

Thailand

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Be Brave..... Be Adventurous

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amazing
THAILAND
It Begins with the People...

What you need to know

Please enjoy looking through the brochure and please ask questions about any aspect of travel to Thailand.

Personal Safety:

Take normal personal safety precautions when in Thailand. If you wear a backpack, wear it on your front in crowded places as the pick pockets are very skilful and quick. Don't leave your valuables in an unattended car, even if it is locked. Make use of the hotel safes for your personal items.

Getting Around:

Many Thai people speak a little English, but when away from your hotel it is advisable to ask for a printed card with the address and contacts in both English and Thai.

When to Travel.

Thailand is warm all year round. There are 3 official seasons. Summer – March to June, the Rainy Season – July to October, the Cool Season – November to February.

Bus and Rail Network

Airport Rail Link: Bangkok has a 26.6-km high-speed rail link from the airport to the City Airport Terminal in Makkasan.

Trains: There are 7 train routes running from the North to the South to the Northeast, East and the West. Trains are slower than buses, but can be a lot more comfortable with air-conditioned first-class and second class sleeper.

Buses: Use the "superior" long distance buses. They are frequent, inexpensive and comfortable. They stop regularly for comfort stops and are a good way to get around the country.

Car Rental: Thailand drives on the left hand side of the road. While traffic in Bangkok is hectic, driving throughout the rest of Thailand is straightforward. Take a good map or GPS. Exits on the motorways are well signposted. Many fuel stations take credit cards, but some only take cash so don't assume that you can use your credit card everywhere.

Tuk Tuks: Set your price before you take the journey so you are happy with the agreed price.

Customs and Cultural Etiquette:

Thai people do not shake hands. They greet each other by putting their palms together in a prayer-like gesture called a 'wai'. The Thai Royal Family are revered in Thailand and perceived disrespect is not tolerated. Remaining calm and smiling will progress a situation far more than anger which is seen as being crude and lacking self discipline. Buddha images are regarded as sacred, and many signs warn against misuse or lack of respect. Remove your shoes when entering a Thai home. It is rude to point with your foot.

ATMs and Credit Cards:

Most foreign cards (VISA/PLUS, MASTERCARD/CIRRUS, DINERS, AMEX) are accepted 24 hours a day with ATMs found in all major districts. Most restaurants, hotels and shops accept credit cards. You may not be able to use credit cards at small businesses, markets or in rural areas. The currency in Thailand is the Thai Baht. There are both notes and coins. Smallest denomination is a Satang. 100 Satangs = 1 Baht.

VAT is currently 7%. If you are staying under 180 days in a calendar year and departing by plane, you may be able to claim a VAT refund.

Electric plugs. 220 Volts and plugs are European style so you will require an adapter with either the 2 flat blades or the 2 round pins.

Interconnectivity. Dial 001 for an international line. Thailand's telephone code is 66. Internet is widely available although access may incur a charge. Mobile phones will generally work providing international roaming has been set up.



What can you expect to see in each region:

Central Region: Defined by the fertile plain of the Chao Phraya River. The Central Region is the agricultural heartland of the country with a network of rivers and canals. Bangkok is situated here.

East Coast: The 400 kilometres of coastline extending from Chon Buri to Trat and has some of the finest beaches in Asia.

The North: Famous for its long history and the exotic, traditional culture of the Lanna Kingdom. Chiang Mai is its centre.

The North East: Also known as I-san and as the "Cradle of Civilization". The Northeast is famed for its intriguing destinations with many Stone Age and Bronze Age dwellings and artefacts.

The South: Extends southwards along a narrow peninsula. The Andaman Sea with its rugged and strange limestone rock formations and cliffs is on the west and the Gulf of Thailand with its wide bays and calm seas is on the east.

What to wear: Cool and comfortable is generally acceptable. Modest clothing is required when visiting temples, the Grand Palace and some museums. Some exclusive venues and events may require formal dress.

Discover a different Thailand



Thailand has a vast range of tours to suit everyone's taste. While we have all the popular products and services throughout the whole of the country, we also have access to lesser known products and tours to little known areas. 4WD, cycling, trekking and kayaking are wonderful ways to truly meet the local people and see the local villages. The Thai culture is diverse and rich in history. Combine one of the community styled tours with your mainstream holiday and you will come away much richer for the experience. We have many hundreds of tours throughout the country to suit many reasons, interests and budgets.



Responsible Tourism and Thailand's Amazing Wildlife:

There are many distressing stories of animal abuse throughout Asia however, there are projects in Thailand where animals are cared for and rehabilitated where possible. Examples are the Gibbon Project in Khao Phra Thaeo National Park on Phuket, the WFFT Wildlife Rescue Centre near Hua Hin where visitors can assist at the Elephant Refuge, and the Thai Elephant Conservation Center (TECC), which is known for its work in conservation and science, caring for more than 50 Asian elephants in a beautiful forest setting. (KT)

1, 2 and 3 day Mahout Training Courses. Homestay accommodation. Up close and personal contact with your elephant. (CT)

3 day Elephant Trekking programme including 1 night camping in the forest with a mahout and elephant. (CT)

These experiences are very different and you are helping to save these wonderful animals from abuse.

Festivals

The festivals of Thailand are exciting and vibrant and a chance to mix with local people who are very passionate about these special events. The Thai people are reflected in their culture and traditions through the magic of their festivals. There really is something for everyone, so maybe plan a holiday to take in one of these wonderful festivals.



Candle Festival: (July/August). This event is held nationwide, but Ubon Ratchathani province has an event that is the only one of its kind in the world, See spectacular candle parades.



Pattaya Music Festival: (March). Local and international artists and groups provide 3 days of fantastic music. This is the biggest and happiest music event in Thailand.



Phi Ta Khon: (Mar/July). Sometimes known as 'Ghost Festival', it is the most common name for a group of festivals held in Dan Sai, Loei province. 3 days of great fun and entertainment.



Chinatown Festival, Bangkok: (Jan/Feb). Yaowarat Road is best known as the 'Golden Road, the Land of the Siamese Dragon' with fashion shows, entertainment and food. This is a must.



Songkran Festival: (April). Held nationwide and famous worldwide. This ancient traditional Thai custom of fun is also the Thai New Year and is known as the 'Water Festival'.



River Kwai Bridge Week: (Nov/Dec). Enjoy the miniature 'Ancient Town of Kanchanaburi' and have fun in a fair like atmosphere with sound and light and heaps of great entertainment.



Chiang Mai Yi Peng Festival: (Nov). Also part of the Loi Festival. It is held in Chiang Mai with competitions, contests, boat racing, cultural performances and lots of fun.



Loi Krathong Festival: (Nov). This is one of the kingdom's oldest and best. It is known as the 'Festival of Lights' It is held on the full moon night of the twelfth lunar month.

Thailand Tours



The vast range of tours in Thailand offer the best opportunity to really get to know the country, whether it be adventure, culture, food, beach holiday or any reason to fit your interest. Thailand has much experience looking after travellers as the country was one of the first Asian countries to develop tourism due to it being a major stop off point between Europe, Asia and the Pacific. We have listed just a few ideas but we do have many hundreds of tours available. Whatever your interest and wherever you want to go, just ask, and if we do not have the tour we will get it for you.

5days 4 nights Boat Pai Jeep Adventure: (COF)

- Day 1 Chiang Mai (van).
- Day 2 (jeep) Chiang Mai, orchid farm, snake show, elephant ride, Pai.
- Day 3 (jeep) Pai, Tham Lod cave, bamboo raft, Mae Hong Son, Lisu, hilltribe village.
- Day 4 (jeep) Mae Hong Son, boating on Pai, the long neck tribe, Chiang Mai.
- Day 5 Chiang Mai – departure.



Photography:

Every visitor wants to take pictures of tribal people in their traditional dress. This often leads to uncomfortable situations. Many tribal people don't want their picture taken or want something in return. On a day tour the guide will facilitate this process so you can take the pictures you want. Visit several tribal villages around Chiang Mai, including the Hmong, Karen, Lahu, Lisu and Palong. (TT)



Volunteering Tours in Thailand:

Volunteer programmes, such as the Ayutthaya Village programme, start every Friday from Bangkok. Help teach the village children English and IT skills, and help prepare and serve meals, play sports and games. Help the villagers with their farming and various projects in the fruit orchards including the preparation of dried fruit products. Work is 08.00-17.00, Mondays to Fridays, with the weekends free. Min of 2 weeks required. (NA)



3days/2nights Andaman Island Hopping and Koh Mook Homestay and Trek: (N)

Explore the untouched nature of the Andaman Sea at Koh Mook with island hopping and snorkelling at Koh Kra Dan. Visit the Emerald Cave by small boat and trek to the open roof of the cave.



A few suggestions for longer tours around Thailand:

Bangkok and the whole extreme north of Thailand 11 days - private tour.

This tour will take you to carefully selected highlights including Bangkok, ancient Ayutthaya, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai and Mae Hong Son.

Off the beaten tracks Thailand 11 days - private tour.

For non conventional travellers, very much concerned about their ecological footprint and eager to discover Thailand off the beaten tracks.

From nature to adventure 8 days - private & partly join a group tour.

This tour combines natural highlights and adventure. Discover busy Bangkok, the River Kwai, Chiang Mai and the Thai jungle - all in 1 package!

Bangkok & Chiang Mai freedom & action 7 days - combined private & join a group tour.

Fantastic program for active travellers looking for a program with lots of outdoor activities close to nature! Get the right balance between fun activities and cultural highlights!

A romantic Thai holiday for honeymooners 11 days - private tour.

Very complete and affordable romance package for honeymooners or couples looking for a great one-on-one holiday in Thailand!

Special Tours



Diving and Snorkelling Tours:

Thailand has more than a 1,000 miles of coastline, with one part facing east towards the Gulf of Thailand and one facing west to the Andaman Sea. There are hundreds of islands (called Koh) along both coasts surrounded by fantastic marine life. Packages range from a 1 day dive to 21 days and more on a liveaboard boat. They depart from a number of points on the west coast from Phuket to Ranong and in the Gulf of Thailand.

We have many diving programmes for **experienced divers and for those wanting to learn**. Whether it be on one of the many resorts, islands or on a liveaboard in the Andaman Sea and for as many days as you wish. Thailand has become famous and very popular for dive instruction.



Sea Canoeing:

Sea canoeing offers the opportunity to really explore Thailand, and travel to many places unknown to the usual traveller.

We have many tours from half a day to 7 days and more, so let us know what you want and we will organise it for you.

3days/2nights: Phang Nga Bay mini expedition, sea canoeing. Departs every Sundays and Wednesdays. (JG)

2days/1night: Overnight trip, Sea canoeing including camping on deserted beach. (JG)



The Deep Andaman Queen:

A Liveaboard operating in the Andaman Sea. Visits the magnificent dive sites on the west coast of Thailand including Myanmar, from the Similan Islands, Surin Islands, Richelieu Rock, Burma Banks to Hin Daeng, Hin Muang, Tarutao, Phi Phi in the south of the Andaman Sea and all Phuket dive sites.

Diving is Nov - April on the Andaman side of Thailand. We have many liveaboards and cruises in Thailand and Myanmar.

Trekking:

We have many trekking tours throughout Thailand. Here are a couple of suggestions:

Chiang Mai Trekking and Biking.
Chiang Mai's Country Byways.
Chinese Village & Jungle Rafting.
Exotic Tribal Homestay & Nature Trek.
Hmong Village & Communist History.
Karen Hill Tribe Homestay.
Mae Salong Hill Tribe Trek.



Golf Packages:

With more than 250 world-class golf courses throughout Thailand, playing golf in this country is definitely a must. Many of the courses, have been developed by leading professionals, and have excellent accommodation and facilities. Together with incredible mountain ranges or views of the ocean as a background, there is no excuse. The courses are set up for the serious golfer or the holiday golfer, and packages are available throughout the country. We have access to all of them so get in touch and plan now.

Cycling Tours:

We have many cycling tours throughout Thailand from half a day through to 2 weeks or more.

This is a great way to meet the local people and put you in touch with nature. (SR)

Here are a few suggestions;

14 days / 13 nights - Cycle through the Chao Phraya river valley where Thai civilization began and visit the cities of Lampang, Sukhothai, Khampeng Phet and Ayutthaya.

11 days / 10 nights - Ride from the northern city of Chiang Mai through Lampang, the ancient capitals of Sukhothai and Ayutthaya before reaching the city of Bangkok.

Golden Triangle tour, 3 days / 2 nights where the Nam Ruak and Mekong rivers meet.

Chiang Mai family explorer tour. 5 days / 4 nights. This tour is perfect for families who want to cycle at a leisurely pace through a beautiful region and experience a variety of northern charms.

Khao Yai Wine Trails 2 days / 1 night 'New World' wines of Thailand are making a stunning breakthrough into the considered world of wine appreciation.

Try them and see what you think!



Bangkok



Bangkok is one of Asia's most vibrant and well known cities. It has been at the crossroad of Asia for travellers for many years. Major attractions in the city include temples, palaces, canal and river scenes, classical dance shows, and the legendary nightlife. There are numerous shopping centres and local markets selling almost anything you desire. Bangkok offers accommodation to suit all tastes and budgets, and when this is mixed with the thousands of things to keep you occupied, Bangkok is a city you need to spend time in. A few highlights for you to visit are: The Royal Palace, The Emerald Buddha, The Seated Hermit, many fabulous temples, China Town, Flower Market, and the famous open air market called Chatuchak. It is a shoppers paradise with more than 15,000 stalls and shops spread over 35 acres. Then there are night markets and the famous floating markets. Experience one of the many fabulous nighttime shows.



Dining out in Bangkok:

As in most major cities, Bangkok has a huge range of food outlets at all levels from the street vendors to fine dining, however it is Thai and Asian food that needs to be explored. There are fabulous restaurants and food tastes from almost every country.

Why not try one of the food tours such as;
Midnight Food Tour by Tuk Tuk: 4 hours.

Floating Market Food Tour: Full day.

Babgrak Food Tour: 3.5 hours morning walking.

If you enjoy cooking and want to learn about Thai food, an experience at the famous **Blue Elephant Cooking School** is a must or just eat at the famous restaurants, in both Bangkok and Phuket.



Huge range of accommodation options in Bangkok:

There are many hotels, apartments and guest houses in Bangkok. We have rates for a huge range of properties for all tastes and budgets. Wherever you want to stay or if you have been recommended a hotel, we can organise it for you. Combine a stay in Bangkok to explore this fabulous city with a break at another destination in Thailand.

Together with all the well known hotels in Bangkok, we have a few alternative suggestions. Whatever your choice we can organise it for you.



The Sukosol Hotel:

Beautifully styled hotel situated downtown opposite the airport rail link and skytrain Phaya Thai stations. A hotel with a great atmosphere.

Metropolitan Hotel:

Another Thai contemporary luxury hotel. The hotel restaurant has the distinction of being voted in the top 50 restaurants in Asia.

Poste 43 Residence:

A small, boutique hotel in the heart of Bangkok. This chic hotel stylishly incorporates mood and tone into its modern style. A unique property.

Hotel de Bangkok:

This Thai contemporary hotel is a brand new boutique hotel ideally situated in the heart of central Bangkok.

Other suggested excellent hotels include:

Nouvo City Hotel, Peninsula Hotel, Cha Da, LIT Bangkok, Ramada, Ma Hotel, Ambassador, Ascott and Somerset, Narry Nana.

Day Tour and Short Breaks in Bangkok: Here are just a few samples.

Bangkok City, Temples & Grand Palace Old City: 3.30 hours.

Ayutthaya Tour by River Sun Cruise Bang Pa-In, Ayutthaya: 8 hours.

Siam Niramit Ratchadapisek: 5 hours including the 80 minute spectacular show.

Damnoen Saduak Floating Market (Half Day) Damnoen Saduak, Ratchaburi: 5 hours.

River Kwai Tour including Long-tail Boat, Kanchanaburi: 10 hours.



Pattaya, Koh Chang



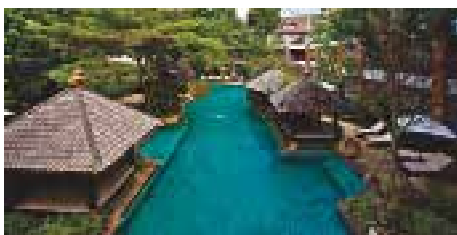
Pattaya is one of the the best known beach resort destinations in Thailand, with a great range of accommodation to fit all budgets and tastes. With many things to experience both during the day and the night, it deserves it's reputation as being one of Thailand's premier holiday destinations.

There is an extensive selection of restaurants serving some of Thailand's freshest seafood as well as international eateries serving a variety of Asian and European dishes. Activities include water sports, golf, shopping, cabaret shows, elephant village, and a Ripley's Believe it or Not museum. If you want an action-packed holiday, Pattaya is the place to go. There is a selection of golf courses, cycling, skydiving, go-karting, and Muay Thai (Thai boxing). For those who love the sea, there is windsurfing, water skiing, swimming, sunbathing, snorkelling, or taking a trip to nearby islands. Pattaya is a fun town.



Parama by Epi[K]urean Koh Chang:

This is a luxury escape where you can enjoy being spoiled with good food, good wine, relaxing sunrise yoga and rejuvenating spa treatments. The resort is in a tranquil environment that reflects the natural beauty of it's surroundings. Relax on the private beach, accessible by boat, and luxuriate body and soul in quiet seclusion as you recharge.



Woodlands Hotel and Resort:

Woddlands Suites and Serviced Apartments:

The many types of accommodation to suit all budgets makes Woodlands the perfect place to be based in Pattaya. It is situated at the exclusive northern end in Naklua. Woodlands is close to all Pattaya's sporting, shopping and entertainment attractions.

Nong Nooch Botanical Gardens and Resort:

A world famous botanical garden, perhaps the most impressive in Southeast Asia. This is a must visit if you are in Pattaya. The garden is in constant development. It has the world's largest palm collection together with many other tropical flora and fauna. Nong Nooch offers many options for your accomodation, including backpackers rooms, standard rooms, business accomodation and private villas.

The resort is ideal for school trips, a business conference and all types of team building.



Sabai Resort Pattaya:

Situated on 16 acres of green landscaped gardens, in contemporary Thai design. The resort has 260 rooms divided into three areas; garden, paradise and villa. Close to the shopping centre and walking distance to Pattaya Beach and major nightlife.



Koh Munnork Private Island Resort:

Enjoy the simple life at this laidback hideaway. With just 23 bungalows, Koh Munnork is one of Thailand's most unique destinations with beautiful beaches, lush jungles and crystal clear blue waters. It has been designed in a rustic and simple way to ensure your comfort while enjoying an authentic, castaway-style island experience. You can book the whole resort. The island is only 3 hours drive from Bangkok.



Sunset Park Resort and Spa:

Sunset Village Beach Resort:

Just 15 minutes drive from Pattaya. Both resorts are situated on the fabulous private beach called "Sunset Beach" Sunset Park has one of the largest spa facilities in this part of Thailand. Lots of activities including a Thai cooking class. Sunset Beach is a more relaxed resort, but whichever you choose you will find these resorts offering everything you would like from your holiday in Pattaya.

North, West and East Thailand



The North, West and East Thailand:

The hill country, with Chiang Mai as its centre, is famous for its long history and exotic traditional culture of the Lanna Kingdom. It is a unique area of forests, rivers, towering waterfalls, and spectacular mountain ranges, often with a mist that covers almost the entire region. This region is the birthplace of the earliest Thai civilization, and has many sites of archaeological and cultural interest, including Sukothai and Si Satchanalai. It is also home to the ethnic hill tribes who have settled in villages on the mountain sides including Mae Hong Son, Chiang Rai, and Nan and are a great attraction for travellers to the North.

Chiang Rai tends to be a little more laid back than Chiang Mai but it is fast becoming a popular escape for visitors wanting a quieter travel destination, within close proximity to nature. Attractions range from ruins of ancient settlements and Buddhist shrines to magnificent mountain scenery and hill tribe villages. It is part of the famous tourist region called the 'Golden Triangle'.

Kanchanaburi to the west has many historical sites and the infamous Bridge over the River Kwai.

Mae Hong Son town has been isolated from the outside world for a long time as it is situated in a deep valley surrounded by high mountain ranges. The area is a mix of Burmese and Lanna style temples, hot springs, hill tribe villages, trekking, rafting, and national parks. Around 100 kilometres away is the town of Pai, comprising houses and shops of golden teak wood. Pai also offers rafting and cycling.



La Villeta Chiang Mai:

This is a B&B and combines value and quality. It is a small property with just 14 rooms, making the property very cosy, but at the same time chic and very comfortable. If you want to escape the big resorts then this is a great opportunity to try out a B&B in Thailand.

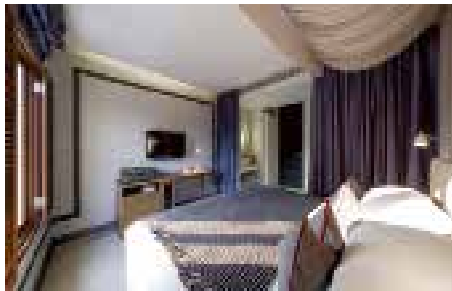


Ban Sabai Village Resort & Spa Chiang Mai:

The Ban Sabai Village Resort & Spa in Chiang Mai is a small boutique resort and spa. The spa offers a large variety of treatments including Thai, aroma oil, herbal, facial and foot massages, aroma therapy, body scrubs and masques and hot stone therapy. Together with a variety of yoga, rejuvenation and detoxification this resort is the place to get healthy. Thai food cooking classes are also available.

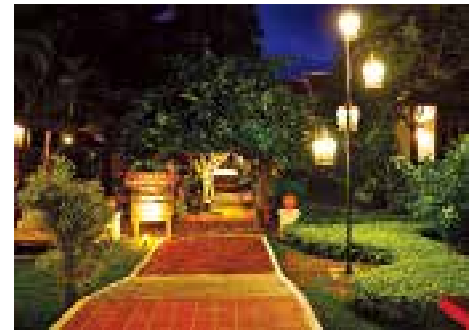
Sala Lanna Chiang Mai:

The hotel is walking distance to numerous tourist sites, shopping areas and restaurants, and just a 5-minute taxi ride to the eastern Thapae Gate entrance to old town Chiang Mai. The hotel has 16 stylish guest rooms, mostly with river views, plus a luxurious riverfront 2-bedroom pool suite villa in Chiang Mai, featuring its own private swimming pool and river deck. All at affordable prices.



Hmong Hilltribe Lodge Chiang Mai:

This is a unique opportunity to experience authentic tribal culture and customs in a magical natural setting. Surrounded by lush tropical vegetation that shelters several Hmong villages, this beautiful jungle lodge is conveniently located only one hour's drive from Chiang Mai. At an elevation of 800 mtrs above sea level, the weather at Hmong Hill tribe Lodge is mild and cool all year round.



The Legendha Sukhothai Resort:

The unique Thai traditional village landscape of this resort delivers an elegance that reflects the rich tradition, legends and culture of Sukhothai old town. This is an opportunity to stay in traditional Thai style accommodation in comfort.



Suanthip Vana Resort Chiang Rai.

The Nature Lovers' Retreat:

Each pavilion houses six suites, each with its own terrace. Herbal toiletries and natural products are featured.

There are six separated hill-tribe villas with private balconies. The local materials used keep the interiors refreshing and naturally scented. Cooking classes, trekking, umbrella painting and rice planting are available. Pottery is also very famous in this area.

North, West and East Thailand



Kanchanaburi.

Perhaps most people would know of this region through the notoriously famous '**River Kwai Bridge**'. The area offers many attractions including historical sites, waterfalls, national parks, rivers, and reservoirs. Activities including fishing, rafting, canoeing, mountain biking, bird-watching, golfing, jungle trekking, and living on bamboo rafts are offered.



The Floathouse River Kwai:

Developed with the eco-conscious traveller in mind, The Floathouse River Kwai actually floats on a fast-flowing river surrounded by thick green jungle. Each spacious floating room is totally private and rich in delicate tailor-made wooden furniture with a thatched roof. The resort is staffed mainly by the local Mon people, an ethnic minority who migrated across the border from Myanmar. Something different and unique.



Hintok River Camp at Hellfire Pass River Kwai:

The resort is an extraordinary, safari tented hotel nestled on the historical pinnacle of Hintok mountain, overlooking the famous River Kwai. It was awarded a top ten adventure resort rating in 2009 for the Asia Pacific region. The resort has 38 deluxe canvas tents.



Pai Hotspring Spa Resort:

The resort lies on the Pai riverbank, right in the middle of mountains and green forest. Here you can enjoy relaxing moments in the hotspring public pools or your own private hotspring pool. It is an excellent choice for anyone looking for a private getaway amidst the serene nature of Northern Thailand.



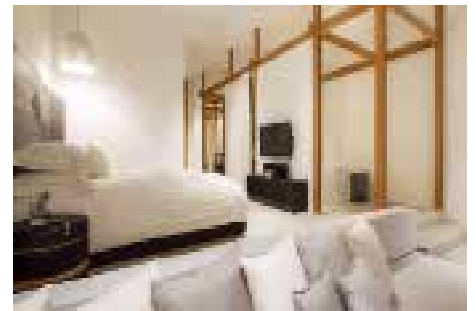
Phunacome Resort Loei:

An eco-friendly resort located in the midst of the unspoilt nature of Dansai valley, Loei. The small town of Dansai is definitely one of the must visit destinations in the northeastern region (Isan) of Thailand. The 450 years old ancient town of Dansai is rich in exotic nature and culture and is where one of the world renowned ghost mask festivals called "Phi Ta Khon" takes place annually. Guests can join many of the eco green projects operated by the resort.



Lampang River Lodge:

This fabulously uncrowded resort has 60 beautiful Thai-Lanna style bungalows set among a stunning natural scenery, right in the heartland of the ceramic works, on the bank of Wang River. The resort was awarded an excellence award (Golden Kinnaree) for a resort under 80 rooms in 2004.



Sala Ayutthaya: 5 Star Luxury

The resort has 27 luxury guest rooms and is located in heart of Ayutthaya, on the banks of the Chao Phraya River, opposite the famous Wat Phutthaisawan (Phutthaisawan Temple). The property is surrounded by temples and archeological and historical sites dating back to the original Ayutthaya Kingdom. The resort is close to the Ayutthaya's original floating market.



Khao Yai

Agriculture is the mainstay of this region so a visit to one of the vineyards for winetasting is a must. Together with fine local food and cheeses this is quite a different part of Thailand and that one would not expect. Khao Yai has become one of the hot spots, giving rise to many hotels and resorts allowing you to enjoy this part of the country.



Cha Am, Hua Hin, Chumphon,



Hua Hin and Cha-am

Two of Thailand's best known, beach resort towns on the Gulf of Thailand. All types of people make their way to this area as they welcome young and old and for all tastes and reasons, Both areas have beautiful, powdery sand beaches, a huge amount of restaurants, and lots of activities. Accommodation is from a simple guesthouse to luxury resorts, including some of the finest spa retreats in the world. Just down the coast from Hua Hin at Takiab Bay, you can go horse riding and visit a hilltop Buddhist temple with spectacular views. A must is a visit to the Hua Hin night market, a vibrant night out for your shopping and meal. Further south towards **Chumphon** there are a number of very little known beaches and resorts, if you want to get away from the bigger holiday resorts. Chumphon itself is the start of the south of Thailand and is one of the departure point for boats leaving for Koh Tao, Koh Samui and Koh Phangan.



The Regent Cha Am Beach Resort - Hua Hin:

Cha Am, Thailand's original resort destination is an ideal haven for families and those in search of a quality intimate holiday. The resort is set in 40 acres of tropical gardens and beach with good sized family villas and the romantic Ananvana Cabanas. The resort offers many daily activities including a kid's club, and two swimming pools with childrens section.



Koh Talu Island Resort:

The only resort on this small island. There are three styles of accommodation, Big Bay with Thai style ocean villas, Manila Deluxe chalets and Pearl Bay chalets. The island is the centre of a restoration project featuring marine conservation and a coral project. Guests are encouraged to participate. Ideal for team building and small groups.

Putahracsa Boutique Beach Resort Hua Hin:
A boutique, spa resort in the heart of Hua Hin, set among lush gardens and on a quiet beach. The resort has an interesting history as it has links to the history of Rama VI. Putahracsa allows you to combine the charms of a small town together with a beach hideaway. It is 5 star but affordable and the perfect base to explore the area.

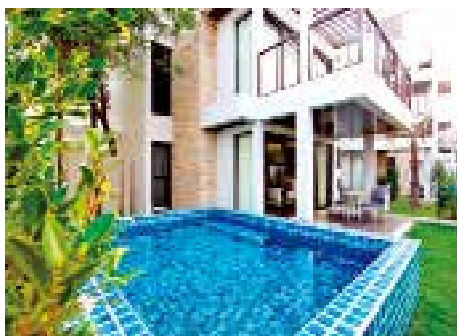


Let's Sea Hua Hin Al Fresco Resort:

A unique architecture ensures this resort is very different in it's style.

It is a resort for adults only.

The fantastic lagoon pool stretches 120m through the resort creating a unique water frontage for each of the 40 guest rooms. Let's Sea Hua Hin's Beach Restaurant is a famed dining destination. The menu has a delicious blend of local and international cuisine. If you want something special this is it. Nothing is left to chance at Let's Sea.



The Rock Boutique Beach Resort Hua Hin:
A luxury blend of an ethnic and modern interior with wooden floors in a low-rise building. Guest rooms are elegantly appointed with rich, tailor-made furniture. All rooms feature either a king-sized or two double beds as well as private balconies each with a private sun lounge. This is a good resort to base your holiday from, offering luxury at reasonable rates.



Baan Talay Dao:

Situated on the white sand beaches of Hua Hin and only minutes away from downtown and Khao Takiap, Baan Talay Dao is truly a retreat for relaxation, peace and privacy. The authentic 90-year old Thai teak house is the centerpiece of the resort and home to the club house. Family-owned and operated, the resort offers that personal touch.

Koh Samui, Koh Tao, Koh Phangan

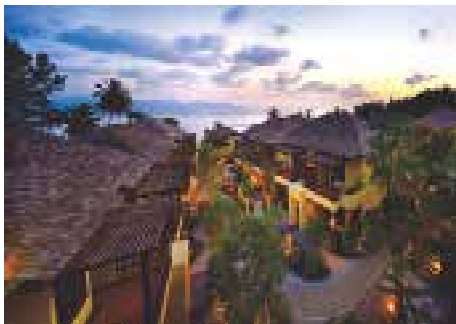


Koh Samui, Koh Phangan, Koh Tao. These three islands are major tourist destinations and with good reason.

Koh Samui is the largest of the three accessed by many ferries, operating throughout the year. The island features spectacular and beautiful beaches with many things to keep you occupied including cooking courses, yoga instruction, scuba diving, and golf. Chaweng and Lamai are vibrant beach towns with many excellent beach resorts, internationally acclaimed restaurants, and world class nightclubs.

Koh Phangan is located 20 kilometres north of Koh Samui. The island is known for the famous 'Full Moon Party', but is covered in natural terrain and preserved as a national park, so rich wildlife and beautiful flora can be seen. For those looking to relax, Koh Phangan is also home to many luxurious resorts offering world-class spa and health treatments. Many divers and snorkellers explore the underwater world. Most resorts offer diving courses for those wishing to learn in the warm waters.

Koh Tao is the smaller of the islands, and with a lovely character. It is around 45 kilometres north of Koh Phangan, and offers visitors a choice of fishing and diving. Koh Tao is famous for dive course tuition with more than 27 dive sites.



Dara Samui Beach Resort and Spa Villa:

A place totally different in atmosphere and feel to any other resort in Koh Samui. It reflects the ancient culture and the style of the Lanna, inherent to the north of Thailand. The result is spectacular and the superior, deluxe rooms and villas are stunning. Dara Samui is centrally located on the island's main beach of Chaweng. Relaxing, sports activities or shopping. Whatever your pleasure, are all within easy reach at Dara Samui.



Koh Tao Montra Resort:

The very first resort of its kind on Koh Tao, Koh Tao Montra Resort offers the exclusivity of luxury and the benefits of the largest swimming pool on the island. It is the perfect base to enjoy your island stay and is walking distance from the wharf. There are excellent packages for relaxing, diving and honeymoons.

Chantaramas Resort & Spa Koh Phangan:

Situated on a secluded bay on Koh Phangan in the Gulf of Thailand. The resort has 51 well spaced villas, more than 100 metres of private beach and shallow water with fabulous views of Koh Samui. Villas are cocooned in lush tropical foliage and more than half of the property is dedicated to tropical gardens. The resort is wheelchair friendly.



Coral Grand Resort and Divers Koh Tao:

If you would like to learn to dive or climb the diving ladder with your skills, this is the resort to help. However you don't have to dive to enjoy this place as it is situated on the beautiful Sairee Beach. Full of life and energy with great food, it's the place to be. They have their own boats, diving school, and even their own coral reef. Beautiful wooden cottages with beach, garden or pool view, and budget diving accommodation with fan or air-con.



Fairhouse Villas & Spa Koh Samui:

Located in the heart of Maenam Beach. The resort has 71 modern Thai villas and chalet style rooms. All rooms have an individual private balcony. Some rooms also feature a private outdoor jacuzzi or a private outdoor pool. The resort has a seaside location. Great food as you can see above.



Milky Bay Resort Koh Phangan:

Situated on the beach between beautiful lush gardens is Milky Bay. Treat yourself to a sunset cocktail, and enjoy a beach barbecue, Thai style with fresh seafood. Lots of activities and adventure throughout the resort or just relax with a massage followed by a herbal steam.

Phang Nga District including Khao Lak and Andaman



Phang Nga consists of mountains, forests, and villages while seaside there are picturesque caverns, and magnificent cliffs. The area is located around 788 kilometres from Bangkok, and stretches from Ranong at the northern end, down to Phuket and Krabi at the southern end. The coastal areas overlook the fabulous Andaman Sea with many famous islands such as Surin and Similan. They are renowned for their spectacular underwater scenery, marine life and beautiful unspoilt beaches, attracting divers and snorkellers from around the world.

Ao Phang Nga National Park is in the south. A huge bay and geological wonder filled with islets, sunken caverns and startling rock formations. It includes the James Bond Island and Khao Sok National Park to the north, covered by the oldest evergreen rainforest in the world.

Khao Lak is a coastal park full of birds, mammals, beautiful flowers and scenic waterfalls, but is most famous for the 25km of beautiful beaches together with a range of accommodation, restaurants, shops and nightlife suitable for all tastes and budgets.



Khaolak Laguna Resort:

A 4.5 star hotel nestled on 12 acres in the best location on Khao Lak beach. Very close to the beachfront and a short walk to Khao Lak shopping center. The resort is only 80 kms north of Phuket Airport and takes just one hour for the scenic drive to the hotel.



Khaolak Bhandari Resort & Spa:

The resort is situated on Nang Thong beach and within a few kilometers of the Khao Lak National Park. The rooms are classic style and very comfortable. Excellent snorkelling is at Pakarang Reef with the Similan Islands only a short boat ride away.

Apsara Beachfront Resort and Villa:

The luxury resort is a nature lovers' and romantics' hideaway with white sands, tropical gardens and a picturesque lagoon. The resort is perfect for honeymooners. The superior leisure facilities and service make this a great place to calm the mind and totally relax.

Khao Sok National Park:
Khao Sok's jungle is one of the oldest tropical rainforests in the world (older and richer even than the Amazonian forest). There are around 50 different species of mammals, and 300 species of birds. Trek through the rainforest climbing seven levels, each with a waterfall. A harder trek is in the opposite direction, which takes you to the site of the rafflesia, the largest flower in the world.



Trips within the area include:

Khao Sok National Park Trekking and Canoeing
Similan Islands Snorkelling trip by speed boat.
Surin Island Snorkelling Trip.
Tachai Island and Virgin Island by speed boat or Yacht.
White Water Rafting.
ATV and White Water Rafting.
Elephant Trekking and Bamboo Rafting.
Phi Phi Island by speedboat.



Andaman Princess Resort & Spa:

This 4 star resort is situated on a privately owned, white sandy beach on the island of Koh Kho Khao, adjacent to the huge Sri Phang Nga National Park. The resort is five minutes by their own ferry from the mainland and just one hour and thirty minutes by road from Phuket International Airport.



The Andaman Mani Resort Khao Lak:

A true luxury beachfront resort with only 9 rooms. The resort was built as a private discreet luxury resort with spacious rooms and soft furnishings, it caters to sophisticated discerning travellers looking for a new space away from the larger resorts.



Phuket



Phuket is often referred to as the 'Pearl of the Andaman'. The old elegant Sino-Portuguese styled buildings built nearly 100 years ago create a fascinating cultural mix as the other extreme is the vibrant nightlife for those wanting to have party fun. The island also has many temples with the most prominent one called Wat Chalong housing a pagoda that contains the Buddha's relics.

Phuket has many fantastic, white sand beaches including **Patong, Kata and Karon**; great offshore dive sites, and lots of watersports including sailing, windsurfing and sea canoeing.

On land activities include trekking trails through forests, mountains, waterfalls, and parks such as Kratu Waterfall and Khao Phra Thaeo National Park, while Laem Promthep offers the most spectacular scene of the sun setting over the Andaman Sea.

And if golf is your game you will find world class courses throughout the region.

There is also a wide variety of offshore diving areas, including the **Surin, Similan and Racha** island groups that are rated world-class for their beauty onshore, colourful corals, clear waters and huge variety of sea life.



Boathouse on Kata Beach:

A boutique hotel with 38 rooms situated right on the fantastic Kata Beach in southwest Phuket. It has become a favorite destination for visitors who appreciate personal, friendly service and outstanding food and wine in a supreme beach location. The seafront Boathouse Wine & Grill won the Wine Spectator Best of Award of Excellence for its outstanding food and superb wine cellar with over 800 labels.



CC's Hideaway Karon:

A 42 room full service hotel nestled in the lush hills of Karon overlooking the Andaman Sea. Easy access to 3 of Phuket's finest beaches: Kata Noi, Kata and Karon but away from the hustle and bustle. This is a small and personal hotel where you can enjoy your cocktail and watch the fabulous sunsets over the bay.

Great range of accommodation options:

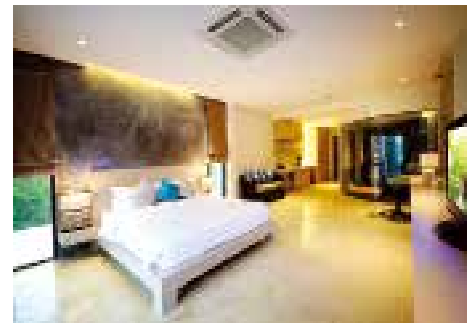
There are many resorts on the island of Phuket. We have rates for ALL properties on the island so whatever you would like or have heard about, get in touch so we can organise it for you.

The ones shown here are suggestions only. Stay for days or weeks or mix resorts.



Andaman Cannacia Resort & Spa Kata:

A resort for romance and relaxation as children under 18 are not allowed at the resort. This eco-friendly spa resort is simple yet stylish, tranquil with spectacular views of the picturesque bay and the Andaman sea. The resort is 250 metres from Kata Beach and offers a range of great accommodation.



Wanaburi Hotel NaiYang Beach

This area is at the northern end of Phuket and is not well known by the international market. Nai Yang is just a five-minute drive south of the airport. Here you'll find what beach life is all about. Fringed with casuarina trees, it is laid back to the extreme. Most people who stay here find absolute relaxation. Parts of the beach are inside Sirinath National Park which also includes the reef at the north end of the beach.



Amaya Phuket Resort & Spa Patong:

A boutique resort located in the heart of Patong, a short walk from the beach and close to the shopping centre and night life. Amaya Phuket Resort & Spa provides a high level of comfort with 85 rooms, cozy spa, swimming pool, and a bar and restaurant for complete relaxation in a natural environment.

Krabi, Koh Lanta Region



Krabi Town is the provincial capital located along the banks of a river that leads to the Andaman Sea. The town has a number of cosy cafes in which inexpensive and authentic Thai cuisine can be had along the riverside evening market. Krabi is a port city for both local fisherman and boats ferrying visitors to nearby attractions. With attractions including hot springs, wildlife sanctuaries, sea caves, flourishing coral reefs with exotic marine life, limestone cliffs that draw rock climbing enthusiasts from around the world, and national parks that include the island paradises of **Koh Phi Phi, Koh Lanta and Railay Beach**, one can easily spend weeks in Krabi and leave yearning for more. If that isn't enough, Krabi features some of the most photogenic sunsets in Thailand. Sightseeing by canoe or kayak through the majestic seascape. Explore the mangrove forest to see animals such as the crab-eating macaques or take in some bird watching. Maybe visit the unique natural lagoons and sea caves to see the ancient rock paintings and experience traditional village life.

Rock Climbing:

Apart from marine sports, Krabi is also an ideal place for rock climbing. Sheer limestone cliffs along Tham Phranang and Railay Beaches have attracted climbers from all over the world. Equipment, instruction and guides are available at most resorts.



The Paradise Koh Yao:

Located on Koh Yao Noi Island. A quiet tropical getaway in the area between Phuket and Krabi, well away from the major tourist spots. The largely untouched island is covered with lush tropical jungle, limestone cliffs and fringed by beaches and reef.

Due to its unique limestone formations and pristine beaches, the area is famous for film making with such epics as James Bond and The Beach.



Timber House Resort, Ao Nang:

This is the only resort in Ao Nang that has a private beachfront area. Close to shops, bars, spas, massage and restaurants. Quality accommodation at reasonable prices in a great location. There are 3 more resorts as part of this group; Krabi Resort, Lanta Resort and Diamond Place. All good options in Krabi.

Islanda Eco Village Resort:
Neither too remote nor too close to the city, the resort is located on the island of Koh Klang with unspoiled surroundings, and the rich unique cultures of the southern people. It takes only 5 minutes by a long tail boat from Krabi Marina to reach the island.
The culturally rich island is a perfect way to leave the world behind.
Packages are available which include a number of activities.



Cha Da Beach Resort and Spa Koh Lanta:
Situated on the beach on the fabulous island of Koh Lantra, the resort offers many types of accommodation.

Cha Da Krabi Thai Village Resort:
The newest resort in the beautiful Krabi Landscape. This five star resort is destined to become a favourite luxury hideaway. Ideally situated in a peaceful haven within walking distance to Phranang Bay.



Ao Nang Cliff Beach Resort:
Nestled in the heart of Ao Nang overlooking the Andaman Sea. This is a great base to be as it is only minutes away from the beach, shopping and nightlife. Their own private beach is framed by the mangrove forest and sea grass meadows. Try out the rejuvenation and spa, together with the breathtaking scenery of both landscapes and seascape.



Ao Nang Nagapura Resort & Spa, Krabi:
The resort is situated between the unspoiled and beautiful Ao Nang and Noppharattara beaches. It is a 4-star resort offering luxurious and comfortable accommodation as well as professional hospitality, friendly service, peace and tranquility. There are 3 other resorts from this resort group. All very good choices.

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Responsibilities and Conditions:

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A deposit of 20% per person is payable on confirmation. Final payments are to reach Pack Ya Bags no later than 45 days prior to departure, unless agreed. If for any reason your balance payment is not received by us by the due date, we reserve the right to treat your booking as cancelled and to apply the appropriate cancellation charges.

Cancellations:

Are subject to a charge to cover the estimated costs and the scale of charges, per person, in the event of cancellation or failure to travel without formal cancellation, is as follows:

Land arrangements:

Cancellations prior to 14 days before departure. 20%
Cancellations within 14 days of departure. 20% plus any charges levied by hotels and ground operators up to 100% of the cost of land arrangements.

Air arrangements: (guide only)

Cancellations within 14 days of departure. 25% of the airfare or any other amount as required by Airline Tariff.
Cancellations after ticketing as required by the Airline

Refunds:

No refund is available for cancellations after the tour has commenced or in respect of any tours, accommodation, meals or any other services not utilised.

Prices:

Prices are detailed on the attached price insert. Please check that the price list is the current issue. Prices are subject to change. Please check with your Travel Agent or Pack Ya Bags.

Booking arrangements:

Pack Ya Bags communications will be sent to your Travel Agent for all booking arrangements made through your Travel Agent.

Your Travel Agent shall, on the receipt of any tour monies, hold such monies for each and every person named in the booking until that booking is confirmed, at which time those monies shall be promptly remitted by your Agent to Pack Ya Bags.

Tickets and/or vouchers shall be forwarded on receipt of full payment to Pack Ya Bags. Tickets and/or vouchers may be provided as e-tickets or hard-copy.

Travel insurance:

We strongly recommend that, at the time of your reservation, you purchase a comprehensive travel insurance policy of your choice.

We suggest that the policy should include, but not be limited to the following features:

Loss of deposit through cancellation. Personal baggage and loss of money. Medical expenses in case of illness or accident.

Additional expenses to cover hotel accommodation and repatriation costs should the tour need to be extended or curtailed due to illness while overseas, or due to the needs to return to your country because of unexpected death or illness. This feature should also cover cancellation of transport services due to industrial action.



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