Why is Thailand One of the World's Most Popular Destinations?

With over 35 million visitors in 2017 (a figure that looks set to steadily increase every year) there must be something in the water in Thailand that keeps drawing in the crowds. Since the 1960's, travelers and tourists alike have been flocking to the southeast Asian getaway as they realized just what it can offer holidaymakers, and the stars aligned for the Thai tourist board creating an almost perfect vacation location.

As Bangkok grew into a global transport hub, the demand for improved tourist infrastructure soon followed, so much so that the powers that be saw fit to create their own dedicated tourist police to cope with the influx. Once word got out, Thailand's tourism boomed, a trend that isn't showing any signs of slowing down soon.

The country is known as "the land of smiles," and Thais are a friendly and hospitable people. The weather is stunning all year round, which makes visiting the many beautiful beaches and island hideaways a no-brainer. The cities are vibrant and colorful, boasting a world-class nightlife and entertainment scene. Outdoor and sports enthusiasts are in dreamland with top-drawer facilities for just about any pursuit you can think of. Wildlife and history buffs will be in their element too, with hundreds of temples and ancient sites to explore and ethical elephant sanctuaries promising memorable experiences. And don't even get us started on the food – which is arguably the finest cuisine on the planet. Throw into this mix an eclectic and mind-boggling variety of annual festivals, and you have a recipe for tourism gold.

And wrapping it all up in a nice, tidy bow, is the affordable cost. You'll have the time of your life on these shores and spend as much or as little as you like. The only problem is you'll never want to leave.