

Chapter 1 - Before Making the Move

Why Move to Thailand?

Before moving to Thailand, know why you're going! What's the reason for your move?

- Adventure
- Getaway / Escape
- Life Change
- Women (lousy reason) – if your main goal is to chase women here, it gets old.
- Financial Incentives
- Escape child support or alimony – if you're from the U.S., the authorities will find you. Believe this. Do not leave to escape child support or alimony.
- Seemed Like a Good Thing to Do

Preparation

Make sure you do your research before coming.

- Take a vacation to Thailand
- Give notice to work / apartment
- Store or sell your things
- Sell or rent your condo, move from apartment.
- Banking – there is a high likelihood you will need a bank account in your home country. If you have an account, keep it open. If you do not, open one. Make sure to sign any necessary documents prior to departing. Some banks require a signature on file specifically for international bank transfers.

- You will want to make sure you have an address in your home country. You can use your parents address or a PO Box but it may be important to have an address at home.
- Friends and family – figure out a way to keep in touch. If you're from the US or Canada, pick up a device called The Magic Jack. Use a Magic Jack and get free calls to the U.S. and Canada from anywhere in the world.
- Give yourself a 6-month to 1-year trial in Thailand as an expat. Forget being a tourist, start thinking like someone who lives in Thailand.
- Visa – What are your options? Prior to living in Thailand, apply for a tourist visa. You may only get a total of 3 months or you may get a year if you're lucky. But the idea is to give yourself time to obtain a different visa. You can get an ED visa (get an education visa to study Thai or Muay Thai), Invest 8-10 million baht and qualify for an I-B visa, find a job (B, M, or O), then get a work permit, or buy an elite card for 500K (5 years).

Making the Decision

- Should I Stay or Should I Go? You will always be a minority in Thailand. Once you are in the country, you do not have the same rights at home, and most importantly, you do not have the support network in case something happens. You do not want to end up homeless here so make sure you set up anything you can back home.
- Put yourself in a no-lose situation. Do everything you can to set yourself up for a successful move. Have a plan, a back-up plan, and another back-plan. Then have a plan for the back-up plans. Seriously. You do not want to end up on the streets here in Thailand.
- You can't control everything! Relax. Try not to get upset when things go wrong. Remember that you are supposed to be living a more relaxed lifestyle in which you are happier than you were back at home.
- Buy the ticket and let the rest fall into place.