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## Everything you need to know about the Thai Culture

Whether you're in Bangkok for business or leisure, familiarity with cultural-considerations and Thai-traditions will help you understand the unfamiliar and avoid accidental offense. Why shouldn't you touch someone's head? What's so wrong with pointing? What should you wear to visit a temple? Take a look at our introduction of what to do and what not to when it comes to Thai culture.



### Greetings

One of the first things to know when visiting Bangkok, or anywhere else in Thailand, is the local greeting. The 'wai' consists of pressing your palms together at chest or nose level while bowing your head slightly. This gesture is an integral part of Thai etiquette, denoting respect, and can be used to express a hello, goodbye, or thank you.



### A Heads Up

Although you might not find yourself in a situation where any kind of head-touching is likely to arise, if you do, then remember that the head is considered sacred. That means no touching and even be mindful of passing something over someone's head.



### Keep Calm and Carry On

Raising your voice might seem a good way to get your point across, but in Thailand it's a big no no. Considered an act of losing control, becoming loud or aggressive won't get you anywhere. On the contrary, quiet and humble is always the best approach in Thailand.



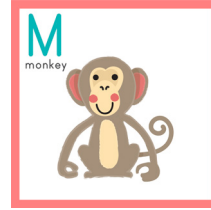
### Duck!

Walk the streets of Bangkok like a local by remembering to duck. You'll likely spot the local Thai people ducking down slightly when passing in front of two people talking. This is a polite gesture of respect to acknowledge the interruption.



### Temple Etiquette

Although otherwise most types of attire are tolerated, it is advisable to cover up when visiting temples and shrines, as those wearing sleeveless tops, short skirts, shorts, and flip flops will likely be denied entrance. For women travelling, be warned it is not unusual to encounter signs prohibiting women from entering highly sacred places, such as temple libraries.



### Don't Feed The Monkeys

The monkeys might look very cute and they're almost guaranteed Instagram likes but this does not mean you should feed them. Not only does feeding the monkeys make them less able to find food on their own, it also means that they'll associate people with food. Those monkeys won't seem quite so adorable when they're emptying the contents of your bag.



### Royal Reverence

Thailand is a constitutional monarchy, and the royal family is much revered throughout the country. It's not uncommon to spot royal family pictures on the occasional poster or a photo displayed on a taxi dashboard. If you hear the King's anthem played be sure to stand, and always avoid making disparaging remarks about the royals in person or online.



### No Point

Pointing might seem harmless but pointing at the wrong thing can be seen as an act of disrespect in Thailand. Certainly never point at a monk or pictures of any of the Royal Family. If you need to 'point' someone out, bend your hand downwards with your fingers leaning toward the floor and your palm facing upward, rather than pointing a finger at anyone.



### National Pride

Over recent decades, the government in Thailand have introduced various practices to encourage nationalism, including broadcasts of the national anthem twice a day. When this song is heard, pedestrians, commuters, and students are required to stop or stand.



### Never Mind

The phrase Mai pen rai (never mind) describes the country's unofficial philosophy, with their general knack for keeping cool even in annoying situations. Their laidback mind-set goes hand-in-hand with an inherent sense of light-heartedness. In Thailand nothing is taken too seriously.

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