



## THAILAND

**Section 1 of this document gives a brief overview of the country, whilst section 2 contains the customs requirements.**

### **Section 1 – THAILAND OVERVIEW**

Whether you are planning on living in the mountainous region to the North to experience a traditional Thai lifestyle, or the country's largest city and capital Bangkok, moving to Thailand could be an exciting and luxurious adventure. With Thailand being a common stopover for travellers on a long flight to Australia, more and more tourists are falling for the country's charms. With the cultural traditions being influenced by other Asian cultures such as Chinese, Indian and Cambodian, you are sure to find yourself a new way of living.

Thailand is located in Southeast Asia, and is bordered by Burma, Laos, Cambodia and Malaysia. Thailand boasts a newly industrialised emerging economy with tourism and exports being the strongest sectors. Tourists often find themselves pleasantly surprised at the culture change when in Thailand.

The country has an excellent employment ratio and many varied options for employment. As Bangkok is the economic centre of Thailand there are plenty of opportunities for employment. However if you are looking for a more laid back way of living, the countryside and southern islands offer various opportunities as well. Whether you are looking for professional opportunities or new adventures, and an exciting country to explore, Thailand could be your perfect expat destination.

The cost of living is generally very cheap in comparison to other Far Eastern destinations however food can be very expensive, especially when dining out. When shopping at the local markets you are always expected to bargain, so, learning Thai will not only be good for fitting into the lifestyle, but will also help to cut costs.

For more information why not visit <http://www.tourismthailand.org/about-thailand/>

### **Section 2 - REQUIREMENTS FOR DUTY FREE ENTRY OF HOUSEHOLD AND RELATED EFFECTS IMPORTED BY THE OWNER**

#### **IMPORTING PERSONAL EFFECTS**

Shipments of used household and personal effects can be imported duty free providing they have been owned for longer than six months. Only one consignment by sea and one by air is allowed to be imported duty free. Returning Thai residents must have lived abroad for more than twelve months. Your Simpsons consultant will provide you with detailed customs regulations. All necessary documentation must be completed and submitted when requested, otherwise your shipment cannot be dispatched. Please note that you must be in the country when your shipment arrives in order to successfully complete all customs clearance procedures.

All toys, baby items, sports and exercise equipment, bicycles, electrical equipment and appliances, office equipment and luxury goods such as crystal or porcelain are subject to duties.

#### **WEDDING TROUSSEAU**

Wedding gifts are subject to duties at the appropriate tariffs.

#### **INHERITANCE**

All inheritance goods will be subject to duties unless you can prove to the Government's satisfaction that you are a permanent resident.

#### **DOCUMENTATION**

Simpsons and our agents will assist you with completion of customs formalities. To assist us with this you should let us have a copy of your passport (and visa if applicable). The required documentation will be supplied to you on arrival. To avoid any potential additional charges and delays it is advisable that all required forms are completed and returned promptly to our Agents.

Customs clearance at Thai ports takes on average 3-5 working days and most shipping lines will only call at Bangkok.

#### **PROHIBITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS**

In general it is in your interest not to import the following items:-

- Firearms & ammunition
- Inflammable goods & substances
- Plants & plant material
- Foodstuffs, perishables or otherwise
- Alcohol, narcotics and dangerous goods
- Offensive or pornographic material
- Short wave radios
- Buddha heads

#### **TRANSIT TIMES**

Sole use containers usually take an average of 5 – 6 weeks door to door. However this can vary depending on customs or immigration delays and prevailing weather conditions. Crated (LCL) shipments usually take 7 – 9 weeks door to door.

#### **MOTOR VEHICLES**

Importation is discouraged and permits are very difficult to obtain, particularly for foreign passport owners. Duties and taxes of between 230% and 330% are payable if you are able to obtain permission to import a vehicle from the Ministry of Commerce.

#### **USEFUL CONTACTS**

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