

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Imprint / Legend	2
List of Maps	6

HISTORY AND CULTURE

Portrait of a Fabled Land	15
--	----

TRAVELING IN THAILAND

BANGKOK

The City of Angels	59
Around the Sanam Luang	60
Dusit District	64
Old Teak Houses	65
Chinatown	66
Walks	69
Museums	70
Parks	72
Glittering Temples	75
Excursions in Bangkok	80
Nightlife	84
<i>GUIDEPOST: Hotels, Restaurants, Sights</i>	87

THE RICE BOWL OF A NATION

The Central Plains	91
Ayutthaya	93
Kanchanaburi	97
Damnoen Saduak	100
Cha-Am / Hua Hin	101
<i>GUIDEPOST: Hotels, Restaurants, Sights</i>	103

THE PLEASURE COAST OF THE GULF

Pattaya	105
<i>GUIDEPOST: Hotels, Restaurants, Sights</i>	112
The Eastern Gulf	115
Ko Samet	121
<i>GUIDEPOST: Hotels, Restaurants, Sights</i>	123

A JOURNEY INTO HISTORY

Phitsanulok and Sukhothai	125
Tak	129
<i>GUIDEPOST: Hotels, Restaurants, Sights</i>	129

LAN NA THAI, A NORTHERN LAND

Chiang Mai	131
<i>GUIDEPOST: Hotels, Restaurants, Sights</i>	140
The North	143
<i>GUIDEPOST: Hotels, Restaurants, Sights</i>	154

ISAN, THE NATION'S POORHOUSE

Isan	157
Korat and Surin	160
Loei	161
Udon	162
Along the Mekong	163
<i>GUIDEPOST: Hotels, Restaurants, Sights</i>	165

ALONG THE ANDAMAN COAST

Phuket	167
Phang-nga	172
Krabi	173
Trang	175
<i>GUIDEPOST: Hotels, Restaurants, Sights</i>	176

DEEP IN THE SOUTH

Deep in the South	179
Ranong	181
Ko Samui	183
The Eastern Coast	184
The Tip of the Trunk	186
<i>GUIDEPOST: Hotels, Restaurants, Sights</i>	190

SPECIAL INTERESTS

A Culinary Adventure	196
Tom Yam Kung	200
Thai Massage / Thai Boxing	203
Getting around by Boat	204
Precious Stones Capital	209

FEATURES

The Thai Monarchy	214
Colorful Festivals	217
Minorities in Thailand	220
Sports and Pastimes	223
Rural Migration	228
Traffic and Pollution	230
The Drug Problem	232

GUIDELINES

Preparation	234
Geography and Climate	234
Clothing	234
What Not to Wear, Arrival Formalities	234
Customs, Customs Regulations	235
Currency / Exchange / Banks, Health	235
Departure, Tax Clearance	236
Travel to Thailand	236
By Air, Road, Sea	236
Travel in Thailand	236
By Air	236
Train	237
By Bus, Taxi, Tuk-tuk	238
By Overland Bus, Songthaew, Boat	239
Practical Tips	239
Accommodation	239
Banks	240
Bookshops, Business Hours	241
Business Traveler Information	241
Conference Facilities, Credit Cards	241
Electricity	241
Etiquette	242
Export of Art Objects and Antiques, Guides	242
Newspapers / Magazines	242
Phone / Fax / Internet	242
Postal Services, Shopping	243
Television / Radio	243
Time, Tourism, Weights and Measures	244
Addresses	244
Airlines	244
Churches, Embassies / Consulates	245
Emergency, General	246
Hospitals, Telephone Assistance	246
Glossary	246
Useful Thai Phrases	247
Authors	248
Photographers	249
Index	250