

Web source: thai-amulets.com

The Thai Calendar

The **Thai solar, or Suriyakati Calendar** is used in traditional and official contexts in Thailand, although the Western calendar is used for business.

The months and days of the week are the same as those used in the Western calendar, only their names differ. The year however is counted from the Buddhist Era (B.E.), which is 543 years earlier than the Christian era (A.D.). For example, 2003 A.D. is equivalent to 2546 B.E. The era is based on the death of Gautama Buddha, which is dated to 543 BC by the Thai.

Until 1888 Thailand used a lunar calendar, in which the date of the New Year (*Songkran*) was between April 13 and 15. The new calendar, decreed by King Chulalongkorn (Rama V), was called *Ratanakosinsok*, and was nearly identical with the western gregorian calendar. However the New Year date was fixed to April 1, and the year numbering started at the founding of Bangkok, 1781. King Vajiravudh (Rama VI) changed the year counting to Buddhist Era in 1912.

In 1940 Prime Minister Pibunsongkram changed the official New Year to January 1. Now both New Year's days are public holidays. The buddhist feasts are still calculated according to the lunar calendar, so they change their date in the solar calendar every year.

Months			Weekdays		
English name	Thai Name	Transcription	English name	Thai Name	Transcription
January	มกราคม	Moggarakom	Monday	วันจันทร์	wan chan
February	กุมภาพันธ์	Goompaphan	Tuesday	วันอังคาร	wan angkaan
March	มีนาคม	Meenakom	Wednesday	วันพุธ	wan phut
April	เมษายน	May-sa-yon	Thursday	วันพฤหัสบดี	wan paruhat
May	พฤษภาคม	Prues-saphakom	Friday	วันศุกร์	wan suk
June	มิถุนายน	Mithunayon	Saturday	วันเสาร์	wan sao
July	กรกฎาคม	Garagadakom	Sunday	วันอาทิตย์	wan a-tit
August	สิงหาคม	Singhakom			
September	กันยายน	Gan-ya-yon			
October	ตุลาคม	Tulakom			
November	พฤศจิกายน	Prues-sajigayon			
December	ธันวาคม	Tanwakom			

The colours are the traditional Buddhist birthday colours.