Pattaya Songkran Festivals by Lek Boonlert

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Otherwise known as the Thai New Year, everything outside your Pattaya hotel room during the festival will be a chaotic frenzy of people and entertainment. While the rest of the country traditionally celebrates Songkran on 13th April through the 15th, Pattaya is a little different in that it celebrates the festival on 18th and 19th April. All that really boils down to is the fact that while Pattaya technically doesn't start until the 18th of the month, in reality they actually start on the 13th just like everyone else, and simply party harder and longer.

If you plan on being in Pattaya during this festival, you need to book your Pattaya hotel room at the least six months in advance, if not farther. All of the Pattaya hotels throughout the city will have extremely high occupancy levels during their New Year, and public transportation services are going to be exceptionally busy. While there may be more frequent departures there will also be more frequent delays due to the chaos on the roads. And while it is true that Songkran in Pattaya follows the same general pattern as the rest of Thailand, it can be incredibly vigorous in certain sections of the city. Be prepared to get wet, considering the festival is all about throwing water on everyone and everything that you can see. If you have anything that doesn't react well to water, it is considered a wise move to leave it back in your hotel room to keep it protected in plastic bags.

Songkran is one of the best times of the year to book a Pattaya hotel room because of the general festivities offered throughout the city. In addition, Pattaya hotels will be packed with people, making this one of the most entertaining times to be in the city. It is also one of the most dangerous times of the year, at least in terms of travel for motorcycle and scooter passengers, due to the traffic that fills the roads and streets of the city. It is also important to understand that banks close down for three days between 13th and 15th April, so if you need cash you should plan ahead in order to have plenty on hand during the actual festival. While it is definitely one of the most exciting times to be in Thailand, it takes a certain amount of appreciation to truly enjoy such a chaotic event, and unless you like getting wet and dealing with large crowds you will probably find yourself annoyed rather than having fun.

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