offering everything from spicy curries to sweet desserts. We sampled a variety of local dishes, including pad thai, green curry, and mango sticky rice, as well as international cuisine from around the world.

In addition to its cultural and culinary attractions, Bangkok also offers a vibrant nightlife scene, with a variety of bars, nightclubs, and entertainment venues to suit all tastes. Manuel and me were enjoying live music, stand-up comedy, or even traditional Thai dance performances, as well as sampling local beers and cocktails nearly every weekend.

Despite its bustling energy and fast pace of life, Bangkok also offers a peaceful respite from the chaos of the city. We took a boat ride along the Chao Phraya River, explored the city's parks and gardens, enjoyed a few relaxing massages and drove around the green Langone with a rented bike.

Bangkok has a tropical savanna climate, with hot and humid weather throughout the year. The best time to visit the city is between November and February, when temperatures are cooler and there is less rainfall, because you do not want to get caught of guard in a tropical storm. However, the city can be visited year-round, with many indoor attractions to enjoy during the rainy season. With its rich culture, vibrant energy, and endless opportunities for exploration and adventure, Bangkok is a truly unforgettable destination.

## UNIVERSITY

Rangsit University is a private university located in Pathum Thani province, which is about 25 kilometers north of Bangkok. It is easily accessible by train, taxi, TukTuk, local Vans, Taxi-Motorbikes or by foot. The highest price (longest distance possible) for the redline train is 38 Baht for students (about 1€), the school Van costs 10 Baht (about 30cents) no matter where you take it from, the Taxi from the nearest train station in Lak Hok is between 40-45 Baht (about 1,10€) and for the same distance the motorbikes are 25Baht (about 25Cents). That already assumes that you live in Bangkok city, though, and you have to travel to the University like we did. However, there are a lot of student apartments right at the campus, which makes the University accessible by foot. (all prices from 2022/23)

Rangsit University is known for its innovative approach to education and its commitment to producing graduates who are capable of contributing to the development of the country of Thailand. The university offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including business, engineering, law, medicine, social sciences and Information Technologies.

One of the unique aspects of Rangsit University is its focus on research and innovation. The university has established several research centers and institutes that are dedicated to conducting research in areas such as biotechnology, nanotechnology, and renewable energy. The university also has partnerships with a number of international institutions and research organizations, allowing students and faculty to collaborate on research projects with scholars from around the world.

In addition to its academic programs, Rangsit University also offers a wide range of extracurricular activities and student organizations. These include sports teams, cultural clubs, and academic societies, as well as volunteering and community service opportunities. Students are encouraged to get involved in these activities as a way of enhancing their personal and professional development and building leadership skills.

Rangsit University's campus is spread across a large area. The campus is designed to provide students with a modern and comfortable environment for learning and living, with facilities such as laboratories, libraries, and sports centers. The university also provides on-campus housing for students, with a variety of accommodation options to suit different preferences and budgets.

Overall, Rangsit University is a vibrant and dynamic institution that offers students a good education in a supportive and stimulating environment. In our experience the education compared to the Austrian standards is a good one, but not as time consuming, which left us with a lot of time to travel around the country.

## COURSES

Rangsit University is offering a great variety of courses throughout each term. There is everything you need from social skills to general topics and many more specialized topics. Since it was our 5<sup>th</sup> term, we only had to choose 4 subjects to complete.

The first subject we choose was ICT Game Design & Programming. This is a course offered by the Rangsit University's Faculty of Information Technology. It is a part of the Bachelor of Science in Information and Communication Technology program and focuses on game design, development, and programming.

The main objective of the ICT Game Design & Programming course is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of game design principles, as well as the skills and

knowledge necessary to create their own games. The course covers a range of topics related to game development, including game design, programming, graphics, and audio.

Throughout the course, we learned how to design a game using Unity. Furthermore, we did learn about game mechanics, game physics, and game AI, as well as how to optimize game performance and create multiplayer games.

The course is structured around a series of lectures, and projects that allow students to apply what they have learned in a real-world context. We worked on individual and group projects that involve designing and building games from scratch using Unity game Engine.

The next subject was ICT 304 Information Assurance & Security. This is also a course offered at Rangsit University as part of the Bachelor of Science in Information and Communication Technology program. This course focuses on the principles of information assurance and security, and covers topics such as security policies, access control, cryptography, and network security.

The main objective of the ICT 304 course is to teach students how to protect information and information systems from unauthorized access, theft, and other security threats. We learned about different types of security threats, such as malware, hacking, and phishing, and learned how to develop and implement effective security policies and procedures to prevent these threats.

Throughout the course, we studied different security technologies and tools, including firewalls, intrusion detection systems, and virtual private networks (VPNs). Furthermore, Manuel and I got involved the topic of risk management and the role of compliance frameworks such as ISO 27001 and NIST in ensuring information security.

The course is structured around a series of lectures, hands-on exercises, and projects that allowed us to apply what we have learned in a real-world context. Furthermore, you need knowledge in the software of Cisco packet tracer, because all the exercises and lectures are based on this tool.

Next up on the list we have ICT 302 Social & Professional Issues. A course offered by Rangsit University's Faculty of Information Technology as part of the Bachelor of Science in Information and Communication Technology program. This course focuses on the social and professional issues related to the use of information and communication technology.

The main objective of the ICT 302 course is to help students develop a critical understanding of the social and ethical implications of technology use, as well as to develop the professional skills necessary to work in the ICT industry. The course covers a range of topics related to the social and ethical implications of technology use, including privacy, intellectual property, cybercrime, and digital divide.

Throughout the course, we learned about the legal and ethical frameworks that govern technology uses, as well as the professional and ethical responsibilities of ICT professionals.

Furthermore, there is a strong focus on improving your communication skills, teamwork, and professional development in the ICT industry.

The course is structured around a series of lectures, discussions, and assignments. We had to choose our own topics for assignments and write a paper related to it. After this was finished, a presentation had to be held to inform your colleagues about your topic.

Last but not least we choose ICT 210 Information Technology Laws. Since we are students of the IT faculty of Austria this was also a course offered by Rangsit University's Faculty of Information Technology as part of the Bachelor of Science in Information and Communication Technology program. This course focuses on the legal frameworks that govern the use of information and communication technology.

The main objective of the ICT 210 course is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the legal issues related to the use of information technology. The course covers a range of topics related to information technology laws, including intellectual property, privacy, data protection, and cybercrime.

The course is structured around a series of lectures, discussions, and assignments. Like in Social & Professional Issues we had to do assignments with our own topics, write papers and present it after to the crowd.

## ACCOMANDATION

Since Bangkok is huge Metropolitan area, there are several accommodations available. These accommodations reach from poor standards to highly advanced rooftop penthouses. Since we are students and don't have that much money available, we decided to bock a fairly good place in the city center so we can see a lot from the city itself.

Our place was in the district called Bang Sue. It was a private AirBnb flat with a stunning view over the city and the Chao Prayer River. Furthermore, it overed a gym and a rooftop pool which we enjoyed a lot, due to the fact that Bangkok has a tropical climate and high humidity all over the year. We paid a total of around 600 € a month, which is pretty much compared to the average wage in Thailand.

The location of the flat was just perfect, despite the fact that it was quite far away from university. We only had to walk a few hundred meters to get to the subway, which carries you around the city. Many famous destinations like the Chatuchak-Weekend-Market, the Grand Palace or Khao San Road were just around the corner.

## TRANSPORTAION

Bangkok is the capital city of Thailand and is known for its bustling streets and heavy traffic. As one of the most populous cities in Southeast Asia, transportation in Bangkok is a crucial aspect of daily life. Here is an overview of transportation in Bangkok:

1. Mass Transit Systems: Bangkok has several mass transit systems, including the BTS Skytrain, MRT Subway, and Airport Rail Link. These systems provide a convenient and efficient way to travel around the city, especially during rush hour when the traffic can be heavy.

2. **Tuk-tuks and Motorcycles:** Tuk-tuks are a popular mode of transportation in Bangkok, especially for short distances. Foreigners have to be careful not to get ripped off or not to get brought to a wrong destination. The three-wheeled vehicles that can accommodate up to three or four passengers. Motorcycles are also common, especially for getting through traffic quickly. Foreigners are less likely to get ripped off by the motorbike drivers.
3. **Taxis:** Taxis are readily available in Bangkok and are an affordable mode of transportation. Taxis in Bangkok are color-coded based on their company, and most drivers use a meter to calculate the fare. The meter is recommendable for trips outside the rush hour. During the rush hour it is better to negotiate the price with the drivers or to simply order the taxi with a fixed price on Apps like Bolt or Grab.
4. **Buses:** Bangkok has an extensive bus network that covers most of the city. Buses are a cheap and but NOT convenient way to travel around Bangkok. As a foreigner the bus system is very hard to understand. On top it is very dangerous, since the buses cause a lot of crashes (especially the famous blue line 8) and drive with open doors, while they are heavily packed with people. On top they can be slow and affected by traffic.
5. **Water Taxis:** The Chao Phraya River runs through Bangkok, and water taxis are a great way to explore the city's many canals and waterways. They are also used by commuters to travel between different parts of the city. Foreigners have to be careful, which organization of water taxis they take. The local people try to convince you to ride with the more expensive boats by telling you that they were faster. Be persistent and insists on going with the cheaper ones, which are as fast and as convenient.
6. **Private Cars:** Private cars are a popular mode of transportation in Bangkok, especially for those who live in the suburbs or need to travel outside the city. However, driving in Bangkok can be challenging due to heavy traffic and limited parking.
7. **Bicycles:** Bicycles are becoming more popular in Bangkok, and the city has started to develop bike lanes to encourage cycling. However, cycling in Bangkok can be dangerous due to the heavy traffic and lack of bike-friendly infrastructure.

In conclusion, transportation in Bangkok is diverse and plentiful, with options ranging from mass transit systems to tuk-tuks and private cars. However, heavy traffic can make travel times unpredictable, so it's important to plan ahead and consider alternative modes of transportation when possible.

## SHOPPING

Thailand is a popular destination for shoppers due to its diverse range of products and competitive prices. Shopping in Thailand can be a fun and exciting experience, with options ranging from local markets to high-end luxury malls.

**Markets:** Markets are a staple of Thai culture and can be found in every city and town. These markets offer a wide variety of products, including fresh produce, handmade crafts, clothing, and souvenirs. Some of the most famous markets in Thailand include Chatuchak Weekend Market in Bangkok, Night Bazaar in Chiang Mai, and Walking Street Market in Pattaya. In addition to these big markets, it is highly advisable to visit local ones as well. A few examples would be Bang Sue Market, Jod Fairs Market and many more.

**Shopping Malls:** Thailand is also known for its many shopping malls, which offer a range of international and local brands. The most popular malls in Thailand include Central World, Siam Paragon, and MBK Center in Bangkok, and Central Festival and Jungceylon in Phuket. If you are addicted to shopping, we would advise you not to enter such a mall.

**Night Markets:** Night markets are a popular shopping destination in Thailand, especially for tourists. These markets are open in the evening and offer a range of products, including street food, clothing, and souvenirs. Some of the most popular night markets in Thailand include the Asiatique The Riverfront in Bangkok, Night Bazaar in Chiang Mai, and Krabi Night Market.

**Floating Markets:** Floating markets are a unique and traditional way of shopping in Thailand. These markets are located on waterways, and vendors sell products from their boats. Some of the most famous floating markets in Thailand include Damnoen Saduak in Bangkok, Amphawa Floating Market in Samut Songkhram, and Khlong Lat Mayom Floating Market in Bangkok. Since the above examples are highly touristy, it is advisable to visit some outside of the urban areas. A good one is Kwang Cho Floating Market, located in the southwest of Bangkok. Since not many people in Thailand can speak English, it is necessary to learn some Thai to communicate with locals.

**Street Vendors:** Street vendors are ubiquitous in Thailand and can be found on almost every street corner. These vendors offer a range of products, including street food, clothing, and souvenirs. Street vendors are known for their affordable prices and bargaining is often expected. Since this can only be seen in the Asian culture, one should really try to taste this delicious option of getting all kind of different meals for a fairly cheap price.

In conclusion, Thailand offers a diverse range of shopping options, from local markets to high-end luxury malls. Shopping in Thailand is also known for its affordability and bargaining is often expected. Visitors to Thailand should take advantage of the many shopping opportunities and explore the different shopping destinations that Thailand has to offer.

## SPORTS

Thailand offers a range of sports and activities for both locals and visitors. From water sports to martial arts, there is something for everyone. Here is an overview of the sports offers in Thailand:

1. **Muay Thai:** Muay Thai, also known as Thai boxing, is a traditional martial art and the national sport of Thailand. Visitors can watch professional matches or take classes to learn the techniques and skills of Muay Thai. Near the University there is the Rangsit Boxing Stadium (East), which provided great lessons for us exchange students. There were no other tourists, since it is a very old-school and traditional Muay Thai gym. They provided a full body workout with a combination of endurance, strength, speed, and technique. Trainings are very respectful and Thai trainers and fighters take care so that injuries are very rare to happen. On top we were allowed to watch real Muay Thai fights in their TV Stadium. We recommend going to the big stadiums to watch a fight in real live once.
2. **Football:** Football is the most popular sport in Thailand, with the Thai Premier League being the highest level of professional football in the country. Visitors can attend matches and experience the excitement of Thai football culture.
3. **Water Sports:** Thailand's beaches and waterways offer a range of water sports activities, including snorkeling, diving, kayaking, and windsurfing. Some of the best places for water sports in Thailand include Phuket, Koh Tao, and Koh Phi Phi. The undersea world is phenomenal. We got to see sharks, turtles, clown fish and many more tropical fish, sea creatures and plants.



4. **Muay Boran:** Muay Boran is a traditional form of martial arts that predates Muay Thai. It focuses on striking techniques, throws, and joint locks and is often performed as a cultural display.
5. **Yoga:** Thailand's tropical climate and natural scenery make it a popular destination for yoga retreats and classes. Many resorts and retreats offer yoga classes, and visitors can also find yoga studios in most major cities.
6. **Cycling:** Cycling is a popular activity in Thailand, with many scenic routes and trails available for both road and mountain biking. Some of the best cycling destinations in Thailand include Chiang Mai, Bangkok, and Phuket.
7. **Thai Massage:** Thai massage is a traditional form of massage that originated in Thailand. It is a therapeutic and relaxing experience that is often practiced in spas and massage centers throughout the country. Our recommendation is to get an oil massage since the old traditional Thai massages include hitting techniques that didn't quite loosen and relax our bodies. We also recommend to ensure that the place is a medically proven or well-known massage place, since some places hire poor people that don't know how to massage properly. Professional places, however, provide unbelievably relaxing massage experiences.

In conclusion, Thailand offers a range of sports and activities for visitors to enjoy. From traditional martial arts to water sports, there is something for everyone. Visitors can take advantage of Thailand's tropical climate and natural scenery while experiencing the country's unique sports culture.

## NIGHTLIFE

Thailand is known for its vibrant and exciting nightlife scene, with a range of activities and venues for visitors to enjoy. Here is an overview of the nightlife in Thailand:

1. **Night Markets:** Thailand's night markets offer a unique and lively atmosphere, with street food, live music, and shopping. Some of the most popular night markets in Thailand include Chatuchak Weekend Market in Bangkok and the Night Bazaar in Chiang Mai.
2. **Rooftop Bars:** Thailand's major cities, such as Bangkok and Phuket, offer a range of rooftop bars with stunning views of the city skyline. These bars often feature live music, DJs, and creative cocktails.
3. **Beach Parties:** Thailand's famous beaches, such as Koh Phangan and Koh Samui, are known for their full moon and half-moon parties, where visitors can dance the night away on the beach with music, drinks, and fireworks.
4. **Nightclubs:** Thailand's major cities offer a range of nightclubs, with electronic music, live DJs, and dancing. Some of the most popular nightclubs in Thailand include Route 66 in Bangkok and Illuzion in Phuket.
5. **Cabaret Shows:** Thailand is also known for its cabaret shows, featuring elaborate costumes, dance performances, and comedic acts. The most famous cabaret show in Thailand is the Calypso Cabaret in Bangkok.
6. **Go-Go Bars:** Thailand's go-go bars are known for their risqué performances and are typically found in the red-light districts of major cities, such as Bangkok's Soi Cowboy and Patpong.
7. **Live Music Venues:** Thailand has a thriving music scene, with live music venues throughout the country offering a range of genres, from jazz and blues to rock, pop and Thai music. Some of the most popular live music venues in Thailand include Saxophone Pub in Bangkok and the Iron Fairies in Pattaya.

8. Cultural Shows: Thailand's cultural shows offer a glimpse into the country's traditional arts, such as Thai boxing, dance, and puppetry. The most famous cultural show in Thailand is the Siam Niramit in Bangkok.

Overall, Thailand's nightlife scene offers a range of activities and venues for visitors to enjoy, from the vibrant street markets to the high-energy nightclubs and cultural shows. However, visitors should also be aware of local laws and customs, particularly in the red-light districts, and exercise caution when enjoying the nightlife scene. Thailand has an especially strict police force against illegal drugs and illegal sex-tourism.