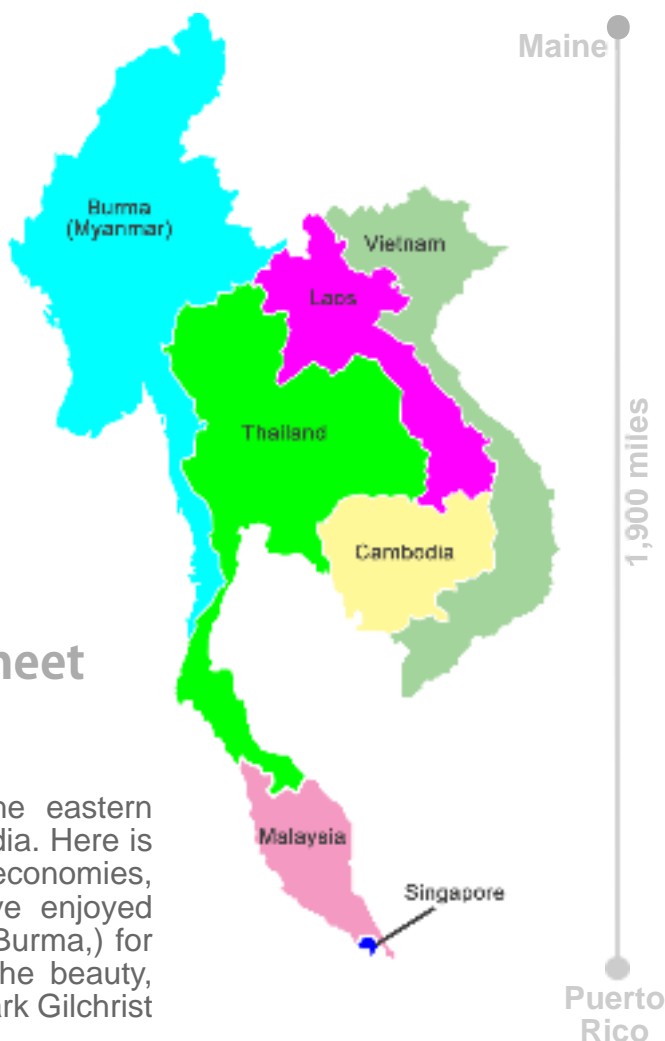




Mainland

Southeast Asia

Tourist Fact Sheet



Once called the “East Indies,” Southeast Asia covers the eastern hemisphere south of China, north of Australia and east of India. Here is information on the mainland countries’ geographies, economies, histories and languages to use on your next visit. I have enjoyed tremendously, riding a motorcycle around here, (except for Burma,) for the past two years, and I hope that you can also enjoy the beauty, charms and grace of this incredible land and its people. — Mark Gilchrist



	Burma (Myanmar)	Cambodia	Laos	Malaysia	Singapore	Thailand	Vietnam
Capital	Naypyidaw	Phnom Penh	Vientiane	Kuala Lumpur	Singapore	Bangkok	Hanoi
Size compared to U.S.	Texas	California	Between California & Texas	Colorado, Nevada & Arizona	New York City	Nebraska & New Mexico	New Mexico
Population compared to U.S.	53 million, as much as NE U.S down to Washington D.C.	15 million, a little more than Pennsylvania.	6.7 million, about as much as Indiana.	31 million, a little more than Texas.	5.6 million, about as much as Minnesota.	68.8 million, about as much as Texas & California combined.	94.6 million, about a fourth of the U.S.
GDP per capita (\$US)	\$1,354	\$4,322	\$8,571	\$32,502	\$102,027	\$20,268	\$8,060

Currency							
Bill	Kyat	Riel & US\$	Kip	Ringgit	Dollar	Baht	Dong
\$1 U.S. =	1,500	4	8800	4.2	1.4	30.6	24,000
Largest Bill	10,000	50,000	100,000	100	1,000	1,000	500,000 (\$21.50 US)
Smallest Bill	50	100	500	1	2	20	1,000
Cheap Hotel (\$US)	\$30*	\$7.70	\$10.77	\$13.69	\$13.07	\$13.54	\$7.95
Street Meal (\$US)	??	\$1-\$1.50	\$1.50-\$2	\$1-\$2	\$2-\$3	\$1.50-\$2	\$1-\$2
Gas (\$US / gall.)	??	\$3.86	\$4.51	\$2.15	?	\$3.59	\$3.73
Beer (\$US / 12oz)	??	50 cents	40-60 cents	60 cents	75 cents	80 cents	25-50 cents

Traffic	??	Nice, with some “safety” horn blowing.	Civilized	Orderly	Didn't ride, but very civil	Orderly, but very busy	Total Madness
Attractions (major)	Temples, wilderness hikes	Siem Reap & Ankor Wat temples. "Floating" fishing villages	4,000 Islands. & Luang Prabang	Cameron Highlands, Georgetown, Langkawi Island	Shopping Malls, botanical gardens, waterfront shops	Temples, Phuket & area islands, Bangkok, caves, beaches.	Ha Long Bay & the northern frontier with China & Laos.

Language	Burmese	Kmer	Laotian	Malay	Thai	Vietnamese
Hello	"min-ga-la-ba"	"Su-stay"	"Sah-bah-dee"	"Hello"	"Sah-wah-dee"	"Sin-chow"
Thank you	"cè-zù tin-ba-deh"	"Some-a-kun"	"Cob-chai"	"Ter-i-ma"	"Kah-ka-koon"	"Cam-oon"
Goodbye	"bhinebhine"	"Lee-high"	"Lah-cone"	"Sal-a-mat"	"Lah-con"	"Tam-Bee-yet"

History Highlights (recent)	British rule, through the East India Company, beginning in 1824. Japan rule, from 1942-45. Independence in 1948. Under military rule since 1962.	French protectorate; 1867-1953. Japanese occupation: 1941-45. Independence: 1953. Civil War & Kmer Rouge "Killing Fields": 1970s"	French protectorate; 1893-1953. Japan & France occupied: 1941-45. Independence: 1954. Communist ally in Vietnam civil war resulting in massive U.S. Bombing.	Portuguese Rule: 1511. Dutch: 1641. British colonize: 1786-1940s. Occupied by Japan in WWII. Independence: 1957	British possession: 1824 built massive port. Japan occupation: 1942-45. Merged with Malaysia: 1963. Independence: 1965	"Siam" ruled by 4 kingdoms from 13th-18th century. Only country in region not occupied by westerners. Constitutional Monarchy: 1932. Referred to as Siam through 1940s.	French Colony: 1850s-1940s. Independence: 1945, after Japan invades. 1 st Indochina War: 1946-54. 2 nd Indochina ("Vietnam") War: 1955-75. North & South: Reunite: 1976. Major Political Reforms: 1986
Main Religion	Theravada Buddhism	Buddhism	Buddhism & Tai Folk	Islam	Mixed	Buddhism	Folk or none

Sources: Wikipedia, Google Translate