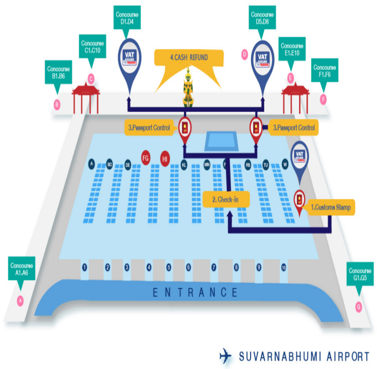

Thailand VAT Refund: Complete the Airport Sequence

Description

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Buy from a store displaying the VAT Refund for Tourists sign, spend at least 2,000 baht including VAT per store per day, present your passport and obtain P.P.10 or e-P.P.10 with original tax invoices. Take the goods out within 60 days and complete airport checks before check-in.

Thailand Revenue Department VAT refund conditions: Thailandâ??s Revenue Department sets the 2,000-baht store-day threshold, 60-day export period and required VAT-refund documents. Thailand VAT Refund for Tourists FAQ: The Revenue Departmentâ??s airport guidance identifies the 20,000-baht pre-check-in inspection threshold and higher-value item checks.

Qualify at the shop

Situation	Evidence or decision
Store lacks VAT Refund sign	Do not assume the purchase is claimable
Daily spend reaches 2,000 baht at one participating store	Request P.P.10 or e-P.P.10 and original invoices
Trip purchases total at least 20,000 baht	Show goods and documents to Customs before check-in
Luxury item costs at least 40,000 baht or carry-on item reaches 100,000 baht	Keep it available for the second post-immigration inspection

Confirm participation, present the passport and request the refund form on the purchase date. A receipt alone is not the full file.

Get the P.P.10 and tax invoice right

Keep store-days separate. The 2,000-baht threshold applies per day per store. Combining unrelated shops or different dates does not satisfy that unit.

Customs inspection before check-in

Pack for inspection. Goods requiring pre-check-in Customs inspection must remain accessible. Do not bury them in sealed luggage or check the bag first.

Claim after passport control

Mark the 60-day export clock. Count from the purchase date and ensure the goods leave with the traveller. Services and consumed goods do not become exportable purchases.

A two-store purchase example

A traveller spends 12,000 baht at Store A and 9,000 baht at Store B on the same day. Both meet the 2,000-baht store-day test and the trip total exceeds 20,000 baht, so the goods and forms need the pre-check-in Customs step. This does not estimate the actual refund amount.

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Airport sequence checklist

1. Look for the scheme sign
2. Show passport before invoicing
3. Collect P.P.10 and originals
4. Track 60 days
5. Total trip purchases
6. Keep goods accessible
7. Complete Customs then immigration then refund counter

Keep the paperwork until payment

Plan the airport order. Customs inspection comes before check-in for the stated threshold; refund submission follows immigration. Allow time for queues and document discrepancies.

Airport mistakes that cost time

- Assuming every retailer participates
- Combining stores for the 2,000-baht test
- Checking in goods before inspection
- Losing original invoices
- Expecting the full 7% VAT back without checking the refund table

VAT-refund questions

Can travellers claim after a land departure?

The official FAQ states the scheme is for departure by air.

When are goods shown to Customs?

Before check-in when total purchases reach the stated threshold.

What happens after immigration?

Submit the stamped forms and invoices at the VAT Refund Office, with specified goods available again.

Keep the shop test and airport test separate

At the shop, confirm that the purchase meets the minimum qualifying spend of 2,000 baht including VAT at the same establishment on the same day. Ask for the P.P.10 form and original tax invoice, and check that the name and passport details are accurate before leaving. Keep eligible goods available for inspection rather than packing documents separately.

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At departure, higher-value goods and the total-purchase threshold can trigger a Customs inspection before check-in. Build time for that stop and do not place the items in checked baggage until the inspection requirement is satisfied. After immigration, complete the refund stage at the designated counter or method with the endorsed paperwork.

The example should be calculated store by store and day by day. Two receipts from different businesses do not become one qualifying purchase merely because the total exceeds 2,000 baht. The goods must also leave Thailand within the stated 60-day period, so put the purchase and departure dates on the worksheet.

Photograph the P.P.10 and tax invoice after checking them, but keep the originals accessible because a phone image may not satisfy the refund process. Put the goods, forms, passport and departure timing into one checklist. That reduces the most avoidable failure: discovering after check-in that an item or original document needed to be presented earlier.

A refund form should be checked while the salesperson can still correct it. Match the passport name and number, store details, purchase date, goods and invoice amount. If several receipts are involved, group them by establishment and day. A missing original or mismatched name discovered at the airport may be difficult to repair after the traveller has left the shop.

Build the departure plan backwards from boarding time. Allow for travel to the airport, Customs inspection before check-in where required, baggage drop, immigration and the refund counter. Busy periods can add queues. The refund is not worth missing a flight, so set a personal cut-off and know which step can be abandoned if the airport sequence takes longer than expected.

Refund amounts can be lower than simply multiplying the receipt by the headline VAT rate because the schemeâ??s calculation and fees apply. Treat the expected refund as an estimate until processed. This prevents a traveller from spending against money that may arrive later, through a different method, or at a lower amount than the rough tax shown on the shop receipt.

Related reading: The wider sequence continues at How to plan the rest of a Suvarnabhumi airport journey; readers facing the other issue can use The current Thailand arrival form.

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