

Essential Thai Phrases for Travelers

This printable cheat sheet includes practical Thai phrases for everyday travel situations—from ordering food to asking for help. Keep it handy during your trip to Thailand!

Polite Essentials

When it comes to Thai culture, manners matter—a lot. Politeness isn't just appreciated, it's expected, especially from visitors. These basic Thai phrases will help you show respect, diffuse awkward moments, and leave a positive impression.

Thai	Pronunciation	Meaning
สวัสดี	sà-wàt-dii	Hello / Goodbye
ขอบคุณ	khàawp-khun	Thank you
ขอโทษ	khǎaw-thôot	Sorry / Excuse me
ครับ / ค่ะ	kh ráp / khâ	Polite particle (male/female)
ไม่เป็นไร	mâi bpen rai	It's okay / No problem
ได้ครับ / ได้ค่ะ	dâai kh ráp / dâai khâ	Yes / Okay
ไม่เอา	mâi ao	No, thank you
ยินดีครับ / ยินดีค่ะ	yin-dii kh ráp / yin-dii khâ	You're welcome
ชื่ออะไร	chûue à-rai	What's your name?
ยินดีที่ได้รู้จัก	yin-dii thîi dâai rúu-jàk	Nice to meet you

Tip: Always end your sentences with "kh ráp" (if you're male) or "khâ" (if you're female) to sound respectful. It's a small detail that goes a long way!

Getting Around

Whether you're hopping in a tuk-tuk, catching a minivan to Pai, or trying to find your hotel on a soi that Google Maps doesn't quite understand—these phrases will help you get where you're going (with fewer mix-ups and a lot more smiles).

Thai	Pronunciation	Meaning
ไป...ยังงัย?	bpai... yàang-ngai?	How do I get to...?
...อยู่ที่ไหน?	...yùu thîi-nǎi?	Where is...?
จอดที่นี่ได้ไหม?	jòrt thîi-nîi dâai mái?	Can stop here?
ไปสนามบิน	bpai sà-nǎam-bin	Go to the airport
ไปโรงแรมนี้	bpai roong-raem nîi	Go to this hotel
ซ้าย / ขวา	sáai / khwǎa	Left / Right
ตรงไป	dtrong bpai	Go straight
แพงไป	phaaeng bpai	Too expensive
แท็กซี่มีเตอร์ได้ไหม?	tháek-sîi mí-dtêr dâai mái?	Use the meter?
ถึงแล้ว	thǔeng lâew	We've arrived

Tip: Keep your destination written in Thai on your phone or on a card to show drivers—especially helpful in places where English signage is limited.

Food & Drinks

Street food in Thailand is a traveler's dream—delicious, cheap, and everywhere. But ordering can get tricky if you don't speak Thai. With these simple phrases, you'll be placing your order like a pro, adjusting the spice level to your taste, and maybe even getting a few approving nods from the cook.

Thai	Pronunciation	Meaning
เอาอันนี้	ao an ní	I'll take this one
เอา...	ao...	I'll have...
มี...ไหม?	mii... mái?	Do you have...?
ไม่เผ็ด	mâi phèt	Not spicy
เผ็ดนิดหน่อย	phèt nít-nàwý	Just a little spicy
เผ็ดมาก	phèt mâak	Very spicy
ไม่ใส่ผงชูรส	mâi sài phǒng-chuu-rót	No MSG, please
น้ำเปล่า	náam bplàao	Water (plain)
เช็คบิล	chék bin	Check, please
อร่อยมาก	à-ròi mâak	Very delicious!

Tip: Want to blend in? Hold your spoon in your right hand and fork in your left—Thais use the fork to push food onto the spoon, not to eat with it!

Shopping & Markets

Markets in Thailand are full of color, character, and charm—and bargaining is part of the experience. While prices are often reasonable, knowing how to politely ask for a discount or clarify a price can go a long way (and maybe save you a few baht for mango sticky rice later).

Thai	Pronunciation	Meaning
ราคาเท่าไร?	raa-khaa thao-rài?	How much is it?
ลดหน่อยได้ไหม?	lót nàwy dâai mái?	Can you give a discount?
แพงไป	phaaeng bpai	Too expensive
มีสีอื่นไหม?	mii sǐi ùuen mái?	Do you have another color?
มีอันเล็ก/ใหญ่ไหม?	mii an lék / yài mái?	Do you have smaller/larger one?
ฉันแค่ดูเฉยๆ	chán khâe duu chǎei chǎei	I'm just looking
อันนี้คืออะไร?	an níi kheuu à-rai?	What is this?
มีของใหม่ไหม?	mii khǎawng mài mái?	Do you have a new one?
ขออันนี้	khǎaw an níi	I'd like this one
ไม่เอาครับ / ไม่เอาค่ะ	mâi ao khráp / mâi ao khâ	No, thank you

Tip: Smile when bargaining—it's a friendly game, not a fight. And if the seller agrees to your price, it's polite to go through with the purchase.

Emergencies & Help

No one wants to think about things going wrong on their holiday—but if they do, being able to say a few clear words in Thai can really help. Whether it's a minor accident or you just need assistance fast, these phrases are good to keep in your back pocket (or screenshot folder).

Thai	Pronunciation	Meaning
ช่วยด้วย!	chûuay dûuay!	Help!
เรียกรถพยาบาล	rîiak rót phá-yaa-baan	Call an ambulance
ฉันหลงทาง	chán lǒng thaang	I'm lost
โทรหาตำรวจ	thoo hăa tam-rùat	Call the police
กระเป๋าหาย	grà-bpǎo hăai	My bag is missing
ฉันถูกขโมย	chán thùuk khà-mooi	I've been robbed
ฉันรู้สึกไม่ดี	chán rúu-sùek mâi dii	I don't feel well
ป่วย	bpùai	Sick / Ill
โรงพยาบาลอยู่ไหน?	roong phá-yaa-baan yùu nǎi?	Where is the hospital?
มีใครพูดอังกฤษได้ไหม?	mii krai phûut ang-grìt dâai mái?	Anyone speak English?

Tip: Save the Thai emergency numbers in your phone—191 for police, 1669 for medical emergency. And if you're staying in a hotel, grab a business card from the front desk in case you need help getting back.

Numbers & Time

Whether you're asking what time the last boat leaves, checking the price of fresh mangoes, or making sure you're not an hour early (or late) for a tour—these phrases will help keep things running on time and on budget.

Thai	Pronunciation	Meaning
หนึ่ง / สอง / สาม / สี่ / ห้า	nèung / sǒrng / sǎam / sì / hǎa	1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5
หก / เจ็ด / แปด / เก้า / สิบ	hòk / jèt / bpàet / gǎo / sǐp	6 / 7 / 8 / 9 / 10
เท่าไหร่?	thāo-rài?	How much?
กี่โมง?	gìi mohng?	What time is it?
ตอนเช้า / ตอนบ่าย / ตอนเย็น	dtaawn cháow / dtaawn bàai / dtaawn yen	Morning / Afternoon / Evening
วันนี้ / พรุ่งนี้ / เมื่อวาน	wan níi / phrûng-níi / mûea-waan	Today / Tomorrow / Yesterday
กี่บาท?	gìi bàat?	How many baht?
นาที / ชั่วโมง	nāa-thii / chûua-moong	Minute / Hour
อีกกี่นาที?	ìik gii naa-thii?	How many minutes more?
เดี๋ยวนี้ / ตอนนี้ / เร็วๆนี้	dǐiao níi / dtaawn níi / reo-reo níi	Right now / At this moment / Very soon

Tip: Thai people often use the 24-hour clock in formal settings (like bus schedules), but regular conversation sticks to a 12-hour format—with some uniquely Thai quirks around time-telling.

Bonus Phrases

Want to go from just another tourist to a traveler who locals actually remember? These fun and friendly phrases are your secret weapon. They're charming, warm, and show that you're not just visiting—you're participating.

Thai	Pronunciation	Meaning
อร่อยมาก	à-ròi mâak	Very delicious!
สู้ๆ	sûu sûu!	Keep going! / You can do it!
ดีมาก	dii mâak	Very good!
น่ารักจัง	nâa-rák jang	So cute!
ใช่ครับ / ใช่ค่ะ	châi kh ráp / châi khâ	Yes, that's right
ไม่เป็นไร	mâi bpen rai	No worries / It's okay
สนุกมาก	sà-nùk mâak	Very fun!
ยินดีต้อนรับ	yin-dii dtâawn-ráp	Welcome!
ขอถ่ายรูปได้ไหม?	khăaw thàai rûup dâai mái?	Can I take a photo?
คนไทยใจดี	khon Thai jai dii	Thai people are kind-hearted

Tip: Use these phrases genuinely, and you'll often spark warm conversations, selfies with new friends, or even a little free dessert from the vendor who's now your fan.

Curated by *Thrive in Thailand*

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