The Emerald Buddha at the Grand Palace
Bangkok, Thailand

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EACS 130 – Tourism in Asia
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May 21, 2009
Why We Chose This Site

• Within Grand Palace complex, different sites to see
• Wanted to focus on Temple of Emerald Buddha
• Regarded as the most important Buddhist Temple in Thailand
Location: Bangkok, Thailand
Brief History

- 218,400 sq meters
- Grand Palace built in 1782
- Home to the Thai King, the Royal court, and the administrative seat of government
The Temple of the Emerald Buddha

- Within the grounds of the Grand Palace
- Construction started in 1785 when King Buddha Yodfa Chulaloke (Rama I) moved the capital from Thonburi to Bangkok
- Enshrines Phra Kaew Morakot (the Emerald Buddha)

March 29, 1950: Thai making offerings inside the Temple of the Emerald Buddha
Phra Kaew Morakot
The Emerald Buddha

- Carved from a single block of Jade
- Style of Lanna school of the north
- Dating from 15th century AD
The Emerald Buddha (con’t)

- No one allowed near the Buddha except the King
- Seasonal cloak
- Very important ritual → good fortune
The Grand Palace and Tourism

- Operated by: The Bangkok Tourism Division
- Agenda: Promote Conservation of Environment and Local Wisdom
- Visitors per day: ~20,000
If any visitor in Bangkok misses seeing this magnificent temple, it is said that he almost misses seeing Thailand.
Impressions of the Site
References

- Louie, When you are Related to the “Other”: (Re) locating the Chinese Homeland in Asian American Politics through Cultural Tourism, in Positions 11 (2003), no. 3: 735-63.