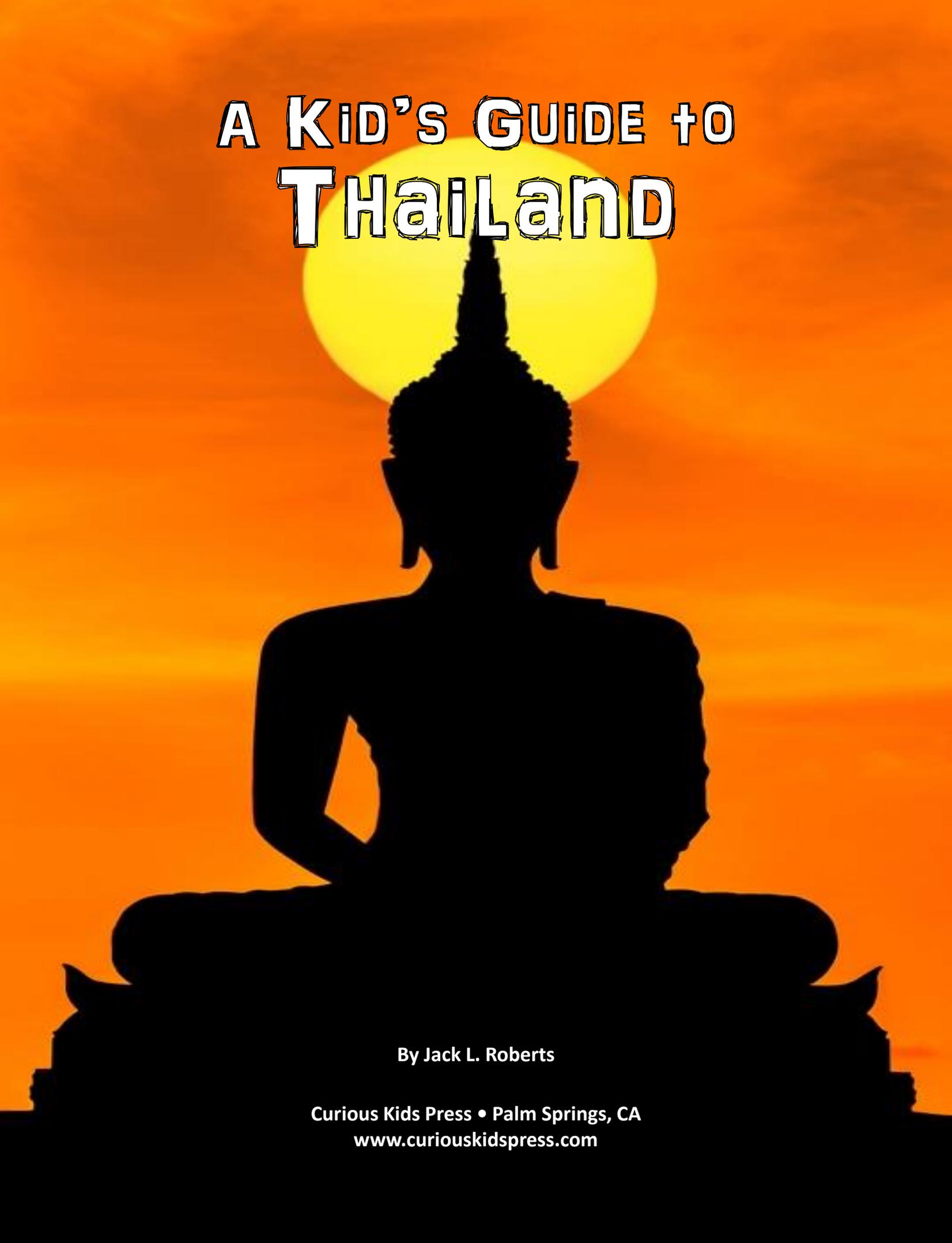


# A KID'S GUIDE TO THAILAND

A black silhouette of a Buddha statue in a meditative pose is centered against a vibrant orange and yellow sunset background. A large, bright yellow sun is positioned directly behind the Buddha's head, creating a halo effect. The text 'A KID'S GUIDE TO THAILAND' is written in a bold, white, outlined font at the top of the image.

By Jack L. Roberts

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# Welcome to Thailand

ยินดีต้อนรับ (yin-dee-ton-rab)

**IMAGINE A COUNTRY WHERE** everybody smiles all the time – even when they're a little sad.

Imagine a place where there are picturesque *khlongs* (or canals) filled with boats full of fruit, vegetables, and fish for eager shoppers.

Imagine a country with thousands of gleaming Buddhist temples and where Buddhism plays an important role in most people's lives.

Actually, you don't have to just imagine such a place. That place is

**THAILAND!**

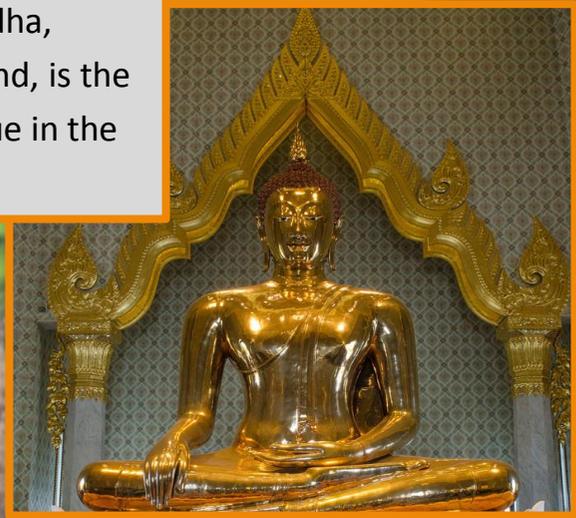
*Everyone loves the floating markets in Thailand's capital city of Bangkok – Thais citizens and tourists alike.*

# Cool Facts About Thailand



Siamese cats come from Thailand originally. In Thai they are called *wichen-maat*, meaning “moon diamond.”

The Golden Buddha, located in Thailand, is the largest gold statue in the world.



The mother of world-famous golfer Tiger Woods is originally from Thailand. Tiger’s middle name is Tont, a traditional Thai name.

The smallest **mammal** in the world lives mainly in Western Thailand. It’s the nog-nosed bat and weighs only about .071 ounces (2 grams).

People in Thailand remove their shoes before entering a home or a temple. (It is considered disrespectful to walk inside of an establishment with shoes on.)

**The Royal Dragon restaurant is one of the largest restaurants in the world. The dining room alone is more than 175,000 square feet. That’s bigger than three football fields put together. The restaurant is so large that the servers use roller skates to deliver food to the tables.**

# The Best of Thailand: People, Customs, and Culture

Thailand is often called “the land of a thousand smiles.”

**IF THERE IS ONE WORD** that best describes the Thai way of life, it’s “sanuk.” Literally, it means “fun.” And Thais do love to have fun. But the word *sanuk* means much more than that as well. It means finding pleasure in everything one does in life. It means having a good sense of humor and a positive outlook about life. For most Thais, anything worth doing should always have a little sanuk!

# How to Speak Thais

Hello

sà-wàt-dee

My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

(male) pǎm chêu \_\_\_\_\_.

(female) rao chêu \_\_\_\_\_.

How are  
you?  
sà-baai dee mǎi

Goodbye

báai baa

**FACTOID (little fact):**

The Thai alphabet has  
28 vowels.

Welcome

yin-dee-ton-rab

I'm from \_\_\_\_\_.

(male) pǎm maa jàak \_\_\_\_\_.

(female) rao maa jàak \_\_\_\_\_.

In Thailand, it's against  
the law to say anything  
bad about the king.

**Background photo:** Buddhist temple in central Thailand with wild monkeys by Michael Owens

# Monks in Thailand

**EVERY YOUNG MAN** in Thailand is expected to become a monk, even if it is for only a short period of time in his life. Usually, a young man becomes a monk between the time he graduates from high school and the time he starts a career or gets married. Most young men remain monks for only about three months. But young men may choose to be a monk for only a day or for as long as a lifetime.



Photo: Tevapapas

Background Photo: Buddhist park in Phutthamonthon district, Thailand

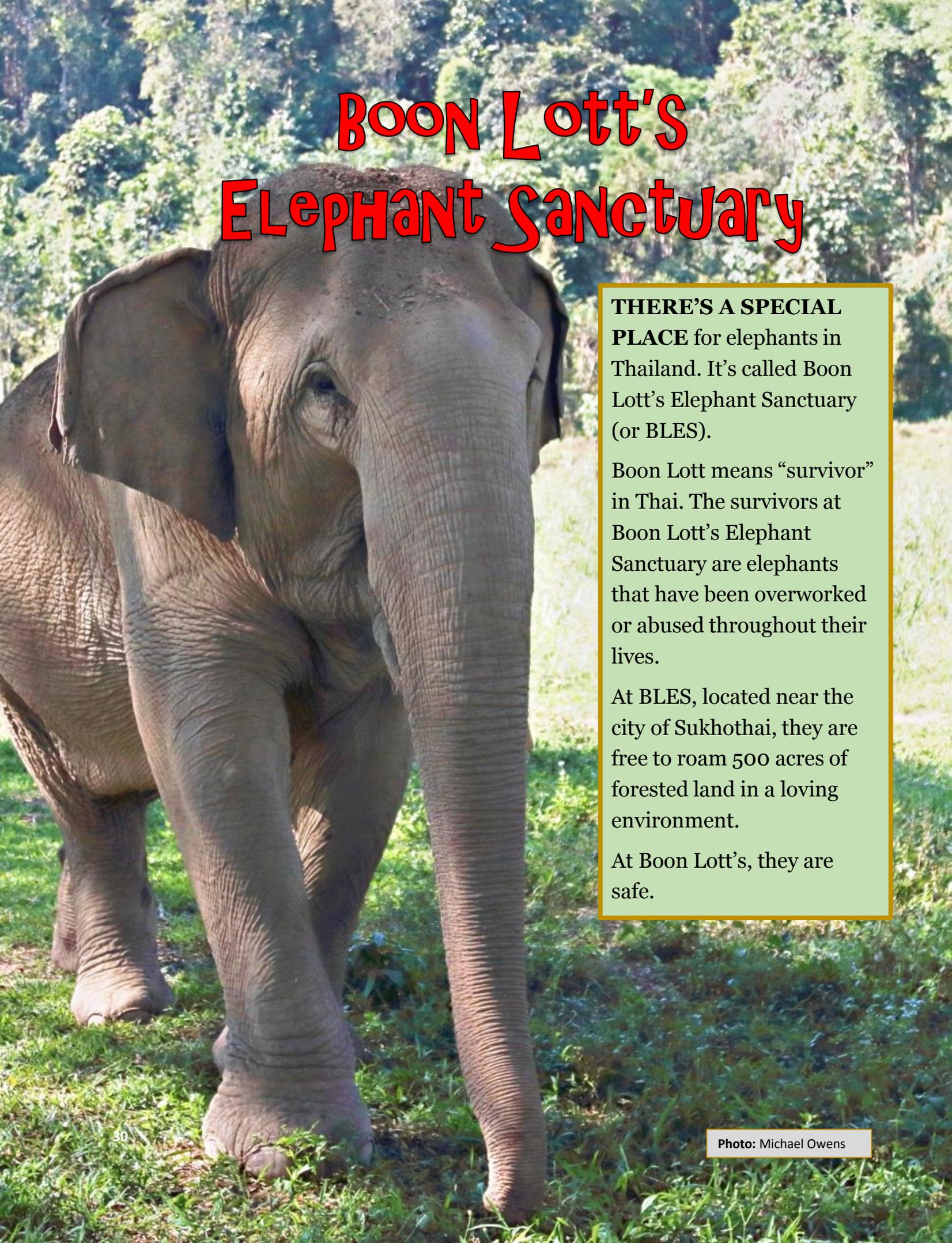
# 5 CRAZY-FUN THINGS TO DO IN THAILAND

## 1. Let tiny fish nibble at your feet.

**SOME PEOPLE** have a lot of nerve. They stick their feet into tubs of water full of tiny fish. They then watch the tiny fish nibble away at their feet. (Ugh!)



It's just one of the things you can do at Sea Life Bangkok Ocean World. You can also check out the rare and bizarre sea creatures. Touch the skin of a friendly starfish. Catch a shark feeding show.

A large elephant is the central focus of the image, standing in a lush, green field. The elephant's trunk is extended downwards, and its large ears are visible. The background is filled with dense, green trees, suggesting a forested area. The overall scene is bright and natural.

# BOON LOTT'S ELEPHANT SANCTUARY

**THERE'S A SPECIAL PLACE** for elephants in Thailand. It's called Boon Lott's Elephant Sanctuary (or BLES).

Boon Lott means "survivor" in Thai. The survivors at Boon Lott's Elephant Sanctuary are elephants that have been overworked or abused throughout their lives.

At BLES, located near the city of Sukhothai, they are free to roam 500 acres of forested land in a loving environment.

At Boon Lott's, they are safe.