

Thailand in International Rankings 2024-2026

Photo credit: William Russell

Thailand in Brief

"Thailand in Brief " has been prepared by the Thailand Foundation to support students, scholars, and the general public who wish to give presentations about Thailand to their audiences—for example, exchange program students and international participants.

The work presents some basic information about Thailand in 11 areas: 1) *Geography*, 2) *History*, 3) *Politics and Government*, 4) *Economics*, 5) *Demographics*, 6) *Culture*, 7) *Values*, 8) *Thai People and Other Popularity That You May Know*,

9) *Misconceptions about Thailand*, 10) *Thailand's Role on the Global Stage*, and 11) *Rankings Related to Thailand*.

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"Thailand in Brief" will be updated every third quarter each year. For inquiries or further suggestions, please contact the Thailand Foundation at info@thailandfoundation.or.th.

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Thailand in Brief

"Thailand in Brief" จัดทำขึ้นโดยมูลนิธิไทย (Thailand Foundation) เพื่ออำนวยความสะดวกแก่ นักเรียน นักศึกษา และผู้สนใจทั่วไป นำไปใช้ประโยชน์ อาทิ ในการบรรยาย หรือให้ความรู้เกี่ยวกับประเทศไทยในด้านต่าง ๆ แก่ชาวต่างประเทศ เช่น กรณีนักศึกษาแลกเปลี่ยนที่ไปเรียนในต่างประเทศที่ต้องนำเสนอเรื่องราวเกี่ยวกับประเทศไทยในสถาบันที่ไปศึกษาอยู่ เป็นต้น

งานชิ้นนี้เสนอข้อมูลเกี่ยวกับประเทศไทยโดยสังเขป 11 ด้าน ได้แก่ **1) ภูมิศาสตร์ (Geography)** **2) ประวัติศาสตร์ (History)** **3) การเมืองการปกครอง (Politics and Government)** **4) เศรษฐกิจ (Economics)** **5) ประชากร (Demographics)** **6) วัฒนธรรม (Culture)** **7) ค่านิยม (Values)** **8) คนไทยและสื่อที่คุณอาจรู้จัก (Thai people and other popularity that you may know)** **9) ความเข้าใจผิดเกี่ยวกับประเทศไทย (Misconceptions)** **10) บทบาทของไทยในเวทีโลก (Thailand's role on the Global Stage)** และ **11) การจัดอันดับที่เกี่ยวกับประเทศไทย (Rankings related to Thailand)**

"Thailand in Brief" นี้จัดทำเป็นสไลด์ จำนวน 400 สไลด์ ในรูปแบบ .pdf และ .pptx สามารถดาวน์โหลดและเลือกใช้หัวข้อที่นำเสนอ และสลับลำดับการนำเสนอได้ตามความเหมาะสม อย่างไรก็ดี ผู้ใช้งานไม่สามารถดัดแปลงเนื้อหาในเอกสารได้ และห้ามผลิตซ้ำ หรือนำไปใช้เพื่อผลประโยชน์เชิงพาณิชย์โดยไม่ได้รับอนุญาตจากมูลนิธิไทย

"Thailand in Brief" จะได้รับการปรับปรุงให้ทันสมัยในทุกไตรมาสที่ 3 ของปี หากมีข้อสงสัยและข้อเสนอแนะเพิ่มเติม กรุณาติดต่อมูลนิธิไทย อีเมล info@thailandfoundation.or.th

กรกฎาคม 2569



Suvarnabhumi Airport's SAT-1 Terminal: the World's Most Beautiful Airport in 2024

Suvarnabhumi International Airport's Midfield Satellite Terminal 1 (SAT-1) won **the Prix Versailles** "Special award for an Exterior" in the "World's Most Beautiful Airport 2024" competition, sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), for its exceptional exterior architecture and design.

Source: [The Government Public Relations Department of Thailand](#)

Photo credit: Travel News



Bangkok: the World's Best City for Gen Z in 2025

The Thai capital has topped **Time Out's first-ever global ranking of the best cities for the next generation**, thanks to its unbeatable combination of happiness, affordability and community.

Source: [Time Out](#)
Photo credit: YAS Blog



Thailand ranks 7th in World Happiness Index in 2025

Thailand continues to rank high in global happiness, according to the **Ipsos Happiness Index 2025**, a 30-country Global Advisor survey. With 78% of Thais reporting being happy, the nation secures 6th place globally, significantly surpassing the global average of 71%.

Bangkok: the Best City in Asia in 2026

Bangkok has been crowned **the Best City in the Asia-Pacific** at the **DestinAsian Readers' Choice Awards 2026** for the third consecutive year by DestinAsian magazine.

DestinAsian cited the Thai capital as a vibrant metropolis where centuries-old temples stand beside gleaming skyscrapers, riverboats cruise along the Chao Phraya, and the BTS Skytrain glides above lively streets. From heritage landmarks and world-class shopping to legendary street food and fine dining, Bangkok truly has it all.

Sources: [PR Thai Government](#), [DestinAsian](#)

Photo credit: Thairath



Bangkok



Chiangmai



trueID Travel

Bangkok and Chiangmai top the World's Most Popular for Digital Nomads in 2026

Bangkok and Chiang Mai rank as the top two most popular cities for digital nomads in 2026 by **Time Out**, underscoring their growing reputations as a global hub for remote workers and location-independent professionals.



Chiangmai ranks the 3rd World's Best City in Asia in 2026

Chiang Mai has been named the third-best city in the world in the **Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards 2026**. The northern Thai city earned global recognition for its rich Lanna heritage, historic temples, outstanding cuisine, natural beauty and warm hospitality.

Source: [Travel + Leisure](#), [Khaosod English](#)
Photo credit: We Seek Travel, Sanook



Bangkok ranks the 2nd in the World's Best cities for food in 2026

Bangkok has been ranked the world's second-best food city in **Time Out's** 2026 list, with the Thai capital praised for its street food, fine dining and fast-growing food districts.

Source: [Time Out](#)
Photo credit: Thai Airways

Khanom Khrok: Thailand's Best Dessert in 2026

Khanom Krok, or coconut rice pancakes, has been ranked Thailand's No.1 dessert of 2026 by **TasteAtlas**.

Khanom Khrok is a staple street food in Thailand, standing out for its distinctive qualities — the rich aroma of coconut milk, a crisp exterior with a soft centre, and its meticulous preparation process — all of which embody Thai culinary wisdom passed down through generations.

Source: [TasteAtlas](#), [Bangkok Post](#)

Photo credit: Krua.co



Tom Kha Gai: the World's Best Chicken Soup in 2025

Tom Kha Gai , a delicious national dish of Thailand, is ranked No. 1 in the world's best chicken soup in 2025, by **TasteAtlas**.

Tom Kha Gai consists of coconut milk, small pieces of chicken, galangal, lemongrass, garlic, chili, kaffir lime leaves, fish sauce and mushrooms, resulting in a spicy, pungent and slightly sour taste. It also has high nutritional value and has good medicinal properties, such as helping relieve the gastrointestinal tract.

Source: [Seasia.stats](https://seasia.stats.com)

Photo credit: Kapook



Phanaeng Curry: the World's Best Stew in 2025

Phanaeng Curry, a rich and flavorful Thai dish, earned Thailand's 1st place among the 10 Best Rated Stews in the world by **TasteAtlas**.

Phanaeng curry is a variety of Thai curry that is characterized by a thick texture and salty-sweet peanut flavor. It consists of meat that is stewed with coconut milk, panang curry paste, makrut lime leaves, fish sauce, and palm sugar.

Source: [TasteAtlas](https://www.tasteatlas.com)

Photo credit: TasteAtlas



Phanaeng Curry
THAILAND

Pad Kaprao: World's 3rd Best Stir-fried Dish in 2025

Pad Kaprao, a fiery and aromatic Thai stir-fry, earned the 3rd top spot in the Best Stir-Fried Dishes in the World, according to **TasteAtlas**.

Pad Kaprao is made with minced meat stir-fried with garlic, chili, and fragrant holy basil, often served over rice and topped with a crispy fried egg. Its bold, spicy flavor and irresistible aroma make it a staple of everyday Thai cuisine.

Source: [Bangkok Post](#)

Photo credit: Workpoint Today



Koh Samui: the Best Island in Asia-Pacific in 2026

Travel + Leisure Asia, Asia's leading tourism and lifestyle magazine, has announced its **Luxury Awards 2026 Best Islands rankings**, naming Koh Samui in Surat Thani Province, southern Thailand, the best island in Asia-Pacific in 2026.

The magazine said in its citation, "How do you develop one of the world's most famous island destinations without sacrificing its soul? Koh Samui manages it better than most. Riding high following its starring role in The White Lotus season 3, the island is now synonymous with sleek resorts, sophisticated dining and polished beachside luxury."

Source: [Travel + Leisure Asia](#)

Photo credit: The Luxury Signature





Numbers of Foreign Film Productions in Thailand (2025)

540

Film Productions

Numbers of Foreign Film Productions in Thailand (January - June 2026)

302

Film Productions

Source: [Thailand Film Office](#)

Photo credit: Bangkok Post

Top 5 Countries in 2025



The highest number of film productions

Japan	35 Productions
China	28 Productions
Korea	27 Productions
India	25 Productions
United States of America	20 Productions

The highest filming budgets.

United States of America	1,232,333,159.25 THB
Hong Kong	321,240,097 THB
United Kingdom	221,286,615 THB
India	175,100,000 THB
France	161,393,546 THB

Source: Thailand Film Office

Photo credit: World Travel Magazine

Examples of Famous Movies/Series Filmed in Thailand



James Bond: The Man with the Golden Gun (1974)

This film featured scenes in **Bangkok**, the Klongs (canals), and most notably, the dramatic backdrop of **Phang Nga Bay**.

The iconic Khao Phing Kan island, later renamed "**James Bond Island**," became a major tourist attraction thanks to its appearance in the movie.



James Bond: Tomorrow Never Dies (1997)

Bangkok and Phang Nga Bay were again featured, with scenes like a thrilling motorbike chase in the narrow streets of Bangkok and a boat chase in the bays.

Examples of Famous Movies/Series Filmed in Thailand



The Beach (2000)

The movie The Beach, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, was primarily filmed at **Maya Bay on Koh Phi Phi Leh Island**. Additional scenes were shot in **Krabi Province, Bangkok, and Khao Yai National Park**.



Fast & Furious 9 (2019)

The 340-million-baht production for the Hollywood action film Fast and Furious 9 was set across the southern provinces of **Krabi, Phang Nga, Phuket, and Surat Thani**.

Examples of Famous Movies/Series Filmed in Thailand



King the Land (2024)

The K-drama King the Land ranks as the most watched on the streaming platform Netflix in 2023.

The filming locations in Thailand portrayed in the series are **Wat Arun, Ong Ang Walking Street, ICONSIAM, etc.**



The White Lotus (Season 3, 2025)

The third season of the Emmy-winning HBO show, the White Lotus, was filmed in various locations in Thailand, including **Koh Samui, Phuket, and Bangkok.**

Examples of Famous Movies/Series Filmed in Thailand



The Jurassic World 4: Rebirth

Thailand has been selected as a filming location for Universal Pictures' Jurassic World 4, with production set in **Krabi, Trang, and Phang Nga provinces.**



Alien: Earth

American science fiction horror television series on the Disney+ channel marks **the highest investment in the history of foreign film production in Thailand**, with various locations in **Bangkok, Surat Thani, Samut Prakan, Krabi, and Phang Nga.**

Examples of Famous Music Videos in Thailand



**Rihanna – "What Now"
(2013)**

Global pop icon Rihanna filmed the music video for her hit single "What Now" **in Phuket** in 2013, featuring locations such as a customized warehouse soundstage out in the countryside.



**Duke Dumont – "I GOT U"
(2014)**

British DJ Duke Dumont filmed the immersive music video for the single "I Got U" across Thailand in 2014, featuring locations like in **Phuket, the Phi Phi Islands, and the vibrant streets of Bangkok.**

Photo credit: BK Magazine, UMoon Production, Sanook



**Girls' Generation (SNSD)
– "Party" (2015)**

Legendary K-pop group Girls' Generation filmed the music video for their hit summer single "Party" across **Koh Samui** in 2015

Examples of Famous Music Videos in Thailand



Troy Sivan - "Got Me Started" (2023)

Australian pop star Troye Sivan filmed the music video for his hit single "Got Me Started" across Bangkok in 2023—including the **Chong Nonsi Skywalk and Yaowarat Road (Bangkok's Chinatown).**



LISA (Blackpink) – "Rockstar" (2024)

Global K-pop star and Thailand native LISA filmed the music video for her hit comeback single "Rockstar" in 2024, at **Yaowarat Road (Bangkok's Chinatown)**

Examples of Famous Music Videos in Thailand



BamBam – "WONDERING" (2025)

Thai K-pop star and GOT7 member BamBam filmed the romantic music video for his hit single "WONDERING" across **Thailand's scenic beaches and urban streets** in 2025.



BamBam – "Dancing by Myself" (2025)

Thai K-pop star and GOT7 member BamBam filmed the dynamic music video for his single "Dancing by Myself" across **Bangkok's luxury sky lounge and bar**, showcasing **the city's vibrant nightlife** in 2025.

8 Michelin's Three Key Hotels in Thailand



**Phula Bay,
A Ritz-Carlton Reserve,
Krabi**



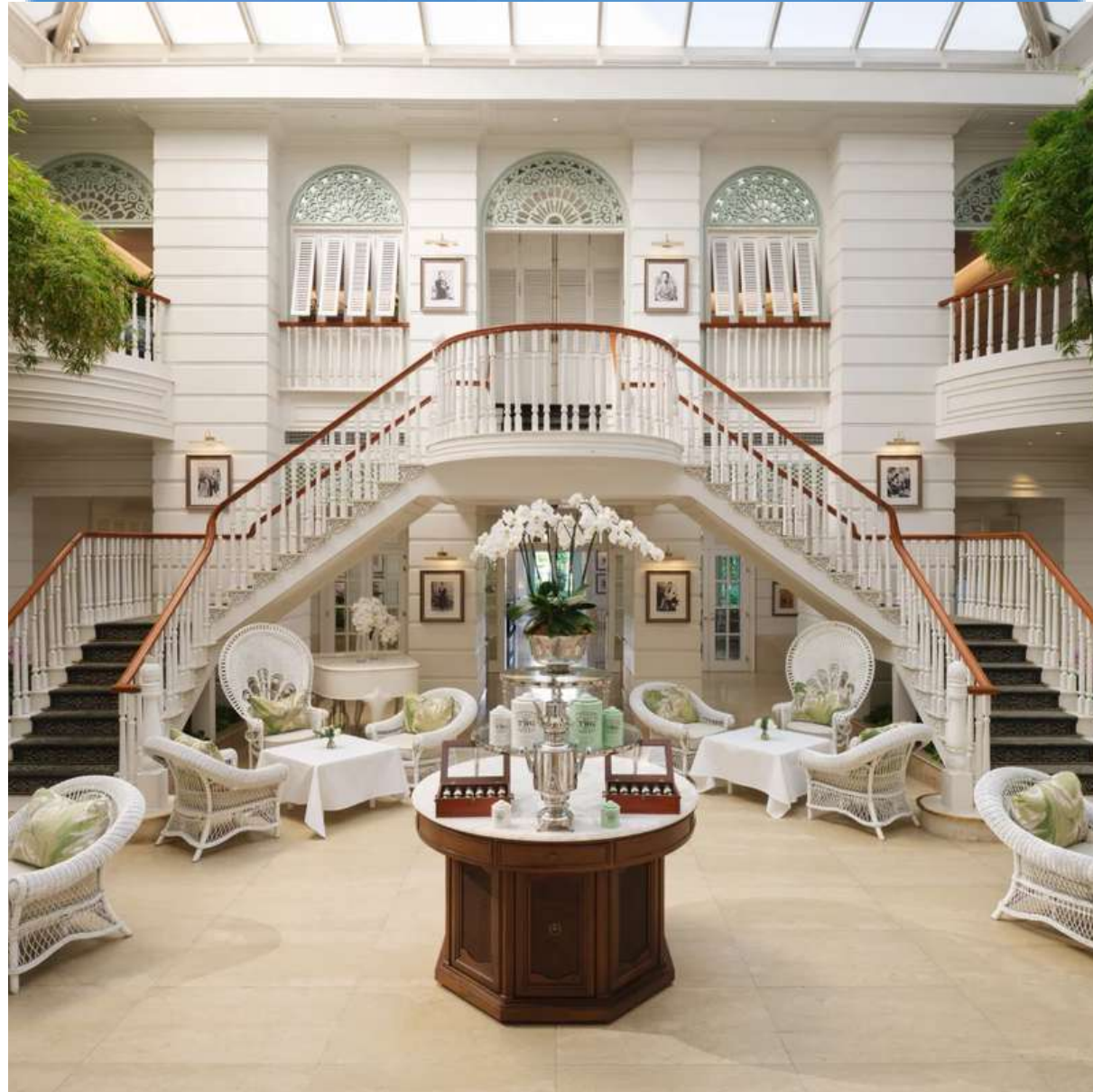
Amanpuri, Phuket

Source: [Michelin Guide](#)
Photo credit: Forbes Thailand, Michelin Guide



Keemala, Phuket

8 Michelin's Three Key Hotels in Thailand



**Mandarin Oriental
Bangkok**



The Siam, Bangkok

Source: [Michelin Guide](#)

Photo credit: Forbes Thailand, Michelin Guide



Four Season Resort Chiangmai

8 Michelin's Three Key Hotels in Thailand



Soneva Kiri, Trat

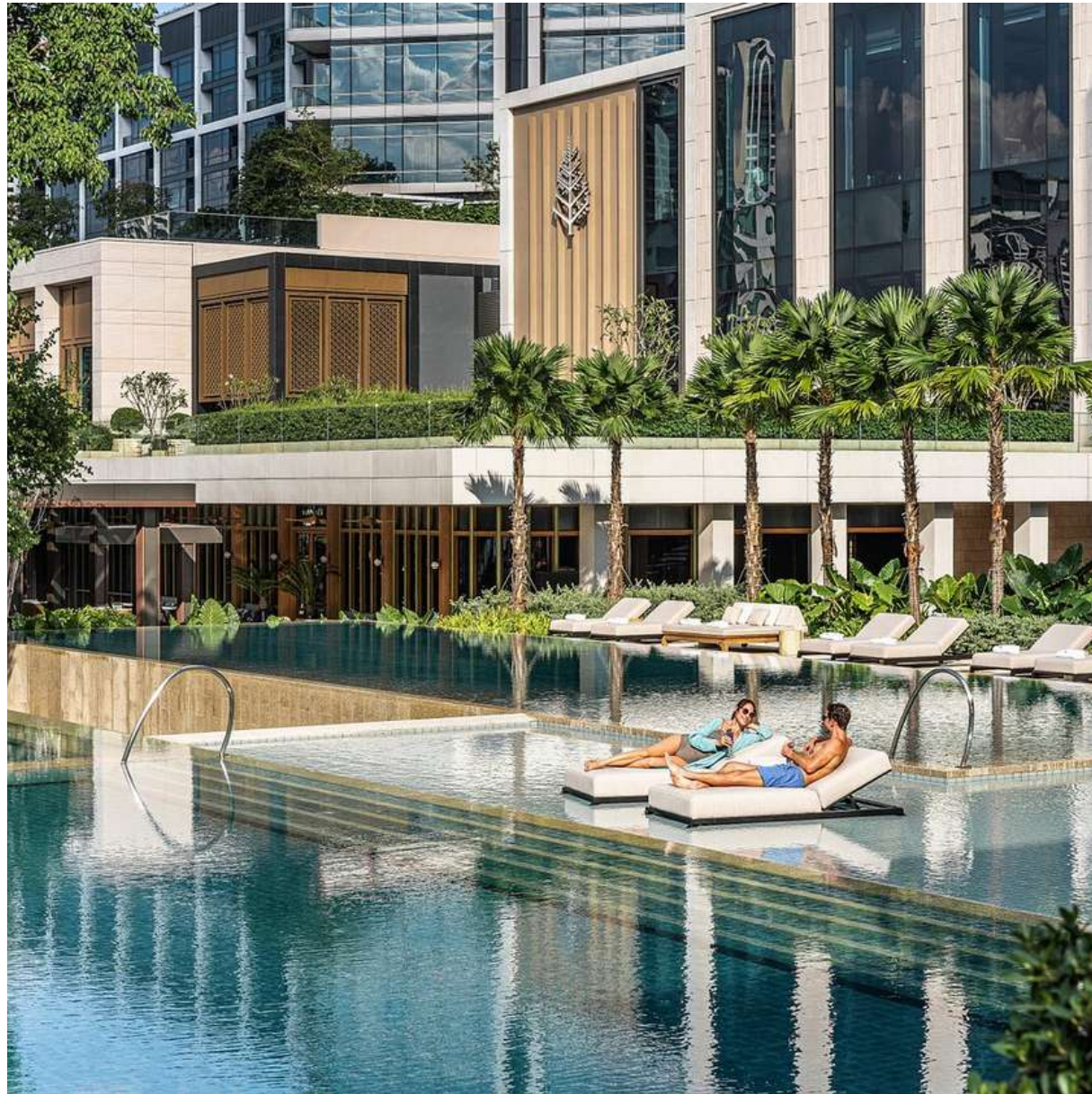


Samujana Villas, Koh Samui, Surat Thani

Source: [Michelin Guide](#)

Photo credit: Forbes Thailand, Michelin Guide

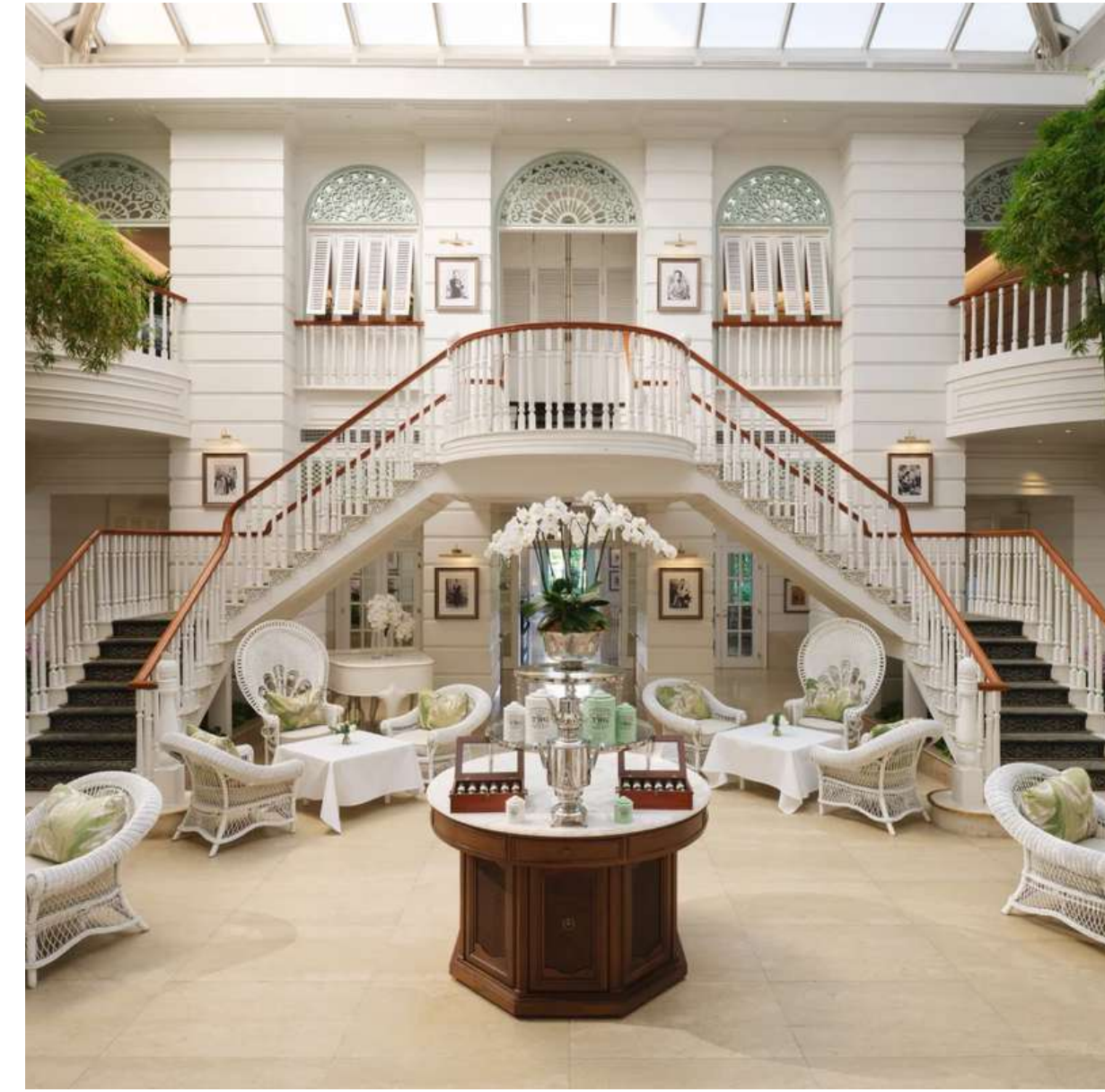
3 Thailand's Hotels rank in “The World's Best Hotels 2026” by 50Best



**2nd - Four Seasons Hotel Bangkok
at Chao Phraya River**



3rd - Capella Bangkok



7th - Mandarin Oriental Bangkok

Source: [50Best](#)

Photo credit: Four Season Hotel, Capella Bangkok, Mandarin Oriental Bangkok

Thai Universities rank in the Times Higher Education's Global Top 100



Chula
Chulalongkorn University

Chulalongkorn University
secured the number one university in Thailand
in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026,
for the third consecutive year (2024–2026). The university also ranks 19th for overall score globally.

Source: [Times Higher Education](#), [Chulalongkorn University Website](#), [Amarin TV](#)

Photo credit: Chulalongkorn University Website

Thai Universities rank in the Times Higher Education's Global Top 100



Mahidol University
No.1 for SDG 3
(Good Health and Well-being),



Thammasat University
No. 1 for SDG 16
(Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)

Source: Amarin TV

Photo credit: Mahidol University, Thammasat University, Chulalongkorn University Website

Thailand ranks the 1st country in Asia and 9th as a retirement destination in the Global Retirement Index 2026



Thailand was ranked **1st in Asia and 9th worldwide by International Living**, a leading US media outlet specializing in overseas living and retirement, receiving an overall score of 80.0 points.

The results reflect Thailand's potential as a global retirement destination, citing its quality of life, healthcare system and welcoming living environment.

Source: [Khaosod English](#)

Photo credit: Canvas

A solid orange silhouette map of Thailand, showing the main landmass and the Andaman Sea to the west.

4 Provinces of Thailand Top Forbes' 2025 Retirement Destinations

The cities making the list are **Chiang Mai, Hua Hin (Prachuap Khiri Khan), Koh Samui, (Surat Thani), and Phuket**, reinforcing Thailand's image as a “dream destination” for those seeking a comfortable retirement.

Forbes evaluated each location based on a variety of factors, including cost of living, healthcare standards, safety, amenities, climate, and the friendliness of locals.

Source: Forbes, PR Thai Government

4 Provinces of Thailand Top Forbes' 2025 Retirement Destinations



Chiangmai



Hua Hin (Prachuap Khiri Khan)

Source: Forbes, PR Thai Government
Photo credit: True ID, Movenpick Huahin

4 Provinces of Thailand Top Forbes' 2025 Retirement Destinations



Koh Samui (Surat Thani)



Phuket

Source: Forbes, PR Thai Government

Photo credit: Sawasdee Thailand, Thailand Tourism Directory

Nakhon Ratchasima: the World's 4th city "Triple Crown" by UNESCO

The UNESCO Triple Crown in Nakhon Ratchasima includes:

- **World Heritage Site:** *Khao Yai National Park* (part of the Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex), famous for its biodiversity and lush tropical forests.
- **Biosphere Reserve:** *Sakaerat Biosphere Reserve* located in the Pak Thong Chai District, a hub for ecological research and forest conservation.
- **Global Geopark:** *Khorat Geopark*, recognized for its ancient fossils (such as ancient elephants) and unique geological landscapes spanning across five districts.

Photo credit: The Government Public Relations Department



Five Thai destinations in TIME's World's Greatest Places 2026

Five Thai destinations were featured in TIME's World's Greatest Places 2026, highlighting Thailand's strengths in community-based tourism, heritage hospitality, cultural travel, and contemporary art.



DaiDib DaiDee in Nan, Thailand
Community-Based Tourism



Mandarin Oriental Bangkok
Heritage Hospitality

Source: TIME Magazine, 2026

Photo credit: DaiDib DaiDee, Mandarin Oriental Bangkok

Five Thai destinations in TIME's World's Greatest Places 2026



Khao Yai Art Forest
Nature and Contemporary Art Space



Dib Bangkok
Contemporary Creative Space

Source: [TIME Magazine, 2026](#)

Photo credit: The Standard, Bangkok, Dib Bangkok

Five Thai destinations in TIME's World's Greatest Places 2026



Blue Jasmine Train
Luxury Cultural Rail Travel

Source: [TIME Magazine, 2026](#)

Photo credit: The Blue Jasmin Train, How E Magazine



Thailand ranks 1st in ASEAN and 8th in the World's Best Health Care System in 2026

Thailand is ranked 8th worldwide and 1st in the ASEAN region. Thailand achieved a **Health Care Index score of 77.5** out of 100, climbing up one spot from its 2025 ranking, according to the 2026 Health Care Index by Country reported by the **Numbeo website**, which ranks healthcare systems across 100 countries globally.

Source: [ASEAN Association - Thailand](#)

Photo credit: Alorica



Thailand ranks 2nd in the World's Top Medical Tourism Destinations in 2026

Thailand has secured second place in **Travel And Tour World's Top 50 Medical Tourism Destinations for 2026.**

The ranking weighs the things that matter most to patients travelling abroad for treatment: trusted care, specialist expertise, modern medical technology, competitive pricing, shorter waiting times and somewhere appealing to recover afterwards. On those counts, Thailand clearly makes a strong case.

Source: Time Out, Travel and Tour World
Photo credit: Sawassdee Thailand, TTG Asia

Thailand ranked Top 25 of the World in the 2026 FDI Index

The 2026 Foreign Direct Investment (FDICI) index survey by Kearney
indicates that Thailand has returned to the top 25 in the world.

It reflects a recovery in confidence among senior executives worldwide amidst structural changes in global supply chains.

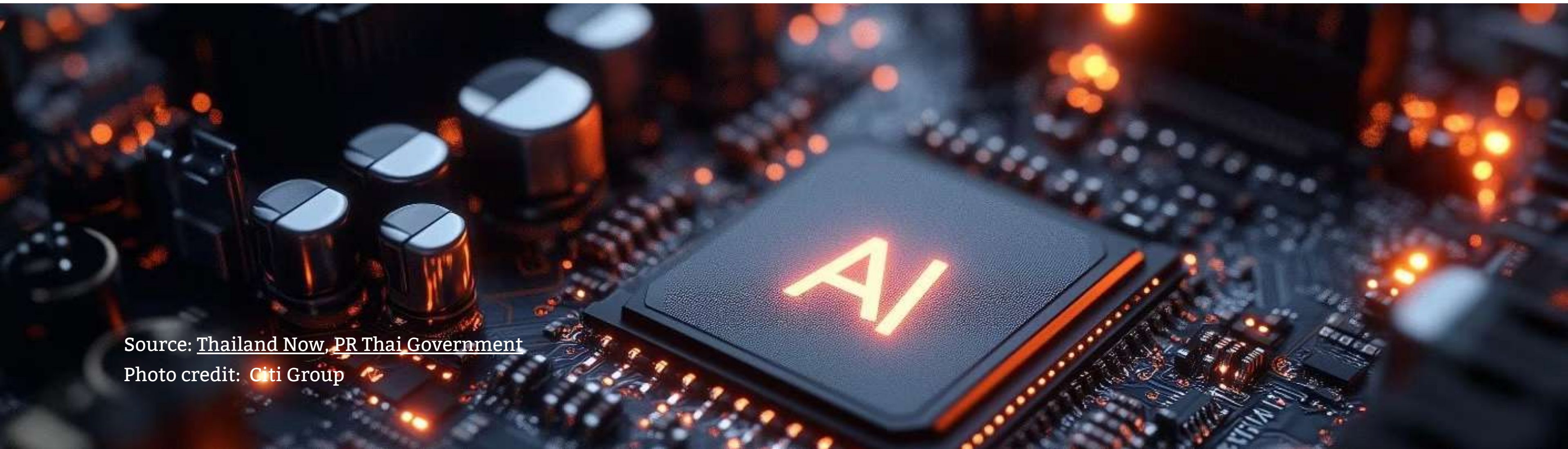
Source: [Kearney, Money & Banking Online](#)

Photo credit: We are CP



Thailand ranks among the World's Four Largest Exporters of AI-related hardware

Thailand has been ranked among **the world's four largest exporters of AI-related hardware** by **the International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, underscoring the Kingdom's growing role in global technology supply chains, as it pushes to transform itself into a regional hub for AI and semiconductor manufacturing.



Source: [Thailand Now](#), PR Thai Government

Photo credit: Citi Group