

# PHUKET

Phuket, known as the pearl of the Andaman Sea, is the largest island in the country.

There are a great many facets to Phuket from the many beaches, to the delightful turn-of-the-century Sino-Portuguese architecture, and the lush tropical countryside. It offers a wide variety of activities both on land and water, from boxing to cooking, to snorkelling to kayaking. Its many dining and entertainment options will ensure your stay is a memorable one.



**BEST TIME TO TRAVEL:**  
DECEMBER TO APRIL

The best time to travel is during the months of December to April, outside the monsoon season in Thailand's slightly cooler 'winter months'.

1. Patong Beach 2. Kata Beach 3. Karon Beach 4. Mai Khao 5. Panwa 6. The Upside Down House 7. Old Phuket Town 8. Wat Phra Yao/Wat Phra Phuttha Ming Mongkhon 9. Wat Chalong 10. Laem Phromthep

## ATTRACTIONS



### THE UPSIDE DOWN HOUSE

Located on Bypass Road (Chalermphrakiat Road), called Ban Teelanka in Thai, the pink house stands upside down and presents a fun attraction for families and kids. Open daily from 10am to 6pm. [www.upsidedownhouse-phuket.com](http://www.upsidedownhouse-phuket.com)



### LAEM PHROMTHERP

Located on the southernmost tip of Phuket with a panoramic view, this viewpoint is famous for sunset watching.

### HAT KATA

Kata Beach, just a few minutes south of Karon Beach, is very popular with families, due to its sandy spectacular palm-lined beach, with clear waters, great restaurants, lively (but not raucous) nightlife and plenty of accommodation options, all close to the beach.

### OLD PHUKET TOWN

The Old Phuket Town is located along Thalang, Phang-nga, Yaowarat and Krabi roads. The beginning of the tin boom in the 19th century led to construction of many fine mansions and shops that are still well preserved. The architectural style, typical of the region, is described as Sino-Portuguese and has a strongly Mediterranean character.

### WAT CHALONG

The famous temple in Phuket which features the gilt-covered statue of Luangpho Chaem, who helped the people of Phuket put down the Angyee or Chinese Coolie Rebellion in 1876 during the reign of King Rama V.

### HAT KARON

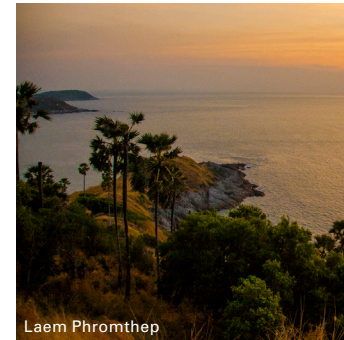
Karon Beach is the third longest of Phuket's beaches and large resort complexes line the road behind the shoreline. The southern point has a fine coral reef stretching toward Kata and Ko Pu - great for snorkelling. Near the traffic circle in the middle is Karon Centre - a lively small city where visitors can find a good choice of dining, shopping, and nightlife entertainment as well as a beautiful Buddhist temple hosting a weekly market.

### DINO PARK MINI GOLF

Located between Karon and Kata Beaches, this 18-hole mini-golf course uses the light and sound techniques to feature dinosaurs and an erupting volcano. Great fun for all the family and best enjoyed after the heat of the day has subsided. Open daily from 10am to 11pm.

### WAT PHRA YAI OR WAT PHRA PHUTTHA MING MONGKHON

Located on top Khao Nak Koet and commonly called 'the Big Buddha' this 45m tall statue is revered by both the people of Phuket and visitors alike. The lofty site offers the best 360° views of the island, with sweeping vistas of Phuket Town, Kata, and Karon beaches, Chalong Bay and more.



### SIMON CABARET

This hugely popular tourist attraction, has been wowing audiences for years with its exotic, hilarious, and transvestite cabaret. With sets and choreography that would do Broadway justice, and gowns dripping with diamante, the boys who are girls stiletto-strut their stuff to full houses with three performances each evening.

### PHUKET FANTASEA

Located in Hat Kamala, the Fantasea Cultural Theme Park brings Hollywood-sized, Las Vegas-style entertainment to the island. The four hour tour includes a 70-minute extravaganza of acrobatics, dazzling lights shows and live animal action showcasing Thai culture and mythology and one of the best buffets in Phuket in a grand 4,000-seat restaurant.



### ISLANDS IN THE AO PHANG-NGA NATIONAL PARK IN PHANG-NGA

This marine national park consists of around 300 islands and is famous for its classic karst scenery (think James Bond Island). There are many activities to enjoy around the islands, from speed boat trips to beaches and islets, lunch cruises and sea-kayaking trips.

### MU KO PHI PHI IN KRABI

These off-shore islands are approximately 40km from both Krabi and Phuket. Made up of six small and two large isles, the main features are beautiful beaches and coral reefs, often separated by sheer limestone cliffs. The best time for a visit is between November and April and visitors can take a one-day tour or stay overnight on Phi Phi Le.



# ACTIVITIES

## WATER SPORTS

### SCUBA DIVING

Expeditions regularly leave Phuket for dives around neighbouring islands, and further afield, most particularly around the enduringly popular Phi Phi Islands in neighbouring Krabi province and the Similan Islands in Phang-nga province. Diving in Phuket's warm clear blue waters is best from November to May, when the calm seas and rain free days make Phuket's diving a truly unique experience.

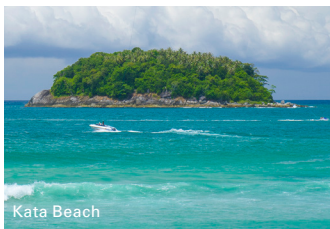
### SEA KAYAKING OR CANOEING

This form of ecotourism is offered, as popular one-day tours or more extended tours involving overnight camping on island beaches.

The tours mainly take place in neighbouring Phang-nga Bay and Krabi province, where mangrove swamps and island grottoes are accessible only by kayak.

### SNORKELLING

This can be enjoyed in sheltered bays all around Phuket. It is particularly enjoyable at easily accessible reefs at Patong, Karon and Kata Beaches. Mask, snorkel and fins can be rented on a daily basis from shops all over the island.



Kata Beach

### FLYING HANUMAN ZIPLINING EXPERIENCE

Flying Hanuman is a zipline adventure like no other. With 28 platforms in an established forest, the Flying Humaman provides high ropes courses for all ages and abilities. (<http://www.flyinghanuman.com>) [www.flyinghanuman.com](http://www.flyinghanuman.com)

### LOCAL BIKE TOURS

Cycling tours along sandy Mai Khao beach, down country roads or past lush coconut groves teeming with wildlife are available. There are half day tours and full day mountain bike adventures that will take you through a variety of Phuket's scenic landscapes.

### MUAY THAI OR THAI BOXING

Phuket is a great destination if you want to learn Muay Thai. There are many training camps here and they are open to all ages (usually from 13 years upward) and genders.

### COOKING CLASSES

There are many Cooking Classes on offer in Phuket and a typical day commences with a visit to the morning market accompanied by your instructor, where guests choose the perfect ingredients for their Thai cooking. This is followed by an instructor-led class and the session usually ends with a delightful meal where guests sample their own cooking, as well as authentic Thai dishes prepared by the school.



### CHINESE NEW YEAR—THE OLD PHUKET FESTIVAL

Held during the last three days of Chinese New Year, the Festival takes place in the Old Phuket Town. The festival includes all kinds of activities and performances revolving around Phuket's past, local foods, and opera performances from China.

### THAO THEP KRASATTRI AND THAO SI SUNTHON FAIR

Held in March every year to commemorate the two great heroines who rallied the Thalang people to repel Burmese invaders. Many activities and celebrations are organised.

### VEGETARIAN FESTIVAL

Held on the first day of the 9th lunar month (September-October), Phuket islanders of Chinese ancestry commit themselves to a 9-day vegetarian diet, a form of purification believed to help make the forthcoming year 'trouble-free'. The Festival is marked by several ascetic displays, including fire-walking and ascending sharp-bladed ladders.

### LAGUNA PHUKET TRIATHLON

Held in December at Hat Bang Tao, the triathlon attracts athletes from all over the world.



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