

The 2026 Thailand Move Checklist

Everything to do before you fly and in your first 30 days in Pattaya or Phuket — in the order that actually works. Tick as you go. Rules change; always confirm visa and tax specifics with the official source.

Phase 0 — Before you fly

- Confirm your **visa** matches your plan (tourist exemption vs a long-stay visa — DTV, retirement, LTR).
- Buy **travel + health insurance** before you board (some visas require it).
- File your **TDAC** (Thailand Digital Arrival Card) online within 72 hours of arrival — mandatory for every foreigner; it replaced the paper TM6.
- Scan everything** to the cloud: passport, visa, birth/marriage certificates, licence, vaccination records.
- Book just **2–4 weeks** of accommodation — never sign a year's lease on a place you haven't slept in.

Days 1–3 — Connectivity, rides, cash

- Get a **Thai SIM** (AIS or True, ~฿300/month) at the airport — needed for mobile banking.
- Install **Grab** and **Bolt** for metered rides (essential in Phuket; handy in Pattaya).
- Note the **฿220 foreigner ATM fee** per withdrawal — take larger amounts less often; tell your home bank you're travelling.

Week 1 — TM30, home hunt, bank

- TM30 address registration** — your landlord/hotel reports your address to Immigration; keep the receipt.
- Start the **long-term home hunt** now that you know the area in person.
- Open a **Thai bank account** — note 2026 tightening: Bangkok Bank may require a long-stay visa; Kasikorn is often more flexible. Bring passport, visa proof and a proof-of-address letter.

Week 2 — Reporting, health, transport

- Note your first **90-day report** date (long-stay visas) — file online or at the local Immigration office; address must match your TM30.
- Register with a hospital/clinic** so you're in the system before you need it.
- Sort your **scooter or car** — rent from a shop that doesn't hold your passport; photograph the vehicle; check insurance.

Weeks 3–4 — Licence, schools, a life

- Driving**: an International Driving Permit covers you short-term; for a Thai licence bring a residence certificate + medical certificate (and the motorcycle category for a scooter).
- Enrol children** in an international school (book ahead — popular years fill early).
- Build a **social circle** via clubs, sport, gyms and expat meetups — it's the difference between surviving and settling.

Save these numbers

- 1669** ambulance / medical · **191** police · **1155** tourist police (English, 24/7)

This checklist is general information for planning, not legal, financial, immigration or medical advice. Thailand's visa, tax and banking rules change — verify current requirements with the official source before you act. Build your free personalised plan at movetopattaya.com or movetopattaya.com/phuket.