

IN SIAM DESTINATION GUIDE



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Thailand was known as Siam until 1939 and this name is still dominant in many forms, including an area in the Pathumwan district of Bangkok known as Siam Square – just a short walk from the Siam Kempinski Hotel Bangkok.



Things to See
in SIAM

[EXPLORE MORE](#)



Shopping
in SIAM

[EXPLORE MORE](#)



Dine
in SIAM

[EXPLORE MORE](#)



Happening
in SIAM

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Things to See *in SIAM*

The Royal *Grand Palace* & *Emerald Buddha* *Temple*

This is a ‘must see’ attraction for all visitors to Bangkok. This royal compound embraces a remarkable collection of structures including Wat Phra Kaeo, the temple that houses the famous Emerald Buddha. Built in 1782, the Grand Palace was a royal residence for many generations and is still used for ceremonies and for accommodating Heads of State.

Dress code: Visitors must be properly dressed when entering the grounds of the Grand Palace. Men are required to wear shirts with sleeves and long trousers. Ladies must likewise cover their shoulders and wear full length skirts or dresses. Clothing for men and women may be hired for a nominal fee from the office at the main entrance to the compound.

Opening hours: Daily from 08:30 to 15:30 hrs

Admission fee: THB 500

Location: Na Phra Lan Road, Phra Borom Maha
Ratchawan, Bangkok



Wat Pho

Temple of Reclining Buddha

Wat Pho, situated close to the Grand Palace, is home to the Reclining Buddha. The temple, built during the reign of King Rama I, is considered to be a place of healing and was famous many centuries ago for its pharmacy and as Thailand's first university – both established by King Rama III. Traditional Thai and foot massages are available at the traditional medical school. Expect to pay a premium compared to massage shops elsewhere in the city. The Reclining Buddha measures 45 metres long by 15 metres high. The soles of the feet, inlaid with precious stones, denote the 108 signs of true faith. The statue's long earlobes signify noble birth and the lotus-bud configuration of the hand symbolises purity and beauty.

Opening hours: Daily from 08:30 - 17:00 hrs

Admission: THB 100

Location: 2 Sanamchai road, Pranakorn, Bangkok



Wat Arun Temple of Dawn

Wat Arun dates back to ancient battles between the former Siam and neighbouring Burma. Having fallen to the Burmese, Ayutthaya was reduced to rubble and ashes, but General Taksin and the remaining survivors vowed to march 'until the sun rose again' and to build a temple at that precise location. Wat Arun, the Temple of the Dawn, is that temple and was later the site of a royal palace and a private chapel. This temple steps provide stunning views as the sun sinks over the Chao Praya River. Access is easy by boat to the temple's jetty.

Opening hours: Daily 08:30 - 17:30 hrs

Admission: THB 100

Location: Arun Amarin road, Bangkok

Jim Thompson's House

Museum

Jim Thompson's three decades of dedication to the revival of Thai silk, then a dying art, changed the industry forever. After he disappeared in Malaysia's Cameron Highlands in 1967 but his legacy remains with the Jim Thomson brand synonymous with high quality Thai fabrics. The Jim Thompson House and Museum is a charming complex of six teak houses that contain priceless antiques and works of art. Tours are available in several languages.

Opening hours: Daily from 08:30 - 16:30 hrs

Admission: THB 150

Location: Soi Kasemsan 2, Rama I road, Bangkok



Erawan Shrine

The Erawan Shrine is one of the most popular places of prayer in Bangkok. This Brahman shrine sits proudly at Ratchaprasong, close to the BTS Sky Train network (Chidlom station) and many shopping malls. It's a fascinating experience with the clouds of incense, garlands of flowers and Thai performers displaying traditional dance moves. It was erected to appease works after many problems arose during the constriction of a nearby hotel.

Opening hours: Daily 06:00 - midnight

Location: Corner of Ploenchit and Ratchadamri roads





Shopping *in SIAM*

Siam Paragon

Siam Paragon is the popular shopping mall located next to the Siam Kempinski hotel with direct access via a connecting walkway. The complex houses international high-end fashion brands, aquarium, a 16-screen Cineplex, supermarket and restaurants offering Thai and international cuisine.

Opening hours: Daily from 10:00 - 22:00 hrs

Location: 991 Rama 1 road, Pathumwan, Bangkok

BTS: Siam station



Central World Plaza

Central World Plaza is another large complex offers that provides exciting shopping experiences with shops, restaurants, movie theatres, supermarket, beauty salons and much more.

Opening hours: Daily 10:00 - 22:00 hrs

Location: Ratchaprasong intersection

BTS: Chidlom & Siam stations



MBK

MBK is probably Bangkok's most legendary shopping mall. It's popular with both tourists and local residents because of the bargain prices. The eight floors contain some 2,000 shops that sell literally anything and everything from clothing, fashion accessories and leather products to luggage, furniture, computers, smart phones and IT accessories.

Opening hours: Daily 10.00 - 22.00 hrs

Location: Phayathai road, Bangkok

BTS: National Stadium station

Siam Square

Wander around Siam Square for up-and-coming Thai and Asian brands that offer a great mix of unusual designs at attractive prices. This is a popular chilling spot with students from nearby Chulalongkorn University. Visit in the late afternoon or early evening to catch the vibe of Siam Square.

Opening hours: Daily 10.00 to 22.00 hrs

Location: Rama 1 road, Bangkok

BTS: Siam Interchange station



Chatuchak *Weekend Market*

Chatuchak Weekend Market has reached landmark status as a must-visit place for tourists. Its sheer size and diverse collections of merchandise will bring any seasoned shoppers to their knees. This is a market where you can literally ‘shop until you drop’. The 35-acre site is home to more than 8,000 market stalls. On a typical weekend, more than 200,000 visitors come here to sift through the plethora of goods on offer. It’s sensible to wear comfortable footwear and lightweight clothing.

Opening hours: Weekends 09.00 - 18.00 hrs

Location: Kampanghet road, Bangkok

BTS: Mo Chit station

MRT: Kampangh Phet station

Asiatique Riverfront *Night Market*

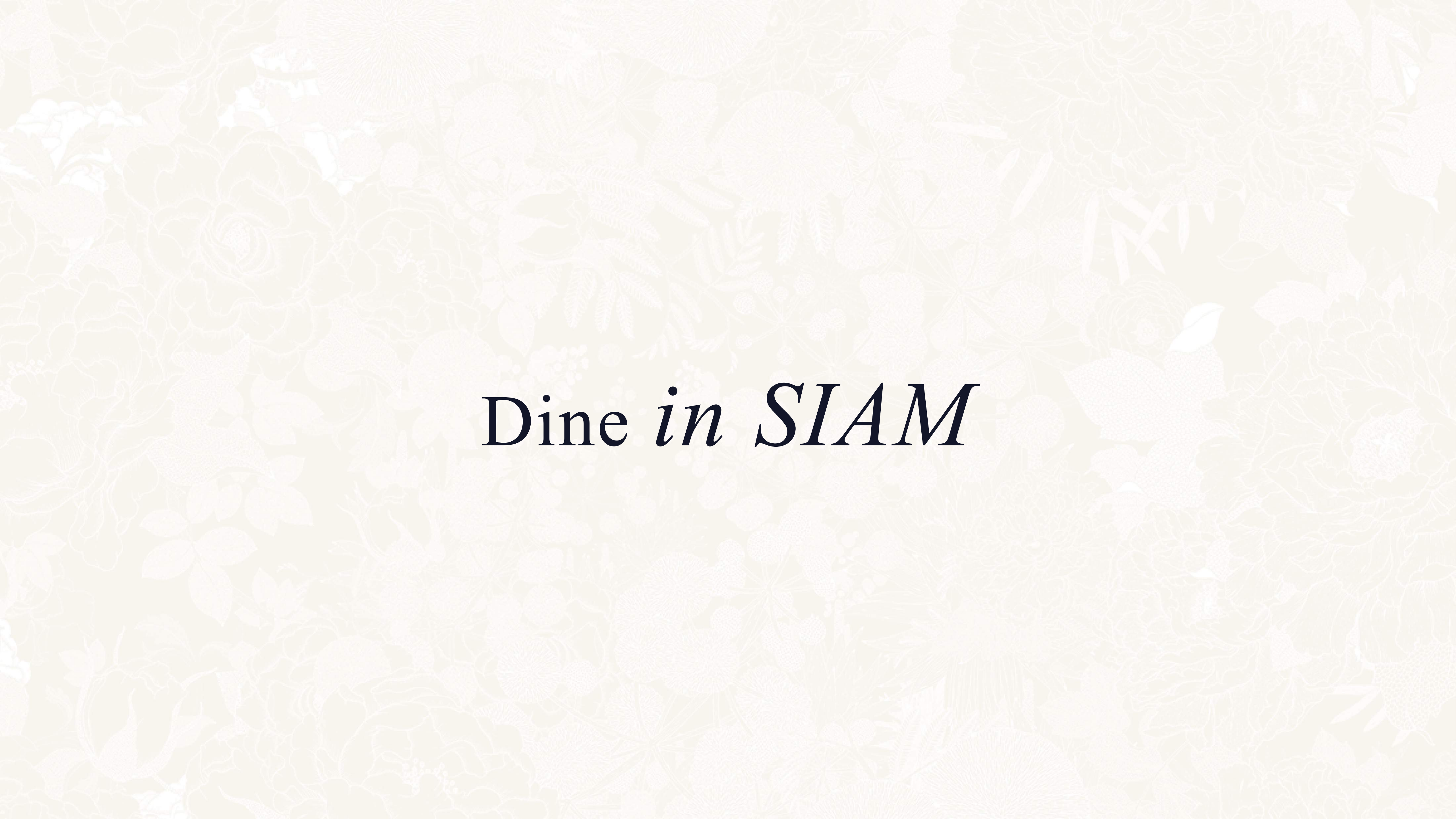
Asiatique combines successfully two of the most popular shopping experiences in the city: a night bazaar and a mall. Just a short (complimentary) boat ride from Sathorn pier Asiatique features more than 1,500 shops and a multitude of bars and restaurants housed in replica warehouse complex. Entertainment options include the Calypso cabaret.

Opening hours: Daily 17.00 - midnight

Location: Charoen Krung road Soi 72-74, Bangkok

BTS: Saphan Taksin station and then take the Asiatique shuttle boat





Dine *in SIAM*

Sra Bua by Kiin Kiin *Thai Restaurant*



Inspired by the award-winning Kiin Kiin restaurant in Copenhagen and its owner Henrik Yde Andersen this Michelin one star restaurant is famous for its modern interpretations of classic Thai dishes created from traditional recipes and authentic ingredients. Choose 'The Journey' menu to experience the outstanding culinary skills of Chef Chayawee and his team.

Classification: Fine dining

Opening hours: Lunch 12:00 - 15:00 hrs
Dinner 18:00 - 23:00 hrs

Prices: \$\$\$\$

Location: Siam Kempinski Hotel Bangkok, Rama I road



Saneh Jaan

Thai Restaurant



Thai dishes crafted from ancient recipes that once impressed the royal family are the draw here but don't discount the lovely setting, complete with vaulted ceilings and contemporary Thai touches. Dishes are a mix of classics and hard-to-find recipes such as hot and spicy soup, red curry with grilled pork, and sweet and sour coconut dip with crabmeat. For your dessert, try the khao moa rang - a rare creation made with young green rice grains.

Classification: Fine dining

Opening hours: Lunch 11:30 - 14:00 hrs
Dinner 18:00 - 22:00 hrs

Price: \$\$\$\$

Location: The Glasshouse at Sindhorn, Wireless road



Ma Maison

Thai Restaurant



Ma Maison is a modern venue that combines an elegant ambience with traditional Thai fayre. Situated on the sprawling lawns of the Nai Lert Park Heritage Home, this restaurant provides a luxurious experience and prides itself on its family recipes passed down from generation to generation. Don't be fooled by the French name. This restaurant devotes itself to sharing the recipes of the Nai Lert family. Signature dishes include pork crackling noodles and a rich chicken massaman.

Classification: Fine dining

Opening hours: Lunch 11:30 - 15:00 hrs / Dinner 18:00 - 22:00 hrs

Price: \$\$\$

Location: Nai Lert Park Heritage, Ploenchit Road



Wattana Panich *Beef Noodle*

To find one of the oldest beef stew restaurants in Bangkok, head to Ekkamai by taxi or BTS SkyTrain. This venue is famous for its stewed beef and noodles. Sukiyaki, stir-fried beef in oyster sauce, and garlic pork with rice are other popular dishes.

Classification: Street food

Opening hours: 09:30 - 20:00 hrs

Price: \$ (cash only)

Location: Ekkamai Soi 18-20, Sukhumvit 63 Road



Go-Ang *Chicken Rice*

This humble chicken and rice stall has drawn a devoted fan base of local and international foodies for more than 50 years. The aromatic rice is cooked with chicken oil and perfectly matches perfectly the flavour of the chicken.

Classification: Street food

Opening hours: Lunch 06:00 - 14:00 hrs / Dinner 17:00 - 02:00 hrs

Price: \$ (cash only)

Location: New Petchburi Road



Baan Pad Thai

Baan Phad Thai is named after one of Thailand's most popular dishes. The secret to its success is the combination of 18 to 20 ingredients used in making each dish. The organic, home made tofu and the fresh crab are also noteworthy at this restaurant where locals and tourists eat side by side.

Classification: Street food

Opening hours: 11:00 - 21.30 hrs

Price: \$ (cash only)

Location: 21-23 Soi Charoen Krung 44 Road



Happening *in SIAM*



Songkran:

Thai New Year Water Festival

12 - 15 April 2024

The annual Songkran New Year Water Festival, which welcomes in the traditional Thai New Year, is one of those events that has to be experienced in person before you can begin to appreciate the enormity of the spectacle and the uniqueness of the occasion. In Thailand, Songkran is an annual, nationwide party with playful water fights breaking out in villages and cities along the length and breadth of the country. While it's the water fights and party atmosphere that understandably capture the imagination of most tourists, there is so much more to the festivities. The Songkran New Year Water Festival is an event steeped in tradition and meaning for Thai Buddhists.

In ancient times, the date of Songkran varied according to the solar and lunar calendars. The word Songkran is derived from the Sanskrit language and means 'move into,' referring to the orbit of the sun moving into each of the houses of the zodiac. In Thailand, the word Songkran has come to be associated specifically with the sun moving into Aries in April, marking the end of a 12-month cycle and the beginning of a new solar year. These days, the dates for the annual Songkran New Year Water Festival in Thailand are fixed at April 13–15. These dates are also a public holiday in Thailand.

The Songkran Festival is an event where boisterous fun and ancient traditions go hand-in-hand. For tourists, the event offers a chance to enjoy a huge celebration where water parties break out in the streets of Thailand's towns and villages. For locals, it is a time when they can spend precious moments with their families and visit the temples to observe ancient rites and make merit.

Where you can join the Songkran Water Festival

Water splashing wars and world water festival at Ratchadamnoen Klang Avenue and Sanam Luang

Major Locations: Parc Paragon, Siam Square, CentralWorld Plaza, Samyan Water Street, Silom Road and Khao San Road

Coronation of Thai King

4 May 2024

The sitting monarch in Thailand is seen as the “representative of the divine among men.” He is highly revered by the people, and Coronation Day is a public holiday commemorating the official installation of the current monarch. The present king of Thailand is King Vajiralongkorn.

Vajiralongkorn had been crown prince since 1972 and took control in 2016 after the passing of his father and predecessor. But his coronation ceremony did not take place until 2019. He is also called Rama X because he is the tenth king in the Chakri dynasty.

Vajiralongkorn’s coronation was the first event of its kind in nearly 70 years in Thailand and was widely attended. Crowds lined the streets, and the royal procession continued deep into the night. There were many aspects to the coronation service, including the king performing Buddhist rituals with holy water, wearing the 16-pound Crown of Victory and sitting on a throne of gold. Vajiralongkorn promised to rule righteously and for the good of the people of Thailand. Every year, people remember their king, and many visit the Grand Palace in Bangkok.





Royal Ploughing Ceremony

10 May 2024

In Thailand, the annual Royal Ploughing Ceremony is a special day where a symbolic rice planting takes place, which is supposed to help guarantee a good harvest in the year to come. Both Buddhist and Hindu Brahmin ceremonies are involved in the Thai festival, where monks from each religion bless the planting. The field and public square, called Sanam Luang, in the centre of historic Bangkok and right in front of the Grand Palace, is the place where the ceremony is held. Sometimes, the king of Thailand himself will take part.

The royal planting occurs at the outset of the rice-growing season and involves two sacred oxen pulling a decorative plough, while traditionally costumed men accompany and plant rice in the furrow. The oxen are also fed rice, grass and other foods and given rice-whisky to drink.

Based on what food the oxen choose to eat when given multiple choices, astrologers then predict if it's going to be a good rice-growing season ahead.

Location: Sanam Luang

Visakha Bucha Day

22 May 2024

There are a number of important Buddhist holidays throughout the year, but the most significant in Thailand is Visakha Bucha Day. This day commemorates three defining events in the life of the Lord Buddha, which all occurred on the full moon day of the sixth lunar month (known as the Visakha month). The Visakha full moon marks the day on which Buddha was born, reached his enlightenment 35 years later and, 45 years after that, died and entered Nirvana. Because it's such an important Buddhist day in Thailand, there are also restrictions on alcohol sales, which means that some bars and clubs close for the day.

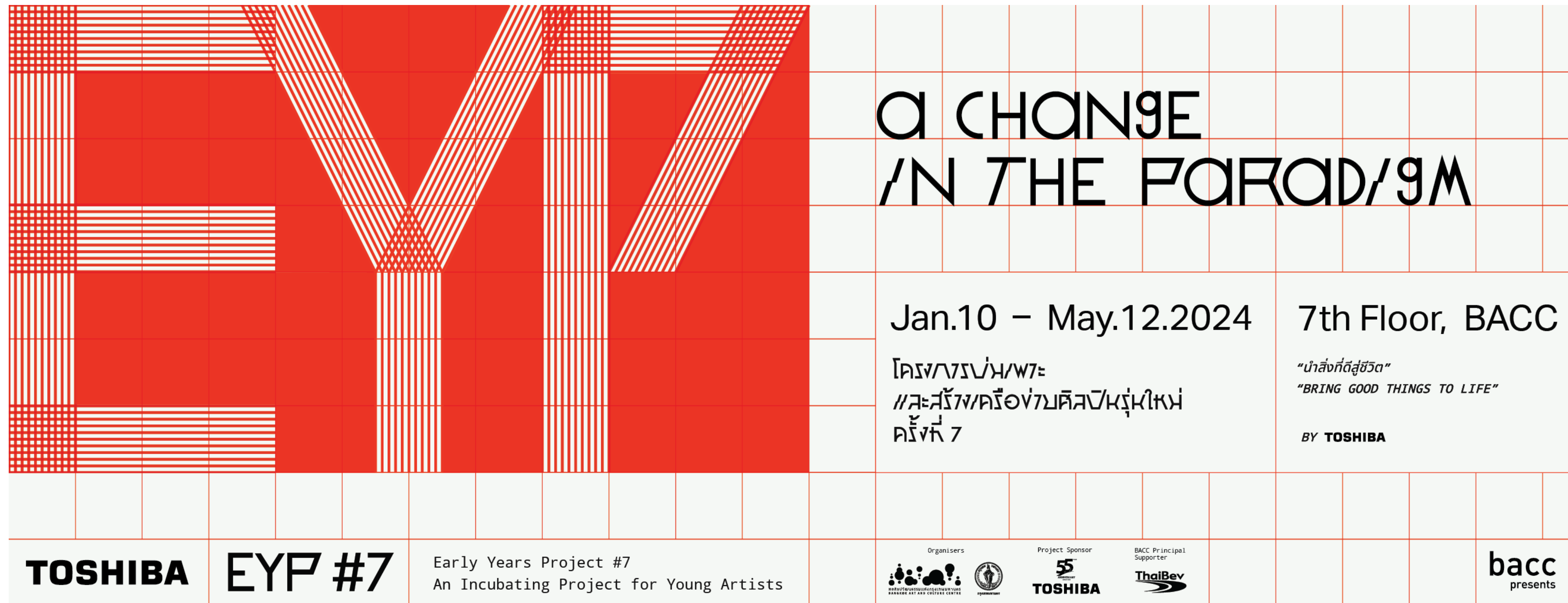
In Thailand, Visakha Bucha Day is a time when the devout visit local temples to “make merit” by giving donations and engaging in various rituals. While there, they also listen to sermons on Buddha's teachings, meditate, recommit themselves to following the precepts of Buddhism, and offer food to temple workers. Some also set birds or fish free as a means of releasing “negative karma.”

Thai law prohibits the sale of alcoholic beverages on Visakha Bucha Day, which causes many bars to close for the day. Many celebrations are private and religious, but tourists are allowed to visit most of the many temples in Thailand. There are many Bangkok temples to see on Visakha Bucha Day.

Location: at most temples countrywide



Art & Exhibition,
Live Shows & Concerts



EARLY YEARS PROJECT #7: A Change in the Paradigm

Early Years Project #7: An Incubating Project for Young Artists Sponsored by Toshiba Thailand Co., Ltd. slides the door of experimentation and support to the rising artists, with Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (BACC) having forged this ongoing project for 6 years. More than 80 chosen generational artists had already exhibited their masterpieces to the public eye. Early Years Project (EYP), established to embed and connect the artist’s network, readily emphasises the exchange of dialogues between rising artists, committee and any essential personnel who had managed and took this group exhibition forward professionally and efficiently.

Venue: Main Exhibition Gallery, Floor 7

Date: Until 12 May 2024

Location: Bangkok Art and Culture Centre

Open: Tuesday–Sunday, 10:00–20:00; closed on Monday



Bangkok 242: A Space for Sharing

The exhibition 'Bangkok 242: A Space for Sharing' is one of the projects continuously displayed at the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre to raise awareness of social issues by working with various social sectors. Creative activities and contemporary media arts are used to communicate social issues, leading to learning, the exchange of ideas and support for social and community engagement, as well as encouraging a cross-disciplinary approach to expanding the concept of challenging contemporary art formats for the public.

Venue: Main Exhibition Gallery, Floor 8

Date: Until 19 May 2024

Location: Bangkok Art and Culture Centre

Open: Tuesday–Sunday, 10:00–20:00; closed on Monday



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CELEBRATING
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Weaving Our Stories: Celebrating the Stories of U.S.-Thai Diplomacy

In celebration of the 190th anniversary of US-Thai diplomatic relations, the US Embassy in Bangkok, in partnership with Thai counterparts, embarked on a series of initiatives throughout 2023, reflecting the depth and breadth of the special partnership between the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand. The “Weaving Our Stories” initiative is the culmination of this year of celebration. Weaving Our Stories skilfully intertwines the threads of friendship between our two countries and people through a captivating public art installation and exhibition in Bangkok, as well as co-creation sessions and educational programming.

Venue: Circular Balcony on floors 3, 4 and 5

Date: Until 25 June 2024

Location: Bangkok Art and Culture Centre

Open: Tuesday–Sunday, 10:00–20:00; closed on Monday



Da Vinci Alive

The World's Most In-depth, Comprehensive Exhibition on Leonardo da Vinci This immersive extravaganza showcases Leonardo da Vinci's groundbreaking scientific and artistic principles, featuring an array of large-scale machine inventions, a mesmerising immersive projection gallery, faithful reproductions of his acclaimed anatomical studies, The Battle of Anghiari drawings and iconic Renaissance art.

Discover Leonardo's multifaceted brilliance as an inventor, artist, scientist, anatomist, engineer, architect, sculptor and philosopher. Whether a first-time explorer of Leonardo's genius or a seasoned historical enthusiast, Da Vinci Alive promises an engaging, educational and illuminating experience suitable for the entire family.

Venue: Attraction Hall, Floor 6

Date: Until 31 July 2024

Location: Icon Siam Shopping Mall

Open: Daily 10:30–20:30

Ticket Fee: THB 1,080 and THB 1,580 for VIP

Siam Songkran Music Festival 2024 (Bangkok, Thailand)

Siam Songkran Music Festival 2024, one of the major music festivals in Bangkok during Songkran, will be held at the usual Urban Yard RCA from 12–15 April 2024. This year's party will be headlined by world-renowned DJs such as Yellow Claw, Vini Vici, Marlo, Orlinski, TPA and more.

Venue: Urban Yard Bangkok (RCA)

Date: 12–15 April 2024

Location: 149 Kamphaeng Phet 7 Rd, Bang Krap, Khet Huai Khwang,
Bangkok

Perform time: 16:00–24:00 hrs

Ticket prices: THB 2,000–8,200





S2O Songkran Music Festival 2024

It's hot; it's wet; it's wild! Dress for battle and get soaked in the water splashing madness of the annual S2O Songkran Music Festival. Taking place in Bangkok, Taiwan and Tokyo, S2O is the world's biggest Songkran celebration, filling the summer's hottest nights with blasts of cool water, pulsating beats from the world's top DJs, and one of Asia's most awesome and biggest productions. Are you ready for the world's wettest party? You'd better be, because your body needs lots of water!

Venue: Live Park Rama 9

Date: 13 - 15 April 2024

Location: Rama 9 Road, Bangkok

Perform time: 16:00 - 24:00 hrs

Ticket prices: THB 1,800 - 7,500

ONE Fight Night 22

Rise and shine with the stars of ONE Championship, as they descend upon the iconic Lumpini Boxing Stadium for ONE Fight Night 22 on Saturday, 4 May.

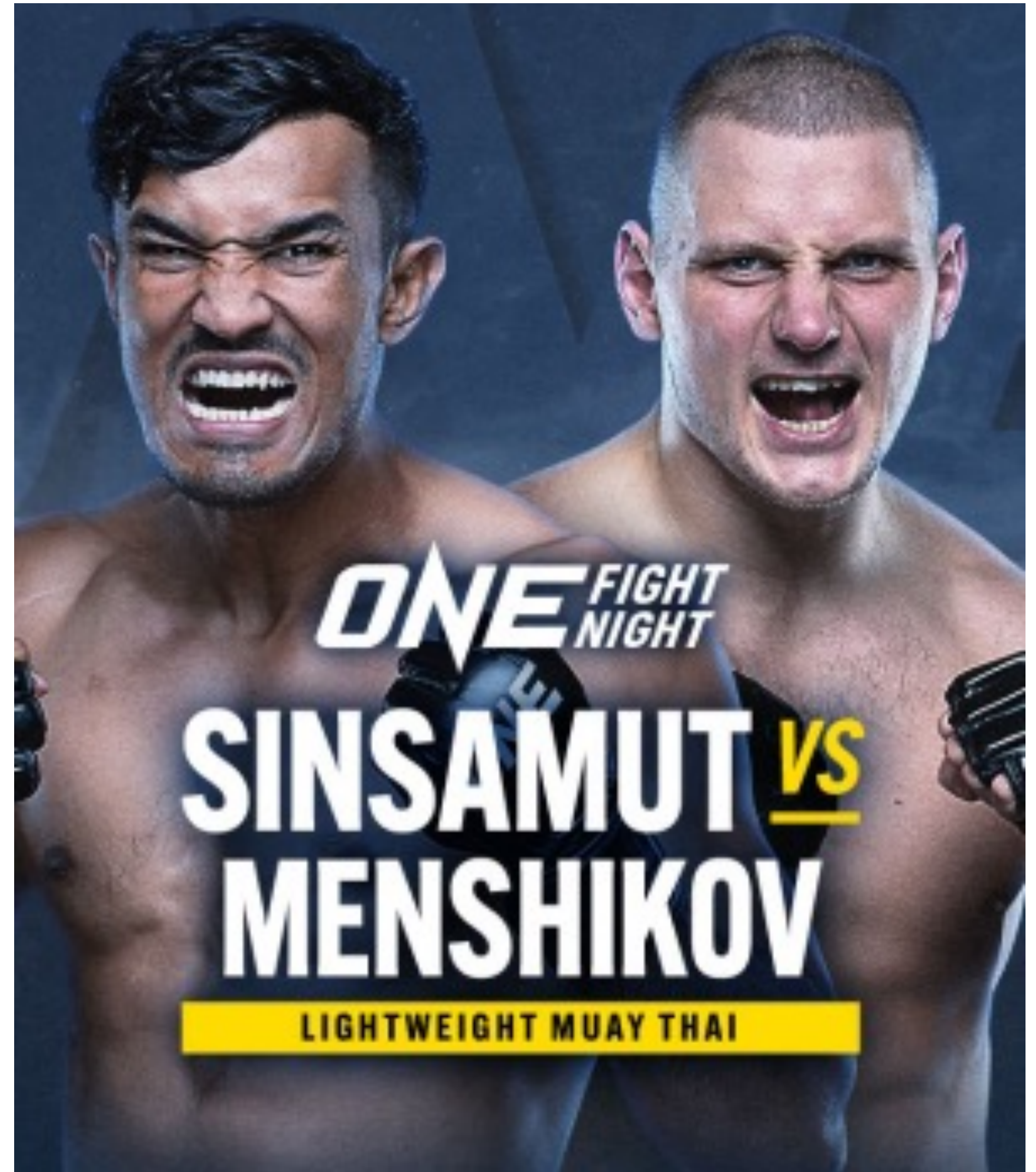
A plethora of international and local martial arts heroes will compete in several high-stakes Muay Thai, MMA, kickboxing and submission grappling battles. Plus, Thailand's own Sinsamut Klinmee faces Russian knockout artist Dmitry Menshikov, and the winner could get a ONE Lightweight Muay Thai World Title shot!

Venue: LUMPINEE BOXING STADIUM (RAMINTRA ROAD)

Date: 4 May 2024

Performance time: 07:00 hrs.

Ticket prices: THB 1,200–11,000





ONE 167:

Stamp vs. Zamboanga

ONE Championship makes its highly anticipated return to Bangkok in June with ONE 167! See the world's best fighters in action as they electrify the Impact Arena across MMA, Muay Thai, kickboxing and submission grappling. Mark your calendars.

Venue: Impact Arena, Muang Thong Thani

Date: 8 June 2024

Location: Charoen Krung Road, Bangkok

Performance time: 07:00 hrs.

Ticket prices: THB 1,100 - 12,000



THANK YOU