Bangkok by Boat The Chao Phraya Experience



Image by Chanuwat Srithong Pixabay



Gliding along the Chao Phraya River in a long-tail boat is a captivating experience that immerses you in the vibrant heart of Bangkok. As the boat weaves through the city's waterways, you'll witness the perfect blend of tradition and modernity—ancient temples, bustling riverside markets, and the iconic skyline of Thailand’s capital. The rhythmic hum of the engine and the gentle spray of water against the boat create a sensory journey that is as exhilarating as it is serene, making it a truly unforgettable way to explore Bangkok’s rich culture and history.

Chao Phraya Express Boats



photo by Chainwit (CC BY-SA 4.0) modified

These public transport boats are a lifeline for commuters and tourists alike, running along the main stretches of the river.

- Orange Flag: Budget-friendly, stopping at major tourist destinations. Perfect for travelers who want an affordable and convenient way to see key sights.

- Yellow Flag: A faster option with fewer stops, designed primarily for commuters.

- Blue Flag (Tourist Boat): Tailored for visitors, this boat offers guides and stops at popular attractions.



Why Choose the Tourist Boats?

The Chao Phraya Tourist Boat (Blue Flag) offers a convenient and scenic way to explore Bangkok's top attractions along the river, with flexibility for visitors to hop on and off at major piers.

฿ **Current Prices** (December 2024):

- All Day River Pass: 150 THB
  - Unlimited rides between 08:30 and 19:15 on the date of purchase.
- Single-Journey Ticket: 45 THB
  - Valid for one trip only. A new ticket is required for re-boarding.



Where to Board:

- Main Starting Point: Sathorn Pier (Central Pier), located near the BTS Saphan Taksin station.
- Other Stops: Major piers like Tha Chang Pier (Grand Palace), Tha Tien Pier (Wat Arun), and Phra Arthit Pier (near Khao San Road).



Where to Buy Tickets:

- At the pier ticket counters.
- Onboard the boat (cash-only).
- Online via the Chao Phraya Tourist Boat website.

The tourist boat service operates daily, making it easy for visitors to explore Bangkok.



Major Piers on the Chao Phraya River with Nearby Attractions

📍 **Sathorn Pier (Central Pier)**
Find Sathorn Pier on Google Maps
Nearby Attractions:

- Asiatique The Riverfront: A large open-air mall with shops, restaurants, and entertainment.
- State Tower: Home to the famous Sky Bar with panoramic views.
- Silom Road: A bustling shopping and nightlife district.

📍 **Tha Chang Pier (N9)**
Find Tha Chang Pier on Google Maps
Nearby Attractions:

- Grand Palace: Stunning architecture and Thai history.
- Wat Phra Kaew: Temple of the Emerald Buddha.
- Tha Chang Market: A market offering street food and souvenirs.

📍 **Tha Tien Pier (N8)**
Find Tha Tien Pier on Google Maps
Nearby Attractions:

- Wat Pho: Famous for its reclining Buddha statue.
- Wat Arun: Iconic Temple of Dawn.
- Pak Khlong Talat: Bangkok's vibrant flower market.

📍 **Ratchawong Pier (N5)**
Find Ratchawong Pier on Google Maps
Nearby Attractions:

- Chinatown: Known for street food and gold shops.
- Sampeng Market: A lively market for textiles and more.
- Wat Mangkon Kamalawat: A major Chinese Buddhist temple.



📍**Phra Arthit Pier (N13)**

Find Phra Arthit Pier on Google Maps

Nearby Attractions:

- Khao San Road: Famous backpacker street.
- Banglamphu Market: A local market for food and clothes.
- Santichaiprakarn Park: A relaxing riverside park.

📍**Si Phraya Pier (N3)**

Find Si Phraya Pier on Google Maps

Nearby Attractions:

- River City Bangkok: Shopping mall with antiques and art.
- Bangkokian Museum: Showcasing traditional Thai life.
- Holy Rosary Church: A historic Gothic Catholic church.

📍**Memorial Bridge Pier (N6)**

Find Memorial Bridge Pier on Google Maps

Nearby Attractions:

- Saphan Phut Night Market: A vibrant night market.
- Pak Khlong Talat: Bangkok's main flower market.
- Wat Prayurawongsawat: A temple with a large white stupa.

📍**Wat Arun Pier**

Find Wat Arun Pier on Google Maps

Nearby Attractions:

- Wat Arun: Direct access to the iconic temple.
- Wat Kalayanamit: A temple with Thai-Chinese architecture.
- Kudi Chin Community: A historic Portuguese-Thai neighborhood.

Longtail Boat Tours



Chao Phraya Express Boats

Express Boat Schedules & Details

🚩 **Orange Flag Boats**

Type: Budget-friendly service stopping at major tourist attractions.

Operating Hours: 06:00 – 19:00 (Daily)

Fare: Flat rate of 15 THB.

Key Stops and Nearby Attractions:

📍 **Sathorn Pier (Central Pier)**

- Access to: BTS Skytrain (Saphan Taksin Station)
- Nearby Attractions: Asiatique The Riverfront, Silom Road

📍 **Tha Tien Pier (N8)**

- Access to: Wat Pho and Wat Arun (via cross-river ferry)
- Nearby Attractions: Pak Khlong Talat (Flower Market)

📍 **Tha Chang Pier (N9)**

- Access to: Grand Palace and Wat Phra Kaew (Temple of the Emerald Buddha)
- Nearby Attractions: Tha Chang Market

📍 **Phra Arthit Pier (N13)**

- Access to: Khao San Road and Banglamphu
- Nearby Attractions: Santichaiprakarn Park

🚩 **Yellow Flag Boats**

- Type: Commuter service with fewer stops, ideal for faster travel.
- Operating Hours: 06:00 – 08:00 and 16:00 – 19:00 (Monday to Friday)
- Fare: Flat rate of 30 THB.

Key Stops and Nearby Attractions:

📍Sathorn Pier (Central Pier)
  - Access to: BTS Skytrain (Saphan Taksin Station)
  - Nearby Attractions: Asiatique The Riverfront, Silom Road

📍Nonthaburi Pier (N30)
  - Access to: Local markets and Wat Chaloem Phra Kiat
  - Nearby Attractions: Riverside dining and cultural spots

No Flag Boats

- Type: Local service with frequent stops, perfect for exploring neighborhoods.
- Operating Hours: 05:00 – 18:30 (Monday to Friday)
- Fare: 10-20 THB depending on distance.

Key Stops and Nearby Attractions:

📍Ratchawong Pier (N5)
  - Access to: Chinatown (Yaowarat Road)
  - Nearby Attractions: Sampeng Market, Wat Mangkon Kamalawat

📍Pak Kret Pier (N33)
  - Access to: Koh Kret, a charming island known for its pottery and relaxed vibe



How to Get to Taling Chan Floating Market

Taling Chan Floating Market is one of Bangkok's charming local markets, offering a mix of fresh produce, local delicacies, and vibrant boat vendors. While it's not directly accessible via the Chao Phraya Express Boats, you can easily get there with a combination of boat and land transport.

Step 1: Take a Chao Phraya Express Boat to Sathorn Pier (Central Pier)

- The Sathorn Pier is a convenient starting point for many routes.

Step 2: Switch to a Taxi or Tuk-Tuk

- From Sathorn Pier, hire a taxi or tuk-tuk to Taling Chan Floating Market. The ride takes about 20-30 minutes, depending on traffic.
- Alternatively, use a rideshare app like Grab for convenience.
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Step 3: Explore the Market

- Taling Chan Floating Market operates mainly on weekends, typically from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Arriving early ensures you beat the crowds and enjoy the freshest offerings.

What to Expect at Taling Chan Floating Market:

- Delicious grilled seafood prepared on boats.
- Local fruits, desserts, and snacks.
- A relaxed, authentic atmosphere with fewer tourists compared to larger floating markets.



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Thank you!
Mike Haslam