

# Newbie-friendly Bangkok Nana Update - July 2011

by Costar

Thailand's very safe so don't hesitate to go it alone. There's a lot more to Bangkok and Thailand than the way I "do" Nana, but this will get you started.

## **Getting there:**

I fly **Thai Airways** because it's non-stop: seventeen hours and it's all over with. Economy fare on this last trip was \$1900 and change. (A non-stop wastes a lot of fuel and you pay for it. About half the fuel you take off with is just to fly the fuel over.) Service is on an Airbus A340 and you get a lot of electronics to play with: about fifty movies to choose from, games, current flight info, etc.

Other niceties about flying Thai: they get me to Bangkok around 6 a.m. so I save a night's lodging and start with a full day. The return trip leaves BKK about 7 p.m. and arrives in California about 9 p.m. that same day. No more getting to the airport by 4 a.m. to fly United to Narita! That was b.s. Now I sleep in on my last day, enjoy more of what I came for, and make my way to the airport in the afternoon. The extra day of vacation I get from Thai is well worth the extra airfare to me.

Other airlines can get you there cheaper in two hops, and for a longer vacation that's a viable option. I use <http://www.kayak.com> for comparison purposes, but before I purchase I always go directly to that airline's site to see if I can get a deal that beats [Kayak](#).

**Bring a hoodie!** That cabin can get very chilly and drafty depending on where you sit, and we wouldn't want to catch a cold, would we? You can throw it away in Bangkok if you want.

## **Escape From BKK (the airport):**

If Bangkok is your destination, the new **Airport Link** is absolutely the only way to go. It runs from 6 a.m. to midnight. There aren't any signs to help you find it (possibly due to pressure from taxi/limo drivers and other hucksters), so find your way down to the very lowest level of the airport and there it is. For a mere 45 baht you can ride it to Phaya Thai, where you can jump on the sky train (known to locals as "BTS"), and ride that to Nana or wherever you're staying.

On this last trip I took a seat on the empty Airport Link at about 7 a.m. on a weekday. After a couple of stops I was surrounded by young Thai girls packed in like sardines on their way to work. They were happy to talk to me. I could only see two other men in the whole train. I was thinking how this sure beats arguing with some dangerous and overpriced taxi driver who refuses to take the toll road he was supposed to take ("Motorway no good!"), and still expects me to hand him the slip from the taxi stand so that he gets reimbursed for the tolls he didn't pay.

In days of old I waited (and waited) in a cloud of cigarette smoke for the A3 bus to Nana for 120 baht, or I took my chances with a taxi. Why take a chance now? Take the Airport Link: no accidents, no arguments, no rips-offs. It's better, cheaper, and faster.

## **Lodging:**

There are many places to stay in the Nana area already mentioned in other trip reports, so here are just

a few:

**The Nana Hotel.** "Ground zero" location right across the street from the Nana Entertainment Plaza (NEP) where the clubs are. And quite reasonable: 1490 baht/night in the low season.

The downside: it's old and dilapidated. If you bring a lady there and it's not a cut-and-dried pay-for-play (P4P) situation, she might feel like a tramp with all the whores hanging around. Romantic it ain't. And I've been tipping there for so long that the entire staff knows me by name and that kind of spooks me, like I have no privacy.

The Nana has a one-guest-at-a-time rule, but the rules aren't enforced if you grease the guard(s) seated behind the desk in the elevator lobby. I use a crisp new 100-baht note folded over twice, or two 50-bahts notes if there are two guards. Try not to be obvious about it.

Once I arrived at the elevators and saw a rather distinguished Chinese gentleman (fifty-ish) pleading with some cutie who apparently didn't have an ID card. She was very sharp in a black mini-dress and I supposed that he had bar-fined her at NEP. His frustration was obvious. While the poor guy wondered aloud about what to do, I nonchalantly tossed my donation onto the guard desk without missing a beat and proceeded unimpeded up the elevator with my guests. The guards chuckled and muttered something about me knowing the protocol.

I used to stay on the 11th floor, but the eight floor is more presentable these days since they've finally replaced the hall carpeting. The lower floors have fewer windows and less light. Last year some buddies of mine stayed at the Nana on their first trip to Thailand and moved out after one night. They were more into the Soi 26 massage scene (blah), so they could stay closer to there.

If you want to spring for a really nice hotel, there's a Sheraton and a Westin next to the Asok BTS station, a short hop east from Nana, but a bit too far to walk from NEP. If that's where you're staying be sure to check out the **Soi Cowboy** clubs which, like the NEP clubs, are only going at night.

**The Rajah Mansion** (Tel. 0-2253-4436, <http://www.rajah-mansion.com>): **11,000 baht/month** for an air-conditioned room with a bed, fridge, TV, and hard (fake wood) floors. Nice tile bathrooms. Utilities run about another 2000 baht / month; the units are individually metered. The hallways are clean, tiled, and they get mopped every day. It's pretty well-kept, but still old and haunted by Russian hookers. On the west side of Soi 4, south of the Bus Stop bar and restaurant. They also have a weekly rate (5000 baht) but that only includes one cleaning for the week. Not to be confused with the Rajah Hotel next door (just north). This is the high-season (December/January) rate, so try haggling if you're there in the off-season.

**The DI Hotel.** A refurbished hotel across Soi 4 from the Rajah. Small but nice room 800 baht (high season). Larger rooms for more.

### **Miscellanea:**

**Lolita's:** My first-morning errands include a trip to [Lolita's](#). (Just don't expect the girls to look like the ones pictured on that web site.) It's a short walk from the Nana BTS station: walk down Soi 8 and make a right just before the 7-11. You'll see the girls sitting outside around the entrance. You pick one and she takes you inside a rather dark, cheesy bar (web site to the contrary again). It's 700 baht to go upstairs

where she seats you on a couch and draws a curtain for privacy. She wipes your pecker off with a clean-wipe and then goes down on you, bareback and to completion if you like. You can fondle her. I want to save my initial big load for the evening's festivities, so I'm just there to relax and enjoy some erotic delight after the long flight. When I'm about to come I'll stop her and let that puppy cool off a minute, then let her resume. I repeat this a few times. It's fun. No one seems to be watching the time.

See "Intimate Thai" below. It might come in handy at Lolita's.

The bar fine (to take a girl home) is exorbitant: 4000 baht! Once in a blue moon there will be a real cutie. That's when I indulge on the premises and throw caution to the wind regarding disease. You can sure catch a "pee-pee cold" there. If I find myself taking a long time to choose, I'll pass on Lolita's.

**Massage:** Jet lag doesn't bother me *too* much going to Asia, but the first day I'll have a two-hour oil massage in the afternoon so that I can safely doze off (during the massage) without sleeping all day, and after that I'm good. First-day ritual. The massage places I check out are the **Bangkok Health Spa**, kitty-corner across Sukhumvit Road from NEP (on the west side of Soi 3), and the massage place on the north side of the tunnel between Soi 5 and Soi 7. Needless to say there are many, many more around there. Personnel change frequently and you never know who you'll find. Last year in the tunnel I found a pretty 18 year-old masseuse with HOOTERS! She was menstruating but I got to oil-massage those big brown knockers. Oh *man* was that fun! : ^)

If no one appeals to me in the massage parlors, **Pat** will come to my room and give me a two-hour oil massage for 750 baht. 500 more for a "special" massage, i.e. a hand job. (But save it for tonight! : -) Pat's number is 08-4622-1560. She's a nice girl who speaks enough English.

**Cell Phone:** If your cell phone has a SIM card, congratulations: it's a "GSM" phone, the kind that most of the world uses. Bring it to Thailand. (I consider a cell phone absolutely mandatory for Pattaya, by the way.) If you obtained your cell phone stateside, you will probably have to get it "unlocked" so that it can be used with carriers other than your stateside carrier. This unlocking procedure can be done at any of the many phone places on the 4th floor of the **MBK (Mahboonkrong) shopping mall**. (Take the BTS to the **National Stadium** station. Try the impressive food court on the 6th floor while you're there.) And you can pick up an Asian charger dirt cheap if you're worried about frying your home charger. **DISCLAIMER:** Unlocking hasn't harmed any of my phones, but I don't know anything about the newer "app" phones like the iPhone.

You buy a SIM card (new phone number) and pre-paid minutes. (If you get SMS messages that are partially blacked-out, those are Thai characters that your phone doesn't know how to render.)

Serious serial philanderers might want to change phone numbers once in a while because it might save you some "splainin'." I had the same Thai phone number for a couple of years and the day I arrived I got calls from girlfriends who did not know I was coming! They call every day to check whether you're in country. Once I poked my head into an NEP club --just my head through the door curtain for only two seconds-- before proceeding to Rainbow II (another club). As soon as I sat down I got an SMS from a girlfriend in the first club: "Where are you?" **8- [ ]**

**Medical Certificate / Medical Anything:** [Bumrungrad Hospital](#) is a ten-minute walk from NEP. Expensive by Thai standards but cheap by ours, and top-notch. You can get a certificate with your name and photo on it stating in Thai that you don't have anything serious. (You can't get that stateside.) It's

certainly not required and most guys probably don't bother, but it seems to put some girls a bit more at ease. The wait to see most doctors is normally just a few minutes, but the wait to see a urologist can be a serious wait (not a joke). Excellent food court on the mezzanine of the main building.

**Charlie's Kitchen** East side of Soi 4, steps from Nana Plaza. Consistently good food as of this writing. Not too expensive by *farang* standards, and pretty quick service. Beats hiking over to Soi 5 to eat at Foodland/Took La Dee, which is now shut down anyway.

### ***Intimate Thai:***

Writing Thai phonetically with Roman letters is nearly futile, but I chose these phrases because I think your pronunciation will come close enough to be understood:

| THAI        | Pronunciation hint   | ENGLISH   |
|-------------|--|---|
| LEE-ahh     |  | lick  |
| JOOPB       | Rhymes with "poop." That last consonant is in between a B and a P, sort of a blend of the two. | kiss  |
| tee-nee     |  | here  |
| noy         | Rhymes with "toy."   | A word that softens a command.<br>Example:<br><b>JOOPB tee-nee</b> means "Kiss here." But<br><b>JOOPB tee-nee noy</b> is more like "Why don't you kiss it here for me, babe?" |
| bow-bow     | Rhymes with "bow wow" or "chow chow."  | gently  |
| bow-bow noy |  | gently please   |
| cha-chahh   |  | slowly or slower  |
| chawpb      |  | I like  |
| DEE-DEE     |  | wonderful   |

Learning to read and write Thai will boost your abilities to remember and pronounce words. If you ever go up to Esarn country, *nothing* is in English; all the signs are in Thai.

### ***Clubbing at NEP:***

NEP bar fines usually run 600 baht, plus another 2000 to the girl for short time. It's fun to explore. It's the low season and most places weren't hopping until well after 9 p.m. Downright empty at 8 p.m.

If you're a serial philanderer like some guys (ahem), there's no way to avoid being seen as you funnel

through the plaza entrance, especially since they removed all that stuff that was in the courtyard. NEP has a thousand eyes. Some girls have a sister working the door at a club, and she will spot you with another girl and tell on you. But if you're staying at the Nana Hotel you can just pay bar, arrange for your date to meet you at the hotel, and walk out all alone like the good Catholic boy that you are. :-)

Don't sweat the lady-boy clubs. *Yah jahbp phom* means "Don't touch me." *Yah-mah-YOONG gahbp phom* ("Don't come with me, mosquitos") is less threatening and seems to work better. If they know you're not interested they'll usually leave you alone.

I like the Rainbow clubs. At Rainbow II, girl number **005** is different from girl **5** (confusing). They'll tell you that the "00" prefix means that that girl can't leave NEP and that you can only bang her in one of the rooms there. They'll also hint that the girl is underage, but the "double-naught" girls I saw were no doubt in their twenties. I also like Mandarin and Playskool [sic].

Poke around. You never know what you'll find. The nice thing about the clubs is that the girls are on stage in bikinis or panties, so you can see what you're getting. No unpleasant surprises in your room. (For example, I don't like implants. It's like humping on Frankenstein.)

I'm curious to know what this tattoo means. Tattoos make me sick but she was so young and cute (from the front) that I had to investigate. Found her in the Mercury Club on the 2nd floor of NEP near the top of the escalator. I think it's Japanese. Can anybody translate?



**Soi Cowboy** is another bunch of clubs near the **Asok** BTS station. Once I walked into a club there and we were all wading waist-deep in Styrofoam packing peanuts under black lights. It was kind of cool. :-)

### ***Escape to Pattaya:***

A taxi runs 1200 or 1300 baht. Alternatively, you can take the BTS to the Ekkamai bus station and take the bus for 120 baht, but you're separated from your luggage and sometimes the buses run late, plus you still have to pay for a baht bus in Pattaya.

Don't hesitate to check out Pattaya. There you don't have to know where to go because the whole town exists for the hobby. You trip over bar girls. Rooms and girls are both less expensive. The subject of another report.

### ***Final F\*\*\* Engineering (for the last day):***

In my experience, Thai bar girls are usually late. If you schedule a tryst before taking off for the airport, just assume she will be two hours late and plan accordingly, or have her stay over that last night. Every time I called two girls to come over (to make sure I'd get one or the other) they both showed up and I had to fix it, so I don't recommend that unless you're Houdini.

### ***Before You Go:***

- A packing checklist is smart for essentials like: **a hoodie for the flight**, earplugs for the clubs, and whatever else you don't want to forget.
- Tell your bank or credit union when you're going to Thailand to make sure your ATM card will work. My Visa card has always worked anyway but now I call Visa too, just to make sure. There are so many scams that CUswirl has Thailand on a list of countries requiring special precautions.
- Go to <http://travel.state.gov/> and select Thailand from the drop-down list. It's free. I've never run into any of the scams they describe, but they're on that page because they were reported by other Americans.
- Mostly for other countries, I travel with a money belt to hold cash and cards that I don't need handy. First I put everything in a Ziploc bag so it doesn't get sweaty, and then put that in the money belt. Upon arrival I put the money belt in a hotel safe.