

# PHUKET GUIDE

## YOUR FREE PHUKET GUIDE FROM THE ASIA TRAVEL SPECIALISTS

The 'Pearl of the Andaman', Phuket is Thailand's biggest island and draws millions of worldwide visitors each year for its beauty, beaches, greenery and nightlife.

Phuket features idyllic palm-fringed beaches, fun-filled water sports, elephant trekking, glitzy shows, world-class spas, fine dining, Thai boxing and lots of culture. There's never a dull moment on this island.



### WEATHER

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Phuket has a tropical monsoon climate and, located close to the equator; it is both hot and humid in equal measure and doesn't cool significantly at night. The period between April and May is the steamiest (avg. 25-35° C). The Southwest monsoons arrive between May and October, and with them pouring rain and thunderstorms - for many, though, this is a welcome respite.

<http://www.phuket.com/island/weather.htm>

### AIRPORT TRANSFERS

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There is an hourly and inexpensive bus service to Phuket Town from 06:30 to 21:30 but none to the west coast. You can buy tickets at a counter on the ground floor and the grey-red-and-black buses marked AIRPORT BUS are to be found outside in the parking lot. Tickets for minivans are for sale at two counters on the ground floor. Minivans take longer than a taxi to deliver you to your hotel as they drop off other passengers at hotels along the way. A well-signed taxi stand is located just outside, to the right of the main building. The taxis are red and yellow and are supposed to use their meters but you will probably have to insist that the driver turns his meter on instead of bargaining and haggling for a price. There are also two car rental counters where you can hire cars from Avis, Alamo, National and Hertz. Please make sure to take along your passport and driving license. Many more companies are located just outside the airport. If cost is not your main concern, then why not save the trouble and use the airport limousine service (24 hours)? You can book one in advance through the phuket.com website.

<http://www.phuket.com/info/phuket-airport.htm>

### SIM CARDS AND DIALING PREFIXES

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Pre-paid SIM cards are available for purchase at most convenience stores (you will find 7-Elevens everywhere) as well as at the service operators' shops - DTAC, AIS and TRUE - located inside shopping malls. To make a call to a landline within Phuket, dial 076 then the six-digit number. Making a call outside Phuket requires a three-digit area code (with the exception of Bangkok 02), starting with 0, the area code, then the six-digit number. Calls between mobile phones require a three-digit prefix (08x), followed by the seven-digit subscriber number.

### GETTING AROUND

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Phuket's public transport consists of the airport shuttle bus to and from Phuket Town, and colourful 'song-teows' - converted pickup trucks that run in daylight hours between Phuket Town and the island's beaches. After dark there is no public transport on the island. The island's tuk-tuks at present are a lot more expensive than Bangkok's three-wheeled icons and are not inclined to bargain flexibly. Travellers arriving at Phuket Airport have a choice between the airport bus, metered taxis, minivans or tuk-tuks.

Once settled in to their hotels, many visitors find it cheaper and more convenient to rent their own vehicle. Motorbikes start at 150-200 baht a day for the basic models while car rentals start at around 800 baht a day.

[http://www.phuket.com/info/travel\\_around.htm](http://www.phuket.com/info/travel_around.htm)

### CURRENCY

Thai baht (THB). US\$1 = approximately THB 30.00

### TIME ZONE

GMT+7 (the same as Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam).

### ELECTRICITY

Voltage is 220 Volts with either two flat blades (NEMA 1-15 or JIS C 8303) or round two pin plugs (Europlug CEE 7/16).

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Police	191
Tourist Police	1155
Ambulance	1554
Fire	199
Bangkok Phuket Hospital	076 254 421-20
Phuket International Hospital	076 212 853
Mission Hospital	076 237 220-9
Operator-assisted overseas calls	100
Directory Assistance	1133, 13
Phuket Airport	076 327 230
Immigration	076 221 905

## PHUKET AREA GUIDES

“ With beautiful beaches and wild and hilly countryside separating them, Phuket Island is picturesque and full of character. Phuket is best expressed and appreciated through its beaches and the diversity is rewarding to visitors but let’s not forget the island’s rich history which is best seen through the prism of the provincial capital, Phuket Town. ”



### 1 PATONG BEACH

Wild, exciting, unpredictable and sexy: Just a few words that describe the maelstrom that is Patong. With a carnival-like atmosphere by night, the central drag of Bangla Road and its many bars and clubs is an explosion of colours, sounds (some would say noise) and movement as hawkers and touts work the passing crowds. Sexily dressed bar girls entice single males into their lairs while brassy transgender ‘katoeys’ display their assets for a price – all in the name of fun.

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### 2 KATA BEACH

The best part of Kata is its lush crescent of white-sand beach. Nodding palms, gin-clear sea and balmy tropical breezes all conspire to create the welcome cliché that is Kata Beach. More family orientated than its bawdy neighbour Patong, Kata at nighttime is a quieter affair with shopping and dining figuring large on visitors’ agendas and the beer bars and their girls nowadays marginalized to a small area near the Club Med.

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### 3 KARON BEACH

Much more spread out than compact Kata, Karon is a three-kilometre-long beach free from hotels on its absolute beachfront. Karon is divided into its southern end that is adjacent to Kata Beach and its northern part where most of the bars and restaurants are. In between stand several large hotels and resorts. Because of its length the beach is rarely crowded and if you’re looking for a quiet destination in which to relax and take life easy, it’s Karon Beach.

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### 4 KAMALA BEACH

Kamala Beach from November to April is a calm and pretty quiet spot. However from May to October the northernmost beach is a good surfing spot. Kamala is also home to the extravaganza Phuket FantaSea, a zany and spectacular show taking in Thai culture and fantasy in equal measure. If you decide to relax on the beach here, lunch will come to you in the form of food hawkers selling fruit, tasty satays and cooling drinks.

[Read More...](#)



### 5 BANGTAO BEACH

Home to several five-star resorts and award-winning restaurants, Bangtao has a decidedly up-market feel to it. In this area you can shop for antiques, works of art, fine textiles and fashionable clothes in one-off, trend setting boutiques as well as choose from an extensive array of restaurants ranging from five-star hotel establishments to simple beach restaurants serving spanking fresh seafood and classic Thai specials. The beach itself is classic: rolling waves, shady casuarina trees and sun beds.

[Read More...](#)



### 6 PHUKET TOWN

Bursting with recent history, the number-one place to explore in Phuket Town is its old quarter. The area’s predominantly Sino-Colonial architecture adds a charming touch to the streets and lanes of this provincial capital and the quarter has enjoyed a recent facelift. A wander through this part of Phuket Town is an immersion in history but Phuket Town’s quirky charms don’t end there, though; with several award-winning restaurants and unusual markets to shop at it has tangible character.

[Read More...](#)



## BEST LUXURY HOTELS



### 1 RENAISSANCE PHUKET RESORT & SPA ★★★★★

Renaissance's futuristic and tasteful lobby and reception area provides the first glimpse into what, for many, will be a revelatory stay at this 180-room resort made up of Deluxe Rooms, One-Bedroom Suites, One-Bedroom Pool Villas, and gorgeous One-Bedroom Oceanfront Pool Villas. Attention to detail is what makes Renaissance stand out; Loca Vore, the resort's main all-day dining spot is a lesson in tasteful design with innovative cuisine.

[Book Now!](#)

### 2 POINT YAMU BY COMO, AO POR ★★★★★

Point Yamu by Como is a luxurious property located on the Phuket tranquil east coast, 30 minutes away from Phuket International Airport. Cape Yamu offers a very relaxing environment in a rather undeveloped corner of Phuket hosting a genuine fishing village surrounded by pristine nature and farmlands. The resort features 79 rooms and suites and 27 private luxury villas designed in a classy contemporary style.

[Book Now!](#)

### 3 PARESA RESORT PHUKET, KAMALA BEACH ★★★★★

Paresa Resort Phuket is located in Kamala, on Phuket's west coast along a road that is nicknamed Millionaires Mile due to the richness of the architecture found there. Perched on a seaside cliff, the resort is spectacularly designed and blends in superbly with the surrounding Nature. The resort offers six types of accommodation - all of which face the sea with spectacular views out over the Andaman Sea.

[Book Now!](#)

## BEST BOUTIQUE HOTELS



### 1 PIMNARA BOUTIQUE HOTEL, PATONG BEACH ★★★★★

Pimnara Boutique Hotel is an entirely unique hotel that features luxury amenities. Pimnara Boutique Hotel resides in the centre of the largest entertainment centre in Thailand, known as Patong. Bangla Road is world famous for its nightlife and is very close nearby and Phuket Zoo, Wat Chalong, Jungceylon, and Bangla Night Entertainment are all within reach. Phuket International Airport is 24km away, with shuttles going back and forth on a regular basis.

[Book Now!](#)

### 2 THE CHAVA RESORT, SURIN BEACH ★★★★★

The perfect destination for pleasure or business, The Chava combines modern comforts and 5-star facilities in a relaxed tropical setting just a stroll away from the white sands and crystal waters of Phuket's exclusive Surin Beach.

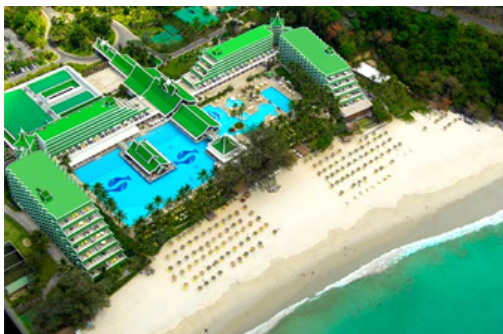
[Book Now!](#)

### 3 BURASARI RESORT, PATONG BEACH ★★★★★

Burasari's stated philosophy is 'Feel at Home' and this is tangible as soon as guests enter the classic yet compact lobby and reception area. This theme is followed throughout the hotel with all facilities and amenities within moments of each other. Located in southern Patong Beach, you're away from Patong's hustle yet only 10 minutes from busy Soi Bangla's nightlife and mega shopping mall Jungceylon and a mere two minutes from the beach.

[Book Now!](#)

## BEST BEACHSIDE HOTELS



### 1 LE MERIDIEN PHUKET BEACH RESORT

★★★★★

Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort straddles beautiful Relax Bay - an exclusive beach just north of Karon Beach and minutes away from Patong, Phukets epicentre of fun, dining, crazy nightlife, and spectacular shopping. The resort has 417 Rooms and 54 luxurious Suites all fitted out in top-class style with modern amenities and facilities such as en-suite bathrooms, fully stocked mini-bar, safety deposit box, slippers and bathrobes, flat-screen satellite TV, DVD player, and more.

[Book Now!](#)

### 2 KATATHANI PHUKET BEACH RESORT, KATA BEACH

★★★★★

Katathani Phuket Beach Resort holds a special place in many return visitors hearts and it has constantly proved popular year after year. The resort comprises 479 low-rise guest rooms and suites - all with private balconies and terraces facing the ocean, pools or tropical gardens. Katathani has a tangible family atmosphere yet with two separate wings, six swimming pools and huge grounds as well as an adjacent 850-metre long beach, things never get too crowded.

[Book Now!](#)

### 3 RADISSON BLU PLAZA RESORT PHUKET PANWA

★★★★★

Radisson Blu Plaza Resort Phuket Panwa Beach is a five-star resort located in the idyllic and back-in-time Panwa on Phukets east coast. The 211 Rooms, Suites and Villas each enjoy high-standard amenities and lots of natural light. Room categories include: 50sqm Deluxe Rooms; 50sqm Deluxe Sea View Rooms; 70sqm Junior Suites; 117sqm Junior Suites; 150sqm Pool Villas and Sea View Pool Villas.

[Book Now!](#)

## BEST BUDGET HOTELS



### 1 AMATA RESORT, PATONG BEACH

★★★

Amata Resort is ideally located for those who enjoy exploring the dynamic powerhouse that is Patong Beach. With six distinctive types of accommodation and full facilities, it is the ideal place to base from and a perfect destination at the end of the day. A 45-minute drive from Phuket International Airport and just a short walk to the beach, Amata Resort has what it takes to make your holiday distinctly memorable.

[Book Now!](#)

### 2 SAFARI BEACH HOTEL, PATONG BEACH

★★★

An on-the-beach hotel where you can dine right by the sand. Be sure to book a room overlooking Patong Beach itself and you're on for a holiday of a lifetime, especially with Bangla Road (Patong's Party central) and its electrifying nightlife mere steps away. Get the best of both worlds at Safari Beach Hotel and enjoy both the beach and all the pleasures that Patong has to offer.

[Book Now!](#)

### 3 SUGAR MARINA RESORT - FASHION - KATA BEACH

★★★

Sugar Marina Resort - FASHION - Kata Beach is a trendy boutique three-star resort situated right in the heart of Kata Beachs southern cluster of shops and hotels. It is mere minutes from Kata Beach itself and is supremely convenient for access to 24-hour stores, restaurants, and several fine-dining locations. With a bold design and decor, Deluxe Rooms are black and white while Deluxe Pool View Rooms are on the first floor and feature antique curios.

[Book Now!](#)



# WHAT TO SEE IN PHUKET

“ If Phuket shines in only one particular area (which is happily not the case) it would have to be in the ‘What to See’ category. The island is teeming with fascinating sights, attractions and curiosities that may seem perfectly normal to locals but are riveting to the western mindset. Some, like Phang Nga Bay are wonders of Nature while others, such as Phuket FantaSea are most definitely contrived by man. Either way, they’re out there waiting for you. ”

## 1 PHANG NGA BAY

Phang Nga Bay is unique. A day out here is an unforgettable experience that will definitely get you thinking. A distinctive feature of the bay is the sheer limestone cliffs that jut vertically out of the emerald-green waters. These islands are home to sheltered fauna that are possible to observe on certain tours. James Bond Island and Koh Panyee are just two of the more famous spots in this bay. [Book now](#), call +66 (0)2 694 5770



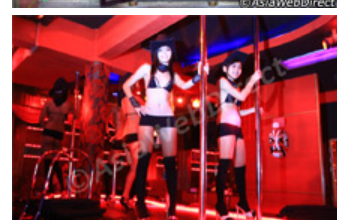
## 2 OLD PHUKET TOWN

Sino-Portuguese splendours and funky shops in the most unlikely places will surprise and delight you in the heart of Phuket's sleepy provincial capital. Phuket town offers much more than you think with some excellent restaurants and local sights. The unique blend of colonial and Chinese architecture along with a tangible quaintness makes for a fascinating and unforgettable afternoon spent sauntering around Phuket's Old Town. Expect the unexpected and don't forget your camera. [Read more...](#) **Open:** Best to go late afternoon when the heat of day has subsided.



## 3 BANGLA ROAD NIGHTLIFE

There are few things in this world to prepare you for an after-dark stroll down Patong's Bangla Road. However, a sense of humour and an open mind are prerequisites if you're looking to have some fun. In fact, there's only one undeniable and obvious fact about Bangla – it's nothing like home. With its ladyboys, exotic girls, enchanted westerners (mostly male) and enough extraverts to fill a Disney cast of thousands, shopping or sipping on a beer at Bangla Road at night is a definite 'Dear Diary' moment. [Read more...](#) **Open:** Daily 21:00 Drunk **Location:** Patong Beach



## 4 SIMON CABARET

Simon Cabaret - probably the biggest transvestite cabaret show to be found locally. This show features a spectacular musical floor show performed by the world famous ladyboys of Simon Cabaret. See for yourself - guys, can you tell the difference? And ladies - wouldn't you just die for a figure like that? Fabulous costumes, glitzy and fun. **Open:** Daily 19:00 and 21:00 **Location:** Sirirat Road, Patong [Book now](#), call +66 (0)2 694 5770



## 5 WAT CHALONG

Wat Chalong is one of Phuket's most important temples and visited by thousands each year. It's beautifully decorated with infinite reflections from hundreds of tiny glass pieces and several pagodas. On special holidays Wat Chalong hosts 'country fairs' with a real local flavour where you can buy just about anything and snack on Thai food to your heart's content. Wat Chalong has an interesting history and is Phuket Island's spiritual centre. [Read more...](#) **Open:** 07:00 - 17:00 **Location:** Chao Fa West Road 5770



## 6 BIG BUDDHA

Visible from most of the south of Phuket, the Big Buddha is a recent arrival to the island. The image stands on the top of the Nakkerd Hills and looks down over Chalong, Kata and Rawai. It cost 30 million baht to construct and is 45 metres high. Next to it stands a smaller, golden image that is actually made of brass and there is a shrine near the site's car park. The drive up to the Big Buddha takes you through the 'real' Thailand and the view from the top is enhanced if you take a map to identify the many, many sights. [Read more...](#) **Open:** Daily **Location:** Nakkerd Hills



## 7 SPEND A DAY (OR TWO) ON PHI PHI ISLAND

Often exhilarating and always riveting, Muay Thai - or Thai Boxing - is the most intensive body contact sport in the world. Muay Thai has taken on a new twist in that a number of foreign fighters have come to train and compete in Thailand. Patong has two Thai boxing venues, one on Soi Sai Namyen that has shows every Monday and Thursday - showtime 21:00 to 23:30 and at Bangla Boxing Stadium behind the Millennium Hotel at Jungceylon on Sai Kor Road which features fights on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday from 21:00 - 23:00. [Read more...](#) [Book now](#), call +66 (0)2 694 5770



## 8 PHUKET FANTASEA

It's wacky but fun and very professionally done. Trapeze artists, elephants on stage and pyrotechnics combine in a Las Vegas-style show. You'll see nothing else like it anywhere on the planet. Combining Thai traditional myths with humour, fantasy and a loose plotline that keeps getting more and more amusing, FantaSea's extravaganza is a highly entertaining and riveting show that deserves to be top of our Top Ten Must See and Do in Phuket list. **Open:** 17:30 – 23:30 Closed Thursday **Location:** Kamala Beach [Book now](#), call +66 (0)2 694



# WHAT TO DO IN PHUKET

“ There’s a lot to do in Phuket. Whether you are an active person or prefer to relax on your holiday there’s something for everyone here. From gently gliding along on the back of an elephant to gently gliding on the waters of astonishing Phang Nga Bay or simply succumbing to the utter relaxation of a professional massage, choices are all exotic and the stuff that epic holidays are made of. ”

## 1 PHI PHI ISLANDS TOUR BY SPEEDBOAT

**PHI PHI ISLANDS - TOUR DURATION: 9 HOURS**

Our Number One tour gets you away from it all to one of the world's most beautiful islands and its surroundings in a matter of minutes. While everyone else is on their way to Phi Phi you're already there, island hopping, dropping in on the monkeys at Ao Ling, snorkeling the crystal clear waters in Hin Klang. [Book now](#), call +66 (0)2 694 5770



## 2 SEA KAYAKING – HONG BY STARLIGHT

**PHANG NGA BAY - TOUR DURATION: 10 HOURS**

The best of both worlds; Phang Nga Bay is rated tops in the 'Wow' factor by day but just imagine exploring it by night... Head off after lunch to discover the unforgettable sights of this scenic wonderland.

[Book now](#), call +66 (0)2 694 5770



## 3 PHUKET FANTASEA SHOW

**KAMALA BEACH - TOUR DURATION: 5 HOURS**

It's hot, it's wild, it's the ultimate in a family evening out – it's Phuket FantaSea. Set in 140 acres of seaside opulence, FantaSea has so many attractions going that it's impossible to list them here but let's start with one of Asia's biggest buffets. Able to seat 4,000 diners, FantaSea's buffet bursts with flavours... [Book now](#), call +66 (0)2 694 5770



## 4 BAMBOO RAFTING NATURE TOUR

**PHANG NGA - TOUR DURATION: 8 HOURS**

Enjoy a whole new experience in beautiful Phang Nga Province that involves bamboo rafting or river canoeing as well as bathing an elephant – all surrounded by unforgettable natural scenery. [Book now](#), call +66 (0)2 694 5770



## 5 PHANG NGA BAY CRUISE

**PHANG NGA BAY - TOUR DURATION: 9 HOURS**

This tour comprises good food, fantastic seascape and leisurely cruising; surely the hottest recipe going for a great day out. There are several ways to visit Phang Nga Bay but this, cruising in a genuine Chinese junk, is the most laid back and idyllic way. [Book now](#), call +66 (0)2 694 5770



## 6 4-IN-1 HALF-DAY SAFARI

**CHALONG - TOUR DURATION: 4 TO 5 HOURS**

This action-packed tour gives you the chance to try a whole range of adventurous activities that really give you a taste of tropical Phuket. You will get to experience the true beauty of the island, see the age-old traditions and skills of the local people and get up close and personal with the animals for which Thailand is justly famous

[Book now](#), call +66 (0)2 694 5770



## 7 WHITEWATER RAFTING

**PHANG NGA AREA - TOUR DURATION: 9 HOURS**

The watery arteries of lush Phang Nga Province, just north of Phuket, gush down from the mountains from June to November each year and this is when you can experience the thrill of your life by whitewater rafting.

[Book now](#), call +66 (0)2 694 5770



## 8 PHUKET ECO EXTREME BY ATV

**EAST PHUKET - TOUR DURATION: 4 HOURS**

What's better than learning fascinating facts? Learning fascinating facts while having loads of adventurous fun, that's what. Zoom through the jungle, along beaches, through mud puddles while learning about the flora and fauna of Phuket. Experienced guides stop at key locations and point out unusual and interesting facets of wildlife on Phuket.

[Book now](#), call +66 (0)2 694 5770





## WHAT TO EAT

“ While Thai food needs little introduction, these popular dishes are must-try while you visit Thailand. The below list spans everything from staple backpacker favourites to Thai classics. Although some of them may sound familiar, don't be surprised if they taste nothing like what you usually find back home. ”

### 1 TOM YUM GOONG (SPICY SHRIMP SOUP)

A bold, refreshing blend of fragrant lemongrass, chilli, galangal, lime leaves, shallots, lime juice and fish sauce. Tom Yam is a versatile dish that can fit within virtually any meal – its invigorating sour-spicy-hot taste just screams 'Thailand'!



### 2 PAD THAI (THAI STYLE FRIED NOODLES)

From Cape Town to Khao San Road, the default international Thai dish. Dropped in a searing hot wok, fistfuls of small, thin noodles do a steamy minute-long dance alongside crunchy bean sprouts, spring onions and egg, before disembarking for the nearest plate.



### 3 GAENG DAENG (RED CURRY)

Made with morsels of meat, red curry paste, smooth coconut milk and topped off with a sprinkling of finely sliced kaffir lime leaves, this rich, aromatic curry always gets those taste buds tingling.



### 4 SOM TAM – (SPICY GREEN PAPAYA SALAD)

Hailing from the Northeast (Isan), this outlandish dish is both great divider - some can't get enough of its bite, some can't handle it – and greatly distinctive. Garlic, chilies, green beans, cherry tomatoes and shredded raw papaya get dramatically pulverized in a pestle and mortar, so releasing a rounded sweet-sour-spicy flavour that's not easily forgotten.



### 5 TOM KHA KAI (CHICKEN IN COCONUT SOUP)

A mild, tamer twist on Tom Yam, this iconic soup infuses fiery chilies, thinly sliced young galangal, crushed shallots, stalks of lemongrass and tender strips of chicken. Topped off with fresh lime leaves, it's a sweet-smelling concoction, both creamy and compelling.



### 6 PAK BOONG FAI DAENG (STIR-FRIED MORNING GLORY)

The leafy plant with hollow green stems and thin fragile leaves forms the main component of this super easy favourite. Cloves of garlic and birds eye chilies join it in a wok alongside oyster sauce, fish sauce and fermented bean. A few lazy stirs, and it's done!



### 7 GAENG KEOW WAN KAI (CHICKEN GREEN CURRY)

Another all-time favourite dish, served alongside a bowl of fragrant rice. Green curry paste and coconut milk form the creamy base. Morsels of fresh chicken, cherry-sized eggplants, bamboo shoots, sprigs of coriander and generous handfuls of sweet basil add body to this seminal curry.



### 8 YAM NUA (SPICY BEEF SALAD)

If there was such a thing as a 'Salad Hall of Fame', Yam Nua would surely take pride of place. The fresh, fiery thrill of Yam Nua – with its sprightly mix of onion, coriander, spearmint, lime, dried chili and tender strips of beef – perfectly embodies the invigorating in-the-mouth-thrill of all Thai salads, the yummy-ness of yam.



# BEST RESTAURANTS IN PHUKET

“ Phuket may have some of the most striking beaches in Asia, world-class entertainment draws, excellent spas and some of the friendliest people around but it is also a first-class culinary destination. Surprised? You really shouldn't be, as the island has some extremely innovative and talented chefs. From fine dining to Thai cooking classes to eating on a floating restaurant the range of dining options here is almost infinite. ”

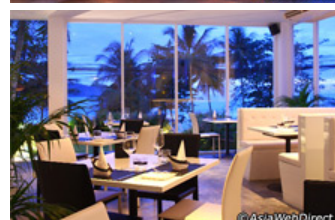
## 1 BREEZE AT CAPE YAMU

Living up to its moniker, Breeze is caressed by light winds and straddles a beachside incline with views out over distant Phuket Town. A newcomer to Phuket's fine-dining scene, Breeze offers modern and inventive cuisine featuring a menu that changes every few days in accordance with available local quality produce. [Read more...](#) **Open:** Daily - 12:00 - 22:00 Except Sunday - 12:00 - 16:00 **Location:** Cape Yamu, 228 Moo 7, Paklok, Thalang. **Tel:** +66 (0)81 271 2320



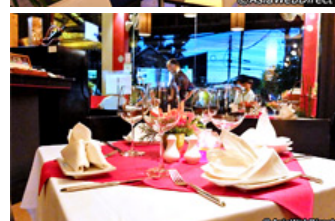
## 2 ACQUA

Kalim Beach, just north of Patong, is turning into something of a gastronomic hot spot. One newcomer to the Kalim scene is Acqua, a modern Italian restaurant. With clean lines and a futuristic design, Acqua is definitely a leading contender for one of the most aesthetically pleasing restaurants in Phuket. [Read more...](#) **Open:** 16:00 - 23:00 **Location:** Prabamee Road Kalim Beach. **Tel:** +66 (0)76 618 127



## 3 DEDOS RESTAURANT

Located on Tinlay Place near the entrance of Laguna Phuket Resort Complex in Bangtao DeDos Restaurant offers one of the best dining experiences in Phuket. It is a gastronomic restaurant serving dishes blending French cooking techniques with Mediterranean and Asian - mostly Japanese and Thai - influences. [Read more...](#) **Open:** 8:00 - 23:00 - Closed on Mondays **Location:** Tinlay Place on Lagoon Road **Tel:** +66 (0)76 325 182



## 4 KA JOK SEE RESTAURANT

Ka Jok See is one of the most successful restaurants on the island. Without any advertising at all, the restaurant has been featured in countless top magazines and newspapers around the globe such as UK Glamour, Conde Nast Traveler and the New York Times. [Read more...](#) **Open:** 18:30 - late, Tuesday - Saturday **Location:** Takua Pa Road, Phuket Town **Tel:** +66 (0)76 217 903



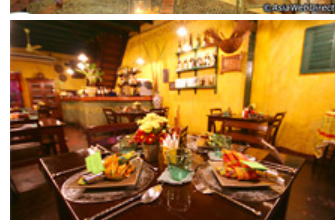
## 5 BOATHOUSE WINE & GRILL

Boathouse is a tastefully appointed beachside boutique hotel with one of the most celebrated restaurants and wine cellars in Thailand. Located at Kata Beach, its five-star restaurant serves gourmet French and Asian cuisine in sumptuous settings with top-of-the-range service. [Read more...](#) **Open:** 11:00 - 23:00 **Location:** Kokthanot Road, South Kata. **Tel:** +66 (0)76 330 015-7



## 6 LA GAETANA

La Gaetana enjoys a formidable reputation in Phuket as a small, family-run Italian restaurant with an eye for details. Giovanni Ferrara ('Gianni') and his Thai wife Chonchita are the hospitable owners of La Gaetana and excel in making diners feel comfortable and ensuring that a gourmet meal is enjoyed here. [Read more...](#) **Open:** 12:00 - 14:00, 18:00 - 22:00 **Location:** Phuket Road. Phuket Town **Tel:** +66 (0)76 250 523



## 7 HOME KITCHEN

Located at Kalim beach, Home Kitchen, Bar & Bed is the new project of the multi-talented and hyper-creative Chef Daniel Isberg. Chef Daniel Isberg is a man aiming at perfection; his motto, "to be Chef is not a job, it is a lifestyle", is ideally rendered at Home Kitchen which gives him the perfect setting to expose his gastronomical talents. [Read more...](#) **Open:** Daily 17:00 - late **Location:** Kalim Beach, opposite the street food court **Tel:** +66 (0)93 764 6753



## 8 MOM TRI'S KITCHEN

Location and décor are definitely important but these two key factors without good food just don't work. That's why Mom Tri's Kitchen Royale at Villa Royale in Kata Noi Beach is such a clever act: it balances the three factors perfectly and invites the diner simply to appreciate and enjoy some fabulous cuisine in a divine setting. [Read more...](#) **Location:** in Mom Tri's Villa Royale **Tel:** +66 (0)76 333 568





# WHERE TO GO FOR NIGHTLIFE

“ Patong is the undisputed nightlife centre of Phuket. From nine o’clock onwards nightly the town is buzzing and doesn’t stop until the wee hours (and longer depending where you look). Bangla Road in Patong is the epicentre of the action and where you will find the biggest clubs, the craziest ‘bar beers’ and the fruitiest shows. However other areas such as Rat-U-Thit Road and Beach Road have lively night venues with good bands. ”

## 1 SOI BANGLA

Stroll along Bangla Road at round midnight and you’ll wonder if you’re an extra in a phantasmagorical movie or not. Anything goes along Bangla and that includes boys that love girls who love girls who are boys, ping pong shows without a table-tennis paddle, clubs with pounding beats. Taken with a sense of humour it’s a barrel of laughs. [Read more...](#)

**Open:** 21:00 - Late **Location:** Central Patong



## 2 NIGHT CLUBS

The biggest clubbing names in Patong are Famous, Seduction, The Factory and Beach Road’s Banana. Big-name DJs occasionally drop by such as David Morales, DJ Bert Bevans, Judge Jools and Thailand’s very own Nakadia to rock these places but at the end of the day (literally) many clubs in Patong are glorified pickup joints. [Read more...](#)

**Open:** 21:00 - Late **Location:** Soi Bangla and Beach Road



## 3 LIVE MUSIC

Again, Patong is the centre of live music on the island with Rock City hosting heavy metal tribute bands, Tai Pan, cover bands and Margarita’s mixing sports coverage with live music. In Phuket Town the places to head to are Rockin’Angels and Timber Hut – both along Yaowarat Road. You’re not going to come across innovative live music in Phuket but there are some hot acts out there. [Read more...](#)



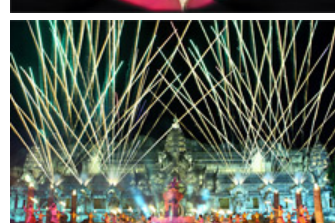
## 4 SIMON CABARET

If you’re into sequins, heavy makeup and boys who look more like girls than girls do, Simon Cabaret is the place for you. A Phuket institution, it started out in a single shop-house and has grown exponentially over the years into its presentday form as a transvestite/transgender extravaganza. [Read more...](#) **Open:** Daily 19:00 and 21:00 **Location:** Sirirat Road, Patong [Book a tour](#), **call** +66 (0)2 694 5770



## 5 PHUKET FANTASEA

An intoxicating blend of legend, myth, imagination and pure show business with a twist of history thrown in to make the final result even spicier, Phuket FantaSea is a heady brew that fascinates visitors to Phuket. FantaSea is also a theme park and has one of the largest buffets in Asia. Wheelchair friendly. [Read more...](#) **Open:** 17:30 - 23:30 Closed Thursday **Location:** Kamala [Book a tour](#), **call** +66 (0)2 694 5770



## 6 THAI BOXING

Often exhilarating and always riveting, Muay Thai - or Thai Boxing - is the most intensive body contact sport in the world. Patong has two Thai boxing venues, one on Soi Sai Namyen that has shows every Monday and Thursday and at Bangla Boxing Stadium behind Jungceylon which features fights on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. [Read more...](#)

[Book a tour](#), **call** +66 (0)2 694 5770



## 7 GAY PHUKET

The streets leading to Royal Paradise Phuket are almost all taken over by gay bars, restaurants, a-Go-Gos, massage parlours and businesses. Some of the leading gay bars are The Flying Handbag, Boat Bar, Kar and Dempsey’s has an A-Go-Go show. This is very much a night venue; by day the area is just plain sleepy. Connect Guesthouse is a good place to check out if you’re seeking information on the gay scene in Phuket. [Read more...](#)

**Location:** Along the two streets leading to Royal Paradise Phuket



## 8 KATA AFTER BEACH / BEACH BARS

Beach clubs are the latest and hottest trend in Phuket. The island’s beach club formula appears simple enough but is highly seductive. It includes setting up a stylish modern venue as near to the sea as possible, organising the occasional party with international DJs/artists, along with with some capable barmen who know how to fix cocktails, and the final touch... a beautiful sunset to ensure everyone has a perfect evening. [Read more...](#)



## WHERE TO SHOP

“ A few years back when the first shopping mall opened in Phuket, locals asked “Where is it all leading to?” Nowadays, with Phuket more developed, malls are ubiquitous but happily have not smothered the Thai traditional market life on the island. Thai people like to ‘group’ their shops so that if you are looking for a particular item there will be several shops selling on the same street. ”

### 1 CENTRAL FESTIVAL PHUKET

Located just outside the western perimeter of Phuket Town, Central Festival Phuket with its 120,000sqm is a state-of-the-art shopping mall with hundreds of outlets, a multi-screen SFX cinema, franchise restaurants and of course the eponymous Central Department Stall. If you take the time to compare prices here with western ones you'll see that there are bargains to be had in name-brand goods plus you can claim 7% VAT back at the airport if you request for and fill out the correct papers. [Read more...](#) **Open:** 10:00 - 22:00 **Location:** Just outside Phuket Town, Bypass Road.



### 2 JUNGCEYLON

Jungceylon in Patong has more than 300 shops in it and uses 200,000 sqm of space. At its core is the two-storey Carrefour with household, food and fashion items. Carrefour also features many massage and beauty centres with reasonable prices as well as a Robinson's department store with a good range of beauty and scented products as well as a colourful children's section. Jungceylon often features fashion shows and has daily fountain displays. [Read more...](#) **Open:** 11:00 - 22:00 **Location:** Rat-U-Thit Road.



### 3 JIM THOMPSON

Jim Thompson was an American businessman who, in the 1950s and 60s helped revitalise the Thai silk industry. He mysteriously disappeared from Malaysia's Cameron Highlands in 1967 but his business momentum has carried on and nowadays the name Jim Thompson is synonymous with high-quality silk items as diverse as shirts to bed sheets to toys. There are currently six Jim Thompson outlets in Phuket: Canal Village Laguna, Katathani Beach Resort, Central Festival Phuket, Le Meridien Phuket, Turtle Village (Mai Khao Beach) and at Phuket Airport. [Read more...](#)



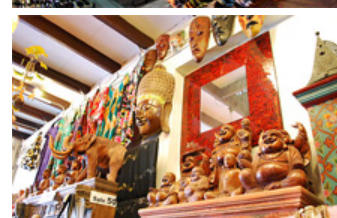
### 4 WEEKEND MARKET (TALAD TAIROD)

'Talad Tairod' translates as 'car boot sale' but nowadays this busy market has moved on from cars lined up selling dodgy goods. Thai markets are as much a social event as a commercial one so be prepared for lots of smiles and bartering. For sale are jeans, T-shirts, custom jewelry, artificial flowers, DVDs, sports shoes and a lot of secondhand goods. And of course a Thai market would not be complete without lots of delicious snacks. [Read more...](#) **Open:** Saturday, Sunday 16:00 - 21:00 **Location:** Wirat Hong Yok Road (south of Central Festival Phuket)



### 5 PHUKET OLD TOWN HANDICRAFT SHOPS

Phuket's Old Town is not only a picturesque and fascinating place to explore; it also features atmospheric handicraft stores as well as textile shops where bargains are to be had. Locally made handicrafts alongside Tibetan items are found along these streets and along Phang Nga and Yaowarat roads several artists have set up studios that sell classic as well as more modern-themed works. [Read more...](#) **Open:** 11:00 - 21:00 **Location:** Phuket Old Town



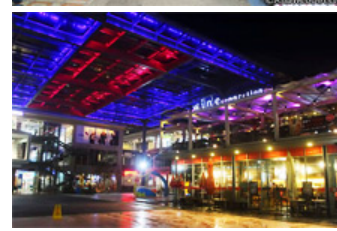
### 6 KARON BAZAAR

Karon Bazaar (Shopping Sale Karon Plaza) is a large, covered market-like shopping centre set in the central area of Karon Beach Road on Phuket Island's west coast, some 350m south from Karon circle. Covering a 6,000sqm area, the bazaar features just about everything you'll ever need (or not). [Read more...](#) **Open:** From late morning to late at night **Location:** A few hundred metres south, going towards Kata on the Beach Road.



### 7 BANANA WALK

Banana Walk is Patong's newest shopping centre and is located just 100 metres south of Soi Bangla on the Beach Road, right next to Banana Disco. With over 4,000sqm of retail space, the mall is multilevel (three floors) and its overall design leans toward minimal and modernistic: the buffed concrete walls, the metal structure of the tall Plexiglas roof above a large open space, at night the lighting ranging from blue to red. [Read more...](#) **Open:** Mon - Sun 11:00 - 23:00 **Location:** Beach Road, near Banana Disco



### 8 PHUKET WALKING STREET

Phuket Walking Street is the latest attraction featured in Phuket Old Town. Also-known-as Lardyai (talaad yai), which means 'big market' in southern Thai dialect, this weekly market started in October 2013 and is hosted on the beautifully renovated Thalang Road, right in the middle of the historical Sino-Portuguese district of Phuket Town. [Read more...](#) **Open:** Every Sundays from 16:00 - 22:00 **Location:** Thalang Road in Phuket Old Town



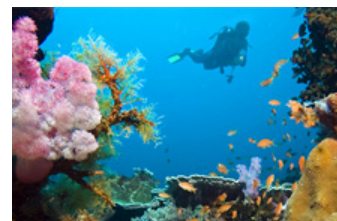


## BEST ACTIVITIES IN PHUKET

“ Phuket has a wide range of activities: as a tropical island it has all sorts of possibilities when it comes to land and at sea activities. The Top 10 below has been composed according to the tastes and choices of most people visiting the island (we've got the stats...) and whether it's snorkelling, mini-golf or cable waterskiing you are sure to find an activity according to your taste. If not, there's always sunbathing... ”

### 1 SCUBA DIVING

Diving in Phuket and liveaboards in Thailand, the Andaman Sea offers dive sites considered to be among the top ten scuba destinations in the world. It boasts crystal clear water, spectacular reefs and rock formations, plus a colourful selection of marine life. [Read more...](#)



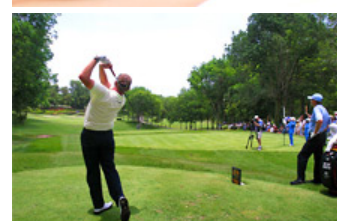
### 2 SPA/MASSAGE

In Asia, spa has evolved into a concept focussing on the spiritual and natural, drawing from traditions of meditation, respect for nature and the desire to achieve physical and mental well being, the key to maintaining health and beauty. Phuket's spa scene will surely meet your need for relaxation. [Read more...](#)



### 3 PHUKET GOLF COURSES

'Golf instructors tell students to hit the ball in the sweet spot, and that's sensible advice. For golfers of every standard, Phuket is probably the sweetest spot of all for hitting a golf ball. While other destinations in Thailand are also home to good courses, only in Phuket is it possible to enjoy first-rate golf, plus sun-drenched beaches and coral-reef diving, all close to fine cuisine and a varied nightlife. [Read more...](#)



### 4 SNORKELLING

The tropical waters of the Andaman Sea are ideal for snorkelling - clear, calm, balmy and bursting with brilliant marine life. Snorkelling can be done year-round in Phuket, but the best time of year is November-April. At some beaches it is possible to rent snorkelling gear for the day, and many shops around the island sell a range of masks, snorkels and fins. [Read more...](#)



### 5 SURFING

In case you didn't know it, Phuket's West Coast is gaining a reputation as a surf destination. Okay, so this is no Waikiki, and surfers here would be the first to admit that, but the island's West Coast is the best place for surfing in Thailand. There are three main annual surf contests in Phuket. [Read more...](#)



### 6 FLYING HANUMAN

If you're the type of person who loves to zip through the sky 40 metres above a jungle, Flying Hanuman in Kathu is just the right place for you. Eco-friendly and well executed, Flying Hanuman explores the jungle in a decidedly aerial way. [Read more...](#)



### 7 THAI BOXING

One of the most popular spectator sports in Thailand is the martial art of Muay Thai. Exciting enough on TV - the furious punches, crushing elbow strikes, lethal kicks and artful feints are even more riveting when seen live. Phuket has a lot of training camps open to all ages and genders. The training programmes cater for those who simply desire to improve their health and boxing skills. [Read more...](#)



### 8 DINO PARK

Dino Park is a mini-golf course and restaurant located right in between Karon and Kata beaches on the Beach Road itself. The 18-hole course is themed on dinosaurs and has many large and life-like cement dino statues, along with an erupting 'volcano' as well as a Flintstones-themed restaurant. [Read more...](#)



## TIPS AND GOOD TO KNOW

## CARRY SMALL CHANGE

Thailand is relatively inexpensive, unless you plan to enjoy all your shopping, dining and nightlife inside a hotel or upscale shopping malls. Taxi drivers, food vendors and shop keepers usually don't carry change for big bills. So, make sure that you break the 1,000 baht notes into a few 100s and small coins upon arrival at the airport. The 5 and 10 baht coins usually come in handy when taking a taxi or public transportation.

## BEWARE SCAMMERS

It begins with a polite stranger offering to take you sightseeing around the city. You thank them and tell them where you're from. Then, before you've even had a chance to shake their hand, you're gripping the sides of a tuk-tuk as it whizzes towards temples your guidebook has never heard of, and (drum roll) pushy gem stores. The moral of this all-too-common scam? Savour contact with the locals but, please please, beware the shysters. The general, but by no means universal, rule of thumb: a Thai who approaches you in the street is after more than a chat.

## DRINK LOTS OF WATER

This tip, of course, applies even to the Antarctic. But packing a supply of the wet stuff in Thailand's sticky, stifling heat is even more crucial to your well-being. Our unscientific rule of thumb: drink more than you sweat. Fortunately you are never more than a few paving stones from a drinks vendor. Always make sure bottled water is sealed. For a change, take your chosen tippie modern Thai-style, in a small plastic bag with handle and straw. Its quirky but, as you'll find when rummaging around overheated markets, also convenient.

## BARTER, BUT NICELY

The first rule of shopping in Thailand: if there's no barcode or set price, get haggling. It's expected. However, instead of adopting a confrontational "give me it for this price, now!" attitude, try the gracious, smiley "what's your best price, my friend?" approach. Why? Because a smile here goes further than a sneer. Aim to chip anything from 10-40% off the quoted price. And by all means, walk away if the price is disagreeable – more often than not you'll be called back for last ditch negotiations!

## CARRY A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT

Whether it be an impromptu demand from a local policeman or a request from security at one of the city's swanky nightspots, carrying ID is a must in Thailand. The fact that you are 25 but look like you're pushing 40 doesn't matter – proving who you are is a day-to-day formality, something the Thais are finicky about. Instead of dragging your passport around with you, and with it the constant fear of losing it, take a photocopy.

## CARRY A HOTEL CARD WITH THAI DIRECTIONS

It's simple. It isn't rocket science. But this ingenious device, little more than a piece of card with your hotel's address written on it in Thai, will save endless how-do-we-get-home headaches. Flash it beneath the eyes of your chosen driver and watch how his shrugs of utter incomprehension instantly change to reassuring nods.

## EASY THAI PHRASES

**Krab / Ka =**

Words added at the end of a sentence/phrase to add politeness. Krab if you are a male. Ka if you are a female

**Phom / Chan =** I (male / female)**Khun =** You (polite)**Sawad Dee (krab / ka) =** Hello (male / female)**Khob Khun (krab / ka) =** Thank you (male / female)**Phom / Chan Pood Thai mai pen =** I (male / female) don't speak Thai**Hong nam yuu nai? =** Where are the restrooms?**Tao rai (krab / ka)? =** How much does it cost (male / female)?**Lod dai maak sood tao rai? =** What's your best price?**Pood len rue plao =** Are you kidding?**Nii khong jing rue khong plom =** Is this real or fake?**Ao ped ped =** I want my food very spicy**Mai ped =** Not spicy**Check bin / Kheb tang =** Can I have the bill please?**Khun lor / suay maak =** You are very handsome / beautiful