

information

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MANDARIN ORIENTAL, BANGKOK - FANTASTIC FACTS

For over 145 years, travellers have followed the River of Kings to stay at the legendary [Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok](#). A haven of calm on the banks of the River of Kings, this iconic hotel has always been a truly remarkable place that understands and knows Bangkok as well as it does its guests.

2019 saw the completion of the largest restoration in the hotel's history with a USD 90-million loving transformation of the River Wing rooms and suites, restaurants and swimming pool – further enhancing the hotel's standing as one of the finest in the world.

Internationally renowned designer Jeffrey Wilkes oversaw the overall design of the new River Wing. Wilkes, who has worked previously with the hotel, took his inspiration from not only the hotel's illustrious history and rich Thai culture but also from the river. Bespoke fabrics by local artisans, skilfully crafted furniture, rich Thai-produced Jim Thompson silks and unique design details reflect the spirit of Bangkok and the hotel's iconic history.

Guests can also enjoy 11 outstanding restaurants and bars, from traditional Thai cuisine to two-Michelin-starred French fine dining. Private teakwood boats provide access to the hotel's Thai restaurants, the award-winning Oriental Spa, the Fitness & Wellness Centre and the famed Oriental Thai Cooking School

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FANTASTIC FACTS

- The hotel is home to many firsts. Not only was it the first luxury hotel to open in Thailand, but it was also the first to open on Bangkok's vibrant riverside, the first to have a hotel spa and the first to have a hotel bar.
- Legendary Thai silk tycoon Jim Thompson was a joint owner of the hotel between 1946 and 1967, and the luxury silk fashion house has designed Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok's new signature fan to celebrate the hotel's recent renovation. As part of the 2019 River Wing renovation, Jeffrey Wilkes hand selected over 10,000 metres of new fabric to use within his room and suite designs. The final selection of 294 differing designs appear within the upholstery, curtains and cushions, of which 189 were sourced from Jim Thompson.
- Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok's colleagues are renowned for their legendary service and are gracious, courteous and respectful to guests, many of whom are greeted by name. The 1,300 staff provide a 4:1 staff-to-guest service ratio – the highest in the city. With an average of 14 years of service, each colleague's dedication to delivering a unique service experience to guests is unparalleled.
- Many literary greats have been inspired during their time at the hotel. Joseph Conrad, who was then a naval officer, arrived at the hotel shortly after it opened in 1887. Today a suite has been named after Conrad and the hotel has even named its much-loved restaurant after his famed book 'Lord Jim's'. British spy novelist John le Carre penned 'The Honourable Schoolboy' in the hotel, whilst Noel Coward adored the riverine views, declaring: 'It is a lovely place and I am fonder of it than ever'.

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W Somerset Maugham wrote about his bout with malaria during his stay in ‘The Gentleman in the Parlour’ and penned his ‘Siamese Fairy Tale’ from the hotel’s terrace. Barbara Cartland named one of the heroines in ‘Sapphires in Siam’ after an Oriental employee.

- 2,460 pieces of Bohemian crystals have been used within each of the new giant bells that hang in the hotel’s lobby. These now sit alongside the original teak bells. Made from hand-forged brass and crystals, each weighs 220kg and took 150 hours to assemble on site. The design of the Bodhi leaves that hang under the bells also appear in the hand-made carpets, representing them falling to the ground to rest.
- Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok is home to 11 restaurants and bars, including one of the only two-Michelin-starred restaurants in Bangkok. Asia’s 50 Best Bars recently named The Bamboo Bar the Best Bar in Thailand. In 2019, The Verandah restaurant became home to a stunning, giant 17-metre-long, 2-metre-high artwork that wraps around three walls. Two artists took over four months to create this unique piece using traditional temple techniques in which pigment is laid onto plaster to create an aged chalky patina surface. The design incorporates local, native and indigenous plants and animals from the region.
- The Oriental Spa is housed in a restored, century-old teakwood house and offers an oasis of peace and tranquillity where guests can discover a range of treatments that blend ancient rituals with modern Western techniques. The Oriental Spa is the only spa in Bangkok to have been awarded 5 stars by Forbes Travel Guide.



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About Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok

Built in 1876 and ideally located on the banks of the Chao Phraya River, Mandarin Oriental, has been delighting guests ever since. The 331-room hotel has been an inspiration to a host of world-renowned writers from Joseph Conrad, Somerset Maugham to Barbara Cartland, after whom many of the suites are named. The hotel presents 11 restaurants and bars, from traditional Thai cuisine to two-Michelin starred French fine dining at Le Normandie. Private shuttle boats provide access to The Oriental Thai Cooking School, Sala Rim Naam and Terrace Rim Naam, the hotel's Thai restaurants, award-winning The Oriental Spa and Fitness & Wellness Centre located across the River; as well as the nearest sky train station (Saphan Taksin) and ICONSIAM, Thailand's latest and largest shopping mall, and home to The Residences at Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok.

**For alternative language versions of press materials, please contact [hotels or PR agencies](#) listed.*

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