

CURRENCY

MONEY

- ✚ The currency in Thailand is the Baht, often abbreviated as THB. Although US Dollars are rarely accepted, most restaurants, hotels and other businesses will accept credit cards. At the moment the exchange rate is **US\$ 1 = 36 THB**
- ✚ 1 baht consist of 100 Satang, however the denominations go from 25 and 50 Satang to make up 1 baht. There are two types of currency in Thailand: coins and bills
 - **Coins** come in **six denominations: 25 and 50-Satang** coins are very small and made of brass. They're practically useless, and as a tourist you're unlikely to encounter them unless you shop at a supermarket or department store. The other coins come in **1, 2, 5 and 10-Baht pieces**. The one, two and five-Baht coins are silver, while the ten-Baht coin consists of a silver ring around a brass center.



- **Bills** vary in size and color according to denomination: **20-Baht** is green, **50-Baht** is blue, **100-Baht** is red, **500-Baht** is purple and **1,000-Baht** is white. There is also still a **10-Baht** bill in circulation, which is brown in color, but these are quite rare. Actually, there are several versions of coins in circulation, and not a few variations in bills as well. They're all legal tender, so don't worry if you start comparing the change in your pocket and notice some differences.



10-baht note



20-baht note



50-baht note



100-baht note



500-baht note



1000-baht note

METHOD OF PAYMENT

+ Cash

All the currency notes are all useful though using 1000 baht bills will get you frowns by most shop keepers who rarely carry enough change to split every 1000 baht banknote. 7 eleven is a great place to break 1000 baht bills because they always have a lot of change so if you get stuck know that 7 eleven and even banks can help you.

+ Credit cards

Credit cards (Visa, Mastercard and American Express) are widely accepted in the tourist industry, at restaurants, shopping malls and shops catering to tourists. Some businesses add a surcharge (usually 2-3%) if you're paying by credit card; in this case, it can turn out cheaper to pay them in cash.

+ ATMs

- ATMs can be found in all cities and large towns, and international withdrawals are not a problem. When using a debit card, an ATM will typically provide a much better exchange rate than a money exchange counter, and this is especially the case if you have a card that does not charge a transaction fee for overseas withdrawals.
- ATMs are available at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi airport (BKK) after collecting your bag and clearing customs, and while it is advisable to arrive with a small amount of baht if possible, you may obtain cash from an ATM after landing as well.
- More remote areas (including smaller islands) don't have banks or ATMs, so cash or traveller's checks are essential. Many hotels and guest houses will change money for guests, but hefty commissions and poor rates may apply. US dollars in small bills (1s, 5s, and 20s) are invaluable for onward travel to neighbouring countries other than Malaysia, but are only useful in Thailand for exceptional purchases