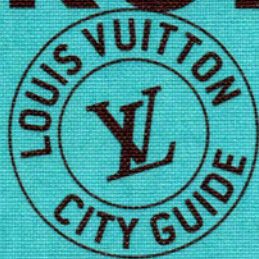


# BANGKOK



## **RATTANAKOSIN ISLAND, BANGLAMPHU, BANGKOK NOI**

*Historic buildings, palaces & temples*

### **ARUN RESIDENCES**

[36–38 Soi Pratoo Nok Yoong,](#)

[Maharat Road, Rattanakosin Island](#)

[Tel 02 221 9158](#)

[www.arunresidence.com](#)

[6 rooms and suites, B 3,500 to B6,000](#)

**SPECTACULAR VIEWS, COOL BAR**

Arun sparked a renaissance around a decade ago in this previously forlorn area of old shophouses; its dazzling The Deck became the go-to place for cocktails and hip dining. The lounge is, literally, perched over the river with astonishing views of namesake Wat Arun. The fact that it was hard to find – cab drivers often refused to navigate the cramped alleys of the old city to get there – and the rooms were small with dated fixtures and fittings, only served to endear it to the local in-crowd and intrepid travellers. Nowadays, riverside offerings are far more numerous, but Arun is still a popular spot for sundowners; despite being called Temple of the Dawn, Wat Arun positively radiates at sunset. Indeed, the location mesmerizes, with Wat Pho and the Reclining Buddha steps away. Arun boasts teak floors and a nostalgic embrace of the past, but some rooms are split level and still a tad claustrophobic; suites are more spacious with balconies. The Arun Suite on the top floor has unforgettable views over Wat Arun from a private terrace.

### **CHAKRABONGSE VILLAS**

[396 Maharat Road, Rattanakosin Island](#)

[Tel 08 98 10 0498, www.thaivillas.com](#)

[7 rooms and suites,](#)

[B5,760 to B17,440](#)

**URBAN OASIS, ANTIQUES LADEN**

Parked on the banks of the Chao Phraya River, in the midst of historic Bangkok,

Chakrabongse Villas offers antique-laden old Siam elegance along with a lush garden enhanced by a large swimming pool. The River View Suite, covering 130 square metres, is sumptuously decorated with aged wood and period furnishings. There is also the traditional-style Thai House, perched on stilts, which measures 100 metres. This urban haven was constructed in 1908 by HRH Prince Chakrabongse for when he attended ceremonies at the nearby Grand Palace. It was also used for leisurely picnics and as a stopover for excursions along the river. The heritage estate was later the residence of HRH Prince Chula Chakrabongse, a writer and historian. His daughter transformed the estate into this atmospheric boutique hotel of seven rooms: three of modest size, and four huge suites, each individually styled with superb teak flooring and decoration. The Chinese Suite – fit for a Qing emperor – is particularly stunning.

### **PRAYA PALAZZIO**

[757/1 Somdej Phra Pinklao Soi 2,](#)

[Rattanakosin Island](#)

[Tel 02 883 2998, www.prayapalazzo.com](#)

[17 rooms and suites, B4,870 to B13,270](#)

**THAI-ITALIAN EXTRAVAGANZA**

One of numerous architectural treasures abandoned along the riverside for decades, the delightfully restored Praya Palazzo recalls the bustling period between the wars, when Europeans rediscovered far-flung destinations and Thailand was an exotic hub for visitors from around the globe. Thai royalty also made overseas voyages, often returning with a taste for Western details. Praya Palazzio was built in Bangkok's roaring 1920s by Praya Chollabhumipani, whose design style was influenced by Italian artists Galileo Chini and Carlo Rigoli, working in Thailand on projects commissioned by King Rama V. Originally called Baan Bang Yee Khan, this elegant estate on a secluded river isle was converted into a hotel in 2009. Many rooms feel cramped,