

# Reasons for Staying Longer

By Emma Thorpe

Initially my desires to come and teach in Thailand were to gain valuable experiences as a teacher and a traveler, whilst fulfilling time between graduating and starting further education.

Coming towards the end of my second semester here, I already feel satisfied yet extremely eager to experience more. Having already surpassed many of my expectations, continuing to experience unbelievable places, as well as growing as a professional and maintaining lifelong bonds are just some of many reasons why my decisions to stay longer teaching here in Surat Thani were made easy.

## Thidamapra

Thida is a school that offers many advantages over other schools here in Surat Thani. Acknowledging both Catholic and Buddhist religions we get many holidays including CHRISTMAS! As much as I look forward to seeing what fun each day will bring at Thida, the extended holidays and long weekends work great for taking time out. It also allows us time as teachers to refresh and refuel. Throughout the semester at Thida the teachers, students and parents put a lot of effort into organizing ceremonies, offerings and celebrations all in a Buddhist style which not only means cancelled lessons, but wow, do they put on a show. The ceremonies at Thida are always a great thing to experience and see, to feel part of and welcomed is even more so wonderful. A great taste of Thai culture, it is always interesting to understand the holidays and join in them being celebrated. Caked in makeup wearing layers of traditional Thai clothing, the children become young adults, almost unrecognizable. The ceremonies celebrated here at Thida are one of my most memorable moments of teaching, they make me proud to teach, even more so proud to teach at Thida.





## Kids

I don't even know where to start, the kids here in Thailand are amongst the most loveable, sweetest, craziest, funniest, strangest and smartest children I have ever had the pleasure of teaching. The children make my time here in Surat and they are the reason I cannot leave. A typical day for me at Thida begins with a million questions, a thousand 'teacher's', a hundred smiles and a dozen hugs. I am greeted every morning without fail with such energy and passion from my Anuban students, seeing the kids want to learn and practice English like they do makes teaching them a privilege, it's like no other job. Sure, it can be exhausting at times but I wouldn't be here without them and making their day truly makes my own.



## Surat Thani

Surat Thani is a place away from the touristic bubbles where you get to understand Thai culture, meet and recognize new faces alongside enjoying hanging out with a rather large group of 'farang', English teachers. For me, Surat Thani is a great place to live. Nothing or nowhere is impossible to reach from here, being the hub on the travel wheel you can get from A to B quite inexpensively and very easily. One of the best things about living in Surat Thani for me is the food! The food here in Surat is not only delicious but it's super cheap too. When landing in Thailand, adapting from life in England didn't happen straight away. Learning and transitioning to new sights, new smells, new tastes and new sounds took time. A complete stranger to this new way of living, everything felt unfamiliar. Giving myself time to adapt and my body time to accept Thailand's way of living, I can now honestly say it's one of the best decisions I ever made.

## Our team

Since day one of landing in Surat Thani I've felt so much support from Super English and the great team of staff both in and outside of Thidamaepra School. Staying another year will allow me to continue to build and carry through the great support we received this year in hope of making next year as much of a success as this one! Looking forward to passing on all our tips and tricks, I honestly couldn't have asked for a better team of teachers to learn from and grow with in making this year a memorable one.



## Job prospects

Having never taught in a school before, this year has been a huge learning curve in the path of education for me. Working for Super English and at Thidamaepra School, this year has allowed me to enjoy learning and discovering my own path by working at a pace that benefits me and my students. I feel my year here so far has prepared me as a teacher far more than any other school could have back in England, the freedom we have here really is a blessing to the classes, the students and the teachers. Having had the time to discover my own foundations and my inner teacher this year, I am extremely eager to progress and I thoroughly look forward to expanding my knowledge and experiences through to next year. Thank you Super English, here's to another fantastic year!