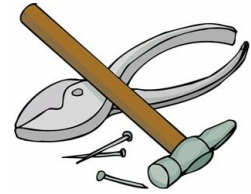




SHOPPING IN PATTAYA



When visiting Pattaya as a tourist, one's shopping will generally be for souvenirs to take home to friends and relatives or high end goods that are bargains. There are many small shops all over Pattaya that cater to the former and, unfortunately because of high import duties, not much of the latter. True, you can find many name brand goods at extremely low prices; but these are most likely to be counterfeit goods - not the real thing - especially if it is not purchased from a high end shop in one of the major shopping areas.

As a resident of Pattaya, your shopping will more likely be to buy the necessities needed for living here such as food, clothing, household appliances, hardware, etc. This section lists several, but by no means all of the places where one can find these items. To the best of our knowledge it is up to date and correct. If you find any inaccuracies or know of some places that we should add or you find a broken link, please contact us. Also, see the Emergency and Useful numbers pages where we list some specific vendors/businesses recommended to us by our fellow Expats.

Buying Liquor and Tobacco

These items can be purchased in convenience stores, supermarkets, hypermarkets, mom & pop mini marts, etc. Thai Regulations restrict the sale of alcohol in such stores to the hours of 11am to 2pm and 5pm to around midnight. Thai Regulations require that tobacco products not be on public display, so you have to ask for them. Sale to minors is prohibited. You will find that the hypermarkets and most supermarkets will follow these Regulations. However, as with many rules and regulations in Thailand, you will also find a number of businesses ignore these alcohol sales restrictions. For the lowest prices for wine and liquor, buy it at either Friendship or Best Supermarkets. These two supermarkets also seem to have a larger selection of imported beers.

Buying Clothes

Readymade (off the rack) clothing can be purchased in numerous shops, hypermarkets, shopping malls, and local weekend markets. Finding very large sizes may be difficult when shopping for readymade clothing. Similarly, finding large shoe sizes is also difficult with most carrying up to size 43 (USA size 12 equates to about size 46 in shoe sizes). There is one shop in the Central Festival (Big C) shopping mall that does stock large sizes, but quantities may be limited or they may not have what you are looking for in stock. Also, for Thai readymade shirts, you will find that size XXXXL is generally equivalent to size XL in the USA - so try it on before buying if you can. Tailor made clothing is not expensive and there are an abundance of tailor shops in Pattaya, some good and some not so good. If you plan to have clothes made, you may want to seek recommendations from Expats that have used the shop.

Store Delivery

Most stores that stock large items such as appliance, furniture, etc. will provide delivery to your house or condominium - most at no additional charge. The delivery men will bring the items into your place and even tote it upstairs if that is needed. Another great thing, is that if the item comes in a box and requires assembly, the delivery team will usually do the assembly for you - again, at no extra charge.

Convenience Stores

It seems one cannot go more than a very short distance in Pattaya without seeing a 7-11 or Family Mart convenience store. These stores offer a the typical convenience store items. They also sell liquor and cigarettes, mobile telephone sim cards and pre pay cards for several services. You can also pay your water, electric, telephone, and other bills at a 7-11 - there is a 10 Baht charge for this bill paying service.

Local Markets

There are several local markets in Pattaya. They sell fruits, produce, meat, eggs, etc. Most are open air stalls located under a large roofed in area. There are also several week end (or other specific days) markets selling all kinds of things including clothing, used mobile telephones, shoes, etc. These markets can be quite crowded at times.

Supermarkets

There are several supermarkets that stock many items used for preparing Western type food as well as local produce and products. Each of the Hypermarkets also have a supermarket inside. Although each carry similar products and brands, one may carry a particular item that cannot be found at the others and vice versa.

Foodland - This is a popular supermarket. It is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It carries many imported items as well as Thai products and produce. It has both Thai and imported meats and has a bakery section and pharmacy. It has a restaurant with counter service. It often runs promotions where you can receive coupons based on the amount of purchase to buy items from the bakery or the deli section. It is located on Pattaya Central (Klang) Road between 3rd Road and Sukhumvit on the north side of the road. There is parking in front and adjacent in another car park

Friendship - Is in a two story building on Pattaya South (Tai) Road between 2nd Road and 3rd Road. It offers good quality products and has many imported items. Upstairs there is a large selection of stationary and cookware. It is open from 7am to 2am daily. It is in a very busy area for traffic and charges for parking - one hour free with a minimum purchase - have your parking ticket stamped. At times, the car park is completely full.

Tops - Tops is another supermarket catering to expats. Tops has three locations in Pattaya. The original store is located on the Northwest corner of the 2nd road and Pattaya Central (Klang) Road intersection. They have a large car park on the west side of the building. Tops is on the ground (first) floor of the building. There are shops on the second floor and a bowling alley on the third floor. They have a smaller supermarket in the basement of the Tuk Com building located on Pattaya South (Tai) Road not too far from Friendship. Tuk Com has a car park (follow the signs) with trolley service to the Tuk Com building. Their third location is an upscale supermarket in the new Central Festival Pattaya Beach shopping mall that is situated between Beach Road and 2nd Road. Traveling north on 2nd Road, it is on your left a short distance before reaching Pattaya Central (Klang) Road. Central Festival has a car park for 2,000 cars and offers free parking.

Best - Best has two locations. One is located on the Northeast corner of the intersection of 2nd Road and Pattaya Central (Klang) Road - opposite Tops. The other location is at the Dolphin Roundabout that intersects with 2nd Road, Pattaya North (Nua) Road, and Naklua Road. It is on the Northeast side of the Roundabout with main entry from Pattaya North (Nua) Road. There is no car park at either location, but curbside parking can usually be found at the one located at the Dolphin roundabout. They have many imported items.

Villa Market - Villa has been a popular upscale supermarket with several locations in Bangkok for several years. Villa makes a point of catering to expats. If you can't find what you are looking for, they will make an effort to locate it and import it for you - at a price of course. Until Villa Market recently opened their store in Pattaya, many Expats would travel to Bangkok to get some of those hard to find items. The Pattaya Villa supermarket is located in the Avenues shopping mall on 2nd Road, which is north of the Royal Garden shopping mall on the opposite side of 2nd Road. If you can't find it anywhere else, you may find it here. There is a car park in front off 2nd Road and a parking garage behind, which provides parking for the shopping mall. There is a parking fee, but have your ticket stamped and you should get one hour of free parking. Villa Market also offers free delivery if your purchases exceed a certain amount.

Food Mart - This supermarket is located in the Jomtien area opposite Pan Pan Italian Restaurant. Traveling toward Jomtien from Pattaya south on Tappaya Road, it is on the left, just past View Talay I Condominium entrance and before you get to the Theprasit Road intersection. It has a variety of imported and western style foods.

Hypermarkets

Hypermarkets carry a wide range of goods including clothes, appliances, some furniture, electronic goods, some automobile accessories, bicycles, some sporting goods, etc. Except for Big C in north Pattaya, they all have large car parks with free parking and food court as well as some fast food chain and other restaurants. The Big C in north Pattaya is in a shopping mall which also has many shops, restaurants, and a multi screen theatre on the top floor.

Tesco Lotus (2 locations) - They have two locations. One is on Pattaya North (Nua) Road between 3rd Road and Sukhumvit Road - on the north side not too far from City Hall, which is on the south side. The other location is on the west side of Sukhumvit Road just south of the Theprasit Road intersection.

Big C (2 locations) - They also have two locations. One, usually referred to as Big C North or Big Central is located on 2nd Road between Pattaya Central (Klang) Road and the Dolphin roundabout that intersects with Pattaya North (Nua) Road and Naklua Road (2nd Road terminates at Dolphin roundabout). It is in the Central Festival Shopping Mall - not to be confused with the newly opened Central Festival Pattaya Beach shopping center. The other location is usually referred to as Big C South. It is located at the intersection of Sukhumvit Road and Pattaya South (Tai) Road. Adjacent to Big C South on the south side is a Home Works Hardware store and an Office Depot store.

Carrefour - They have one location on Pattaya Central (Klang) Road between 3rd Road and Sukhumvit, being on the north side a short distance from the 3rd Road intersection. The ground (first) floor has the food court and several restaurants. Carrefour is located on the second floor which also has several shops and a Home Pro Hardware store.

Shopping Malls

Shopping malls have several shops selling a variety of goods such as cosmetics, clothing, appliances, electronics, bedding, etc.

Central Festival Pattaya Beach

This new high rise indoor shopping center rivals those in Bangkok. It is anchored by the Central Department Store (a major chain with many stores in Bangkok that over the years has been expanding into other large cities in Thailand). It has shopping, food, and entertainment spread out

over seven floors. Tops upscale supermarket and the food court are in the basement. Other restaurants, too numerous to mention, can be found on several floors mixed in among the shops - these also include several of the fast food variety. There is also a 16 lane bowling alley and a multi screen movie theatre. They also have a free parking garage for up to 2,000 cars.

Avenues

This three level shopping mall houses the well known Villa Supermarket, a bowling alley, and multi screen theatre not to mention numerous restaurants and shops. This is an outdoor shopping mall. They have limited parking in the front and a parking garage in the rear - there is a charge for parking, but with a stamp from one of the vendors, you will get at least an hour of free parking. It is located on 2nd Road not too far north of the Royal Garden shopping mall, a Pattaya landmark.

Royal Garden

The Royal Garden used to be the premier shopping mall in Pattaya until the Avenues and Central Festival Pattaya Beach came along. But, they have been busy renovating this three story shopping center. It houses mostly small shops and several restaurants. For entertainment, visit Ripley's Believe it or Not. The Royal Garden is adjacent to the Marriot Resort and has entrances from Pattaya Beach Road and from 2nd Road. There is a car park in the basement - a fee is charged for parking.

Mikes Shopping Mall

This mall has five floors and entrances on both Pattaya Beach Road and 2nd Road (between sois 11 and 12). They have a car park on the 2nd Road side with parking primarily for tour busses. The shops offer a wide range of clothing, hardware, household equipment and furniture, computers, electronic equipment, stationery supplies, beds, bedding, shoes, etc.

Other Shopping

Tuk Com - This is a multi floor building located on Pattaya South (Tai) Road between 2nd Road and 3rd Road near the Day Night soi. There are 3 entrances to the ground (first) floor - from Pattaya South (Tai) Road, on the soi that runs along the west side of the building, and another on the side opposite the South Road entry. It has numerous shops with the 2nd floor being shops selling mostly mobile telephones - Telewiz shop is on this floor where you can make inquiries about AIS 1-2-Call service. The upper floors have several small shops selling computers, computer hardware, and other computer related equipment. On the fourth floor are most of the shops that sell movie DVDs and software (most are not licensed copies - the police occasionally raid these shops for pirated goods). There are two major vendors in Tuk Com. One is Power Buy, discussed below and the other is I.T. City on the top floor which sells computers, monitors, scanners, other computer hardware, and computer related materials (legitimate products with warranties). There are also a few Thai bank branches located on the ground floor. In the basement, you will find a small TOPS supermarket, food court, and a shop that sells various things for appliances including remote controls for most TV brands. Tuk Com has a car park and parking garage a short distance away (follow the signs) and run a trolley from the parking area to the store - the trolley drops off and picks up passengers near the rear entrance (opposite side from South Road). Parking and the trolley are free of charge.

Power Buy - This is a chain store with outlets in Bangkok and elsewhere. They sell electronic items, appliances, computers, etc. They have two locations. One is in the Tuk Com building (see above) and the other is inside the Home Works Store (see below).

Home Works - This is a large hardware store that sells sinks, tubs, tools, etc. The electronic items and appliances located here are actually sold by Power Buy. It is located on Sukhumvit Road on the south side of the Big C Hypermarket (see above). Traveling south on Sukhumvit, the entry will be just before the entry to Big C South. There are some other shops next to the car parking area with Home Works set further back.

Home Pro - This is another hardware store similar to Home Works. They are located on the same floor as the Carrefour Hypermarket (see above).

True Value Hardware - This store stocks imported tools and other hardware, many are USA brands. They also sell cookware (Rubbermaid), gas grills, and cleansers (Comet, Ajax, etc.). They also sell plumbing snakes to unclog drains (both hand held and those that can be affixed to a power drill). Car park in front of building.

Num Chai - They stock a large selection of electronic items (TVs, etc.) and appliances. They are located on east side of Sukhumvit Road not too far north of the Pattaya Central (Klang) Road intersection. Car park at side of building.

Index - This store stocks quality furniture, light fixtures, garden items, kitchenware, etc. You can also obtain a discount card that gives a discount on certain items. They are located on east side of Sukhumvit Road not too far north of the Pattaya Central (Klang) Road intersection (near Num Chai Electronics/Appliance store). Car park in front of building.

Kanyong - This store stocks good furniture at a reasonable price. They also stock bathroom fixtures, lighting fixtures, tile, some hardware, and other items for the home. They are located on the west side of Sukhumvit Road between Soi Chaiyaphruek and Theprasit Road - not too far from the Soi Chaiyaphruek intersection. Car park in front of building.

S&B - These stores stock furniture that generally are less expensive than that found at Index and Kanyong. One store is located on the east side of Sukhumvit Road north of Pattaya Central (Klang) Road - not too far north of Index and Num Chai (curb side parking). The other is on Sukhumvit just south of Tesco Lotus on the same side (parking in front and back of building).

Office Depot - Stocks office supplies and equipment including ink jet and laser printers, copy machines, etc. The store is located just in front of Home Works on Sukhumvit Road adjacent to Big C South.

Silapaban - Stocks a large assortment of office supplies. It is located on the north side of Pattaya Central (Klang) Road between 3rd Road and Sukhumvit Road at the soi Town in Town intersection (a short distance east of foodland). Curbside parking - but if you are shopping a Foodland, you can park there and make the short walk east - it is on the same side of the road.

Kitchenware - We don't have a name for this store, which has two locations. They primarily stock items for hotels and restaurants, but also sell retail. A large assortment of very reasonably priced glassware. They also sell cookware, kitchen utensils, etc. One shop is located on the east side of 2nd Road north of the Pattaya South (Tai) Road intersection. No sign, but when strolling by, you will see the restaurant equipment displayed in the window. The second location is immediately south of Foodland Supermarket on Pattaya Central (Klang) Road. Curbside parking only, but if you are shopping at Foodland, you can park there and be next door to the shop.

Wattana - This is a computer store. They sell computer hardware and software (licensed copies) and computer related items. They also have a computer repair shop staffed with qualified technicians.

They are located on Pattaya Central (Klang) Road. They are directly across the road from Foodland Supermarket.