

## Traveling to Thailand



Try to think of some countries you know in Asia. Thailand might be one of them! It is a popular destination for tourists around the world.

Thailand is located in between Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Malaysia. It has beautiful beaches, bustling cities, and even exciting hiking trails in big forests! What more could you want?

Thailand has a long, complicated history. Archaeologists (scientists who study people from the past) have found remains from civilizations that lived 20,000 years ago in the area where Thailand is now. That's a really long time ago! Since then, many kings have ruled, and many kingdoms have fought against each other to rule the people who live in Thailand (who are called "Thai").

It's interesting to know where this name came from. There was a group of people who used to call themselves the "Tai." They lived in China. They slowly moved to central Thailand over the course of hundreds of years, a long, long time ago. However, there were already people living in Thailand. When a Tai leader started to create his own kingdom in the area, the native people of Thailand wanted to show that they weren't a part of his kingdom. Therefore, they called themselves "Thai," which means "free" in their language. This name still remains today. It reminds us that the people of Thailand have always been free from foreign power.