



Siam Legal International Publishes Thailand Holiday Calendar for Foreign Residents

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Siam Legal International, a law firm with more than 22 years of experience advising Thai and foreign clients, has published a month-by-month guide to Thailand's festivals and public holidays as the country enters its busiest stretch of the year. With two national holidays in October and Loy Krathong ahead in November, the firm is reminding foreign residents that government offices close for major holidays, pausing in-person visa applications, extensions, 90-day reports, and re-entry permits.

The final quarter of the year carries several fixed dates. October 13 marks the anniversary of the passing of King Bhumibol, and October 23 is Chulalongkorn Day, both observed with wreath-laying ceremonies nationwide. Loy Krathong falls on the full moon of the 12th lunar month, generally in November, when small floating baskets of banana leaves, flowers, and candles are set adrift on rivers and canals. In the north, particularly Chiang Mai, it coincides with Yi Peng, when thousands of paper lanterns are released into the night sky.

December brings King Bhumibol's birthday, also observed as Father's Day, on December 5, followed by Constitution Day on December 10. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are not official holidays, although malls

and resorts across Thailand mark them widely. New Year's Eve on December 31 closes the year with countdowns and fireworks nationwide.

The year opens with New Year's Day on January 1, usually extended into a long weekend. Children's Day falls on the second Saturday of January, when many museums and even military bases open to the public for free, and Teachers' Day follows on January 16. Chinese New Year is not an official holiday, but Bangkok's Chinatown is transformed by lion dances, firecrackers, and lanterns, generally between late January and mid-February. Makha Bucha, marked by candlelit processions around temples nationwide, usually follows in late February or early March.

April is the most disruptive month for travel. Chakri Day on April 6 commemorates the founding of the current royal dynasty, and Songkran, Thailand's traditional new year and largest celebration, runs from April 13 to 15 with nationwide water festivities and family reunions. Travel and accommodation should be booked early, as much of the country is on the move during that week.

May begins with Labor Day on May 1 and Coronation Day on May 4. The Royal Ploughing Ceremony at Sanam Luang in Bangkok is generally held in May on a date set by the astrological calendar, and Visakha Bucha, marking the Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and passing, typically falls in May or early June. Queen Suthida's birthday is observed on June 3 and King Vajiralongkorn's birthday on July 28, followed by Asahna Bucha in late July, the day before Buddhist Lent begins. August 12 marks the birthday of the Queen Mother, also celebrated as Mother's Day, and Mahidol Day on September 24 honors Prince Mahidol of Songkla as the founder of modern Thai medicine.

For foreign residents, the practical concern is timing. When government offices close for major holidays such as Songkran and New Year, in-person immigration services pause at the same time, and backlogs often build once offices reopen. Filing visa applications, extensions, 90-day reports, and re-entry permits before a closure is generally easier than resolving them afterward.

Rex Baay, Senior Immigration Consultant and Operations Manager at Siam Legal International, said holiday planning should include a check of immigration deadlines. "Many foreign residents plan their travel around Songkran or Loy Krathong and only later notice that a visa extension or 90-day report falls in the same week," said Baay. "Checking those dates against the holiday calendar in advance allows filings to be completed before offices close rather than during the rush that follows."

The full calendar is covered in Siam Legal's Thai Holidays guide, which walks through each holiday from January to December. The firm also assists with property transfers, business filings, and other legal matters that may be affected by holiday closures.

Siam Legal International is a Thailand-based law firm with more than 22 years of experience representing Thai and foreign clients in criminal defense, litigation, family law, corporate and commercial law, property, and immigration matters, with offices in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, and Pattaya.

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