


## 10 Thai Countryside Travel Destinations for ESL Teachers and Freelancers to Get Away and Make Money

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This article provides a guide for ESL teachers and freelancers who want to live and work in the countryside of Thailand, a country known for its natural beauty and cultural diversity. The article covers the following topics:

- The requirements and preparation for ESL teaching jobs in Thailand, especially for native and non-native English speakers.
- The tips and resources for finding teaching jobs in rural Thailand, as well as the benefits and challenges of teaching in small towns and villages.
- The opportunities and attractions for freelancers and remote teachers in rural Thailand, as well as the best co-working spaces and internet facilities.
- The cultural and linguistic barriers that ESL teachers and freelancers may encounter in rural Thailand, and how to overcome them with respect and patience.
- The top 10 Thai countryside destinations for ESL teachers and freelancers, each with its own unique features, cost of living, and salary range.

The article concludes by encouraging ESL teachers and freelancers to embrace the Thai countryside as a life-changing experience that can enrich their personal and professional lives while making a positive impact on the local communities.

**Additional Keywords and Phrases:** ESL Teaching in Thailand, Freelancing in Rural Thailand, Overcoming Cultural Barriers, Thai Countryside Destinations, Remote Teaching Opportunities

### Reference Format:

Hasan, M. S. 2024. 10 Thai Countryside Travel Destinations for ESL Teachers and Freelancers: A Comprehensive Guide to Living and Working in Rural Thailand. Rural ESL Teaching and Freelancing, March 02, 2024, Phitsanulok, Thailand.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Are you yearning for a change of pace, a break from the urban grind? Well, you're in luck! The rustic charm of Thailand's countryside offers a unique opportunity for ESL teachers (The TEFL Academy, 2022) and internet freelancers (Upwork, 2024; Research in Thailand, 2023) to immerse themselves in the local culture, all while working amidst breathtaking landscapes and welcoming communities. We've curated a list of five idyllic destinations that promise a blend of adventure, serenity, and a fulfilling career.

Before we delve into the list, let's take a moment to hear from an experienced foreign science teacher who has spent years living and working in rural Thailand. With a wealth of knowledge in health risk assessment, environmental pollution, toxicology, and research projects, he is well-equipped to provide valuable insights into life and work in rural Thailand.

So, are you ready to embark on this journey with us and our seasoned guide? It's time to uncover the natural splendor of Thailand and envision a life in the countryside. Let the excitement begin!

## 2 EMBARKING ON A TEACHING JOURNEY IN THAILAND'S COUNTRYSIDE

### 2.1 Preparing for ESL Teaching Jobs in Thailand

Are you dreaming of teaching English in the picturesque countryside of Thailand? The standards set by the Teacher's Council of Thailand are pivotal for both native and non-native English speakers (John, 2022; Wisalaporn & The Government Gazette, Thailand, 2005).

- **For Native English Speakers:**
  1. A passport from an English-speaking nation is your ticket to start!
  2. A bachelor's degree from an accredited university with an original transcript showcasing a 2.5 GPA is required.
  3. A 120-hour TEFL/TESOL certificate is a must-have.
  4. A criminal background check from Thailand or your home country is necessary (Gosnell, 2022).
- **For Non-Native English Speakers:**
  1. Holding a passport from a country where English is the first language or having studied there is essential.
  2. An original transcript with a 2.5 GPA and a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited university is required.
  3. A 120-hour TEFL or TESOL certificate is crucial (TEFL, 2019).
  4. A TOEIC or TOEFL score to demonstrate English proficiency is needed (Kenyon, 2023).
  5. Passing the Teacher's Council of Thailand's English test (Kurusapha) is mandatory (Kenyon, 2023).

However, don't let these requirements deter you from teaching in Thailand's countryside, a place that offers a deep dive into the country's culture and beauty. With the right mindset and preparation, you can successfully apply and embark on a new adventure. Teaching in a small town amidst lush countryside, local markets, and friendly inhabitants is a dream come true. With the right qualifications and approach, you can make it a reality (Patterson, 2022).

Before applying for a teaching post, ensure to check the prerequisites of the school and location. With proper planning and a positive outlook, you can embark on an experience that will broaden your horizons and create lasting memories (Patterson, 2022). Are you ready to teach in Thailand's beautiful countryside?

### **3 ESL TEACHING JOBS IN RURAL THAILAND: TIPS AND RESOURCES**

Native English speakers can easily find teaching jobs in rural Thailand. However, non-native speakers may need to put in extra effort to showcase their qualifications and teaching skills. The best approach is to visit schools with a concise résumé highlighting your educational background, teaching experience, and teaching-related images. Remember to communicate politely with Thai people.

There are numerous websites and Facebook groups, in addition to visiting schools, that can help you locate teaching jobs in Thailand. These resources assist educators in building networks, sharing experiences, and finding jobs. Teaching in rural Thailand can be a deeply fulfilling experience, allowing you to immerse yourself in a new culture, positively impact students' lives, and live a serene life surrounded by natural beauty and friendly locals.

So, take the first step with confidence. With the right preparation and a positive attitude, you can secure a teaching job in rural Thailand and embark on an exciting journey that enhances your life while making a real difference in others' lives (Davies, 2023).

### **4 EMBRACING THE FREELANCE LIFE IN THAILAND'S COUNTRYSIDE**

#### **4.1 The Allure of Rural Thailand for Digital Nomads**

Escape the city life and immerse yourself in the natural beauty of Thailand's countryside. Freelance writers and remote teachers can find a perfect blend of work and travel in the countryside. Despite the fast and reliable internet in Thailand, mountainous locations may pose some challenges (Horanin, 2023). However, whether you're teaching in a rural school or staying in a studio apartment, guesthouse, or homestay, you'll have a good internet connection for working from home (Horanin, 2023). Freelancing in Thailand's countryside not only allows you to stretch your budget but also offers an opportunity to enjoy the stunning environment and friendly natives (Partners, 2024).

#### **4.2 Opportunities for Remote Teachers and Freelancers**

Companies like VIPKid, GoGoKid, and Magic Ears offer remote teachers flexible scheduling and competitive income. Writers, web designers, and social media managers can also find ample freelance opportunities (Partners, 2024). Thai co-working facilities provide a platform for freelancers and businesses to network while enjoying the countryside (Wallace, 2024; Sajjad, 2023; Matt, 2022).

Thailand's countryside is a haven for freelancers of all levels. It's an ideal destination for digital nomads and freelancers who want to live a fulfilled life while traveling. So, take your laptop, pack your bags, and prepare to embark on an incredible vacation in Thailand's lovely countryside.

### **5 NAVIGATING CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC BARRIERS IN RURAL THAILAND**

#### **5.1 The ESL Teaching Experience in Rural Thailand**

Teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) in rural Thailand is an unforgettable experience (Journey Pursuits, 2023). However, language and cultural barriers can make it challenging to communicate with locals (UNICEF, 2019). But don't worry! Here are some questions and pleasant answers to help you embrace the local culture and overcome difficulties.

- ***Should I study Thai before migrating to rural Thailand?***

It's optional but can significantly enhance your experience (Loeosen, 2015; Sully, 2022). Learning basic Thai phrases for greetings, ordering meals, and asking for directions can help you communicate with locals and demonstrate respect for their culture. Even if you're not fluent, locals appreciate your effort to learn Thai.

- ***What if I can't understand the locals?***

Language obstacles are common in rural Thailand (UNICEF, 2019). When in doubt, communicate with simple English and body language. Friendly and patient locals will try to understand you (Chiang Mai Buddy, 2022). Learning Thai words and phrases can also deepen your relationship with them (Loeosen, 2015; Sully, 2022).

- ***How can I learn about rural Thai culture?***

Get involved! Talk to people and attend local events. Before visiting, learn about local customs. Ask your Thai coworkers or neighbors for cultural advice. Learning about their culture makes connecting simpler (Thailand World Adventures, 2023).

- ***What cultural differences should I be aware of in rural Thailand?***

Thais value courtesy and respect. They respect elders, teachers, and government officials. Thais also dislike public displays of affection. Be open-minded, patient, and appreciative of the local culture to have a great time (Bangkok Condo Finder, 2020).

Living and working in rural Thailand requires overcoming language and cultural difficulties (Prapart Brudhiprabha, 1985). With some effort and an open mind, you can embrace local culture, connect with locals, and have a great time (Journey Pursuits, 2023).

## **6 EMBRACE THE TRANQUILITY: TOP 10 THAI COUNTRYSIDE DESTINATIONS FOR ESL TEACHERS AND FREELANCERS**

### **6.1 Chiang Mai: The Mountain Retreat**

ESL teachers seeking a glimpse of rural Thailand often find themselves drawn to Chiang Mai, a city nestled amidst mountains and countryside in northern Thailand (Upwork, 2024a; Teast, 2024). The city boasts numerous tourist attractions and a low cost of living (Expatriate, 2024). Here, you can rent a studio flat for 5,000–8,000 baht per month, savor food from street markets, and rent or buy second-hand motorbikes. The vibrant nightlife of Chiang Mai offers ample opportunities to make friends with locals. On average, ESL teachers can expect a compensation of 30,000–40,000 baht per month (Upwork, 2024a; Teast, 2024).

### **6.2 Pai: The Peaceful Village**

Pai, a quaint town in the Mae Hong Son province, is situated 135 kilometers northwest of Chiang Mai (CareerExplorer & Sokanu, 2023). Surrounded by lush mountains, Pai is known for its serene landscape. The cost of living in Pai is lower than in Chiang Mai, with a studio unit costing between 3,000–6,000 baht a month (Livingcost, 2020; Cost of Living in Pai, 2024; Go Nomad, 2020). The town's various street markets and cafes provide perfect spots for travelers and hippies to mingle. ESL teachers in Pai typically earn between 25,000–35,000 baht monthly (CareerExplorer & Sokanu, 2023).

### **6.3 Kanchanaburi: The Historical Haven**

Located 130 kilometers west of Bangkok, Kanchanaburi is renowned for its natural beauty and historical significance, particularly the WWII Death Railway (English Teaching Jobs in Kanchanaburi (ESL, TEFL) - Teast, 2024; Oxford

Seminars, 2024). The province offers several tourist attractions and a low cost of living (Ajarn.com & Robert, 2016). Street vendors sell food, and second-hand motorbikes and studio apartments are available for 4,000–8,000 baht every month. ESL teachers in Kanchanaburi can expect to earn 25,000–35,000 baht monthly (English Teaching Jobs in Kanchanaburi (ESL, TEFL) - Teast, 2024; Oxford Seminars, 2024).

#### **6.4 Nakhon Ratchasima: The Cultural Hub**

Popularly known as Korat, Nakhon Ratchasima is a province located 260 kilometers northeast of Bangkok. The province is celebrated for its rich history, culture, and scenic beauty. Nakhon Ratchasima boasts various tourist attractions and affordable living costs. Street vendors sell food, and second-hand motorbikes and studio apartments are available for 3,000–6,000 baht every month. The province also offers various bars and nightclubs for socializing. ESL teachers in Nakhon Ratchasima typically earn 25,000–35,000 baht monthly (JOBS, 2022).

#### **6.5 Udon Thani: The Temple Town**

Udon Thani, located 560 kilometers northeast of Bangkok, is known for its beautiful temples, natural attractions, and friendly people (English Teaching Jobs in Udon Thani (ESL, TEFL) - Teast, 2024; Cost of Living in Udon Thani, Thailand. Jan 2024 Prices in Udon Thani., 2024). The province offers several tourist attractions and a low cost of living (Cost of Living in Udon Thani, 2024; Livingcost, 2020b). Street vendors sell food, and second-hand motorbikes and studio apartments are available for 3,000–6,000 baht every month. Udon Thani also has various bars and nightclubs for socializing. ESL teachers in Udon Thani can expect to earn 30,000–40,000 baht monthly (English Teaching Jobs in Udon Thani (ESL, TEFL) - Teast, 2024; Cost of Living in Udon Thani, Thailand. Jan 2024 Prices in Udon Thani., 2024).

#### **6.6 Surat Thani: The Southern Charm**

Surat Thani, located in the south of Thailand about 650 km from Bangkok, is known for its beautiful beaches, islands, and natural attractions (Teach English in Surat Thani, Thailand, 2024). The cost of living here is quite affordable (Cost of Living in Surat Thani, 2023). You can rent a studio apartment for around 4,000–8,000 baht per month, enjoy food from street markets, and rent or buy second-hand motorbikes at a reasonable price (Teach English in Surat Thani, Thailand, 2024). Surat Thani also boasts a vibrant nightlife with many bars and nightclubs where you can socialize with friends. ESL teachers in Surat Thani can expect an average salary range of 30,000–40,000 baht per month (Teach English in Surat Thani, Thailand, 2024; Urgent! Esl Teacher Jobs in Surat Thani Province - March 2024 - Only New and Current Vacancies - Jooble, 2024).

#### **6.7 Phetchabun: The Mountainous Retreat**

Phetchabun, a northern Thai province located 340 kilometers from Bangkok, is famous for its mountains, natural features, and kind people (Teach English in Phetchabun, Thailand, 2024). The province offers a low cost of living (Cost of Living in Phetchabun, 2023) and several tourist attractions. Here, you can buy food from street markets, rent or buy second-hand motorbikes, and rent a studio apartment for 3,000–6,000 baht per month. Don't forget to try the local cuisine of Phetchabun, renowned for its flavor. ESL teachers in Phetchabun can expect to earn 30,000–40,000 baht per month (Teach English in Phetchabun, Thailand, 2024).

## 6.8 Lampang: The Temple Town

Lampang, a northern Thai province situated 600 kilometers from Bangkok, is known for its stunning temples and natural attractions. The cost of living in Lampang is quite low, making it an attractive destination for ESL teachers and freelancers. You can buy food from street markets, rent or buy second-hand motorbikes, and rent a studio apartment for 4,000-7,000 baht per month. A unique feature of Lampang is the prevalence of horse-drawn carriages as a means of transportation. ESL teachers in Lampang can expect to earn 30,000–40,000 baht per month (English Teaching Jobs in Lampang (ESL, TEFL) - Teast, 2024).

## 6.9 Phitsanulok: The Cultural Heartland

Located 380 kilometers from Bangkok in central Thailand, Phitsanulok is a province that captivates with its rich history, vibrant culture, and natural beauty (English Teachers Needed in Phitsanulok - Monthly Salary up to 40,000 Baht - Phitsanulok, Thailand, 2020). The province boasts several tourist attractions and offers affordable living costs (Cost of Living in Phitsanulok, 2024). Here, you can enjoy food from street vendors, rent or buy second-hand motorbikes, and find studio apartments for 3,000–6,000 baht every month. Don't miss out on trying Phitsanulok's wonderful cuisine. ESL teachers in Phitsanulok can expect to earn between 25,000–35,000 baht monthly (English Teaching Jobs in Phitsanulok (ESL, TEFL) - Teast, 2024).

## 6.10 Nakhon Si Thammarat: The Southern Gem

Nakhon Si Thammarat, a southern Thai province located 780 miles from Bangkok, is renowned for its beautiful beaches, historic temples, and rich history (Srithammarat Suksa English Program – ESL Teaching Opportunities in a Unique, Small, Bustling City!, 2016). The province is inexpensive and has several tourist attractions. Here, you can rent a studio apartment for 4,000–7,000 baht a month, enjoy street cuisine, and rent or buy used motorbikes (Livingcost, 2020a). Be sure to try Nakhon Si Thammarat's famous Khanom Jeen noodles. ESL teachers in Nakhon Si Thammarat can expect to earn between 25,000–35,000 baht monthly (Sithammarat Suksa School, 2018; English Teaching Jobs in Nakhon Si Thammarat - Teast, 2024).

## 7 EMBRACING THE THAI COUNTRYSIDE: A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE

In conclusion, Thailand's countryside offers ESL teachers and freelancers the unique opportunity to live and work like a local amidst beautiful landscapes and welcoming towns. By immersing yourself in Thai culture and embracing the locals, you can make a real difference in others' lives while enriching your own. So why not take the first step and embark on an exciting journey that could change your life forever? The Thai countryside awaits you!

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