

ALL SMILES

Land of smiles. That's Thailand's nickname. Thailand is famous around the world for its smiles. And it's true. Thai people smile a lot! Not all the time of course but certainly a lot of the time. You'll notice it everywhere. When you arrive at the airport, at your hotel and on the street. And Thai people love to laugh, especially when they're with their family and friends.

BUT THERE ARE A FEW THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE THAI SMILE

Thai people also laugh if they don't understand something or feel uncomfortable. For example if a foreigner asks something and they don't speak English or don't know the answer. They do it to avoid losing face or putting themselves in an embarrassing situation.

Children learn at a young age that laughing is a good way to avoid admitting you don't know something, or to hide that you're shy.

But it's still great to see smiling people all the time. Much nicer than seeing miserable faces everywhere you go!



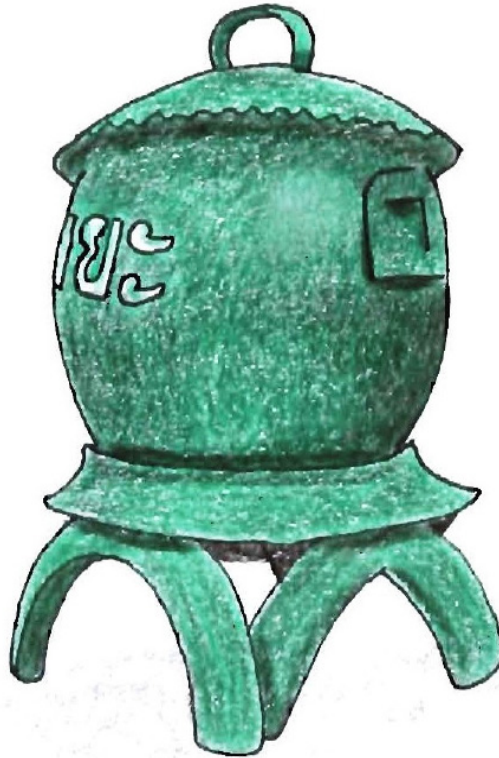
TRASH

Every country has trash, Thailand included. You'll see big garbage trucks and handcarts for collecting trash everywhere. Yet you'll probably still be amazed by the amount of garbage piled up in the streets. It might look like people just throw their trash out onto the street.

Unfortunately there are still some people who do this. But in Thailand it's also very normal for trash to be collected straight from the streets, not just from trashcans and containers. That's why you'll see piles of trash everywhere. People know it'll be collected.

DIFFERENT BASKETS

Refuse collectors also sort the trash. On top of garbage trucks you'll see different baskets for different sorts of trash. There's a basket for plastic bottles, a basket for cardboard, a basket for iron and a basket for tin cans. Once the trash has been collected it's sorted and then sold.



Trashcan made from car tires

Refuse collectors don't sort the trash because they're so environmentally friendly. They do it because they get money for it. Wages for refuse collectors are pretty low and they need every extra baht they can get.

HELPING HAND

As well as refuse collectors, lots of other people make their living from trash. People go through trashcans and containers before they've been emptied and take out anything of value. They also collect plastic bottles and tin cans that people drop on the street.

People who collect trash are often very poor and you might even see children helping their parents.

So if you see someone collecting trash and you have an empty plastic bottle or tin can, do them a favor and give it to them.

LIST TRANSPORT

Tuk tuk, sky train or metro. Thailand has so many ways of getting around and its great fun to try out as many as possible. On this page you can keep track of all the different forms of transport you take, and whether you enjoyed them or not.



FORM OF TRANSPORT	TRIED OUT IN	DATE	FUN / NOT FUN
Airplane			
Bicycle taxi			
Bus boat			
City bus			
Ferry			
Long distance bus			
Long tail boat			
Metro (MRT)			
Pick up truck			
Red taxi (Chiang Mai)			
Sky train (BTS)			
Speedboat			
Taxi			
Tuk tuk			