

# Bangkok and Pattaya Travel Info

The following is offered as some “unofficial” travel information, cobbled together from our fellowships in both Pattaya and Bangkok. Be advised that the Thailand Roundup is not responsible for any of what follows. We are not tour guides and are not trying to recommend one hotel over another (non-affiliation along with a generous helping of caveat emptor). Our intent is to get some basic working information out there to those who might need it.

## VISA REQUIREMENTS

Most European, North American, Australian, New Zealand, East and Southeast Asian nationals do not require a visa to enter Thailand for up to a 30-day stay. For more specific information, please check with Thailand’s [Immigration Bureau](#), or contact [your local Thai embassy or consulate](#).

## ARRIVING BY AIR

Bangkok is served by most international airlines. Check with your local travel agents or airline representatives for flight information from your area, or do an Internet search for “cheap airline flights.”

Bangkok and Pattaya are now serviced by Suvarnabhumi Airport, which is located southeast of Bangkok, just off Bangna-Trad Highway – on the way to Pattaya. There are direct transport links from the airport to Pattaya (and Bangkok, too, if you want to go there).

## GETTING TO PATTAYA

### From Suvarnabhumi Airport

**TAXI** – As of 2007, the regular taxi fare from the airport taxi desk is 1300 baht from the airport to Pattaya. This is for the taxi; not per person. So sharing is good. This is perhaps the most ideal transport, especially for people who are unfamiliar with Pattaya.

**BUSES** – Bell Travel Service (phone 02 747 4676-6 in Bangkok and 038 370 055-6 Pattaya) has buses leaving the airport at 8am, 10am, 12pm, 2pm, 4pm and 6pm from the arrival hall. There are also regular buses leaving sporadically (last one 5pm) from the bus station just outside the airport. A free shuttle bus provided at the airport will take you to the bus station. We’re not sure about the fares at this time.

### From Bangkok

If you’re staying in Bangkok before heading down to Pattaya, there are a number of travel options.

**BUSES** – Coach service from Bangkok to Pattaya is available from either Mo Chit (Northern Bus Terminal) or from Ekkamai (Eastern Bus Terminal) on Sukhumvit Road. As of 2007, a one-way ticket costs around 110 baht. Beware of the lower-priced buses – they run a much slower, local route than the express buses. After arriving at the Pattaya air-con bus station, you will need to take other transport into town. There is a queue of “baht buses” outside the station which run about 20 baht. As always, ask the price first.

**TAXI** – You can also hail a taxi to Pattaya on the street anywhere in Bangkok, and negotiate with the driver for a metered or unmetered fare. You’ll also be expected to pay any expressway tolls. If you want to book a taxi, a couple of the more reputable cab companies are Howa Taxi (02-615-7117), with new, clean cars, and the excellent Julie Taxi ([www.julietaxi.com](http://www.julietaxi.com)).

### Once in Pattaya

**GETTING AROUND** – The baht buses do a circular route around Beach Road and Pattaya Second Road and charge 10 baht. Just jump on and then ring the bell when you want to jump off. Good luck.

Alternatively you can tell the driver where you want to go, which is hiring the baht bus. In this case, be sure to agree on a price beforehand – across town or to Jomtien Beach, they often want 100 baht.

Bargaining does not usually get much of a discount in this situation.

**HOTELS** – You are responsible for arranging your own lodging. The roundup venue is the Montien Hotel Pattaya. Special room rates are 2,700 baht for superior single and 3,000 baht for superior twin. [E-mail the hotel](#) to reserve your room; please mention “Friends of Bill W”.

Pattaya has thousands of hotel rooms at a wide range of prices. The better ones tend to fill up during the high tourist season, which runs from November to March. The Internet offers one of the best ways to shop for a hotel room. All phone numbers for Pattaya start with area code, 038. If dialing from overseas, dial 66-38 before the number. Using an Internet search engine for “hotels in Pattaya” or “cheap hotels in Pattaya” is perhaps the best way to book a room. Going to Google or any other search engine and following the links will provide a pretty accurate understanding of the availability of rooms as well as the price ranges. The booking process takes a couple days so be patient and remember it is not possible to book online only two or three days prior to the event. Besides, availability will likely be lower by that time so booking early is always best.

Close to the Roundup venue, the Montien Hotel Pattaya, on Second Road near the intersection with Pattaya Central Road (and not far from the beach), are quite a few to choose from:

- Eastiny Place, 315/2-3 Soi 8 (427-702-5)
- F&B Hotel, 75/3 Second Road, (427-142)
- Flipper House, 213/3 Soi 7 (361-667-71)
- Flipper Lodge, 520/1 Soi 8 (411-655-6, 426-401-2, 411-364-5)
- Hard Rock Hotel ([www.hardrockhotels.net/pattaya/](http://www.hardrockhotels.net/pattaya/))
- High Five Hotel, 217/8 Soi 8 (427-111-7)
- Twin Palms Resort, 426 Second Road (428-779-80)
- Sunbeam Hotel, 217/27 Soi 8 (427-120-9)
- Sunshine Hotel, 217/1 Soi 8 (429-247, 429-910)
- Welcome Plaza, 213 Second Road (427-071-8, 424-765-7)

If you want a quiet, clean reasonable room near the beach, disembark your transportation at Soi 1 and walk towards Second Road. Explore Sois 2, 3, and 4. There are a dozen hotels in that little area. It’s even possible to e-mail ahead for confirmation with some of them. Here is a sampling:

- A-1 Royal Cruise ([www.a-onehotel.com](http://www.a-onehotel.com))
- BaBooNo Beach (038-488-720)
- Bella Vista Prima ([www.bellavillapattaya.com](http://www.bellavillapattaya.com))
- Charming Inn (038-428-895)
- Holiday Lodge (038-488-572)
- Mike Beach Resort (038-420-625)
- One Mansion (038-361-569)
- Pattaya Tower (038-423-107)
- Sabai Inn ([www.sabaiinn.com](http://www.sabaiinn.com))
- Sabai Lodge ([www.sabailodge.com](http://www.sabailodge.com))
- Sabai Resort ([www.sabairesort.in.th](http://www.sabairesort.in.th))
- Sunshine Vista ([www.sunshinevista.com](http://www.sunshinevista.com))
- Welkom Inn ([www.welkominthailand.com](http://www.welkominthailand.com))

**RESTAURANTS** (Cheap Charlie’s favorite eateries): For good, inexpensive eating, your best bets are located along Second Road between Sois 10 and 14. These feature “all-u-can-eat” buffets for both breakfast and dinner, some with up to 50 or 60 items, and including all the coffee or tea you might want. Look for The Lek, Apex and Diana Inn. These are priced at around 100 baht for breakfast, 180-baht dinner. For a spectacular view of the beach and offshore islands while eating, try The Sandalay Resort (Beach Road at Soi 2) for a 149-baht buffet breakfast. Tops supermarket, near the Montien Hotel, has an inexpensive food court as well as a deli counter.