



7 Simple Tips to Avoid Having A Bad Holiday in Thailand

Prapatchon Schmidt

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Foreword

“Land of SMILE”, this is what Thailand was named from the world. I believe that “Thailand” has been voted by lots of traveling magazines that this country is on “TOP TEN” dream destinations for many visitors from around the world. Thailand has various tourist attractions where I believe that many visitors can find where they want to go according to their desires; such as mountain, waterfall, sea, island, and etc.; besides that Thai culture, Thai food, and the way of life how Thai people lives are pretty much attracted to most of foreigners that they may say to themselves, “At least, within my lifetime, I would like to visit Thailand and experience it!!!” However, from what you read in the magazines about the beauty of Thailand and the reality about Thailand are quite different, unless you come and experience it yourself, then you will discover it yourself. That’s why I think it is very important to let the foreigners know tips to **AVOID having a BAD TIME** in Thailand and for myself as a “Thai person” who lives here and also used to live in oversea for few years, I had seen the problems and things that are going on in my country. Therefore, I would like to reveal many useful information for you as the guideline, if you want to come and visit or stay in Thailand. This is the

starting point of why I think my topic about **“7 Simple Tips to Avoid Having A Bad Holiday in Thailand”** is interesting and needs to send the messages across this whole world.

As a “Thai citizen” I have to say that I love my country but I think that my feeling toward my own country may be the same like many other Thais that have the mix feeling of the good feeling and bad feeling about things and situations that’s going on within our country right now. I believed that if you had a chance to follow about the news through PBS, BBC, CNN, or through other channels, they might present about the news of Thailand few things, but there were two things that had been concerned by all Thais, which were the political problem and the flood. First, for the political problem, it had created the belief which lead to the dividing of Thais into two main groups or more than that (the red shirts, the yellow shirts, and then have other color shirts followed by to represent the belief of the groups). Second, the flood, which had cost Thailand billions of Baht to do for the recovering of the damages which affected most of the industries, businesses, and also people’s residential area and because it was the unexpected flood that people didn’t think that it would be this much and that’s why when it happened, the lost was more and

the support from the government to people was not quite on time.

However, because of these two big news that had been presented by the international TV it had created the fear to the visitors who have *NEVER* come to Thailand before; afraid and think that the situations will be too bad. However, as for these two issues at the time when I'm writing this e-book, it has been over recently. As for the political problem, we just had an election for the new prime minister in few months ago (June 2011) and the government faculty had been appointed accordingly; so at the moment I think it should be fine (but I still think that there are many underground groups who might not like this current government and might plan to do something in the future), and when I thought of this, as a "Thai citizen", I just want any decent government faculty to run the country, so Thailand can move forward **NOT** some groups of people try to make the other groups look bad and it ended up that nobody doing his job properly, and who do you think that will suffer most? Of course, the Thai people; well, I don't want to go to this issue deeply, because it will take forever to discuss, and I know (same like most Thais) that for the political issue, it will **NEVER CHANGE**; and as for my own motto, I don't like to talk about these three

things with anyone, 1) Politics, 2) Religion, and 3) Money, because in my opinion, these three topics will be talking in circle and definitely nobody is right or wrong, so the best thing for me to do is; I just avoid talking about that and if anyone in the group, talk about these issues when I'm around, I just asked them politely to change the subjects, if they don't, then I just walked away, that's it!!! And for the flood problem, well this is the "National Problem" that had hit Thailand quite hard and quickly than we thought. On the other hand, for this natural disasters, it required lots of organizations to get involve and try to find the solution and have to get the action plans and make it happened before the next flood will hit us again, and as I had been listening to the news about this issue, there are so many solutions had been suggested by the professors and all the knowledgeable people but again I have to say that for the "absolute power and authority" it depends on the chief of that ministry what he would like to decide to do. Well, again when I thought of this, as a "Thai citizen" I just hope that the chief of that particular ministry will make a smart decision. Well, I think it's enough of me to give my opinion about these two issues because as a tiny person in this country, my opinion doesn't count as we "Thais" we don't have much of freedom of speech to say on what we want, because if we say something in the public that according to

some organizations are inappropriate, we would be put into jail!!! (That's why I never joined in any protest or anything like that, just try to stay out of it, and I'm sure that in your country, it would be pretty much the same, if you have strong comment about the government and etc. that consider as the delicate issue). Don't you agree? As what we had seen on the news report!!!

Anyway, I'm sorry that I had mentioned about these two issues but I think that it's necessary to let the foreigners know as well, so from what you heard from the news, and what actually happened in Thailand from Thai people, you can see from both sides and can justify accordingly. Now, I would like to inform you that "YOU" as the owner of this e-book, you are a "lucky person" because you don't have to worry about having a BAD TIME in Thailand anymore, in "**7 Simple Tips to Avoid Having A Bad Holiday in Thailand**", I will reveal you many useful information that I think it will definitely helpful for you if you plan to visit or stay in Thailand, and all are based on my experience that had dealt with other Thais and foreigners too.

I decided to share my experience about 7 tips to AVOID having a BAD TIME in Thailand because I think

that it is necessary for all visitors who plan to visit or want to stay in Thailand to know about things that you can do and can't do in Thailand, so you will not offend Thais unintentionally and you will have a great time here. Because I know that many visitors out there would like to have a great experience when they are in Thailand but if you know tips to AVOID having a BAD TIME in Thailand, I'm sure that you will have SUPERB time here.

Thanks to you as my reader, thanks so much for supporting my e-book. I am sure that the money you had spent on buying this e-book; will be worthwhile for you and you will learn something that actually will be helpful in visiting or staying in Thailand. May God bless you and having a great time visiting or staying in Thailand!!!

Prapatchon Schmidt
January 2012

Chapter 1: Foreigners Perspective about "Thailand"

As for this chapter about the foreigners perspective about “Thailand”, I have to say that it’s based on my experience that I had felt it myself, knew it through both of my Thai and foreign friends that also had shared them with me as well. And because it based on my opinion, I would like to divide it into two groups, which are, 1) General things that foreigners misunderstood about Thailand, 2) Foreigners perspective about Thais working style. Here they are:

I. General things that foreigners misunderstood about Thailand:

1. *Foreigners thought that Pattaya and Phuket are all what’s Thailand about.* Again, I want to say that for Pattaya and Phuket, they are very famous places among foreigners when they talked about Thailand because these two places are famous about the sea and nightlife. However, I want to say that “Bangkok” is the capital city of Thailand and in fact there are many beautiful places in Bangkok that I would like the visitors to visit, NOT just fly straight to Phuket or sometimes when you landed

at Suvarnabhumi Airport and then call taxi and go straight to Pattaya, you will miss lots of beautiful places to visit in Bangkok.

2. *Foreigners thought that Thailand is Taiwan.* Well, for this thing it had happened to me many times when I had been approached by foreigners asking me where are you from? and I said “Thailand”, then they said, “Oh I see, then you must speak Chinese fluently” and I repeated again, “No, I’m from Thailand and I can speak Thai fluently NOT CHINESE”. I guess may be the word “Thailand” and “Taiwan” when you pronounce it, it sounds very similar and that’s why.

3. *Foreigners thought that all Thai people practice the superstition.* Well, again, for this thought I think that may be the foreigners had seen on the documentary movie and most of the scenes may have the practice of superstition. So, they think that all Thai people practice this black magic; I want to say that NOT all Thais but I admit that, it is still in some certain villages in Thailand, they still practice this but only few groups of people that believe about this, and I think that it should be the

same like back home in your country that some groups of people still practice voodoo or other types of black magic. Is that right?

4. *Foreigners thought that all Thais eat weird stuff, i.e. fried grasshopper, fried beetle, dogs.* Well, for this case, I want to say that it's just only few groups of Thais that eat these animals, especially in the Northeastern part of Thailand, not all Thais who live in Thailand.

5. *Foreigners thought that all Thai women are prostitutes.* Well, for this perspective that foreigners have toward Thai women, it really hurts my feeling because I'm also Thai woman but I'm NOT prostitute and in fact, there are many Thai women who are educated and also married to the foreigners. But I think that the most influential factors that made the foreigners think about this because Thailand has this BAD reputation about Thai women that try to smuggle into other countries and do for prostitution and that's affected the whole Thai women!!!, which in my opinion is NOT fair, NOT all Thai women are prostitutes, ONLY few of them.

II. Foreigners perspective about Thais working style:

1. *Don't like the changes* – Thais tend to stick to the old habits, what they have been doing, they would carry on like that!!! And if the foreign boss brought something new for them to do it differently. It will be seen as “annoyance” to them. You won't get a fully cooperate or sometimes they just go against you.
2. *Don't dare to argue* – When the negotiation time comes, Thais will not argue, even though sometimes, they are the one who lost their advantages. Most of the time, they will let the other group to control the game. Some people say that Thais that have this habit we called, “*timid*”; but for the foreigners they think that because of this habit that makes Thais are not progressing as they should.
3. *Does not say what it should say* – Another identity of Thais is that they don't have enough courage to

inform what are their ideas, which sometimes, I believe that Thais also have a good idea but they just like to keep it to themselves, don't share it with their boss, don't dare to ask; and this creates lots of difficulty in working because sometimes the foreign boss thought that Thai employees knew, then boss didn't say anything because nobody asked, which sometimes the employees are working toward different goals that the company has set or couldn't achieve work successfully because for the employees who got the order, didn't really know what the order was all about?

4. *Responsibility* – Foreigners think that Thais don't like to set the deadline for the jobs in advance, which in fact, some of the jobs must finish it on time. Moreover, if any jobs have been given long time to finish them; Thais will wait until nearly deadline then will do it, which make the jobs came out not good enough. And also Thais don't like to feel obligated or sign their names on the paper, if you assigned the jobs for them and they have to sign their names, they would afraid to do so, seems like they are afraid that they can't do the job or has been deceived.

5. *Solving problems* – Thai people don't really have "Plan B" when problems occurred, but they will wait for the problems to happen first, then will try to seek the solution later. Many times, foreigners found out that Thais don't know how to solve the problems, must have to wait for the boss to order the commands first and then follow; but if the boss is not there, then nobody will do anything!!!

6. *Like to tell ONLY good news!!!* – Thais have a strange habits when come to inform about the news, which can divided into two ways: 1) Afraid to inform to the foreign boss when problems occurred, will wait until the problems are too big to be solved then will come and consult with the boss, 2) Will only inform about things that he thinks the boss would like to hear, i.e., when the boss asked, "Will you finish the project on time?", the answer will always be "YES" (Because he thinks that the boss wants to hear this) but never be able to do like what he promised. So, what's the point of saying "YES" right?