

perfect gift for my friends ...1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. About the people, pop culture, traditions....By Kristen S.Solid book with clear, bright images and a fun read.It's the only book that I could find on Thailand that was about the people, pop culture, traditions, history and geography. There is no mention of which hotels to stay in, which restaurants to eat in or which guided tour to sign up for. Thank you Jody Houton!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I love the Geek in Somewhere seriesBy ParkaHere's another book from the Geek in Somewhere series. The earlier book that I have is A Geek in Japan and I really enjoyed reading it.The author is Jody Houton who has lived, worked and traveled in Thailand. He loves the place so much he now lives and work in Bangkok.This 160-page paperback is packed with lots of interesting stories, facts and also mythology on Thailand and the people. The topics it covers are quite wide ranging. You can read about the history, the political situation, Thai culture, festivals, temples, design, architecture, fashion, food and entertainment.If you're traveling to Thailand and want to get a good overview, this will be the book I recommend. The writeup is snappy and yet information. It's a much more entertaining read compared to travel guidebooks. And there are many wonderful photos nicely presented throughout.One thing to note is, this is not a guidebook that gives you location to places to visit. Well, there are well known places and tourist spots listed, but it's not like a travel guide book with maps that tells you how to get there. With this book, it introduces you to places where you might not know of. The last chapter of the book does give you a list of places to visit, but you will need more detailed maps and instructions.

A Geek in Thailand is a light-hearted but perceptive look at one of the world's most visited countries from the viewpoint of a young foreign resident.More than just a Thai travel guide, it offers a concise but insightful take on Thailand for tourists, expats, would-be expats, and othersanyone, in fact, with an interest in visiting or learning about the Land of Smiles. Packed with short articles accompanied by sidebar stories and interviews and evocative color photographs, the author paints a vivid and revealing picture of a country built on a deep reverence for nation, religion and monarchy, yet with its own distinct, individualistic perspective. Subjects range from the touchstones of Thai culture and history, such as its politics and economy, Buddhism and folklore, to chapters on traditional Thai design and craftsmanship, including its highly acclaimed architecture and fine silk textiles. There are also chapters on the globally popular Thai food and entertainment like kickboxing and cabaret. Chapters on the Thai character and cultural do's and don'ts will allow the reader to go beyond the Thai smile. For visitors to the country, the author includes his top ten things to see and do in the main tourist destinations as well as an account of the main festivals and tips on getting around.

"In an age of attenuated attention spans this book moves quickly from subject to subject and packs a lot into its 160 pagesA Geek in Thailand should still please many different kinds of readers, from the newbie traveler who can pick up a lot of road tips and enjoy some excellent maps in the concluding chapter about travel, to the new expat looking for work and trying to make sense of a baffling workplace, or even the expat veterans." Bangkok101"...a lucid, well-researched study of the Land of Smiles and a refreshing departure from well-trodden paths... A Geek in Thailand offers a convincing picture and one that will enrich the uninitiated's understanding of our strange land." The Nation"With a masterly touch, Jody Houton explains what makes Thais tick. This is a highly readable book. Houton's insights will save you years of head scratching and embarrassing confusion. A well-illustrated volume, it's also a joy to read in one sitting." Alan Morison, editor of Phuketwan"Jody Houton's pleasant and insightful book surfs through the quirky, the profound and the plainly inexplicable culture hot points of Thailand." Kong Rithee, deputy editor of Life, Bangkok Post"Packed with short articles accompanied by sidebar stories and interviews and evocative color photographs, Houton touches on the variety of Thai's daily life" Shanghai Daily"A Geek in Thailand is better than a guidebook: it's a roadmap of the Thai psyche, a territory that can be just as fascinating (and just as perilous) as the physical terrain explored by more run-of-the-mill travel publications." About.com"Warning: after reading this alluring book, you will have to travel to Thailand." Library Journal"If you wish to travel to Thailand, holiday there, work there, or you just enjoy travel stories, this is the book for you. It is filled with facts and stories that instantly immerse you in the culture and country." Blue Wolf sAbout the AuthorJody Houton is a UK-born journalist who has traveled extensively since leaving university, and lived and worked in several different countries before settling in Thailand. His work at a number of Thai newspapers, magazines and radio stations in both the tourist area of Phuket and the capital city of Bangkok has allowed him access to some of the country's most interesting, bizarre and influential people and given him the opportunity to delve more deeply into the Thai psyche, lifestyle, culture and experience. It has also given him a unique vantage point to speak on Thailand and Thai people from the perspective of tourist, foreigner, expat and resident. The expat experience, in particular, has enabled him to form an unbiased interpretation of the benefits and disadvantages of being a foreigner living and working in Thailand.