BANYAN TREE RESIDENCES
RIVERSIDE BANGKOK
NEIGHBORHOOD GUIDE
A LOCAL COMPANION

The Chao Phraya River has always been and will always be the bloodline of Bangkokians. For hundreds of years, it has provided all that is required for Thais to live and has driven the original settlements to prosper into present day Bangkok. With a long history that dates back to the 15th century, the areas next to the River of Kings have distinctive identities and contain places rich with stories. Contemporary movements have encouraged a river renaissance and introduced new and exciting developments along the river. Nirvana Daii presents this book as a guide to the best of the local area that is right at the doorsteps of its residents.
YOUR HOME

THE SANCTUARY FOR YOUR SOUL

TRANQUILITY
An archetypal luxurious condominium exquisitely located on the Chao Phraya riverfront, Banyan Tree Residences Riverside Bangkok offers its residents a secret sanctuary in the enclave of the tranquil and historic ambience of the Old City District and the stylish every-changing surroundings of the Central Business District. Overlooking the majestic view of the Chao Phraya River as it wends through Bangkok’s breathtaking cityscapes, Banyan Tree Residences Riverside Bangkok is adorned with the finest facilities designed for the ultimate living experience and a true ‘Sanctuary for Your Soul’.

RARITY
Located just 16 meters away from the banks of the Chao Phraya River, the 45-storey iconic condominium caters to all aspects of the finest living offering only 133 units on over 5 rai (approximately 1.97 acre). Every room has panoramic views of the waterway and the dynamic city of Bangkok, allowing residents to experience an uncommon outlook that blends the historic ambience of old communities and ancient temples with the stylish designs of modern skyscrapers. From dusk till dawn, indulge in the ever-changing colors of the sky, the flowing bends of the river, and the lively view of the city that never sleeps.
IMPECCABLE QUALITY
Banyan Tree Residences Riverside Bangkok is conceived with the aspiration to bring together only the finest elements of a luxurious living experience from facilities to services of the most impeccable quality. In collaboration with SCDA, Singapore’s world-class architecture design company acclaimed for its ‘Minimal’ expressions in architecture, interior, and landscape designs, the design concept of Banyan Tree Residences Riverside Bangkok is distilled to capture the spiritual essence of ‘place’ that inspires a unique and enriching living experience.

SERVICES
Banyan Tree Residences Riverside Bangkok exclusively offers its owners several unique services that can be arranged by the Banyan Tree concierge service. These services include a resident shuttle boat that will take owners to pre-determined destinations, private chef service from a 5-star hotel or in-residence catering, Banyan Tree signature spa service performed by a Banyan Tree massage therapist, housekeeping services to ensure owners’ units are kept immaculate, and many other services that can be arranged through the professional staff on property.
A CHINESE LEGACY REBORN

In the 1850s, the Bowring Treaty was signed and foreign trade was liberalized in Siam. A trader by the name of Phraya Phisan Supphaphon started a steamship business and built a 6,800 square meter pier complex for Chinese businesses in Khlong San. The U-shaped two-story complex is of Chinese architecture popular at the time, designed with symmetry and balance. It was the biggest pier in Bangkok until the Port Authority of Thailand was formed in 1951, after which it went into decline. In 2016, the Wanglee family, who bought the pier in 1919, decided to restore the buildings to its former glory. Careful conservation work has resulted in bringing the complex back to life as the magnificent Lhong 1919, allowing Bangkokians to marvel at it for generations to come.

Since opening its doors, Lhong 1919 has become a historical, cultural, and commercial heart of Khlong San. In its breezy courtyard stands a shrine to Mazu, a Chinese patron saint of sailors also known to Thais as Thapthim. Visitors can admire the restored original Chinese murals on the walls as they explore the place. Chic lifestyle and design shops such as boutique jeweller Lotus Arts de Vivre and aromatic brand Karmakamet now occupy the rooms, contrasting old exposed bricks in their space with contemporary crafts and wares. Professionals can make use of their modern co-working space, event hall, and multi-purpose outdoor space. The mixed-use complex comes with several eateries, making it a great mealtime stop. Rong Si and Ploenwan Panich both serve lovely Thai cuisine staples. Be it for work or leisure, a trip to Lhong 1919 is always charming.
ICONSIAM is a sensational new riverside landmark where the best of Thailand meets the best of the world. The all-in-one complex, located on 50 rai (approximately 19.76 acres) of land on the banks of Chao Phraya River, is a wonder to behold for those passionate in retail and entertainment. Opening end of 2018, the shopping complex is split between two of the world’s most glamorous centers: ICONSIAM and ICONLUXE. The many new attractions indoors and outdoors have been deemed the ‘Seven Wonders at ICONSIAM’, all intended as game changing elements in your retail experience.

The wonders include River Park, an area that provides Bangkokians access to the river for activities. To bring you closer to Thai and international culture, the ICONSIAM Heritage Museum is collecting artifacts from Thailand’s different eras and ushering in touring exhibitions. World-class entertainment areas, including the state-of-the-art auditorium and cineplex, allow you to experience maximum pleasure at movies or events. Dine at a global standard as ICONSIAM invites a 3-Michelin star restaurant and other famous restaurants to be seated within its complex. The possibilities at ICONSIAM in the Khlong San side of the Creative District are endless and is truly a one-stop-shop destination.
Dining in the vicinity of the Chao Phraya River includes a wide range of international cuisine and local foods. Whether you’re in the mood to savor haute cuisine or sate your cravings with quick snacks, a short trip from Banyan Tree Residences Riverside Bangkok will have your stomach satisfied in no time. Posh restaurants and down-to-earth street eateries are collocated along the river, creating a dense gastronomist’s paradise. Several have been recognized globally, with a few rated by Michelin as consistently serving faultless and exquisite meals. Bang Rak, in particular, is a smorgasbord packed with epicurean delights and is often a destination for food walks.

LE NORMANDIE

One of only three restaurants in Bangkok to have received the coveted 2-Michelin Stars, Le Normandie is the pinnacle of French cuisine in Bangkok. The chef specializes in creating innovative seafood and meat dishes, resulting in a superb menu unlike any other. The cellar is stocked with options of quality wine to enhance the epicurean experience. Haute cuisine is served in an opulent setting at Le Normandie, where classic furnishings and grand chandeliers ensure an unforgettable French meal. Expect impeccable service that is both gentle and efficient. Guests are requested to meet the restaurant’s sophistication with an elegant dress code.
Prime frequently ranks as one of Bangkok’s best steakhouses and highly recommends visitors to make reservations for not only a table but also the dish you’d like. Tables with river views are limited and popular meat cuts go quickly here. The refined steakhouse may be renowned for its cuts and fillets that melt in your mouth but it also has a quality selection of seafood. Lobsters and oysters are popular alternatives for non-meat eating patrons. The contemporary design and soft hues of Prime create a peaceful ambience that’s perfect for leisurely tasting of world wines, from both new and old prominent wineries.

Millennium Hilton Bangkok, 123 Charoen Nakhon Road, Khlong San, Bangkok 10600
+66 (0) 2 442 2000
6 pm – 11 pm (Daily)
Map reference 08

THIPTARA

Set in a tropical garden by swaying banyan trees and colorful flowers, Thiptara draws on its natural setting to create a dining oasis. Tables are set next to the river under wooden shelters decorated with art and artifacts that bring to mind past riverside lifestyle. Diners can opt to partake their meal on western style furnishings or at elegant low tables on plushy silk cushions on the pavilion ground in Thai style. The home-styled meals are steeped in traditional dishes such as spicy soup with river prawns and lemongrass. Begin and end your experience with Thai influenced cocktails, rounding out a perfect balmy escape on the river.

The Peninsula Bangkok, 333 Charoen Nakhon Road, Khlong San, Bangkok 10600
+66 (0) 2 020 2888
6 pm – 10:30 pm (Daily)
Map reference 09
SHANG PALACE

Shang Palace and its chef welcome all to enjoy a hearty Chinese meal, particularly Cantonese specialties available in both traditional and novel varieties on its menu. The restaurant is extremely popular for brunch time dim sum, serving endless tea with it to complete the yum cha experience. Shang Palace’s signature dishes include steamed sticky rice with crab meat and stewed pork belly with quail eggs in a casserole. The interior is filled with Chinese patterned woodwork, red cushioned chairs and circular tables that are all reminiscent of a Cantonese banquet hall. Relish in the tastiness of the food and the festive yet cultivated atmosphere of the establishment.

GIORGIO’S

Giorgio’s is a slice of the Mediterranean on the Chao Phraya River. The perfect venue for a romantic and memorable meal, this eatery brings you the comfort of authentic Italian flavors in a setting inspired by old world European charm. The worldly menu features a tempting selection of pastas and entrées, all prepared with the highest quality blend of fresh local ingredients and Italian imports. The chef recommends classic favorites ossobuco di vitello in salsa gremolata with risotto alla milanese, spaghetti alle vongole, and risotto al tartufo. Diners can define their own experience there by choosing to eat indoors in a cozy atmosphere or dine al fresco on an open terrace that brings you closer to the river.
CHAROENKRUNG ROAD

Charoenkrung’s vibe is being shaped by iconoclastic creatives moving into the old town area. Many are going into the food scene and making the local dining scene grow increasingly intriguing. A collective of casual yet innovative restaurants now occupy a corner block deemed CK28 on Charoenkrung Soi 28. Recognized by The Plate Michelin is 80/20, where Thai’s best local produce are fused with passion to create periodic menus. Jua brings you sizzling izakaya-style skewers, served with sake from a massive collection. At O.P. Garden, French St. brings the best of Provence to Bangkok with specialties such as honey duck and Marseille fish soups.

80/20
1052-1054 Charoenkrung Rd
+66 (0) 99 118 2200
6 pm – Midnight (Wed – Mon)

Jua
672/49 Soi Charoenkrung 28
+66 (0) 61 558 7689
6 pm – Midnight (Tue – Sun)

French St.
4, 6 Soi Charoenkrung 36
+66 (0) 2 238 6400
11 am – 11:30 pm (Daily)

Map reference 12

YAOWARAT ROAD

Yaowarat Road, Chinatown’s main artery, with its offshoot alleys form an adventurous network of walking streets filled with discoverable eateries and street food vendors. While one can find a variety of establishments to dine at for breakfast and lunch, it is after sunset that the full range of gastronomic options appear in the area. Proper joints such as T & K Seafood and Nai-Ek Roll Noodles offer proper sit-ins as you try their specialties. Quick grabs of equally delectable dishes of other kinds are available at Yaowarat Soi 11 street stalls. Sweettime, a legendary dessert cart, has visitors lining up every night for both cold and hot delights available throughout the year.

T & K Seafood
49-51 Phadung Dao Road
+66 (0) 2 223 4519
4:30 pm – 2 am (Daily)

Nai-Ek Roll Noodles
442 Yaowarat Road
+66 (0) 2 228 4651
9 am – 1:30 am (Daily)

Sweettime
436 Yaowarat Road
+66 (0) 86 722 2458
6 pm – Late (Tue - Sun)

Map reference 13
THE JAM FACTORY

A COMMUNITY ECOSYSTEM

Home to architecture firm DBALP’s office space and much more, The Jam Factory has brought the concept of mixed-use development and community to Khlong San. This factory compound lies on the district’s waterfront and is comprised of several old warehouses that have been stylishly renovated and outfitted to house different kinds of establishments. Polished concrete and exposed metal beams are hallmarks of the work done throughout the buildings. These structures wrap around a grassy courtyard with massive leafy Bodhi trees and a deck leading to the river’s edge. The open layout of both the interior and exterior lends an airy and tranquil feel to the complex.

The Jam Factory is a café, a homeware store, a gallery, two restaurants, a bookshop, and an office, all-in-one on the river. Sip on an aromatic cup of coffee at li-bra-ry at Candide paired with their signature green tea waffle. Search for fun decorations at Anyroom’s home décor shop and purchase a new book from Candide Books & Cafe next door. The Jam Factory Gallery features rotating exhibitions by artists selected by an in-house curator. The Never Ending Summer produces Thai dishes from recipes in old cookbooks belonging to high society matrons while The Summer House Project serves European comfort food with a seafood focus.

41/1-5 Charoen Nakhon Rd, Khlong San, Bangkok 10600
+66 (0) 2 861 0950
10 am – 8 pm (Daily)
Map reference 04
After sunset, the banks of the Chao Phraya River come to life in its own singular way. The riverine setting offers a natural backdrop unmatched by anywhere else in Bangkok. Sundowners can be taken on decks jutting out onto the waterway or rooftops with views of city lights dotting the riverside. In older communities, the aging elegance of shophouses mixes with younger funky energy to produce unique establishments, each with its own identity. Sway to the tunes of jazz and blues, dance to the beat of soul jams, or simply listen to the meditative rhythm of river waves. Nightlife on the river can cater to your every mood.

THREE SIXTY LOUNGE

Suspended 32 floors up in the Hilton Millennium Bangkok’s iconic circular room overlooking the Chao Phraya River, Three Sixty is one of Bangkok’s most inimitable rooftop bars. The hotel is located right in the middle of a major bend of the river, offering a view of the entire bank of Khlong San district and Bangkok’s horizon in all directions. Catch the cool river breezes outside on the open-air terrace as you engage in quieter conversations with your friends and family. Inside, revel in festivities provided by the talented resident jazz band as you drink quality cocktails from the bar.
THE BAMBOO BAR

Bangkok’s history is embedded into both décor and location at The Bamboo Bar, Bangkok’s oldest jazz establishment. Located in the Mandarin Oriental, this world-renowned bar is patronized by jazz aficionados and the famous from around the world. The bar is decked out with old time furnishings and embellishments. Woven rattan chairs and plushy pillows with tiger stripes and bamboo prints offer you cozy seats as you sip on some of their best cocktails such as The Bamboo Bar Negroni created by the bar’s award-winning mixologists. Mesmerizing chanteuses and crooners perform nightly until midnight, adding to the bar’s classic quality and ambience.

THE RIVER BAR

Relax al fresco under the shades of white tents of The River Bar at The Peninsula Bangkok and be prepared to whet your appetite. Skilled mixologists are on standby, ready to make you a concoction from their impressive range of drinks that will suit your mood and palate. Refreshing fruit blends and creative cocktails are available, such as the signature ‘Thaijito’, a harmonious mix of Thai rum, peach schnapps, fresh lime juice, lime, mint, pineapple and raw sugar. The River Bar is focused on unwinding you and leaving you to leisurely watch the world pass you by next to the River of Kings.
RIVERSIDE GRILL

Situated right next to the river and fitted with glass railings, Riverside Grill in the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel & Towers lets guests savor classic and signature cocktails with clear waterway views. While drinks are the main features here, the food can also hold its own. Riverside Grill offers an array of grilled dishes and is sure to have something for everyone. A tempting selection of sharable plates that includes fresh seafood and delightful desserts are available. On the deck, face west and bask in the warm sunset. Let your worries wash away with the rice barges and river cruises that peacefully sail by this eatery on the water.

VIVA & AVIV THE RIVER

A riverside café and bar located down by the Chao Phraya River, Viva & Aviv The River offers a mid-day vacation. Viva & Aviv The River is located on a terrace that opens up to the river and is a place to escape from the everyday hustle and bustle of inner city Bangkok. The constant breeze and friendly atmosphere is influenced by the soothing yet funky tunes of DJs who are able to read the energy of the room. The menu features that of a modern Australian café and offers a selection of lunch time treats as well as a balanced variety of supper items. Quirky drinks are available to answer your every whim.
CHAROENKRUNG ROAD

Charoenkrung, one of Bangkok’s oldest paved roads, runs in close proximity and is parallel to the Chao Phraya River. The river renaissance has attracted many back to this classic road and they are setting up shops with originality according to their respective visions. Neon signs are slowly lighting up the streets once more, signaling to all that the night scene is returning to this part of town. FooJohn is the namesake of the building it occupies and blends French and Chinese cultures into its bar. Soulbar sends its patrons to music paradise with soul music, encouraging patrons to have a shared listening experience. Tropic City brings you the island vibe with rum infused drinks and lush flora décor. Traverse up and down the road to bar hop and explore each spot’s theme and character.

SOI NANA IN CHINATOWN

Chinatown in Bangkok, like many neighborhoods, is going through dramatic changes. In recent years, open-minded creatives are seeing this classic neighborhood with new eyes and renting out spaces to turn them into distinctive institutions. Soi Nana in Chinatown contains an eclectic mix of establishments that offers a cool night out. Tep Bar is a rare cultural bar, mixing modern drinks with Thai classical music and performances. Teens of Thailand serves gin-only mixtures in a bare bones shophouse. El chiringuito showcases a little piece of Spain, supplying tortilla dishes and bocadillos with cold refreshments. Many more are opening up in the area, accelerating Soi Nana’s ascendance to become one of Bangkok’s more unique “go-to” nightlife spots.
O.P. GARDEN

BLOSSOMING ART HUB

Comprised of several standalone buildings that have been renovated into a single intimate and compact retail complex, O.P. Garden is a green oasis in the middle of the Creative District. The original driveway has been transformed into a pedestrian courtyard that is landscaped with lush, verdant plants. The Garden offers an aura of serenity that is associated with nature and it may very well be because of its history and spirit. O.P. Garden was once the home of Dr. Boonsong Lekagul, a revered conservationist whose legacies include founding Khao Yai National Park as the country’s first natural park and preventing the openbill stork’s extinction by declaring its nesting area protected.

Today, O.P. Garden is no longer Dr. Lekagul’s home but still pays homage to his achievements. This is seen in the green character of the complex and murals of him and wildlife. The complex is becoming well known as an art hub with a strong presence of ATTA Gallery, one of Bangkok’s first contemporary art jewelry galleries, and Serindia Gallery, a publishing brand’s gallery of fine arts and photography.

Paw Dee Lifestyle rounds out the creative establishments there, selling quality contemporary Thai crafts made exclusively by artisans residing in Thailand. Every quarter, the three play host to the Creative District Gallery Hopping Night, encouraging Bangkokians to explore the art scene in the area.
In 1984, with Baby Boomers coming of age with their taste for collectibles, River City Bangkok opened its doors as the “go-to” antique market and auction house. Many antique shop owners are pioneers of the antique trade, having keen eyes to discern what is genuine and what is a reproduction. The monthly auctions at RCB Auctions still go on with die-hard collectors and traders vying for pieces up until today. Over recent years, River City Bangkok has begun to draw in contemporary art shops to cater to the tastes of newer generations and continues to reinvent itself with the times. Rotating exhibitions are available in RCB Artery and RCB Galleria.

River City Bangkok, on a prime riverside location, is not only an art center, but also a fantastic complex for dining. The cluster of eateries on the side facing the river all have terrace seating, offering one of the city’s best views of river life and sunsets. The Coffee Club serves as a meeting place and provides quality contemporary dishes and refreshments. Head to Viva & Aviv The River for a sundowner to decompress in its playful atmosphere. River City provides free boat shuttles for shopping patrons that always makes for a pleasant journey to Sathorn Pier, where you can board the skytrain into the city or another boat to your next destination.
Chao Phraya River is Bangkok’s birthplace and its riverside neighborhoods still have traces of the original and classic capital. Banyan Tree Residences Riverside Bangkok is located in and near some of the city’s oldest districts and offers its residents plenty of opportunities to experience the enchanting local environs. Khlong San, Bang Rak, and Samphanthawong contain a delightful selection of Bangkok’s most irreplaceable places, encompassing both the well known and the oft unseen. Rest in hidden green spaces, explore vibrant streets, or savor the best foods known only to Bangkokians who live close by. All these and more are a stone’s throw from your own front door.

PRINCESS MOTHER MEMORIAL PARK

The Princess Mother, formally known as Somdet Phra Srinagarindra Boromarajajonani, is a figure in Thailand beloved for establishing countless projects aimed at improving the lives of the disadvantaged. In 1995, the Princess Mother passed on and her son H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej founded the Princess Mother Memorial Park. Since 1997, the park has allowed the general public to get to know the Princess Mother intimately. The manicured and lush green space contains a reproduction of her childhood house and two exhibition halls displaying her photographs and mementos. One of the most beautiful and serene parks in Bangkok, the Princess Mother Memorial Park gives visitors quiet, reverent moments away from the din of Bangkok.
THA DIN DAENG

Tha Din Daeng, a community that predates Bangkok, was an Ayutthaya era stop point for ships traveling between Siam’s ancient capital and the Gulf of Thailand. With the establishment of Rattanakosin era, it was absorbed into Bangkok. As Chinese immigrant traders flocked to it, the area’s identity slowly formed until it became a full-fledged industrial trading hub. While the local economy has waned since, the entire road is still a bustling scene. Tha Din Daeng Market is the community heart. Street food vendors like Dee Moo Satay occupy the sidewalks. Chinese and Hindu shrines are discoverable within the mix. During rush hours, locals are out selling their goods in full force, adding bursts of activity to this relatively unknown yet vibrant neighborhood.

CHINATOWN

Chinatown is one of Bangkok’s last historical bastions. Founded in 1782 as a settlement for Chinese immigrants, Chinatown has evolved from being the capital’s business center to one of its most celebrated cultural hubs. Within its streets lies a wealth of living and breathing history, often in the form of elegant shophouses and their inhabitants. Much of its story can be learned from the Yaowarat Chinatown Heritage Center, a modern and engaging local museum. The area’s daytime commercial lifeblood is Sampeng Lane, a seemingly endless linear market full of street food and local businesses. The nighttime artery is the neon-filled Yaowarat Road, a major thoroughfare that’s taken over by vendors offering culinary experiences after sunset.
CREATIVE DISTRICT

Bang Rak and Khlong San, previously associated with quiet river life, are going through a renaissance and have become stories of urban revival. The two riverside districts together, seeing a rise in the number of artists and innovative entities moving in, have been dubbed the blooming “Creative District”. So many galleries have opened up in the area that there is now a Creative District Gallery Hopping Night.

Street art by the likes of Vhils and Daan Botlek line the walls of the district. Handmade stores such as P.Tendercool and others in Warehouse 30 have attracted consumers eyeing bespoke products. With Thailand Creative and Design Center (TCDC) settled in the locale, Creative District is set to be the center of creative Bangkokians’ universe.

P.Tendercool
48-58 Soi Charoenkrung 30
+66 (0) 2 266 4344
10 am – 6:30 pm (Mon – Sat)

Warehouse 30
52-60 Soi Charoenkrung 30
+66 (0) 98 274 8611
11 am – 8:30 pm (Daily)

TCDC
1160 Charoenkrung Rd
+66 (0) 2 105 7400
10:30 am - 9 pm (Tue – Sun)

Map reference 24

BANG RAK

Back in middle of the 19th century, King Rama IV declared that Europeans would be allowed to settle in Bang Rak. The Europeans requested a road be laid and Charoenkrung Road became one of the first in Bangkok. The district contains a slew of historical edifices influenced by the west, a result of being where Europeans would dock to trade and eventually set up their embassies. One can currently visit to appreciate marvelous architectures of eras gone by such as those of House No. 1, Old Customs House, and East Asiatic Company. The street food scene is strong on Charoenkrung Road between Silom Road and Sathorn Road.

Boonsap Thai Dessert Shop
1478 Charoenkrung Rd
+66 (0) 2 234 4086
7 am – 5 pm (Mon – Sat)

Prachak Roasted Duck
1415 Charoenkrung Rd
+66 (0) 2 234 3755
8:30 am - 8:30 pm (Daily)

Map reference 25
Bangkok River is a collaborative project created by Bangkok River Partners to promote the Chao Phraya River as a world-class destination for leisure and tourism. Members of the Bangkok River Partners are comprised of local businesses along the river. The best of the riverside districts are curated, researched, and written up by a team to inform residents and visitors alike of what’s on and what’s around the waterway. Bangkok River has become a treasure trove of historical, cultural, and local information. The places in this guide and many more can be found in Thai, Chinese, and English at www.bangkokriver.com.