

# Thailand Relocation Guide



By Appointment To  
Her Majesty The Queen  
Removals and Storage Contractor Abels

# ABELS™

THE ART OF MOVING

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<b>TELEPHONE:</b>	Country code (0066) + Area code.
<b>STANDARD TIME:</b>	GMT + 7 hours.
<b>WEIGHTS &amp; MEASURES:</b>	Metric.
<b>ELECTRICITY:</b>	220v AC, 50Hz.
<b>INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:</b>	Typhoid and Hepatitis A is recommended.
<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:</b>	1st January New Year's Day, Chinese/ Lunar New Year first new moon between, 24th January and 20th February, Makha Bucha Day Buddhist Holiday on the first full moon of the third Lunar month, 6th April Chakri Day, 13th April Songkran Festival/ Thai New Year normally, 3 or 4 days public holiday, 1st May Labour Day, May – Date set year by year – Government holiday, May – Visakha Bucha Day Buddhist Holiday on the first full moon of the sixth Lunar month, July – Asahna Bucha Day Buddhist Holiday on the first full moon of the eighth Lunar month, July – Buddhist Lent Day after Asahna Bucha Day, Government holiday, 28th July – H.M. The King's Birthday, 12th August – H.M. Queen's Birthday/Mothers Day, 13th October – The Passing of King Bhumibol, 23rd October – King Chulalongkom Day, 5th December – King Bhumibol's Birthday/ Father's Day, 10th December – Constitution Day, 31st December – New Year's Eve/Wan Sin Pi.
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	08.30 to 16.30 normally and some Saturdays.
<b>BANK HOURS:</b>	0830-1530 Mon - Fri.
<b>EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:</b>	Police 191 Fire 199 and Medical Emergency 1669 Tourist Police (English Speaking) 1155.
<b>UK EMBASSY :</b>	14 Wireless Road Lumpini, Pathan Wan Bangkok 10330 Tel: (+66) 2 305 8333
<b>THAI EMBASSY IN LONDON:</b>	29-30 Queen's Gate South Kensington London SW7 5JB Tel: 0207 589 2944

## Part 1 – Background Information on the Kingdom of Thailand

### Background

A unified Thai kingdom was established in the mid-14th century. Known as Siam until 1939, Thailand is the only Southeast Asian country never to have been colonized by a European power. A bloodless revolution in 1932 led to the establishment of a constitutional monarchy. In alliance with Japan during World War II, Thailand became a US treaty ally in 1954 after sending troops to Korea and later fighting alongside the US in Vietnam. Thailand since 2005 has experienced several rounds of political turmoil including a military coup in 2006 that ousted then Prime Minister Thaksin Chinnawat, followed by large-scale street protests by competing political factions in 2008, 2009, and 2010. Thaksin's youngest sister, Yinglax Chinnawat, in 2011 led the Puea Thai Party to an electoral win and assumed control of the government. A blanket amnesty bill for individuals involved in street protests, altered at the last minute to include all political crimes - including all convictions against Thaksin – triggered months of large-scale anti-government protests in Bangkok beginning in November 2013.

### Geography

Located at the center of peninsular Southeast Asia and bordered by Myanmar (Burma) and Andaman Sea to the west, Laos to northeast, Cambodia to the southeast, the Gulf of Thailand and Malaysia to the south, Thailand an oddly shaped country covering 513,120 square kilometers (198,456 square miles).

Roughly 20 percent of Thailand is covered by mountains and hills, the steepness of which generally precludes agriculture. As of 2005, rich arable land accounted for nearly 27.5 percent of the total area. About 6.9 percent was planted to permanent crops. Some 49,860 square kilometers of land were irrigated according to 2003 estimates. Most of the prime arable land is in the central and eastern part of the country, where rice and other crops are grown on the vast, wet alluvial plains around Bangkok and the Chao Phraya River. About 1.5 percent of Thailand is covered by grasslands and 28.6 percent is occupied by forests and woods.

The south coast of Thailand faces the Gulf of Thailand, while the Isthmus of Kra is bordered on the west by the Andaman Sea and on the east by the Gulf of Thailand. Thailand also has coastal islands in the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand. The largest, with provincial status, is Phuket, off the west coast; on the gulf side, the largest islands are Samui and Pangan.

### Economy

With a relatively well-developed infrastructure, a free-enterprise economy, and generally pro-investment policies, Thailand is highly dependent on international trade, with exports accounting for about two-thirds of GDP. Thailand's exports include electronics, agricultural commodities, automobiles and parts, and processed foods. The industry and service sectors produce about 90% of GDP. The agricultural sector, comprised mostly of small-scale farms, contributes only 10% of GDP but employs about one-third of the labour force. Thailand has attracted an estimated 3.0-4.5 million migrant workers, mostly from neighbouring countries.

Over the last few decades Thailand has sustained strong growth. In 2013, the Thai Government implemented a nationwide 300 baht (roughly \$10) per day minimum wage policy and deployed new tax reforms designed to lower rates on middle-income earners.

### Climate

Thailand's climate is tropical with a mean annual temperature of 28°C and high humidity.

There are three seasons.

### Language

The official language of Thailand is Thai, a Siamese language closely related to Lao, Shan in Burma, and numerous smaller languages of southern China and northern Vietnam.

### Population

As at December 2017 the population of Thailand is 69,108,500.



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## Religion

There is no official state religion in the Thai constitution.

## Currency

The baht is the currency of Thailand, and is subdivided into 100 satang.

The following currency is in circulation:-

Notes: Baht 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1000.

Coins: Baht 1, 2, 5, and 10, Satang 25 and 50.

## Healthcare

In Thailand, government health care is funded by the Department of Medical Services at the Ministry of Public Health.

## Education

Education in Thailand is free and compulsory for all Thai citizens between the ages of six and fifteen. Children between three and five also have the option of attending nursery and preschool.

*Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.*

## Part 2 – Thailand Import Customs Regulations

**To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household goods and personal effects into Thailand.**

### General Information for Duty Free Entry of Household and Personal Effects

#### Returning Resident

Must have lived in the UK for more than 12 months, and not returned to Thailand on too many occasions during the previous two years. On each return to Thailand you must not have stayed for more than three months, and your passport must have been stamped on departure from Thailand and arrival in the UK, and vice versa. If you have not had your passport stamped on each occasion you will need to obtain the full immigration in/out travel record from the Central Immigration Department in Bangkok.

#### Foreigner

Must have a one year non-immigrant B (business) visa with a valid one year work permit at the time the shipment arrives at the port in Thailand. Bond facilities are not available pending issuance of work permit.

All other Visas will not allow duty free entry of household and personal effects.

#### For both Returning Resident and Foreigner

- Shipment must originate from same country as owner's last place of residence or place of work.
- Shipment must arrive in Thailand not earlier than 1 month prior to owner's arrival/return to Thailand, and no later than six months after owner's arrival/return to Thailand.
- Only one sea shipment and one small air shipment allowed duty free.
- All items must be used (not new).
- Only one of each type of electrical appliance is allowed, duplicate appliances will be charged full duties.



### **Documents required**

- For the duration of Customs Clearance Original Passport, and for Thai Resident possibly old Passport.
- Thai ID Card for Thai resident.
- For Thai resident some proof that you have actually resided in the UK, and not just been a tourist.
- Non-Immigrant or Residence Visa valid for one year (Foreigner).
- Work Permit valid for one year (Foreigner).
- Two good clear copies of the packing inventory.

### **Diplomats Removals**

Duty free entry

- Two good clear copies of the packing inventory.

Wine, alcohol must have special license to be imported by diplomats.

### **Dutiable Items**

Toys, baby items, PC games, toiletries and cosmetics, office items, sports and exercise equipment and items (including bicycles), musical instruments, medical items such as blood pressure monitor, electric chair.

### **Wedding Trousseaux**

Wedding gifts will be subject to duties per the appropriate tariffs.

### **Inheritance**

Will be subject to duties unless Thai citizens can satisfy Government residence requirement.

### **New Furniture and Household goods**

Subject to duties and taxes.

### **Works of Art**

OK if part of household and personal effects consignment.

### **Antiques**

OK if part of household and personal effects consignment, although in order to facilitate exportation at a later date, it is advised that the items are specified on import documentation and a photograph taken of each item.

Some Asian antiques, especially religious artifacts require fine Arts Department approval.

### **Precious metal objects**

Jewellery and Coins – OK if part of household and personal effects consignment, although please note there are insurance issues when shipping these items.

### **Motor vehicles (automobiles and motorcycles, including water vehicle) and parts**

Automobiles cannot be imported unless the applicant applies for and receives permission from the Ministry of Commerce before shipping. This permission is very difficult to obtain for owners with a foreign passport.

The vehicle must have been owner and used for at least one and a half years prior to export.

All vehicles are subject to high duties from about 95% for motorcycles to over 300% for cars over 3000 cc.

Duty free exemptions are provided to diplomats.

If you do wish to import a car please contact us for further information.



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### **Alcohol and Wine**

Subject to very high duties, and it is difficult and time consuming to obtain an import permit. Please do not include with your household and personal effects.

### **All foodstuffs and household cleaning items**

Subject to duties, and we ask that you do not include with your household and personal effects.

### **Arms and ammunition**

Import prohibited.

### **Medicines**

Importation is allowed of a very small quantity with your household and personal effects, but can cause delays and additional costs in clearance.

### **Narcotics, drugs**

Import prohibited.

### **Pornographic literature**

Import prohibited.

### **Shortwave Radios**

Import prohibited.

### **Buddha Statues**

Buddha statues, Buddha heads or parts will need to be pre-determined prior to shipping, and possibly pre-registered with the Fine Art Department prior to import.

### **Pets**

We work with a number of Pet Relocation Companies who can help you Import your pet to Thailand.

Please contact us if you wish to be put in contact with our partners.

### **Endangered Species**

A CITES certificate is normally required. There is a worldwide ban on the movement of Ivory without a CITES Certificate. **Please note old pianos usually have ivory keys and a CITES certification will be required.**

For information on obtaining a CITES certificate please visit:-

<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/endangered-species-application-for-import-and-export-permit>

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