Should I Bring my Thai wife back to my country

Thai women are famously appealing to many western men. You are reading this article because you are one of large number of men who have fallen for the undoubted charms of a younger Thai lady. In Australia for example, according to the [Australian Bureau of Statistics](https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/mca/files/2016-cis-thailand.PDF) there were roughly 45000 Thai women living in Australia; the majority of whom are married or partnered with Aussie men. You want to be one of those men. Whatever your reasons-and there are both good and bad reasons-here are some things you should consider.

As the writer was married to a Thai woman for 21 years, you should be aware of some unavoidable bias in the following tips.

## 1. What to look for in a girl

Let’s get started with that shopping list of yours. It’s okay, we’ve all used them despite the obvious sexism and flawed logic of equating women to groceries. The girl you are looking for probably also has a shopping list, but it is certainly much shorter than yours. Thai women marry western men, especially older western men, for a ticket out of Thailand and for financial security. Remember that as you work through your list. Bring this to mind when her beauty and her ‘sweet mouth’ (literal translation of the Thai word for flattery) cause you to forget your own name. This is some powerful magic you are facing. If you are searching online, you can protect yourself from this voodoo, but if you travel to Thailand and you do what most men do in a country which boasts of a massive sex tourism industry, you are seriously in danger of being seduced. Your little head will become the decision maker.

Forewarned is forearmed. Sometimes. Assuming you’re thinking straight, here’s what you should like for in a Thai girl:

* An established work ethic. You’ll expect her to cook and clean for you and possibly raise your children, so if she’s lazy, you’ll be in trouble.
* Emotional intelligence. If she’s going to marry into a foreign culture, she’s in for the shock of her life. If she lacks self-awareness, you’ll be in trouble.
* Good relationships. With her family members would be best, as well as with friends, but at the very least she should have quality people around her. If she can’t form or maintain relationships, you’re love partnership is doomed.

## 2. Where to marry?

We’re jumping ahead considerably here, but you and your Thai angel have decided to get married. Should you marry in Thailand or in your home country? The short answer is either. You aren’t just marrying a woman from Thailand, you are marrying a foreign culture, possibly with a different set of expectations from yours. When I visited the parents of my wife to be at their home in Thailand’s northeast, news of my intentions caused my future mother-in-law to burst into tears. A Christian “farang” high school dropout wanted to marry their daughter? I had to use plenty of ‘sweet mouth’ to win them over.

Getting married in Thailand is not difficult, and the marriage will be recognized overseas. You owe it to your future bride to go the whole hog with a proper Thai wedding ceremony. It will seem weird, and you’ll feel uncomfortable at times, but it is totally worth it. When you bring your bride to your homeland, organize an unofficial ceremony for your family and friends to welcome her. If you decide to marry in your homeland first, make a point of returning to Thailand with your radiant bride to marry again according to her culture.

## 3. How to get to and settle into a new country

There are two major areas for you to consider. Firstly, the legalities and secondly cultural acclimatation. Irrespective of where you get married, you can start the partner visa application process.

Assuming you’ve decided to live in your home country, your goal is for your wife to be granted permanent residency there. This used to be a simple and inexpensive process. When I married my first wife in Bangkok, we applied for a partner visa which was approved in three months and cost only $300AUD. That was in 1993. In 2021, the cost of a partner visa is over $7000 and you can add a couple of grand for each child included in the application. According to the Department of Home Affairs, global processing times range between 18 and 22 months. In the current COVID-19 dominated world, no visas are being approved, so you’re really up against it. However, you love this woman and you can be patient. You’ll do what needs to be done. A pro tip from someone with experience: if you are bringing your stepchildren to your home country and their biological father is still on the scene, hire an immigration lawyer. It will cost you a small fortune but is absolutely worth it for your peace of mind. Most straightforward applications can be handled without an immigration agent or a lawyer. Remember, you have a lot of hoops to jump through, but it’s worth it, right?

While you’re waiting for the visa, organize as many visits as you can. This is especially important if she’s never been out of Thailand. Prepare to get your new wife settled in her new home because you have no idea what a seismic shift this will be for her, and neither does she. If you haven’t done so already, soak yourself in Thai culture, learn some of the lingo. Language and culture are inextricably linked so if you learn some Thai, you will do yourself a favour, and your marriage a huge service. You will also honour her which is one of the primary roles of a husband. Let her listen to Thai music, watch Thai movies and have lots of Thai friends. Let her be Thai.

If you have a home for her to move into, clean it up. Get some info on the local Thai community, find out where she can buy all the food she loves to eat and check out local Thai restaurants. If you don’t realize what a big thing food is for your new Siamese wife, then you soon will.

## 4. What about children?

There’s a good chance she already has children and you’ve agreed to accept these children as your own. You’re probably an older guy with children of your own and although you don’t really want to go through the exhilarating heartbreak of parenting a second time, you will because you love your wife. Step parenting may well be the hardest challenge you face. You were by yourself, now you have a family. A family which has a long history before you came on the scene. A family of individual people who are learning how to live in a new country and find the right balance in a new family dynamic. If these children are teenagers, then buckle up my friend. A dislocated teen is a perfect storm of relationship drama. You’ll need to work out a joint strategy, but you’ve wife may not want to participate in this. She may be happy to paint you as the bad guy.

If she has no children, she’ll want children, but you may not. You’re an older guy who’s “been there, done that.” You don’t have the energy to go through it all again, and truth be told, you don’t really want to share your wife. You and she should have discussed this before you married. Really. If that didn’t come up in your conversations, you’ve made a serious error, but nothing is fatal. If she wants a child with you, just do it. Forget all the reasons why you shouldn’t or don’t want to. Just do it. Parenting is the hardest and most rewarding job on the planet. Why wouldn’t you want that?

## 5. Problems you may have with your Thai wife

There will be problems galore in this new relationship of yours. Once the honeymoon period ends, and it will quickly, the reality hits and the weak get barreled over. Your gushing, sweet talking bride will soon fall into duty mode. She’ll know you’ll want regular sex (that’s one of the main reasons you married a younger woman), and if you’re lucky she’ll not only oblige but do a great job of pretending she enjoys it even if she doesn’t. She’ll cook for you and you’ll be astounded by how much you can eat and how many ‘exotic’ foods will soon seem commonplace. She will excel at hospitality and will blow away all your friends and family by what an awesome wife she is. She’ll expect you to pay for everything, including things which you think are a waste of money. She’ll be wasteful generally because she now lives in a bountiful land. Accept the fact she will spend more time with her Thai family and friends than she will with you. She’ll most likely spend more time with her phone than you. Don’t forget the underlying reason she married you: security. Look after her, buy her whatever she needs (within reason and your budget), comfort her, listen to her, make her feel safe.

Conclusion

Although you will have a lot of trouble, that’s no reason to not marry a Thai woman. Communication is the key. She’ll make you an awesome wife, and if you meet her expectations, if you love her more than you love yourself, if you work hard for her, protect and defend her, if you honour her, if you’re a good husband, she will not only be deliriously happy and boast about your awesomeness to all her friends, she will also make your dreams come true. There will be pain, but it’s worth it. Make sure you talk about how you feel, with her and with at least one other person.

Many of these relationships go south very quickly due to a combination of the aforementioned problems and the fact in many cases, men are selfish sex obsessed pigs. Mali’s story, as reported with other personal stories and some good analysis in the [Bangkok Post](https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/special-reports/1209173/tied-in-a-knot-the-thai-wives-who-go-abroad), is unfortunately, not an isolated case. If you’re a good man with good intentions, you’ll overcome the problems and you and your wife be a success story envied by others.

Hopefully, this article has prepared you well for what lies ahead because being well informed is the first step towards exercising wisdom and making good decisions. Your Thai wife will never cease being grateful and you will be a blessed man. For now, go and jump on to thailovecupid.com and let the fun begin.