

General Information of Chiang Mai

Chiang Mai is located in the north of Thailand, about 720 kilometers from Bangkok at an elevation of 1,027 feet (310 meters) above sea level. To the North it borders Myanmar's Shan State while to the South it connects with Sam Ngao district of Tak province. Chiang Rai, Lamphun and Lampang lie to the East, and the West touches Pai, Khun Yuam and Mae Sareang districts of Mae Hong Sorn province. Chiang Mai's geography comprises mainly groves and mountains with a broad plain in the middle of the region on both sides of Ping River. The province covers an area of 20,107.057 square kilometers (12,566,910 rai), made up of 8,787,656 rai (69.92%) of forest, 1,611,283 rai (12.82%) of agricultural land and 2,167,971 rai (17.25%) of residential and other land. The maps of Chiang Mai are available at many web sites

(http://www.chiangmai1.com/chiang_mai/map_of_chiang_mai.htm or http://www.thaiwaysmagazine.com/chiang_mai_map/chiang_mai_map_2000pix.html).



Doi Sutep Temple



Doi Inthanon



Walking Street



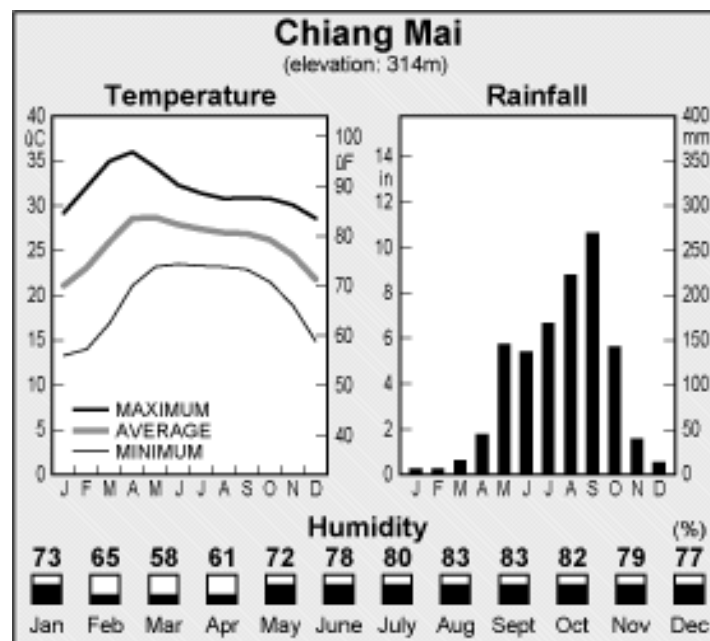
Night Safari

These days, Chiang Mai is booming. The telltale cranes, scaffolding and racket of a developing city are everywhere. The population is an estimated 167,000 (in a province of some 1.5 million) and growing along with the attendant "big city" problems of suburban sprawl, rush-hour traffic and water shortages (though nothing compared to Bangkok). It would be difficult to find a city that reflects more of the country's diverse cultural heritage and modern aspirations than Chiang Mai. Chiang Mai's heart is its Old City, an area surrounded by vestiges of walls and moats originally constructed for defense; yet Chiang Mai is a modern city with a growing infrastructure of modern shopping malls and condominiums. The contrast is part of the town's charm (See <http://www.chiangmai.go.th/> for more information).

Weather

Chiang Mai and Northern Thailand's climate is characterized by the monsoon, which creates three distinct seasons.

- 1) The Hot (Summer) Season extends from March through May. Daytime temperatures can be unbearably hot during this period.
- 2) The Rainy Season, from May through October.
- 3) The Cool (Winter) Season, from November through February.



(source : <http://www.samuihotel.biz/content/view/38/68/>)

With regard to weather, the most pleasant time to visit the north is the cool season between November and February when rainfall is negligible, humidity is relatively low, and temperatures are mild (warm days and cool nights). However, during the cool (winter) season, night-time lows can drop below 10 degrees C (50 degrees F) in the city and 4 degrees C (39 degrees F) in the mountains. Doi

Inthanon and other mountains can experience freezing conditions at night. If you're visiting the North during the cooler months, long sleeved shirts and pullovers would be in order.

Currency

You can convert major currencies to Baht at all banks and exchange booths. (see the exchange rate at <http://www.scb.co.th/html/exchange/bk-txtexchange.htm>)

1 Baht (Bt) = 100 satang. Notes are in denominations of Bt1000 (grey), 500 (purple), 100 (red), 50 (blue) and 20 (green), 10 (brown). Coins are in denominations of Bt10, 5 and 1, and 50 and 25 satangs.