

# THAILAND TRAVEL FAQs

## Weather:

The weather in Thailand is generally hot and humid: typical of its location within the tropics. Generally speaking, the best time to visit Thailand is November - February, however, this is also the most expensive time to travel for Australian & New Zealanders. Temperatures range between 18-34 degrees but can often reach 40 degrees with humidity levels at around 75%.

## Dining in Thailand:

*Water* - Bottled water is the safest bet. Brushing your teeth in the tap water shouldn't pose any problems.

*Food / budget* - If you're eating on the street 2 meals a day (breakfast is usually covered in your accommodation, we budget \$20 AUD a day or 500THB. If you're eating in Restaurants then you usually need to budget a little more each day. Seafood & good Steak and Wine can be very expensive in Thailand.

*Alcohol* - Is usually very cheap. A standard bottle of beer is around \$2.50 AUD - 60THB.. Cocktails around \$6 AUD - 150THB.

## Language:

92% of the population speak Thai. English is spoken and understood throughout much of Thailand.

## Religion:

94.6% of Thais are Buddhist, 4.6% Muslim and .07% Christian. Buddhism is a Philosophy encompassing a variety of traditions, beliefs and practices, largely based on teachings attributed to Siddhartha Gautama, commonly known as the Buddha.

## Money:

*Currency* - Thai Baht. Which comes in both coin and bank note form.

1 Australian Dollar = approx. 25 Thai Baht

*ATMs* ? Are almost on every corner along with Currency Exchange Booths.

## Bargaining?

While bartering is an essential part of the Thai shopping experience. If an item has a price tag then you're not expected to barter, also in restaurants.

While there is no 'rule' as to how much you should try and negotiate off the price. We usually suggest start off at 50% discount and then work towards a price that suits both you and the vendor (without the vendor losing money).

## Common prohibited items not to be brought into Australia:

There may be rules with your airline about what you can and cannot take on as cabin baggage, so make sure you check with your airline.

*Wooden & Woven items* - are allowed IF free from bark, insects, signs of insect damage.

*Leather & Fur* - are allowed if they have been fully tanned.

*Laser Pointers* - Hand held Laser pointers.

*Guns, lighters, electric shock devices, fireworks, swords, Swiss army knives, Fake designer goods, pirated DVDs.*

*\*These must be declared on your incoming passenger card. Fines can apply or items can be confiscated.*

## Duty Free:

Alcohol - 2.25 Litres allowed into Australia  
1 Litre allowed into Thailand

Tobacco - up to 50 cigarettes allowed into Australia  
up to 200 cigarettes

General - \$900 of general goods duty free into Australia

## Time:

Thailand is 3 hours behind AEST. And 1 hour behind AWST.

## Police:

The Thai police certainly have had a bad rap in the past. But overall they are not too bad. Never yell, point your finger or try to strike an officer.

If you have been involved in a serious situation you can contact the Tourist Police on 1155 or +66 (0)76 214368.

## Health Advice for Thailand:

While no inoculations are officially required when entering Thailand. Sometimes it's better to talk to your own GP and see what they advise in regards to vaccinations.

## VISA requirements:

No VISA is required unless you are traveling for more than 30 days.