

# BEYOND FAMILIAR SHORES

## Thailand Visa Comparison Sheet

Last reviewed: October 2026

This comparison is intended as a starting point for researching your options. Visa requirements can vary based on nationality, where you apply, and your individual circumstances. Always verify current requirements through the Thai e-Visa website, the Thai embassy or consulate processing your application, or a qualified immigration professional.

| Option         | May Be a Fit If...                                                                                         | Typical Stay                                              | Financial Requirement                                                               | Work Considerations                  | Family/Dependents                              | Things to Consider                                                              |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Visa Exemption | You are visiting Thailand or testing it out before committing to a move                                    | Currently up to <b>30 days</b> for eligible nationalities | No major visa-specific financial threshold, although entry requirements still apply | Not intended for working in Thailand | Each traveler generally qualifies individually | Short-term solution only; eligibility depends on nationality                    |
| Tourist Visa   | You want a longer temporary stay but aren't relocating under a work, retirement, family, or study category | Generally <b>up to 60 days per entry</b>                  | Requirements vary by embassy/consulate                                              | Tourism, not employment              | Usually separate applications                  | Good for exploring Thailand, but not designed as a long-term residence solution |

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|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Destination<br/>Thailand<br/>Visa (DTV)</b> | You are a digital nomad, remote worker, freelancer, participating in qualifying Thai activities, or a qualifying dependent | <b>180 days per entry</b>                                                                                    | At least <b>500,000 THB in financial evidence</b> | Designed to accommodate qualifying remote workers/freelancers and certain other activities; it is not the same as permission to take a normal Thai job | Spouse and dependent children can qualify under the DTV program | <b>5-year, multiple-entry visa.</b> Documentation requirements can differ depending on where you apply |
| <b>Non-Immigrant ED — Education</b>            | You genuinely plan to study at a qualifying school, university, language program, or other eligible institution            | Initial stays are commonly <b>up to 90 days</b> , with extensions depending on the program and circumstances | Varies                                            | Do not assume an education visa gives you permission to work                                                                                           | Depends on individual circumstances                             | School/program legitimacy, attendance requirements, extensions, and supporting documents matter        |
| <b>Non-Immigrant B — Business/Employment</b>   | You will be working for or conducting qualifying business with a company in Thailand                                       | Depends on visa and subsequent extension                                                                     | Depends on employment/business situation          | Common route associated with employment in Thailand; additional work authorization requirements may apply                                              | Family members may have separate dependent options              | Very different from simply working remotely for an overseas employer                                   |

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| <b>Retirement Visa Options</b>           | You are <b>50+</b> and want to live in Thailand without working                                       | Depends on route; some allow stays of <b>one year or longer</b>          | Certain routes use thresholds such as <b>800,000 THB in funds and/or qualifying monthly income</b> | Employment is generally prohibited under retirement status                                                              | Some routes have provisions for spouses                                  | There are several retirement routes, including Non-O, O-A and O-X, with different financial, insurance and nationality requirements |
| <b>Non-Immigrant O – Family/Marriage</b> | You have a qualifying relationship with a Thai citizen or meet another eligible Non-O purpose         | Depends on category and extensions                                       | Requirements depend on reason for applying                                                         | The visa itself should not automatically be treated as permission to work; separate work authorization may be necessary | This category itself is frequently used for qualifying family situations | Requirements differ significantly depending on whether the basis is marriage, family, dependency, etc.                              |
| <b>Long-Term Resident Visa (LTR)</b>     | You fall into one of Thailand's specific high-income, wealthy, pensioner or highly skilled categories | <b>10-year visa program</b> , generally structured in two 5-year periods | High qualification thresholds that vary by category                                                | Work benefits depend on the particular LTR category                                                                     | Qualifying dependents may be included                                    | Attractive benefits, but eligibility is considerably narrower than options such as the DTV                                          |

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| <b>Thailand Privilege</b> | <p>You want long-term stays and are willing to pay a substantial membership fee for convenience and additional services</p> <p>Membership options currently range from <b>5–20 years</b></p> <p>Membership currently starts at <b>650,000 THB</b></p> | <p><b>Thailand Privilege membership itself does not grant permission to work or study</b></p> <p>Certain higher membership tiers offer supplementary family memberships</p> <p>Expensive upfront, but can offer a simpler long-term option for people who do not need employment rights</p> |
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## Quick Comparison: What Are You Going to Thailand to Do?

**I just want to experience Thailand for a while.**

→ Start by researching the **Visa Exemption or Tourist Visa**.

**I work remotely for a company outside Thailand or freelance online.**

→ Research the **Destination Thailand Visa (DTV)** and, if you meet its much higher eligibility requirements, the **LTR Work-from-Thailand Professional category**.

**I want to study Thai or enroll in another legitimate program.**

→ Research the **Non-Immigrant ED Visa**.

**I have been hired to work for a company in Thailand.**

→ Research the **Non-Immigrant B Visa** and applicable work authorization.

**I am 50 or older and plan to retire in Thailand.**

→ Compare Thailand's **Non-O retirement, O-A and O-X options**.

**I am married to a Thai citizen or have qualifying Thai family.**

→ Research the applicable **Non-Immigrant O family category**.

**I meet high income, asset or professional requirements.**

→ Look into the **Long-Term Resident Visa**.

**I don't need to work in Thailand and am willing to pay for a long-term option.**

→ Research **Thailand Privilege**.

## Don't Compare Visas by Length Alone

Before deciding, compare:

- What you are legally allowed to do while in Thailand
- Visa validity
- Length of each permitted stay
- Extension requirements
- Entry and re-entry rules
- Financial requirements
- Money you must **spend** versus money you only need to **show**
- Health insurance requirements
- Work restrictions
- Dependent eligibility
- Application and renewal fees
- Reporting requirements
- What happens if your employment, marriage, school enrollment, or financial situation changes

**The longest visa isn't automatically the best visa. The better question is which option actually fits the life you intend to live in Thailand.**

For informational purposes only. Visa requirements can change. Always verify current requirements with official Thai government sources.

## **Beyondfamiliarshores.com**