



Thailand 2016 Crime & Safety Report: Chiang Mai

Travel Health and Safety; Transportation Security; Stolen items; Theft; Financial Security; Fraud; Burglary; Separatist violence; Drug Trafficking; Maritime; Religious Terrorism; Coup d'etats; Earthquakes; Tsunamis; Floods; Intellectual Property Rights Infringement; Counterfeiting

East Asia & Pacific > Thailand; East Asia & Pacific > Thailand > Chiang Mai

6/7/2016

Overall Crime and Safety Situation

Post Crime Rating: Low

Crime Threats

Generally speaking, Chiang Mai is a safe place for conducting business or for tourism. Most travelers feel relatively safe; however, pickpocketing and petty crimes are occurring with more frequency. Petty theft, purse snatching, and pickpocketing are most common in the areas frequented by foreigners (major hotels, tourist sites, public parks). Chiang Mai's Walking Street and Night Bazaar are a particular focus for petty criminals, who are aware that these areas are frequented by tourists who carry cash, cameras, cell phones, passports, and other valuables. Petty crimes like purse snatching and ATM robberies continue to increase.

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



The threat of credit/debit card fraud is considered high.

In general, the safety and security of guest rooms in quality hotels is adequate.

Violent crimes (armed robbery, kidnappings, murder) against Westerners or tourists remain relatively rare. However, many thieves carry knives, and stabbings are becoming more common.

On a few occasions, drinks have been altered in order to incapacitate a potential victim.

Residential burglaries, while also relatively rare, do occur in areas where Westerners live. In 2011, several burglaries were reported in the Lanna Tara residential compound, where a significant number of Consulate families and other expatriates live. RSO is also aware of isolated instances of domestic staff stealing cash/valuables from their employers.

There are international and indigenous organized crime elements that are mainly concentrated in the major cities. Their activities include drugs, human trafficking, prostitution, and document fraud. The Embassy and Consulate are unaware of any U.S. businesses that are experiencing problems associated with organized crime.

Areas of Concern

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



The State Department's Country Specific Information Sheet for Thailand advises U.S. citizens to defer all non-emergency travel to Thailand's three southern-most provinces of Narathiwat, Pattani, and Yala (<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/thailand.html>), and all official travel to the southern regions requires advance approval from the RSO and Deputy Chief of Mission.

Persons wishing to travel to the Burmese border areas should check with Thai Tourist Police or visit <http://www.travel.state.gov> for the most up to date travel advisories for U.S. citizens.

Transportation-Safety Situation

Road Safety and Road Conditions

Overall, the road infrastructure in/around Chiang Mai is generally considered adequate to good. Roads are left-side oriented, and right-side drive vehicles are recommended for safety purposes. Driving can be dangerous due to careless drivers, and extreme caution should be exercised. Traffic laws are not strictly enforced, and driving rules are widely ignored. Traffic hazards include: drivers exceeding the speed limit, drivers under the influence of alcohol, disregard for traffic signals (running red lights), motorcycles and other vehicles changing lanes unexpectedly, motorcycles driving the wrong way, heavily-laden motorcycles and trucks, and underaged/unlicensed drivers.

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



Paved roads, many of them four lanes wide, connect Thailand's major cities. On the two-lane roads, however, slow-moving trucks limit speed and visibility. Speeding, reckless passing, and failure to obey traffic laws are common, as is the consumption of alcohol, amphetamines, and other stimulants by drivers of commercial vehicles.

Motorcycle accidents are particularly common and serious since motorcyclists generally have less training than car/truck drivers. The majority of traffic fatalities involve motorcycles. Local law requires a helmet to be worn when on a motorcycle; however, many do not abide despite the police setting up random checkpoints to ticket offenders.

Pedestrians face hazards as well; many areas lack sidewalks, and pedestrians should not expect drivers to grant them the right-of-way, even in marked crosswalks. When crossing streets, pedestrians should be cautious for vehicles running red lights or driving the wrong way.

Public Transportation Conditions

Taxis, songthaews (pick-up trucks with two bench seats affixed along either side of the bed), and tuk-tuks (three-wheeled taxis) are abundant and generally safe. Streets, especially in the downtown area around the moat, tend to be very congested, so passengers in taxis should only exit on the sidewalk side to avoid opening a door into an oncoming car or motorcycle. Tour buses are also widely available for transportation between large cities in northern Thailand and are known to be generally reliable and safe.

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



Motorcycle taxis are not common, and their use is not recommended.

Incidents of crime involving taxis and or tuk-tuks may occur, especially in some tourist areas. Taxis, songthaews, and tuk-tuks generally do not have meters, and drivers may attempt to charge excessive fares at airports and near major tourist attractions. Registered taxicab drivers have a yellow placard with their name in English and their photograph on the dashboard. If this photograph does not match the driver, passengers should be wary of entering the vehicle. Before entering a for-hire vehicle, individuals should reach an agreement on the fare for the trip. Drivers will often refuse fares, especially during rush hour or to places they do not know well.

Do not hesitate to ask to be let out of a taxi if the driver is acting suspiciously or driving erratically. Raising one's voice and using aggressive body language could be seen as a threat to the driver. Police will seldom intervene in incidents involving taxi drivers.

Aviation/Airport Conditions

Air travel remains a relatively safe option. The last significant accident occurred in September 2007, when One-Two-Go flight OG 269 crashed at Phuket International Airport, killing 90 people, including five U.S. citizens.

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



Other Travel Conditions

Ferries and speedboats to transport tourists and local nationals to/from the islands are often overcrowded and carry insufficient safety equipment. In 2005, three U.S. citizens died when their over-crowded speedboat capsized and sank off the coast of Koh Samui. The Department of State encourages U.S. citizens to avoid travel on overcrowded boats and to ensure that proper safety equipment is available before boarding any boat or ferry.

Terrorism Threat

Post Terrorism Rating: Medium

Local, Regional, and International Terrorism Threats/Concerns

The far south provinces of Songkhla, Yala, Patani, and Narathiwat frequently experience criminally- and politically-motivated violence, including drive-by shootings, ambushes, and small bomb attacks attributed to armed local separatist and extremist groups. These groups seek increased autonomy in furtherance of a separate state related to the partitioning of the Thai/Malaysia border in the early 1900s. Although there has been sporadic separatist violence over the last 100 years relating to this struggle, the latest round of violence is generally identified as beginning in January 2004. The region has experienced numerous incidents, including arson attacks directed at schools and buildings associated with the government; the placement of bombs in public areas and near local government offices; the killing of police

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



officers and other officials, including civilians suspected of cooperating with authorities; and the theft of weapons and explosives.

In 2003, senior Jemaah Islamiyya/al-Qa'ida (JI/AQ) leader Hambali was captured just north of Bangkok.

Attacks have increasingly targeted commercial areas where foreigners might congregate.

In 2006, a series of bombs detonated in a commercial district of Hat Yai (Songkhla), killing one U.S. citizen and injuring another.

In 2005, two U.S. citizens were injured when a bomb detonated in the Hat Yai Regional Airport.

Travelers should be aware that authorities have instituted special security measures (curfews, military patrols, random searches of train passengers) in affected areas. The State Department's Country Specific Information Sheet for Thailand advises U.S. citizens to defer all non-emergency travel to Thailand's three southern-most provinces (Yala, Patani, and Narathiwat). More broadly, U.S. citizens are also encouraged to use caution and remain vigilant in areas with large public gatherings.

For a number of years, Thailand has also experienced limited violent incursions along the borders with Burma and Cambodia. Heavily-armed drug smugglers have had deadly clashes with police near Burma's border.

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



In 2012, Royal Thai Police made a series of arrests and searches that uncovered a hidden cache of more than 4,000 kilograms of explosive materials. Also in 2012, a suspected Iranian terror cell was discovered when an IED accidentally detonated in a rental house in the Ekamai neighborhood of Bangkok. A similar device was thrown at a taxi and a police officer. Royal Thai Police responded to the explosion and arrested two Iranian nationals within hours. Both Iranians were convicted.

On August 17, 2015, an explosion occurred during the evening rush hour at the Rachaprasong intersection in the central commercial district of Bangkok (near the Erawan Shrine), killing at least 20 people and injuring more than 100.

On March 7, 2015, a hand grenade exploded in front of the Bangkok Criminal Court Building; no one was injured.

In February 2015, two small improvised explosive devices (IED) detonated in close proximity to the Siam Paragon Shopping Mall BTS entrance, slightly injuring two people.

These areas are often popular with tourists.

The State Department has issued a series of Public Announcements cautioning travelers against traveling in locations where there are continued threats of terrorist actions and anti-American violence. Soft target vulnerabilities could easily be exploited by transnational terrorist elements, which have been known to visit and transit Thailand with relative ease. U.S. citizens should be aware of the higher risk of attack associated with places where U.S. citizens and other foreigners congregate (clubs, restaurants, residential areas, places of worship, hotels, schools, business offices, outdoor recreational events, resorts, beaches).

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



Anti-American/Anti-Western Sentiment

If a demonstration is expected to pass near the U.S. Embassy or Consulate facilities, entrances and functions may be restricted.

Political, Economic, Religious, and Ethnic Violence

In May 2014, citing ongoing instability, the military enacted martial law and seized power, installing an interim government headed by Army Chief-turned Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-ocha. Since the coup, military forces have banned protests and limited freedom of expression. The interim government—indirectly installed by Thailand’s military leaders—is drafting the country’s next constitution in the lead-up to elections to be held at an unspecified date.

Post Political Violence Rating: Medium

Civil Unrest

The Department of State advises all U.S. citizens to monitor events closely, to avoid any large public gatherings including protest sites, and to exercise discretion when traveling. Political demonstrations have been frequent. Many are scheduled on the anniversary of political events, and others happen with little warning. Demonstrations can attract thousands of

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



participants and often cause severe traffic disruptions, especially if they include processions. Demonstrations are unpredictable and can turn violent without warning.

Thailand has experienced cyclical domestic political confrontations for the past decade.

In 2010, protestors occupied central Bangkok, leading to clashes with security forces in which over 90 people were killed.

In 2008, protestors closed the international airport.

In 2006, the government was deposed in a bloodless, military coup that was followed by an extended period of violent political instability, which debilitated portions of the country.

Religious/Ethnic Violence

Although the majority of Thailand's Muslims live in the southern provinces, Bangkok and Chiang Mai have small, active Muslim populations. While mass Muslim demonstrations have occurred globally in the past few years resulting in significant violence, Thailand has not experienced the same level of response from the local Muslim community. In fact, local community leaders enjoy a peaceful, cooperative relationship with the Muslim leadership and Muslim population in Chiang Mai. As a result, when local Muslims protested in front of the U.S. Consulate in Chiang Mai in August 2012, they remained relatively peaceful and controlled; however, they did burn an American flag on the ground. Police presence was significant, but there were no arrests.

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



Post-specific Concerns

Environmental Hazards

Thailand has several earthquake fault lines.

In 2004, a major underwater earthquake off the coast of northern Indonesia caused one of the deadliest tsunamis in recorded history, resulting in over 200,000 deaths in the region. Thailand's popular Andaman Sea coastline, including the tourist island of Phuket, was affected by a 10-meter tsunami wave, which devastated the western coast.

Small earthquakes continue throughout the region, all of which cause little/no damage.

Thailand can experience serious flooding during the rainy season (July-October).

In 2011, Thailand suffered disaster-scale flooding as a result of heavy rains that plagued all of Southeast Asia. Chiang Mai experienced severe flooding to much of the downtown area along the Ping River. This flooding lasted several weeks and severely disrupted normal city operations, traffic flow, and availability of services.

Economic Espionage/Intellectual Property Thefts

Thailand protects intellectual property rights via three main statutes:

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



The Patent Act 2522 (1979) grants an inventor or designer exclusive domain over their work product. Applicable patents must satisfy three conditions:

- 1.) The invention must be new. It must not exist in another country.
- 2.) The idea must involve an inventive step. This inventive step cannot be an application obvious to one who works in the field.
- 3.) The invention or design must have an industrial application.

Excluded from patent protection are naturally occurring organisms, scientific methods, and mathematical equations. Legal action can take either criminal or civil form. Criminal proceedings may be prosecuted by law enforcement agencies and begin with a raid and seizure of property. The tort clause of the Commercial and Civil Code typically governs civil proceedings. In reality, few patent cases arise in Thailand.

The Copyright Act 2537 (1994) protects the creator of an original artistic or cultural work, and the protection vests once the work is published. The creator retains the copyright except in the following situations:

- 1) If the creator is an employee hired to create the work, in which case, the employer retains the copyright via prior agreement; or
- 2) If the work is commissioned, in which case the commissioner retains the copyright via prior agreement.

Copyright infringement is a significant issue. Pirated music and movies are sold readily on street corners. Therefore, litigation and enforcement are uncommon. Enforcement of intellectual property rights may proceed criminally or civilly. In addition to monies recovered in civil suits, copyright holders may be given 50 percent of fines levied in criminal enforcement.

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



The Trademark Act 2534 (1991) differs somewhat from the other intellectual property statutes. To be registered, a trademark must be distinctive, must not be prohibited by the act, and not be identical or confusingly similar to another registered trademark. This may include any picture, textual image, or color combination. The following may not be trademarked: the national, royal, or official flag of Thailand; royal names or monograms or abbreviations thereof; representations of the monarchy; international flags, or emblems; or any mark contrary to the public morale. Aggrieved parties may pursue criminal and civil enforcement action. Thai law views trademark infringement as a crime against the state. Therefore, proceeds from criminal fines remain with the government.

In recent years, Thailand has enacted several statutes intended to curb issues regarding intellectual property. Despite these efforts, counterfeit goods remain in the stream of commerce. Private enforcement options are available to aggrieved parties.

Privacy Concerns

Chiang Mai is a city with many picture-taking citizens and tourists. Additionally, many people use vehicle cameras to obtain a video record in the event they are involved in a traffic accident. Most areas that are considered tourist zones are under constant video surveillance, managed by the Royal Thai Police (RTP). These cameras record images to computers at a central Police Center and are used by the RTP to investigate crimes. Many restaurants, bars, and night clubs have video surveillance packages and will often present this footage as evidence when pursuing criminal charges against clientele.

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



Drug-related Crimes

Drug use is a continuing problem, particularly the increasing use of methamphetamines and intravenous drugs. Thailand strictly enforces drug laws and penalties for the possession, use, or trafficking of illegal drugs. Thailand's enforcement efforts include the death penalty for drug smuggling. Convicted offenders can expect long prison sentences under harsh conditions and often heavy fines. Several U.S. citizens are in Thai prisons for trafficking illicit drugs. Some U.S. citizens have been duped into carrying a package with illegal drugs by the promise of a vacation to Thailand. Lack of knowledge of the contents of a package is not a legal defense.

Thai police occasionally raid discos, bars, or nightclubs looking for underage patrons and drug users. During the raids, they typically check the IDs of all customers in the establishment and make each person provide a urine sample to be checked for narcotics. Foreigners are not immune from these checks, and anyone whose urine tests positive for illicit drugs will be arrested and charged. Although some civil libertarians have questioned the constitutionality of these forced tests, the Embassy and Consulate are unaware of any successful challenges to the practice, and customers can be jailed if they do not cooperate.

The government continues to fight drug smuggling along its border with Burma and Laos. Heavily-armed drug smugglers have engaged in deadly clashes with Thai Border and Narcotics Police in these areas.

Kidnapping Threat

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



Kidnappings are rare, but the potential threat of kidnapping, though small, exists.

Police Response

Response to calls for service is better in larger cities than in smaller towns and provinces. Police effectiveness and their ability to conduct follow-up criminal investigations are hampered by both a lack of funding and limited training. The local police are generally effective in assisting with minor crimes, but a lack of funding, inadequate training, corruption, and frequent rotations prevent them from operating with the effectiveness or professionalism one typically associates with a modern mega-city. Police officers outside the major tourist destinations frequently do not speak English. Tourist police are stationed in popular tourist areas and are typically multi-lingual. Tourist police generally speak English, and there are many English speaking volunteers in Chiang Mai that assist with translation. They are generally very helpful in assisting tourists with minor crimes, scams, or other problems. In 2013, Thailand created several Tourist Courts to deal with petty crime and complaints involving foreigners.

The Royal Thai Police and the Department of Special Investigations actively investigate organized crime syndicates, but due to corruption, resource limitations, and bureaucratic inefficiency, arrest rates are extremely low. Prosecution rates are even lower.

How to Handle Incidents of Police Detention or Harassment

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



In the event of police detention or harassment, travelers should remain calm and ask for an English-speaking officer. Since Thailand is not a signatory to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, the U.S. Embassy and Consulate typically do not learn of the arrest of U.S. citizens for minor drug offenses until several days after the incident.

Any U.S. citizen arrested or detained by the police in the Chiang Mai area should contact (or ask that the authorities contact) American Citizen Services (ACS) at the U.S. Consulate in Chiang Mai. The Embassy or Consulate staff can assist you in finding appropriate medical care, contact family/friends, and explain how funds could be transferred. Although the investigation and prosecution of the crime is solely the responsibility of local authorities, Consular officers can help arrested U.S. citizens understand the local criminal justice process and to find an attorney if needed.

Crime Victim Assistance

In the event of an emergency, the police can be contacted by dialing 191 from a local telephone, though few operators speak English. Tourist Police can be contacted by dialing 1155, and they are generally either bilingual or accompanied by bilingual auxiliaries.

If you are involved in a traffic accident, altercation, or other situation that draws a crowd, leave the immediate area and contact the police.

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



Some victims of sexually-motivated crimes have found that authorities do not handle their cases with as much sensitivity or consideration for privacy as they would expect in the U.S.

Chiang Mai

Police, Routine (Local): 05-327-6040

Tourist Police: 1155

U.S. Consulate General: 053-107-700

Bangkok

Police, Routine (Metro): 02-280-5060

Tourist Police: 1155

Fire/Emergency: 199

U.S. Embassy: 02-205-4000

Phuket

Police, Routine (Local): 07-621-2115

Tourist Police (Local): 1155

Medical Emergencies

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



Medical facilities for routine, long-term, and emergency health care are generally adequate. Smaller towns and outlying areas may lack the facilities, expertise, and specialist medical personnel of major metropolitan areas.

Contact the police in a medical emergency, and they will summon an ambulance to your location. Individual hospitals have ambulance services; however, these services should not be relied upon due to severe traffic congestion. Drivers rarely yield to emergency vehicles.

Contact Information for Recommended Hospitals/Clinics

Bangkok Hospital Chiang Mai

Thanuspong Soi 8, Mueang Chiang Mai District, Chiang Mai 50000

Phone: (+66) 052-089-888

Chiang Mai Ram Hospital

8 Bunrueang Rit, Mueang Chiang Mai District, Chiang Mai

Phone: (+66) 053-920-300

Lanna Hospital

Chang Phuak Mueang Chiang Mai District, Chiang Mai 50300

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



Phone: (+66) 053-999-777

Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital

110 Suthep Rd, Mueang Chiang Mai District, Chiang Mai

Phone: (+66) 053-947-000

McCormick Hospital

133 Kaewnawarat Rd., Thambol Watket, Amphur Muang, Chiang Mai 50000

Phone: (+66) 053-921-777

Recommended Air Ambulance Services

Helicopter Medevac service is available on a very limited basis.

Bangkok Hospital (02-310-3102) advertises that it can assist in medevac situations throughout Thailand.

CDC Country-specific Vaccination and Health Guidance

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



For additional information on vaccines and health guidance, please visit the CDC at:
http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/thailand?s_cid=ncezid-dgmq-travel-double-001

OSAC Country Council Information

The Thailand OSAC Country Council and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce are based in Bangkok. The AmCham meets on a monthly basis and can be contacted through the Chamber of Commerce at 66-2-254-1041 or <http://www.amchamthailand.com>. To reach OSAC's East Asia Pacific team, please email OSACEAP@state.gov.

U.S. Consulate Location and Contact Information

Consulate Address and Hours of Operation

The U.S. Consulate in Chiang Mai is located along the Mae Ping River near the northeast corner of the old city moat.

Consulate General Chiang Mai

387 Wichayanond Road, Chang Moi, Muang Chiang Mai 50300, Thailand

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



Business hours: 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Mon-Fri, except Thai and U.S. official holidays

Consulate Contact Numbers

If calling from outside of Thailand, use country code "66" and drop the leading "0" (zero) from the numbers below).

Switchboard: 053-107-700

After business hours or on weekends or holidays, please call our duty officer directly at: 081-881-1878 (from inside Thailand); +66-81-881-1878 (from outside Thailand)

Regional Security Officer: 053-107-784; RSOChiangMai@state.gov

To report U.S. citizen emergencies, such as death, arrests, or serious injuries, in Northern Thailand, please contact the American Citizen Services (ACS) Unit

Phone: 053-107-777 (from inside Thailand); +66-53-107-777 (from outside Thailand)

Fax: 053-252-633 (from inside Thailand); +66-53-252-633 (from outside Thailand)

Email: acschn@state.gov

Website: <http://chiangmai.usconsulate.gov/>

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



Nearby Posts

Embassy Bangkok: <http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/>

Consulate Guidance

Travelers should carefully review the Safety and Security sections of the State Department's Country Specific Information sheet for Thailand available at www.travel.state.gov.

Tips on How to Avoid Becoming a Victim

Situational Awareness Best Practices

Personal security measures and common sense should be exercised. At night, travel with someone and avoid walking on poorly-lighted streets and alleys. Travelers should be careful to safeguard their valuables. Travelers are advised to be especially wary when walking in crowded markets, tourist sites, heavily frequented bars, and bus or train stations.

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



Travelers are advised to bring cash to exchange directly at the airport or other reputable money exchanging services and use only trusted ATMs.

Individuals traveling alone are advised to exercise caution, stay near other travelers, and ensure that friends/family know how to contact them. Individuals should also maintain awareness of their surroundings and travel with trusted friends or relatives to reduce their chances of falling victim to sexually-motivated crimes.

Do not leave drinks unattended and do not accept beverages offered by strangers or at loosely organized parties. While visiting bars and restaurants of Chiang Mai, it is important to not leave drinks unattended. Victims of scopolamine or other drugs should seek medical attention immediately. On rare occasions, there have been reports of bouncers and security staff at night clubs using a heavy handed approach when ejecting combative patrons. It is recommended that patrons take all measures to avoid potentially hostile situations at local night clubs and bars.

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.