

THAILAND ORACLE

UPDATES

As a free service to readers, this site carries updates on the information contained in Jim Rickman's travel guide for independent travellers in Thailand.

This information was last updated in October 2001

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The following amendments and corrections to the information contained in the First (January 2001) Edition of Thailand Oracle should be noted.

General - Minor variations of times and prices are not detailed here, unless the variation seems likely to cause inconvenience. Note that all long-distance bus fares have increased since Thailand Oracle was published, The increases are not uniform, but, on average, expect to pay about 20% more than the fares mentioned in this book. Also note that several of the train departures from Thonburi station in Bangkok have been advanced by five minutes.

Page 10, last paragraph - Printing error. For serious, read series.

Page 31, Banks and Money - Currently U.S.\$1 = Bt45 approximately.

Page 44, Ordinary buses - Bangkok's ordinary buses are gradually changing from a flat fare of Bt3.50 to one of Bt5. Only the red and cream buses still charge Bt3.50.

Page 68, Bangkok (Hualampong) Railway Station - Note that the advance booking office closes at 16:00. After this time, advance reservations can be made at certain of the ordinary booking windows. There is now also a window devoted to reservations and tickets for foreign visitors.

Pages 73-74, Railway timetables - There have been some amendments to these, as follows:

(a) To The North

Type of Train	Rap *	Ord	Exp *	Ord	Exp *	Rap *†	Exp *	S.E. *†	Rap *	Exp *	S.E. *†	Rap *†	Rap *†	Exp *	Ord
Classes	2,3	3	2	3	2	1,2,3	2	1,2	2,3	2	1,2	2,3	2,3	2	3
Bangkok	0640	0705	0825	0835	0930	1500	1600	1800	1810	1925	1940	2000	2200	2310	
Don Muang	0731	0800	0916	0932	1016	1550	1649	1850	1859	2011	2032	2048	2253	2353	
Bang Pa In		0839		1012					1923						
Ayutthaya	0811	0852		1025		1634		1930	1940		2112	2128	2337		
Lopburi	0912	1004	1036	1156		1751		2026	2047	2133		2225	0040		
Phitsanulok	1252	1510	1329	1733	1505	2202	2120	0010	0030	0100		0255	0516	0435	1148
Ban Dalar		1632							0208				0626		1301
Sawan Kalok														0610	1345
Uttaradit	1424	1707	1435			2344		0134	0233	0214		0415	0646		
Sila At	1445	1713				2358		0142	0240		0310	0422	0702		
Den Chai	1556	1810	1527			0105		0240		0313	0409	0515	0758		
Lampang	1803		1727			0330		0448		0515	0620		1027		
Chiang Mai	2030		1920			0535		0650		0710	0830		1220		

(b) To The North-East

Type of Train	Ord	Exp *	Rap	Rap	Exp *	Exp *	Ord	Ord	Rap	Rap	Exp *†	Exp *	Exp *†	Exp *	Rap	Ord
Classes	3	2	2,3	2,3	2,3	2	3	3	2,3	2,3	1,2,3	2,3	1,2,3	2	2,3	3
Bangkok		0545	0600	0650	0820	1105	1145	1525	1830	1845	2030	2050	2100	2150	2245	2325
Don Muang		0629	0658	0750	0907	1154	1233	1618	1926	1940	2118	2136	2151	2236	2332	0019
Bang Pa In							1300	1649								0054
Ayutthaya		0702	0739	0837	0940	1224	1315	1701	2010	2023	2159	2210	2232	2309	0011	0107
Nakhon Ratchasima	0615	1006		1218		1533	1729	2133		0029		0158	0212	0236	0410	0535
Buriram		1140		1412		1720	1928	2344		0220			0353	0408	0610	0753
Surin		1213		1458		1810	2020	0037		0307			0434	0455	0659	0900
Ubon Ratchathani		1355		1720				0320		0530			0700		0920	1210
Khon Kaen	0756		1432		1543				0331		0507	0428				
Udon Thani	1135		1640		1710				0542		0653	0550				
Nong Khai	1225		1730						0635		0740					

(d) To The South

Type of Train	Ord	Ord	Ord	Rap *†	Ord	Ord	S.E. *†	S.E. *†	Rap *†	Exp *†	Ord	Rap *†	Rap *†	Exp *†	Exp *
Classes	3	3	3	2,3	3	3	1,2	1,2,3	2,3	2,3	3	2,3	2,3	1,2,3	2
Bangkok			‡	1225			1420	1445	1550	1705		1735	1820	1915	2250
Thonburi	0715	0735			1330	1350									
Nakhon Pathom	0853	0920	1056	1415	1440	1459	1557	1629	1728	1845		1924	2006	2058	0014
Kanchanaburi		1100				1635									
River Kwai Bridge		1108				1642									
Nam Tok		1250				1840									
Cha-Am	1127		1324		1734				1940						
Hua Hin	1158		1345	1641	1802		1825	1904	2004	2118		2147	2241	2325	0218
Prachuap Kiri Khan	1343			1750	1927			2020	2125			2304	0002	0045	0332
Chumphon	1725			2103			2256	2353	0121	0236		0309	0427	0459	0630
Lang Suan	1850			2246					0315			0445	0555	0629	0744
Surat Thani				0120			0258	0356	0518	0608		0704	0812	0843	0921
Trang										0940			1220		
Kantang													1250		
Nakhon Si Thammarat		Exp *† 1,2									0955	1045		1200	
Haad Yai	1510			0648			0804	0852	1045		1433				1327
Padang Besar #	1800						1000								
Butterworth #	2059						1255								
Kuala Lumpur #	0605														
Yala				0841				1035	1230		1705				1500
Sungai Golok				1030				1225							

Pages 75-78, **Buses** - Bus fares have increased since the book was sent to the printer. The rate of increase varies, but allow for approximately 20% more than the rates shown. Roads are gradually being improved, leading to some reductions in journey times.

Page 80, line 17 - Apex Hotel now starts at Bt450.

Page 81, at foot - Train fare is currently Bt31.

Page 87, **Further Down the Coast**, line 3 - Printing error. For XXX, read 77.

Page 92, lines 4 and 8 - Printing error. For Mae Pamphung, read Mae Ramphung (if not already corrected by hand in your copy).

Page 102, map - Printing error. For Nam Tok Phieu, read Nam Tok Phliu.

Page 121, railway timetable from Nakhon Ratchasima to Bangkok.

Type of Train	Exp *†	Rap	Ord	Exp *	Rap	Ord	Ord	Exp *	Ord	Rap *	Exp *	Exp *
Classes	2,3	2,3	3	2,3	2,3	3	3	2	3	2,3	2,3	2
Nakhon Ratchasima	0024	0038	0800	1001	1215	1327	1550	1830	1955	2246	2339	2343
Ayutthaya	0349	0407	1212	1258	1549	1809	2006	2123	0027	0257	0318	0245
Bang Pa In			1227			1729	2016		0040			
Don Muang	0431	0453	1250	1334	1633	1853	2055	2156	0122	0338	0355	0319
Bangkok	0520	0540	1340	1420	1725	1945	2140	2240	0215	0428	0440	0405

Page 130, Surin - The 6:50 rapid train from Bangkok now reaches Buriram at 14:12.

Page 134, Ubon Ratchathani - The 6:50 rapid train from Bangkok now arrives at 17:20.

Page 138, railway timetable from Ubon Ratchathani to Bangkok.

Type of Train	Ord	Exp *	Rap	Ord	Ord	Ord	Ord	Exp *	Rap	Exp	Exp *†	Rap
Classes	3	2	2,3	3	3	3	3	2	2,3	2	1,2,3	2,3
Ubon Ratchathani			0635	0715	0840	1245	1320	1435	1725		1915	1930
Surin	0500	0745	0920	1017	1201	1535	1629	1623	1952	2115	2141	2155
Buriram	0548	0823	1011	1112	1259	1626	1743	1659	2039	2158	2224	2241
Nakhon Ratchasima	0800	1001	1215	1327	1514	1835	1955	1830	2246	2343	0024	0038
Ayutthaya	1212	1258	1549	1809			0027	2123	0257	0245	0349	0407
Bang Pa In	1227			1724			0042					
Don Muang	1250	1334	1633	1853			0122	2156	0328	0319	0431	0453
Bangkok	1340	1420	1725	1945			0215	2240	0425	0405	0520	0540

Page 148, Nong Khai - Bangkok departures now 6:00, arrival 17:30, and 20:30, arrival 7:40.

Page 153, railway timetable from Nong Khai to Bangkok.

Type of Train	Ord	Exp *	Rap	Ord	Exp *	Rap	Exp *†
Classes	3	2,3	2,3	3	2,3	2,3	1,2,3
Nong Khai			0750	1305		1820	1915
Udon Thani	0610	0700	0850	1356	1915	1923	2005
Khon Kaen	0842	0825	1055	1622	2044	2128	2150
Nakhon Ratchasima	1240			1940	2339		
Ayutthaya		1429	1752		0318	0416	0439
Don Muang		1459	1835		0355	0502	0523
Bangkok		1545	1925		0440	0550	0610

Page 153, Udon Thani - Trains from Bangkok now 6:00, arrival 16:40; 8:20, arrival 17:10; 18:30, arrival 5:42; 20:30, arrival 6:53; and 20:50, arrival 5:50.

Page 165, lower map - Wat Po Nok Kaba is 26 kilometres from Sang Khom.

Page 189, paragraph 3 - The rapid train now leaves Bangkok at 6:40, arriving in Phitsanulok at 12:52. Other trains times vary only slightly from those shown.

Page 198, Sri Satchanalai, paragraph 4 - Direct train to Sawan Kalok now leaves Bangkok at 23:10 and arrives at Sawan Kalok at 6:10. Departs Sawan Kalok at 7:00 and arrives in Bangkok at 14:10.

Page 201, Uttaradit, paragraph 2 - Times of trains to Chiang Mai have changed slightly. Rapid departs Uttaradit at 6:46 and arrives in Chiang Mai at 12:20. Ordinary is unchanged. Air-conditioned railcar departs Uttaradit at 14:35 and arrives in Chiang Mai at 19:20.

Page 209, Lampang, paragraph 2 - Train times mentioned should be amended to the following. Express railcar departs Bangkok at 8:25, arrives in Lampang at 17:27. Express railcar departs Bangkok at 19:25, arrives in Lampang at 5:15. Rapid departs Bangkok at 6:40, arrives in Lampang at 18:03.

Page 212, Chiang Mai, paragraph 2 - Train times mentioned should be amended to the following. Express railcar departs Bangkok at 8:25, arrives in Chiang Mai at 19:20. Express railcar departs Bangkok at 19:25, arrives in Chiang Mai at 7:10. Rapid departs Bangkok at 6:40, arrives in Chiang Mai at 20:30.

Page 228, railway timetable from Chiang Mai to Bangkok.

Type of Train	Ord	Exp *	Rap *	Ord	Rap *	Ord	Exp *	Exp *	Rap *†	Exp *	Rap *†	S.E *†	S.E *†	Exp *	Rap *†	
Classes	3	2	2,3	3	2,3	3	2	2	2,3	2	2,3	1,2	1,2	2	2,3	
Chiang Mai					0625		0835					1545	1625	1800	2010	2130
Lampang					0842		1026					1810	1843	2008	2157	2327
Den Chai				0620	1050		1223		1900			2025	2048	2225	2354	0130
Sila At			0730	0735	1155				2000			2135	2148	2323		0303
Uttaradit			0736	0747	1202		1321		2007			2143	2155		0050	0310
Ban Dalar		0738	0805	0824	1230	1301			2033							
Sawan Kalok		0700				1345										
Phitsanulok	0605	0845	0902	0935	1344		1437	1645	2139	2205	2336	2312		0213	0434	
Lopburi	1118		1240	1434	1752		1736	1948	0228		0351	0300			0817	
Ayutthaya	1242		1331	1616	1905				0328		0448	0358	0510		0923	
Bang Pa In	1257		1346	1628												
Don Muang	1340	1323	1408	1710	1952		1907	2123	0405	0250	0535	0442	0557	0648	1009	
Bangkok	1435	1410	1500	1800	2045		1950	2210	0455	0330	0635	0530	0650	0745	1105	

Page 271, Moving On, paragraph 1 - The air-conditioned railcar now leaves at 17:04 and reaches Bangkok at 20:50.

Page 273, first sentence - This rapid train now departs from Prachuap Kiri Khan at 00:24 and reaches Bangkok at 6:35, so is rather less convenient.

Page 315, Ferries to Ko Tao and Chumphon - Printing error. Sections reversed.

Page 316, last paragraph - Train departure times from Bangkok are unchanged, but the rapid now arrives in Nakhon Si Thammarat at 10:45 and the express arrives at 12:00.

Page 321, Moving On - The rapid train now leaves Nakhon Si Thammarat at 14:25 and arrives in Bangkok at 7:40, running just over two hours later throughout than the times shown. The express and other trains shown are almost unchanged.

Page 323, line 7 - The train mentioned here now arrives at 4:59, which is a little better.

Page 347, paragraph 2 - The 17:05 from Bangkok now reaches Trang at 9:40. The 18:20 from Bangkok reaches Trang at 12:20 (destination Kantang at 12:50).

Page 356, Trang, paragraph 2 - The 17:05 from Bangkok now reaches Trang at 9:40. The 18:20 from Bangkok reaches Trang at 12:20 (destination Kantang at 12:50).

Page 360, Moving On - The rapid train now departs from Kantang at 14:30, Trang 15:04, and arrives in Bangkok at 9:00. The express departs from Trang at 17:20 and arrives in Bangkok at 10:30.

Page 369, railway timetable from southern Thailand to Bangkok.

Type of Train	Ord	Exp *†	Exp *	Exp *†	Rap *†	Rap *†	Rap *†	Exp *†	Rap *†	Exp *	S.E. *†	S.E. *†	Ord
Classes	3	1, 2	2	1,2,3	2,3	2,3	2,3	1,2,3	2,3	2	1,2,3	1,2	3
Sungai Golok							1155				1440		
Yala							1344		1415	1545	1621		
Kuala Lumpur ‡		2100											
Butterworth ‡		0602										1410	
Padang Besar		0835										1815	
Haad Yai	0615	0950					1541		1619	1714	1815	1925	
Nakhon Si Thammarat				1400	1425								
Kantang						1430							
Trang						1504		1720					
Surat Thani	1340		1025	1738	1805	1933	2054	2135	2201	2108	2313	0017	
Lang Suan	1539		1201	1932	2010	2139	2315		2400				0530
Chumphon	1700		1321	2106	2153	2326	0054	0128	0209	0020	0303	0359	0700
Prachuap Kiri Khan			1556	0024	0139	0255	0417		0525	0312	0612		1020
Hua Hin			1704	0155	0323	0445	0544	0611	0650	0426	0734	0834	1157
Cha-Am									0714				1224
Nakhon Pathom			1909	0449	0556	0715	0821	0845	0944	0654	1008	1110	1531
Thonburi													1650
Bangkok			2050	0635	0740	0900	1010	1030	1130	0835	1150	1250	

Page 370, railway timetable from Haad Yai to Sungai Golok, Padang Besar and Malaysia.

Type of Train	Rap *	Ord	Ord	S.E.	S.E.	Ord	Ord	Rap *	Ord	Exp *	Ord	Exp *†
Classes	2,3	3	3	1,2	1,2,3	3	3	2,3	3	2	3	1,2
Haad Yai	0648	0655	0800	0804	0852	0930	1022	1045	1240	1327	1433	1510
Pattani	0805	0818	0936		1000	1035	1145	1200	1418	1429	1620	
Yala	0841	0854	1017		1035	1103	1248	1230	1505	1500	1705	
Sungai Golok	1030	1047	1235		1225	1250	1505		1730			
Padang Besar ‡				1000								1720
Butterworth ‡				1255								2059
Kuala Lumpur ‡												0605

Page 375, Moving On - Train to Haad Yai and Bangkok now leaves Padang Besar (Thailand) at 18:15. Train to Butterworth leaves Padang Besar (Thailand) at 8:50 and Padang Besar (Malaysia) at 10:00 (Malaysian time). Train to Butterworth and Kuala Lumpur leaves Padang Besar (Thailand) at 16:00 and Padang Besar (Malaysia) at 17:20 (Malaysian time).

Page 378, map - Printing error. Near the bottom left of the map, for Mae, read Mae Lan.

Page 390, paragraph 2 - There is now also a morning express train from Tumpat, Pasir Mas and Wakaf Bahru to Kuala Lumpur. The Malaysian (K. T.M.) rail pass costs U.S.\$55 for ten days, or U.S.130 for thirty days. First class seats may now be reserved only 24 hours in advance if a rail pass is being used. Second class seats may be reserved at any time and then converted into first class seats, subject to availability, 24 hours prior to departure. Sleeping berth charges are not included in the pass, but '2+' ('dua plus') sleepers may be used free, if available, by first class ticket holders. There are '2+' sleepers on the night train to Kuala Lumpur.

Type of Train	Ord	Ord	Ord	Ord	Rap *†	Rap *†	Exp *	Ord	Ord	S.E. *†	Ord
Classes	3	3	3	3	2,3	2,3	2	3	3	1,2,3	3
Sungai Golok		0630	0855	1135	1155			1315	1350	1440	1530
Yala	0630	0847	1132	1353	1344	1415	1545	1607	1528	1621	1740
Pattani	0705	0937	1210	1437	1415	1445	1611	1645	1555	1651	
Haad Yai	0845	1130	1345	1640	1541	1619	1714	1805	1700	1815	
Pattalung	1033	1327	1518	1825	1700	1747	1812			1934	
Nakhon Si Thammarat	1315		1740								
Surat Thani		1830			2054	2201	2108			2313	
Lang Suan					2315	2400					
Chumphon					0054	0209	0020			0303	
Prachuap Kiri Khan					0417	0525	0312			0612	
Hua Hin					0545	0650	0426			0734	
Cha-Am						0714					
Nakhon Pathom					0821	0944	0654			1008	
Bangkok					1010	1130	0835			1150	

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