

AMAZING
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CHAPTERS



amazing
THAILAND

Phuket



Phuket

'The Pearl of The Andaman'

A southern paradise of golden sands,
built on the legacy of two great heroines
and a mighty governor.

There is evidence of civilization in what we now know as Phuket existing as far back as 700 BE (2nd century AD) in the records of naval explorer Claudius Ptolemy. Ptolemy, who named the area 'Tagola Cape' and was followed, over time, by other European seamen who also created records of their voyages around the Malay Cape and into Southeastern Asia, naming the area 'Jungceylon'. Tamil explorers who reached the cape referred to it as 'Manikram' meaning 'city of glass', a meaning identical to 'Phukej', found in the Thalang city archives in 1785, a name which was later amended to 'Phuket' in the Government Gazette of 1907, and remains until the present day.

Phuket is the largest of Thailand's many islands and is located on the country's west coast. It is often referred to the 'Pearl of The Andaman' due to its stunning islands, white sand beaches, crystal clear seas and as a result of its multicultural make-up, it boasts incredible cultural, architectural, and culinary diversity. For all of these reasons, Phuket has deservedly become a fascinating tourist destination with worldwide appeal.

Phuket Map





Phuket Old Town

Mueang, Phuket



Phuket Old Town

Mueang, Phuket



Comprising of the Thanon Klang, Thanon Dibuk, Thanon Phang Nga, Thanon Yaowarat, Thanon Krabi and Soi Romanee roads, the area is steeped in history and in bygone days was inhabited by settlers from many different nations and ethnic groups, including Chinese, Indians, Europeans and Muslims who came to trade or put down their roots. These early settlers built terraced homes in a style that later became known as 'Sino-Portuguese' architecture. Way back in the reign of King Rama IV, the tin mining industry flourished but these days the mines are preserved as museums and many local buildings have been converted into accommodation, dining spaces, coffee shops and souvenir shops. There is also a large market and walking street which is organized every Sunday between 16.00 and 22.00 hrs. along Thalang Road to give visitors the chance to sample the multicultural charms of the old town.



Peranakan Museum

Mueang, Phuket



Peranakan Museum

Mueang, Phuket



'Peranakan' is a Malay word literally meaning "born here" and was initially used to describe mixed-race Chinese inhabitants with foreign fathers and local mothers. For example, Javi Peranakarn people are the descendants of original Indian settlers, and the Babha community are the descendants of the original Hokkien Chinese settlers. The building that houses the museum was constructed in the time when the provincial government was headed by Phraya Ratsadanupradit Mahitsaraphakdi (Korsimby Na Ranong) and was converted to an arts and cultural center illustrating the lifestyles and local customs of Phuket and its people through modern technological media.



Open daily between 09.00 - 18.00 hrs.

Entrance fee : Adults 300 baht / Children 150 baht

For further details contact Tel. : 0 7631 3556, 0 7631 3031
www.peranakanphuketmuseum.com



Phuket Thai Hua Museum

Mueang, Phuket



Phuket Thai Hua Museum

Mueang, Phuket



Located on Thanon Krabi, in the Talat Nuea subdistrict, the museum was opened in 1934 and consists of a two-storey Sino-Portuguese building which originally served the purpose of a school offering classes in Hokkien Chinese, the first and only of its kind in the province. The lower floors are currently used for exhibitions related to the lifestyles and history of Hokkien Chinese migrants in Phuket and visitors can find out about their unique customs, beliefs, and traditions here, as well as their relationship with the Phuket locals.



Open every day from 09.00 – 17.00 hrs.

Entrance fee : Adults 200 baht / Children 120 baht

For large group visits contacting the museum in advance is recommended

For further details contact Tel. : 0 7621 1224



Chinpracha House Museum

(Ban Chinpracha)

Mueang, Phuket



Chinpracha House Museum

(Ban Chinpracha)

Mueang, Phuket



This property stands on Thanon Krabi in the Talat Nuea subdistrict and was built towards the end of King Rama IV's reign. It is widely believed to be the first example of Sino-Portuguese architecture in the whole of the Phuket province. The distinguishing features of the two-storey house are the ornate front door, decorated with golden Chinese characters and distinctive colored glass windowpanes. There is a small pond located in the airy, open central courtyard area, imported Italian tiles on the floor, an ornate wooden staircase and many household fixtures and decorations from China. In fact, almost everything in the house is imported, a fact made possible Phuket was once a trading route for ships on their way between Penang, Malaysia and Europe.



Open daily from 09.00 – 17.00 hrs.

Entrance fee : 150 baht

For further details call, Tel. : 0 7621 1281



Khao Rang Viewpoint

Mueang, Phuket

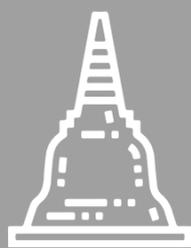


Khao Rang Viewpoint

Mueang, Phuket



Located in Thanon Pathipat, Vichit sub-district, this vantage point atop a hill in Phuket's northwestern sector offers incredible 360-degree panoramic views which include the bay, the city and nearby mountain peaks, and visitors who reach the summit around dusk can gaze down over the mesmerizing sight of the city lights twinkling below. There is also a centennial commemorative building and monument at the peak, which was constructed in homage to Phraya Ratsadanupradit (Korsimby Na Ranong), the former governor who brought on many positive social and economic changes across the province. There is an elegant looking octagonal pagoda with extended terrace as well as a fitness zone and public park just below the viewing point, along with a host of restaurants and cafés which are popular with locals and tourists alike. For those who don't fancy the walk to the peak, there are ample car-parking spaces right beside the viewpoint.



Wat Chalong

Mueang, Phuket



Wat Chalong

Mueang, Phuket



This impressive temple stands in Thanon Chao Fa, Chalong sub-district and is an important place of worship for devout Phuket locals as well as Buddhists from further afield. In the past, the learned, venerable monk and expert on traditional Thai medicine and mindfulness, Luangpho Chaem, would spend the entire Buddhist lent period here, along with Luangpho Chuang and Luangpho Glueam, both of whom were talented and well-versed herbalists. Even though these three important figures are no longer with us, many Buddhists still visit the temple to pay respect to their images which are housed in the chapel here.



Phra Phuttha Ming Mongkhon Ek Nakkhiri (Phuket Big Buddha)

Mueang, Phuket



Phra Phuttha Ming Mongkhon Ek Nakhiri

(Phuket Big Buddha)

Mueang, Phuket



Located in front of the Nak Koet Buddhist Park, this Buddha image, in the attitude of subduing Mara, is a stunning piece of contemporary art which measures in at 25.45 meters wide and 45 meters in height. The image is made from reinforced concrete and covered in white and jade 'Suriyakanta' marble, imported from neighboring Myanmar and weighing in at a massive 135 tonnes. The image was named by three venerable and highly revered

monks: Somdet Prayansangwon, Somdet Prasankarach and Sakolmahasangparinayayok in 2007 and designated as a dharma site which also affords great views over Chalong Bay from the front face of the image and of Kata, Karon and other smaller bays to the rear.



Chalong Bay
(Ao Chalong)
Mueang, Phuket



Chalong Bay

(Ao Chalong)

Mueang, Phuket



Near the southern tip of Phuket, this crescent shaped bay is less than ideal for swimming or sunbathing due to the muddy beach and active pier at which yachts, sailboats and ferries often dock going to and from the surrounding islands like Ko He and Ko Racha Yai. There are plenty of facilities here for tourists though, including a range of accommodation, dining options, shops, rental vehicles and tour companies offering tickets and excursions both on land and at sea.



Rawai Beach - Lon Island

Mueang, Phuket



Rawai Beach - Lon Island

Mueang, Phuket



This pier is situated amidst a community of local seafaring people who trawl and fish for their livelihood, and you will find a line of both fishing boats and ferries moored close to the shore most of the time. These local boats are used to ferry island hopping tourists around the local islands like Ko Lon, Ko He, Ko Bon, Ko Racha and Ko Kaeo Phitsadan for reasonable rental fees. The beach itself is lined with resorts, beach huts and simple restaurants offering ultra fresh seafood.



Ko Lon

Mueang, Phuket



Ko Lon

Mueang, Phuket



Just five km from the Phuket coast, this island can be reached by hired boat from Rawai pier. Most of the inhabitants here are Muslims who make a living from fishing and farming, as well as tourist based ventures. Once aboard the island, visitors can learn about the local wisdom and way of life, try their hand at batik dyeing using natural dyes, making local sweets like Khanom Ko and Khanom Bai Maphrao and late night squid fishing.



Laem Promthep Cape

Mueang, Phuket



Laem Promthep Cape

Mueang, Phuket



This breathtaking sunset viewing spot is located in southern Phuket and famous for its now iconic lighthouse, which casts light beams that can be seen up to 39km out to sea. There is an exhibition housed inside which details the origins and the construction process which led to the lighthouse's fruition and a display showing the sunrise and sunset times as well as the standardized time for Thailand. Restaurants, coffee shops and souvenir stalls can be found dotted around the cape and there is a paved pathway which leads down to the spot where views of nearby Ko Kaeo Phitsdan and Ya Nui beach await.



Nai Han Beach

Mueang, Phuket



Nai Han Beach

Mueang, Phuket



Popular with tourists looking to go sailing or yachting, this crescent-shaped bay is shielded from winds by the surrounding mountain range. Sunset boat trips are especially popular and visitors flock to take photos of the impressive yachts moored in the bay. The windmill viewpoint is situated on a lofty ridge between the Nai Han and Ya Nui beaches and is home to a shrine and recreation area where visitors can chill and enjoy the evening view.



Nui Beach

Mueang, Phuket



Nui Beach

Mueang, Phuket



Located between Nai Han beach and the Three Bays viewing point, this small beach with crystal clear water is perfect for taking a dip and the corners of the beach are ideal for exploring or finding secluded sunbathing spots behind the rocks. The path down to the beach is a little difficult to negotiate though, making it suitable for only more adventurous tourists who are looking for something off the beaten track.



To reach Hat Nui, take the 4030 from Promthep cape, past Nai Han beach and turn left into the car park just before the Three Bays viewing point. There are 4wd vehicles waiting in the area to transport tourists down to Hat Nui.



Pha Hin Dam

Mueang, Phuket



Pha Hin Dam

Mueang, Phuket



Lying between Hat Nui and Hat Nai Han beaches, not far from Laem Krating cape, this vantage point atop a hill offers breathtaking 360 degree panoramic views which encompass Chalong Bay, Promthep, Hat Ya Nui beach, The Windmill view point, Ko Kaeo Phitsadan, Ko Lon, Mai Ton, and Ko He. The sunsets here are also quite majestic, with the sun gradually sinking into the ocean, painting the sky with hues of gold and orange.



To reach Pha Hin Dam, take the 4030 from Promthep cape, past Nai Han beach and just before you reach the Three Bays viewing point, turn left into the car park. There are 4wd vehicles waiting to transport tourists down to Pha Hin Dam Cliff. (The vehicles charge 500baht/person return)



Laem Krating Cape

Mueang, Phuket



Laem Krating Cape

Mueang, Phuket



Located in Karon sub-district between Nai Han and Hat Nui beaches, Laem Krating is a grassy knoll which leads down to a sheer cliff, beyond which lies The Andaman Sea. It is advised to visit the cape from 16.00 onwards for the best lighting and most resplendent views. Most visitors stop to take a few snaps with the large rock shaped like a sailboat towards the apex of the cape and in the middle of the tall grass on the way down to the cliff just as the sun sets.



To get there, park up at near the entrance to Hat Nui beach and take one of the 4wd vehicles parked in the area from there to the cape. The journey takes 20-30 minutes and passed through wooded areas and grassy plains on the last 300 meters down to the beach.



Three Bay Viewpoint

Mueang, Phuket



Three Bay Viewpoint

Mueang, Phuket



Located beside the 4030 highway, this spot is widely regarded as boasting the best views that Phuket has to offer. From the summit, visitors can gaze down over three crescent shaped bays; Kata Noi, with its pristine white sand, Kata and Karon. The spot is referred to by locals as 'Jud Chom View Sam Ao' or Three Bay viewpoint.



Kata and Karon Beaches

Mueang, Phuket

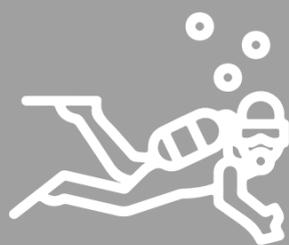


Kata and Karon Beaches

Mueang, Phuket



These two popular beaches lie on the western side of Phuket and both feature flat expanses of powdery white sand leading down to the sea. The clear water makes them perfect for swimming and there are plenty of other things to do like get a traditional Thai massage, play beach sports or soak up some rays. Add this to a range of accommodation to suit all tastes and budgets and affordable dining options, and it's really no surprise that this pair of golden bays is perennially popular with tourists.



Ko Racha Yai
(Ko Raya Yai)
Mueang, Phuket



Ko Racha Yai

(Ko Raya Yai)

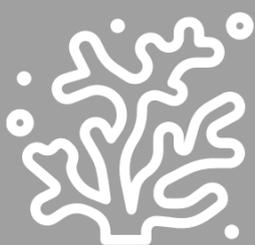
Mueang, Phuket



This supremely scenic island is located just off Phuket's southernmost tip and features fine white sand beaches and an incredible viewing point atop a hill towards the bottom of the island. From here, visitors can look down over Ao Patok bay, Ao Siam, with the island's longest stretch between the horseshoe-shaped mountains to the west and Ao Khon Khae, which is ideal for snorkeling around the coral reefs, over on the east of the island.



To explore the island, contact one of the local tour companies and enquire about a one-day trip. If you are interested in an overnight stay, most of the resorts on the island will arrange to pick you up from Chalong Bay pier. The majority of the resorts will use a speedboat and the journey takes a mere 30 minutes.



Ko He

Mueang, Phuket



Ko He

Mueang, Phuket



Just off the northeastern tip of Phuket, 10 km from the coast, this picturesque island features immaculate sandy beaches on the northern and eastern flanks and its clear waters and colorful coral reefs are ideal for swimming or snorkeling. There are ample resorts and eateries and plenty of activities available on the island for those looking for a longer stay.

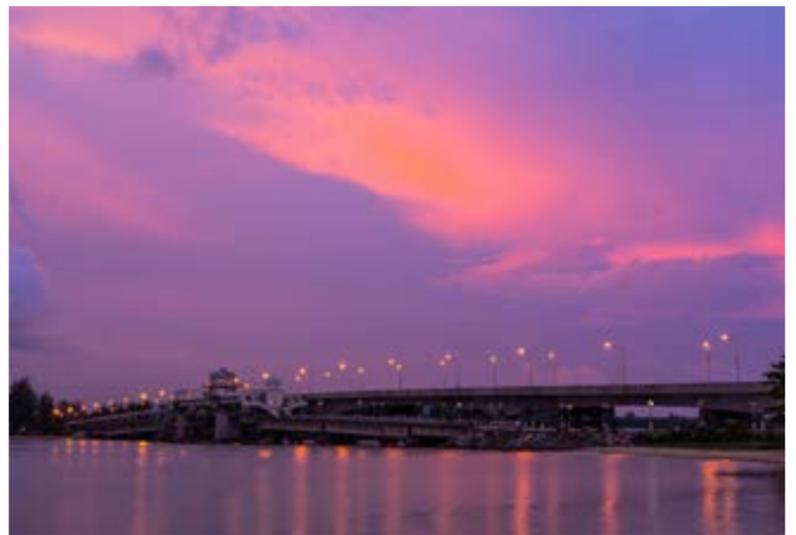


To get there, contact any of the local tour companies or travel agencies for details of a one-day trip. If you intend to stay overnight, most of the accommodation on the island offer package tours which include a return boat ticket. The trip across to the island take 15-20 minutes in a speedboat and around 45 minutes in a longtail boat.



Sarasin Bridge

Thalang, Phuket



Sarasin Bridge

Thalang, Phuket



The first bridge that was built to connect Phuket and Phang Nga, the structure stretches between Ban Ta Chatchai, Mai Khao subdistrict, Thalang in Phuket Ban Ta Noon, Khok Kloi district, Takua Thung, Phang Nga. Highway 402 was first opened for throughfare on 7th July, 1967 and the two-lane, 360 meter-long bridge was named after Mister Poj Sarasin, Minister for National Development at the time of construction.

Since then, two more bridges, the Thao Thep Krasattri and Thao Si Sunthon bridges, have been built, adjacent to the original Sarasin bridge, and both of these used by vehicles travelling between the two southern provinces while Sarasin Bridge was repaired and converted into a suspension bridge for pedestrians. The renovated Sarasin bridge is for pedestrian use with a pagoda for relaxing and enjoying the view. In keeping with the overall vibe, the bridge's new design features elements of Sino-Portuguese architecture alongside traditional southern Panya style construction.

รพทพ



Ban Ta Chat Chai Community

Thalang, Phuket

สหภาพ

Ban Ta Chat Chai Community

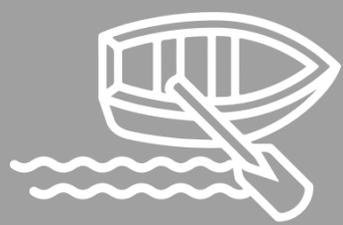
Thalang, Phuket



Located in Mai Khao, close to Sarasin Bridge, this sustainable eco-village among the mangroves also houses a National Marine Park Education and Operations Centre and a 600-meter nature trail. Visitors can row a kayak through the flourishing marshes and forests, which are home to untold species of wildlife including crab-eating macaques, red hawks, slatey-breasted rails and blue panchax fish. There is also the chance to see locals farming painted spiny lobsters and learn about the distinctive local lifestyles and culture.



For further details contact the Marine Park Tourist Information Centre, Phuket, Tel. : 0 7634 8526, 09 9252 5085



Ban Bang Rong Agricultural Conservation Tourism

Thalang, Phuket



Ban Bang Rong Agricultural Conservation Tourism

Thalang, Phuket



Located at Moo 3. Pa Khlok subdistrict, this ancient island-dwelling community is mainly made up of Muslims who sustain themselves by fishing and agricultural work. As the settlement is located between the mountains and the ocean, the inhabitants have a lot of natural resources at their disposal, and they recently set up a tourist venture to create and promote ecotourism around the community which was presented with the 'Kinaree' award at the Thailand Tourism Awards in 2020.

Some of the activities on offer here are educational trips around local mangrove forests and nature trails, experiencing the local ecosystem aboard a canoe, exploring local fish farms and orchards where pineapples, mangosteens, loquats and longans are planted, checking out the goat farms and purchasing some unique local produce like goat milk, yoghurt and handmade soap.



Ban Bang Rong Agricultural Conservation Tourism is open for one day or overnight tourism with homestay accommodation available.

For further details contact, Tel. : 08 4309 9131



Sirinart National Park

Thalang, Phuket



Sirinart National Park

Thalang, Phuket



On the northeastern side of Phuket, this national park comprises of a coastal pine forest, 13km of white sand beaches spread across Hat Mai Khao, Hat Nai Yang and other smaller bays, and expansive coral reef. Hat Mai Khao is particularly impressive and is popular with tourists due to its expanse of fine sand. Another draw for visitors is watching the planes as they descend towards the runway and pass over the beach and the northern section of the beach is looked after by The National Parks association due to it being a nesting area for local sea turtles. Nai Yang beach is a vast swathe of sand, shaded by pine trees and lined with accommodation and restaurants. Visitors here can swim, chill or pitch their tent beachfront, under the stars.



Entrance charge for Sirinat National Park :

Adults 200 baht / Children 200 baht

The park has accommodation available for rent as well as a campsite

For further details contact, Tel. : 0 7632 8226 or 0 7632 7152
or via email at www.dpn.co.th



Surin Beach

(Hat Surin)

Thalang, Phuket



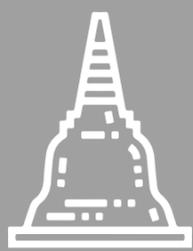
Surin Beach

(Hat Surin)

Thalang, Phuket



Lying between Bang Tao and Kamala beach, in the Choeng Thale sub-district, this stretch of pristine, powdery sand is flanked at both ends by small rocky capes which just out into the ocean. Rows of coconut trees keep the beach nicely shaded and there's a great view out over the calm waters. When the wind gets up and there are bigger waves, wave boarders and surfers flock to this beach. There's a manned lifeguard tower here though, just in case anyone gets into danger.



Wat Phra Tong

Thalang, Phuket



Wat Phra Tong

Thalang, Phuket



Situated on Thap Krasattri Road, Thap Krasattri subdistrict, this temple is home to a large, gold-covered Buddha image known as Phra Put. Only half of the image can be seen protruding above the ground and it is considered a sacred image for the local Buddhists. There is also a museum in the temple grounds, displaying many artifacts from the early days of Phuket including some protective clothing used by miners during the boom and some foot bindings worn by early female Chinese settlers.



Patong Beach

Katu, Phuket



Patong Beach

Katu, Phuket



In the Patong sub-district, between Kamala and Karon, this beach is a top tourist destination for both Thais and international visitors. The crescent shaped beach with fine sand leads down to a still, clear sea which is perfect for watersports such as Jet-skiing or inflatable 'banana boats'. The whole stretch of beach is filled with amenities aimed at the tourist, with accommodation, travel agents and tour companies, souvenir shops and chill out spots.



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International Terminal (Building 1), 1st Floor, Gate 2

Tel : 0 2504 4301

Open 24 hours

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