

THE DEATH RAILWAY: COMPLETE TRAVEL FACT SHEET

Your quick-reference guide to riding Thailand's most historic railway.

TRAIN OPTIONS & LOGISTICS

Option A: Regular Local Train

- **Frequency:** 2x Daily, running every single day.
- **Departure Station: Thon Buri Station** (located on the western side of Bangkok—not a main city hub).
- **Departure Times: 7:45 AM** (Train 257 - highly recommended for day trips) and 1:55 PM (Train 259).
- **Booking:** No advance online booking allowed. Tickets open **30 minutes before** departure at the station ticket window. *Note: These trains cannot sell out!*
- **Seating & Comfort:** Non-AC Third Class with unreserved seating. Features ceiling fans, open windows, and a mix of wooden benches or plastic seats.
- **Price (Foreigners): 100 Thai Baht** fixed rate one-way, regardless of the distance you travel on the line.
- **The Vibe:** Authentic, old-school railway experience shared with locals going about their business.

Option B: Weekend Tourist Excursion Train

- **Frequency:** Weekends and Public Holidays only.
- **Departure Station: Hua Lamphong Station** (conveniently located right in Bangkok's city center).
- **Departure Times:** Once daily in the morning.
- **Booking: Must be booked in advance** as it features reserved seating.
- **Seating & Comfort:** 3-coach train set where one of the coaches has Air Conditioning.
- **Price (Foreigners):** Priced as a round-trip. **120 Thai Baht** for non-AC Third Class, or **240 Thai Baht** for AC Second Class.
- **The Vibe:** More relaxed, tourist-focused atmosphere with built-in sightseeing stops.

KEY ROUTE HIGHLIGHTS & CHECKLIST

- **[Nong Pla Duk Junction \(Kilometre Zero\)](#):** Roughly 90 minutes after leaving Bangkok. Look out the **right side** of the train for an inscribed boulder on the platform marking the September 1942 start of construction.
- **[Kanchanaburi Station](#):** From the station you can walk to the nearby [war cemetery](#) and the excellent [Death Railway Museum and Research Centre](#).
- **[Bridge on the River Kwai](#):** The train crosses this world-famous wartime landmark very slowly. *(Note: The tourist train stops for twenty minutes before it so you can take photos; the local train only stops for less than one minute).*
- **[Chungkai Cutting](#):** Located 5 minutes after crossing the bridge. The train cuts directly through impressive, high hand-carved rock walls.


- **Tham Krasae Viaduct:** The most iconic, spectacular, and photographed section of the railway. The 120-ton train crawls extremely slowly over a fragile-looking wooden trestle viaduct built right into the cliffside over the river.
 - **Sai Yok Noi Waterfall:** The final termination point exclusively for the weekend tourist excursion train where you can swim and eat lunch.
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INSIDER TIPS FOR THE RIDE

- **How to reach Thon Buri Station:** Take a Grab taxi straight there, or take the **MRT Blue Line to Bang Khun Non station** and walk 10 minutes (or grab a motorcycle taxi outside).
 - There is a railway halt next to the MRT station called **Jaran Sanitwong** which is the first stop after the train leaves Thon Buri. You can buy tickets on the train when boarding here. You are far less likely to secure the best seats though, so it is recommended to head to Thon Buri to catch the train.
 - **Best Seat Strategy:** For the ultimate views of the scenery and the Tham Krasae wooden viaduct, secure a **forward-facing, left-hand side window seat** when departing Bangkok or Kanchanaburi.
 - **Onboard Food & Drink:** Local vendors constantly board the regular trains selling great local food like spicy grilled chicken, sticky rice, exotic fruits, salty snacks, hot coffee, and cold drinks. Keep cash on hand!
 - **Beat the Heat:** Regular trains do not have air conditioning, only ceiling fans and open windows. Pack plenty of water.
 - **Don't Rush the Journey:** Doing the whole line as a day trip from Bangkok is possible but incredibly rushed and exhausting in the heat. Consider staying 1–2 nights in Kanchanaburi or near the Tham Krasae viaduct (like Sai Yok Resort) to properly soak it in.
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HISTORICAL QUICK FACTS

- **Alternative Name:** The Thai-Burma Railway.
- **The Purpose:** Built by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II to create a secure, direct supply route between Thailand and Burma for troops fighting the Burma campaign.
- **Construction:** Began in September 1942 and stretched for 415 km (258 miles). It was cut rapidly through dense jungle, mountains, and sheer cliffs using absolutely no modern equipment.
- **The Human Cost:** Over 100,000 people lost their lives building it, including roughly 12,000 Allied prisoners of war (POWs) and an estimated 90,000 Asian forced laborers.

 **A Gentle Reminder:** While the journey is beautiful today, the railway is a memorial site connected to immense human suffering. Please maintain respect and mindfulness throughout your trip.

Thank you for watching our video “Thailand’s Death Railway: The Ultimate guide”. Every video we post on the [Asian Train Guide YouTube](#) channel will have a free factsheet like this to download.