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SEVEN HOTEL

Bangkok, 10110, Thailand

★ ★ ★

From **£60**

By Emily Cronin

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Graduates of hip global hostels flock to this boutique hotel in the centre of Sukhumvit...

Take one slim Bangkok townhouse, add an exuberant helping of colour and a dash of Buddhist iconography, and the result is Seven Hotel. It's cool, communal and very energising, from the first steps over a narrow fishpond and up the polished concrete stairs to the rainbow-swathed rooms.

The hotel's design concept comes from Thai astrology: each of Seven's six rooms (we're not sure either...) is dominated by a single vibrant colour associated with a different day of the week. The Pink Room (signifying Tuesday) is stylish, smartly laid out and features a main wall graced with a graphic mural of a spray of orchids and Buddhist temple motifs. Most but not all features in each room fall somewhere on the spectrum of their ruling colour - in the case of the Pink Room that meant an uplifting range of rose pink (silk curtains) to riotous fuchsia (bed runner).

Outside, you're in the heart of Sukhumvit, Bangkok's emerging downtown area. It comes alive after nightfall, when the heat of the day gives way to neon signs and steaming food carts. It's a thrilling area for foodies and urbanites eager to discover the next big thing, and the Skytrain is right on the doorstep for jaunts to the city's more traditional attractions.

Seven's intimate size, stylish design and in-the-thick-of-it location deliver a sense of insider status in one of Bangkok's coolest neighbourhoods - something to be grateful for, any day of the week.

What's hot?

- Its location at the end of an alley means Seven is a pocket of calm just near the city's hottest restaurants, bars and nightspots
- The art-centric city map handed over at check-in provides a window into another side of the city
- Free WiFi, and a complimentary laptop if you need it
- Skytrain - so convenient, not to mention a cheap, air-conditioned thrill
- Environmental credentials: designers used reclaimed materials to create the hotel, and guests are encouraged to enjoy filtered drinking water from a carafe rather than toting and tossing plastic bottles

What's not?

- Not the closest to the temples and historical sights
- While there are dozens of Hindi, French and Thai news stations on TV, there's no CNN or BBC

Need to Know: Seven Hotel

Number of rooms: 6

Check-in/check-out times: 3pm and 12noon

Room service: No

Check prices and availability

The ELLE Edit

Best room: The Pink Room - for its inviting king-sized bed, serene colour scheme and birdsong from the balcony across the alleyway every morning.

Fashion/design credentials: This hotel is proud of its design and environmental credentials - and with good reason. The engrossing wall murals in each room are from the team behind graphics at the Ministry of Sound, and staff members are more than happy to explain the significance of the motifs (for instance, the boat in the Green Room is the king's barge). It's dynamic and different.

Who stays here? Budget-conscious flashpackers in search of colour and quirky design from their Bangkok digs.

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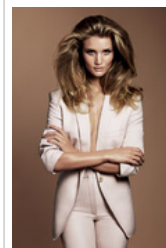
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