

## Thailand Starter Kit – Quick Version

Welcome to Thailand!

Thailand is a country known for its stunning beaches, ornate temples, rich culture, and delicious cuisine. From the bustling city of Bangkok to the serene islands in the south, Thailand offers a diverse range of experiences for every traveler.

### SIM Card & Connectivity

- Grab a local SIM at 7/11—they'll even pop it in your phone for you!
- Forget tourist SIMs—go for the local SIM for the best price.
- If you're staying longer than a month, grab an eSIM—super easy!
- Getting a local SIM provides a Thai phone number. If you have a dual SIM phone, you can keep your own number.

### Money Tips

- 1 Euro ≈ 37 Baht (so bring cash to avoid ATM fees).
- ATM fees: A bit of a bummer—around 5 Euros per withdrawal.
- Costs to expect:
  - Meals: €2–10 (street food is your best friend!)
  - Drinks: €3–5
  - Motorbike Taxis: Super cheap, quick, and fun!
- No need to open a bank in Thailand. You can withdraw cash at ATMs, but there are fees. It's best to bring enough cash and exchange it. Credit cards are accepted in many places, but there's often a 5% extra fee.

### Getting Around

- Apps to use: Grab and Bolt—they've got you covered.
- Motorbike Taxis: They'll zoom you around the city—cheapest and fastest!
- Pro Tip: Avoid the buses—they'll leave you stuck in traffic. 😊

### Traffic Tips

- There are official speed limits, but they are often not observed.
- The general approach to traffic is "go with the flow."
- While it's okay to have a little to drink, it's strongly recommended to use taxis for transportation after a night of drinking.

Where to Go in Thailand

- Bangkok:
  - Recommendation: 2-3 days is sufficient.
  - Highlights:
    - Visit the Iconsiam mall.
    - Experience the nightlife of Khao San Road.
    - Explore rooftop bars.
- Southern Islands:
  - Koh Phi Phi: Recommended for couples.
  - Koh Samui: Recommended for luxury travelers.
  - Koh Phangan: Recommended for nature and viewpoints.
  - Phuket:
    - Known for its party scene.
    - Bangla Road is a key nightlife area.
- Northern Thailand:
  - Chiang Mai:
    - Activities: Ziplining and elephant sanctuaries (highly recommended).
- Places to Avoid:
  - Pattaya:
    - Cheapest place in Thailand, but with drawbacks.
    - Not recommended for nature or general nightlife.
    - Known primarily for its red-light district.


### Where to Stay

- First night: Book in advance (it's nice to settle in on day one).
- Agoda: My top recommendation—best prices, especially the more you use it!
- Stick to 4-star or better hotels (roughly €20-30/night). Trust me, you'll love it!

### Cultural Tips

- How to say "hello": Say "Sawadee!" with your hands together and a slight bow.
- Dress code: Keep it casual—but no bikinis or swimwear when visiting temples.
- Tipping: Not a big deal here, but a little extra is always appreciated!

## Food & Health

- Street food? Totally safe! Get adventurous with your taste buds. 
- Water: Stick to bottled water. Don't risk it with tap water.
- Ice is totally safe.
- Meds: Everything you need is available locally—carry painkillers just in case.

## Packing Tips

- Pack light! Laundry's cheap and done by the end of the day (€2-3).
- Flip-flops for daily use.
- Shoes: Bring one pair of sneakers if you plan to hike.
- Must-bring items: Mosquito spray, cash, and a water bottle.

## What Not to Pack

- Forget jackets and sweaters—you won't need them in the heat! 

## Final Tips

- Relax—Thailand's all about going with the flow. If you need help, just give me a shout!
- Enjoy every moment, and remember, you've got this! 