



Travelogue No 110



There's nothing wrong with America that a few more centuries won't put right

Thai Immigration clarifies rules on foreigners carrying ID

**THAI
VISA
News**

BANGKOK:-- [thaivisa.com] After the confusion surrounding the news that all foreigners in Thailand are required to carry their passport with them at all times, Thaivisa.com has today obtained official clarification on this matter.

Thaivisa.com spoke to Deputy Commander and Police Colonel Voravat Amornvivat, a senior official at Immigration headquarters in Bangkok.

Deputy Commander Voravat wanted to reassure the expat community in Thailand about the current situation. He told Thaivisa.com that information in an article published by The Nation on 31 July 2014, was incorrect.

Deputy Commander Voravat confirmed that foreign tourists and expats do not need to carry their passports with them at all times.

He said that tourists can of course leave their passports locked in their hotel safe and enjoy their holiday in Thailand without worrying about the need to carry their original passport. Deputy Commander Voravat also said that for expats living here, a Thai driving license or photocopy of your passport can be used as a form of identification.

However, if Immigration Police suspect an individual to be overstaying in Thailand or being involved in illegal activity, then the individual would be required to produce their original passport promptly. Deputy Commander Voravat referred to Section 58, which reads as follows:

Any alien who has no lawful document for entering the Kingdom under section 12 (1);...under this Act; and has no identification in accordance with the Law on Alien registration, is considered to have entered the Kingdom in violation of the Act. Entering or staying in Thailand without holding a valid passport and visa/extension is subject a fine and possible prison sentence.

“Making all foreigners in Thailand carry their original passports with them would be very difficult. It’s about being reasonable and using common sense. But if we think a foreigner is involved in illegal activity then we will of course need to see their original passport, this is normal”, said Deputy Commander Voravat.

Deputy Commander Voravat is eager to avoid further misunderstandings and miscommunication regarding immigration matters and is happy to work with Thaivisa.com in the future in order to provide correct information to foreign tourists and the wider expat community in Thailand.

This is the Official version as at 1st Aug 2014

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Life retains its immense pleasures when returning to the lap of unbridled luxury in the depths of Fulham, London. As long as somebody else picks up the tab, booze, fags and exquisite nosebag, this is the order of the day for our latterday Lothario. Working incredibly hard takes on a whole new meaning when viewing the evidence. Nothing changes !!

Meanwhile, with the Army firmly in command and sorting out the vast number of miscreants around the Kingdom, there was heard, in a well known establishment in town, the following : *“This place is just a slumgullion of subversives, a potpourri of perversion, an imbroglio of indifference and a concatenation of corruption”*. Well there we have it, folks. Straight from the ‘orses mouth !! Dictionary please !!

A fine gathering of like minds met for Sunday roast at The Players Lounge. Limited flies and an excellent lamb roast saw D’Wyatt, David Marriott and Neil Harvey enjoying a fine culinary meal. Along with Red wine *a la collapso*, rosé cider and Singha Light, this was an excellent occasion to put the world to rights. Eventually able to beat RDW to speech, we had riotous assembly well into the afternoon. Slainte Vha !



The rules on Immigration have changed dramatically under Gen Prayuth and all resident expats have to be quite sure that they are within the Law. Strict enforcement is curtailing the overstays and visa runners with further restrictions due to come into force on August 12th. Out with the illegals and away with the dodgers - isn’t this a policy that should be adopted in Blighty ??

Old luncheon wallah, Paul Mason, called from Bangkok to say that he was back in town for a month. Having enjoyed many pleasurable outings in the Capital, he is

visiting Tina’s Mum and seeing a few old friends, Paul intends to tidy up his UK affairs and move back permanently to the Kingdom by early next year. After three years absence it will be good to catch up again and talk nonsense on a global scale. Make mine an International !!



A new lunch venue was tried recently. The Punch and Judy on Soi 8 off Thepprasit. An English style pub, with modern furniture, dark but spacious inside with very helpful staff, this has a quality menu and some decent house wine. Our colleague Peter Garwood and daughter joined us for an excellent meal. Steaks were good and the eventual cost was quite acceptable.



Ingannation aside, the old laird of Auchtermuchty may be playing with smoke and mirrors, but, happily, his appetite for new projects is only satisfied by his hunger for crumpet. Now with a toothless grin, our ageing coxcomb is pursuing projects in Khon Kaen with his lodger Michael. Always good to catch up with the lively octogenarian over a quiet lunch and merry banter.

More of the same but different. Dickie Wyatt sporting same shirt as TPL, but this time in Canterbury Tales. Good to see the usual suspects and Dave Collier in erudite form. Keep on keeping on, it’s the only way!

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The Bitch Column



The ignorance of some people does little to restore faith in human society. Here in Pattaya, East Coast Thailand, there are few rules to ensure that decency and a proper upbringing have any place in a decadent, macho society. The quality of life vacillates between roadside café to slop house with bare chested and tattooed detritus strutting about in a way that would spread terror in a normal society. Yet many of these folk, and I am talking about foreign ex-patriots, are well into their fifties, sixties and even seventies.

What is the attraction for these people?? Of course, it's the lure of young gusset shouting 'Hansum Man' and 'Love You Long Time'. Many of these failed humanoids have never seen the pleasures being offered by young totty back in their home country. So come to Thailand and become a superstar, a Patrick Swayze, an Oliver Reed, a Bruce Willis. Let them all know how tough you are, take up Tae Kwan Do, Jujitsu and Muay Thai Boxing. Yeah, well I spent my time in the Paras, Green Beret, SAS is a regular comment. Then there is the - errr, I work for government, you know, like if I tell you what I do, I'll have to kill you !!

Of course this is all absolute bull. These people are probably escapees from their own domicile and living a new and fertile life amongst people who wouldn't and couldn't give a monkey's toss about their previous existence. Some even come here to extort other people's money. Struck off solicitors, failed stock brokers and the rash of teachers are all part of the daily scrum for OPM (other people's money). Living in fantasy world, these toe rags run the gauntlet of legality with many on overstay, working without a Work Permit and in some cases, no rights to residency at all.

The Thais, rightly, are keen that jobs in Thailand go to Thais. That is until it comes to the hard work in the building industry, and then they start bussing in Cambos, Laotians and Burmese by the thousands. All very well, but the quality of build, the skill factor and supervision are substandard due to the cheap labour, which can be even cheaper for those risking bringing in illegals without the correct paperwork.

In addressing these immigration problems, NCPO under General Prayuth Chan-Ocha, have altered the rules to exclude the illegals and lead swingers. With luck, the genuine ex pats who took the time and effort necessary to ensure legality, will be unaffected by the measures. The Thais are keen to encourage those who make a solid contribution to their society by paying taxes, acquiring property and stabilizing their relationship with a Thai partner. As for the organ grinder's monkey, your time is nigh !!! Get legal or get out. Spare us the bleating and whingeing of how corrupt the system is, or that so-and-so down the road is on serious overstay - just get your act together or eff off !!

There are hardly any who disagree with the current state of affairs. The Army has taken control in an efficient and effective manner, and are seeing through the new regulations, including supervising Immigration, Police and Traffic cops. Corruption is being sourced and many will face certain jail. Money launderers, arms and people traffickers, drug barons and dealers are all under huge scrutiny with severe penalties in place for those convicted by the Courts. The General means business, so watch out !!!

I cannot blame those who fall on hard times. Personally I never saw the problems that I faced coming. Shit is out there, and it doesn't take much to make it stink. In many ways it can be the making of an individual to face and overcome adversity, as I have done !! Just stay on the side of legal !!



Nanny Knows Best -- *Ken Frost Column*



I am amused to see that Nanny is so worried about the potential transference of germs, via handshakes, that she wants us to greet each other in a less physical manner.

Scientists at Aberystwyth University have shown that a shake transfers more bacteria than other forms of hand-on-hand action. That I would have said is rather obvious, given the sweatiness and filthiness of the part of the body being grasped.

The boffins have therefore advised that, especially during flu and Ebola season, we bump fists instead.

Not wishing to be outdone, Public Health England wants us to return to the Victorian-age of bowing or curtsying.

I'm all for it, the avoidance of sweaty handshakes and worst of all faux European cheek to cheek kissing is surely a good thing!

Therefore, in future, whenever I enter a room I suggest that you all genuflect.



As we all know, Nanny hates fags (despite making gazillions every year from the tax she puts on them). As such she has done her level best to stop us from smoking in buildings and cars.

However, banning us from smoking inside is simply not good enough, Nanny also wants to ban us from smoking outside.

Step forward Barbacoa in Crosby, which becomes that first restaurant/bar in the UK to ban smoking in their outdoor beer garden.

For why?

It seems that some customers have been deterred by the fact that the outdoor space has become an 'al fresco smoking lounge.'

Barbacoa owner Gordon Tartt is quoted by the [Mirror](#):

“Customers were complaining that the outside of the restaurant was becoming an al fresco smoking lounge so we’ve created a place where people can eat and drink in a smoke free environment. During the fine weather people want to go outside but many were turned off by the huddle of smokers. It’s already proving extremely popular and we’re delighted to receive the very first Fresh Air award.”

Melody Holt, tobacco control manager at the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation, said:

“This is the first smoke free beer garden that we’re aware of and we would encourage other establishments to follow their lead. We believe it’s really important that when people step outside for fresh air, that’s what they should get rather than clouds of smoke. The dangers of passive smoking are well-known.”

I like fresh air too, therefore please can Nanny ban people from driving cars, lorries and flying planes?

No!??

I thought not!

Important : Latest Thailand Visa Situation

Foreigners who do regular visa runs in order to extend their stay in Thailand have less than a month before a crackdown by the authorities to enforce immigration laws more strictly. From August 13, people will not be able to re-enter the country, regardless of their choice of transport. The Immigration Bureau has already instructed officials to deny entry to foreigners doing visa runs as a measure to stop the exploitation of tourist visas and visa exemptions to live or work here. Visa runs have been common among foreigners in Thailand recently, given that a simple search on the Net turns up several companies offering "visa trips" for expatriates staying or working here.

Visa runners are those who leave Thailand and return immediately for the purpose of extending their stay. By exploiting 60-day tourist visas and 30-day visa exemptions, many foreigners can work illegally in language schools, or restaurants and other businesses. It is easier for some to get jobs this way, as some employers do not want to go through the complicated process of seeking work permits and like to avoid the expense if they can. "I have done visa runs several times before, because my employers would not agree to seek a work permit until I passed their probation period. So, when you stop allowing visa runs, the lives of many foreigners in Thailand will be affected," a 46-year-old American said.

Meanwhile, the Immigration Bureau website says: "Leniency will be granted until August 12, but only for passengers arriving by air. Foreigners who come to Thailand must seek a proper visa in line with the purpose of their intended stay here. Now, those on a visa run who are allowed back in will find an "O-I" (Out-In) mark next to their latest stamp marking entry. From August 13, nobody with an O-I sign on their passport will be allowed to re-enter Thailand if they cannot produce a proper visa."

The Immigration Bureau has instructed checkpoints on shared borders to stop visa runners from entering the Kingdom effective immediately. Immigration Division 6 chief Pol Maj-General Tatchai Pitaneelabut, who oversees immigration affairs in the South, said visa runners come from several countries, including Vietnam, South Korea and Russia. "They come here to work as tour guides, waiters, waitresses, etc," he said, pointing out that these visa-runners are often based in tourist centres such as Phuket and Songkhla. However, he said the presence of the so-called "out-in" migrants in the South had been significantly reduced because immigration officials were already enforcing stricter laws.

Pol Lt-Colonel Weerawat Nilwat, an inspector at the Sungai Kolok border checkpoint in Narathiwat province, disclosed that immigration officials at his workplace had already barred more than 100 visa-runners from re-entering the Kingdom. "We have to be strict because we have to uphold laws and properly control immigrants. Efficiency on this front will also reduce crime," he said.

Pol Colonel Thirachai Dedkhad, the superintendent at the Sa Kaew checkpoint, said officials under his supervision were not stopping visa runners from re-entering yet. "But we have been warning them to acquire a proper visa before they come to Thailand the next time." He said immigration officials had also warned people departing that they must obtain a proper visa if they want to come back. "We have made it clear that if they want to work in Thailand, they must seek a work permit and get the right type of visa," Thirachai said.

Important Changes Around The Kingdom

Update On Thai Driving Licences

The director-general of the Department of Land Transport, Asdsathai Rattanadilok Na Phuket, recently invited the press to see the new procedures for applying for a Thai driving license. He pointed out that all first-time applicants, both Thai and foreign, must now achieve 90 percent correct answers in a touchscreen written test of 50 questions, chosen at random from a data bank of 1,000. The test covers safety matters on road use and is available in English or Thai. All 1,000 questions and answers are provided on the website www.dlt.go.th for study purposes, although some of the questions in English have clearly been set by non-native speakers.



First-time applicants for a one-year driving license must possess valid passport and non-immigrant visa (original and photocopy), proof of address provided by the Immigration Bureau or foreign embassy or provided on current work permit, medical certificate less than one-month-old and international or home country license (translated if not in English and certified by respective embassy). Those without such a license are required to take additional practical and study tests. All applicants must pass a short eyesight (color perception, peripheral vision, depth perception) and reflex examination as part of the whole application procedure. Asdsathai stressed that the new regulations were designed to achieve fewer accidents on the roads. The fee for the one-year license is 105 baht and a further 100 baht for the plastic smart card.

After the one-year license, applicants may apply for a full five-year permit. Required documents are the original one-year license, passport and copy showing current non-immigrant visa, a new letter of address confirmation from the Immigration Bureau or embassy and a new medical certificate. The only tests required for these candidates are eyesight (color perception, peripheral vision, depth perception) and reflex. There are no further practical tests or written examination. The fee for five years is 505 baht and a further 100 baht for the plastic smart card. The director-general emphasized that no third party can apply on a driver's behalf and confirmed that life-time licenses are no longer being issued.

In reply to journalists' questions, Kosin Weeranathanaphan, head of Department of Land



Kosin Weeranathanaphan, head of Department of Land Transport in Banglamung

Transport in Banglamung, said that if a Thai driving license has been expired for more than a year, applicants must again take the written test and, if more than three years, must begin the process again as for first-time candidates. It was also confirmed that only Thais holding a Thai driving license may use it in other ASEAN countries. The discretion does not cover foreigners with a Thai license who are advised to obtain an international permit in Thailand or in their first country. A candidate failing any part of the driving test requirements may be invited to repeat it once at the discretion of the bureau.





Reports From Blighty



Master Chef Andy Smith has a new venue in Corwen, North Wales which is breaking the mould of boring restaurants in North Wales. Situated in the centre of Corwen on the A5, this is a vibrant place with haute cuisine prepared by a very fine chef with impeccable credentials. Having employed Andy for some twenty years as chef to the Marchbrook Leisure businesses,



he has now become one of North Wales' leading food mechanics. Great news for locals and well worth a visit to sample his eclectic menus. Good luck my old friend, let's hope the she beast from Hell doesn't descend on The Reliance with her horde of Valkyries !!! No, not you Betsi, honest !!! Slainte !!



It seems that our old cricketing mate Graham 'Farmer' Monkhouse has spent a few days in hospital having repairs to his right leg. Ex Surrey County Cricketer, Graham has had to have a bone graft to stabilize a previous operation that refused to knit correctly. A regular on the McAlpine cricket tour circuit and the famous Marchwiell Cricket Week we all hope that our verbose mate will soon be back on the golf course

where his generosity in giving golf balls away is being sadly missed. It's pleasing to see that he hasn't lost his appetite and should be able to maintain his colossus whilst relaxing in hospital. More toast please Nurse !! By the way, that doesn't look like one of Langwathby's special double yolkers to me !!!



Congratulations are due to Liverpool's UK consul to Sweden. No other than James Hedley, Investment Director of Rathbones. James, a two metre beanpole, has been with the Bank for over 20 years and has looked after many local investors. Despite his early years suggesting he may become the next Stephen Seagal, James played his screen debut in Robin Hood Junior - it was no blockbuster !!!

So it was to Investment Banking that our good friend and advisor went. Rathbone Brothers at Port of Liverpool Building became his employer and he soon moved on to become UK consul for Sweden. Just recently he was awarded a knighthood by King Carl XVI Gustav. Combining both functions is no problem for this amiable Viking !!!

It goes without saying that I, personally, am indebted to his advice, collective assessments and amazing diplomacy. In a world of confounding stupidity, it is extremely satisfying to know that one's investments are in good hands. Thanks James, long may it continue and congratulations on a well deserved award.

Contact: James Hedley at 0044 1512366666 or www.rathbones.com/office/liverpool



My Pattaya Diary --- July 2014



My life now is a simple, easy to control existence. Gone are the pariahs and the family grabbers, and in come the genuine, loving folk who have conspired to make this the happiest time of my life. Apart from my love of cricket, and my hugely appreciative friends in the game, I ask one simple question. Where the hell are you ?? This is pointed at the family malingerers, the so-called business partners and the folks to whom I have lent money and support. Where are you now?? You will never take me down, you are nothing but detritus on the face of God's earth. What have you ever achieved ?? What have you done for your Country ?? What have you done for your kinsfolk. Eff all !!! Yes, you all know who you are and I hope you read this rant - you are scum, total wastrels and beyond help.

Having expunged some of my thoughts, I move to the pleasures of our wonderful



friends in the Land of Supposition and Rumour. Lunch at Canterbury Tales is always fun. Usual suspects and local stories but always entertaining. Baby hippos opposite plying very limited trade in a tourist free zone, we were surprised by the huge downturn in visitors to Pattaya (despite what the tourist board tell us !!). I am pleased to report that Richard Wyatt has emerged from a poor health episode and is looking in fine form. His enjoyment of cricket is undiminished and knowledge of the game's finest is remarkable. Maybe England will win a Test match soon !! Good grief, they've just beaten India - and without DRS !!!!

Now admin correspondent on Facebook's Thailand Wine & Dine, I have been happy to contribute to an excellent site which will give some serious insight into eateries in the



Chonburi region. It is an excuse to go visit old and new venues who have some idea of culinary requirements for residents - Thai and expat. I will not report on hotel cuisine as I will never waste my money in these places regardless of their pomposity.

As usual, I must thank my good friend David Marriott for his support and encouragement. I always enjoy the banter we have, and the little necessities from Blighty. This time, ably assisted by my effervescent niece Camilla, I have most gratefully received a block of Stilton cheese and a carboy of Redcurrant jelly. It is amazing how good these items are in a restricted country !!! My dear partner Eat continues to work with unstinting commitment. 04.30am one day, 06.00am the next. Still running the household as I am now a house minder, she runs the noodle shop, the youngster with his school needs and me with my constant demands for food and booze. It's a great life and I wouldn't change it for the world. Should have done it 40 years ago. Slainte Vha all !!

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Thoughts from Clients:

Bongo Drongodrum: Very nice, very nice indeed. Never seen such gear in Zulu-land, I think I will not return. Thank you for weekly cheques.

Junket Jim: Glad he left his previous employment to set up this world class viewers paradise. Always wanted to meet Rolf Harris !! Errr, those ticklers arrived yet ??

Skid Marks: Great place to visit, everyone so helpful offering to give me a hand !!

Busty Toads: Thanks Fantasy House, you are simply brill. My 42 DDs are now harnessed so going for a jog is a luxury. Over the shoulder boulder holder for me Mam please !!

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Proof exists that the Yanks are total Buffoons.

Cricket has taken New Zealand all-rounder Jimmy Neesham and his gear all round the world but his recent foray into the United States of America and his encounter with the local authorities there could send shivers down the spines of several others of his ilk.

The 23-year-old Neesham, who was en route the West Indies to play for Guyana Amazon Warriors in the Caribbean Premier League, had a bat drilled by the United States Police, who were checking cricketers' gear for hidden drugs. Bats in modern day cricket are obviously expensive, but they are more treasured because each willow is almost always custom-made with specific instructions from the batsmen concerned. That, however, was of no significance to the US authorities who made several in-roads into what they suspected to be a tool for smuggling drugs.

There is little doubt the the inadequacies of human understanding manifests itself at these gateways to freedom. USA officials, along with numerous dildotic squandroids will attempt to minimalise threat in the most obscure way. I hope they meet the costs appropriately, but unlikely 'cos they are Yanks. Unbelievable idiocy !! Any truth in the rumour that Babe Ruth's biffing stick was full of ganja ?? What Plonkers !!

the
**Drunken
Duck**
Bar and Guesthouse



Contributions From Readers

A Salute to our elderly friends. Getting old can be fun

An elderly citizen had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the Doctor who was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%. The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor who said, 'Your hearing is perfect... Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again.' The gentleman replied, 'Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!'

Two elderly gentlemen from a retirement center were sitting on a bench under a tree when one turns to the other and says: 'Slim, I'm 83 years old now and I'm just full of aches and pains. I know you're about my age. How do you feel?' Slim says, 'I feel just like a newborn baby.'
'Really!? Like a newborn baby!?'
'Yep. No hair, no teeth, and I think I just wet my pants.'

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, 'Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great.. I would recommend it very highly.'
The other man said, 'What is the name of the restaurant?'
The first man thought and thought and finally said, 'What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know.... The one that's red and has thorns.'
'Do you mean a rose?'
'Yes, that's the one,' replied the man. He

then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, 'Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?'

Morris, an 82 year-old man, went to the doctor to get a physical. A few days later, the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm.

A couple of days later, the doctor spoke to Morris and said, 'You're really doing great, aren't you?'

Morris replied, 'Just doing what you said, Doc: 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful.'
The doctor said, 'I didn't say that.. I said, 'You've got a heart murmur; be careful.'

A man was telling his neighbor, 'I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art.. It's perfect.'

'Really,' answered the neighbor . 'What kind is it?'

'Twelve thirty..

A little old man shuffled slowly into an ice cream parlor and pulled himself slowly, painfully, up onto a stool.. After catching his breath, he ordered a banana split.
The waitress asked kindly, 'Crushed nuts?'





Lest We Forget



“lest we forget”

*“They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We shall remember them”*

The Great War. What was so Great about War ?