

Residency in THAILAND

Infosheet Residency in

Thailand



Libredetat

Infosheet (Libredetat / Staatenlos)
Residency in Thailand

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IMPORTANT: Residency and appropriate stay permits are obtained through professional associates. Libredetat/Staatenlos acts only as an intermediary and receives commissions for the successful process.

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1. Why Thailand ?

Formerly known as *Siam*, Thailand is not only attractive to tourists who want to enjoy the beautiful weather, white beaches and good Thai food. With a variety of immigration options, Thailand can be a place where you can settle permanently or for a longer period of time and also enjoy a tax-free life.



Whether you want to stay in Thailand for your retirement, for work, family or personal reasons, our program covers all your needs. We will support you in obtaining a residence permit that matches your objectives.

Thailand is a very secure country, and probably the most open-minded countries in the world: abortion is legal until the 12th week of pregnancy ; homosexuality is legal, and Thailand is known as a popular destination for LGBT tourists. As for cannabis, there are constant ups-and-downs in the regulation: Thailand became the first country in Asia to decriminalize cannabis after it delisted the marijuana plant as a narcotic recently (2022). It is question of stricter regulation again in a near future in this field.

In addition to all these attractive points, you can live in Thailand on a small/tight budget !

Through our stateless partner who emigrated to Thailand, Staatenlos has a permanent base there, enabling us to offer you a bunch of services, a.o. Thai residence permits, driving license, real property services, and many others.

The ideal residence for nomads and retirees

A superb all-year-round climate, an excellent healthcare provision and a large expatriate community makes Thailand one of the preferred places to emigrate.

Thailand has become the top country in the world for digital nomads, freelancers, and remote workers. Foreign citizens living in Thailand is estimated to be between 3–4 million. Although most of them are from neighbouring countries, there is a high community of British, German and French citizens.

From 1-year visa to up to 20-years, Thailand can be your next home country. The features of these stay permits make it the perfect document for frequent travelers, digital nomads or for having a plan B up your sleeve.

2. The visas

Most foreigners who want to relocate to Thailand opt for one of these three visas:

- **Retirement visa**
- **Education Visa (ED visa)**
- **Elite visa (Privilege Entry visa)**

Retirement visa

This is a form of *Non-Immigrant O Visa*, which allows people over the age of 50 to live long-term in the country, assuming that all the criteria are met.

It can be obtained before entering Thailand (at the Royal Thai Embassy/Consulate) or after entering Thailand (at a local Immigration office) with a Tourist visa or an Exempt visa stamp.

The retirement visa, when applied for first time, takes 2 steps:

- 1) the Initial 3-months visa (Non-O Retirement visa)



- 2) the 12-month visa : that is the Retirement Visa per sé (can be applied only inside Thailand, and only after having received the initial 3-month visa).



If you choose to apply before entering Thailand, you will receive only the initial 3 months visa (Non-O Retirement) , and then you will have to extend this visa for another 12-months while being in Thailand (Retirement visa).

Key requirement for the Retirement visa:

- Passport: a valid passport that has a minimum of six months remaining and two blank pages
- Funds: not less than THB 800,000 in your Thai bank account for at least 3 months
 - Alternatively, if you have a monthly income of not less than THB 65,000 per month, this would be acceptable.
- 2x ID photographs
- Bank certificate showing your deposited funds
- Your bank book (updated at the same date as your bank certificate)
- Address (rental contract or property ownership)

Visa extension: 1 month before expiration of your 12-month visa, you can submit the application for renewal, with the exact same requirements as stated above.

Important :

- Please make sure to have at least 12 months left in your passport. If your passport is not valid for the whole visa duration, your visa would be allowed for only the time remaining in your passport.
- If you do not start the application at least 3 weeks before visa expiration, you run the risk of having to start the whole procedure from scratch (which includes the initial 3-months).

Non Immigrant O-X – 10 Year Retirement Visa

If you have the citizenship from one of the following countries: Japan, Australia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Canada and the United States, you may be interested by another variant of the Retirement visa, called ***Non Immigrant visa Retirement O-X***.

The Non Immigrant Visa – Retirement (O-X) differs in many ways from the Retirement visa described here above.

To be eligible you must:

- be aged 50y and above
- have a minimum of THB3 million in a Thai savings or fixed deposit account OR at least THB1.8 million in a Thai savings or fixed deposit account and an income of THB1.2 million or more per annum

- retain a balance of THB1.5 million for the duration of the visa

If you meet all these requirements, you can stay in Thailand 5 years + 5 years (total 10 years).

Visa renewal :

- all the requirements stated above (age / funds / citizenship) remain the same.

Education visa (Non “ED”)

The Non-Immigration ED visa (*Non “ED”*) is addressed to people of any age above 12 years. Children under 12y must be attached to their parent’s visa.

The Non ED Visa is valid for 90 days from the date of issuance. Once you get your first 90 days, you can extend by 90-days periods up to 4 periods in a year (total 12 months visa).



During each 90-day period of stay, if you wish to leave and re-enter Thailand, you are required to apply for a re-entry permit (single or multiple) before departure. If you leave Thailand without a re-entry permit, the current stay permit shall be considered void.

Important : If you breach the entry conditions for the ED visa, the stay permit will be revoked and you will be prohibited from entering Thailand in the future.

Visa renewal : after one year, if you qualify you may obtain an additional one-year stay permit, counting from the date of entry to Thailand.

The ED visa does not oblige you to have a Thai bank account but it requires your presence during 1-2 days for the procedure (we provide this service **in Pattaya only**, it is 2 hours drive from Bangkok).

Costs : The total cost for an Non ED visa is **€1600** (3-months visa + 3 extensions of 3 months) – all included

Visa renewal:

- for the Non ED visa, you must do the exact same procedure every year.
- renewal costs : +/-1600 € each year.

The Elite visa

This visa was introduced in 2013 by the Thai government and proposed by the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Sport.

It is most suitable to candidates who travel regularly and to families.

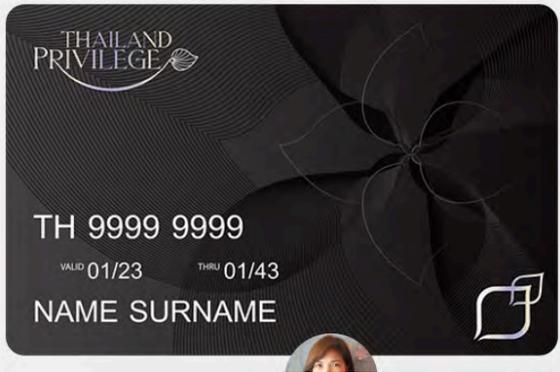
Most expatriates who do not qualify for the Retirement visa because of the age requirement, choose the [Elite visa](#) (renamed now as **Privilege Entry Visa « PE »**)

In addition, the Privilege Entry Visa offers 4 packages that may suit most of needs, from individuals to families, and with a stay permit from 5 to 20 years. It is with no doubt the longest visa delivered in Thailand. Actually, we can say that there are 3 packages from 5 to 15 years, and a 4th package giving right to 20 years is available only on invitation....

It is still a Tourist visa and you are not allowed to work in Thailand. Even if you can stay several years with this visa, the requirement for the 90 days report remains, but the good thing here is that all membership packages are multi-entries (you don't need a re-entry visa if you travel abroad).

The four packages 2024 :

<p>1-GOLD Package</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Membership program validity of 5 years▪ Provides a 5-year multiple entry visa▪ Costs THB 900,000 with no annual fee▪ No age restriction; you can apply at any age
<p>2-PLATINUM Package</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Membership program validity of 10 years▪ Provides a 5-year multiple entry visa, renewable for another 5 years▪ Costs THB 1.5 million with no annual fee (main applicant)▪ additional applicants : THB 1 million with no annual fee /applicant▪ No age restriction; members can apply at any age
<p>3-DIAMOND Package</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Membership program validity of 15 years▪ Provides a 5-year multiple entry visa, renewable for another 5 years twice through the 15-year membership duration▪ Costs THB 2.5 million with no annual fee (main applicant)▪ additional applicants : THB 1.5 million with no annual fee/ applicant▪ No age restriction; members can apply at any age
<p>4-RESERVE Package</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Membership program validity of 20 years or more

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Provides a 5-year multiple entry visa, renewable 3 x 5 years up to 20-year membership. After the 20 years is up, Thailand Elite members can apply for another 5-year visa▪ Membership can be transferred▪ Costs THB 5 million with no annual fee▪ additional applicants : THB 2 million with no annual fee/ applicant▪ By invitation only OR must go through an interview with Thailand Privilege▪ No age restriction
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Due to its high costs, the Privilege Entry visa is a *high-class* visa. It provides a lot of benefits : expedited immigration procedures at the airport on arrival and departure; special discounts at hospitals /hotels/ spas/ restaurants/ ...; assistance with immigration services; 90-day reporting service; and much more.

Key requirements for the Privilege Entry visa:

- Application form of the desired membership filled and signed
- Passport copy
- Picture (passport format)
- For family members: Proof of relationship (marriage certificate, birth certificate)

You can choose to do the application entirely on-line from abroad or call our services to proceed to your application. It goes without saying that our local office has the expertise that will make your life easier in this long application procedure.

The process takes 2 to 3 months. Once approved, you will be invited to make the payment.

Apply from abroad: if you are traveling from abroad to Bangkok Suvarnabhumi airport or Phuket International airport or Chiang Mai international airport, you can get your Thailand Elite visa on arrival.

Apply from Thailand: do not forget that you must have valid permits in Thailand until the end of the application. If you are already in Thailand, you can get your Thailand Elite Visa affixed at the Immigration of Bangkok Chaeng Wattana.

The application takes up to 3 months (but generally 2 months) and can be submitted from outside Thailand (100% on-line) or from Thailand. We can do the whole application for you.

With such a visa, you can have an uninterrupted stay in Thailand without the usual need to leave the country. Because it is a multi-entry visa, you may also leave the country as many times as you wish.

How to maintain your Elite visa valid ?

The first year, you receive a stamp valid for 1 year; you must renew the stamp each year until expiration of your purchased time (5, 10, 15 or 20 years).

Despite your Thailand Elite visa validity is for several years, it allows to stay in Thailand for a maximum of **1 year per stay**. If you don't plan to travel outside Thailand during a full year, you can contact the Member service which will send you a letter to extend your stay for another year. It's a simple step with just a form to fill, the letter from Member service and your passport.

If your passport will expire less than 5 years after the visa is granted, don't worry, you will receive free renewal until your Thailand Elite membership expires.

3. The service

Thailand is one of these “paper addict” countries. This means that for any and every step, you need a bunch of documents. And you need them in multiple copies.

But **with Staatenlos**, we have the right people at the right place for you ! This makes residency permit in Thailand easy to reach.

- You don't need to speak Thai (our local people speak English, French, Russian, Italian, Spanish)
- You don't need to prepare and fill-in the crazy number of documents (our local people do all the paper work for you)
- You don't need to understand where to go (our local people are there to drive you in to right office and stay with you until completion).

All we need from you is the following: your presence; your passport (validity of min 6 months or minimum duration of the targeted visa); entry visa;

You must travel to either Bangkok or Pattaya with these documents.

I-Our Retirement visa in Thailand can be done through a **standard procedure** OR an **accelerated procedure**.

One month before visa expires, you can renew the visa for another 12-month period. You can repeat the renewal during the rest of your life if you wish to.

We will do all the paperwork for your visa application and assist you in obtaining the supportive documents (bank account and bank book, bank certificate, address, TM30 form).

The Accelerated procedure is €1500 : includes 15-month visa + bank account + bank certificate + address + multi-entry visa

Renewal every year : +/-600 € (per renewal)

The Standard procedure costs €1200 : includes 15-month visa + bank account + bank certificate + address.

Renewal every year : +/-600 € (per renewal)

II-Our Education visa in Thailand can be done in Pattaya only.

Procedure costs €1600 all included (school registration + 3-months visa + 3 extensions of 3 months)

Renewal every year : +/-1600 € (per renewal)

One week before 90 days expire, you can extend for another 90 days. You can repeat the extension until reaching 1 year ED visa. After one year, you have to renew the whole procedure from school registration to the final 12th month.

We will do all the paperwork for your visa application and assist you in obtaining the supportive documents (registration at school, residence certificate, TM30 form).

III-Our Privilege Entry visa (formerly *Elite* visa) in Thailand.

This visa category is changing a lot. From previously 7 packages, the Government is now offering 4 packages. Their fees have increased by 50% to 250% only from last year to now !

As an example, the first package (5 years) was THB 600,000, it is now THB 900,000; the 20-y package was THB 2,000,000, it is now THB 5,000,000 !

If you have the required funds and wish to stay long-term in Thailand, the Privilege Entry visa is definitely the one to choose. And we advise to do it as soon as you can, seen the drastically increased costs....

4. FAQs

What if I don't stay the whole year in Thailand with my retirement visa ?

If you plan to travel during your visa period, you should ask for a re-entry visa before leaving Thailand. This will impact your obligation to report every 90 days: While you are not in the kingdom you will have to do the reporting as soon as you re-enter Thailand (within 48 hours actually). The Immigration Office will stamp your passport and fix the next 90-day reporting date.

What is the difference between the Non Immigrant O Visa Retirement and the Non Immigrant OA Visa Retirement?

Although they look quite the same, they differ. The Non Immigrant OA Visa Retirement requires a health insurance, the Non Immigrant O Visa Retirement does not.

The Health insurance must be valid for the duration of the visa with a minimum of THB 40,000 inpatient cover and THB 400,000 inpatient cover.

Are there alternatives if I don't possess the required minimum bank deposit ?

Alternatively, if you have a monthly income of not less than THB65,000 per month, this would be acceptable. A copy of an entire year's bank statement showing the regular income entries into your account should suffice.

You can also show a combination of savings held in a Thai bank account and an incoming with the total being not less than THB 800,000 per annum.

Do I have to be retired to benefit from the retirement visa ?

No, if you are above age 50 and can show not less than THB 800,000 on your Thailand's bank account for at least 3 months before your application, that is sufficient for the funds requirements.

What happens if I travel and I am not in Thailand for the renewal time ?

Your 1-year renewal retirement visa requires that you submit this application one month before your current visa expires. If you miss that deadline, you will have to start the whole process from scratch (the same as you did for your first application). This means that you will need to get the 3 months initial visa and then apply for the extension of 12 months.

□ **Important** : each application must be done one month before expiration of any current visa.

Many emigrants miss that critical point and find themselves in trouble when extending their visa. With Staatenlos, we keep record of your deadlines (if you wish so) and remind you about related extension's obligations.

Can I work with my Retirement visa ?

No, you are not allowed to work in Thailand with a Retirement visa, or an Education visa or even an Elite visa.

How can I obtain a work permit if I want to work in Thailand ?

Working in Thailand is very regulated. Compliance with the Thai rules are essential if you want to enjoy your stay in the country.

To obtain a work permit, you must be hired by a Thai company, or setup your company and apply for a work permit as one of the 4 other Thai staff employed by your company.

Which type of visa should I go for ? And what are the advantages / drawbacks of them ?

The 4 key criteria to decide for which visa to go with in Thailand depend on:

- your objective (retirement, study, work, company set-up, ...)
- your age (above age 50 or below)
- your funds
- the length of period you wish to stay in the country

The Retirement visa is among the most popular because it requires little funds to start with. Choosing this visa allows you to use your minimum deposit for your daily expenses, provided that you respect the strict rule of having not less than THB400,000 left in your bank during the first 4 months and during the 4 last months of your Retirement visa.

The Education visa does not require a bank account but restricts your travels abroad. You may find difficulties entering Thailand if you did not stay the whole year of your visa, implying that you may have to re-start the visa application from scratch with even risks to obtaining it.

Here, you don't have to report every 90 days at the Immigration Office, since you must extend your visa every 90 days.

In terms of paperwork, it's the easiest visa but it is not less expensive than the retirement visa (which allows you to travel provided that you do the necessary to re-enter).

The Elite visa (*called now Privilege Entry visa*) is the best offer if you have sufficient funds to 'buy' this visa. It is the most expensive visa (because the price that you pay is not a fund available for your living in Thailand – as opposed to the retirement visa funds requirement), but also the most suitable for staying long-term in Thailand. It allows you to stay for minimum 5 years and up to 20 years (based on the Elite category that you buy).

With a *Privilege Entry visa*, you still must do the 90-day reporting (TM47) at the Immigration Office.

Although you have the right for a stay of 5 to 20 years in Thailand, you still must get an annual stamp in your passport during the whole period of your visa.

The TM47 and annual stamps are included in your Member fee.

What is the 90 days reporting ?

The 90 days reporting (**TM47**) applies to all foreigners living in Thailand, including Thailand Elite Visa holders, who stay in Thailand more than 90 days.

If your visa allows you to travel but you find yourself abroad at the time of reporting, you must do it upon re-entry (within 48 hours).

What are the consequences of not reporting on due time as regards the 90 days rule ?

The Immigration Office allows a little margin. 90-day Reporting can be completed 14 days before or up to 7 days after the reporting date. However, failure to report after this period will result in a THB 2,000 penalty and should you be arrested, the fine will increase to THB 4,000 and could result in jail time and be added to the Immigration "blacklist" which could hinder visa applications in the future.

We strongly advise to pay careful attention to the dates (our staff can do the 90-days report on your behalf).

Can someone else do my 90-days report on my behalf ?

Yes. This report only needs to present your passport at the Immigration Office and fill-in the appropriate documentation as regards your current address in Thailand. A stamp for the next 90-days report date will be put in your passport.

Our staff in Thailand can do this on your behalf (with your passport of course).

Can I change my visa to another visa type ?

Yes you can, provided that you meet all the requirements for the new visa.

Beware that, in doing so, the remaining time of your current visa will be lost. For example, if you have 2 years remaining in your Elite visa, and you decide to apply for a Non Immigrant O Visa for marriage reasons, you will lose your Elite visa.

Do I have to pay taxes in Thailand with the Retirement visa ?

The Retirement visa allows you to stay in the country up to 15 months the first time. If you stay in the kingdom more than 180 days in any calendar year, you become taxable in Thailand. This is also true if you have a Retirement visa.

For Personal Income Tax ("PIT") purposes, Thailand takes into consideration your worldwide income, through the application of source rule and residence rule.

-Source rule applies to foreigners who earn Thai-sourced income, and thus, are subject to PIT in Thailand, whether or not such income is paid in Thailand.

-Residence rule applies to foreign-sourced income, depending on the status of the foreigner as a tax resident in Thailand or not.

As a retirement visa holder, you are not allowed to work in Thailand but if you stay more than 6 months you become a tax resident as per the new tax rules 2024. Therefore, your foreign-sourced income shall be subject to PIT in Thailand if such income is remitted into the Kingdom from now on.

However, if you can justify that your foreign income was earned before 2024, you will not be imposed on those revenues if you bring them to Thailand at any time.

On the other hand, if you stay less than 180 days in a calendar year, you are not a tax resident and PIT in Thailand does not apply to your foreign-sourced income (even if brought into Thailand).

More developments will occur in this field; we will advise in due time on them.

May I attach my family to my visa ?

Many categories of visa allow you to attach your family. However, the partner/wife/husband must be eligible for the same visa type; for example for a retirement visa both partners must be aged above 50 years.

For children, it depends on the targeted visa: in most cases they must be aged under 20 years (sometimes 12 or 14...).

Should you want to emigrate to Thailand with your family, [contact us](#) and we will provide you the appropriate information for the existing “family packages”.