



The manly man's survival guide to Chatuchak Market, Thailand

EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

What is it? One of the biggest marketplaces in Thailand for bargains on anything from clothes, food, pets to soap, electronics and phallic shaped toys in every imaginable colour.

What to do: Plan. Plan what you want to do and then throw it away. Because nothing is going to go by plan. Only thing that will is when you get there and how.

How to travel: If you have children it is the best to give them up for temporary adoption. But since the wife won't allow you to do that, children and all it is. Luckily I went with only one six-year-old which often feels like two.

When to arrive: Have breakfast and head out to avoid traffic and to get hold of some early morning bargains. For us Bangladeshis, it should be an epic battleground for bargain hunting.

Avoid Sundays.

What to carry: Carry cash. Carry it in a tight pant pocket. Wear pocketed jeggings if you must. It's one of those times you might be forgiven for that.

Manly men don't need to encumber themselves by carrying a water bottle. Their hands are made to deal with real tools like knives, swords or mobile phones. It is why most manly men have died out in the wilderness. But if you consider yourself one, dying from thirst isn't a threat in Chatuchak. Because real men go into the unknown armed only with the superior knowledge that the

world will provide them water. Only in this case you will be right. Chatuchak is scattered with hundreds of stalls selling beverages of all colours and consistencies.

Get a map: If like me you find out they have run out of a map, take a picture on your phone. Better yet, take additional pictures of the particular sections.

Don't think twice: If you like something, you buy it because there is a

Chatuchak has few such greenery. So a toilet is your only option of which there are quite a few. You will need to pay 5-10 baht for the usage. They are mostly scented but make sure you carry your own toilet paper and for us Bangladeshis, water.

Do you need cool air? Manly men don't because the ones I know will start whimpering after a while spent in the

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PHOTOS:
EHSANUR RAZA RONNY



chance you will not find that place again. It's a maze in there. The last time anyone survived was several hundred years ago and his name was Hercules. And he entered this maze only to kill a rampaging minotaur.

Toilets: Manly men never need toilets. They just need an unsuspecting bush or an uncomplaining tree. Unfortunately



narrow alleys of the market. Some portions have air conditioning. Other sections sell small battery operated fans.

What next? Come back again later simply because this place is humongous and your wife will say she has not seen it all. And then sulk when you go off to look at cars.

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