

**NATIONAL MUSEUM** — Formerly the “second king’s” palace, this gorgeous property houses some of the most extraordinary architecture, art and antiques in the country. *Na Phrathat Rd., 02-215-8173. Open Wed-Sun 9am-4pm. B50. www.nationalmuseums.finearts.go.th*  
**WQ27**

## ATTRACTIONS

**GRAND PALACE** — One of the best known and most stunning landmarks in the city, the compound is home to a collection of royal palaces, which blend European and Thai architecture. *Na Phra Lan Rd. Open daily 8:30am-3:30pm. Free tours in English available at 10am, 10:30am, 1:30pm and 2pm. B400. Maharaj Pier. WQ25*

**WAT ARUN (TEMPLE OF DAWN)** — On the river’s edge is the 76-meter-tall *prang* (Khmer-style tower), decorated with millions of tiny seashells and Chinese porcelain. Arun means “morning” and the temple is best viewed at dawn or sunset from the opposite bank. *Arun Amarin Rd. Wat Arun Pier. WP22*

**WAT TRAMIT WITTAYARAM** — Home to the world’s largest golden Buddha image, this white marble temple also houses the Yaowarat Chinatown Heritage Center. *Near Odeon Circle, Soi Charoen Krung 37. Open Tue-Sun 8am-5pm.*

**WAT PHRA KAEO (TEMPLE OF THE EMERALD BUDDHA)** — Situated in the compound of the Grand Palace, this important religious site is home to Thailand’s most revered religious icon: the Emerald Buddha, carved from solid jade. Also, don’t miss the exquisite mural wall paintings. *Na Phra Lan Rd. Open daily 8:30am-3:30pm. B400. Maharaj Pier. WQ25*



WAT PHRA KAEO

**SIAM OCEAN WORLD** — Southeast Asia’s largest aquarium features more than 30,000 marine creatures and 400 aquatic species. Highlights include the underwater tunnel, penguin enclosure and the glass bottom boat tour. *Basement, Siam Paragon, Rama 1 Rd., 02-687-2000. BTS Siam. Open daily 10am-10pm. B900 for adults, B700 for children. YM17*

**SUAN PAKKAD PALACE** — This former royal household features eight Thai-style houses that showcase sculptures, furniture and traditional instruments from the Rama V period. *02-354 Sri Ayudhya Rd., 02-246-1775/6 ext 229. BTS Phaya Thai. Open daily 9am-4pm. B100. www.suanpakkad.com*



New >

## Museum of Floral Culture

The Museum of Floral Culture tells the story of how geography, tradition, and belief have influenced the handling and presentation of flowers, and in turn, how these have affected the course of history. Founded by one of Thailand’s leading florist’s, Sakul Intakul, the museum, a 100-year-old, two-story colonial-style house believed to be built by Rama VII’s royal guard, is divided into differently themed rooms. In the ‘Pen, Pencil and Possibility’ exhibition hall, Sakul demonstrates the journey of his floral installations from initial paper sketches to red-carpet floral centerpieces, while, the spacious botanical garden educates visitors about the traditional Thai belief that certain plants can bring good fortune. Visits to the museum are by guided tour only but it’s well worth taking to learn the true significance of the apparently everyday objects. There’s also a Salon du Thé by the balcony where you can enjoy house blended tea and Asian desserts. *Samsen Soi 28, Dusit, 02-669-3633/4. Open Tue-Sun 10am-6pm. Tours in English run daily at 11am (2pm/4pm for Thai). Entry fee B150.*



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