



Transportation is Relative

The secret to getting around in the Land of Smiles

Article Length: 1,500 to 2,000 words

Target Audience: Individuals and couples considering a life overseas.

Article Synopsis:

This article explores how transportation solutions can differ from one location to the next in Thailand, and how to choose the right mode for the right place, according to your needs. When it comes to cost of living overseas, transportation will probably be in the top five on an expat's list of expenses. If you move to big country like Thailand, with a diverse group of cities, towns, and villages available to live in, it is important to know what options are available in each place.

I'll answer questions like, "Should I buy a car?" and "Is riding a motorbike safe in Thailand?" We'll also explore important processes like getting a driving license, buying a vehicle, and how to make the most of public transportation available in big cities like Bangkok.

The information contained in this article is useful as it can prevent new arrivals from wasting time and money, and ultimately not being mobile enough or paying too much for the privilege.

- A newcomer to Bangkok who buys a car will soon find out there aren't many places to park it. And once they've experienced the legendary traffic in Bangkok in person, they'll be purchasing their Skytrain card with a smile on their face.
- First timers in the islands like Koh Samui and Phuket will check their smartphones and see that the rideshare apps don't have many drivers. They'll also notice buses are non-existent, taxis overpriced, and the "baht buses" only run up and down the tourist areas. They'll need to learn the ropes of the car and motorcycle rental business if they want to get around.
- Expats who choose the rustic charm of the northern capital Chiang Mai will become familiar with the red baht buses, and the ubiquitous tuk-tuks around town as the public transportation system there is a little behind the times. It's one of the few places in Thailand where a bicycle might be a good option.

Excerpts:

"Bangkok traffic is the traffic that all other traffic should be measured by".

"At least once in your life, you have to try getting somewhere in the belching, hissing, three-wheeled deathtrap known as a tuk-tuk".

"I don't own a car. I don't purchase gas. I don't pay for insurance. I go wherever I want to go whenever I want to go there and my monthly transportation costs are less than \$100.