

Ayutthaya

Thailand

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Ayutthaya was the capital of the Siamese kingdom for more than 400 years. Today it is a quiet town on an island between three rivers, and it is one of Thailand's most important historic sites. Its brick temples, towers and statues stand among green lawns and old trees.

It is only about 80 km north of Bangkok, so it works well as a day trip or an overnight stay. A visit suits history lovers, photographers and anyone who wants to see Thailand's past outside the capital.

When to visit

The best time is from November to February, when the days are drier and cooler. March to May is very hot, and walking between ruins in the midday sun is hard. The rainy season runs from May to October, and some low areas flood. Early morning and late afternoon are the best times to visit in any season.

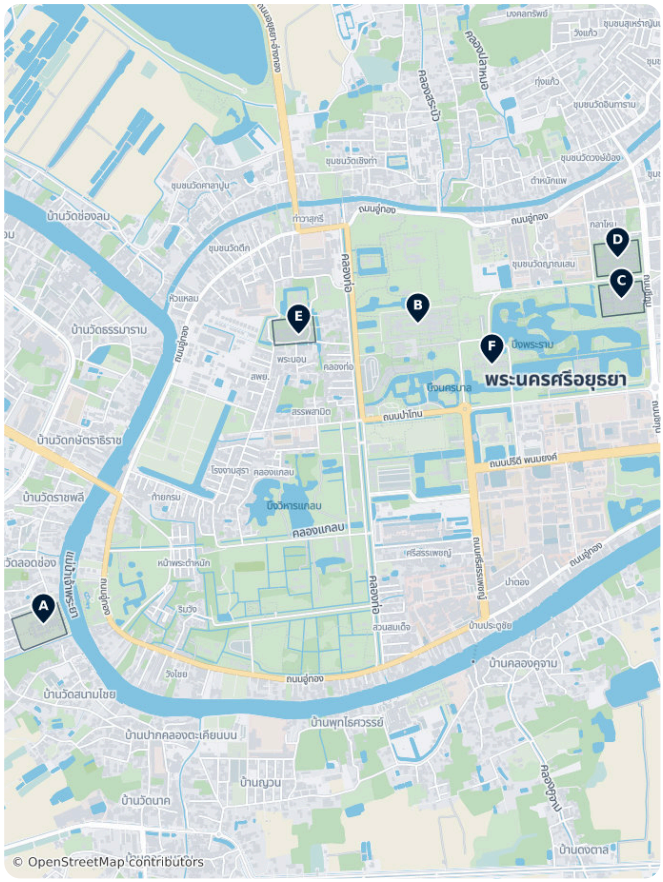
The main event is the **Ayutthaya World Heritage Fair**, usually held in December. The old city is lit up at night, and there are performances and food stalls among the ruins.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Fair Fair for sightseeing	33° / 37°	20° / 15°	Humid air · Calm winds · Up to 7 days above 35°
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	36° / 39°	23° / 18°	Muggy, humid air · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high) · Up to 20 days above 35°
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	38° / 42°	25° / 21°	Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high) · Up to 26 days above 35°
April	Poor Poor for sightseeing	37° / 43° Feels like 40°	26° / 24°	13 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high) · Up to 22 days above 35°
May	Poor Poor for sightseeing	34° / 40° Feels like 39°	26° / 24°	22 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high) · Up to 11 days above 35°
June	Poor Poor for sightseeing	33° / 37° Feels like 37°	25° / 24°	23 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
July	Poor Poor for sightseeing	32° / 35° Feels like 36°	24° / 23°	25 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
August	Poor Poor for sightseeing	32° / 34° Feels like 36°	24° / 23°	25 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
September	Poor Poor for sightseeing	31° / 33° Feels like 35°	24° / 23°	27 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
October	Poor Poor for sightseeing	31° / 33° Feels like 35°	24° / 21°	22 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high)
November	Good Good for sightseeing	31° / 34°	22° / 17°	Oppressive humidity · Calm winds
December	Good Good for sightseeing	31° / 35°	19° / 14°	20 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Wat Chaiwatthanaram is a large riverside temple with a tall central tower in the Khmer style. It is outside the main island and is especially beautiful at sunset.
- B Wat Phra Si Sanphet was the royal temple of the old palace. Its three bell-shaped towers are the best-known view of Ayutthaya.
- C Wat Mahathat is the temple where a stone Buddha head is held by tree roots. Do not stand higher than the head when you take a photo.
- D Wat Ratchaburana has a tall central tower that you can climb to a small chamber. The paintings inside are old and fragile.
- E Wat Lokkayasutha has a long reclining Buddha in the open air. It was rebuilt after being destroyed.
- F Wat Phra Ram is a quiet temple by a lake, with a large tower and many trees. It is a good place for a rest from crowds.



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What to experience

- **Sunset at the temples**: Watch the light on the riverside towers in the late afternoon. Sunset is one of the best times for photos.
- **River boat tour**: Take a boat around the island and see the old city from the water.
- **Evening temple lights**: Many temples are lit up at night, and the old city looks very different after dark.
- **Cycling the ruins**: Pedal from temple to temple on quiet roads, with a rest in the shade at each stop.

Day trips

These trips are listed from closest to farthest.

- **Bang Pa-In Royal Palace**: about 30 minutes by car or train south of Ayutthaya. A palace with gardens, built by Thai kings in the 17th and 19th centuries.
- **Lopburi**: about 1 to 1.5 hours by train or car. An old town with Khmer ruins and many monkeys near the railway station. Keep food and bags out of sight.
- **Bangkok**: about 1.5 to 2 hours by train or car. Many visitors make Ayutthaya a day trip from the capital.

Where to explore

- Bangkok is the capital, about 80 km south.
- Lopburi is an old Khmer and Thai town to the north.

Getting there

- **By air**: The nearest major airports are in Bangkok. Don Mueang Airport (DMK) is about 60 km away and Suvarnabhumi Airport (BKK) about 110 km. A taxi from DMK takes about 1 hour.
- **By train**: Trains run from Bangkok to Ayutthaya station in about 1.5 to 2 hours. Slow third-class trains are cheap. The station is on the east bank, and a short ferry crosses to the island.
- **By bus and minivan**: Minivans leave from Bangkok's Mo Chit area and take about 1.5 hours. They drop passengers in the town.
- **By boat**: Some river cruises run from Bangkok. They are slow, but they combine travel with a meal.

Getting around

- **Bicycle**: The island is flat and bicycles are the best way to see the temples. Rentals are cheap, but the heat is strong, so start early.
- **Tuk-tuks**: Drivers offer tours of the main sights for a fixed time. Agree on the price and the route before you start.
- **Songthaews and motorbike taxis**: Useful for short trips around the town.
- **On foot**: Most temples on the island are too far apart for a long walk in the heat.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The ruins are spread across the island and heat makes long walks hard, but streets are flat and quiet.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

The island is flat with quiet roads, and cycling is the most popular way to see the temples.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the town. A car is useful if you combine Ayutthaya with Lopburi or Bang Pa-In in one day.
- **Driving side**: Traffic drives on the **left**.
- **Parking**: Parking is easy at the main temples. Roads inside the island can be crowded at weekends.

Food & drink

Ayutthaya is known for river prawns, boat noodles and sweet thin pancakes called roti sai mai. The pancakes are wrapped around threads of sweet sugar and sold at stalls near the old town.

The best eating areas are the night markets in the center and the riverside restaurants along the island's edge. Some riverside restaurants have views of the temples at sunset.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Pad Thai
Stir-fried rice noodles with egg, tofu or shrimp, bean sprouts, and tamarind sauce, topped with crushed peanuts.

Som Tam
Spicy shredded green papaya salad with lime, chili, fish sauce, and peanuts.

Boat Noodles · Kuay Teow Reua
Small, intensely flavored bowls of noodle soup, traditionally served from boats along Bangkok's canals.

DINNER

Tom Yum Goong · Tom Yum Kung
Hot and sour soup with shrimp, lemongrass, galangal, kaffir lime leaves, and chili.

Green Curry · Gaeng Keow Wan
Coconut-milk curry with green chilies, Thai basil, and meat or tofu, served with rice.

Massaman Curry · Gaeng Massaman
Mild, rich curry with Persian and Indian influences, typically made with beef or chicken, potatoes, and peanuts.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Satay · Sate
Grilled skewers of marinated meat served with peanut dipping sauce.

Mango Sticky Rice Roti · Roti
Crispy pan-fried flatbread, often served sweet with condensed milk and banana, or savory.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Mango Sticky Rice · Khao Niao Mamuang
Sweet sticky rice served with fresh mango slices and coconut cream.

DRINKS

Thai Iced Tea · Cha Yen
Strong black tea sweetened with condensed milk and served over ice.

Singha / Chang Beer · Beer Chang / Singha
Popular Thai lagers widely available at bars and restaurants.

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Safety & health

Ayutthaya is safe for visitors, and violent crime is rare.

- **Heat**: Carry water, wear a hat and avoid the midday sun.
- **Dress code**: Cover your shoulders and knees at temples. Take off your shoes where signs ask you to.
- **Respect**: Do not climb on ruins or Buddha statues, and do not put your head higher than a Buddha image.
- **Tuk-tuk prices**: Agree on the price and what is included before the tour starts.
- **Water**: Drink bottled water.
- **Royal family**: Do not speak or write badly about the monarchy. It is a serious crime in Thailand.

History

Ayutthaya was founded in 1350 and became one of the richest cities in Asia. Traders from Europe, Persia, China and Japan came here. In 1767, a Burmese army destroyed the city, and the capital moved south, later to Bangkok.

The ruins show the age and the loss. Many Buddha statues lost their heads in the war. Wat Phra Si Sanphet was once the grandest temple on the palace grounds. Wat Chaiwatthanaram was built in the 17th century in a style that looked back to older Khmer towers. The old city became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991.

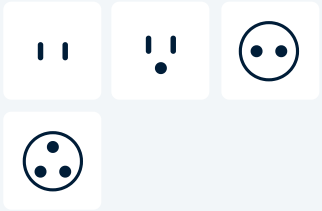
Country facts

Quick practical facts for Thailand at a glance:

CURRENCY
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EMERGENCY
191

ELECTRICITY



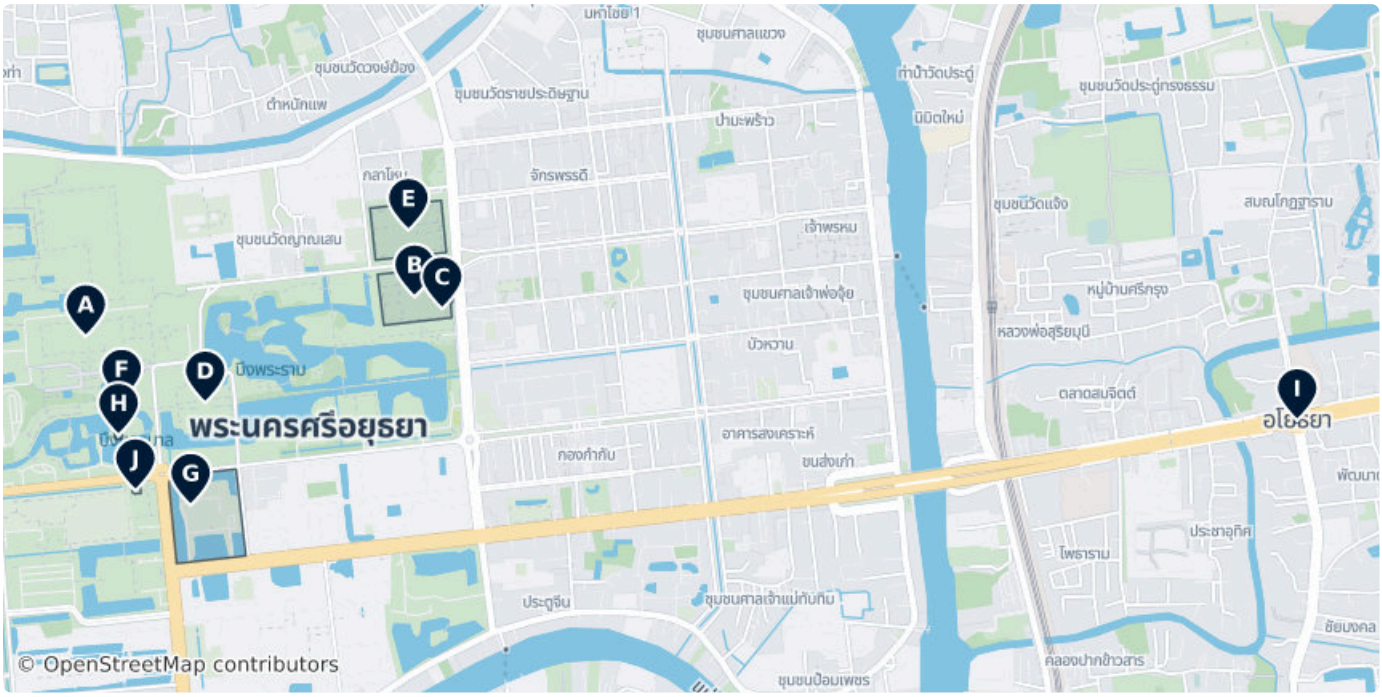
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LANGUAGES
Thai

TAP WATER
Use caution

Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Must-Sees

Explore the remnants of the Kingdom of Siam in this UNESCO World Heritage destination. This list covers the central ruins of the Ayutthaya Historical Park, including the iconic three chedis of Wat Phra Si Sanphet and the famous Buddha head entwined in tree roots at Wat Mahathat. Beyond the temples, the collection includes the Chao Sam Phraya National Museum, which houses gold treasures recovered from temple crypts, and examples of traditional teak architecture, providing a comprehensive view of the city's 14th to 18th-century heritage.





A Wat Phra Si Sanphet

Built in 1351, this temple features three large chedis and marks the center of the old capital of Thailand.

Naresuan, Pratu Chai, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, 13000 Bangkok, Thailand (14.35593, 100.55850)



B Wat Mahathat

Wat Mahathat is a Buddhist temple in Ayutthaya, Thailand.

Thailand (14.35698, 100.56747)

youtu.be/co87_58iBD0



C Buddha Head in Tree Roots

A sandstone Buddha head entwined in the aerial roots of a banyan tree, located within the ruins of Wat Mahathat.

Thailand (14.35666, 100.56822)



D Wad phraram

Built in 1369, this temple features a central prang and sits adjacent to a large pond that was once part of the royal palace grounds.

Thailand (14.35418, 100.56176)



E Wat Ratchaburana

Founded in 1424, this site is known for its large Khmer-style prang and a crypt that once contained significant gold artifacts and murals.

Thailand (14.35873, 100.56730)



F Ayutthaya Historical Park

A UNESCO World Heritage site protecting the ruins of the former Siamese capital, including royal palaces and Buddhist monasteries.

Thailand (14.35423, 100.55948)

G Chao Sam Phraya National Museum

The city's main museum, displaying gold treasures from Wat Ratchaburana, ancient bronze Buddha statues, and intricate wood carvings.

108 (14.35148, 100.56136)

H Khun Phaen's Residence

A traditional Thai teak house on stilts, demonstrating classic central Thai residential architecture.

(14.35333, 100.55940)

I Wat Sam Pluem

A historic brick stupa and ruin situated on the eastern side of the old city.

(14.35372, 100.59152)

J Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya City Pillar Shrine

A sacred shrine housing the city's foundation pillar, featuring a cross-shaped layout and a gilded spire.

(14.35187, 100.55986)

DATA SOURCES

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IMAGE CREDITS

- Wat Phra Si Sanphet — "มุมหนึ่งของ วัดพระศรีสรรเพชญ์ หรือ วัดพระศรีสรรเพชญ เป็นวัดหลวงในพระราชวังโบราณ..." by Grassroot, CC BY-SA 3.0
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