

# 1 Year Testimonial

By Emma Thorpe

Prior to my arrival in Surat, like you, I sat reading through a bunch of testimonials written by previous teachers about having experienced, seen and enjoyed what I do now on a day to day basis. Where do I possibly begin!? To sum things up, I would say enjoy every moment because time is precious.



Back to the beginning, my initial decisions to come to Thailand were originally to fulfill time between graduating and starting further education. My ideas were to gain valuable experiences in a school whilst being able to discover and explore amazing places and new countries. My time here has been so much more. It took time to transition to Thailand when I first arrived, the sights, the smells, even the tastes. Eating strange foods, living with creepy crawlies, the blistering ninety-degree heat along with the torrential downpours were all very unfamiliar at first. Giving myself that time to adapt was by far the right decision and one of the best I've ever made. It's times like now reflecting back writing this testimonial where I remember and appreciate just how great life is here.

When I first arrived in Surat Thani I was greeted by one of many wonderful Thai staff hired at Super English, Mam. It wasn't until I got here and discovered all the problems and complications other teachers who work for agencies outside of SE were having until I realised just how lucky we are here at SE. The visa and work

permit process doesn't sound like something you want to be tackling alone, seeing other teachers make wasted journeys and crash over a heard of paperwork, It's a huge relief to know that everything concerning visas and unfamiliar paperwork at SE is all worked out for you. Peter and the Thai staff at SE are always happy to help in a professional, easy manner and it's great as a teacher being able to concentrate all your energy on the more enjoyable things in teaching.



Working in such a close and small community with SE is where I feel comfortable, there is always someone available to stop and give you their time at SE. Whether it is Peter, one of the Thai staff or a fellow teacher, there is always a sympathetic ear or advice available to help you in your next steps. Within our little Thai family I've met travelling buddies, companions who love to eat, people who love to socialise and friends who aren't scared of spontaneity.

Getting out of Surat over long weekends and school breaks visiting new places has been a highlight this year, whether it be spending the weekend floating across a lake in Khao Sok, dancing through the night on a beach front sipping Leo, diving with a completely new world under the sea or spending a somewhat enjoyable, eye opening New-Year's eve in Koh Phangan, long weekends work blissfully in taking time out to enjoy, remember and appreciate exactly where you are.



I can't say enough to compliment the energy and buzz you feel at Thida and just how fantastic the students can be. The good days completely overwrite the very few bad

days in the classroom and fails become blips of a learning process. The students here are the most loveable, funniest, sweetest, craziest yet smartest children I have ever had the pleasure of teaching.



My original plan to fulfill time between graduating and starting further education didn't last too long once I fell in love with Thailand and the students that I teach. Sure, there can be difficult times, but receiving one thousand smiles, one hundred high-fives, a dozen hugs and a few kisses a day isn't all that bad after all. Thidamaepra and SE has given me the freedom and flexibility I needed to discover my own teaching approach at a pace that benefitted me and my students. I always liked the idea of teaching and right now continuing to practice that idea in reality is perfect for me. I enjoy what I do, where I live, and my home here. Having agreed to continue on for a second year with SE, I am thoroughly looking forward to expanding my knowledge and experiences in beginning, building and leading the next successful school year at Thidamaepra.