

Romanian Tourist Guide for Thailand

Greetings

- In Romania when you greet a friend, you can hug him and kiss him on both cheeks.
- In Thailand, people neither hug nor kiss in public.
- In Thailand people WAI. The younger person wais the older. The older person may “receive” the wai or just nod.

The really wrong way to greet a person in
Thailand:



Waazaap!

- The good way to greet a person in Thailand:



Misunderstood Signs:

- Between Thailand and Romania there aren't many signs that may be misunderstood, so a Romanian tourist shouldn't have problems making himself/herself understood.
- But, in Thailand, if someone speaks to you, it is quite impolite to just nod, even if it's a yes or no, without saying it.



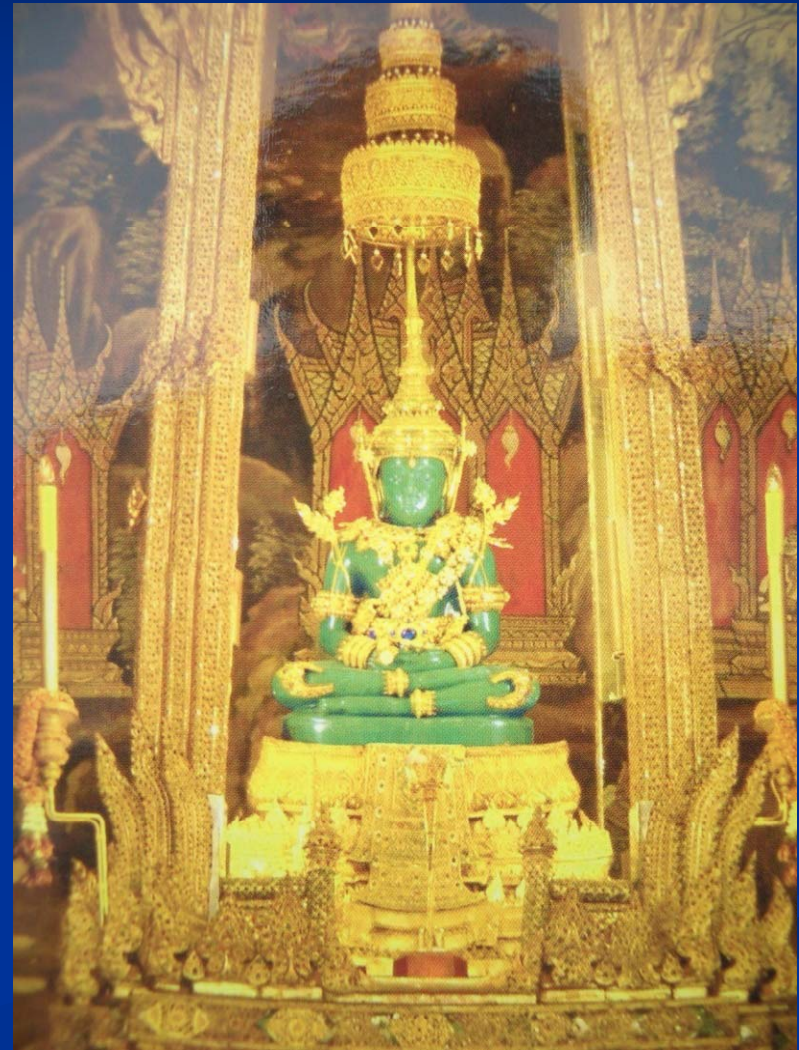
**But if you don't say anything,
this may happen!**

Behaviors

- If you are a tourist and you visit Thailand, you should know that there are some things that are considered rude, even if back home you do that on a daily basis.
- If you are a woman visiting Thailand, you should definitely know that if you see a monk, you got to keep your distance. If you touch him, not only will you get the monk in trouble, you may also get arrested.

- If you are a tourist and you really like to see monuments and take fancy photos of you and the statue, you should know that it's unacceptable for anyone to hug a Buddha statue or a statue of a highly respected person (like a king).

If a tourist hugs this statue, he will
get arrested and...





... this may happen again.

House Party

- Types of parties: dinner, casual dinner, *pot luck* (everyone brings something to eat or drink)
- Punctuality: the arrival time is usually later than the scheduled time (15-30 minutes); if you are later than that, you have to let them know. Never arrive earlier because your friend might not be ready!
- First entrance: you have to take your shoes off when you enter the house.
- Gifts: bringing gifts is not a must, but you can ask your friend if you need to bring anything

- Conversation topics: you don't usually discuss about religion because it is too serious and you also assume that everyone is Buddhist; they talk about family, their lives or jobs.
- Table manners: unlike their Japanese neighbours who have noisy eating habits, Thai people are more quiet.



Business Culture

- Introducing and getting to know people: it is important to be introduced to a potential business partner by a third person and the highest ranked one is introduced first.
- The exchange of business cards is similar to the Western one.
- Dress code: unlike in Romania, clothes are not an epitome of status and the stress is put on cleanliness.

- Business language and presentations: Thai people use English in multinational environments. However, the use of non-verbal communication makes it harder for foreigners. **DON' T** use irony, sarcasm or puns. In presentations **DO** use diagrams, tables, graphics.
- Meetings: prepare thoroughly and in advance:
 - arrive according to your status within the company

- Conflict: -Thai people are not concerned of losing face
- Critics: - no direct formulation
 - ” Maybe we could do it like this...”
- Sense of time: - very punctual in meetings
 - only the boss is allowed to arrive last, else you could get into trouble
 - early for a job interview