

FOOD & CULTURE OF THAILAND

Purdue College of Ag Study Abroad May 2026



Trip Leaders

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Thailand Study Abroad Overview

Where is
Thailand?

Who has ever
visited ANY of
these
countries?



Thailand Study Abroad Overview

Food & Culture

May 12 – 27, 2026

- Estimated Cost - \$4,300
 - Dependent on number of students
- This cost includes all in country activities, hotels, travel and some meals. It does not include airfare to and from Bangkok, Thailand
- US residents do not need a visa to visit Thailand. You will need to apply for Thailand digital arrival card (simple and free).

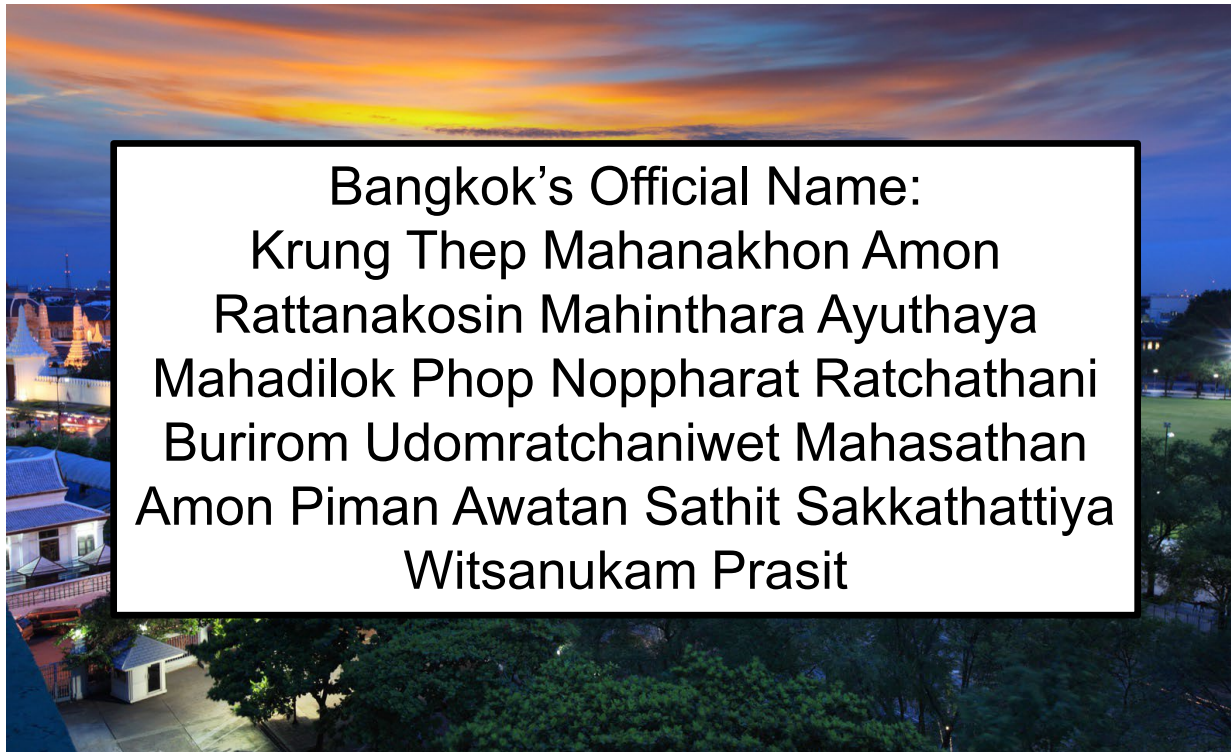




Thailand Study Abroad Overview

Trivia Question 1

- What city has the longest official name in the world?



Bangkok's Official Name:
Krung Thep Mahanakhon Amon
Rattanakosin Mahinthara Ayuthaya
Mahadilok Phop Noppharat Ratchathani
Burirom Udomratchaniwet Mahasathan
Amon Piman Awatan Sathit Sakkathattiya
Witsanukam Prasit

Overall objective: “Is to encourage you to . . .”


- Apply theories and perspectives of the food & agriculture disciplines in addressing economic and social challenges.
- Demonstrate intercultural competencies to understand similarities and differences in values/social norms to help during interactions with people of different ethnicities and cultures.
- Demonstrate critical thinking and emotional intelligence through observation and interpreting resources to respond to complex problems.
- Demonstrate effective communication and constructive work practices with people from other cultures to identify and assess opportunities and projects.



So What Are We Doing?

Tentative Program Schedule

Program Schedule


Time	Content	Meal	Transportation	Location
Day 1	May 12, 2026, Tue.	-/-/D	Private Coach	the U.S.- Bangkok
AM/PM	Arrive in Bangkok, Thailand	Airport transfer with Private Coach & Guide		
EVE	Welcome Dinner & Program Orientation	Subject to change according to arrival time		
Day 2	May 13, 2026, Wed.	B/-/-	Private Coach	Bangkok
AM/PM	One-day Bangkok City Tour <ul style="list-style-type: none">Explore Bangkok, visiting Wat Arun (Temple of Dawn), Wat Pho (Reclining Buddha Temple), Wat Phra Kaew (Emerald Buddha Temple), and The Grand Palace. Learn about the culture, religion, and history of Thailand while seeing key landmarks of the city.			
Day 3	May 14, 2026, Thu.	B/-/-	Private Coach	Bangkok
AM/PM	University Visit #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Including a Laboratory tour on facilities related to Food Science and Agro-Industry	Possible Option: Kasetsart University , etc.		



So What Are We Doing?

Tentative Program Schedule

Day 4	May 15, 2026, Fri.	B/-/-	Private Coach	Bangkok
AM	Site Visit #1	Possible Option: Tetra Pak (Thailand) Ltd. , etc.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Learn about supply chain innovation, packaging technology			
PM	Site Visit #2	Possible Option: CP THAIRICE , etc.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Learn about rice production, processing, and export strategies			

Day 5	May 16, 2026, Sat.	B/-/-	Private Coach	Bangkok
AM/PM	One-day Floating & Railway Market Tour			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Experience a boat ride and a walking tour through the respective markets, learn about daily life and culture.			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Observe how rivers and canals facilitate trade, how vendors adapt to the unique conditions of a railway market, and how these spaces illustrate the intersections of mobility, commerce, and local community life.			

Day 6	May 17, 2026, Sun.	B/-/-	Private Coach	Bangkok-Chiang Mai
AM/PM	Fly from Bangkok to Chiang Mai	Airport transfer with Private Coach & Guide		



So What Are We Doing?

Tentative Program Schedule

Day 7
AM

May 18, 2026, Mon.

Chiang Mai Old City Tour

- Learn about the history of **Chiang Mai** while walking through the **Old City**, visiting **Wat Chedi Luang**, **Wat Phan Tao**, **Wat Phra Singh**, and **Tha Phae Gate**. This walk offers a glimpse into the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of northern Thailand.

B/-/-

Private Coach

Chiang Mai



PM

Lanna Heritage Tour

- Visit the symbolic **Three Kings Monument**, a key landmark of Chiang Mai, followed by the **City Arts & Cultural Center**. The museum provides interactive exhibits and insights into the history, traditions, and cultural identity of the Lanna Kingdom.



Thailand Study Abroad Overview

Trivia Question 2 (food & pop culture)

- What energy drink originated in Thailand?

Red Bull!

Originally the drink was called Krating Daeng, which translates to Red Gaur (a gaur is a type of bison), and was created by Chaleo Yoovidhya. Dietrich Mateschitz (Austria) discovered the drink cured his jet lag, went into business with Yoovidhya, and the rest is a very jittery history.



So What Are We Doing?

Tentative Program Schedule

Day 8	May 19, 2026, Tue.	B/-/-	Private Coach	Chiang Mai
AM	Site Visit #3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Learn about the Circular Agri-food system in Thailand	Possible Option: Center for Agricultural Resource System Research , etc.		
PM	Visit to Warorot Market <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Explore the regional marketplace reflecting trade networks and cultural practices.			


Day 9	May 20, 2026, Wed.	B/-/-	Private Coach	Chiang Mai
AM/PM	Site Visit #4 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Visit a community for organic farming, vegetarian food and Dharma teaching	Possible Option: Mindful Farm , etc.		

Day 10	May 21, 2026, Thu.	B/-/-	Private Coach	Chiang Mai
AM	Wat Suan Dok project <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Wat Suan Dok, also known as Wat Buppharam, is a Buddhist temple in Chiang Mai. One of two public Buddhist universities in Thailand is housed within the temple compound. Including Monk Chat and Meditation Session, and Social Work Project.			




So What Are We Doing?

Tentative Program Schedule

Day 11 AM/PM	May 22, 2026, Fri. Elephant World Sanctuary (lunch will be included) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A self-supporting Environmental Conservation Organization caring for domestic elephants, situated just outside Kanchanaburi, Thailand. Animal rescue facility offers visitors one-on-one experiences such as elephant feeding & bathing.	B/L/-	Private Coach	Chiang Mai
				
Day 12 AM/PM EVE	May 23, 2026, Sat. Fly from Chiang Mai to Bangkok Weekend Night Market Tour <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Visit one of the weekend markets in Bangkok, like Chatuchak Market, Jodd Fairs, etc. Experience the vibrant market culture.	B/-/-	Private Coach	Chiang Mai - Bangkok
			Airport transfer with Private Coach & Guide	

So What Are We Doing?

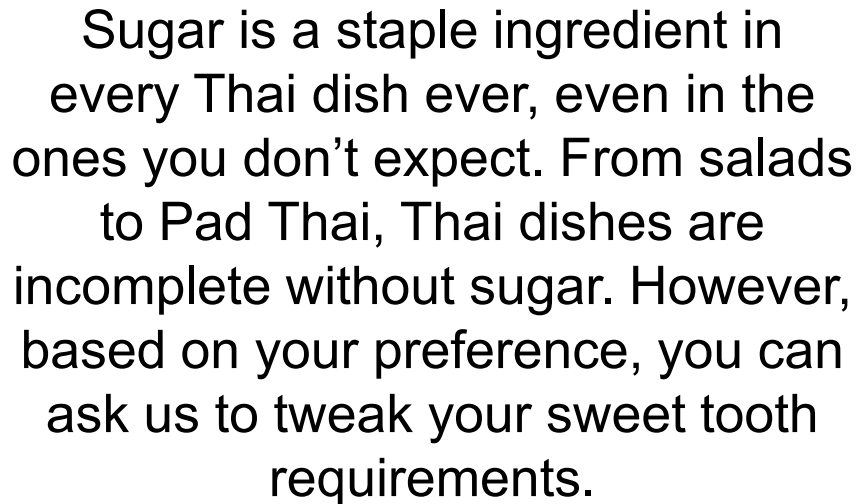
Tentative Program Schedule

Day 13 AM/PM	May 24, 2026, Sun. One-day Excursion to Ayutthaya <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ayutthaya is the ancient capital of Siam, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its majestic temples, historical ruins, and riverside scenery. - Explore Ayutthaya Historical Park including Wat Mahathat – famous for the Buddha head entwined in tree roots. Visit nearby Wat Ratchaburana and Wat Phra Si Sanphet, former royal temple and palace ruins. - Lunch will be included 	B/L/-	Private Coach	Bangkok
				
Day 14 AM	May 25, 2026, Mon. Lecture #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One (1) invited industry expert or University faculty. 	B/-/-	Private Coach	Bangkok
PM	Free Time	Proposed topic: "Food Industry and Food Economy in Thailand" (subject to the faculty's suggestions)		
Day 15 AM/PM	May 26, 2026, Tue. Free Day & Pack Day	B/-/D	Private Coach	Bangkok
EVE	Farewell Dinner & Program Conclusion			
Day 16 AM/PM	May 27, 2026, Wed. Departure for the U.S.	B/-/-	Private Coach	Bangkok - the U.S.
		Airport transfer with Private Coach & Guide		

Thailand Study Abroad Overview

Trivia Question 3 (cuisine)

- What is a staple ingredient in every Thai dish?



Sugar is a staple ingredient in every Thai dish ever, even in the ones you don't expect. From salads to Pad Thai, Thai dishes are incomplete without sugar. However, based on your preference, you can ask us to tweak your sweet tooth requirements.



Is it Safe to Visit Thailand?

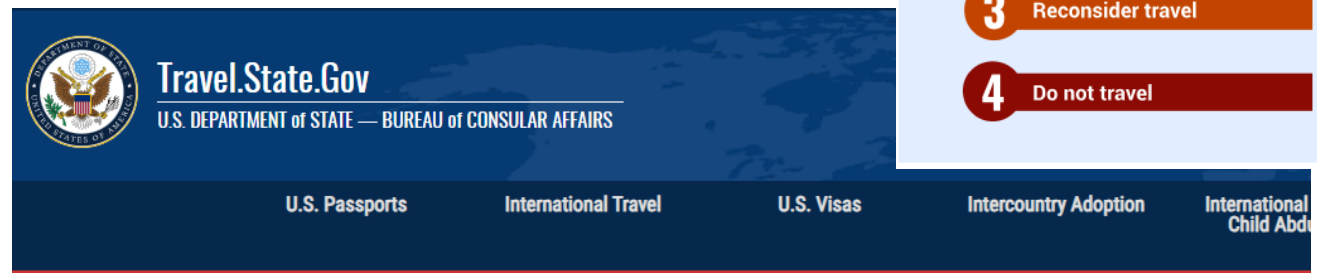
Yes... safer than the US

- Thailand has an overall lower crime rate than Germany, Canada, USA, Ireland, Australia, Italy, Sweden, Belgium and France
- Watch out for pickpockets in tourist areas, you might get overcharged for a taxi...
- We will have a local Thai guide the entire trip.



Is it Safe to Visit Thailand?

- Bangkok and Chiang Mai are not in the areas of concern for Thailand.



[Travel.State.Gov](#) > [Travel Advisories](#) > Thailand Travel Advisory

Travel Advisory Levels

- 1 Exercise normal precautions
- 2 Exercise increased caution
- 3 Reconsider travel
- 4 Do not travel

Thailand Travel Advisory

Travel Advisory
July 25, 2025

Thailand - Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution

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The advisory level was increased to Level 2. An area of increased risk was added. The advisory summary was updated.

Exercise increased caution in Thailand due to risk of **unrest**. Some areas have increased risk. Read the entire Travel Advisory.

Do Not Travel to:

- Areas along the Cambodian and Thai border due to **armed conflict**.

Advisory summary:

Exercise increased caution due to **civil unrest** associated with ongoing insurgent activities in the Yala, Pattani, and Narathiwat provinces.

Thailand Study Abroad Course

Actual Travel: May 12 – 27, 2026

- This is also a three-credit course:
- FOOD & CULTURE OF THAILAND
- (SA 21267) FS 49100 – 3 credits

There will be some Pre-, During- and Post- assignments to encourage you to intentionally learn and grow, and not only visit and enjoy.

“What is my WHY?” for enrolling in this experience?

- What are you most excited to experience?
- How do you expect the trip to challenge or expand your current understanding of the world?
- What are your personal goals for this trip?
- What aspect of agriculture and food are you most interested in learning about?



Thailand Study Abroad Overview

May 12 – 27, 2026

(SA21267)= Estimated @ \$4300 and Three (3) credits

FS 49100 FOOD & CULTURE OF THAILAND

Preliminary Plan:

We will use Brightspace and there will be assignments:

▪ Individual Attendance	20
▪ Pre departure assessments	10
▪ Preflection “What is my WHY?”	15
▪ Pre-Trip Exploratory Report/Presentations	15
▪ Guided Reflection Journals – three during the travels	15
▪ Photo/Video Story - images, local music and narrative, create a 3-4-minute video about your experiences and “How Thailand & Cambodia changed me?”	<u>25</u>
Total	100



THAILAND

SHORT-TERM SUMMER

FOOD & CULTURE OF THAILAND

Scan Here and
Join Us!!



Dates: May 12-27, 2026



Credits: FS 491 – 3 credits



Locations: Bangkok, Chiang Mai



Estimated Cost: \$4300, includes some meals, accommodation, activities, transportation, admission fees



Program Leaders: Kristin Whitney (klwhitne@purdue.edu) & Amanda Deering (adeering@purdue.edu)



Callout: Sept 18, 2025 @ 5:30 pm in NLSN 1216

Immerse yourself in Southeast Asian culture, history and food. Indulge in street food, curries, rice, soups, noodles, stews and desserts. Tour food markets, Chiang Mai Old City, Tha Phae Gate, Elephant World Sanctuary and Wat Arun. Fly between Bangkok to Chiang Mai. Cook traditional Thai food. Experience a rice farm, silkworm farm, coffee village and organic farm. Explore a blend of urban and rural adventures in Thailand.

Study Abroad Today



AGAD 104



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@AgBoilersAbroad





QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU

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