Museums and Art Galleries

1 National Museum
An accurate overview of the evolution of Thai culture is represented in the National Museum (see pp12–13) through dioramas in the first hall, along with exquisite Sukhothai, Ayutthaya, Rattanakosin, and Lanna artifacts in other galleries. Don’t miss the Ramkhamhaeng inscription, the Royal Funeral Chariots Gallery, and the Buddhaisawan Chapel.

2 National Gallery
Both traditional (starting from around the 17th century) and contemporary Thai art are featured at this gallery (see p66). There are also many temporary exhibitions. Temple banners are displayed in the section upstairs. An art market is organized in the courtyard each weekend.

3 Royal Barge Museum
Housed in a dry-dock warehouse, this museum features eight gleaming barges, each nearly 165 ft (50 m) long, that are used only for special royal events. The biggest and most important barge, Suphannahongse, carries the king himself (see p89).

4 Siriraj Medical Museums
This anomalous collection of skulls, pickled body parts, and murder weapons inside the Siriraj Hospital (see p89) is intended to educate rather than shock. Not for the squeamish, its most famous exhibit is the preserved corpse of Si Quey, a serial killer.

5 Suan Pakkad
A compound of traditional Thai houses, Suan Pakkad (see p80) is an excellent example of Thai architecture. The houses contain antique paintings, carvings, and a stunning display of masks used in khon (masked theater).

6 Thavibu Gallery
One of Bangkok’s most impressive private galleries, Thavibu gets its name from the initial letters of Thailand, Vietnam, and Burma, the sources of most of its art. It promotes young artists who have a strong message. As well as the permanent collection, there are rotating exhibitions. Suite 308, Silom Galeria, 919/1 Silom Road • Map N6 • (02) 266 5454 • Open 11am–7pm Tue–Sat, noon–6pm Sun • www.thavibu.com

7 H Gallery
Situated in a lovely colonial building on the backstreets of Silom Road, H Gallery mainly exhibits abstract works by contemporary Asian artists in a variety of media. Some works are quite innovative, such as the

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The Art Center
One of two galleries located on the campus grounds near Siam Square at Bangkok’s prestigious Chulalongkorn University, The Art Center features work by professors from the university as well as by established Thai and international artists. The gallery is known for its experimental approach and interactive installations.

**Jamjuree Gallery**
The second gallery at Chulalongkorn University is a two-story venue that showcases emerging artists, including students of the university’s Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, as well as established Thai artists and occasionally foreign artists. The gallery is an easy walk from Siam Square shopping district.

**The Queen’s Gallery**
Established in 2003 at the request of Queen Sirikit, this gallery is set in a five-story building and occupies a massive 39,825 sq ft (3,700 sq m) of exhibition space. The Queen wanted to showcase leading examples of Thai visual art. The gallery’s shop stocks an interesting range of glossy art books and T-shirts featuring contemporary art.

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