



# THAILAND PRIVILEGE VISA

## LONG-TERM STAY IN THAILAND WITH VIP TREATMENT

Thailand Privilege Visa E-book

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# ABOUT SIAM LEGAL INTERNATIONAL

Siam Legal International is one of Thailand's premier full-service law firms headquartered in Bangkok with branch offices across the country.

Our local offices are strategically located throughout the major cities in Thailand including Chiang Mai, Pattaya, and Phuket, and we operate international representative offices in London and Las Vegas.

At Siam Legal, our attorneys specialize in a wide range of legal disciplines, including but not limited to:

- **Real Estate Transactions** – Thai Property Purchases (including leasehold), Condominium Purchases, Villas, Project Development, Construction Law, Licensing
- **Immigration** – Thai Citizenship, Permanent Residency, Thai Visa Applications (business, marriage, retirement, etc.)
- **Litigation Services** – Civil, Commercial, Criminal
- **Process Service of Court Papers and Investigation Services** – Individual and Corporate
- **Family Law** – Divorce (contested and uncontested), Child Custody, Child Legitimization
- **Corporate and Investment Law** – Foreign Business Licenses, Board of Investment (BOI), Treaty of Amity

Our licensed Thai lawyers and qualified foreign attorneys and solicitors have a proven track record of providing highly effective legal solutions to both local and international clients. Our loyal clients appreciate our high degree of expertise, personalized services, and reasonable costs, keeping us in business for over 20 years.

Siam Legal is also an active member of the American Chamber of Commerce, the British Chamber of Commerce, and the Australian Chamber of Commerce in Thailand.



# THAILAND PRIVILEGE PROGRAM

Thailand is known as the “Land of Smiles” and is famous for its exotic destinations, vibrant beaches, rich history and culture, peaceful temples, scrumptious foods, promising business opportunities, and affordable cost of living. It is a massive tourism hotspot in Southeast Asia, attracting millions of visitors from all over the world every year. Thailand has relaxed entry requirements to accommodate tourists by providing easy short-term tourist visas, but some people want more.

Foreigners often come to Thailand to stay long-term and live in the Kingdom as residents. At any given moment, there are millions of expatriates living and working in Bangkok and across Thailand. Many are retirees hoping to spend their golden years in paradise, as Thailand consistently ranks as one of the most comfortable places to retire in the world. Others are professionals and entrepreneurs hoping to take advantage of the fertile business landscape in Thailand and the ease of starting a business in the Kingdom. The rest also have their own reasons for wanting to stay long-term in Thailand.

Whatever their reasons, they all need the same thing: a visa that enables them to stay long-term and uninterrupted in Thailand so they can pursue their ambitions. This is easier said than done, however, as many of the long-term visas in Thailand have stringent eligibility requirements. The Thailand Privilege program was designed to give affluent foreign nationals an easier path to a luxurious and convenient life in the Kingdom.

Thailand Privilege replaced the old Thai Elite Visa program which offered a similar path. However, the old Elite Visa was more complex and relatively sparse when it came to benefits. Thailand Privilege aims to not only provide a convenient multi-year and multi-entry visa, but also a wealth of perks and extras to make life in Thailand the pinnacle of ease, comfort, and fun.

Obtaining a Thailand Privilege membership and the accompanying Elite Visa is more streamlined and straightforward than any other available long-term visa in Thailand. Not only do members of Thailand Privilege get more rewards than holders of other visas, they also have a lot more time to enjoy the country without much stress, thanks to simpler application and renewal processes.

## WHAT IS A THAI ELITE VISA?

The Thailand Privilege Elite Visa comes with a Thailand Privilege membership. It is a long-term, multiple-entry tourist visa. This means that while holders can buy a condominium, open a bank account, and freely leave and enter Thailand, they cannot get a work permit and obtain lawful employment in Thailand. The good news is, holders of the Elite Visa can still profit from investments in Thailand and foreign income.

The Elite Visa allows holders to stay in Thailand for 5 years, 10 years, or even up to 20 years depending on the membership tier of the holder. There are four membership tiers, each with its own visa validity period.

## WHY WAS THE PROGRAM CREATED?

The Thai Elite Visa program was created to attract “high-potential foreigners,” including businesspeople, investors, digital nomads, affluent expats, and retirees to Thailand to stimulate the economy. By providing applicants with a privileged entry visa, a wide range of additional discounts and benefits, and reduced bureaucratic requirements, Thailand hopes to make the Kingdom a hub for wealthy and influential global citizens.

## BENEFITS OF THAILAND PRIVILEGE MEMBERSHIP

The Thailand Privilege program is all about the benefits. Memberships of every tier provide visa holders the opportunity to enjoy discounts, deals, free perks, and more in addition to a convenient visa. Listing them all here would take too long, but here are some of the most notable:

- Multiple entry visa that is valid for 5 years to 20 years (depending on the membership) with a one-year extension period.
- Streamlined and straightforward application journey lacking all the pitfalls commonly associated with long-term visa applications.
- Ability to add family members to the membership for a reduced price (except Gold tier).
- Elite Personal Assistants (EPA) to meet and escort the Thai Elite Card Member or VIPs on arrival and departure.
- Enrollment into the new privilege points feature for more flexibility over which membership privileges to leverage. Redeemable rewards include:
  - Hotel stays
  - Rounds of golf at leading courses
  - Spa and other wellness treatments
  - Wealth management services
  - And many, many more
- Upon arrival and departure, Thai Elite members will have access to a special fast-track immigration and passport control line.
- Concierge services provided by the government, including:
  - Business networking and immigration services
  - Assistance in obtaining a driver's license and opening a bank account in a foreign currency
  - 90-Day Reporting services
- Complimentary annual health-checkups (once per membership validity).
- Access to parking spaces, premium lounges, and a Personal Shopping Assistant at select mall outlets.
- 24/7 special hotline service via the Member Contact Center (MCC).
- Special discounts at leading restaurants and stores.

# TYPES OF THAI ELITE MEMBERSHIP

There are four distinct Thailand Privilege Membership tiers, with the main differences being cost and visa validity duration. Higher tiers also receive marginally more benefits than lower ones, such as getting complimentary perks instead of having to redeem points for them. As long as an applicant meets the overall Thailand Privilege eligibility requirements, all tiers are open to them. However, note that the highest tier, Reserve, is only available via an invitation from Thailand's tourism authority.

For every tier above Gold, applicants can include family members on their Thailand Privilege application to add them to the membership and get them their own visas. Each additional member costs a reduced price, but these members will not get their own allotment of privilege points, and must share the pool provided to the primary member.

## GOLD MEMBERSHIP:

- **Membership Validity:** 5 years
- **Membership Fee:** 900,000 THB (VAT included)
- **Additional Membership for a Family Member:** Not available
- **Annual Fee:** None
- **Privilege Points:** 20 points per year
- **Membership Transfer:** Not Allowed
- **Upgrade to Platinum (additional 5 years):** 600,000 THB (VAT included)
- **Upgrade to Diamond (additional 10 years):** 1,600,000 THB (VAT included)
- **Upgrade to Reserve (additional 15 years, invitation only):** 4,100,000 THB (VAT included)
- **Privilege Entry Visa:** 5-year multiple-entry visa.

## PLATINUM MEMBERSHIP:

- **Membership Validity:** 10 years
- **Membership Fee:** 1,500,000 THB (VAT included)
- **Additional Membership for a Family Member:** 1,000,000 THB (VAT included)
- **Annual Fee:** None
- **Privilege Points:** 35 points per year
- **Membership Transfer:** Not Allowed
- **Upgrade to Diamond (additional 5 years):** 1,000,000 THB (VAT included)
- **Upgrade to Reserve (additional 10 year, invitation only):** 3,500,000 THB (VAT included)
- **Privilege Entry Visa:** Renewal 5-year multiple entry visa with an extendable 1-year length of stay per entry. You will be able to have 2 sets of 5-year multiple-entry visas.

# TYPES OF THAI ELITE MEMBERSHIP

## DIAMOND MEMBERSHIP:

- **Membership Validity:** 15 years
- **Membership Fee:** 2,500,000 THB (VAT included)
- **Additional Membership for a Family Member:** 1,500,000 THB (VAT included)
- **Annual Fee:** None
- **Privilege Points:** 55 points per year
- **Membership Transfer:** Not Allowed
- **Upgrade to Reserve (additional 5 years, invitation only):** 2,500,000 THB (VAT included)
- **Privilege Entry Visa:** Renewable 5-year multiple entry visa with an extendable 1-year length of stay per entry. You will be able to have 3 sets of 5-year multiple-entry visas.

## RESERVE MEMBERSHIP (VIA INVITATION ONLY):

- **Membership Validity:** 20++ years
- **Membership Fee:** 5,000,000 THB (VAT excluded)
- **Additional Membership for a Family Member:** 2,000,000 THB (VAT included)
- **Annual Fee:** None
- **Privilege Points:** 120 points per year
- **Membership Transfer:** Allowed
- **Upgrade:** None
- **Age:** Any Age
- **Privilege Entry Visa:** Renewal 5-year multiple entry visa with an extendable 1-year length of stay per entry. You will be able to have 4 sets of 5-year multiple-entry visas. After the membership term of 20 years, you can apply for additional 5-year multiple-entry visas to extend your stay in Thailand.

# HOW TO APPLY

If you're interested in applying for a Thailand Privilege membership and the Elite Visa it provides, here's a step-by-step process you can follow.

## PREPARATION:

The first step should be to engage the services of a government-certified General Sales and Services Agent (GSSA), like Siam Legal International. A GSSA is an organization, typically a law firm or visa consultancy authorized by the government to provide FREE assistance with Thailand Privilege applications. They have insider knowledge of the requirements and processes to answer any of your questions, ensure your application is prepared correctly, and liaise with the government on your behalf. This gives your application the best chance at approval and streamlines the whole process. Best of all, it's free!

## APPLICATION:

You can apply for a Thai Elite Visa anywhere in the world by submitting the required documents to your GSSA digitally. They will provide you with a document checklist, and review these materials as well as your application form to ensure there are no mistakes or errors, which could lead to delays or an outright rejection. If everything is in order, they will send it to the tourism authority, who will then perform a background check on you to determine your eligibility.

Depending on which country you are from, this process may vary from 1 to 3 months after filling out the form. To initiate the background check, you will need to pay the fixed application fee of 50,000 baht. If your background check is successful, this amount will be deducted from the membership fee you will be paying later, so this is not an additional cost. Should you fail your background check, this amount will be refunded.

## MEMBERSHIP FEE:

After a successful background check, you will receive an approval letter and a document with banking details and instructions on how to pay for the cost of the Thai Elite Visa membership package you have chosen. The payment can be made through local or international bank transfers, or via online payments. Note that if you fail to make the payment within 30 days of receiving the approval letter, your application will fail and you will not be refunded the 50,000 THB application fee.



# HOW TO APPLY

## ISSUANCE OF VISA:

The Thai Elite Visa can be obtained either within Thailand at the immigration office or an international airport, or abroad at a Thai embassy or consulate (see below).

## ACCEPTANCE:

After paying the membership fee, you will be issued a membership number along with a welcome letter. By this point, your visa has been officially approved and is ready to be affixed to your passport.

## WHERE TO GET YOUR VISA

### **In Thailand Proper**

The Immigration Bureau in Bangkok will issue your visa and assist you in setting up an appointment to get it affixed to your passport. Depending on the date or time of day, you may be expected to spend an hour or more at the immigration office.

### **Bangkok and Phuket Airport**

New Thailand Privilege members can also make an appointment to affix their visa at Suvarnabhumi Airport, Don Muang Airport, Chiang Mai Airport, or Phuket Airport upon their arrival. Appointments must be booked no less than 5 working days in advance. You can request for a complimentary Elite Personal Assistant to help you on the day of the appointment, but only at Suvarnabhumi Airport and Phuket Airport.

### **Outside Thailand**

The visa affixation can be requested at the Royal Thai Embassy or the Royal Thai Consulate-General in your country. Due to Ministry of Foreign Affairs policy, members in particular areas/countries are required to check with the Royal Thai Embassy or the Royal Thai Consulate-General in their area concerning the visa affixation service.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What are the required documents for the Thai Elite Visa application?

- Completed Thai Elite Visa membership application form
- Completed Membership application fee payment form
- Copy of passport photo page (with visible signature)
- Passport-size photo with white background (high-resolution)
- Copy of proof of relationship as immediate family of core member (if applicable)

## Is it necessary for me to apply for membership in person?

No, in fact you need not even be in the country, as the GSSA you retain will do the necessary work for you. However, you are required to be present when the visa is affixed to your passport.

## How long will it take to process my application?

The background check may take up to 1 to 3 months depending on the country your passport originates from. Payment processing and scheduling the visa appointment may add some weeks to this process.

## Who is eligible to apply for the Thailand Elite Visa?

Here are the qualifications that each Thailand Privilege applicant must meet:

- Hold a foreign passport with at least 1 year of validity remaining at the time of application
- Adhere to all tenants of Thai immigration law
- Never have been declared bankrupt
- Never been declared as a person of unsound mind, incompetent, or quasi-incompetent
- Have no pending or ongoing overstay record in Thailand
- Cannot be a current or previous holder of a volunteer visa
- Complete the Education Visa Holder Acknowledgement Form and submit the required supplementary documentation (if either a current or previous holder of an ED Visa)
- Have no criminal record or been sentenced by a judgment to imprisonment in any country (some exceptions are made, contact your GSSA for more information)

## Is there any age limit?

There is no age limit requirement.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Is there any income requirement to apply for the Thai Elite visa?

There are none, as long as the applicant pays the membership fee in full for their chosen tier. However, the eligible applicant must not have ever declared bankruptcy.

## What happens if my passport expires in less than a year?

Your Thailand Privilege visa will be affixed in line with the expiration date stated on the passport. Once you have renewed your passport, you must let the Thailand Privilege Card authority know so they can extend the remaining duration of your membership.

## Are any nationalities excluded from applying for a Thailand Privilege Membership?

Yes. Listed below are the countries that are ineligible to apply for a Thai Elite Visa:

AFRICA	ASIA	MIDDLE EAST
CENTRAL AFRICA CAMEROON DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO EQUATORIAL GUINEA GUINEA GHANA LIBERIA NIGERIA SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE SIERRA LEONE SOMALIA SUDAN	NORTH KOREA AFGHANISTAN PAKISTAN	ALGERIA IRAQ EGYPT IRAN LEBANON LIBYA PALESTINE SYRIA YEMEN

## Is a notary stamp or certification required on any Thailand Privilege application documents?

No, it is not required. Sending a clear, scanned copy of the documents needed will be enough.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **Can I apply for the Thailand Privilege membership if I hold a work permit?**

As the Thai Elite Visa provided by this program is categorized as a tourist visa, it does not allow the holder of the membership to legally apply for a work permit to obtain employment in Thailand. If you are currently holding a Non-Immigrant visa, along with your work permit, it must first be canceled in order for your Elite Visa to be validated.

## **Can I find employment in Thailand as a Thailand Privilege member?**

Yes, but it will require you to apply for a non-immigrant working visa before finding work within the country. You will then have to cancel your Thai Elite Visa, but you can still remain a Thailand Privilege member and enjoy the associated benefits. Note that while you cannot get a job in Thailand with the Elite Visa, you can still profit from investments in Thailand and overseas sources of income.

## **As a Thailand Privilege member, do I have to do the 90-day reporting to immigration during my stay?**

Yes, you are still required to do a 90-day report if you do not leave the country within 90 days of your previous arrival. This can sometimes be done online or you can spend just 1 privilege point and have a service take care of this for you. Talks are underway as of February 2024 to possibly extend the 90-day reporting requirement to 1 year for Thailand Privilege members. Follow our Travel to Thailand blog for updates to see when/if this goes into effect.

## **What will happen if one does not perform the 90-day report?**

You will be penalized for overstaying your visa, which will lead to fines. If you continue to overstay for an extended period and are caught, you may be banned from entering Thailand for several years or more.

## **Is it possible for a Thailand Privilege holder to purchase real estate in Thailand?**

No, it is not possible for foreign nationals to hold property in Thailand solely under their name. However, you can own a condominium under your name as a foreign national. Also, you are allowed to lease land, but you cannot buy the land and must seek permission from the owner before building anything. There are ways that foreigners can partially own land through businesses or through marriage, but these are not common. Contact Siam Legal's property law team for more information.



# METHODS OF PAYMENT

Here's how to pay your Thailand Privilege application and membership fees.

## TRANSFER FROM LOCAL BANK ACCOUNT

### **Bank Deposit**

First, deposit the amount into the Thailand Privilege Card bank account as stated in the Approval Letter. Then, take a picture of the pay-in-slip and send it to Thailand Privilege Card as proof of payment.

### **Mobile Banking Transfer**

After payment is completed, you must submit a screenshot of the receipt for reference.

### **Online Payment**

In order to pay using your credit card, you will need to go through an official payment portal. After online payment is completed, you must send a screen capture for reference. Your GSSA can send over the link to make the payment if you do not have it.

## TRANSFER FROM OVERSEAS

### **Money Transfer from Overseas**

Applicants must submit the form MT 103 which includes all payment details such as date, amount, currency, sender, and recipient for tracing payments that are missing or delayed. This is required to show the route of the payment between the banks.

### **Transfer through WISE**

Applicants must send the official confirmation letter from WISE (formerly TransferWise) as proof of payment.

# THAILAND PRIVILEGE VISA MEMBERSHIP PACKAGES

	GOLD MEMBERSHIP	PLATINUM MEMBERSHIP	DIAMOND MEMBERSHIP	RESERVE MEMBERSHIP (Invitation Only)
				
Membership Validity	5 years	10 years	15 years	20+ years
Membership Fee	900,000 THB (VAT included)	1,500,000 THB (VAT included)	2,500,000 THB (VAT included)	5,000,000 THB (VAT included)
Additional Membership for Family Members	Not available	1,000,000 THB (VAT included)	1,500,000 THB (VAT included)	2,000,000 THB (VAT included)
Annual Fee	None	None	None	None
Privilege Points	20 points per year	35 points per year	55 points per year	120 points per year
Membership Transfer	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Allowed
Upgrade to Platinum (additional 5 years)	600,000 THB (VAT included)	X	X	X
Upgrade to Diamond (additional 10 years)	1,600,000 THB (VAT included)	1,000,000 THB (VAT included)	X	X
Upgrade to Reserve (additional 15 years, invitation only)	4,100,000 THB (VAT included)	3,500,000 THB (VAT included)	2,500,000 THB (VAT included)	X

NOTE: A 100,000 THB fixed upgrade fee is required in order to upgrade your membership.



REX BAAY  
THAILAND ELITE MANAGER



MAXIME BE  
FRENCH THAILAND ELITE AMBASSADOR




LIZA ZADVORNAIA  
RUSSIAN THAILAND ELITE AMBASSADOR



DAVID PORNSAGUNPAISARN  
CHINESE THAILAND ELITE AMBASSADOR

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