



LIVE+ | Koh Samui Pocket Guide

# Magical Koh Samui



# Welcome

**Sawadikrub 🙏 to the Kingdom of Thailand**, one of the most visited countries in the world! 🌍

A land of vibrant colors, rich flavors, stunning beaches, ancient temples, lush landscapes, and endless attractions to explore. 🏖️

Once known as Siam, Thailand became a constitutional monarchy in 1932. Its capital, Bangkok, the most visited city in the world in 2024, is a mesmerizing blend of ancient temples, towering skyscrapers, bustling markets, and modern malls.

With two major airports, Bangkok serves as a gateway to Thailand's islands like Phuket and Koh Samui, northern gems like Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai, and nearby Southeast Asian countries.

Thailand offers both luxury and adventure—from world-class resorts, spas, and fine dining to budget-friendly backpacking spots, vibrant street food, and buzzing nightlife. A country that truly has something for everyone! ✨

This booklet was written for two reasons: my deep love for Thailand, which my wife and I now call home, and the countless questions from our amazing traveler community—Where to eat? How to get around? Best attractions, markets, nightlife, and more. These questions inspired me to create the [LIVE+ Pocket Guide](#).

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed, and to the “liveangels” our dedicated group managers who are travelers just like you. Special thanks to my wife, Ally, for her support and being next to me 24x7, to Eddie, the ever-surprising Prince from Koh Phangan, and Shai, who selflessly helps our community.

This guide is my gift to you. If you enjoy it, I'd love your feedback to improve future editions.

Wishing you a wonderful read and an unforgettable holiday!

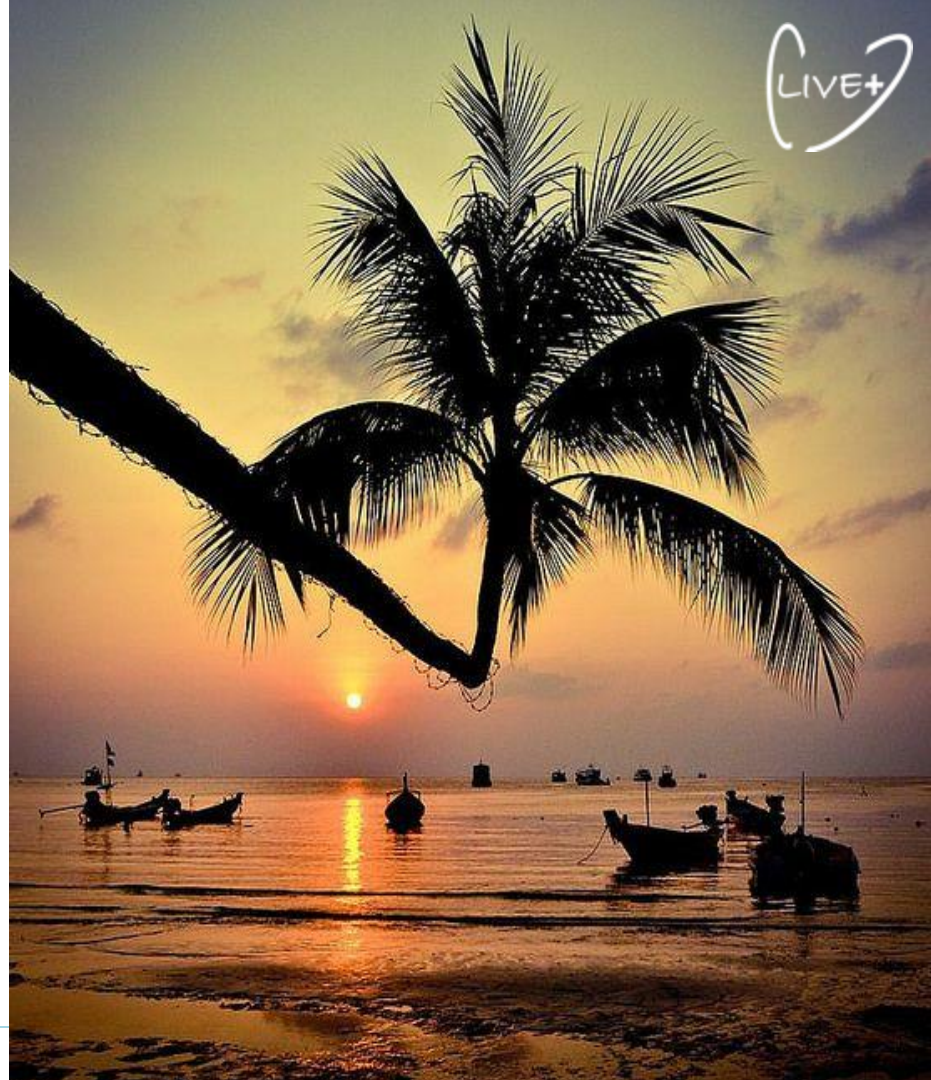
With great Love and Passion,  
Sally Ben Basat 💜 TH

Creative  
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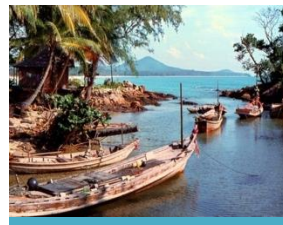
:Live Guides, Ally and Sally Ben Best, and good people along the way

:Guide Live Amazing Thailand and Time Out





# KOH SAMUI



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Delve into the captivating story of Koh Samui — a once-remote coconut island that has grown into one of the world's most beloved tropical escapes, where timeless tradition meets modern island magic.



Koh Samui, once a remote and little-known island, carries a unique story of transformation—from a secluded coconut farming island to a world-renowned tropical destination. Originally inhabited by sea-faring fishermen and farmers, Samui's isolation preserved its traditional culture well into the 20th century.



The island's early economy centered around **coconuts, fishing, and agriculture**, with locals living in simple wooden houses surrounded by palm groves. For centuries, the island had minimal contact with the outside world due to the lack of roads and infrastructure.



A pivotal moment in Samui's modern history came in **1952**, when **Darrell G. Brigham**, an American war veteran and journalist, arrived by boat after a week-long journey from Bangkok. He is known as the **first Western tourist** to visit Koh Samui.



The locals, who had never seen a foreigner before, welcomed him with curiosity. His glowing articles about Samui's untouched beauty helped spark the early waves of tourism.

Brigham fell in love with the island so deeply, he requested to be buried there—his grave still lies at **Wat Ratchathammaram**, known as the Red Temple.



Koh Samui's shift toward tourism began in earnest during the **1970s and 80s**, when backpackers began arriving by boat. With no airport and few roads, reaching Samui was an adventure in itself. Visitors would sleep in hammocks, explore waterfalls and beaches, and connect with local communities.



The development of **Samui International Airport in 1989** marked a new chapter. The island slowly evolved from a backpacker haven into a **luxury travel destination**, with resorts, restaurants, and infrastructure rising along its scenic coastlines.


Today, Koh Samui retains its local charm while embracing modern tourism. Its temples, fishing villages, and quiet inland areas preserve the echoes of its humble beginnings—while its coastline glistens with upscale resorts and beach clubs.




From hidden legends to sunset cocktails, the island's history is as colorful and heartfelt as the locals who call it home.

Koh Samui, **Thailand's 2<sup>nd</sup>. largest island**, holds the title of the **most popular island in Southeast Asia** and was recently ranked as the **7<sup>th</sup> most popular island in the world**. A tropical haven for travelers seeking a blend of tranquility, culture, and modern comforts, the island is known for its soft white beaches, crystal-clear waters, lively villages, and luxurious resorts. Whether you're after peaceful retreats, exciting adventures, or vibrant nightlife, Koh Samui offers something for every kind of traveler.



 **Tourism:** The island welcomes **millions of visitors each year**, drawn by its natural beauty, iconic temples, beach clubs, and peaceful vibes. Whether you're a honeymooner, digital nomad, or family traveler—Samui has a tailored experience for you.




 **Accommodation:** From 5-star resorts and private pool villas to boutique beachfront bungalows and budget-friendly stays, Samui caters to a wide range of travelers. The popular areas of Chaweng, Lamai, Bophut, and Choeng Mon are home to the highest concentration of hotels.




 **Population:** Home to over **65,000 residents**, the island blends Thai traditions with a thriving **expat community**. Many locals are of Southern Thai and Chinese descent, contributing to the island's diverse culture and culinary scene.

 **Cuisine and Culture:** **Cuisine and Culture:** Koh Samui's food scene offers everything from **beachfront seafood BBQs** to high-end international dining. Local markets, cultural shows, and temples like **Wat Plai Laem** and **Big Buddha (Wat Phra Yai)** reflect the island's rich spiritual life.



 **Activities and Attractions:** Visitors can enjoy everything from jet ski safaris and snorkeling at nearby islands, to hiking, ziplining, or relaxing at world-class spas. Key attractions include the **Na Muang Waterfalls**, **Hin Ta & Hin Yai Rocks**, and the **Magic Garden**.

 **Infrastructure:** **Infrastructure:** With its own **international airport**, well-maintained ring road, and growing public services, Samui is easy to navigate. Fast ferries, speedboats, and private vans connect the island to Surat Thani and neighboring islands like Koh Phangan and Koh Tao.



Today, Koh Samui continues to balance its **authentic charm with upscale living**, attracting both first-time visitors and returning fans year after year.

Whether you seek inner peace or beachfront energy—Samui offers a tropical rhythm that's easy to fall in love with.



# Koh Samui Special Events



To better enjoy your trip and release you from the fear of missing out, we have prepared a list of festivals and special events to help you make the most of your visit



Samui Regatta

## Samui Regatta | May 24-31

Asia's premier sailing event returns to Koh Samui, bringing a week of world-class yacht racing, beachside celebrations, and exclusive social events. Hosted at Chaweng's luxury resorts, the Samui Regatta blends adrenaline and elegance in the heart of the Gulf of Thailand.



Koh Samui Half Marathon

## Samui Half Marathon | 21-22 June

Lace up for the Bangkok Airways Samui Half Marathon, a scenic race through tropical landscapes, coastal roads, and charming local villages. Open to all fitness levels with 5K, 10K, and 21K options, it's the perfect way to experience the island in motion.

 Join the run or register here:

[ahotu.com/event/bangkok-airways-samui-half-marathon](https://ahotu.com/event/bangkok-airways-samui-half-marathon)

## Songkran Festival | April 13-15

Celebrate the Thai New Year by participating in the spectacular street water battles, especially along Chaweng Road. This joyous occasion marks the beginning of a new year with lively and wet festivities, embodying a unique and fun-filled tradition. The celebration symbolizes washing away the past year's misfortunes and preparing for a fresh start, embodying the spirit of renewal and purification.



Songkran Festival

## Samui Pride Nation | June

Koh Samui lights up with love, color, and celebration during Samui Pride Nation, a vibrant festival honoring LGBTQ+ pride and equality. Taking place across the island in June, the event features beach parties, drag shows, parades, and cultural events, with Chaweng and Fisherman's Village at the heart of the action. Expect a joyful atmosphere, inclusive vibes, and a powerful message of unity and self-expression — island style.



Samui Pride Nation

## Loy Krathong | November 05

Aka. the Festival of Lights, this celebrated event in Thailand features the release of floating lanterns, known as Krathongs, into rivers, lakes, and canals. On the evening of Loy Krathong, Thais come together to express gratitude to the Water Goddess and ask for her forgiveness.



New Years



Loy Krathong Festival

## New Year's Eve | 31 December

Ring in the New Year island-style with beach parties, fire shows, and midnight fireworks across Koh Samui! From lively celebrations in Chaweng to exclusive countdowns at luxury resorts — and for the ultimate partygoers, hop on a night boat to the legendary Full Moon New Year's Party on nearby Koh Phangan.

# Temples, Culture & more

Maximize your connection to the soul of Koh Samui through its temples, legends, and vibrant cultural tapestry. Discover sacred sites and unique traditions that reveal the deeper layers of this tropical island.



Big Buddha



## Big Buddha

The towering 12-meter golden Big Buddha statue is Koh Samui's most iconic landmark, perched on a small rocky island connected by a causeway to Bangrak. Built in 1972, the statue is visible from planes taking off or landing and serves as a spiritual symbol of calm and wisdom for locals and visitors alike.

Around the complex, you'll find souvenir stalls, local eateries, and a tranquil café with sweeping views over the bay—perfect for a short break. Early mornings or late afternoons are ideal for visiting to avoid the heat and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere. Modest dress is encouraged out of respect.



[Big Buddha, Bo Phut](#)



Plai Laem



## Wat Plai Laem Temple

A short drive from Big Buddha brings you to this vibrant and unique temple complex, where Thai and Chinese Buddhist art blend seamlessly. At the heart of the temple stands a striking 18-arm Guanyin, the goddess of compassion, surrounded by serene water ponds filled with koi fish.

The temple offers more than just visual beauty—visitors can feed the fish as part of a merit-making ritual or explore several smaller shrines around the grounds. It's a calm, spiritual space that blends cultural education with peaceful reflection.



[Plai Laem, Bo Phut](#)



Red Temple



## Wat Khunaram

This modest temple houses the preserved body of Luang Pho Daeng, a revered monk who passed away while meditating in 1973. Miraculously, his body shows minimal signs of decay, and he remains seated in a glass case, wearing sunglasses to shield his preserved eyes.

It's a humbling and powerful experience. The site serves as a reminder of the impermanence of life and the strength of spiritual discipline. Visitors often leave in silent reflection, touched by the monk's journey to Nirvana.



[Wat Khunaram](#)



## Wat Ratchathammaram (Red Temple)

Nicknamed "The Red Temple," this spiritual site stands out with its terracotta-toned architecture and intricate bas-reliefs. Located just minutes from Lamai Beach, it offers a peaceful break from the busier coastal scene.

Beyond its beauty, the temple carries deep meaning—it's the final resting place of Koh Samui's first known foreign visitor, an American war veteran who fell in love with the island. Walk a few steps from the main site to enjoy sea views and soak in the serenity of the area.



[Wat Ratchathammaram](#)



Wat Khunaram



# Temples, Culture & more

Maximize your connection to the soul of Koh Samui through its temples, legends, and vibrant cultural tapestry. Discover sacred sites and unique traditions that reveal the deeper layers of this tropical island.



## Tanim Magic Garden (Secret Buddha Garden)

High in the hills of Samui, this mystical sculpture park blends jungle, art, and spirituality. Stone statues of gods, animals, and celestial beings whisper stories from the forest.

 [Tanim Magic Garden](#)

## Pra Buddha Dipankara Viewpoint

One of Samui's highest and most peaceful viewpoints. Featuring a standing Buddha overlooking the island, it offers breathtaking 360° panoramas and serenity.

 [Dipankara Buddha](#)



## Overlap Stone

A hidden gem perched above the jungle, this massive balancing boulder offers one of the best photo ops in Samui. The hike up is short but rewarding.

 [Overlap Stone](#)



## Hin Ta & Hin Yai Rocks (Grandfather & Grandmother Rocks)

These legendary rock formations, naturally carved by wind and water, resemble male and female genitalia—giving rise to their humorous nickname and popularity among visitors. According to local folklore, the rocks tell the story of a couple who were shipwrecked offshore while on a mission to propose marriage. Their bodies turned to stone, symbolizing eternal love and devotion.

Today, the site is not only a cheeky photo-op but also a beautiful coastal viewpoint near Lamai Beach. You'll find small market stalls nearby selling coconut ice cream, local snacks, and handmade souvenirs. It's a quick but unforgettable stop along your cultural journey.

 [Hin Ta Hin Yai](#)

## Na Muang Waterfall 2

Na Muang 2 is Koh Samui's most dramatic waterfall, cascading over purple-hued rocks into a serene pool at the bottom. Just a 3-4 minute walk from the car park through the jungle brings you to this natural gem, perfect for a refreshing dip or simply enjoying the lush atmosphere.

The area is dotted with snack vendors, including local women selling sun-dried bananas and tropical treats. Bring your swimwear, flip-flops, and a towel if you plan to splash around. Early mornings or weekdays are best for avoiding crowds and having this tropical oasis all to yourself.

 [Na Muang 2 Waterfall](#)





# Temples, Culture & more

Maximize your connection to the soul of Koh Samui through its temples, legends, and vibrant cultural tapestry. Discover sacred sites and unique traditions that reveal the deeper layers of this tropical island.



Chaweng Road



## Chaweng Road

Samui's main entertainment strip! Packed with nightlife, street food, beach bars, and markets, it's the pulse of island party life. Great for both late-night adventures and people-watching.

From bustling beach clubs to fire shows and rooftop cocktails, Chaweng offers an endless flow of action. During the day, it's a shopping hub with pharmacies, surf shops, and massage parlors; by night, the neon glow takes over with bars and music venues open 'til dawn. Stay alert and dive into the wild side of Samui.

 [Chaweng Beach Road](#)



## Fisherman's Village

A charming blend of history and hip. This seaside village is lined with boutique shops, restaurants, and bars housed in preserved wooden Chinese shop-houses. Don't miss the Monday, Wednesday, Friday and sometimes Sunday's Night Market!

While its roots lie in Samui's fishing past, today Fisherman's Village is a stylish and vibrant hangout spot. The cobblestone walking street becomes especially lively in the evening, with acoustic live music, artisan stalls, and beachfront dining under the stars. It's perfect for couples, families, and anyone seeking a mix of culture and chill.



[Fisherman's Village](#)



Fisherman's Village



Lamai



## Bangrak

A coastal village where boats leave for Koh Phangan. Also home to local life, beachside restaurants, and the famous Big Buddha statue.

Often overlooked, Bangrak has a local charm with calm beaches, relaxed cafes, and authentic Thai food joints. From here, you can hop on ferries to full-moon parties or take in sunset views next to the island's most iconic monument. It's a perfect mix of convenience, spirituality, and scenic beauty.



[Bangrak Pier](#)



## Lamai

A laid-back version of Chaweng with a unique vibe. Ideal for relaxing beach days, quirky cafes, local shops, and weekly Sunday market action.

Lamai is where bohemian spirit meets Thai charm. Whether you're sunbathing on its long sandy beach, sipping coconut smoothies in beachfront cafés, or joining a Muay Thai fight night at the local ring—there's always something authentically Samui happening. It's also close to iconic attractions like Hin Ta & Hin Yai Rocks and the Red Temple.



[Lamai Center](#)



Bangrak

# Attractions & Experiences - Land



Elephant Sanctuary

## Elephant Sanctuary

A peaceful haven for rescued elephants, this sanctuary allows visitors to interact ethically with Thailand's gentle giants. Learn their stories, feed them, and walk beside them in a natural jungle setting.

These elephants enjoy a better life free from riding or shows, with longer lifespans and compassionate care. The visit offers a unique blend of education, conservation, and heartwarming connection.

**Book this experience :**

**+66 66 016 7123**

**Book Now** 

## Koh Samui Jeep Safari Tour

Get off the beaten path with this thrilling 4x4 island adventure or an air-conditioned Van with Private driver .

Explore remote temples, stunning waterfalls, coconut plantations, and jungle viewpoints—all in an open-top jeep with a friendly local guide.

Choose from a private or shared tour for a personalized experience. From sacred Buddha sites to secret beaches, this journey brings out the wild and wonderful sides of Samui.

**Book this experience :**

**+66 66 016 7123**

**Book Now** 



Island Tour

Maximize your connection to the soul of Koh Samui through thrilling land adventures and cultural wonders. Explore lush jungles, mountain trails, and animal sanctuaries for an unforgettable island experience.



## Quad ATV Tour

Experience the raw side of Koh Samui as you zoom through rugged trails, muddy hills, and rubber plantations on a powerful ATV. This is the ultimate off-road adventure!

No experience needed—just a sense of fun. Your guide will take you through scenic backroads and mountain paths for an adrenaline rush with panoramic jungle views.

**Book this experience :**

**+66 66 016 7123**

**Book Now** 



Zipline Adventure

## Zipline Adventure

Fly through Samui's lush rainforest canopy on an epic zipline course designed for all ages. Feel the thrill as you glide between platforms with views over jungle valleys and the sea beyond.

With multiple line options and safety-certified guides, this aerial experience is perfect for thrill-seekers and nature lovers alike. Pure fun, fresh air, and amazing views.

**Book this experience :**

**+66 66 016 7123**

**Book Now** 



ATV Tours





Maximize your connection to the soul of Koh Samui through thrilling land adventures and cultural wonders. Explore lush jungles, mountain trails, and animal sanctuaries for an unforgettable island experience.



### Jet Ski Safari

Feel the adrenaline as you glide across turquoise waters on a Jet Ski Safari. Choose between two unforgettable routes: explore the vibrant beaches of Koh Phangan or head south to discover the untouched beauty of Koh Tan and the famous Pig Island (Koh Madsum).

Each safari includes scenic stops, Sometimes snorkeling, and beach hopping—all with the thrill of speed.

**Book this experience :**  
**+66 66 016 7123**

[Book Now](#)



### 42 Islands

Explore the emerald jewel of the Gulf of Thailand! The Ang Thong Marine Park tour takes you on a journey through limestone cliffs, hidden lagoons, and untouched beaches.

Whether by speedboat or luxury yacht, enjoy kayaking, snorkeling, and panoramic views from the famous Emerald Lake viewpoint.

**Book this experience :**  
**+66 66 016 7123**

[Book Now](#)



### Pig Island & Koh Tan *Speedboat or Longtail Tour*

A perfect mix of serenity and charm. Visit the friendly pigs of Koh Madsum, swim in crystal-clear waters, and snorkel vibrant reefs around Koh Tan.

Ideal for couples, families, or friends—this tour is offered in private or shared formats by traditional longtail or modern speedboat.

**Book this experience :**  
**+66 66 016 7123**

[Book Now](#)

### Koh Tao & Koh Nang Yuan

Known as Thailand's diving paradise, Koh Tao is a dream for underwater lovers. Spend the day snorkeling among coral reefs, swimming in lagoons, and enjoying postcard-perfect views on Koh Nang Yuan.

The journey itself is as stunning as the destination.

**Book this experience :**  
**+66 66 016 712**

[Book Now](#)



# Restaurants



Federico's

## Red Moon

This French-Asian fusion bistro in Fisherman's Village offers creative cuisine, fine wines, and a charming setting with attentive service. A perfect blend of elegance and island vibes.

[Red Moon](#) | ☎ +66 61 2626 141



J's

## The Shack

**Grill-lovers' heaven.** An American-style steakhouse serving premium cuts grilled to perfection. A must-visit for meat lovers craving a hearty, flame-kissed dinner in Fisherman's Village.

[The Shack](#) | ☎ +66 81 425 5710

## II Federico's (Italian)

An intimate Italian gem in the heart of Bophut, known for its homemade pastas, rich sauces, and warm hospitality. Perfect for date night or a cozy dinner with friends.

[Federico's](#) | ☎ +66 89 2910 530



Red Moon

## J's Restaurant

Laid-back yet flavorful, J's is a go-to for fresh seafood, Thai favorites, and vegetarian options. Great portions and friendly service keep diners coming back.

[J's Restaurant](#) | ☎ +66 64 0181 643



The Shack

A culinary journey through Koh Samui's vibrant food scene—where beachside bites, creative kitchens, and authentic flavors come together in unforgettable ways.



## Café 69

Innovative Thai cuisine meets street-style chic. Chef-driven dishes and funky decor make this one of Samui's most original and Instagrammable eateries.

[Café 69](#) | ☎ +66 81 978 1945



Café 69

## Pepenero Koh Samui

A fine-dining Italian experience offering elegant seafood, tender meat dishes, and handmade pastas crafted with precision and passion. Set in a peaceful garden atmosphere with impeccable service and refined flavors.

[Pepenero](#) | ☎ +66 7 796 3353



Pepenero

## Mekong Fusion Restaurant & Lounge

Modern Vietnamese cuisine with rich flavors, creative cocktails, and warm ambiance—perfect for date nights or cozy dinners.

[Mekong Fusion](#) | ☎ +66 80 525 3172



Mekong

## Banyan Market

A magical food garden in Bophut with 10 boutique restaurants under a giant banyan tree—perfect for relaxed evenings. Follow them for a lineup of colorful events, live music, and foodie pop-ups.

[Banyan Market](#) | ☎ +66 92 057 5557



Banyan Market



# Restaurants | Fine Dining



Savor the flavors of Koh Samui with a culinary scene as captivating as its coastline. From cliff-top views to jungle hideaways and seaside elegance, these fine dining experiences showcase the island's top-tier hospitality and gastronomic flair. We always recommend booking in advance.



Dining on the Rocks



## Dining on the Rocks (Six Senses Hotel)

A destination in itself. This award-winning cliffside venue serves creative cuisine with panoramic ocean views. Sustainability and sophistication go hand in hand here.

[Dining on the Rocks](#) | +66 7 724 5678



Dining on the Rocks



## Tree Tops

A romantic jungle dining experience nestled in the treetops. Limited tables ensure exclusivity, with expertly crafted dishes and wine pairings. Ideal for special occasions.

[Tree Tops](#) +66 7 796 0333  
 [Visit Website](#)



The Cliff



## The Cliff Bar & Grill

Dine on a cliff-top between Chaweng and Lamai, with sweeping sea views and a Mediterranean menu focused on seafood and premium meats. Great at sunset!

[The Cliff Bar & Grill](#) +66 7 744 8508  
 [Visit Website](#)



Long Dtai



## The View Dining (Ritz-Carlton Koh Samui)

Oceanfront elegance with international and Thai cuisine served on a panoramic terrace. Excellent service and luxurious ambiance.

[The View Dining](#) +66 7 791 5777



## Long Dtai Restaurant (Cape Fahn Hotel)

Chef David Thompson's Southern Thai menu celebrates local produce with refined coastal flavors. The setting is stunning, and the cuisine, bold and authentic.

[Long Dtai Restaurant](#) +66 7 760 2301  
 [Visit Website](#)



The View



## El Gaucho

Argentinian Steakhouse known across Asia for top-quality prime beef, attentive service, and upscale yet relaxed atmosphere. A paradise for meat lovers in Fisherman's Village and Central Chaweng.

[El Gaucho Steakhouse](#) +66 98 889 5968  
 [Visit Website](#)



El Gaucho

# Entertainment | Roof Tops

Island class Rooftop bars, Best time to book **17:30 onwards** to experience the



Junglw Club

## The Jungle Club

Sunset

Hidden in the hills above Chaweng, this legendary lounge boasts one of the best panoramic views on the island. Come for the sunset, stay for the cocktails and boho-chic vibes.

[The Jungle Club](#) | ☎ +66 81 894 2327

## The Roof Samui

Trendy rooftop bar in Fisherman's Village with sunset cocktails, chill beats, and views over the ocean. A great start or end to your night.

[The Roof Samui](#) | ☎ +66 65 547 8898



The Roof Samui

## The Cocoon Samui

Charming hillside venue known for its intimate ambiance, healthy bites, and stylish events like Salsa Nights. Keep an eye on their event calendar!

[The Cocoon Samui](#) | ☎ +66 93 586 1777

[Visit Website](#)



The Cocoon

## 4Spices (Kosher)

Located near Chaweng, this kosher-certified rooftop restaurant offers beautiful views, a kosher wine selection, and fusion flavors under the open sky.

[4Spices](#) | ☎ +66 6 553 62827

[Visit Website](#)



4Spices

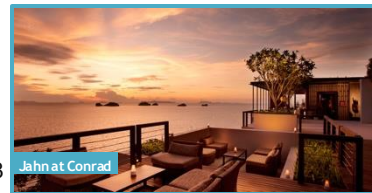
Golden sunsets, handcrafted cocktails, and sweeping sea views—Koh Samui's rooftops offer the perfect setting for laid-back evenings, romantic dinners, and lively nights under the stars. Whether tucked in the jungle or perched over the ocean, these elevated spots deliver unforgettable vibes.



## Jahn at Conrad Koh Samui

Elegant fine dining perched above the Gulf of Thailand. Jahn's Thai cuisine and curated wine pairings come with spectacular views of fiery sunsets.

[Jahn – Conrad Koh Samui](#) | ☎ +66 77 915 888



Jahn at Conrad



Link Cuisine

## Link Cuisine

Modern Thai fusion cuisine with a rooftop setting, perfect after a stroll through the vibrant Fisherman's Village night market. Chic, flavorful, and a local favorite.

[Link Cuisine](#) | ☎ +66 80 460 2670

## Air Bar (InterContinental Samui)

This cliffside bar stuns with its design and panoramic views over the Five Islands. A perfect sunset spot with upscale vibes and premium cocktails.

[Air Bar](#) | ☎ +66 7 742 9100

[Visit Website](#)



Air Bar

## Avani Rooftop Lounge

Chill out above the trees with sea breezes, signature cocktails, and relaxed lounge beats. Stylish and sociable, it's a hidden gem on the southern coast.

[Avani Rooftop Lounge](#) | ☎ +66 77 485 299

[Visit Website](#)



Avani Rooftop



Whether you're into beachside fire shows, creative cocktails, or chill rooftop hangouts, Koh Samui has a bar for every kind of night owl. From laid-back lounges to lively pub scenes, here are the island's best spots to sip, socialize, and soak in the tropical buzz



### **Coco Tam's**

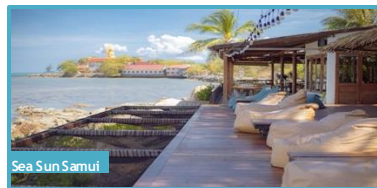
An iconic beachfront bar in Fisherman's Village, famous for its nightly fire shows at 19:30 and 21:00. Come for the mojitos, stay for the flames — no reservations, walk-in only!

 [Coco Tam's](#) | 📞 +66 91 915 5664

### **Sea Sun Samui**

A stylish rooftop bar with panoramic sunset views and expertly crafted cocktails. Perfect for golden-hour vibes and laid-back evenings.

 [Sea Sun Samui](#) | 📞 +66 7 742 3641



### **Day & Night**

A cozy, creative bar serving gourmet food, standout coffee cocktails, and classic drinks from a rooftop with views of Chaweng Beach.

 [Day & Night](#) | 📞 +66 7 733 2902



### **Ice Bar Subzero**

Cool off in Samui's only ice bar! Enjoy vodka shots and a frozen lounge experience in sub-zero temps. Jackets provided!

 [Ice Bar Subzero](#) | 📞 +66 85 783 3091

 [Visit Website](#)

### **Karma Sutra Samui**

A beach bar with boho flair, playing world tunes with great cocktails and a stylish indoor-outdoor lounge vibe.

 [Karma Sutra](#) | 📞 +66 88 751 8674

 [Visit Website](#)



### **Frog and Gecko Pub**

Classic Irish-style pub in Fisherman's Village — the go-to spot for live sports, quiz nights, and cold pints with expats and locals.

 [Frog and Gecko](#) | 📞 +66 98 023 8310

### **Lub d Koh Samui**

Social and lively bar inside a party hostel. Known for its events, drinking games, pool parties and backpacker crowd — fun guaranteed!

 [Lub d Koh Samui](#) | 📞 +66 7 723 0326

 [Visit Website](#)



### **Lipsmackers**

No-frills beach bar in the heart of Chaweng. Casual vibes, cheap cocktails, and sandy toes with every sip.

 [Lipsmackers](#) | 📞 +66 84 445 7520

# Entertainment | Beach Clubs



Experience Koh Samui's beach club culture where sun, music, and style come together. From laid-back lounging to lively seaside parties, these curated spots offer the perfect setting for a cocktail at sunset or a full day of tropical indulgence



## SEEN Beach Club (Chaweng)

Miami style; bold and glamorous beachfront playground. Expect colorful décor, poolside beats, great food, and themed parties. A must for the Instagram crowd.

[SEEN Beach Club](#) | 📞 +66 7 795 6800

[Visit Website](#)

## Elephant Beach Club (Chaweng)

Trendy and tropical, this beach club blends Bali-style vibes with Samui flavor. Great for daytime drinks, sunset DJs, and beachfront bites.

[Elephant Beach Club](#) | 📞 +66 91 034 5261

[Visit Website](#)



## 79 Beach Club (Bangrak)

Relax in this open-air lounge nestled in a peaceful bay. Expect stylish decor, a breezy ambiance, and frequent events with a local crowd.

[79 Beach Club](#) | 📞 +66 7 742 7799

[Visit Website](#)



## Chi Beach Club (Bangrak)

Elegant, modern, and full of life. This beach club offers poolside loungers, international cuisine, and chilled-out music right by the sea.

[Chi Beach Club](#) | 📞 +66 92 271 7439

[Visit Website](#)



## The Door Beach Club (Lamai)

Laid-back luxury at Lamai Beach. Sip, swim, and unwind in a stylish beachfront space with ocean views and smooth lounge tracks.

[The Door Beach Club](#) | 📞 +66 84 063 5060



## Nikki Beach (Lipa Noi)

World-renowned luxury brand meets island charm. Think white sunbeds, signature cocktails, curated events, and unbeatable sunsets.

[Nikki Beach](#) | 📞 +66 7 791 4500

[Visit Website](#)

## Tembo Beach Club (Bangrak)

A chic bohemian escape with pink parasols, fusion cuisine, and relaxed elegance. Excellent for brunches and cocktails by the beach.

[Tembo Beach Club](#) | 📞 +66 81 161 8828

[Visit Website](#)



## Pi Samui Beach Club (Choeng Man)

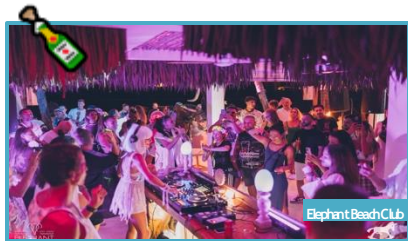
Intimate and serene, this newer club offers a cozy atmosphere with excellent food, a quiet beach, and views to remember.

[Pi Samui Beach Club](#) | 📞 +66 93 438 4995

[Visit Website](#)



# Entertainment Night Life



## Elephant Beach Club (Chaweng)

Chill by day, electric by night. Located in the heart of Chaweng, Elephant Beach Club throws epic beach and pool parties **every Saturday**, featuring fire shows from 20:00, with the party kicking off at 22:00 and running until 02:00. Expect 3 rotating DJs and unique party themes each week.

 [Elephant Beach Club](#) | 📞 +66 95 420 8051

 [Events Schedule](#)

## Green Mango (Chaweng)

The island's legendary mega club is back — and better than ever. Bucket drinks, dance zones, and a mix of club music, EDM, and Latin beats.

 [Green Mango Club](#) | 📞 +66 77 300 672

 [Events Schedule](#)



## Sound Club Samui (Chaweng)

Recently reopened and one of the island's most exclusive new clubs. Known for top-tier sound quality, impressive DJs, shishas, and premium vibes. A must-visit for music lovers.

 [Sound Club](#)



## Old School Bar (Chaweng)

A local-style dance bar packed with Thais, shot wheels, and non-stop party vibes. Live Music and DJ, for those who want to go full local — and get a little wild.

 [Old School](#) | 📞 +66 63 080 5408



Experience Koh Samui's beach club culture where sun, music, and style come together. From laid-back lounging to lively seaside parties, these curated spots offer the perfect setting for a cocktail at sunset or a full day of tropical indulgence

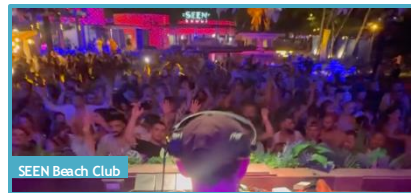


## SEEN Beach Club (Chaweng)

Occasional parties and iconic Utopia events make SEEN a stylish pick for exclusive nights. Follow their socials for updates.

 [SEEN Beach Club](#) | 📞 +66 7 795 6800

 [Events Schedule](#)



## Lub d Koh Samui (Chaweng)

Pool parties every Wednesday to Saturday — often with fire shows and beach vibes.

Located right next to Elephant Beach Club, perfect for pre- or post-party energy. Don't forget your swimsuit!

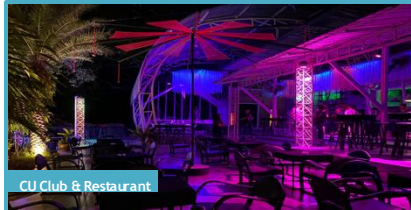
 [Lub d Koh Samui](#) | 📞 +66 77 230 326

 [Events Schedule](#)

## CU Club & Restaurant (Chaweng)

Your go-to after-party destination once other clubs close. Hookahs, snacks, and a chill crowd make this a favorite late-night hangout.

 [CU Club](#) | 📞 +66 92 253 5961



## Bar Bohem @B House (Bangrak)

A New York-style dance bar that hits just right for after-parties — especially on Saturdays after the Elephant Beach Club parties.

High-energy crowd and solid beats.

 [B House](#) | 📞 +66 98 671 7576



Unwind your body, reset your mind. Whether you're seeking a peaceful beachside massage or a full spa immersion with herbal steams and acupuncture, Koh Samui offers a diverse range of treatments that suit every budget and preference.



### Sod Sai Massage (Bangrak)


**Editor's Choice** – Penny, the lovely owner, leads a team of talented therapists. Friendly, professional, and reasonably priced. Book via WhatsApp if she doesn't answer and mention Ally & Sally from Magic Travel for extra care.

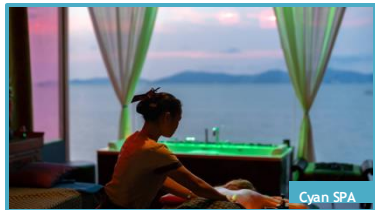
 [Sod Sai Massage](#) | 📞 +66 87 715 4303



### Sakura (Fisherman's Village)

Seaview massages in the heart of the village. Clean, friendly, and accepts credit cards

 [Sakura](#) | 📞 +66 95 427 8526



### Cyan Spa (Fisherman's Village)

Another solid massage option facing the sea. Doesn't accept credit cards, so bring cash.

 [Cyan Spa](#) | 📞 +66 94 595 1017



### Lyra Spa & Thai Massage (Chaweng River)

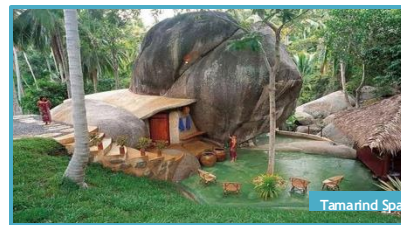
Tucked at the edge of the river in Chaweng, this spot is peaceful and consistent in quality.

 [Lyra Spa](#) | 📞 +66 84 219 4299

### Eranda Herbal Spa (Near Chaweng)

Indulge in private Turkish hammam, jacuzzi, algae wraps, and facials. A top-tier pampering experience.

 [Eranda Spa](#) | 📞 +66 98 329 1445



### Tamarind Springs Forest Spa (Near Lamai)

A hidden jungle gem. Serene hot stone paths, steam caves, and nature vibes.

 [Tamarind Spa](#) | 📞 +66 80 569 6654

### Cave Rai Ra Spa (Choeng Man, Royal Muang Hotel)

Legendary spa rumored to host Thai royalty. Stunning treatments in a tranquil cave-style setting.

 [Cave Rai Ra](#) | 📞 +66 77 428 700



### Sadanan Acupuncture & Wellness (Near Fisherman's Village)

#### Holistic Healing & Acupuncture

Highly recommended for expert acupuncture and cupping therapy. Better results and care.

 [Sadanan Wellness](#) | 📞 +66 83 979 2463







# Shopping



## Central Samui(Chaweng)

Koh Samui's main shopping mall with international brands, fashion stores, eateries, and air-conditioning to escape the heat. Great for a modern shopping fix.



[Central Samui](#)



**Everyday | Open: 10:00 | Close: 22:00**



## Haven Samui Community Mall (Chaweng)

A chic open-air space for relaxing, browsing, dining, or grabbing a drink. A peaceful, well-designed escape right in the heart of the island.



[Haven Samui](#)



**Everyday | Open: 07:30 | Close: 00:00**



## Lotus's Samui (Bo Phut)

More than a supermarket — you'll find a cinema, kid's playground, massage spots, restaurants, Home Pro, MR. DIY, and more. A go-to for families.



[Lotus's Bo Phut](#)



**Everyday | Open: 09:00 | Close: 22:00**



## Big C Supercenter (Bo Phut)

A one-stop shop for groceries, fashion, household items, and tech. Budget-friendly and convenient.



[Big C Supercenter](#)



**Everyday | Open: 09:00 | Close: 22:00**



## Fisherman's Village (Bo Phut)

A beachfront street with preserved wooden buildings, cafés, restaurants, boutique shops, and a hip SoHo-style vibe. Ideal for a sunset stroll and chilled shopping.



[Fisherman's Village](#)



## Chaweng Walking Street

A bustling strip of local stalls, souvenirs, bars, and quick eats. Lively every evening with great energy and low prices.



[Chaweng Walking Street](#)



## Lamai Walking Street

From massages and markets to beach access and cafés — this is Lamai's heart. Great for evening walks, bargain hunting, and people-watching.



[Lamai Walking Street](#)



## Lotus's Lamai

Well-stocked and reliable for essentials. Offers MR. DIY, restaurants, clothing shops, and quick bites.



[Lotus's Lamai](#)



**Everyday | Open: 09:00 | Close: 22:00**





# Markets & Night Markets



Fisherman's Village Night Market

## Fisherman's Village Night Market (Fisherman's Village)

Takes place on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays & sometimes Sundays. Found at the T-junction just past Coco Tam's, this cozy seaside street is lined with stalls selling local foods, crafts, and clothes.

 [Night Market Fisherman's Village](#)

Open: 17:00 | Close: 23:00

## Chaweng Night Market (Central Area)

Right across from Central Samui, this market serves up sizzling street food, souvenirs, and Thai sweets. Great for a bite before heading out.

Open: 18:00 | Close: 23:00 (Thursday–Saturday)

 [Chaweng Night Market \(Central\)](#)



Si Khao Night Market



Chaweng Night Market

## Si Khao Night Market

A fresh, local food stop near Chaweng Noi. Less touristy and great for snacks.

Open: 18:00 – 23:00 (Daily)

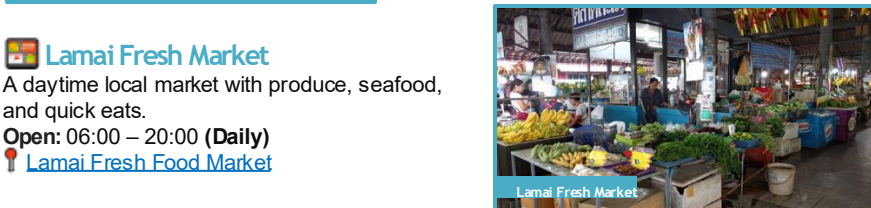
 [Chang Was Market](#)

## Lamai Fresh Market

A daytime local market with produce, seafood, and quick eats.

Open: 06:00 – 20:00 (Daily)

 [Lamai Fresh Food Market](#)



Lamai Fresh Market

Explore Koh Samui's colorful markets — from lively walking streets and night bazaars to hidden local food stalls and early-morning fresh markets. A feast for the senses and a treasure trove of Thai culture.



## Nathon Night Market

A west coast favorite with local eats and a sunset vibe. Busiest on Sundays.

Open: 17:00 – 23:00 (Daily)

 [Nathon Night Food Market](#)



Nathon Night Market



Tamarind Spa

## Bangrak Market

Great for fresh seafood and local produce. Stop by Green Night Market across the road.

Open: 09:00 – 20:00 (Daily)

 [Bangrak Market](#)



Maenam Morning Market

## Maenam Morning Market

The island's earliest local market — simple, fresh, and full of life.

Open: 04:00 – 20:00 (Daily)

 [Maenam Morning Market](#)



Walking Street

## Walking Street Night Market

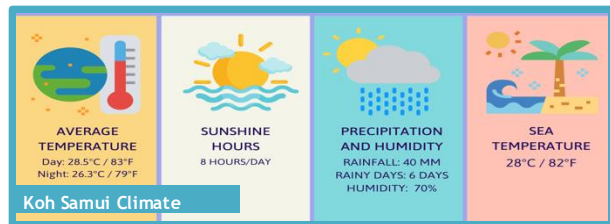
A colorful mix of food, fashion, and local crafts in the heart of Chaweng. Great for strolling and snacking.

Open: 14:00 – 23:00 (Tue–Sun)

 [Walking Street Night Market](#)



# Essential Information



## When to go

Thailand climate is marked by 3 distinct seasons

- **Cool Season (November-February):** Ideal for travel, offering mild temperatures and low rainfall.
- **Hot Season (March-June):** Characterized by higher temperatures, perfect for beach visits
- **Rainy Season (July-October):** Frequent rains and high humidity, a time for lush landscapes

December and early April, when the weather is generally dry and sunny, offering ideal conditions for exploring the beaches and cultural sites.

This period, known as the cool and dry season, sees comfortable temperatures across most of the country, making it perfect for outdoor activities and island hopping. However, it's also the peak tourist season, so planning and booking accommodations early is advisable for the best experience.

Always keep in mind that Thailand is tropical so from time to time even in dry seasons there may be short strong rainfalls however they tend to dry in minutes.

All you need to know before you go — from getting around and staying connected to weather tips, money matters, and local essentials.



## Getting Around

**By Air – Flying into Paradise.**

Koh Samui International Airport (USM) is Thailand's second busiest island airport, welcoming over 2 million passengers annually. Privately run by **Bangkok Airways**, it's known for its open-air tropical design and smooth service — just minutes from Chaweng Beach.

### Domestic Flights:

Frequent flights from Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, and Pattaya (U-Tapao) connect Koh Samui to key Thai cities.

### International Routes:

Direct connections to Singapore, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, and Shanghai make it a regional hub.

### Airlines Serving Koh Samui:

Tap for bookings:


**TH** [Bangkok Airways \(PG\)](#) **SG** [Singapore Airlines \(SQ\)](#)  
**HK** [Hong Kong Airlines \(HX\)](#) **MY** [Malaysia Airlines \(MH\)](#)

 Tip: Flights fill quickly — book in advance for best prices and times.


### By Boat & Ferry:

Koh Samui is easily accessible by sea from several key locations. The main entry point is **Donsak Pier** in Surat Thani, with frequent **car ferries** and **high-speed boats** connecting to Lipa Noi and Nathon Piers on Samui.

You can also arrive via **direct speedboat or ferry** from **Koh Phangan** and **Koh Tao**, with convenient daily routes. From time to time, overnight boats also operate to/from **Pattaya** and the mainland, providing a scenic and alternative way to reach the island.

 Combined bus + ferry tickets are available from Bangkok, Phuket, and other mainland cities, making the journey simple and smooth.

 [Book land and ferry tickets here](#)

 **By Car:** Renowned global companies offer car rental services in major tourist spots, while local agencies might present more cost-effective options and flexible terms.

**To rent a cost-effective car:**

 **+66 66 016 7123**

[Book Now](#)





Thai Bats

### Managing Finances in Thailand TH

The Thai currency, known as the Baht (THB or ฿), and has evolved over 800 years from a silver weight unit to a pivotal global currency internationally recognized.

In Thailand, ATMs exclusively dispense Thai Baht, and withdrawals in other currencies are not possible as no other currency is typically accepted for payments within the country.

#### Essential Advice:

**฿ Currency Exchange:** For currency exchange in Thailand, it's advisable to bring newer banknotes, ideally in denominations of a hundred or more. Currency exchangers often prefer bills from 2009 or newer and may charge a fee for exchanging older or smaller denominations.

Travelers from APAC countries should be aware that regional agreements may result in less favorable exchange rates. Post-COVID, many banks offer competitive conversion rates compared to standard exchange services, albeit with potentially longer wait times due to increased safety measures.

**ATMs:** While every ATM withdrawal costs 220 THB, it's prudent to withdraw in multiples of 10,000 to minimize fees. Some Bank ATM machines dispense a maximum of 30,000 THB per transaction due to a 30-bill limit. We found Krungsri Bank (the Yellow ATM) to usually work with no further limitations).

**Credit Cards:** Not all venues accept credit cards, and while many do without extra charges, some smaller establishments may levy a 3% fee—sometimes attempting to charge up to 5%. Always verify and negotiate fees beforehand.

**Tip:** Since COVID, most banks may give you a better conversion rates for your foreign currency

### Handy Apps

To enhance your Thailand experience, consider these handy apps:

**Grab:** A versatile app for transport and food delivery. Book a ride or order a meal conveniently.

Download the App by clicking your platform:

[Apple](#)  
[Android](#)

**Food Panda:** Popular for a wide range of food delivery options across Thailand.

[Apple](#)  
[Android](#)

**Bolt:** A taxi service app, offering competitive rates and widespread availability.

[Apple](#)  
[Android](#)



**In-Driver:** Set your price for rides with this unique, bid-based taxi service.

[Apple](#)  
[Android](#)

**Lazada:** Shop for almost anything, compare products with the scan-and-search feature, and consider shipping times for prompt delivery, even to your hotel before you come to Thailand

[Apple](#)  
[Android](#)

**12Go Asia:** Plan and book your travel by land or sea, with the option for combined tickets, directly through their platform

<https://book-transport.12go.asia/en>



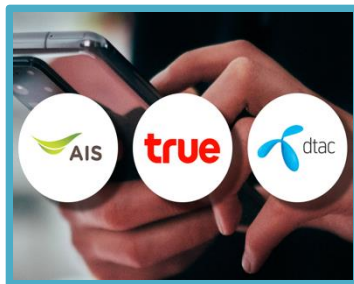
# Essential Information

## Handling your SIM

The In Thailand, key mobile operators include Dtac, True, and AIS, each offering extensive services.

Their sales agents are conveniently located at airports, within malls, various stores, and even every 7/11 or Family Mart. While you may initially seek just a data plan, adding call minutes is advantageous as numerous services such as long-tail boat operations, barbershops, spas, restaurants, and hotels do not utilize WhatsApp, making communication easier.

SIM package prices at airports range from approximately 500 to 900 Baht. Conversely, purchasing in malls, city shops, or 7-11s, you'll find rates between 200 to 500 Baht, subject to the chosen package and provider.



For a month-long stay, a one-month SIM package suffices; for longer stays, simply use the operator's app to add about 300 Baht for an additional one or two months of service, as per current promotions or operator policies.

Special deals at 7/11 might offer significant data for about 150 Baht, valid for 10 days, with options to extend the duration with a top-up.

Contacting customer service for the first top-up is recommended to ensure SIM extension, benefiting from their English-speaking staff.

All you need to know before you go — from getting around and staying connected to weather tips, money matters, and local essentials.



## Electricity and Plus

Voltage: 220 Volts. Available plug types include two flat blades (NEMA 1-15 or JIS C 8303) or round two-pin plugs (Europlug CEE 7/16). Adapters are widely available at most department stores for your convenience.

## Time Zone

UTC/GMT +7 hours.

## Telephone services

international dialing code for Thailand is +66, and it's important to omit the leading 0 from the area code when dialing internationally.

For directory assistance within the greater Bangkok Metropolitan area, simply dial 13. If you're in provincial areas, dial 183 for directory assistance. For operator-assisted long-distance calls, dial 101 for domestic calls and 100 for international calls



## Emergency Phone Numbers

**Police:** 191

**Fire:** 199

**Ambulance:** 1554

**Tourist Police:** 1155

**Department of Tourism:** +66-2-401-1111

### Bangkok Hospital emergency room:

+66 (0)2 310 3102

### Bangkok Hospital Koh Samui:

+66 (0)77 429 500

## TH Language

Thai is the official language, while English is commonly understood and spoken in many tourist locations. Road signs are typically bilingual, featuring both Thai and English



Koh Samui from tranquil beaches to vibrant village life,  
capturing the essence of island bliss like nowhere else.  
Uncover its magic with the  
**LIVE+ Koh Samui Pocket Guide** 🌴

For more information, please contact

[info@magic-travel.co](mailto:info@magic-travel.co)

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