

Il Fumo Charcoal Grill & Cocktails

Nostalgic, opulent flair comes together with strong, bold tastes in this steakhouse by the husband-and-wife restaurateurs behind the success of Vesper on Silom Road. With a “no compromise” policy, the kitchen serves hearty meat dishes and upscale Italian favourites prepared with premium quality imported ingredients. Rama 4 www.ilfumo.co/story

Flûte A Perrier-Jouët Bar

Perched above the award-winning Sirocco restaurant on the 64th floor of The Dome at lebua, it is the highest al fresco champagne bar in the world. It offers a stunning aerial view of Bangkok, 800 feet in the air, combined with exclusive tastings of such signature Perrier-Jouët selections as Belle Époque Rose, Belle Époque Grand Brut, and Belle Époque Blanc de Blancs. www.lebua.com



Photo: Flûte A Perrier-Jouët Bar



Photo: Dhara Dhevi Chiang Mai

Culture Stop

Beyond the shopping, temples and entertainment, Bangkok at its heart is an art and cultural capital with a booming gallery scene

Beyond Bangkok’s shopping malls and religious shrines is a city bursting at the seams with culture. A lot of it is on the streets, all you have to do is dig a little bit deeper. But clues to it are everywhere, especially in the extensive, breathtaking displays. Art, textiles, flowers and more are just some of the gems you can discover at museums and galleries around the capital. Some of these venues are so fresh and off the beaten track you won’t find them anywhere close to a skytrain or underground station, or even in the Lonely Planet guide. But that’s exactly what makes them so great.



Photo: Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall, Borommangalanusarani Pavilion

Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall

This towering neoclassical wonder was originally built as a royal reception building by Rama V, but now serves as a museum of art and Thai monarchic history. You'll find fabulous paintings depicting important events from the country's history: from Thailand's first king of the Chakri dynasty, Rama I, leading his armies back after defeating the Khmer, to King Rama V's abolition of slavery. As royal premises, the dress code must be followed, including sleeved shirts and no short skirts or ripped jeans.

Borommangalanusarani Pavilion

The recently constructed magnificent Borommangalanusarani Pavilion is the perfect showcase for the skills of Thailand's craftsmen. This spire-roofed pavilion was built for important events associated with the Royal Family and is adjacent to the Throne Hall. It was constructed by artisans attached to the Queen Sirikit Institute of the Support Foundation.

www.artsofthekingdom.com/en



Photo: MOCA

Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)

Founded by Thai billionaire mogul Boonchai Bencharongkul, MOCA is the largest privately funded museum in the country. It's a massive building that's a real champion in contemporary architectural design, with white cut-out walls and abstract structures. There are six floors of Thai modern art to discover, including pieces from Bencharongkul's personal collection. It's not close to any BTS or MRT station, making it a hidden gem for art lovers.

www.mocabangkok.com

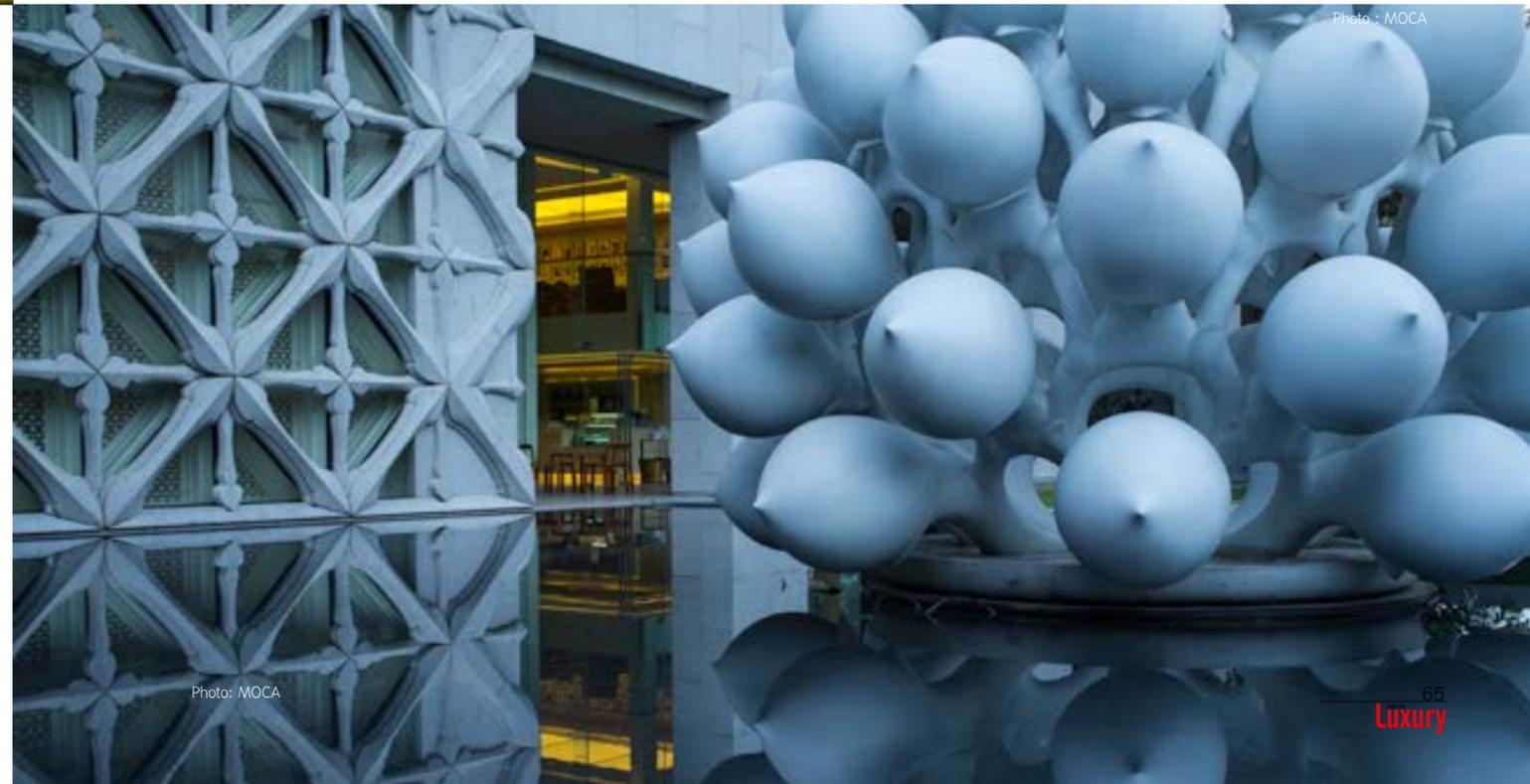


Photo: MOCA

Photo: MOCA



Photo: Pub Piab Riab Roy



Photo: MOCA



Photo: Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles

Pub Piab Riab Roy

The techniques of origami are brought into play for the creations at Pub Piab Riab Roy that represent traditional Thai fresh flower arrangements. Fresh flower arrangements are an important part of the Thai way of life and hence a valued handicraft. Pub Piab Riab Roy presents the intricacy and the beauty of this art form through its origami creations.

www.facebook.com/PubPiabRiabRoy/about/

Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles

Fascinating traces of the building's nineteenth-century origins were found during renovation, including a pediment bearing the emblem of King Rama V and a cache of 33 cannonballs, relics of the site's military past. The finished museum combines sleek, modern galleries and state-of-the-art back-of-house facilities while retaining a wealth of period architectural details that honour the building's original era and style.

The museum is in the Ratsadakorn-bhibhathana building, right after the main visitors' gate at the Grand Palace. The museum's mission is to collect, display, preserve and serve as a centre for all who wish to learn about textiles, past and present, from Southeast Asia, South Asia and East Asia, with a special emphasis on the textiles related to the royal court and HM Queen Sirikit. Additionally, its goal is to create public awareness of Thai identity and culture and the beauty of Thai traditional textiles, through research, exhibition and interpretation.

www.qsmthailand.org



Photo: Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles

Jim Thompson House

This jungly compound was the former home of Jim Thompson, American silk impresario and esteemed Thai art collector. One of Thompson's hobbies was collecting rundown traditional Thai homes and having them reassembled; these can be seen in all their splendour all around the property. Take in fantastic pieces of Thai art and silk touches on display while learning the story of one of Bangkok's most enigmatic expats.

www.jimthompsonhouse.com

The Museum of Floral Culture

Located in a century-old antique house, this museum dedicated to the history of flowers and floral arrangements was founded by Sakul Intakul, one of Asia's most renowned floral artists. Here you'll find bouquets on display, stunning rare photographs and a beautiful manicured garden where you can enjoy coffee, tea and traditional Thai sweets. Perfect setting for a truly romantic afternoon in the city.

www.floralmuseum.com

Bangkok Art & Culture Centre (BACC)

Bangkok's premier building dedicated to the modern arts comprises 12 floors, with over 3,000 square metres of gallery space. Besides public displays, there are also private galleries, shops, cafés and even an art library. Be sure to check out IceDEA, an ice cream showroom and food design store with playful, inventive creations like ice cream that looks like steak and tonkatsu, with weird flavours like wasabi and tobacco.

www.en.bacc.or.th