

transcript

level 1

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Goodbye Thailand

Jackie: For this week's podcastsineenglish.com we're very sad to say that this is our last podcast from Thailand. We have had a great two years here but it's time to go. So, Richard, what's the best thing about living in Thailand for you? Is it Bangkok? I don't think so!

Richard: [laughs] Well, no... I... I like Bangkok. It's um... a very big, modern city um... I think it's actually famous now for it's um... big shopping malls which are all very new and shiny. The sky train is very efficient, we get the sky train to work, that's fantastic.

Jackie: It's very safe, isn't it? It's a very safe city to live in.

Richard: Very safe, um... there's lots of traffic but it's not as bad... I think the pollution is not as bad as I thought it would be. Um... but the good things - we love the markets, um... we love Chinatown, walking around Chinatown, um...

Jackie: But it is very noisy, Richard.

Richard: Very noisy, yes. It's probably the noise is worse than the actual pollution, but um... I love, and we love, walking around downtown visiting the temples and things. So good and bad!

Jackie: Ok, so, what about the weather? Do you like the weather here?

Richard: At the moment, it's boiling! It's too hot, but sometimes the weather is great. In November, December it's just perfect - nice, sunny days and not overly hot.

Jackie: Mmm, it's always hot, isn't it? Every day is hot. But sometimes it's nice and hot and other times it's just too hot! [laughs]

Richard: Yes... and the rain - it doesn't rain really that much, just in the rainy season there's quite a bit of rain but apart from that I thought it's drier than I thought it would be.

Jackie: Ok, well I know you also like visiting all the wats and temples around Thailand. Would you say that was the nicest thing about Thailand?

Richard: It's one of my favourite things about Thailand. Um... the temples are just amazing - all the gold and the gold Buddhas, no that's great.

Jackie: Yeah, they're beautiful the buildings as well, aren't they?

- Richard: Yep.
- Jackie: But not the best thing?
- Richard: Good, but maybe not the best.
- Jackie: So, I think it's the food, isn't it?
- Richard: [laughs] Yes, um... Thailand - very famous for Thai food which is spicy, um... and very tasty and also very cheap.
- Jackie: Yes, a little too spicy for me unfortunately. I do like Thai food and I like the fact that you can sit outside, we like sitting outside, don't we, on the pavement or by the river, that's very nice. Um... yes, very tasty but for me just a little bit too spicy I think.
- Richard: No, for me - perfect!
- Jackie: So, so that's what you like most about Thailand, is it?
- Richard: Well, lots of things but maybe if I chose one, that's the one. And so what about you? I think for you there's a clear winner, isn't there?
- Jackie: Um... well, for me it's the beaches, I suppose. And I think living in Bangkok, because it is a big city, it's wonderful to be able to escape from the noise and to go to the... to go to the seaside. The beaches are clean, they're safe and for me the colour of the sea is just beautiful.
- Richard: Mmm, and eating the wonderful Thai food with your feet in the sand, there's nothing better.
- Jackie: Yes, I think the only sad thing about some of the islands is that they've become a little bit too popular and I sometimes think that there are too many tourists, there's too many hotels.
- Richard: Yes, but we have found some very quiet beaches. There still are lots of quiet beaches to discover.
- Jackie: Yes, definitely. And I hope that we come back and discover some more.
- Richard: Indeed, yes!
- Jackie: Well, the other important thing about Thailand of course, is the people. Um... very friendly the Thais, aren't they?
- Richard: Very friendly, very famous for their 'fun', and so they have a phrase here called *sanuk* which means fun - everything has to be fun.

Jackie: Yes, they like enjoying themselves.

Richard: They're relaxed, easy-going, so I'm sure when we do come back to Thailand hopefully we'll see some of our old Thai friends.

Jackie: Yes, certainly. All right, well that's it from Thailand. Bye-bye.

Richard: Bye-bye