



BRITISH REALTORS
BANGKOK, THAILAND

AN EASYHOMES.TV EXPAT GUIDE ON BANGKOK STUDIOS



Bangkok Studios – the Low-down!

THERE'S MORE TO THESE STUDIOS THAN MEETS THE EYE!

Foreigners arriving in Bangkok for the first time often reside in a studio apartment or condominium. Many expats choose studios because they are in abundance all around the city and offer inexpensive, practical accommodation, with the convenience of being centrally located.

But there's more to Bangkok studios than first meets the eye, and in many ways they are a cut above studio found in other countries.

Studio, Bedsit, Bed-sitting Room, what's the Difference?

Studio accommodation in many western countries (known in the UK and Ireland as bedsits or bed-sitting rooms) are typically all the same in concept, which is smallish, single, rectangular units with combined bedroom, sitting room, and basic cooking facilities. However, studios condos in Bangkok offer a lot more than those found in many western towns and cities, namely by way of:

- Sizes
- Price
- Location
- Facilities

There really are some excellent choices out there in Bangkok, and this article will demonstrate why renting studio rooms is a such a hit for many expats residing in the Thai capital.

Sizing up the Options

In general, studio accommodation is pretty much the same the world over, that is to say there's a kitchenette, a bedroom area, a little bathroom (or more usually a small shower room), and whatever room is left over will be utilized as a living space.

A Studio apartment in Bangkok, however, can range from the very luxurious at the top end, to the very meagre 16sqm (4 x 4) at the lower end. The latter typically houses working class Thai people and migrant workers from nearby Burma. The locations of these budget studios do not tend to be in the best areas of Bangkok either. Furthermore, the construction, maintenance, and quality of many budget apartment blocks leave a lot to be desired.

Not all Studios are Equal!

Bangkok offers some really impressive studio accommodation which easily meets the standards that western expats are accustomed to back home. The sizes of the more centralized Bangkok studios start at just 25 SQM but can, in some cases, go all the way up to 70 SQM, and any size in between. There are some decent sized Bangkok studio apartments located in a Soi off the popular Ratchadapisek Rd, an area commonly referred to as Ratchada for short.

Sitara Place Condominium

The Sitara Place Condominium is a good example of studios found in Ratchada. Units there are around 40 SQM, which is only slighter smaller than many of the newer, one bedroom condos being constructed in central Bangkok these days. With a small kitchen area, a king-sized bed, living area, and a shower room, these superbly designed units offer residents everything they could hope for from a contemporary studio. There is even an acceptable living area complete with sofa and 29" TV, thus giving a homely feel to the place.

Location Matters!

Most expats living in Bangkok prefer to be in the central areas of the city, and that means residing near to either the MRT Metro system or within close proximity of a BTS Skytrain station. However, the closer you are to a station, the more expensive it is to rent or buy property. That said, there are exceptions to this rule once you know where to look. Two districts worth looking at include:

1. On Nut (located in the upper Sukhumvit neighbourhood)
2. Ari (located in Phaya Thai district of Bangkok)

These locations have studio properties that are not only a short distance from MRT and BTS stations, but also offer great value for money. Once such example is shown on the next page:

My Condo On Nut

There are actually two My Condo buildings located in On Nut, just 250m from the On Nut BTS Skytrain station. One is called My Condo 81 and the other My Condo 52. Both of these condominium complexes house some really nice studio units.

There are many great districts to live in and around Greater Bangkok, but it is the central areas which offer residents the biggest choice in studio accommodation and convenient access to the city's five rapid public transportation networks, namely:

1. BTS Skytrain
2. MRTA Metro
3. Airport Rail Link
4. BRT (bus rapid transit system)
5. Speed Boat (river/canal taxis)

Ari is another wonderful place to reside. It is in the northern part of Bangkok and quite a high-end artistic district where many upper middle-class Thai people happily live side by side with local expats. It's also the place for trend setters of the entertainment industry, many of whom enjoy hanging out, sharing ideas over coffee and cake.

Ari is, without doubt, a very pleasant and friendly residential area with a real Thai feel to the place, thus offering a suitable and safe environment for anyone at any age. Ari is also home to some lovely studio condominiums, most of which are within a five minute walk of the Ari BTS station. Once such place is:

The Noble Lite Condominium

This building offers well-sized Bangkok studio units from 30-35 SQM. Each studio features a bathtub, something that is particularly popular with Japanese expats.

Noble Lite Condominium comes equipped with a swimming pool, gymnasium, saunas, 24 hour security, and car parking. Each condo can also be supplied with WiFi or ADSL internet, and UBC Cable or Satellite TV stations on request. With prices starting as low as 14,000 THB/Mo, these truly are great value rentals for those wanting to live in this part of town.

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