

EPTAS #10 – “Thai man no good” right?

Welcome to “Every Picture Tells a Story”; a weekly post about living in Thailand. Each week we’ll post a picture that illustrates some of the best parts of living in Thailand.

One of the things I find odd about expat men living in Thailand is how few Thai men they know. Now, I’ll be honest right here and say, I didn’t come to Thailand to meet men. For sure, the ratio of Thai women I know to Thai men is quite lopsided.

Many of the expat men I meet have some very negative opinions about Thai men. Some find Thai men are stand-offish and harbor hatred toward foreigners. Some characterize Thai men as womanizing drunken gamblers that beat their wives or force them into prostitution.

Many of the Thai men I’ve met are painfully shy and may appear aloof to foreigners. I would also say that Thai culture embraces friendship as a more sacred relationship. We westerners have more “acquaintances” than we do true friends. That isn’t the Thai way. And to be fair, most Thai men don’t know any foreigners either and can’t imagine what we might have in common.



What’s more, many foreigners congregate in tourism hubs like Pattaya. As we all know, many of the “entertainment” venues in Pattaya don’t attract the cream of the crop from any country. It just might be the Thais who work this crowd aren’t representing the best Thailand has to offer either.

Just as we stereotype Thai men, they might just as easily group us all together as lager louts and whoremongers. My best friend’s wife calls all foreigners “Tattooed Terry from Manchester”. According to her, we aren’t here for any reason other than cheap booze and loose women.

And that’s what this week’s picture is here to clear up, at least from the Thai side of things. It was taken at Thai Garden Resort in Pattaya. This young Thai father of 3 was enjoying a long weekend with his family. Show three Thai kids a swimming pool that big and you cannot keep them out of it. This young father endured the relentless demands for piggy back and submarine rides hour after hour. I saw him at the restaurant later and he was joyously exhausted.

I am happy to say, he is representative of most of the Thai men I know; hard working guys, loving husbands and doting dads. If you don't know any ... you are hanging out in the wrong places.

The next time you are out in public, with a chance to see Thai men outside the fantasy worlds created in tourist zones, take a closer look. Most are just regular guys with regular jobs and beautiful families.

Take some time and get to know some of them.

Orlando Barton