

Population	64.6 mn
Capital	Bangkok
Area	514,000 sq km/198,000 sq miles (comparable in size to France)
Geography	76 provinces gathered into 5 groups of provinces by location – Central, East, North, Northeast, South and 2 special governed districts – Bangkok and Pattaya. The north of the country is mountainous; the highest point is Doi Inthanon - 2,576 metres
Time difference	GMT +7
Language	Thai – with many ethnic and regional dialects
Monetary unit	Baht
Airport	There are 9 major airports in Thailand. Trat Airport is just 30 minutes from the ferry to Koh Chang
Flight times	12 hours from London to Bangkok; 50 minutes from Bangkok to Trat – Bangkok Airways flies twice daily. Ferries operate hourly from Trat to Koh Chang and travelling time is 25 minutes
Climate	Tropical climate characterised by monsoons. The southwest is rainy, warm, and cloudy with monsoons from mid-May to September; the northeast is dry, cool with monsoons from November to mid-March. The average temperature on Koh Chang is 34°C
Location	Thailand is in Southeast Asia bordering the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand. To its east lies Laos and Cambodia; to its south the Gulf of Thailand and Malaysia; and to its west, the Andaman Sea and Myanmar
Government	Military Junta; Monarch - King Bhumibol Adulyadej; Prime Minister - Surayud Chulanont
Economy	Thailand is a newly industrialised country; substantial industries include electric appliances, components, computer parts and automobiles. Overseas investment in property has contributed to healthy economic growth which was 5-7% annually in 2002, 2003 and 2004
Tourism	Tourism contributes approx 5% of the Thai economy's GDP
Koh Chang	Situated on the eastern side of Thailand 315km to the southwest of Bangkok, Koh Chang is the second largest island in Thailand – 30 km long and 14 km wide. 85% of Koh Chang, along with 51 smaller islands, is part of the Koh Chang Marine National Park