



# Thailand

## The land of the happy dawn

### Bangkok-Islamic Tourism

The name "Thailand" is an Indian term which means "Independent Country". It was used in 1939 and it is still the official name of the country. In the past it was called "Siam" or "Peaceful country".

#### Waterfalls.

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Thailand had four capitals over the years. The first was Sukhothai in 1238. It remained the capital for 112 years and was famous for its richness, beauty, and lavish food. Sukhothai is about 500 km from the present capital Bangkok.

The capital moved to Ayuthya in 1350. During the next 417 years Ayuthya was the home of 33 kings who fought the Burmese 44 times. When it was burned in 1767 Thonburi became the next capital but only for 15 years until it was moved to Bangkok during the rule of King Ram I. The locals call Bangkok "Krungthep" – Latin for "The City of Angles". It is still the capital of the 14 provinces of the Thai Kingdom.

#### All kinds of travel

Traveling in Bangkok itself, or in other cities, puts you in touch with difference scenes from the lives of the Thai people. If you are near the river you will see a floating fruit market, with famous Asian fruits, such as yellow melons, lychees and others, sold from small boats. The most dangerous, gigantic,

snakes, some with two heads, are found on a farm in the river. If you visit "Samout Bracan" farm you could even see a crocodile fight. You will relax in the rose garden on Tashan River which extends over 200 thousand square meters. It is the place for folkloric shows, traditional weddings and monkey and elephant races and fights.

The costal city of Bataia has internationally famous resorts which overlook the Gulf of Thailand. Flower of Thailand, the name which the locals have given it, is truly deserved as it is the queen of Asian resorts. The city is surrounded by a pearl necklace of beautiful islands.



Muslims in Thailand.

مسلمون من تايلاند.

In Pataya, tourists can enjoy adventure travel and land rover safaris. An elephant ride is also possible to visit valleys inhabited by cave men whose way of life has not changed throughout the centuries. ■