



NEIGHBOURHOODS



Clockwise from top left: Tep Bar; Oneday Wallflowers; a bedroom at Ba Hao, and the bar; a street in Soi Nana; Asia Today; Teens of Thailand



SOI NANA, BANGKOK

With bars opening up at a breakneck speed, there's a new spot giving Bangkok's reigning nightlife district Thonglor a run for its money. Not to be confused with its seedy downtown namesake, this Soi Nana is a set of alleyways on the fringes of Chinatown. It has little going for it during the day but once the sun sets, this is where the city's bright, tattooed, slouchy, young things head. Noodle stalls make way for under-the-stars terrace seats and the noise of tuk-tuks is replaced with jazz tunes, turning the historic district into a buzzy hubbub with a neon glow. Perennially packed Tep Bar, a contemporary homage to Thai culture with drinks based on local moonshine, hard-to-find regional food and traditional live music was the trailblazer of this new-wave scene, opening three years ago when the streets were still dimly lit and down at heel. Now most of the old ramshackle Thai-Chinese shophouses have been transformed into slick drinking dens, restaurants and galleries, with pop-up contemporary art exhibitions and complex cocktails. Evenings kick off with Spanish feasts at El Chiringuito, a quirky tapas joint with a chalkboard menu of patatas bravas and bocadillos, washed down with homemade sangria. On the other side of the block, the rooftop of florist Oneday Wallflowers hides a well-kept secret: a lantern-lit garden that is a great escape on steamy city nights, serving lychee- and rum-spiked drinks alongside kobe-beef-tataki sharing plates. The bar crawl continues at Teens of Thailand for G&Ts made with infusions, including Thai tea and chrysanthemum, then at smart-edged new dive bar Asia Today by the same owners and Pijiu Bar for craft beers in a setting that resembles a retro Chinese hotel lobby. Finish at Ba Hao, a dark, moody, four-floor co-living space with bedrooms decked out with filmic old-school oriental paraphernalia and drinks to match. CHRIS SCHALKX



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