

READING A TRAVEL GUIDE

Read a travel guide about Bangkok to practise and improve your reading skills.

PREPARATION TASK

Match the words with the correct definition (after reading the text, check again!)

1. Dirty from traffic or chemicals
2. Real or traditional; not fake
3. Another way to do something
4. Fast
5. A table where food or other things are sold in markets
6. A place where cars and buses stop and move very slowly

- A. Traffic Jam
- B. Polluted
- C. Alternative
- D. Stall
- E. Authentic
- F. Swift



NOW READ THE TRAVEL GUIDE AND THEN DO THE TASKS BELOW

Visit Bangkok

If you travel to the islands or the mountains of Thailand, you will probably stay one night in Bangkok. Bangkok is the capital city. It's quite noisy and **polluted**, but it is also fun and interesting. There are many things to see and do. Why not stay for a few more days?

Where to stay

Khao San Road is a popular place for travelers. It became more famous after the movie The Beach with Leonardo DiCaprio. But it is loud, not very clean, and doesn't feel very **authentic**. A better area is Phra Kanong. It has busy street markets, and real Thai people live there. It is not close to the big tourist places, but it has a Skytrain station. You can take the Skytrain and be at the Grand Palace in 20 minutes.

How to get around

Bangkok has a lot of traffic. You can take a taxi, but it is slow because of **traffic jams**. A great **alternative** is to travel by boat or Skytrain. To see temples and old buildings, take a boat on the Chao Phraya river or the canals. To see the modern parts of the city, take the Skytrain. It is a **swift** and cheap way to reach them. You can go to shopping malls, Sukhumvit nightlife, or the big Chatuchak street market.

Where to eat

You can eat anywhere in Bangkok! Thai street food is cheap and very tasty. You can get a big meal for about \$5. Many food **stalls** have small plastic chairs. The cooks often make one dish, like

chicken with rice or Pad Thai noodles. A great place to eat is Chinatown, on Yaowarat Street. There are many restaurants and food stalls. Choose the food that looks good to you!

What to do

First, visit the big sights like the Giant Buddha at Wat Pho and the beautiful Grand Palace. Go shopping at Chatuchak Market. Then, do something different – visit the snake farm! You can watch a snake show, and if you are brave you can even touch a real snake!

EXERCISES

Read each sentence carefully. Write T (True) if the sentence is correct, or F (False) if it is not. If it's false, write the correct information.

1. Bangkok is always quiet and clean.
2. Khao San Road became more popular after the movie The Beach.
3. The Skytrain is a slow and expensive way to travel.
4. You can eat street food in Bangkok for about \$5.
5. Many food stalls only cook one dish.
6. Chinatown is a good place to try different kinds of food.
7. You can see the Giant Buddha at the Grand Palace.
8. The snake farm has live shows with real snakes.

Answer the questions in one or two short sentences. Use your own words when possible.

1. Why do many travelers stop in Bangkok?
2. What is one reason Phra Kanong is a good place to stay?
3. What are two ways to travel around Bangkok quickly?
4. How much does a typical street food meal cost in Bangkok?
5. What special activity can you do at the snake farm?

GRAMMAR

Comparatives and superlatives

Comparatives: used to compare two things:

- For **short** adjectives:
adjective + **-er** + than
Example: The Skytrain is **faster than** a taxi.
- For **long** adjectives (2 or more syllables):
more + adjective + than
Example: Bangkok is **more exciting than** my town.

Use "**than**" to show the comparison.

Superlatives: Used to say one thing is the best in a group:

- For short adjectives:
the + adjective + **-est**
Example: The Grand Palace is **the biggest** site.
- For long adjectives:
the + **most** + adjective
Example: Chatuchak is **the most popular** market.

Use "**the**" before a superlative.

Exercise 1: Complete the sentences

Write the correct comparative or superlative form of the adjective in brackets.

1. My house is _____ than my friend's house. (big)
2. Today is _____ than yesterday. (cold)
3. This is _____ movie I've ever seen! (interesting)
4. The bus is _____ than the train. (slow)
5. Her new dress is _____ than her old one. (beautiful)