

Visions and Voices and the USC Libraries have collaborated to create a series of resource guides that allow you to build on your experiences at many Visions and Voices events. Explore the resources listed below and continue your journey of inquiry and discovery!

THAI TOWN: A Culinary and Historical Tour

USC LIBRARIES RESOURCE GUIDE



Los Angeles has the largest Thai population outside of Thailand and is also the home to the world's first and only Thai Town. Concentrated in East Hollywood, Thai Town is quickly becoming a prominent Los Angeles cultural neighborhood with its array of diverse shops and restaurants. Join us for a walking tour presented by Six Taste that will explore this vibrant neighborhood and include tastings of local Thai cuisine beyond pad thai and chicken satay!

KEN KLEIN of the USC Libraries has selected the following resources to help you learn more about L.A.'s Thai community. See the online version of this guide at libguides.usc.edu/ThaiTown for photos, links to relevant websites and other resources.

Introduction

Los Angeles can now lay claim to having the largest concentration of Thais outside of Thailand itself. The community's business and cultural center is Thai Town, several blocks along Hollywood Boulevard—in East Hollywood. Here, Angelenos transplanted from Thailand, and their children and grandchildren, can see signs written in the unique Thai alphabet, hear Thai spoken—and sung—and enjoy the tastes and scents of their homeland. It is also a place where non-Thais can find help in acculturating themselves to the global city that L.A. is ever in the process of becoming.

Look for the Signs: Thai and Armenian Scripts

Thai writing derives from a South Indian script that came to Southeast Asia more than 1600 years ago. It is phonetic, consisting of 42 consonants and 31 vowels. Armenian writing was adapted from the Greek alphabet at roughly the same time and consists of 31 consonants and seven vowels. Comparisons of the two are rarely made, but in Los Angeles, where Thai Town and Little Armenia overlap along Hollywood Boulevard, it is possible to see signs in Thai next to signs in Armenian.

Related Reading

We the People: Asians in the United States (2004)

By Terrance Reeves

Online Library: C 3.205/8-3:17

Also available at purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS61564

Thai, An Essential Grammar (2002)

By David Smyth

Doheny Memorial Library: PL 4163.S64 2002

Oxford-River Books English-Thai Dictionary

Translated by Parimā Manlikamāt

Doheny Memorial Library (Reference): PL 4187.E5094 2010