

# Thailand

SPECIALISTS



amazing  
**THAILAND**

● BANGKOK ● CHIANG MAI ● PHUKET ● KRABI ● PHI PHI ● KHAO LAK ● KOH SAMUI ● KOH PHANGAN ● ALTERNATIVE DESTINATIONS

# Welcome to



**FIRST OPENING** its doors to the travel trade in 2012, Checkout Tours hit the ground as a dynamic new player specialising in all things Thailand. Our product range is extensive - from popular holidays to tailor-made itineraries and challenging off-the-beaten-track experiences. Checkout Tours relishes the opportunity to design an itinerary that suits your exacting standards and we have the resources to make your holiday an unforgettable experience!

#### HOW DO WE DO THIS?

- Our personalised service is a point of pride.
- Our agents are senior consultants with expert knowledge.
- We help you get the best deal!
- Our products are sourced through various suppliers in Thailand, contracting directly with hotels and utilising various online platforms.
- We are passionate about Thailand and all it has to offer.
- Our itineraries are tailor-made and unique.
- We sell all destinations in Thailand, including itineraries to lesser known locations.
- We have a 24-hour emergency line.
- Guide representation throughout Thailand, including local guide contact details.
- Reconfirmation of airline tickets.
- Fully insured transfers and tours.
- Representative offices in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Hua Hin/Cha Am, Pattaya, Koh Samui, Phuket and Krabi.
- On arrival we offer comprehensive welcome packs with a local map, optional excursions and local office numbers.

#### CHECKOUT TOURS TOP TRAVEL TIPS:

- Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months from the date of your return.
- Be aware of and act on any visa or health regulations.
- Take out adequate travel insurance for your entire trip.

#### TOP TRAVEL TIPS FOR THAILAND:

- Respect the culture by dressing appropriately when visiting temples, returning a *wai* (head bow) and not pointing with your feet as this is a sign of disrespect.
- Don't make disparaging comments about the royal family.
- 1 ZAR is equivalent to roughly 2.5 THB (Thai Baht).
- An adaptor is needed for electrical sockets.

- Thailand is a hot and humid country, so pack light clothes and an umbrella for the rainy season. Bring closed shoes if you want to visit temples.
- Don't drink the tap water.
- Street food is delicious, but can cause food poisoning so only eat where there are crowds (a faster turnover means fresher food).
- Carry mosquito repellent with you.
- Spend at least 2-3 days per destination.
- Use calculators to bargain deals in Thailand's markets!
- Bangkok's MRT subway is efficient and cost effective, while tuk tuks are also great (settle a price beforehand).
- It's generally cheaper to exchange currency once you've arrived in Thailand (this can be done in most major cities). ATM's are very accessible but charge a THB200 (ZAR80) withdrawal fee.
- Tipping is not standard but it is appreciated. If there are coins left over from a restaurant bill or metered taxi fare, it is common to offer it as a tip.



**ASATA**

# Sawadee!

So much more than just a sunny place to top up your tan, the Land of Smiles (as Thailand is fondly referred to) offers the holiday of a lifetime! The countryside is one of contrasts – travel north and explore mountainous landscapes of jungle and the cultural hill tribe people, but journey south and discover lush tropical islands, green-blue oceans softly lapping at their shores. Thai people are welcoming and friendly, and safe transportation networks get you to where you need to be. All this at one of the most affordable rates around. What are you waiting for – let's go!

## WHAT TO BUDGET



### RESTAURANTS

Meal, inexpensive restaurant	60.00฿ / (R25)
Meal for two people, mid-range restaurant, three courses	700.00฿ / (R300)
McMeal at McDonalds (or equivalent combo meal)	200.00฿ / (R80)
Domestic beer (0.5 litre draught)	60.00฿ / (R25)
Imported beer (0.33 litre bottle)	100.00฿ / (R40)
Cappuccino (regular)	80.91฿ / (R30)
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 litre bottle)	20.62฿ / (R8)
Water (0.33 litre bottle)	13.21฿ / (R6)

### MARKETS

Milk (regular), (1 litre)	53.38฿ / (R20)
Loaf of fresh white bread (500g)	43.12฿ / (R18)
Water (1.5 litre bottle)	16.00฿ / (R7)
Bottle of wine (mid-range)	400.00฿ / (R170)
Domestic beer (0.5 litre bottle)	57.11฿ / (R25)
Imported beer (0.33 litre bottle)	83.56฿ / (R35)
Pack of cigarettes (Marlboro)	95.00฿ / (R40)

### TRANSPORTATION

One-way ticket (Local transport)	30.00฿ / (R12)
Taxi start (Normal tariff)	100.00฿ / (R40)
Taxi 1 km (Normal tariff)	22.91฿ / (R10)
Gasoline (1 litre)	27.55฿ / (R12)



# Bangkok

Known to Thais as Krung Thep (meaning 'City of Angels'), Bangkok is a thrilling and vibrant city, cut through its heart by the snaking Chao Phraya River. Heady smells, riotous colours and crowds overwhelm the senses while skyscrapers and ancient temples happily share the cityscape. Hop on your choice of public transport and paint the town red at a thumping nightclub; indulge in some of the world's finest street food; shop to your heart's content or marvel at magnificent temples - one thing's for sure, Bangkok will make you feel alive!



★★★★

## BANGKOK CHA-DA HOTEL

This modern hotel is found in the heart of Bangkok. The nearby MRT station provides quick access to the best of Bangkok shopping, entertainment and nightlife venues. Enjoy a treatment at the traditional spa or take in the vistas from the stunning rooftop swimming pool. There are three food and beverage options, with meals from Cha-Da Chic and Espresso Café available 24/7.

### Facilities

- Free WiFi, available in room
- Outdoor pool
- Spa and wellness centre
- Tour desk
- Business centre

### Why check it out?

- Good value for money
- Great for business
- Close to MRT



★★★★★

## ARNOMA GRAND BANGKOK

Found only 240m away from Chidlom BTS Skytrain station and surrounded by 10 world-class shopping centres, this hotel has one of Bangkok's highest rated locations. Trattoria Felice Restaurant serves Italian specialities for lunch and dinner, while The Good Earth specialises in Chinese dishes. Drinks are available at Camelot Wine Pub.

### Facilities

- Free WiFi, available in room
- Indoor and outdoor pool
- Multiple dining options
- Business centre
- Fitness centre

### Why check it out?

- 4-star hotel at 3-star prices
- 5-star location
- Conveniently situated for shopping



★★★★★

## CENTARA GRAND AT CENTRALWORLD

Enjoy Bangkok at your fingertips when staying at this fantastic hotel, located only 10 minutes from the Chidlom BTS Skytrain station and one kilometre from MBK Shopping Centre and Siam Paragon. Floor-to-ceiling windows, elegant interiors, flat-screen TVs and spacious bathrooms are the order of the day. Celebrate sky-high views from Uno Mas and Red Sky Bar.

### Facilities

- Free WiFi throughout hotel
- City views
- Spa and wellness
- Tennis court
- Multiple dining options

### Why check it out?

- Luxury accommodation
- Sky bar with stunning views
- Great location • Award-winning spa

**DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS:** Damnoen Saduak Floating Market / Khao San Road / Grand Palace and Wat Prakeaw / Chatuchak weekend market / Soi cowboy & Chinatown / Dinner cruise / Nightlife (Jacks Bar, Skybar rooftop @ Lebua State Tower), Bangkok street food

# Chiang Mai



Steep, jungle-covered mountains and the promise of adventure draw travellers north to Chiang Mai, Thailand's first capital and its cultural heart. With a history stretching back over 700 years, the original fortification's crumbling walls still stand witness over the central Old City, famed for its charming atmosphere, cobbled streets and buzzing night markets (a shopper's paradise!). Chiang Mai is also home to over 120 Buddhist temples, breathtaking in their diversity. Move beyond the city limits and you'll discover a world of fun - popular excursions include jungle treks and white water rafting.



## THE IMPERIAL MAE PING CHIANG MAI

This hotel is conveniently located near street markets and the famous Night Bazaar, plus only a short drive to Chiang Mai's Railway Station and International Airport. Boasting nine dining options, a fitness centre and spa, you'll enjoy relaxing here after a busy day.

### Facilities

- Free WiFi in public areas
- Children's playground
- Spa and wellness centre
- Business centre
- Outdoor pool

### Why check it out?

- Great location
- Value for money
- 5 min walk to night bazaar
- Multiple dining options



## KANTARY HILLS CHIANG MAI

With luxurious and spacious hotel rooms and serviced apartments, Kantary Hills is found in the heart of Chiang Mai's most stylish district. Discerning travellers will be thrilled with the ease of access to the city's best shopping and entertainment areas, plus the CBD and nearby industrial estates for business.

### Facilities

- Free WiFi in public areas
- Outdoor pool
- Sun terrace
- Hot tub Jacuzzi
- Fitness centre

### Why check it out?

- Great location for night life
- Apartment-like rooms with kitchenette
- Value for money



## LE MERIDIEN CHIANG MAI

Nestled in the middle of Chiang Mai's humming Night Bazaar, with stunning views of the Suthep Mountain, Le Meridien is ideally placed in the midst of all the action. Convenience is king with the night market, restaurants, bars and stylish boutiques on your doorstep. The fantastic 24-hour health club is worth a visit.

### Facilities

- Free WiFi in public areas
- Outdoor pool
- Multiple dining options
- Spa and wellness centre
- Concierge service

### Why check it out?

- Best location in Chiang Mai
- Great for nighttime shopping
- 24-hour health club

**DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS:** Wat Phra That Doi Suthep / Chiang Mai Cooking School / Flight of the Gibbon / Sunday Night Market Walking Street / Elephant Nature Park (no riding or labour) / Riverside Pub and Restaurant / Chiang Mai street food (try Khao Soi, a traditional northern dish)

# Phuket

A well-trodden tourist mecca only half a kilometre from mainland Phang Nga, Phuket Island is home to some of Thailand's most popular beaches, its interior a thick blanket of jungle. Strung along the island's southern west coast like pearls on a necklace, a series of bays offer travellers an alluring mix of attractions. Known for its party atmosphere, paint the town red in Patong, or let the easy life draw you in when you stay in Kata. Explore Thailand's largest island, wind in your hair, when you rent a scooter, stopping at Phromthep Cape for a truly magnificent sunset.



## SUNSET BEACH RESORT

Only one minute walk from quieter Kalim Beach (on the north end of Patong), this hotel has spacious rooms opening onto balconies. Traditional Thai and Western meals are found at Sea & Sun restaurant, also serving a daily buffet breakfast. Snacks and drinks at The Rock bar are enjoyed with pool views.

### Facilities

- Free WiFi in public areas
- Outdoor pool, spa and wellness centre
- Library
- Fitness centre
- Tour desk

### Why check it out?

- Great value for money
- Situated just outside of Patong but still close enough to the action
- Excellent outdoor pool
- Free shuttle service to Patong Town



## BEST WESTERN PHUKET OCEAN RESORT

One of Checkout Tour's top picks in Phuket, featuring stunning views from its perch on the hillside above Karon beach and lagoon. The beachfront spa and restaurant serves barbecued seafood. Private balconies overlook tropical gardens or the ocean, while convenience is ensured with a tour desk and water sport facilities.

### Facilities

- Free WiFi in public areas
- Spa, wellness and fitness centre
- Golf course within 3 km
- Outdoor pool
- Tour desk

### Why check it out?

- Great views
- Good value for money
- Quiet location in Karon
- Perfect for couples



## SEAVIEW PATONG

A favourite among South Africans, this hotel is directly across the beach in the quieter (southern) end of Patong, with an easy walk to shops and nightlife. Featuring two outdoor pools, a reading room, souvenir shop, spa and fitness centre. Rooms have ocean or pool views, while the restaurant serves all-day Asian and European cuisine.

### Facilities

- Snack bar
- Tour desk
- Spa, wellness and fitness centre
- Library plus business centre

### Why check it out?

- A South African favourite
- Great value for money
- Good location
- Suitable for couples and families
- Also offers pool access rooms

## DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS:

Phuket View Points / Bangla Road nightlife / Muay Thai boxing / Big Buddha



### BURASARI PHUKET

A Checkout Tours favourite, this gem is only 10 minutes' walk to Jungceylon Shopping Mall and two minutes to Patong beach. Rooms boast private balconies/terraces and a free minibar; some with direct pool access. Have your pick from two pools or enjoy a Thai treatment at the spa. Traditional dance performances complete your evening.

#### Facilities

- Free WiFi in public areas
- Spa and wellness centre
- Concierge service
- Multiple dining options
- Outdoor pool

#### Why check it out?

- Great central location
- Upmarket 4-star property
- Perfect for honeymooners and couples



### PATONG MERLIN HOTEL

This hotel offers a tranquil escape with modern rooms featuring balconies, conveniently located only five minutes' walk from Patong beach and 10 minutes from Bangla Road and Jungceylon Shopping Centre. Relax during a massage or enjoy a session at the fitness centre. Dine on a range of Asian classics, vegetarian cuisine and themed buffets at the various restaurants here.

#### Facilities

- Free WiFi in public areas
- Tour desk
- Multiple dining options
- Kids' club
- Spa, wellness and fitness club

#### Why check it out?

- Central location • Tour desk
- Great for families
- Fitness, spa and wellness centre



### PATONG BEACH HOTEL

An easy walk to Patong beach, Bangla Night Street and Jungceylon Shopping Centre, this elegant hotel is found at one of Patong's best locations. Eat your heart out with nine dining options and cool off in one of two pools. Boasting a range of amenities, the rooms each have a private balcony with fabulous pool, garden or sea views.

#### Facilities

- Free WiFi in all areas
- Hotel's own shopping arcade
- Banana disco
- Tour desk

#### Why check it out?

- Great location
- Awesome vibe
- Suitable for couples, singles and youngsters
- Some rooms have great sea views



### THE VILLAGE RESORT, COCONUT ISLAND

Luxury awaits at one of Checkout Tours top picks in Thailand! This resort offers glorious views of Phang Nga Bay from its 500m private beach; its beachfront Tamarind restaurant an ideal sundowner locale. Suites are spacious and villas come with their own pools. Keep busy with various classes from water aerobics to cooking, then pampering at the spa.

#### Facilities

- Free WiFi in public areas
- Water sports
- Children's playground
- Spa, wellness and fitness centre
- Concierge service • 24-hour water taxi

#### Why check it out?

- Private island resort
- Great for families and couples
- Great value for money
- Villas come with their own pool



### CENTARA GRAND BEACH RESORT PHUKET

With a splendid location alongside Karon Beach, this fantastic 5-star family resort features a landscaped water park and four outdoor pools. Tastefully furnished rooms are spacious and luxurious, some boasting magnificent ocean views from private balconies. A plethora of leisure offerings abound, from tennis courts to the games room. Choose between seven dining options.

#### Facilities

- Free WiFi in all areas
- Beachfront location
- Kids' club
- Spa, wellness and fitness centre
- Concierge service

#### Why check it out?

- Direct beach access
- 4 swimming pools and outdoor water park
- The Kids' Club makes this ideal for families



### PHUKET MARRIOTT RESORT & SPA

With a beachfront location on private Tri-Trang beach (16 km from Phuket Town and 3 km from Patong), this family-friendly resort offers three landscape swimming pools, eight dining options (serving Thai, Italian and seafood cuisine), premium spa, kids' club and recreational activities. Rooms each have a private balcony and some have direct pool access.

#### Facilities

- Free WiFi in public areas
- Private beach
- Water sports facilities on site
- Multiple dining options
- Spa, fitness and wellness centre

#### Why check it out?

- Great for families, with kids' club and entertainment staff on site
- Myriad of facilities
- Great private beachfront location

### DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS:

Phuket Fantasea Show / Phuket Walking Street market / Golf / Street food vendor banana pancakes

# Krabi



Nestled along Thailand's southern west coast, Krabi is loved for its dramatic limestone cliffs, dense mangrove forests and over 130 offshore islands (making up the Hong Islands, Poda Islands, Phi Phi Islands and Lanta Islands). The area's untouched natural beauty creates ample opportunity for exploring the coral reefs, caves, waterfalls and the Tiger Cave Temple (a cliff-side monastery with 1 237 steps). Railay Beach's world-famous rock climbing is not to be missed. Krabi is simply paradise on earth!



★★★★

## KRABI CHA-DA RESORT HOTEL

Watch the sunset from the resort's rooftop bar then enjoy a candlelit dinner and cocktails under the stars. Centrally located in the foothills of Ao Nang, Cha-Da Resort offers great value for money, only 12 minutes from the beach (and has its own private beach club!).

### Facilities

- Free WiFi in hotel
- Tour desk
- Outside pool
- Shuttle service to beach club
- Business centre

### Why check it out?

- Great location in Ao Nang
- Private beach club
- Great for budget travellers



★★★★★

## BEYOND RESORT KRABI

Sit back and relax at this luxurious escape inspired by nature. Not only is there an outdoor pool, but a private stretch of beach called Klong Muang. Relish modern Thai design elements, along with both local and international cuisines at the restaurant.

### Facilities

- Free WiFi in rooms
- Tour desk
- Spa, wellness and fitness centre
- Multiple dining options

### Why check it out?

- Direct beach access
- Great sea views
- Perfect for couples and honeymooners



★★★★★

## CENTARA GRAND BEACH RESORT & VILLAS KRABI

Find yourself in the private Pai Plong Bay, with free speedboat access to Nopparathara Beach when you stay at this exclusive property. Active types enjoy excursions through the Dive and Watersport Centre, while the kids' club and tour desk handle other activities.

### Facilities

- Free WiFi in all areas
- Tour desk
- Kids' club
- On site watersport facilities
- Spa, wellness and fitness centre

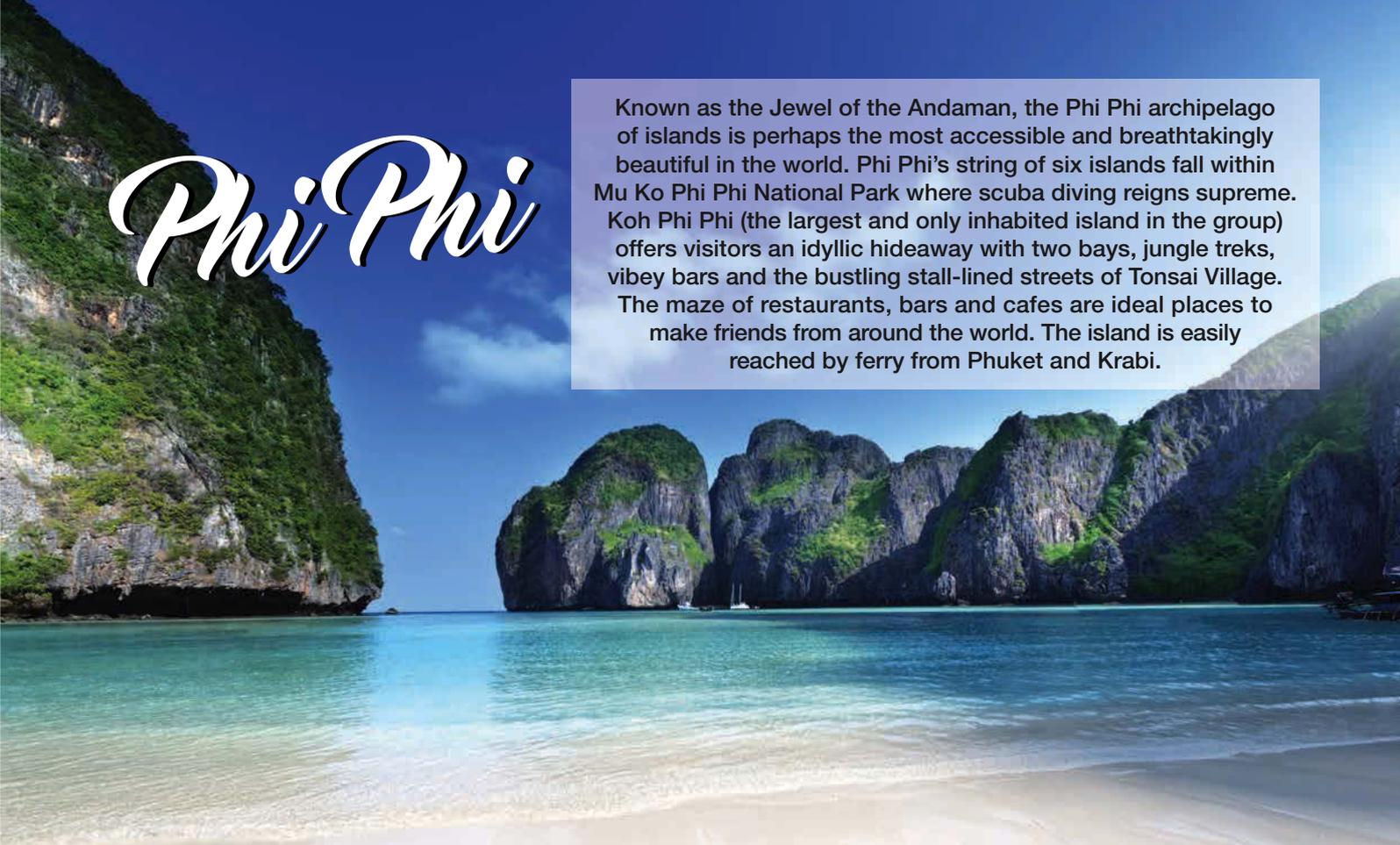
### Why check it out?

- Upmarket family hotel
- Spacious rooms
- Private beachfront location

**DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS:** Krabi Emerald Pool / Klong Thom Hot Springs and Jungle adventure / Railay Beaches and Caves (rock climbing, abseiling) / Hong Island Tour / Four Islands day trip / Tiger Cave Temple / Mangrove Boat Tour / Koh Poda

# Phi Phi

Known as the Jewel of the Andaman, the Phi Phi archipelago of islands is perhaps the most accessible and breathtakingly beautiful in the world. Phi Phi's string of six islands fall within Mu Ko Phi Phi National Park where scuba diving reigns supreme. Koh Phi Phi (the largest and only inhabited island in the group) offers visitors an idyllic hideaway with two bays, jungle treks, vibey bars and the bustling stall-lined streets of Tonsai Village. The maze of restaurants, bars and cafes are ideal places to make friends from around the world. The island is easily reached by ferry from Phuket and Krabi.



## BAY VIEW RESORT PHI PHI ISLAND

Perched on the hillside of tranquil Laem Hin Beach, overlooking the island of Phi Phi, this resort is only steps away from the white sandy shore. Take a short walk or free boat trip to Tonsai Village with its shops and great restaurants. Tuck into delicious Thai cuisine and international dishes at the Bay View's fabulous beachfront restaurant.

### Facilities

- Free WiFi in all public areas
- Tour desk
- Private beach
- Free shuttle service
- Snorkelling and diving
- Beachfront restaurants

### Why check it out?

- Good location
- Budget travellers
- Near town



## PHI PHI ISLAND CABANA HOTEL

One of Checkout Tour's top choices, this luxury low-rise hotel is spread over acres of unspoilt land, affording views of two beaches. Famed for its eco-friendly offering, the well-appointed rooms look out over both bays, the infinity pools seamlessly merging with the ocean. Taste freshly caught seafood and other tempting dishes at the rooftop restaurant.

### Facilities

- Free WiFi in public areas
- Multiple dining options
- Outdoor pool
- Beachfront location

### Why check it out?

- Upmarket 4-star hotel
- Something for everyone
- Beachfront hotel



## PHI PHI ISLAND VILLAGE BEACH RESORT

Live the good life at this tranquil resort, boasting a private beach and infinity pool with bar. Found along Lo Ba Goa Bay, Village Resort has a well-equipped fitness centre and soothing spa. Dine al fresco on Thai specialities at Ruan Thai restaurant or grilled delights at Coconut Grill & Bar. Marlin restaurant serves meals all day.

### Facilities

- Free WiFi in hotel rooms
- Outside pools
- Multiple dining options
- 24-hour front desk
- Spa, wellness and fitness centre

### Why check it out?

- Upmarket property
- Private beach • Great bungalows
- Good water sports activities
- Ideal for families and couples

**DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS:** Koh Phi Phi Leh and Maya Bay tours / Phi Phi View Point / Diving / Captain Bob's sailing booze cruise / Shark watching tours / Tonsai rock climbing

# Khao Lak

Travel north from Phuket and immerse yourself in the gentle magic of Khao Lak, one of Thailand's most peaceful seaside destinations. With exceptional scuba diving around the Similan Islands, this region stretches from the palm-fringed beaches of the coast to the depths of the Khao Sok National Park, its lush foliage a sanctuary for all manner of wildlife. Secluded beaches and calm balmy nights make Khao Lak ideal for families and those seeking a quiet escape. Gain a deeper appreciation for southern Thai culture when you visit the welcoming town of Takua Pa, letting the Sunday market, picturesque architecture and scenic riverfront captivate your imagination.



★★★★★

## KHAO LAK MERLIN RESORT

This luxurious Thai-inspired resort boasts lush tropical gardens and direct access to 190m of white sandy beach. The resort's spacious rooms offer comfort and privacy and are furnished with beautifully crafted wooden furniture. Splash out on a villa and enjoy a private pool. International favourites, Asian and vegetarian delights are dished up at the restaurant where you'll also enjoy breakfast.

### Facilities

- Free WiFi in hotel rooms
- Kids outdoor play equipment
- Tour desk
- Outdoor pool
- Spa, wellness and fitness centre

### Why check it out?

- Good value for money
- Beautiful beach
- Tropical gardens
- Good for families and couples



★★★★★

## MORACEA BY KHAO LAK RESORT

One of Checkout Tours top picks in Khao Lak, this 4-star beachfront property has a great location. Facilities are en pointe and include a fabulous spa, sea-facing outdoor pool, fitness centre and three dining options. The Chaba offers drinks and billiards, while The Kumpun serves up gloriously fresh seafood dishes for your enjoyment.

### Facilities

- Free WiFi in all areas
- Beachfront access
- Two outdoor pools
- Multiple dining options
- Spa, wellness and fitness centre

### Why check it out?

- Fantastic location
- Direct beach access
- Beachfront restaurant
- Great for couples



★★★★★

## CENTARA SEAVIEW RESORT KHAO LAK

A beautiful beachfront resort ideal for families, this property is equipped with two large pools, slides for the kids, a tennis court and spa. Business facilities, a fitness centre and 24-hour front desk provide great convenience. Some rooms come with a private pool, minibar and balcony. The restaurant and coffee shop are a must.

### Facilities

- Free WiFi in all areas
- Beachfront location
- Kids' playground
- Diving, tennis and other activities available
- Fitness, spa and wellness centre

### Why check it out?

- Great for families (waterslide in the pool)
- Large pools • Relaxing atmosphere
- Stunning beachfront location, close to main road

**DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS:** Ton Chong Fa waterfall / Similan Islands / International Tsunami Museum / Ton Prai waterfall / Wat Tham / Samed Nang View Point

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# Koh Samui

You'll find a little something for everyone in gorgeous Koh Samui, nestled in the Gulf of Thailand. Vivid emerald-green jungle envelopes this island gem, streaks of white sandy beach flanking its shores. Honeymooners and those in search of quiet respite have plenty to explore, while party-goers are welcome with open arms around Chaweng Beach, a hub of bars and nightclubs. There's no question of a trip to resplendent Ang Thong National Park revealing hidden islands, waterfalls and secret coves to those who venture there.



## CENTRA BY CENTARA COCONUT BEACH RESORT

Found on Thong Tanote Beach, this hotel's spacious rooms open to private balconies with pool, garden and sea views. An outdoor pool stretches the length of the resort. Indulge in a spa treatment or try a variety of water sports. The beachfront restaurant serves American breakfast, plus Thai and Western menus.

### Facilities

- Free WiFi in public areas
- Spa and wellness centre
- Airport shuttle (surcharge)
- Tour desk
- Outside pool

### Why check it out?

- All rooms have pool views
- Affordable beachfront resort
- Great for family and romantic holidays
- Quiet and secluded
- Beautiful beach and pool



## NORA BEACH RESORT & SPA

Lush tropical gardens and ocean views reign supreme, along with authentic Thai-style rooms. Centrally located near the airport, Fisherman's Village and Bo Phut Pier this hotel is found atop a hill overlooking a secluded bay. Pra-Suthon Restaurant serves local cuisine, Western dishes and flame-grilled seafood. A daily buffet breakfast is also available.

### Facilities

- Free WiFi throughout
- Spa, wellness and fitness centre
- Outside pool
- Tour desk
- Airport shuttle (surcharge)

### Why check it out?

- 4-star hotel with 5-star service
- Quieter part of Chaweng but close enough to the nightlife
- Direct beach access



## THE LIBRARY

This luxury boutique hotel has vast rooms, complete with iMacs and free internet, extending to a living area and balcony. Offering direct access to Chaweng Beach and other attractions, and featuring a red pool, the hotel's large library is a noteworthy feature. The Page restaurant serves international and fusion dishes and premium wine.

### Facilities

- Free WiFi throughout
- Fitness centre
- Airport shuttle (surcharge)
- Outside pool
- Multiple dining options

### Why check it out?

- Unique library-based concept
- Famous red-colour pool
- Top-notch staff
- Cosy enough to be intimate, but big enough to be private

**DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS:** Angthong National Marina Park / Big Buddha Beach / Hin Ta and Hin Yai / Dr Fish foot and body spa / Secret Buddha Garden / Kiteboard

# Koh Phangan



The smaller sister island to Koh Samui, Koh Phangan has long been associated with the wild Full Moon Parties hosted monthly on the Haad Rin peninsular. And while these are still a massive draw for some, there is so much more to this otherwise sleepy paradise. With so many different nooks, wide open bays and balmy green spaces in this tropical heaven, both relaxed backpackers and more discerning travellers are well catered for. Feel like you're the only person on earth when you set out to discover a hidden waterfall or simply relax in a hammock, cocktail in hand, as the setting sun dissolves slowly into the horizon.



## BURI BEACH RESORT

Found on the quieter Haad Rin Nai beach near the entrance to Haad Rin, this resort is close enough to the action of the Full Moon Parties (10 minutes' walk), but far enough to not be bothered by the music. It has a large pool overlooking the beach with a bar and restaurant nearby. Indulge in a soothing massage or herbal steam sauna at the spa.

### Facilities

- Free WiFi in public areas
- Outdoor pool
- Spa, wellness and fitness centre
- Tour desk

### Why check it out?

- Private beach
- Central locations
- Suitable for couples
- Good for Full Moon parties



## PANVIMAN RESORT KOH PHANGAN

This hidden retreat, overlooking spectacular Tong Nai Pan bay, is an idyllic setting for honeymooners and couples. A romantic resort with excellent pools and a spa, its rooms' large outdoor balconies reveal stunning vistas. Two beachfront restaurants and plenty of hotel activities complete the picture.

### Facilities

- Free WiFi in public areas
- Private beach
- Watersport facilities on site
- Multiple dining options
- Spa, fitness and wellness centre

### Why check it out?

- One of the best beaches in Thailand
- Good for couples, honeymooners and families looking to get away from the crowds
- Dive school
- Stunning views from every corner of the hotel



## SANTHIYA KOH PHANGAN

Located just 160m from the popular Thong Nai Pan Noi Beach, this resort's rooms are bedecked in elegant teakwood furnishings and classic Thai decor. Santhiya's Ayuravana Spa features a menu of relaxing facials and massages. Make use of the on-site water sports facilities or dine al fresco (should you wish) at the Chantara restaurant.

### Facilities

- Free WiFi in public areas
- Tour desk
- Multiple dining options
- Private beach
- Spa, wellness and fitness club

### Why check it out?

- Stunning sea views
- Private and direct beach access
- On site water sport centre
- Great for families and couples

**DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS:** Full Moon Party in Haad Rin / Chaloklum Beach / Thong Nai Pan / Phaeng Waterfall / Hire a scooter and explore / Bottle beach

# Take a tour



## FOOD TOURS

Wander the streets of Thailand's two largest cities, Bangkok and Chiang Mai, to get a taste of Thailand - quite literally. Some would say that eating is one of the best parts of any holiday, and in Thailand that certainly holds true. Checkout Tours will gladly arrange a food tour with a culinary-trained, fully-licensed guide who will be more than happy to reveal the secrets behind the city's most famous restaurants and their recipes. You'll also have the chance to taste different Thai dishes, meet locals and learn about the country's cultures, history and traditions. Tours take you past some of these cities' top street food stores, local speciality eateries and fine dining establishments, so there's enough food to see you through lunch and dinner.



## ELEPHANT HILLS

Checkout Tours is proud to be associated with Elephant Hills, Thailand's first Luxury Tented Jungle camp. Bringing luxury safari tents from Africa's national parks into southern Thailand's tropical rainforest, Elephant Hills has created two bespoke destinations within the Koh Sok National Park, easy driving distance from Phuket, Khao Lak, Krabi and even Koh Samui. Approximately two hours apart from each other, each camp offers something entirely unique. Elephant Camp comprises 35 luxurious, tailor-made tents while Rainforest Camp is one of the world's only luxury floating tented camps and is found on the emerald green waters of Cheow Larn Lake. The Elephant Experience offered here is an interactive and respectful pachyderm encounter where you can watch elephants splash in their mud pool, help give them a scrub with coconut husks and then prepare one of their daily meals (there is no elephant riding!).



## CYCLE TOURS

There's nothing quite like seeing the world from the saddle of a bicycle. While peddle-power is certainly faster than walking, it doesn't put up the physical barriers of travelling by car, leaving you open to the sights, sounds and smells of the landscape around you. Not only does this give you the freedom to immerse yourself in a new world, but bicycle riding offers eco-friendly exercise too! Explore Thailand from this new perspective when you book a bicycle tour through Checkout Tours. Mountain biking, road biking and leisurely pedals are offered for all manner of fitness levels and abilities. Simply ask us how!



## COMMUNITY-BASED TOURS

Immerse yourself in daily village life when you embark on a community-based tour and you'll not only gain a deeper understanding of Thai culture, but you'll help contribute towards sustaining and supporting a traditional way of living. Spend the day with an artisan, chef or members of a fishing community and be assured that your travels have purpose. Checkout Tours will connect you with social enterprises that seek to preserve Thailand's many different cultures, create an income for communities, and nurture pride in local customs - ultimately showing us that variety is the spice of life and it is our differences that make us special.

# Off the beaten track



## HUA HIN

Historically a place where Thai aristocracy made their summer homes, Hua Hin is still a favourite holiday destination among Thailand's elite. Hua Hin's cosmopolitan flavour, well-developed infrastructure and coastal location make it an ideal escape, carefully balancing a leisurely outdoor lifestyle with the comforts of a big city. Famed for its eight kilometre arch of white sandy beach backlit by the city skyline, Hua Hin is also home to a number of world-class golf resorts. Visit the aptly-named royal Far From Worries (Klai Kangwon) Palace residence for an insight into royal life.



## CHIANG RAI

The last large settlement in Thailand's northern extremes, Chiang Rai is a great base from which to explore the surrounding landscape of misty jungle and stocky hillsides. Rather than the shopping and nightlife offered by other cities, Chiang Rai's northern Lanna culture takes centre stage in this provincial town. Acquaint yourself with its temples, art, cuisine and music for a rich understanding of the people here. Hire a traditional long tail boat and cruise the Mae Kong river taking in the scenery and lively bustle along its river banks.



## KHAO SOK

The soggy low-land jungle that makes up Khao Sok National Park is believed to be one of the oldest rainforests in the world. Found midway between the Andaman and Gulf coasts, its dense tracts of foliage are interspersed with cascades of powerful waterfalls, while dramatic limestone formations break through the canopy roof, beams of sunlight breaking through to the jungle floor. Bring your walking shoes for treks through this ancient space, where you may be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of indigenous wildlife like bears, tapirs, wild elephant and marbled cats.

## KOH CHANG

Remote Koh Chang (meaning Elephant Island) is found in the Gulf of Thailand near its border with Cambodia. Far off the beaten track, this large, rugged island has thriving wild spaces and plenty of party spirit. A similar size to Koh Samui, Koh Chang is far less developed and far less known. While the west of Koh Chang is gaining popularity, head to the south eastern villages of Ban Salak Phet and Ban Salak Kok for a taste of how life once was. Once you've had your fill of the vast pebble beaches lined with tall stately palms, there are mangrove forests, waterfalls and mountain tops to be explored.



## KOH LANTA

Koh Lanta Yai is the most visited of this island cluster, found hugging the coastline south of Krabi. Hop on a boat to sleepy Ban Sala Dan in the island's north then prepare to lose all sense of time as you while away the days relaxing on the endless stretches of untouched beach, floating in the clear ocean waters and exploring the island's flat topography by motorbike. Koh Lanta is home to a charming blend of people and cultures with sea gypsies, Thai-Muslims and Thai-Chinese living side by side, lending a comfortable diversity to island.



## KOH TAO

The scuba diving mecca of Thailand, Koh Tao (meaning Turtle Island) is the smallest island in the Chumphon Archipelago (also made up of Koh Phangan and Koh Samui). There is an abundance of thriving coral reefs in the waters surrounding this little piece of heaven and divers of all levels are invited to sink beneath the waves and explore its underwater world. A myriad of marine creatures are found around these reefs and include bright tropical fish, turtles, whale shark, eels and rays. Apart from diving, there is a casual buzz about the island with local shops, quaint cafes and vibey bars to spend some time in.





# CHECKOUT TOURS

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