

PATTAYA THAILAND

Thailand's seaside city with a unique environment. An honest, complete guide.

Region

Southeast Asia

Climate

Hot year-round, best November–April

Language

Thai — English very widely spoken

Currency

Thai Baht (THB) — \$1 USD ≈ 35 THB

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CITY GUIDE

Pattaya

Pattaya is 2 hours from Bangkok. A beach city with excellent infrastructure, beautiful surrounding beaches, a large expat retirement community, and a social scene unlike any other city.

2 hrs

FROM BANGKOK

\$0.30

BAHT BUS RIDE

30 min

FERRY TO KOH LARN

Nov-Apr

BEST SEASON

— WHERE TO LIVE

- ♦ **Jomtien** — Quieter, residential, beach-focused — better for longer stays.
- ♦ **Central Pattaya** — The action — Walking Street is the epicenter.
- ♦ **Pratumnak Hill** — Upscale, quiet, the best residential area.

— DAY TRIPS

- ♦ **Koh Larn island** — 30-minute ferry, beautiful beaches, worth the day trip.

NOMADBOLD INSIDER TIP

Pratumnak Hill offers the best balance in Pattaya — walkable to Jomtien's calm and Central Pattaya's energy without committing fully to either extreme.

COST OF LIVING

Pattaya

Pattaya is the most affordable beach city in Thailand.

THREE REAL BUDGETS

BARE-BONES

\$600-\$800/mo

Jomtien studio, cooking most meals.

COMFORTABLE

\$1,000-\$1,400/mo

Central Pattaya or Jomtien 1BR, eating out, beach club visits.

PREMIUM

\$1,700-\$2,300/mo

Pratumnak apartment, frequent dining, beach club membership.

LINE-ITEM BREAKDOWN

ITEM	TYPICAL COST
1BR apartment (Jomtien)	\$300-\$600/mo
1BR apartment (Central Pattaya)	\$250-\$500/mo
Local meal	\$2-\$5
Restaurant meal	\$5-\$18
Beach club day pass	\$10-\$25

NOMADBOLD INSIDER TIP

Jomtien delivers materially better value than Central Pattaya for near-identical beach access — worth the 10-minute baht bus ride if budget matters.

DATING GUIDE

Pattaya

Pattaya has the most accessible and diverse social scene for foreign men in Thailand. Understanding the environment is the key to navigating it well.

— WHERE TO MEET PEOPLE

- ◆ **Pratumnak Hill** — A more residential, quieter social scene away from the tourist core.
- ◆ **Beyond the tourist zone** — ThaiCupid works well for men seeking relationships outside Pattaya's entertainment-district environment.

— APPS THAT WORK HERE

Tinder — active

ThaiCupid — for relationships outside the tourist environment

Badoo

NOMADBOLD INSIDER TIP

Pratumnak Hill consistently produces a different, more genuine social dynamic than Walking Street's environment — worth exploring deliberately rather than defaulting to the tourist core.

VISA GUIDE

Pattaya

Same Thailand visa rules as Bangkok.

— THE PATH, STEP BY STEP

1

Tourist entry

30 days on arrival.

2

Extension

Available at Jomtien Immigration.

3

Thailand Elite

Popular with long-term Pattaya residents.

4

Border run

To Cambodia (3 hours by minibus) resets 30-day entry.

NOMADBOLD INSIDER TIP

Jomtien Immigration is one of the busiest offices in the country given Pattaya's expat density — arrive early or book online where possible.

MEDICAL TOURISM

Pattaya

Pattaya has solid international medical facilities.

COST COMPARISON

PROCEDURE	PATTAYA	US TYPICAL
Dental implant	\$400–\$800	\$3,000–\$5,000

FACILITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◆ Bangkok Hospital Pattaya — international standard, English throughout
- ◆ Pattaya International Hospital — alternative full-service option

NOMADBOLD INSIDER TIP

Bangkok Hospital Pattaya’s expat-focused billing desk can quote in USD directly — ask for this if you want to avoid currency confusion when budgeting.

DIGITAL INCOME

Pattaya

Pattaya is a livable base for digital income with lower cost than Bangkok.

100-300 Mbps FIBER IN JOMTIEN/PRATUMNAK	Lower Cost THAN BANGKOK	Fewer NETWORKING EVENTS	GMT+7 TIME ZONE
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— COWORKING

- ◆ **KOWORK Pattaya / Catalyst** — The main coworking options.

NOMADBOLD INSIDER TIP

If your business depends on in-person networking, keep a Bangkok day-trip in your monthly rhythm — Pattaya’s ecosystem is real but thinner than the capital’s.

WANT THE MEMBER EDITION?

This guide covers the essentials for Pattaya. The Member Edition goes further on every section – deeper budget breakdowns, named venues, step-by-step visa filing, procedure-level medical pricing, and a full 90-day action plan – plus it's included on all 15 NomadBold cities.

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