

FAQs on Special Thai Program

1.) Where would I get the Departure Card ?

You will get the Departure Card on the plane to Thailand

2.) Criminal Background Check : The Superior Court's office offers certified single-county background checks and the State Bureau of Investigations offers non-certified statewide record checks. Would it be better to get a certified background check that's just for one county or a non-certified background check for the entire state?

Non-certified background check for the entire state

3.) Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine

You can get JE Vaccine in Koh Samui, which is highly recommended during your visit to the place. There are many types of JE vaccines available with different prices.

4.) Taxi in Koh Samui

The taxi in Koh Samui is not a taxi meter. The price from the airport to your accommodation could be quite high, but you have to try to negotiate. The prices depend on time, if night, the charge is more. No need to give TIP to the taxi driver.

5.) Can you give some tips on where to go or not to go? And do you know how much time we will have to travel? Like when the holidays are?

Your travel plan depends on your liking. Thailand, have sea and mountain and plenty of historical and cultural places to explore. Schools will have breaks, and long weekends. Please make your plans after you sign contract with the school and after you know their holiday lists.

6.) Do we tell the consulate that we are participating in a Training Program?

If you are applying for a **Tourist Visa**, you cannot say the Thai Embassy / Consulate that you are participating in a training program. What GTA does is after you land and start the program they take permission from the Department Of Labor that you all are participating in a teacher's preparation program.

7.) How about Thai language books/dictionaries? Any thoughts or recommendations? How much are you planning on learning ahead of time, etc.?

Yes, GTA will give a Thai cultural and Language orientation during the 3 weeks course, however that will be the starting point. It will be a clever move to learn some basic Thai even to control your class . There are millions of course materials / CD / Websites that can help you.

8.) Is it alright if a skirt is a bit above the knee or does it needs to be covered. I'm finding myself only finding maxi dresses or maxi skirts!

Try as best as you can to find skirts that are below the knees. If they are above the knees then when you are sitting they come up mid-thigh. In Thailand teachers are viewed as role models and are expected to dress modestly. The more covered the better. Don't worry about fashion-it doesn't matter at the schools. I would suggest trying to find a couple of black/brown below the knee skirts that you can match with any top.

9.) Just wondering if anyone has tips on any essentials to bring or not bring.

Don't bring loads of clothes, you can buy cheap here in Thailand.

10.) "I'm lactose and dairy free". Do you think I'll have trouble finding stuff like almond or soy milk? I was anticipating that I'd have someone ship it out to me for the long term.

Almond and/or Soy Milk you can find in all branded department store like BIG C, LOTUS, TESCO etc. Most things that you can find at home you can get in Thailand (unless you are in a really small town). Soy milk you can find at any grocery store here (it's very common).

11.) What about contact lenses and personal hygiene products in Thailand ?

For contact lenses- no need to stock up, you can find them very easy in Thailand. Just walk into any eyeglass shop and tell them your prescription (no need to show one). They are much cheaper here than in the States as well. Monthly contact lenses are only 200 THB a month. For all personal hygiene products- they have western and Thai

brands here so you should be able to find what you need (or try something new). Vitamins you can find at any of the pharmacy shops.

12.) Laptop : Do we need/ do you recommend that we bring laptops? Will an ipad/tablet help or do you recommend an actual laptop? Are there computers available at the schools we teach at/around the area where we can use computers/print items? Also are there American brand laptops that are available in Thailand for purchase? If so would you recommend just buying one there?

Bringing a laptop is not mandatory while coming to Thailand. If you do not carry your laptop, there will be computer and printer available at internet cafe a little far from the hotel. Most of the school have computer which the teacher can use. Almost every brands are available in Thailand : -Sony; -Dell; -Acer; -HP; -Samsung; -Toshiba; -Mac; -Fujitsu. If you do not carry laptop, it won't be too hard to find the computer/internet cafe but it may not be available for 24 hrs. The cost for new laptop would be around 12,000 - 20,000 THB.

13.) Vaccinations in Thailand

You can get an idea from this website : <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/thailand>

14.) How much money to exchange and have on hand prior to arrival in Thailand?

If you are referring to exchanging USD in Thailand, please note that in Airport you won't get the best exchange rate. Even if you want to exchange in the Hotel, that's also is not the right place. If you can get some 100 USD exchanged in the airport, that will be good for a week and then you can exchange as per your need anywhere in Koh Samui. There is also ATM's near the hotel and a currency exchange booth (though they don't seem to keep regular hours) so best to exchange some at the airport or before you arrive.

15.) Would there be an easy way to purchase a SIM card in Koh Samui that we can use all throughout Thailand? I am about to unlock my phone and would not like to be charged for any accidental international texts/calls.

Yes, you can find SIM cards at any 7-11/mini mart in Thailand. They are very easy to set up and add phone credit onto it. SIM cards are usually around 50 to 150 THB depending on where you buy them. SIM card is available right at the Samui airport and any convenient store across Koh Samui of any other place throughout Thailand. Iphone 5 Sim is also available with all telecom service providers. 3 G network is fantastic in Thailand and cheap too. The few names that you might want to Google before coming : DTAC, TRUE, 123, ORANGE.

16.) Does anyone know if we need convertors for our electronics if we are coming from the States?

Voltage: 220 V; Plugs A & C. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adapter in order to use U.S. appliances. We recommend getting a universal adapter and converter kit. Universal adapters can be purchased before arriving in Thailand or else they can be found in electronics and department stores in Koh Samui.

17.) I received a reference through email that had an electronic signature. Is that acceptable for references?

Yes that is fine.

18.) Should I carry my documents (background check, degree, transcripts, etc.) in my carry bag with me or should I just put them in my checked bag? if immigration would happen to find them what would I say?

Yes you can keep it in carry bag or check in luggage. If immigration somehow finds it, you can always say that you might be traveling in different countries and look for job, so you carry those.

19.) Will we have Wi-fi included as part of the class? I was going to buy unlimited wi-fi for 30 days for the hotel, but I realized I may not have to.

It is not included as part of the class. You can purchase the wifi at the front desk when you arrive at the hotel.

20.) Is there an airport in Koh Samui? Also, how do I arrange the transportation from the airport?

Yes there is an airport in Koh Samui, its Samui International Airport. You can expect a comfortable stay during your TESOL Course in Koh Samui.

Regarding transportation, the best way to travel from the airport to hotel is by Taxi. The approximate cost is 800 THB (around US\$25) and the journey time is around 30-45 minutes.

21.) My name appears differently on some documents, due to the abbreviation or omission of my middle name. According to one of your previous emails I need to get an affidavit stating that I am in fact the same

person. You mentioned to get this from the embassy. Does this need to come from the Thai Embassy, or can it come from the American State Department? Also, would an affidavit notarized by a local notary public authority be acceptable?

The affidavit should be from American Embassy. If they stamp the same, no other actions to be performed, otherwise, you need to get it notarized by a local notary public authority. You can go to any local state government / notary public to certify that your Certificates name and Passport name are same person.

22.) Besides fees for the training and travel expenses, what other costs shall I expect?

Apart from the fees, travel cost you also have to take care of your food (which is not expensive in Thailand) and visa (up to 100-130USD). I would say apart from the travel cost and course fee keep aside 600-700USD in hand before you get your first pay check as you will only be getting your first pay check after 50 days landing in Thailand.

23.) Could you please let me know where exactly my teaching placement will be in Thailand?

Placement may be anywhere in Thailand, most likely surrounding north-east Thailand.

24.) Travel Insurance

You can check this website for details : <http://www.squaremouth.com/>

25.) Cheap Airfare

You can refer www.justfares.com or www.skyscanner.com for flights.

26.) Regarding travel insurance do you have any advice what type or where from?

Regarding Travel Insurance, there are many providers, you can search from internet as well. You are suggested to fly out from your country with a Travel Insurance which should cover your travel and for one and half month of your stay in Thailand.

27.) What type of shots, if any, do I need? Malaria? Is there a "check list"?

No vaccinations are recommended for Thailand but if you can get Malaria injections that will be good.

28.) How much advance will I be given in terms of where my school is and if I have to arrange accommodation. Also will I receive support in finding accommodation whilst waiting for the school start date?

You will receive all information after coming to Thailand, and regarding accommodation, if you have to arrange for the same, yes our representative will be there to assist you.

29.) When will I find out which visa I will be applying for?

You would get to know detailed information in the right time and proceed accordingly. No worries.

30.) Wanted to ask how likely it is that the school placements will be on the coast?

There are no placements over coast.

31.) How many people will be on the course, is there a mixture of people from different countries?

There will be 35-36 people in your batch and mostly from US, UK, Australia or NZ.

32.) Will the Global Training Academy (GTA) help me find accommodations and transportation between orientation and the school I teach at? If not, what is the general cost of this time period?

Yes we will help you find accommodation during the orientation gap and school start date and it would at the max cost you 80-100USD during this period.

33.) What is the best thing to do in preparation of the 2-15 days between the training and teaching assignment?

Just enjoy and relax and maybe explore Thailand also.

34.) Since the TEFL certificate is not graded, does that affect the validity of the certificate?

You will be evaluated and the certificate is valid for whole of your life.

35.) How much does it cost to travel within Thailand? (From Koh Samui to our assigned school)

It depends on the mode you are availing. If I say approx it would be something around 40-50USD.

36.) What exactly is the deal with insurance? We provide our own travel and health insurance but the school may cover accident insurance?

The school will provide you the accident insurance, other insurance are your cost. Health Insurance in Thailand would cost you 2500-2600THB (80 – 90 USD) for entire 5 months.

37.) What is Double-Entry Visa? And How does it work?

It is 2 entries each one for 60days. Each entry can be extended for a further 30 days at Immigration in Thailand. When your 1st entry and extension are almost finished you do a border run to use the second entry.

38.) Visa on Arrival

To land with a VOA - Visa on Arrival, you don't need a return flight ticket, however the VOA is valid for 30 days and once you are done with the course you will need to take this up with the placement partner and you have to go for a Visa run (before your 30 days visa on arrival expires) and come back with a Non Immigrant B Visa from the nearest Thai embassy (Laos) and then join school. All papers related to Non Immigrant B visa will be given by the School where you will work. You have prepare around THB 6,000 (200 USD) for this entire process.

39.) What is the best way to bring cash- as cash and change all @ airport? OR American Express Traveler Check? Credit Card?

The best will be to divide the fund into cash and travelers check. Since you got to have fund for two months to manage here, bring some cash to manage the initial 3 weeks during the training which will be more towards food and if you plan to travel. The rest can be in travelers check which you may en cash after the course to take care of your housing deposit and food for another month till you get your first salary.

Please don't convert all your \$ in the airport as the conversion rate inside the city is better than airport. You may find conversion centre almost everywhere in Koh Samui.

40.) What about meals in Thailand ?

A daily meal here will be not more that 300 THB (breakfast + lunch + dinner) if you can adapt to local Thai food. A typical beer will cost you 50 THB.

41.) Visa Run

Visa run includes going to nearest country (Lao) then applying for fresh visa and come back. The trip for visa run in arranged by many tour company and the approximate cost for the trip (by bus) and back costs around 250 USD. The cost is actually in Thai baht but for understanding and budgeting purpose we use USD for your understanding. The visa run will be organized by the placement partner, so you don't need to worry about the plan and process.

42.) Health Insurance : Wanted to ask a quick question regarding health insurance, and in your experience what the typical applicant seeks out? I don't believe there is anything included within the GTA program ?

You are suggested to buy a health insurance for first one month which will cover your travel too. The school provides you accident insurance which doesn't cover our patient treatment and pays only for hospitalization over 24 hrs. In past we had teachers bought health package from their country for 6 months and you can also buy additional health packages in Thailand at cheap premium. GTA's 3 weeks TEFL training doesn't include any health insurance, so it's a good idea to come covered through so health package from your country.

43.) Electricity in Thailand

Electricity 220 V 50 Hz

Japanese style plugs are used in Thailand

44.) With a work visa, can you leave the country? How many entries would you be permitted? Does it expire as soon as the contract is completed or would you be permitted to travel even once you have finished your placement?

On entry you will receive 90 days of cover, with an option to extend by 10 days at Immigration. Multiple entry NIB Visa gives 15 months of coverage in 90 days intervals. For a one year period, whenever you enter Thailand with the Non-immigrant B Visa you'll receive 90 days on entry.

Regarding more information, you can discuss with your School and they will guide you with further details.

45.) Is there a place in the Hotel All Seasons of Koh Samui where the STP-Participants can make copies of the documents that they need to submit?

You can make the copy at the front desk (reception) of the hotel. The cost will be around 5 THB per page.

46.) I was wondering are we going to have roommates during our training in Koh Samui?

Yes. [Male with Male participant; Female with Female participant].

47.) Do teachers (other people who are also in the program to get certified to teach) typically bring their laptops and/or iPhones/smart phones with them to Thailand? I have a MacBook Pro and an iPhone and am not sure if I should bring both of them, one or the other, or neither of them. If the answer is yes to bringing these electronics, is there an electrical adapter that I need to buy/bring with me to be able to charge/plug in to an outlet?

It's not mandatory to bring laptops/iPhones/Smartphones with you, but if you wish, can bring the same. And if you bring, yes you need to buy an electrical adapter to be able to charge/plug in to an outlet.

48.) What kind of bank account you recommend me having while there in Thailand?

You can open a Bank account in Thailand only after getting Work Permit. If you want to try for a particular bank, your School will suggest you accordingly.

49.) Regarding dress code, if it is alright to wear sandals or sports shoes during the training?

Regarding Dress Code, no problem you can wear sandals or sports shoes during the training. However make sure you follow the dress codes during teaching.

50.) I've been trying to organize and sort out my bank account for when I move to Thailand, do you know how I will be getting paid e.g. will I be paid into a Thai bank, will it be in dollars or baht and do you have and recommendations on how I should organize my bank account for moving to Thailand?

You will be paid either in cash or by check, and will get your first check after 1st month of teaching. So you should bring ample enough to set yourself up there in Thailand and live until their first paycheck. You would not be able to open a bank account in Thailand until you get the work permit.

51.) What about my flight fare? Is it covered?

Unlike many other companies, we provide you high salary of 30,000 THB / month or more. There are companies who actually pay you less salary (20,000 - 25,000 THB per month) and say they cover the return flight fare cost which is same or more if you join our program as we pay you more salary. We prefer to be transparent.

52.) What is the deal with A4 Paper? Is this the standard in Thailand?

Yes, A4 size is standard paper size in Thailand. However for your copy stuff a little + - size is fine.

53.) Is there an airport pickup?

Yes, you will get airport pickup upon your arrival in Koh Samui. The date and time would be informed to you in the right time.

54.) Can you give me the names of the small cities or province where I would be placed?

We place all over Thailand, so very difficult to pin point few cities.

For further questions, please get back at the undersigned