

## The Far East



Ancient and diverse, the Far East is a study of contrasts – mysticism and materialism, ancient wisdom and new technology, temperate or tropical, and oblique yet approachable. The Far East can be wildly expensive or incredibly cheap to live and work. There is no one-size-fits-all in this part of the world! It is best explored country by country.

### **Thailand**

(Lonely Planet says): The Kingdom of Thailand draws more visitors than any other country in southeast Asia with its irresistible combination of breathtaking natural beauty, inspiring temples, renowned hospitality, robust cuisine and ruins of fabulous ancient kingdoms.



From the stupa-studded mountains of Mae Hong Son and the verdant limestone islands of the Andaman Sea, to the pulse-pounding dance clubs of Bangkok and the tranquil villages moored along the Mekong River, Thailand offers something for every type of traveller.

Bangkok has dominated Thailand's urban hierarchy as well as its political, commercial and cultural life since the late 18th century. Although you can shop in air-conditioned comfort in its Western-style malls, the city is a long way from being tamed by commercial homogeneity.

Click on the links below to find out more about this exotic location

<http://www.thai-tour.com/eng/bangkok/attractions.html>

[www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/asia/thailand/](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/asia/thailand/)



## **Vietnam**

Most visitors to Vietnam are overwhelmed by the sublime beauty of the country's natural setting: the Red River Delta in the north, the Mekong Delta in the south and almost the entire coastal strip are a patchwork of brilliant green rice paddies tended by women in conical hats.

There are some divine beaches along the coast, while inland there are soaring mountains, some of which are cloaked by dense, misty forests. Vietnam also offers an opportunity to see a country of traditional charm and rare beauty rapidly opening up to the outside world.

Ho Chi Minh (formerly known as Saigon) is a bustling city, complete with a tree-lined boulevard and French quarter. Ho Chi Minh City is the heart and soul of Vietnam. It's a bustling, dynamic and industrious centre, the largest city in the country, the economic capital and the cultural trendsetter. Yet within the teeming metropolis are the timeless traditions and beauty of an ancient culture.

Click on the links below to find out more about this exotic location  
<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/asia/vietnam/>  
[http://www.vietnamtourism.com/e\\_pages/news/index.asp](http://www.vietnamtourism.com/e_pages/news/index.asp)

## **China**

The most populous nation in the world, China is a new world superpower in the making. A vast behemoth, China is a land of cultural and geographic schisms. It's not that it has completely done away with its Maoist past - it's more that the yin of revolutionary zeal is being balanced by the yang of economic pragmatism.



With its long and dramatic history, China offers endless cultural treasures. Famous attractions like the Terracotta Warriors, the Great Wall, colonial Shanghai and the imperial grandeur of Beijing are obvious magnets, but there's also sacred mountains and huge national parks to wander in.

China is an enigma and it is hard to fit much information into a few paragraphs. Temperatures can range from hot and humid to cold and snowy and whilst Mandarin is the official language of China, regional dialects continue so two Chinese businessmen from separate parts of the country might need an interpreter to communicate. With new 'economic free trade zones' China is testing the waters of capitalism with stunning results.

To find out more about China:

<http://china.tourism-asia.net/>  
<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/asia/china/>

## Other Countries

Japan, Taiwan and Singapore are highly functioning Far Eastern countries that have ruled world markets and have made themselves known far and wide. Densely populated, the cost of living on these islands can be high, but schools will provide accommodation, offsetting the highest expense you will encounter.

Nepal and Tibet are poorer countries with great natural beauty. You can expect lower salaries but an extremely low cost of living! Ideal for adventurous nature lovers, Nepal and Tibet are mystical and welcoming.

For further reading:

Japan

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/asia/japan>

<http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/>

Singapore

<http://singapore.tourism-asia.net/>

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/asia/singapore>

Taiwan

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/asia/taiwan>

<http://www.taiwantourism.org/>

Nepal

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/asia/nepal>

<http://www.welcomenepal.com/>

Tibet

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/asia/tibet>

<http://www.tibettour.org/chinatibettoursite/moban/index.asp>

The Far East can be an exciting place to live and work. Cheap flights between countries will allow you to experience many different cultures and climates whilst you teach abroad. To work in the Far East, you should be adaptable and flexible in your approach and willing to accept a way of life far different than your own. If you accept the challenge, you will be rewarded with an insight into an ancient and ever-changing culture.

