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Nine Reasons Why An Old American Man Should Move To Thailand



Synopsis

This is not a book on how to get more sex from Thai women or how to survive on a shoestring budget. I have lived with a woman who was born in Bangkok for over three years and been married to her for two years. If it were not for my exposure to her and her family, I would now know how to survive in Bangkok ... but I would only have a superficial understanding of Thais and Thai culture. Unlike some books written on relocating to Thailand, I don't think Thailand turns out to be a wonderful country for everyone. It works very well for me. And in this guide you will learn why. More than anything, this guide is about Thai culture. If you are coming here from the USA it will be hard for you to overestimate how different Thai culture is from that in the USA. In the USA you have literally hundreds of religions. In Thailand, something like 95% of the population is Buddhist. Buddhism is reflected everywhere in Thai life. Many of the foreigners I meet who are confused by what they run into here on a day-to-day basis have not looked into Buddhism. In my opinion, if you don't have an appreciation for and understanding of Buddhism, you will not end up being comfortable with Thai culture and living in Thailand for any length of time. I'm very happy living in Bangkok with my Thai wife. In this book I've tried to convey some of what that life is like and to compare my quality of life here to what I experienced in the USA. Part of my motivation for writing the book is thinking that eventually something might happen to me while living here that will sour me on Thailand. At that point, I'll want something to remind me of why I chose to live here. So far, I'm still on my honeymoon. I don't think Thailand or Thai culture is perfect by any means. But, from my experience, the positives far outweigh the negatives. To be very honest, there are many things about Thai culture and how Thais think that I just do not understand. For example, Thais are generally a very nonviolent people. Rather than kill stray or unwanted dogs, they abandon them at temples or leave them to fend for themselves on the street. But I've been told by more than one person that hiring someone to kill a person who you want killed is not that difficult in Thailand. The strange part of all this is that it seems to be morally ok to have someone killed but not morally acceptable to do it yourself. Thailand is full of extreme contrasts and apparent contradictions. I've tried in this book to communicate some of this. For example, Bangkok is an adult Disneyland without brakes. If you have the money, you can buy most anything. But the ones who get the most respect are the monks (even the King of Thailand shows a monk respect by waiving him). So, it's the ones who are able to turn their backs on all the worldly pleasures who are given the most respect. If you come to live here you will gradually come to think you understand something about Thailand. But I think maybe the experience of living here will actually teach you more about the country you just left. All those things you took for granted for all those years start to seem like just one of many choices. For

example, in the USA people usually consider their home to be a personal statement of who they are. Americans generally like to invite people to visit their home. Thais, on the other hand, usually meet friends at a restaurant to socialize. Thais are reluctant to invite friends to their home. Those in charge of advertising Thailand to the world have chosen the phrase "amazing Thailand" to promote tourism. In my opinion, this is not false advertising. I hope my book can help prepare you for what you will find in Thailand and to decide if it is really a good choice for you.

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Customer Reviews

This is a very short book. The subject matter really deserves a more in depth look. I gave it three stars, because it is a pleasant read. I've had a couple of long term relationships with Thai women, and many shorter term relationships with women in Thailand. The author gives us casual observations that occur when an American makes a life for himself in the "land of smiles". The observations are amusing, and real, as I have experienced these for myself. It was casual and enjoyable as a read and was worthwhile as a reminder of some of the cultural differences. Thailand is a magical place, and of anywhere I have traveled, by far the best place to relax. The cultural differences between life in Thailand and life in America, are real and amusing. The more time you

spend in Thailand, the more you enjoy the Thai culture. This short book is more of a light read rather than a detailed analysis of the subject. Most anyone that has spent time in Thailand could have written something like this with his own observations. This is not a book about how to hook up in Thailand, but then i didn't expect it to be. If you've ever been there, you know hooking up is never a problem. If you plan on making your first trip to Thailand, it would be a good read to give you some idea of what to expect.

The author seems genuinely interested in providing an even-handed, unbiased view of this country. It's so refreshing to see Thailand as he sees it as his view is most likely closer to what I would think as the standard tour books probably paint to bright a picture. My only wish is that he might have made a statement as to his opinion of how much his wife helped him with the language and how difficult would it be for a single elderly, non-thai speaking person to navigate his or her way through the natural course of living there. This was still a 5-star read for me.

This book is an easy primer with compelling and honest thoughts about moving to Thailand. Of course I wouldn't be reading it if I were not considering it.. Having lived there for two years previously I can confirm the authors easy to read and understand thoughts about some of the more profound cultural differences. I wish I had read it before I lived there. Anyone living crossculturally will come across some imponderables. He does a good job of bringing forth some of the most common and then helping the reader prepare to navigate through them.

Most books about visiting Thailand are either the turn left at the fountain type of travel guide or how to handle a hooker in Thailand. For once a book that respects Thais and shows the good and bad as it might seem to a westerner. Good insights into the Thai national character, excellent description of the medical system and frankly puts forth that there are good and bad things to moving to Thailand. Nicely done.

Having not been there for 45 years, I'm about to revisit Thailand and stumbled across this title on . Almost clicked past it but since I'm now an "old[er] American," it piqued my interest. Refreshingly, it wasn't about old Western guys trying to get laid in Thailand, but a genuine introspection about cultural differences. Although it reflects the author's personal experiences, isn't that what everything is? Quite fascinating. Only 80 pages and cheap! Now I'm off to read his other works....

Short and to the point. Mr. Camponi's life as an ex-pat in late middle age, after a decades long marriage in the USA (his wife passed away) Makes for a good read. His take: Thailand's defiantly not for everyone, but if the shoe fits.

Excellent book written by an American who though not very long in Thailand seems to have learned the most important things. My nomination, along with Shirbel's "Love, sex, and trust" as the best guide to the newly arrived westerner.

I though I wouldn't like this so got the free sample first. But it turned out to be quite entertaining. Not what I expected at all.

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