

# Phuket Day Trips



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Located in the Andaman Sea off the southeast coast, Phuket is the largest island in Thailand. In centuries past, it was an important trading post on the eastern shore of the bay of Bengal, handling shipping from the Arab and Malay worlds, India, Burma, China and, of course, Siam. By the 16th century, the island was also well-known to Europeans, as first Portuguese and Dutch, then English and French sailed to its fabled shore. The island enjoyed an unprecedented surge in wealth in the 19th century when tin was discovered in large quantities, and is now one of the top beach destinations in the world.

# Phuket



Full Day

# Cycling Yao Noi Island

**Recommended time: 8:00 - 16:00**

Today, we'll cycle around one of the most beautiful and peaceful islands in Phang Nga Bay, well removed from the popular Phuket scene.

We'll board our private longtail boat at Bang Rong Pier and head off to Koh (Island) Yao Noi. On shore, we'll explore this delightful island, cycling through rice paddies, rubber plantations and coconut farms and soak in the simplicity of life amidst a serene natural setting. The island provides a great vantage point for breathtaking views of the Phang Nga Bay. We'll visit the village where batik is made and take a break at a local farm and can enjoy a refreshing fresh coconut.

We'll be cycling on a combination of small paved roads, some dirt tracks through rubber trees. The 15 kilometer distance is manageable and will leave plenty of time for photo ops.



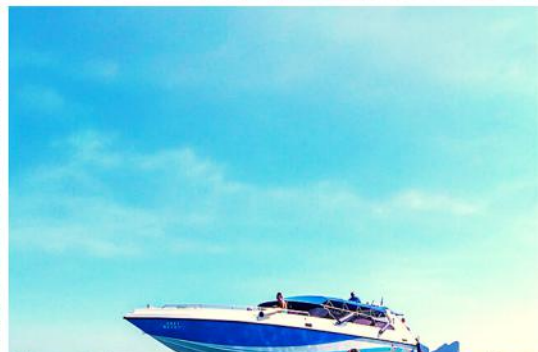
Full Day

# Phang Nga Bay by Speed Boat

**Recommended time: 8:00 - 16:00**

This morning you will be picked up by a private speedboat. Welcoming you aboard will be your private host who will facilitate an exciting day cruising around Phang Nga Bay with a focus on the area's natural wonders as well as the unique lifestyle of the local inhabitants.

There are more than 100 spectacular islands dotted about Phang Na Bay, with geography varying from low, gently sloping hills to sheer-sided limestone sea mountains (karsts), the most famous one being James Bond Island with its needle formed limestone rock which featured in the James Bond movie "The Man with the Golden Gun". Enjoy visits to several locations where kayaking and snorkeling activities are available.



Full Day

# Speed Boat to Phi Phi Island

**Recommended time: 8:00 - 16:00**

Enjoy an exciting day cruising around Phi Phi island by private speedboat with some stops for snorkeling and sightseeing.

Enchanting Phi Phi Island's dramatic cliffs, emerald green waters and white sand beaches make it all you would expect from a world-renowned island destination. Phi Phi is made up of two separate islands, Phi Phi Don and Phi Phi Leh. A nature lover's paradise, the islands' heady mix of lush green foliage, hidden caves and coral reefs teeming with fish offer unparalleled beauty in the Andaman. Spend the day cruising the area while avoiding the crowded tourist spots in the comfort of your private speedboat. Swim, snorkel, relax and enjoy a delicious Thai lunch.



Full Day

# Hong by Starlight

Spend the day kayaking in and around the beautiful karst islands of Phang Nga Bay. Hosted by the highly reputable John Gray's Sea Canoe team you will learn about the area's unique natural environment and enjoy paddling through limestone caves and hidden lagoons. A highlight will be entering a cave (known as "hong") under the cover of starlight in the evening.

After being picked up by van from your hotel, you will be brought to the John Gray escort boat which will take you to Phang Nga Bay. A healthy lunch will be served on board. Following a safety briefing the real action will begin and your experienced kayaking host will guide you through the stunning limestone caves, blue lagoons, and mangrove forests of Koh Panak and Koh Hong. Dinner will be served during sunset, and that's when things will start to get truly mystical. Paddling into caves illuminated by natural phosphorescent plankton, you will stop to release a krathong to float along the still waters. The escort boat will then bring you back to Phuket and you will be transferred back to your hotel. \*This is a join in program



Full Day

# Phuket Elephant Sanctuary

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

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 resort, a delicious vegetarian Thai-style buffet will be served to ensure that you leave with a full stomach as well as a full heart.



Full Day

# Private Luxury Yacht Excursions

Enjoy a lavish adventure into the vibrant marine playground of Phuket and beyond. 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 super yacht, available for private charters. Being onboard with Andaman Cruises comes closer than most to satisfying that seductive mental image of cruising within a luxurious yacht, discovering remote, idyllic island escapes where the sand is pure and white and contemplating inspiring sunsets far away from the crowds. As these are private, completely custom, charters the itinerary for the day will vary depending on your interests. In general, we find that either a full day to Phang Nga or Krabi hits all of the marks for our discerning guests.



Half Day

# Phuket Old Town

There's more to Phuket besides sun, sand and sea. Today, let us explore the rich historical and cultural offerings that can be discovered in Phuket's cultural center – 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.

As we arrive in town we'll swap the van for scooters. Hop on the back and get ready for a thrilling zip through the old town. Take in the many stunning architectural highlights and preserved shophouses which now house art galleries, local food haunts and great little boutique shops. A definite foodie highlight will be a visit to Lock Tian food court, where we will sample fresh spring rolls, before enjoying lunch at an authentic southern Thai restaurant.



Half Day

# Phuket Old Town Gastronomic Adventure

For those looking for a break from the beaches and have a passionate interest in food, you may 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 center of the 19th century tin trade in Southeast Asia, attracting Hokkien and Hakka Chinese traders, as well as merchants from Malaysia, India and Europe. The town's ethnic and religious diversity has created a fascinating 'Sino-Malay-European' culture of unique local beliefs, architecture, cuisine, art and lifestyle and, of course, cuisine.

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!



Half Day

# Village Life & Traditions

Discover the other side of Phuket on this visit to a nearly 200 year-old muslim community located in the mangrove forests of the North of the island. We'll learn about their traditional way of life and how they have revitalized their environment by practicing sustainability.

We'll arrive at the Bang Rong community by longtail boat where we'll be introduced to the village philosophy, which is rooted in self-sufficiency. To fully appreciate the local lifestyle and traditions, we'll kayak down the amazon-like mangrove channels, participate in their crab bank project and visit a local agriculture project. We'll interact with the villagers while they "show and tell". A charming reminder that sustainable living, community traditions, and small-scale ecotourism do coexist on the famous destination island.

The morning is capped off with a feast of local delicacies and then it's back to the resort for some R&R.



Half Day

# Local Fishing in Phuket

Two things we love about Phuket are delicious seafood and unmatched natural beauty. Today's adventure combines these in the form of a local fishing trip to Phang Nga Bay. The majority of locals in this area have been fisherfolk their entire lives and they'll share their wisdom of the seas and its bounty with you this morning.

After a car transfer to the pier, you will board your private long-tail boat decked out with fishing equipment, refreshments and accompanied by a local fisherman. You will head towards Phang Nga Bay, with fishing rods trolling as you go. If you're lucky and catch a decent fish, we can arrange to have it grilled for lunch (either at a local house in the community near the pier or back at the resort). If not, don't worry, we'll still set up a delicious fresh seafood lunch as a reward for your efforts.



Evening

# Phuket Old Town by Night

Enjoy a pleasurable night out in one of Thailand's most beautiful historic towns. There has been a renaissance in Phuket Old Town in recent years with the opening of many cool home-grown cafes, galleries, boutiques, restaurants and bars in the colorfully restored Sino-European styled shophouses, unique to Phuket, all easily taken in during an after-dinner walk.

After enjoying an exceptional dinner in one of the several outstanding restaurants specializing in Phuket cuisine, we'll amble through the narrow streets discovering small gallery-studios and boutique shops. A slow wander in the old town reveals moments that feel like the charms of Hanoi, glimpses of colonial Singapore and Penang, and hints of Europe. This wildly global combination creates something akin to a tropical Chinatown off a Lisbon side-street. Aesthetic heaven. Food heaven. And, lest we say it, Instagram heaven.



Evening

# An Evening at Chalong Bay

Phuket is not only a world-class sun, sand and sea playground but a growing regional leader in producing artisanal beverages and spirits. Not far from Phuket Town, we'll find Chalong Bay Rum Distillery. Their specialties are one-of-a-kind Thai rum and gin spirits made with locally sourced and sustainable sugarcane rather than molasses, as is more common in most rum now.

We'll tour the distillery, which uses imported French copper apparatus and produces only small handcrafted batches of spirits, before joining their expert mixologists to learn how to mix, stir and shake locally inspired cocktails.

The workshop will be followed by a Michelin-plate awarded fine dining experience in the peaceful sugarcane garden. Before heading back to the hotel, if you're up for a nightcap (or two, or three) we can venture back into the old town where a number of hip little bars pulsate amongst the illuminated heritage buildings.



Evening

# Junkyard Theater

**19:00 - 22:00 A night of pure escapism.**

The Junkyard Theatre is Phuket's most unique and creative entertainment venue, Junkyard promises an unexpected night of live performance and a curated dining experience.

The dinner show consists of an eclectic collection of quirky and comedic musical numbers, decadently crafted sets, acrobatic dance routines and comedic skits.

Return transport to Phuket Town with host and option to visit a bars or clubs afterwards before returning to hotel.



# The Smiling Albino Difference

AT SMILING ALBINO WE DON'T JUST CONNECT THE DOTS, WE CREATE THEM, AND DELIVER UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES.

We understand implicitly that a perfect adventure is much more than nice hotels, great meals and hassle-free logistics. For a travel experience to be perfect, all pieces must work together like a symphony. It is the fine details which our guests appreciate most, like cold face towels after a hike, electrolyte beverages for your day cycling, and wine uncorked when the moment is right. From local maps to bottled water and colorful anecdotes on the areas we visit, a Smiling Albino adventure is a thorough, intimately hosted experience.



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