

# Land of Contrasts

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4. Verb - Base Form
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# Land of Contrasts

Thailand is a country about the size of France, with a population of over sixty million people. About forty percent of the people live in [\_\_\_\_\_ Adjective \_\_\_\_\_] area, away from Bangkok, the nation's capital and its only major city. Tourism is the country's number one industry. Every year visitors from all over the world vacation in Bangkok, but most of them leave without seeing the rest of this fascinating country. This is a pity, for Thailand is a land of startling contrast. It is made up of four [\_\_\_\_\_ Adjective \_\_\_\_\_] regions.

The northwestern region is the last accessible part of the country because of its mountainous [\_\_\_\_\_ Noun \_\_\_\_\_] and many forest. Tigers, leopards, bears, and monkeys [\_\_\_\_\_ Verb - Base Form \_\_\_\_\_] the more remote areas. Deer and buffalo [\_\_\_\_\_ Verb - Base Form \_\_\_\_\_] on the grassland that cover the lower slopes of the mountains. One of the world's great wildlife [\_\_\_\_\_ Noun \_\_\_\_\_] is located near Chiang Mai. This is the country's third largest city. Yet, its population in this part of the country are lumber and tin mining.

The northeastern part of Thailand is vastly different from the northwestern part. It is by far the poorest region. Few crops grow there because of its [\_\_\_\_\_ Adjective \_\_\_\_\_] climate and barren soil. Poor highways and a lack of railroads add to its problems. This region has little industry, and most of its people live in poverty. Many have left the land hoping to find work in Bangkok.

The most prosperous region is the great central plains. There the soil is fertile and crops grow in [

\_\_\_\_\_ Adjective \_\_\_\_\_

]. Farmers produce enough rice and feed the people of Thailand and still have some for export. Other crops include cotton, sugar, corn, tobacco, and peanuts. Bangkok is located on the southern edge of the central plain.

It is a modern city with huge luxury hotels that have sprung up in recent years to accommodate the ever-increasing [\_\_\_\_\_ Adjective \_\_\_\_\_] of tourists. Many of them visit Bangkok to explore its rich cultural history.

Among the city's attractions are over four hundred Buddhist temples and numerous universities. There is also a huge Grand palace where the rulers of Thailand once lived in luxury. Not all of the capital is splendid, though.

Tourists seldom stray from the downtown area, with its many expensive shops and fine restaurants. But not far off are the more [\_\_\_\_\_ Adjective \_\_\_\_\_] parts of Bangkok. There are city's poor live in overcrowded conditions.

The fourth distinctive regions is the southern part of the country. It reaches to the Malaysian [\_\_\_\_\_ Noun \_\_\_\_\_] , within five hundred miles of the equator. This part of Thailand is most tropical rainforest, with a [

\_\_\_\_\_ Adjective \_\_\_\_\_] climate and over two hundred inches of rain a year. It has an [\_\_\_\_\_ Adjective \_\_\_\_\_] variety of plant and animal life. For example, over five hundred different kinds of butterflies live there! It also has some of

the finest beaches in the world to lure those tourists seeking a change from the [\_\_\_\_\_ Adjective \_\_\_\_\_] city life of Bangkok.

Visitors who spend a week or two in Bangkok may go home and tell their families and friends that they have seen Thailand. However, only those who have explored all four regions of the country can truly say, "I have seen

Thailand

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