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PHUKET & PHANG NGA SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

See a different party of the world, differently

Local Life & Legends in the Bang Rong Community | **New!**

Journey to Northern Phuket to a small Muslim community. The community is surrounded by mangrove forests. The scenery is beautiful and natural, and the people still retain the traditional way of life of fishing and agriculture.

We'll travel to the community by longtail boat where we're introduced to village philosophy, which is rooted in self-sufficiency. Experiences today will include kayaking through the mangroves, Crab Bank introduction to island sustainability, batik painting hands-on introduction, and a local farm visit. This active experience is a "show and tell" of local village life in Phuket.



Local Home Cooking at Ban Khanaen Community | **New!**

This is a different type of cooking experience, moving outside of stationed kitchens and into the community. We'll be welcomed to Ban Khanaen with a locally-influenced exercise known as "norabics", a southern play on aerobics. This is a combination of traditional southern nora dance and aerobics.

Then comes the highlights: cooking stations set up at different corners of the community's meeting hall, typically reserved for special events. We'll sample the flavors of dishes including Nam Prik Goong Siap (spicy and salty dip made of shrimp paste) and Som Tam Thalang, the Phuket version of this popular Thai dish. Today's experience is so much more than a cooking class, it is an exercise in cultural conservation meets culinary indulgence.



Phuket Arts & Artists | **New!**

Half-day/full-day, gallery visits. Best for those keen on arts, crafts, meeting designers, sculpture, painters, and notables in the community putting Phuket arts on the map.

This is a highlight of a lesser-known feature of modern Phuket: this island has bold, world-class design and avant-garde performance art. The afternoon starts out with a factory tour of the award-winning [Underwood Factory](#). John and Zac Underwood are among Thailand's most dynamic creatives, with their work featured in luxury hotels and galleries around the world, including several joint projects with celebrated designer Bill Bensley.

Our next stop is the well-known artsy hub in Phuket's old town, [The Drawing Room](#). Here, [Ids8](#) and his gang of art bandits run an art studio, workshop and coffee bar. Their two-story workshop is in a vintage corner building filled with half-finished works on canvas, random sculptures at various stages of completion, eclectic furniture and lots of bicycles. It is the kind of effortless hip that would not be out of place in Brooklyn or Melbourne, but it is distinctly - and completely - Thai. It has become something of a pilgrimage point in Phuket's already uber hip old town.

Heading further out, Rawai Beach has its art curio hive known as [The Phuket Art Village](#), a bohemian art community cooperative with several galleries and artists holding court. See works in progress, shop the curio stalls, and chat about upcoming projects with local artists.

For a crafty art hub further up the island, we'll go to [Project Artisan](#), a celebrated space for resident art workshops, sculptures and installation art, pop-up food and crafts events. The curators of the art community have established various boutiques, shops and studios around an outdoor lawn and lounge setting. The mission is to bring Phuket arts to the world, and the world's art to Phuket.

For art enthusiasts, art shoppers, or those keen to see what Phuket's art scene is all about, this is a comprehensive day of gallery and art hub visits.



PHUKET & PHANG NGA SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

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An Evening at Chalong Bay | **New!**

Phuket is not only a city of gastronomy but a growing regional leader in artisanal beverages and local spirits. Their specialties are Thai rum and gin spirits, which are one of a kind. Instead of using molasses, Chalong Bay, in its quest for authenticity, ventured to the original source of sugarcane throughout the world, Southeast Asia, and in particular Thailand due to its exceptional richness of over 200 different varieties.

Today, you'll not only have some fun with shakers in hand, but you will have an introduction to what makes the distillery truly unique; from the traditional copper that is imported from France to sustainable production.

Tonight's dinner is a Michelin-plate-awarded fine dining experience that takes place in the distillery's peaceful sugarcane garden.



A Morning at Phuket Elephant Sanctuary | Updated

Spend an unforgettable morning or afternoon at Phuket's first ethical elephant sanctuary. At a home for retired working elephants, set on 30 acres of lush tropical jungle, you will observe how elephants rehabilitate into forest life after decades of abuse, and experience how incredible the largest land mammal on earth is.

The visit begins with an overview of the sanctuary and important information surrounding elephants. Then you will get to meet some of these gentle giants and hear their individual stories as you feed them tasty treats of bananas, pineapples, and cucumbers. You will then be invited to follow in the elephant's footsteps as they walk into the jungle to enjoy a mud bath or socialize with each other. Before heading back to your hotel, a delicious vegetarian Thai-style buffet will be served to ensure that you leave with a full stomach as well as a full heart.

Note: other than feeding the elephants, this is a completely hands-off experience with no riding, bathing, or animal shows of any kind involved.



Phuket Old Town Cultural Discovery

For those looking for a break from the beaches, you will be surprised by the rich historical and cultural offerings to discover in Phuket Town. Phuket Town was the hub of the 19th Century tin trade in Southeast Asia, which brought Hokkien and Hakka Chinese traders, merchants from Malaysia and India, as well as Europeans to get in on the take. The town's ethnic and religious diversity has created a fascinating culture of unique local beliefs, architecture, cuisine, art and lifestyle.

There is an ongoing community effort to preserve the central core of Phuket Town and there are many stunning architectural highlights remaining, including manor houses, and preserved shophouses which now house art galleries, local food haunts and great little boutique shops and hotels. Highlights are the beautifully restored On On Hotel (famous as the run-down backpacker haunt in the film *The Beach* from 2000) and the China Inn, a beautifully renovated Sino-Portuguese home that is a great place to stop for tea, coffee and organic snacks. Your knowledgeable host will guide you to the experiences that best match your interests. Stop in and visit with a resident artist at work in their renovated minimalist warehouse, or visit the original town founders' – the Chinese-Siamese Baba – community center. Finish the tour off with an enjoyable local lunch at an authentic southern Thai restaurant.



PHUKET & PHANG NGA SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

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Culinary Adventure: Phuket Old Town Gastronomy

For those looking for a break from the beaches and have a passionate interest in food, you will be surprised that UNESCO has listed Phuket as a ‘City of Gastronomy’, one of the 17 selected cities worldwide. Today, we’ll pick you up at your resort and drive to the historical port to spend a half day eating and drinking our way around this multicultural town preserved in time. Phuket Town was the hub of the 19th Century tin trade in Southeast Asia, which brought Hokkien and Hakka Chinese traders, merchants from Malaysia and India, as well as Europeans to get in on the take. The town’s ethnic and religious diversity has created a fascinating culture of unique local beliefs, architecture, art, lifestyle and, of course, cuisine.

We’ll begin with Thai coffee at one of the cafes in the beautifully restored Sino-European buildings before exploring Lock Tian food court, where we will sample Phuket fresh spring rolls. This simple food court caters to a variety of local tastes with authentic dishes that are hard to find anywhere else. How about a bowl of classic Hokkian noodles, followed by ancient shaved-ice dessert? Save room for a stroll through an area where local food vendors gather to sell their unique snacks. Every day there is something different on offer. Some say the Malay-style satay (grilled chicken skewers served with peanut sauce) found here is the best in Phuket. Your knowledgeable host will guide you to the experiences that best match your interests. We have the option to visit with a resident artist at work in their renovated minimalist warehouse, or to discover the original town founders’ – the Chinese-Siamese Baba – community museum before heading back to your resort – there are plenty of possibilities!



PHUKET & PHANG NGA SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

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Helicopter Sightseeing Sensational Phi Phi Island 70 mins - Phuket

You'll be met at hotel lobby for your private transfer by Toyota Alphard to helicopter pad for your grand 70-minute bird's-eye view over Panoramic Phuket South, West Coast and Phi Phi Island.

The Phi Phi islands are some of the loveliest in Southeast Asia. These picture-postcard islands offer the ultimate tropical getaway. Featuring classic tropical beaches, stunning rock formations and vivid turquoise waters teeming with colourful marine life, it is paradise perfected. Phi Phi is a group of six islands. The two main islands are Phi Phi Don and Phi Phi Leh. The larger and inhabited Phi Phi Don attracts hundreds of visitors to stay on its lovely shores while the smaller uninhabited Phi Phi Leh hosts stunningly beautiful bays and beaches, including the world-famous Maya Bay, which was the set where *The Beach* (with Leonardo Di Caprio) was filmed.



Helicopters Over Phang Nga Bay

Made famous in James Bond's "The Man With The Golden Gun", the spectacular Phang Nga Bay takes on a mystical beauty when viewed from the exclusive perch of a private helicopter. We can arrange a morning flight before the day trips arrive over the bay to Hong Yai Noi with a stop on Ko Yao Noi to meet our private yacht.



Luxury Yacht Experiences - Phuket

Get ready for an amazing voyage to stunning tropical islands around the exquisite sailing waters of the Phuket archipelago aboard the region's most luxurious cruising yachts, from a 23 ft craft up to a fully-appointed 135 ft superyacht, available for private charters.



Sea Kayaking & Private Beach Gourmet Lunch

An afternoon of fantastic private guided sea kayaking in the labyrinthine Hong Yai, surrounded by dense mangroves, protecting the surrounding ecosystem. During the excursion, a gourmet BBQ lunch planned on a private beach with tables, event umbrellas, and tents.



PHUKET & PHANG NGA SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

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Remote Dining Experience - Phuket

A private and intimate dining experience in extraordinary and idyllic settings at a waterfall in Khao Lak, Southern Thailand. Guests will be joined by a private chef with the jungle as their backdrop.





The Smiling Albino Difference

Smiling Albino is a team of travel enthusiasts offering custom built experiences in Asia. Our adventures are the result of continuous travel, innovation and refinement. Trips combine multiple activities, charming venues, the finest regional cuisine and passionate hosts. You'll hit the highlight stops, but the real magic is in the hidden corners, insider sights and unique local characters. The signature of our experiences relies on the intimate relationships we've built with a huge network of people throughout the region.

We don't just connect the dots, we create them, and deliver unforgettable travel experiences.

We look forward to hosting you!

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