

Retiring in Thailand on a Budget - Part 2

If you were reading our article in the last issue of the Andaman Post on retiring in Thailand, here is the conclusion. The first part is available at www.andamanpost.com/ap25.html and it starts on page 22.

Contact with family back home is very easy and inexpensive with the Internet. You can go to an Internet Café or have Internet service at home.

Mail service takes about 10 days for a letter, longer for packages.

Phoning a foreign country from Thailand is easy and not too expensive.

Currently rates are around 7 - 8 baht per minute to phone the UK, USA, Australia and South Africa, for example.

Although it makes life easier to know at least a rudimentary level of the Thai language, it is not mandatory in Phuket, the major areas of Bangkok, and in many of the other tourist areas of Thailand.

English is the language of travelers, so on a resort island like Phuket you can get by quite easily never learning any Thai. It is helpful to know some, however, and

without much effort you can pick up the basics just living here. If you want more, you can buy tapes and books.

There are several Thai language schools on the island as well.

It is nice to have something to do when you are here. This shouldn't be a problem for most people.

I write stories, write music, go on the Internet, go to movies, ride around on my motorbike, sit at the beach, go out with friends, and many other things.

I am never at loss for something to do. Besides, Phuket and Thailand isn't all bars.

There are many interesting places to go and things to do I haven't done yet.

If you still find the need to work, you can start a business here with 2,000,000 Baht = \$50,000 US.

I am told many businesses are started with

less than \$50,000 in actual cash, but only show it on paper.

I never looked into how that is done. If starting a business, see a competent business lawyer and set it up right. Although you can't work here without a work permit, you can make money from a business.

Many Westerners like to party here, but could not live here. Moving to a foreign country requires a person to be open minded, flexible, and not to expect things to be the way it was back home.

Living in a foreign country is also different than visiting. But anyone who is open to new experiences and a new way of life can really enjoy the differences. The beauty of moving to Thailand is; it most certainly can be affordable.

Join us, and enjoy your retirement.

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