



Phuket

Photo: Earth-Bound Misfit, I



Photo: Stew Dean



Photo: Walter Lim



Photo: Harsha K R

Welcome to paradise! It has all the right ingredients surrounded by clear blue water, its palm fringed beaches are of soft, clean sand, it has a vibrant nightlife and you can enjoy the most wide-ranging cuisine – you name it, you can eat it in Phuket. For several years Phuket has topped the polls as a holiday paradise, and in the most recent survey, readers of a top travel magazine voted for it ahead of Bali and Cebu. Add all this to the most welcoming people in the world, and you can see why travellers love it.

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Top 5



A Day Visit By Boat To Phi...

This is one of the best excursions from Phuket and it takes a whole day. Lea...

Phang-nga

Take the speedboat to Phang-nga and Khai Nai islands. Discover the flora and fauna at Panak Island, and the amazing limestone ...

Health Spas And Wellness Centres

Make sure you are going to a genuine health treatment centre and not a hotel which has just decided to add spa' to their name...

Phuket Fantasea

This is a cultural theme park with a very extravagant show. Phuket Fantasea is a stunning 140-acre theme complex, packed with ...

Elephant Trekking

Enjoy elephant treks out in the jungle. Take some mosquito protection or a cream to avert the various flying insects, many of ...



THE CITY



Photo: Stew Dean

Phuket and its surrounding islands are some of the most beautiful and intriguing in the world. Tall outcrops of limestone rise vertically from the sea, and probably the most famous of these was used as a location for one of the James Bond films. It's now known as "James Bond Island," but its real name is Phang-nga.

Set just off the west coast of Thailand, in the Andaman Sea, Phuket is about the same size as Singapore. The main town is Phuket Town, but many visitors stay in the beach resorts of Surin, Katu, Karon and the most famous (and busy), Patong. To get from Phuket to Patong takes about 20 minutes. Phuket Town has all the administration offices, bigger business hotels and department stores, whilst the beach resorts cater more to the holiday maker. However, excursions to the islands off Phuket go from the port at Phuket Town.

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DO & SEE



Photo: Walter Lim

Gorgeous white beach, the bluest water you have seen and snorkeling is like swimming in an aquarium. This is the place to relax and enjoy yourself, either with scuba diving, spa centers or elephant trekking, there is always something to do!

A Day Visit By Boat To Phi Phi Island



This is one of the best excursions from Phuket and it takes a whole day. Leaving in the morning, the excursion includes a visit to island caves, a glass bottomed

boat/submarine trip, and snorkelling off the island. Some time on Phi Phi Island, where some organizers go to Maya - a location for the film "The Beach." See website for more details and other boat trips.

Internet: www.phuket-travel.com

Phang-nga

Take the speedboat to Phang-nga and Khai Nai islands. Discover the flora and fauna at Panak Island, and the amazing limestone mountains at Hong Island. This trip also offers you a visit to Tapu Island (James Bond Island), Talu Cave, the fishing village called Ban Tak Dad and the landscape of mangrove forests.

Address: 2/3 Chumporn Road, Muang, Phuket

More Info: Phang Nga Eco Tourism

Health Spas And Wellness Centres

Make sure you are going to a genuine health treatment centre and not a hotel which has just decided to add 'spa' to their name.

Treatment costs vary depending on the treatment Thai massage or full-treatment packages which are priced according to the number of chosen options. The best on the island has to be The Hideaway, where options include a package of sauna, Jacuzzi, oil massage and Thai massage. You will be floating on air for days afterwards!

Address: 157 Soi Nanai, Patong Beach, Phuket

Phone: +66 81 750 0026

Internet: www.phuket-hideaway.com

Phuket Fantasea

This is a cultural theme park with a very extravagant show. Phuket Fantasea is a stunning 140-acre theme complex, packed with activities such as carnivals and a Las Vegas-styled theatrical show.

The show begins at 9 pm. If you have booked for the dinner and the show, then arrive before 6.30 pm.

Address: 93 Moo 3, Kamala Beach, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 385 000

Internet: www.phuket-fantasea.com

Elephant Trekking

Enjoy elephant treks out in the jungle. Take some mosquito protection or a cream to avert the various flying insects, many of whom enjoy taking a nip at a passing human. See website for more details and information on prices, etc.

Address: Jungle, Phuket

Internet: www.phuket-travel.com

Adventurer Rafting

This tour, in Southern Thailand's lush Phang Nga Province, takes you on an action-packed ride along mountain rivers fringed with forest. Be prepared to get wet! See website for more information and different packages for White Water

Rafting Tour.

Internet: www.phuket-travel.com

Scuba Diving

□ Have a go' under the guidance of a PADI instructor. A day course includes simple instruction in breathing techniques, signals and safety before taking a dive into the clear waters.

Address: 24 Karon Rd, Kata Beach, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 330 598

Internet: www.diveasia.com

More Info: Dive Asia

Anthem Wake Park

Anthem Wake Park is the first cable park in the whole of Asia. Feel the adrenalin rushing while trying, or succeeding, to wakeboard on a fresh water lake in beautiful surroundings.

Address: 194/6 M.7 Sri-sunthorn road, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 620 034

Internet: www.anthemwakepark.com

Phuket Shooting Range

Phuket Shooting Range is one of the biggest attractions on the island. It offers tons of fun things to do, such as a shooting range, paint ball, archery and many other activities.

Address: 82/2 Patak Rd. Ampur Muang, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 381 667

Internet: www.phuket-shooting.com

Dino Park Mini Golf

Dino Park Mini Golf is located between Karon and Kata beaches. It is a 18-hole course with a thrilling dinosaurs theme and a Flintstones-themed restaurant.

Address: Marina Phuket Resort, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 330 625

Internet: www.dinopark.com

Splash Jungle Water Park

This is the perfect place to let the kids, and adults, go wild! Enjoy an adventurous day filled with water slides, rides and diving at Splash Jungle Water Park.

Address: 65 Moo 4 Mai khao Soi 4, T. Mai khao A. Thalang, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 372 111

Internet: www.splashjunglewaterpark.com

Phuket Thai Cookery School

This is the perfect place to learn how to cook Thai food. The school is located on Siray beach in a serene and beautiful environment. Enjoy your food on one of their wooden sundecks or on the beach.

Address: 39/4 Thepatan Road, Rassada, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 252 354

Internet: www.phuketthaicookery.com

Sepak Takraw

Sepak Takraw is a popular sport in Asia. When the sun has set and the temperature has cooled down you can see people coming out and play this game. If you wonder what it is about, count how many times the ball touches the ground.

Address: Phuket

Zumba

Even though you are on vacation you might be in the mood to move. Zumba is a fun activity that will bring a huge smile to your face.

Address: Phuket

Internet: www.kayesmith.zumba.com

Golf



Phuket have many beautiful golf courses to enjoy with panoramic views and refreshing surroundings. Just pick a course of your choice!

Address: Phuket
Internet: www.phuketgolfcourse.com

Football Crazy Golf

This sport is a mix between football and golf and is a fun filled activity for the whole family. You play on a 6,400 square meters field with 18 holes through tunnels, bunkers, slopes, curves and rocks.

Address: Patong Hill's Kathu side

DINING



Photo: Harsha K R

The Thai kitchen in itself has become one of the country's biggest exports and naturally nothing can compare to the genuine thing! Why not sample a bowl of Tom Yam Goong (spicy prawn soup), or perhaps the Gaeng Phed Yang (roast duck in red curry) is more to your liking? Many restaurants in the resort towns such as Patong, will have a mix of Thai and 'western' food. Chinese dishes are readily available at the many restaurants in the resorts and there are a fair number of Indian and Arabic places catering to those particular types of cuisine.

Night Food Market

For simple, freshly cooked Thai food, a good place to go is the Night Food Market on Rat-U-Thit. It's out in the open and offers plenty of choice. Look at each menu to see what appeals to you! The 'sales' team on the street will all tempt you into their restaurant, but perhaps it's best to look at each one and go back to the one you like. Fish is the main ingredient at the market.

Address: Rat-U-Thit Road, Phuket
More Info: Opposite the Paradise Complex

Aloha Villa

Aloha Villa is a hotel and restaurant on the Rat-U-Thit road. It is a very clean and well-run establishment serving Thai, Western, and Chinese food.

Address: 145/2 Rat-U-Thit Road, Patong, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 345 733-42
Internet: www.phuket-aloha.com

MollyMalones

Molly Malones is a typical re-created Irish Pub. Comfy sofas and Guinness make this a favourite for those westerners wanting a break from rice and noodles or for anyone looking for traditional English/Irish food.

Address: 94 Thaweewong Road, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 292 771
Internet: www.mollymalonesphuket.com
More Info: The beach front road

Jasmine Seafood Restaurant

This is a full restaurant version of the street market in the centre of Patong. You choose your baskets of fish and these will include prawns, squid, rock lobster and mussels to be cooked.

Address: 20/10 Kata Rd, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 284 404
Internet: www.sugarpalmphuket.com
More Info: Sugar Palm Resort, about 30 minutes drive from Patong

Kan-Eang Seafood Restaurant

This restaurant specializes in seafood and is located nearer Phuket Town at Chalang Bay. Not only is the food great but the panoramic view over the harbour is amazing.

Address: 9/3 Chofa Rd, Chalong Bay, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 381 323
Internet: www.phuket-seafood.com

Bliss Beach Club

Bliss Beach Club invites you to a calm, and laid back

environment in north Phuket. They describe their menu as "a Pandora's Box of surprises" with clear flavours, local ingredients and homemade pasta.

Address: 202/88 Moo 2, Tumbon Cherg-talay, Phuket
Phone: +66 81 956 2742
Internet: www.blissbeachclub.com

Rintang@Chalong

Visiting Phuket you will most likely stop at the famous Buddhist temple on the island, Wat Chalong. While you are there, cross the street and enjoy your lunch at Rintang@Chalong. They serve lovely Thai food in the middle of a tropical garden.

Address: Moo 4 Chalong Subdistrict, Amphoe Muang Phuket, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 374 911

Escape Bar

Escape Bar serves a mix of European and Thai food and offer you gorgeous panoramic views over Chalong Bay. They also have a great selection of different beverages.

Address: 44/5 Moo 9 Chalong, Muang, Phuket
Phone: +66 80 010 7782

Pizza 2000

Even in Thailand you can get a craving for pizza. If you do, then this is the place to go to. Along with pizza, they serve chicken wings, sandwiches and German cuisine.

Address: 40/21 Soi Sukee, Phuket
Phone: +66 82 809 9107
Internet: www.pizza-2000.com

Laem Thong Restaurant

Laem Thong Restaurant invites you to experience a fusion of Chinese and Thai food. The seafood here is also delicious and served in a lively atmosphere.

Address: 31-39 Chanacharoen Road, T., Phuket
Phone: +66 76 224 349

The Royal Kitchen

The restaurant at The Royal Paradise Hotel & Spa offers a

variety of flavours from all over the world. Choose between Thai, Chinese, Indian and Arabian cuisine.

Address: 135/23, 123/15-16 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 340 666
Internet: www.royalparadise.com

Silk Restaurant & Bar

With views over the Kamala Bay you can sit at Silk Restaurant & Bar and enjoy traditional Thai food in a tranquil environment. The chef's focus is the flavours and textures of local Thai food.

Address: 15 Moo 6, Kamala Beach, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 338 777 ext 680
Internet: www.silkphuket.com

Rockfish Restaurant

At the Rockfish Restaurant the food is prepared with influences from Australia and the Mediterranean with a modern Asian twist. The menu is original and highly suitable to the hot climate in Thailand.

Address: 33/6 Kamala Beach Road, Kathu, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 279 732
Internet: www.rockfishrestaurant.com

Plum Restaurant

It is hard to decide whether the delicious food or the amazing view is the best at Plum Restaurant. Either way, you will have a great Mediterranean dining experience here.

Address: 18/40 Moo 6, Nakalay Road, Kathu, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 337 300
Internet: www.capesienna.com

DaVinci Deli

DaVinci Deli is a lovely little Italian place located in Southern Phuket. Come here for a Panini sandwich, homemade pasta or just delicious Italian coffee.

Address: 8/46 Moo 1, Nai Harn, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 289 574

Internet: www.davinciphuket.com

CAFES



Photo: Jeff Gunn

All the resorts from Surin to Chalong Bay have a beach front road packed with cafés and simple eating places. Some are part of a hotel; some are just simple cafés on the roadside. Too numerous to mention, just have a stroll and see what appeals to your taste buds!

Gallery Cafe

Everything about this place is good! Pinky, the owner, offers great service, you can get a full English breakfast, nice sandwiches for lunch or an organic salad and for dinner choose from the lovely menu.

Address: 106 Rassada Road, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 211 775
Internet: www.gallerycafe-phuket.com

HockHoeLee Coffee

We know how it can feel being a coffee lover and not find the great tasting coffee which you have at home. Visit this place and you will!

Address: 28/9 Moo 5, Wiset Rd., Rawai, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 381 975
Internet: www.hockhoelee.com

Samero's Icecream Paradise

This is ice-cream at its best! 100 % natural ingredients and tons of different flavors, it is so good that you will dream about it.

Address: Sainamyen Road 92, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 342 505
Internet: www.sameros.com

Spoonful Of Sugar

Despite the name, you can eat more than one cookie without getting a sugar rush! Enjoy it with a great cup of coffee.

Address: Saiyuan Rawai, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 388 432

Rider Cafe

If you are discovering Phuket by motorcycle then this is the place for all riders. They have good food and great service!

Address: Yaowarad Rd 30, Thalad Yai, Phuket
Phone: +66 81 958 6832
Internet: www.ridercafe-phuket.com

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Photo: Earth-Bound Misfit, I

Equally, the bars of Patong run into the hundreds. The main bar areas are gathered around Bang La Square and Bang La Road. The road is traffic-free in the evening so you can wander along without the worries of the motorbikes. Off Bang La Road are some "Soi", which are lanes, but again without traffic. In these Sois, such as Soi Eric, Soi Cayote, Soi Gonzo and Soi Easy there are even more bars. Names change rapidly, as do the owners and the staff, but to name a few anyway.

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Kangaroo Bar

Kangaroo Bar is an Australian bar serving delicious cocktails, with sports TV and a relaxed atmosphere. If you are in the mood for a beer you have come to the right places as this is a popular beer bar.

Address: Bang La Road, Patong, Phuket

Internet: www.barkangaroo.com

More Info: Left side coming from Thaweewong Rd

Club Rio

Club Rio has food, dancing, pool and TV. Situated on the corner of Bang La, it's a good place to watch the world from the corner terrace tables. From the speakers you hear hiphop and techno.

Address: 53 Bangla Rd, Patong, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 340 490

Banana Disco

Banana Disco is the most established disco in Patong, this is one of the best meeting places in Patong. Large TV screen and lasers. There is a entrance fee but it includes the first drink. In the bar down stairs there is usually live music.

Address: 96 Thawiwong Rd, Patong, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 340 301

Thai Boxing

When in Thailand, going to a Thai Boxing match is a must! Feel the music, the spirit of the fighters and the tension up close in the arena. The nightly fights are viewed in the stadiums on Soi Sai Namyen.

Patong Beach Nightlife

If you are not looking for a place in particular then Soi Bangla is the best place to walk a long until you find a place that looks like a good time.

Address: Soi Bangla, Phuket

SHOPPING



Photo: Ahmed Rabea

Thailand has excellent shopping, both modern malls with all the regular brands, as well as plenty of traditional crafts. The Central Festival in Phuket Town is the biggest shopping centre and has 300 shops, with branded goods, Thai crafts and electronics. Situated on the outskirts of Phuket Town, you will more than likely need a tuk tuk or taxi to get there.

For traditional Thai crafts, there is an organisation which is government supported called One Tambon, One Product. The idea is to encourage rural and tribal people from the villages to produce traditional goods and take the benefits directly. The store is located at the south end of Patong, behind the Holiday Inn Hotel. All the resorts have a night market, but the biggest is in Patong. The vendors begin to set up their stalls around 6.30 pm and then they are open for business until about 11 pm. All the best bargains are here: clothes, sports equipment, watches, souvenirs, luggage and some of the best replicas you can find.

Ceramics Of Phuket

For designer ceramics the Ceramics of Phuket company uses the local clay for their work and produces some very

fine pieces. They are at Baan Kathu, on the outskirts of Phuket Town.

Address: 71/3 Vichikasongkram Rd, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 321 917
Internet: www.ceramicsofphuket.com

Ban Boran Textiles

For quality textiles and Thai Silk go to ban Ban Boran Textiles. The prices are slightly higher than in Bangkok but the quality is very good.

Address: 51 Yaowarat Road, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 258 249

Jewellery

When in Phuket, get some jewellery for yourself or the loved one. Cultured pearls are produced locally at Naka Noi Island which are also a good buy. Many local shops in Phuket City are specialist in jewellery. If you want to know the trade of pearlmaking, tours leave daily to Naka Noi Island and include a pearl demonstration and the opportunity to buy at discounted prices.

The Gems Gallery and Wang Talang are large stores devoted almost exclusively to jewellery. The range, especially at Gems Gallery, is huge, with modern European and Asian styles and certificates issued when you buy. For lovers of rare and antique jewellery, The Banyan Tree Galleries feature interesting pieces from around Asia.

A piece of advice:

Unless you're an expert in gems and jewellery, it is not recommended to buy goods with the intention of reselling them back home. Some elaborate scams have been set up to fool people into paying a high price for gems that are low quality at best and worthless fakes at worst.

To combat this problem, the Thai Gem and Jewellery Traders Association and the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) have formed a "Jewel Fest Club". The club aims to offer quality products at reasonable prices with a

money-back guarantee if buyers are not completely satisfied. Some of the larger Phuket jewellers are in this program, so look for the Jewel Fest emblem while browsing the shop.

Shopping centres

Central Festival Phuket is an air conditioned, fully equipped three-storey shopping mall just outside of Phuket Town.

Diagonally opposite Bangla Road, the Jungceylon Shopping Complex, has radically changed the face of shopping in Patong. The two main stores in the complex are Robinson - a gleaming well-lit upper end department store comprising 200-plus stores, and Carrefour - a large French-based supermarket.

Address: 74-75 Moo 5 Vichitsongkram Rd, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 291 111
Internet: www.centralfestivalphuket.com

Interior design

Century 22

Designer Lek Rattanachinkorn opened this boutique in November 2007, gathering products from a dozen other top Thai designers, as well as a large variety of decorative goods for the home.

8 Phang Nga Road, next to Siam Indigo Restaurant
+66 76 256 418

D Gallery in the Royal Phuket Marina is a well sorted, beautifully lit gallery that also has a very active exhibition programme.

It has more than 200 sqm of contemporary fine art from Thailand and Vietnam and aims to hold annual exhibitions by these artists.

63/501 Moo.2 Thepkasettre Rd, Phuket
+66 76 360 867
www.dgallery.co.th

Chinese Antiques and Reproduction Furniture. There are few places in Phuket that have good Chinese antiques and "vintage" artifacts as well as pieces from Tibet and Mongolia, which makes Fine Oriental a must-stop for lovers of Chinoiserie.

51/20 Chaofa West Road
+66 76 521 552

ACCOMMODATIONS

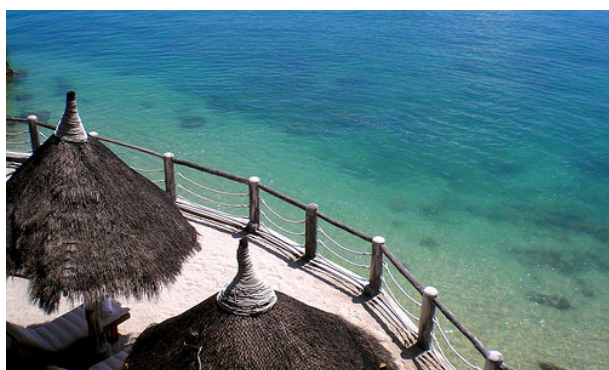


Photo: eMie Daksum

The range of hotels and guest houses in Phuket is enormous. You can stay in five-star luxury or sleep in a beach hut. Take your pick!

Twinpalms Resort And Spa

Twin Palms is very different in that it is independent, is uniquely designed with a mix of North European and Thai architecture, and is a haven of peace. It has top quality genuine spa facilities, beautiful rooms equipped with CD/DVD players so for anyone looking for total relaxation, this could be the one for you.

Address: 106/46 Moo 3, Surin Beach Road, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 316 500
Internet: www.twinpalms-phuket.com

Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort

This hotel is set in 40 acres of a tropical landscaped garden and has its own private beach. It has exceptionally good, large rooms and facilities. One of the advantages is that it is out of the main Patong area but close enough to

enjoy the town's restaurants and bars.

Address: 29 Soi Karon Noi Tumbon Karon, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 370 100
Internet: www.starwoodhotels.com

Diamond Cottage Resort

Diamond Cottage is a well-appointed hotel with inviting pools, and spa facilities. The hotel is well-situated between the beaches at Karon and Katu, and close to the shopping in Kata.

Address: 6 Karon Rd, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 286 447-50
Internet: www.diamondcottage.com

Sunset Beach Resort

Sunset Beach Resort is situated right on the beach with full facilities including a health spa. They have a restaurant, bar and a free shuttle bus to Patong every 30 min.

Address: 316/2 Phrabaramee Road, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 342 482
Internet: www.sunsetphuket.com

Papa Crab Guest House

PapaCrab offers a guest house with four bungalows located right on Kamala Beach. Choose between a double room or single room, either way you will not get disappointed.

Address: 93/5 Moo 3, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 385 315
Internet: www.phuketdir.com/papacrab

Holiday Inn

Holiday Inn is an oasis in the middle of Patong within walking distance to shopping, restaurants and night life. Best of all, it is just steps away from the beach.

Address: Patong Beach, Phuket
Internet: www.holiday.phuket.com

Hilton

Hilton, one of the most famous hotel chains in the world, here at at Karon Beach. 5 pools, thai massage, free introduction to scuba diving, do we need to say more?

Address: 333 Patak Road, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 396 433
Internet: www.hilton.com

Quip Bed & Breakfast

Quip Bed & Breakfast offer comfortable rooms with air conditioning and WiFi throughout the whole complex. The staff is available around the clock and they have a laundry service if needed. The restaurant has Thai and international cuisine.

Address: 54 Phuket road, Talad Yai, Muang, Phuket
Phone: +66 7635 5052
Internet: www.quiphotel.com

Casa Blanca Boutique Hotel

Casa Blanca Boutique Hotel is located in a lovely colonial building just a couple of minutes' walk from the Old Town. Refined simplicity is a concept which you experience throughout the whole hotel. They have an outdoor pool, garden and free WiFi.

Address: 26 Phuket road, Taladyai, Muang, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 219 019
Internet: www.casablancaphuket.com

Lub Sbuy Guest House

Lub Sbuy Guest House is located in central Phuket, close to many restaurants, bars and the nightly food market. You can choose between female or male dorm rooms or mixed rooms.

Address: 183/79-80 Phang-nga Road, Sakdidej Rd., T.Taladyai, A.Muang, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 23 2210
Internet: www.lubsbuy.com

Sabaidee Residence

Sabaidee Residence is located only 500 meters from Phuket Walking Street and the Old Town. The rooms are

simply furnished with a TV, seating area and air conditioning.

Address: 22/4 Suthus Road, Muang, T.Taladyai, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 225 422

Boat Lagoon Resort

Boat Lagoon Resort has two pools, a spa and gorgeous views over the marina. The rooms are spacious and you will get nothing less than top class service.

Address: 22/1 Moo 2 Thepkasattri Rd., T. Kohkaew A. Muang, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 238 533-40
Internet: www.boatlagoonresort.com

The Villa Laemhin Lagoon Resort

The Villa Laemhin Lagoon Resort invites you to stay at their lovely villas with private balconies with beautiful forest surroundings. The restaurant offers Thai and European cuisine. Located a 30 minutes' drive to Surin Beach.

Address: 85/9 Moo.7, Tambon Kohkaew Muang, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 373 044
Internet: www.thevillalaemhinlagoon.com

Coral Island Resort

Coral Island Resort is located 9 km off the coast. The beach is beautiful white, the water is crystal clear and the sunset is simply amazing on the island. The resort offers a massage pavilion, a private balcony and the rooms are decorated in a tropical-style.

Address: 48/11 Chaofa Rd Coral Island, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 281 060
Internet: www.coralislandresort.com

Sino House Phuket Hotel

Sino House Phuket Hotel is a beautiful boutique hotel located in the business area of Phuket. Enjoy a massage in their spa area or a lovely Thai or Chinese dinner in the restaurant.

Address: 1 Montree Rd., Talad -Yai, Muang, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 232 494

Internet: www.sinohousephuket.com

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



Photo: *chee.hong*

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Airport

Phuket International Airport is situated north of the island, so apart from the luxury hotels around this area, it's likely you will need to get to the mid-island resorts of Patong, Karon and Kata. By taxi the trip to Surin will take about 30 minutes, to Patong about 40 min, Karon and Kata beaches around 50 minutes. The bus to Phuket Town takes one hour.

The airport itself is easy to get through and is small enough to make luggage collection quick and simple. The good news is that there are regular flights into Phuket from Bangkok alone and three of these operators are 'no frills' airlines. Phuket is also accessible internationally from and to Hong Kong, Singapore, Incheon (S. Korea) and Kuala Lumpur. It's also possible to island hop from Koh Samui to Phuket using Bangkok Airways.

Having arrived, there are a number of ways of reaching your resort location. Needless to say, there are plenty of people outside the terminal building offering to help – at a price, of course.

Metered taxis are available, but there are not too many of them around. They are to the right as you come out of the arrivals building, at the far end.

To the left as you come out of arrivals, there are 8 seated mini vans which will take you to your hotel, but of course you have to stop at everyone else's hotel as well.

There is also an Airport Bus but only goes to Phuket Town Bus Terminal. It does stop on the way but not at any of the coastal resorts. Journey time is one hour from the airport to Phuket Town.

Internet: www.phuketairportonline.com

Public transport

The most widely used 'taxis' are bright red tuk tuks. These are not the 4 seated variety as in Bangkok but hold about 6-8 people. Unlike the meter taxi, arrange a price before getting in.

There are public buses, which are bright blue, with open sides. There aren't any real schedules, but if you see one and want to get on, just wave – there are no official bus stops.

Car and motorbike rental and driving in Phuket

Traffic in Thailand is on the left side and all the major car rental companies have offices at the airport. An international driving license is required. There are enterprising companies immediately outside the arrivals hall with cards offering cars at cheaper rates. Jeeps are also available, make sure you see the car before paying, some have been around for a while.

When driving in Thailand, beware of motorbikes overtaking on the inside and /or on bends. Drive a little slower and keep an eye on the wing mirrors.

Pharmacy

There are larger chain pharmacies such as Boots (Central Festival) and Watsons. Individual pharmacies are in most resorts in the main shopping areas.

Post

Post offices are open from 8.30 am until 4.30 pm, but make sure your post is there by 3.30 pm, otherwise it waits until the next day. The main post office in Patong is on Beach Road and in Phuket Town is at Montri Road. There are post outlets in many of the major stores and supermarkets. Look for counters with the names of courier companies listed – you can still send with the Thai post service from these counters.

Telephone

Country code: + 66
Area code: 076

Remember that an area code is needed even if you are within that city. So, if a call is made from Patong to Phuket, the prefix 076 is still required.

Electricity

220V, 50 Hz. The general socket is a flat two pin, but there are some Thai appliances that have a third round pin. Many hotels, especially the older ones, have only the two pin socket so bringing an adapter is recommended.

Population

314,000

Currency

Thai Baht, 1 Baht = 100 satang

Opening hours

Most shops are open from 09.00 to 22.00 in the evening, and are often open 7 days a week. Banking hours are strictly 08.30 to 15.30, Monday to Friday.

Newspapers

Phuket Post

Phuket Gazette
Bangkok Post (National)
The Nation (National)
Look East (Magazine available for tourists in most hotels)

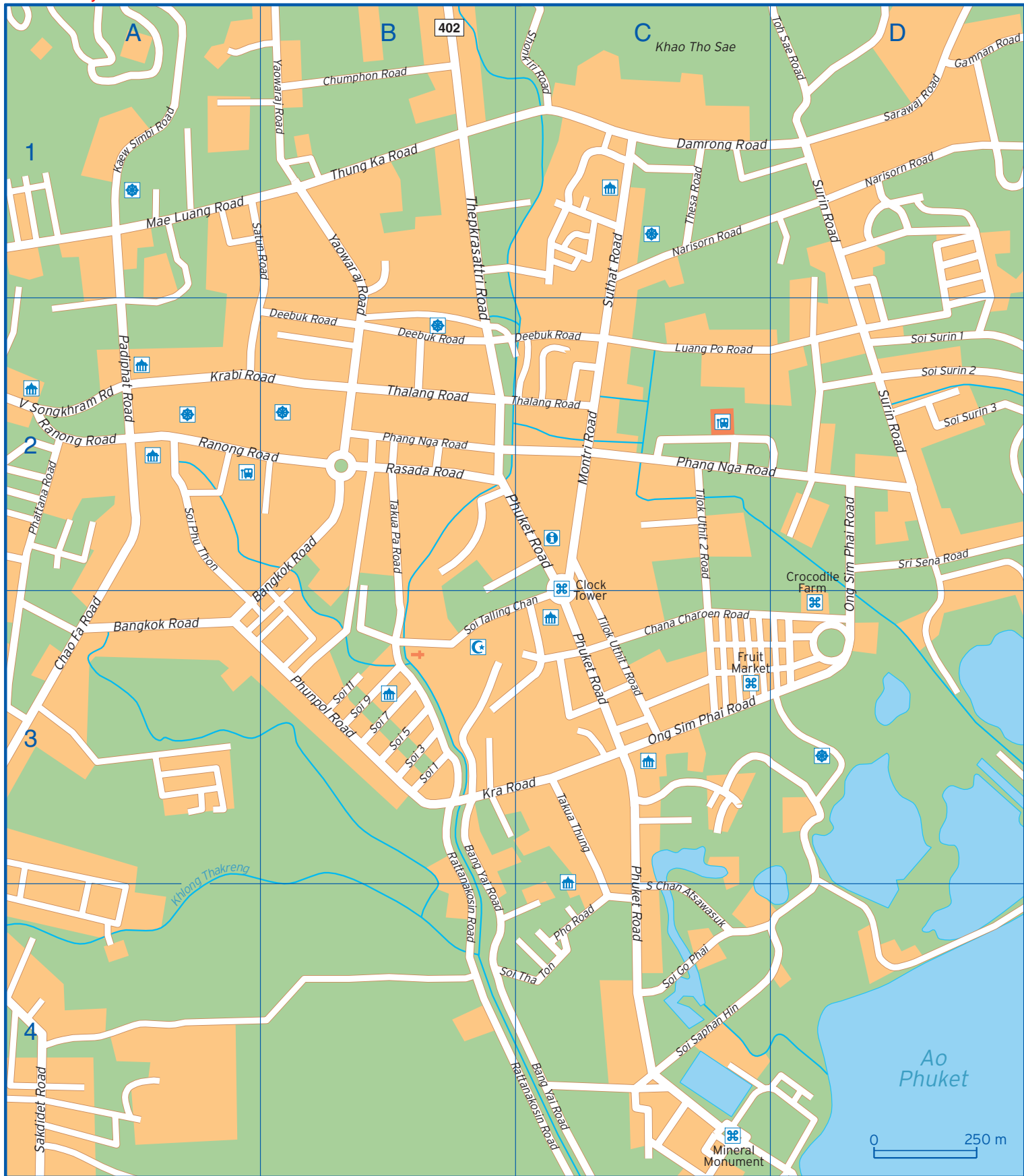
Emergency numbers

Police: 191
Fire: 199
Emergency Tourist Police: 1155
Marine police: +66 (0)76 211 883
Phuket International Hospital:
+66 76 249 400

Tourist information

Tourist Authority of Thailand (TAT)
191 Thalang Road, Tambon Thaladyai, Muang District,
Phuket
+66 76 212 213, +66 76 211 036





Destination: Phuket
Publishing date: 2013-10-29

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Bang Yai Road	B3 B4 C4	Phuket Road	B2 C2 C3 C4	Soi Surin 1	D2
Bangkok Road	A3 B2	Phunpol Road	B3	Soi Surin 2	D2
Chana Charoen Road	C3	Ranong Road	A2 B2	Soi Surin 3	D2
Chao Fa Road	A3	Rasada Road	B2	Soi Talling Chan	B3 C3
Chumphon Road	B1	Rattanakosin Road	B3 B4 C4	Soi Tha Ton	B4 C4
Damrong Road	C1	Sakdidet Road	A4	Sri Sena Road	D2
Deebuk Road	B2 C2	Sarawaj Road	D1	Surin Road	D1 D2
Gamnan Road	D1	Satun Road	A1 B1	Suthat Road	C1 C2
Kaew Simbi Road	A1	Shonkiri Road	C1	Takua Pa Road	B2
Kra Road	B3 C3	Soi 1	B3	Takua Thung	C3
Krabi Road	A2 B2	Soi 11	B3	Thalang Road	B2 C2
Luang Po Road	C2	Soi 3	B3	Thepkrasattri Road	B1 B2
Mae Luang Road	A1	Soi 5	B3	Thesa Road	C1
Montri Road	C2	Soi 7	B3	Thung Ka Road	B1
Narisorn Road	C1 D1	Soi 9	B3	Tilok Uthit 1 Road	C3
Ong Sim Phai Road	C3 D2 D3	Soi Chan Atsawasuk	C4	Tilok Uthit 2 Road	C2
Padiphat Road	A2	Soi Go Phai	C4	Toh Sae Road	D1
Phang Nga Road	B2 C2 D2	Soi Phu Thon	A2	Vichit Songkhram Road	A2
Phattana Road	A2	Soi Saphan Hin	C4	Yaowaraj Road	B1 B2
Pho Road	C4				