

My year in Thailand

By: Julie Fortier

From the moment I found the advertisement for Super English to right now at the end of the school year my whole teaching experience in Thailand has been the most fulfilling decision I have made in my life so far. I knew for quite some time when I was finished with my secondary schooling that I wanted to move abroad and pursue a dream of mine – teaching English as a second language. When I stumbled upon the website for Super English I had no idea what an amazing experience was lying right in front of me. I never knew finding work abroad could be so simple and painless. Super English, Peter, his wife and the whole Thai team made my dream of teaching English in Thailand happen so quickly and easily.

December 2013 I was still finishing up my degree in Ottawa, Canada and I decided to start looking for jobs abroad, not only in Thailand but around the world. I knew since I didn't have my degree yet this could be a difficult process even to be considered for a position teaching English. After a while of looking and going through sites that were not very promising I found the web site for Super English, one of the first websites that really caught my eye. After sending out a quick email and receiving a quick one in return I filled out the application and a skype interview was set up the following day. I don't think I realized the opportunity that was coming next. Teaching abroad has always been an idea in my head I didn't realize that it could happen so quickly. After a very informative skype chat with Peter he offered me the job and then I realized that in four short months I'd be heading to Thailand to do something that I have always dreamed of.



The process after getting hired was so simple and painless. Even though I did not yet receive my degree and would be receiving it in the mail June 2015 I received all the information I needed to make an easy, legal transition from home to Thailand. I was informed of all the documents I needed to send to Super English to receive my work visa and by what date to do so. The provided housing gave me one less thing to worry about when I got there. The support I received from the staff and current employees of Super English gave me the confidence I needed to make the transition and gave me the answers for all of my little questions. All in all

before moving to Thailand I was supported the whole way which made my transition to the Thai lifestyle a very easy one.

Super English provided me with such a great base and structure to become a teacher abroad. Once I arrived in Thailand we moved directly into the Super housing which we shared with all the other new employees. It was a great way to get to know everyone you were going to be spending the next year with, who, of course, are all great friends now. We had a week long training session supplying us with everything we needed to know to begin teaching. The information Peter provided was exactly what we needed to be prepared for the first day we walked into the classroom. Super English gave me all information and tips necessary to be prepared for teaching.



Surat Thani is a city that most travelers never actually explore, just pass through, even though there is really a lot of beauty to the city. The best part of Surat is the people. The Thai people that live in Surat Thani are so very kind, caring and helpful. They enjoy having English teachers in the city and will help you out if you are ever to run into any problems. Speaking

from experience, my motorbike broke down and in no more than two minutes I had two cars stop, try to fix my bike and when that failed they loaded my bike up into their truck and brought it to the nearest mechanic without a second thought. It is such a nice and caring city of people that when adjusting I wanted to learn more about it, and learn the language to be able to better communicate with these great people. Surat is also such a great place to work because of the large amount of foreigners working at all the English schools around. There are so many people to get to know and spend time with. Unlike some other teaching positions in Thailand where you are the only English teacher in the city or maybe 2-3 other foreigners. SuratThani is a great way to meet people from all over the world. Also the close proximity to the popular islands is a bonus. Getting away for the weekend to KohSamui is a simple 45minute ride to the pier than an hour and half boat ride to Samui. It's a central point to many the beautiful places that Thailand has to offer, KohSok, Krabi, Railay, Tonsai, KohSamui, Koh Tao, KohPhangan and



so many more. With the great amount of paid vacation time that Super English gives it's a perfect spot to work for a quick getaway. Having the month of October off paid and two weeks in December along with many long weekends throughout the year we are able to see the country along with gaining the experience of teaching.

Seeing the country of Thailand has been such an amazing experience, I was able to visit all the spots I wanted to see and living here for a year I was able to completely submerge myself into this beautiful culture. But the most enlightening part of this whole experience was being able to teach so many beautiful little kids. I have four classes of 5-6 year olds I see every day and four classes of 7-8 year olds I see once a week. Being able to teach these different age levels and seeing these kids every day and watch their progress has been so rewarding. The children at this school, and most Thai schools in general, are so respectful and well behaved that teaching them is a breeze. They make it easy and fun to give them an active, educational class. I have learnt so much about teaching, the Thai culture and myself.

All in all, Super English, Peter and his team has made my whole year in Thailand such a memorable experience. I never had any visa troubles, housing issues, problems teaching or with the school, or any issues in general. It has been such an amazing experience, and so enlightening, teaching me things I will carry with me for the rest of my life, making long lasting friendships, and giving me an unforgettable Thai experience.