



TRAILS OF INDOCHINA

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THAILAND

WEATHER INFORMATION



WEATHER IN THAILAND



Thailand can best be described as tropical and humid throughout a majority of the country during most of the year. The area of Thailand north of Bangkok has a climate determined by three seasons while the southern peninsular region of Thailand has only two.

- NORTHERN THAILAND (SUKHOTHAI, CHIANG MAI & CHIANG RAI)

In northern Thailand, the seasons are clearly defined. Between November and May, the weather is mostly dry, however, this is broken up into the periods November to February and March to May. The latter of these two periods has higher relative temperatures. The other northern season is from May to November and is dominated by the southwest monsoon, during which time rainfall in the north is at its heaviest. The average high temperature for this region is 32°C (90°F) and average low is 21°C (70°F), although it can drop down to as low as 8°C (46°F) in the winter months.

- CENTRAL (BANGKOK, AYUTHAYA)

The central region of Thailand has a hot, tropical climate with daytime temperature reaching the mid 30 °C (91°F) throughout the year. November to February is the driest time of year and the most popular with tourists. March, April and May are the hottest months, and the rainy season runs from May to October. During the wet season, short showers are likely during the afternoon, though some days it will rain all day.

- SOUTHERN (KOH SAMUI, KRABI, PHUKET)

The southern region of Thailand really has only two seasons - the wet and the dry. These seasons do not run at the same time on both the east and west side of the peninsular. On the west coast the southwest monsoon brings rain from May through to October, whilst on the east coast, the most rain falls between September and December. The average high temperature is 33°C (91°F) and average low is 25°C (77°F).

SUMMARY



Generally speaking, the best time to visit Thailand is from November to February when the northeast monsoon is blowing cool, dry air which serves as a respite from the heat. During this cool season, the temperature ranges from 18°C to 32°C in Bangkok, while in northern and northeast Thailand, temperatures can get quite cool with morning temperatures as low as 8°C to 12°C with the occasional 20°C day. Nights can be particularly chilly and at high altitudes, the temperatures can drop below freezing.

The summer period, or hot and dry season, is from March to June. At this time, temperatures in Bangkok average around 34° C, but can often reach 40° C with the humidity levels of 75%. Try and avoid April, unless you plan to be permanently submerged in the ocean because this is the hottest month across the country.

From July to October is the monsoonal season when most of Thailand's annual rainfall is accumulated. The humidity averages just under 90%, with temperatures averaging around 29° C in Bangkok.

The monsoons finish when the wind direction changes, bringing dry weather from the northeast. At best this season can be described as unpredictable and not the constant downpour of rain like you would expect. The middle months of this season may hold particularly heavy rains for the north of the country.

The ratings are:

- Excellent - moderate humidity, comfortable
- Good - occasional rain with humidity
- Mixed - rain, hot and high humidity
- *Mixed (Very Hot) as during April and May are the hottest months of the year.

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
Chiang Mai	Excellent	Excellent	Mixed	Mixed*	Mixed*	Mixed
Chiang Rai	Excellent	Excellent	Mixed	Mixed*	Mixed*	Mixed
Bangkok	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Mixed*	Mixed*	Mixed
Phuket	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Good
Koh Samui	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Good
Krabi	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Mixed	Mixed
Phi Phi	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Good

	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chiang Mai	Good	Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Chiang Rai	Good	Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Bangkok	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Excellent	Excellent
Phuket	Good	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Good	Excellent
Koh Samui	Good	Good	Good	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed
Krabi	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Good
Phi Phi	Good	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Good	Excellent