







### Transportation from Bangkok

**By Car**  
**Route 1:** Take Highway No.35 (Thon Buri-Pak Tho) and head south, then take highway No.4 (Phetchakaset Road) to get to Phetchaburi and Prachuap Khiri Khan. Upon reaching Pathomphon Intersection, take Highway No.41. At Surat Thani Intersection, Ban Ta Khun District, turn right to Highway No.401. Turn right again and follow Highway No.4 to Phang-nga's downtown and Takua Thung District. At Ban Khok Kloi Market Junction, turn left to Highway No.402 and proceed further until you reach Thao Thepkasattri Bridge, which will lead you directly to the town of Phuket. (800 km. in total)  
**Route 2:** Follow the direction of the first route until you reach Chumphon Downtown Intersection. At this intersection, turn right and drive further down on Highway No.4 passing Kra Buri District, downtown Ranong, Khuraburi, Takua Pa, Takua Thung, Khok Kloi and downtown Phang-nga. Later on, cross Thao Thepkasattri or Sarasin Bridge to get into the town of Phuket. (862 km. in total)

**By Bus**  
Standard, 2<sup>nd</sup> class, 1<sup>st</sup> class and VIP buses operate on a daily basis on the direct route Bangkok-Phuket. For more information, please contact Call Center 1490 and Southern Bus Terminal Call +66 2894 6122 Phuket Central (+66 7621 1480) also provides such a service. The trip takes approximately 13-14 hours.

**By Air**  
Five airlines operate several daily flights between Bangkok and Phuket. For more information, please call +66 2356 1111 www.thaiairways.com (Thai Airways), 1771 or +66 2270 6699 www.bangkokair.com (Bangkok Airways), 1318 or +66 2900 9955 www.nokair.com (Nok Air), +66 2515 9999 www.airasia.com (AirAsia), +66 2089 1909 www.vietjetair.com (Vietjet Air)

### Transportation to and from the Airport

Phuket International Airport is located approximately 30 kilometers north of Phuket Town. Taxis between Phuket Town and the airport cost approximately 400 baht, but the fares to the beaches range between 500 and 600 baht. Minivans charge approximately 80 baht/person to town, 120 baht/person to Patong, Kata, and Karon Beaches. Phuket Limousine, located approximately 1 kilometer west of the city, operates hourly shuttles to the airport from 6.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.

### Transportation to Nearby Provinces

**By Taxi or Minibus**

There are also shared taxi and van services between Phuket and other nearby provinces. Fares for either are generally around double the fare of an ordinary bus. The stations for both taxis and minivans are also on Phang-nga Road.

**By Ferry**

There is fairly regular boat service between Phuket and nearby islands including Ko Yao and Ko Phi Phi. During the high season (October-May), travelers may also travel by boat between Phuket and Ko Lanta. Ferries to and from Phuket and Krabi (Ao Nang/Hat Railey /Krabi Town) operate throughout the year. Various ports on Phuket provide services to these other islands and beaches with fares ranging between 300 and 1,000 baht. The trip may take 1.5 to 2 hours, depending on weather conditions. Some ferries service multiple locations and travelers are provided color coded stickers to avoid confusion.

### Getting Around Phuket

**Car Rental Service:**

There are numerous car rental services on Phuket. Cars or jeeps can be rented at the airport, in Phuket Town, and at most of the more popular beaches. Be aware that only Commercial First Class Insurance provides full coverage on rental cars (as opposed to limited personal or third party only insurance). Most international car rental agencies will offer this insurance (some only for those with a valid international driver's license) while local companies may or may not. You may wish to request a copy of their insurance policy and ensure that it states "For Commercial Use". Regardless, inspect rental vehicles prior to rental and drive with caution, particularly as traffic in Thailand can be quite confusing, especially the habit of Thai motorcycle drivers to drive on the wrong side of the road.

**Motorbike Rental:**

For around 300-500 baht per day you can hire your own 100-150cc motorbike, which will typically require you to leave your passport as a deposit. Be sure to inspect bikes prior to rental and drive with extreme caution as rental motorbikes are not normally insured and accidents are frequent. Helmets are required by Thai law. Motorcycles can be rented from rental agencies located on Rasada Road or from different operators at various beaches.

**Motorcycle taxi:**

It costs approximately 20 baht / person / trip to travel via motorbike taxi around Phuket Town (prices according to distance).

**Songtaew and Tuk-Tuk:**

Songtaews are operated along Ranong Road in Phuket Town to various destinations including most beaches. The cost ranges from 40 baht to 100 baht / person / trip (prices according to distance). Normally the service is provided from 7.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m.

Tuk-Tuks can be chartered for travel between the beaches and Phuket Town or between different beaches; however, rates are negotiable and will cost at least 200 baht to Patong Beach, 230 baht to Karon and Kata Beaches and 300 baht to Nai Han and Kamala Beaches. Within Phuket Town, Tuk-Tuks should cost 20 baht for short distances.

**Metered Taxi:**

Visitors can call +66 9 2789 5561, to get a metered taxi that will take them anywhere on Phuket.

### Interesting Activities

<b>Golfing</b>		
Banyan Tree Phuket Golf Club	Sisunthon Rd., Choeng Thale	
Blue Canyon Country Club	Thepkasattri Rd., Mai Khao	
Wichit Songkhram Rd., Kathu		
Dino Park Mini Golf	Near the Marina Cottage, Hat Karon	
<b>Horse Riding</b>		
Phuket Riding Club	Soi Wiset, Ao Chalong-Rawai Rd.	
Phuket Laguna Riding Club	Hat Bang Thao, Choeng Thale	
<b>Elephant Trekking</b>		
Siam Safari	Chalong	
<b>Buggy Jumping</b>		
Hanuman World	Pracha Samakee Rd.	
<b>Paint Ball</b>		
Top Gun Paint Ball	Ao Chalong	
<b>Go-Kart</b>		
Patong Gokart Speedway	Up-hill on the way to Patong	
<b>Fishing</b>		
Phuket Sport Fishing Center	Hat Patong	
Phuket Fishing Charter	Ao Chalong	
<b>Trekking / Canoeing</b>		
Santana	Hat Patong	
Siam Safari Nature Tour	Chao Fa Rd., Chalong	
<b>Cruising</b>		
Southeast Asia Yacht Charter Co.	Hat Patong, Kathu	
Yacht Charter Travel Service	East Chao Fa Rd.	
Phuket Yacht Service	Bangkok Rd.	
<b>Diving</b>		
Sea Bees Diving	Viset Rd., Chalong	
Phuket Aquatic Safari	West Chao Fa Rd.	
Dive Asia	Hat Kata	
Love Andaman	Hat Kata	
<b>Getting to islands nearby</b>		
Racha Island	Phuket Sea Island	
He Island	Phuket Sea Island	
Mai Thon Island	Love Andaman	
Similan Island	Chao Koh Travel	
Phi Phi Island	Phi Phi Marine	
Khai Island	Phuket Sea Island	
<b>Getting to Pearl Farm</b>		
Rang Yai Island	Phuket Pearl Farm Tour	
<b>Sightseeing by Canoeing / Kayaking</b>		
Hong Island	Asia Canoe Club	
Phang-nga Bay	Sea Cape Canoe	
<b>Eco Tour</b>		
Siam Safari	Chao Fa Rd., Chalong	
Island Safari	Chalong Rd.	

### Interesting Activities around Phuket

Boasting several islands endowed with pristine shores and spectacular underwater world, Phuket provides you with a wide array of fun-filled activities so you can enjoy yourself to the fullest.

**1. Diving and Swimming**

Ko He, Ko RachaYai, and Ko Mai Thon are known for beautiful coral gardens and great snorkelling. Ko Racha Noi, on the other hand, is renowned as a preferred site for scuba-diving and fishing. Those who enjoy swimming in warm tropical waters must not miss the chance to visit Ko Bon.

### Regional Cuisine

Experience the essence of Phuket's cuisine, which is a unique fusion of Chinese and Thai culinary delights. Here are some of the favourites:

**1. Hokkian Noodles:** These round, yellow noodles are stir-fried with soy sauce, eggs, Chinese cabbage or "bok choy" and a choice of pork, squid, or fish and is garnished with fried shallots and ground chilli. Although this popular dish is available almost everywhere but recommended places to taste authentic Hokkian Noodles are Mi Ton Pho (situated near the clock tower on Phuket Road), Mi Ao Ke (located on Punphon Road) and Mi Sapam (situated on Thepkasattri Road). As lightly different version of Mi Hokkian noodles with shrimp stock, which is available at Chirayuwat, located next to the Pearl Bowling.

**2. Mi Hun-Pa Chang:** A rice noodle stir-fried with sweet soy sauce, flavored with granulated sugar and salt, and sprinkled with fried shallots, sliced chives, fish sauce and chilli vinegar. Mi Hun is usually served with "Ba Kut" or pork stock. Recommended places to best savor this dish is a restaurant located in Soi Sun Uthit, Yaowarat Road, or a shop on Wichit Songkhram Road, situated near the entrance of Soi Lo Rong, and a small restaurant located near Ban Bang Niao School, Takua Thung Road.

**3. Mi Sua:** A typical breakfast for Phuket residents, Mi Sua is served together with rice porridge. This dish is commonly served at restaurants in the downtown area and at Khu Kwan Restaurant, located on Phuket Road.

**4. Khanom Chin Phuket:** Another breakfast dish which is very popular amongst locals. You can choose to top it with a wide variety of available curries such as "Nam Ya" (fish curry sauce), "Kaeng Tai Pla" (fish intestines soup), "Kaeng Kai" (chicken curry), or "Nam Chup" (spicy shrimp paste with fresh shrimp, lime, shallot and chili). It is usually served with a variety of fresh vegetables and other assortments such as hard-boiled eggs, fried Chinese doughnuts, and fried fish cakes as well as "Ho Mok" (steamed fish mousse). The dish is available at most of the restaurants in the downtown area, or at "Kwan" on Thung Kha Road, and "Khanom Chin Pa Mai" on Krabi Road.

**5. Lo Ba:** You can savor this authentic Hokkian dish at different shops. The main ingredient of Lo Ba is made by first simmering pork intestines in five Chinese herbs and then deep-frying them. Lo Ba is usually eaten with dipping sauce, fried tofu, and "Kian Thod" -deep-fried flavored ground pork, crab meat, shrimp, yam and taro mixed and wrapped in soy bean sheets.



**6. O Tao:** The fact that this dish shares similar ingredients with Central Thailand's "Hoi Thor" (fried mussel omelettes) makes locals call it "Hoi Thor Hokkian". O Tao are stir-fried oysters with flour, steamed taro, dried shrimp, eggs and chives, that are flavored with soy sauce and salt, then sprinkled with ground pepper and sweet-and-spicy sauce. Try it at food stalls which are open at night in Kaset Market or a Fountain Circle.

**7. Nam Prik Kung Siap:** The province's signature dish, "Nam Prik Kung Siap" is made of spicy shrimp paste and fresh shrimp. Although you can easily find it in most shops and restaurants on the island.

**8. O-eo:** This refreshing heavenly tasting dessert is made from banana and "O-eo" seeds. "Pae Eng" at Soi Sun Uthit and another shop on Wichit Songkhram Road, near the entrance of Soi Lo Rong are among few places offering authentic versions of this sweet.

**9. Ba Kut Te:** This Hokkian snack is made from pork bones and intestines simmered in Chinese herbs. It is served with ultra-sweet sauce. Try tasting real Hokkian-style Ba Kut Te at "Bun Rat" on Tilok Uthit Road, "Khanom Jeeb Che Chai" on Punphon Road, Soi 1 and "Khu Kwan" on Phuket Road.

Shopping & Souvenirs		
Shop Names	Address	Product
<b>Phuket Downtown</b>		
Khun Mae Chu	Thepkasattri Rd. Sapam Market	Nam Phrik Kung Siap
Mae Kui Phuket	Takua Thung Rd., Talat Yai District Surin Rd., Soi 4	Dried and flavored "Ching Chang" fish Tao Soa
Mae Buntham Community Market (Nam Phu market)	Ranong Rd.	Nam Phrik Kung Siap, Ching Chang fish, Coated cashew nuts
Downtown Market	Ranong Rd. Phu Market	Phuket pineapple, fruits, Ching Chang fish
Kheng Tin Porn Tip	Phu Market Chaloem Prakit	Tao Soa pastries, Nam Prik Kung Siap
Heng Seng Chai Batik	Ratchabhai Th9 Rd. Mae Luan Rd.	"Weichin Chang" fish
Mook Phuket (Phuket Pearl)	Chao Fa Tawantok Rd.	Batik clothes
Nong Kao	Chao Fa Tawantok Rd.	Pearls from farm
Methi	Luang Pho Wat Chalong Rd. Tilok Uthit Rd.	Coated cashew nuts
<b>Kathu</b>		
Ceramics of Phuket	Wichit Songram Rd.	Ceramics
<b>Thalang</b>		
Khun Mae Chu	Thepkasattri Rd.	Nam Phrik Kung Siap, Kaeng Tai Pla
Sri Suphalak Orchid	Thepkasattri Rd.	Coated cashew nuts

**10. Dim Sum:** A Phuket-style breakfast that comes in small bites but served in a big set of Khanom Jeeb (steamed Chinese dumplings), "Salapao" (Chinese buns), "Ha Kao" (steamed shrimp dumpling), fried taro, fried spring rolls, fried dumplings, etc. Commonly served in downtown restaurants, Dim Sum is normally taken with either hot Chinese tea or coffee. Recommended place to try is "Khu Kwan" on Phuket Road.



Ao and Ko Lon. These islands can be reached by taking the ferry from Ao Chalong or Hat Rawai. Alternatives are speed boats and long-tailed boats which are available at various sizes. Prices are negotiable. Buying a diving package from tour agents is considered a good option. For those wishing to get to Ko Mai Thon, a daily ferry service from Ao Makham is provided by Love Andaman Tel. +66 7639 0250 www.loveandaman.com for more information.

**2. Taking a Trip to Phuket's Pearl Farm**

Pearl Farms located around Ko Nakha Noi and Ko Rang Yai are worth visiting. They are open to the public and visitors can shop around for good-quality, reasonably priced pearls. Reservation for the trip must be made in advance. For more information, call tour agents in the downtown area and Ko Rang Yai, or contact Richy Island Tours at +66 7623 8565, +66 7623 9893-4, +66 7623 8565

**Beaches**

1. Hat Patong	★★★★	C11
2. Hat Kata Karon	★★★★	B12, C13
3. Hat Surin	★★★★	B8
4. Hat Sai Kao	★★★★	B2
5. Hat Mai Khao	★★★★	C3
6. Hat Nai Yang	★★★★	C5
7. Hat Nai Thon	★★★★	B6
8. Hat Bang Thao	★★★★	B7
9. Laem Sing	★★★★	B8
10. Hat Kamala	★★★★	B9
11. Hat Nai Han	★★★★	C15
12. Hat Rawai	★★★★	D15

