BEFORE MOVING CHECKLIST

Practical steps for a smoother move to Thailand

1 RESEARCH, RESEARCH, RESEARCH

Take scouting trips and choose the right location before committing.

- [ ] Research Thailand's culture, cost of living, climate, and daily lifestyle.
- [ ] Take a few scouting trips before making a permanent move.
- [ ] Visit different settings: city, beach, mountains, islands, and provinces.
- [ ] Stay in each promising area long enough to experience ordinary daily life.
- [ ] Explore neighborhoods, rental housing, transportation, and nearby amenities.
- [ ] Compare visa options and long-term stay requirements before traveling.
- [ ] Join expat communities and talk with people already living in Thailand.
- [ ] Make a pros-and-cons list and a shortlist of suitable locations.

2 PREPARE YOUR HOME & PERSONAL ITEMS

Decide what to sell, store, donate, or take with you.

- [ ] Decide whether to sell, rent, or keep your home.
- [ ] Sell, donate, store, or give away furniture and personal belongings.
- [ ] Arrange secure storage for items you want to keep.
- [ ] Handle vehicle sales, registrations, and insurance.
- [ ] Cancel or transfer utilities, services, and subscriptions.
- [ ] Update your mailing address with banks, insurers, and relevant agencies.
- [ ] Inventory valuables and decide what is essential to bring.
- [ ] Organize secure copies of key property and personal records.

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3 FINANCIAL PREPARATION

Prepare accounts, transfers, and a realistic Thailand budget.

- [ ] Estimate monthly expenses and set a realistic relocation budget.
- [ ] Plan for deposits, temporary housing, transport, and setup costs.
- [ ] Research international-friendly banks and money transfer services.
- [ ] Check foreign transaction fees, ATM fees, and withdrawal limits.
- [ ] Notify financial institutions about overseas travel or relocation.
- [ ] Arrange access to income, pensions, benefits, or direct deposits.
- [ ] Plan how to transfer money to Thailand and compare exchange rates.
- [ ] Keep accessible emergency funds in more than one payment method.

4 PASSPORTS & IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Organize the documents needed for travel and longer stays.

- [ ] Check passport validity and your planned entry category requirements.
- [ ] Decide which visa or entry permission you will use before departure.
- [ ] Collect birth, marriage, and other civil records when relevant.
- [ ] Bring identification, driving licence, and an IDP if applicable.
- [ ] Check whether documents require translation or authentication.
- [ ] Carry printed copies of essential documents and confirmations.
- [ ] Save encrypted or otherwise secure digital backup copies.
- [ ] Check current Thai entry and arrival registration requirements.

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5 HEALTH & INSURANCE

Plan for ongoing care and medical costs overseas.

- [ ] Complete medical and dental checkups before departure.
- [ ] Arrange sufficient prescription medicines and verify import rules.
- [ ] Bring a medication list and copies of relevant medical records.
- [ ] Compare international or Thai health insurance options.
- [ ] Research hospitals, clinics, and emergency services in your chosen area.
- [ ] Check current vaccinations and travel-health recommendations.
- [ ] Consider travel medical coverage for scouting and initial arrival.
- [ ] If a U.S. veteran, review VA Foreign Medical Program eligibility and limits.