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# Bangkok

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ESSENTIALS

Connected to MBK mall and the BTS, this family-friendly if pricey hotel has all conceivable amenities, large comfy rooms and helpful staff. The Olympic Health Club is famed for its gym and pool, while the Korean restaurant comes well rated.

## Budget

### Golden House

1025/5-9 Thanon Phloenchit (0 2252 9535-7/[www.goldenhouses.net](http://www.goldenhouses.net)). Chidlom BTS. B.

Tucked away in a quiet yet still ultra-convenient *soi*, this guesthouse provides good services and bright, clean standard-sized rooms.

### Reno Hotel

40 Kasemsan Soi 1, Thanon Rama 1 (0 2215 0026-7). National Stadium BTS. B.

The makeover of the crisply styled lobby and hip Reno Café hangout has not yet reached all of the rooms, but they're still clean and great value. The pick of several budget digs in this *soi*, and, to make it an even more attractive place to stay, it has a pool too.

## Sukhumvit

### Deluxe

#### JW Marriott Bangkok

4 Sukhumvit Soi 2 (0 2656 7700/[www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com)). Ploenchit/Nana BTS. BBBB.

During a state visit by the previous president of the USA, George W Bush, this award-winning business hotel served as the temporary White House (well, it is white). Designed by modernist Thai architect Samet Jumsai, it stands on Sukhumvit Soi and has the airy Bangkok Baking Company café, a Japanese restaurant called (gasp) Tsu-Nami, and New York Steakhouse (p130) serving prime beef upstairs. Great health club and a spa, but the pool is small and shallow.

### Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit

250 Sukhumvit Soi 12 (0 2649 8888/[www.sheratongrandsukhumvit.com](http://www.sheratongrandsukhumvit.com)). Asoke BTS/Sukhumvit MRT. BBBB.

Despite the haughty 'e' on the name, this impressive hotel earns loyalty through charming service, large luxurious rooms, an intimate pool with attached spa and great F'n'B outlets that combine in an awesome Sunday brunch, like Basil (contemporary Thai), Rossini (Italian) and Bar Su. The Living Room hosts top jazz players.

## Expensive

### Eugenia

267 Sukhumvit Soi 31 (0 2259 90179/[www.theeugenia.com](http://www.theeugenia.com)). BBB.

This stuccoed colonial mansion dates from, oh... 2006. Taiwanese designer Eugene Yu-Cheng Yeh has blended French Indochinoise with British Burma tiffin-ness in 12 bright, massive bedrooms where soft Belgian linens snuggle four-poster beds, as well as in the lounge, reading room and the emerald pool in the lawn. Compounding the Merchant-Ivoryness, the limos are vintage Daimler, Jaguar and Merc.

## Moderate

### Majestic Suites

110 Thanon Sukhumvit, between Sois 4 & 6 (0 2656 8220/[www.majestic suites.com](http://www.majestic suites.com)). Nana BTS. BB.

This small, friendly, Indian-run inn offers great value, especially the comfy deluxe double. It includes breakfast in the lobby bar and free use of the pool and parking at the owners' luxury, 251-room Majestic Grande nearby.

### Seven

3/15 Sawasdee 1, Sukhumvit 31 (02 662 0951/[www.sleepatseven.com](http://www.sleepatseven.com)). Phrom Phong BTS. BB.

The six stylish rooms (and lobby) in this converted townhouse are mural-painted according to the Thai tradition

of colours for each weekday, offset by white furniture. Some guests move room each day, so book ahead! The lobby functions as a reception, gallery, bar and library. Perks include balconies, iPod docks, free Wi-Fi and mobile phone with pre-paid SIM-card. Despite being convenient, Seven is surprisingly tranquil.

## Budget

### Atlanta Hotel

78 Sukhumvit Soi 2 (0 225 21650). Nana BTS. B.

This one-time beau-monde haunt has hosted Jim Thompson and Scandinavian royalty, and a cult following of creatives and Asia obsessives. Moralistic literary notices dot the bookshelves, walls and even the menu at its superb, mainly vegetarian Thai restaurant. The exterior may be plain and the bathrooms basic, but it retains the original 1952 art deco lobby, Bangkok's first hotel pool (24-hour), writing desks in the garden and Thai dancing on Saturdays. A legend... but behave!

### Honey Hotel

31 Sukhumvit Soi 19 (0 2253 0646-9). Asoke BTS/Sukhumvit MRT. B.

Superbly kitsch, the Honey's long, low, black granite foyer and aqua pool will suit anyone who thinks crimplene and cocktail frankfurters are 'faa-abulous'. The 75 rooms are unglamorous and slightly musty, but good value. Honey has tons of atmosphere, plus a cast of generic middle-aged white men and Thai girls lounging poolside.

### Miami

2 Sukhumvit Soi 13 (0 2253 0369). Nana BTS. B.

The Miami has seen better days, but has retro motel cachet (check out the pale blue pool) and large, functional, if somewhat on the plain side, rooms. There are quieter rooms away from the street bustle, and the friendly *kathoy* staff will discount long stays.

## Hotels

### Suk11 Guesthouse

1/33 Sukhumvit Soi 11 (0 2253 5927-8/[www.suk11.com](http://www.suk11.com)). Nana BTS. B.

A rarity in Sukhumvit, this guesthouse spreads charmingly over four shop-houses disguised by old wooden fittings. Rooms are smallish, but pleasant and clean, and there are dorm beds too. All come with air-con and breakfast in a café you can't help lingering in. Its spa transports you to an imagined village apothecary.

## Suburbs

### Deluxe

#### Marriott Bangkok Resort & Spa

257/1-3 Thanon Charoen Nakorn, Khlong San (0 2476 0022/[www.marriotthotels.com/bkkth](http://www.marriotthotels.com/bkkth)). Saphan Taksin BTS then hotel boat. BBBB.

Guests relish the teak shuttle boat trip downstream from Saphan Taksin Pier/BTS to this elegant yet unpretentious resort, which frames a vast pool garden. It may be remote, but it has a Mandara Spa, a mini-mall and several dining options such as Trader Vic's, renowned for its Sunday jazz brunch. The teak barge, *Manohra*, hosts dinner and overnight cruises.

## Moderate

#### Baan Warea by Reflections

24 Sailom Soi 1, Thanon Phahonyothin Soi 8, Phayathai (02 272 6300/[www.reflections-thai.com](http://www.reflections-thai.com)). Ari BTS. BB.

Now in its third location, this colourful (and we mean bright) hotel dares to think differently. Guru of Thai kitsch, Anusorn 'Nong' Ngernyuang applies the sensibility behind the fabulously camp Global Trash Chic products he makes. Each of the 27 rooms has a different concept, designed by a different artist. A restaurant roof terrace and bar add to the quirky spaces. Though not central, Baan Warea is just a 10-minute walk to the BTS and expressways.