

SURAT THANI

Known as one of the oldest cities in the southern region of Thailand, Surat Thani boasts a wealth of history that dates back more than 1,000 years. The province is believed to have been the center of the eminent Srivijaya Empire and was later made the trading hub of rubber and copper in the South.

Today, Surat Thani is famous for its magnificent attractions, both inland and offshore, and is renowned for numerous action and adventure options. The Rainforest in Khao Sok National Park is the site of world's largest lotus *Bua Phut*, and Namtok Tad Fa in the Tai Rom Yen National Park are two of the exquisite attractions the province has to offer. As well as this, hundreds of scenic islands are preferred destinations for sea, sand, sun and fun lovers. Ko Samui captivates tourists from all over the world with its delightful ocean views and diverse water sports, while Ko Pha-ngan charms visitors with its monthly held full moon beach party. Ko Tao - Ko Nang Yuan have mega-popular become diving sites for cookies and experts. And the Angthong National Marine Park provides magnificent panoramic views of the surrounding islands.



Prime Attractions | Surat Thani



now become a preferred diving destination for divers from all over the world.



Pha-ngan is mainly mountainous jungle encircled by pristine beaches and azure sea where beautiful coral reefs rest underneath. The most popular beach is Hat Rin, which is justly famous for being one of the world's most beautiful spots to view the full moon. The beach is where the famous "Full-Moon Party" - an event that attracts tourists from all over the world-is held.



southern region. The park captivates tourists with its endless lists of fascinating attractions. To name but a few, "San Yang Roi Ton", one of the country's best nature trails, is an ideal place to explore a wealth of flora and fauna while discovering Tang Nam, a split cliff sculpted by the force of water over thousands of years. Equally interesting are Chiao Lan Lake and Tham Nam Thalu, which is noteworthy for its amazing underground stream. The park is the only place in the country where the famous Wild Lotus (Bua Phut), Thailand's largest flower, can be seen in full bloom from May to December.



with trekking to the top of Wua Talap to witness one of the most stunningly picturesque seascapes in Thailand. Then visit Tham Bua Bok, home to the lotus-shape stalactites, before embarking on a boat trip to explore sparkling clear blue ocean surrounded by over 50 islets. The trip ends with a dive deep down to marvel at beautiful gardens of vividly colorful coral reefs and large rock arches near Ko Sam Sao. Call +66 7728 6025 or +66 7728 0222 to make a reservation for accommodation.



wonderful marine life. Both islands boast of having beaches perfect for swimming, snorkeling, and diving. From a scenic point on Ko Nang Yuan, you can get a panoramic view of three islands connected by sand dunes. Many visitors to the islands are attracted by the low-cost diving courses.



set against a splendid backdrop of reservoir lake and myriad mountain peaks. That is why it is dubbed the "Gulfin of Thailand" among travelers from all over the world. Interesting activities include staying at one of the raft houses located in the midst of tranquil and beautiful surroundings and canoeing in the lake to watch animal life at night.(call +66 7731 0780 ext. 5600)



is the most important ancient Buddhist stupa of the south that houses relics of the Lord Buddha. The nearby National Museum of Chaiya features a remarkable bronze statue of the Lord Buddha in one of his reincarnations as Phra Bodhisat Avalokitesavara. Call +66 7743 1066, +66 7743 1402 or +66 7743 1090 for more information on the museum.

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★	Ko Samui	★★★	M5
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★	Ko Tao & Ko Nang Yuan	★★★	L1
★	Ratchaprapha Dam	★★★	C9
★	Phra That Chaiya	★★★	G6
★	Suan Mokkhhaphalaram	★★★	F6
★	Namtok Tat Fa	★★★	I10
★	Monkey Training Center	★★★	I8
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12.	Tai Rom Yen National Park	★	I10
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14.	Namtok Mueang Thuat	★	I12
15.	Namtok Sam Ha Chet	★	I12
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17.	Wat Thammabucha	★	J15
18.	Wat Phothawat	★	G19
19.	Night Market	★	J14
20.	Ban Phumriang	★	H6
21.	Kuan Suban Housewives Group	★	I10
22.	Tham Khamin (Tham Men)	★	I10



Hat Coral Cove



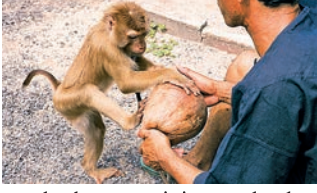
Shopping and Souvenirs		
Location	Address/Tel.	Products
Ban Phumriang	Phumriang Subdistrict, Chaiya District, 7km. from the city center	Gold and silver thread woven fabric
Suan Mokkhhaphalaram	Chaiya District	Chaiya salted eggs
Kuan Suban Housewives' Group	Ban Na San District Agricultural Office	Handicrafts, Rubber-leaf butterflies
O-reeth Oyster	Kanchanadit Intersection	Fresh oysters
Philap Phila Seafood	Chaiya District	Salted Kulao fish, Chaiya salted eggs



life establishing and teaching Buddhism. Located in a beautiful forest, it is a tranquil haven perfect for meditation practice and dharma study. Besides, there's a Spiritual Theatre which is worth visiting. Inside are murals depicting poignant religious riddles which are based on Buddhist teachings. www.suanmok.com



waterfall and it's almost one kilometer in height. Steps leading to each level of the waterfall make the climb easier. Tat Fa is at its best during the rainy season.



are both entertaining and educational at the same time. Appointments should be made in advance at Kanchanadit district. Kra dae jae monkey Training Center Call +66 8 9871 8017.

8. Wat Suan Mokkhhaphalaram: at the foot of Khao Phuthong, Highway 41, Km.134, 8.30 a.m.-6.00 p.m. ....F6

This Buddhist temple is where one of Thailand's most revered monks, Buddhadasa Bhikkhu, spent most of his

9. Namtok Tat Fa: in the area of Tai Rom Yen National Park .....I10

At first glance, this waterfall's remarkable height makes it seem as if it cascades down from the sky, hence the name. It is indeed Surat Thani's tallest

10. Monkey Training Center: In both Kanchanadit and Tha Chang .....I8

This is a one-of-a-kind institution devoted to training wild monkeys how to pick coconuts. Visitors will find out more about training techniques which



Islands Within Reach

Boat Routes	Operators	Time		Fare (Baht)
		To	Back	
<b>Surat Thani - Ko Samui - Surat Thani</b>				
Don Sak - Na Thon	Sea Tran	05.00 a.m. - 07.00 p.m. every hour.	05.00 a.m. - 07.00 p.m. every hour.	400 each, 400 car
Don Sak - Lipa Noi	Raja Ferry	05.00 a.m. - 07.30 p.m. every hour.	05.00 a.m. - 09.30 p.m. every hour.	120 each, 520 car
Don Sak - Na Thon	Song Serm	09.30 a.m., 03.30 p.m.	08.00 a.m., 01.30 p.m.	250 each
Don Sak - Na Thon	Lomprayah	10.00 a.m., 12.30 p.m., 04.00 p.m., 06.00 p.m.	08.00 a.m., 09.45 a.m., 12.45 p.m., 03.30 p.m.	350 each
<b>Surat Thani - Ko Pha-ngan - Ko Samui</b>				
Don Sak - Thong Sala	Raja Ferry	06.00 a.m. - 06.00 p.m. every two hour.	05.00 a.m. - 05.00 p.m. every two hour.	10 each, 760 car
Don Sak - Thong Sala	Song Serm	09.30 a.m., 03.30 p.m.	07.00 a.m., 12.30 p.m.	350 each
Don Sak - Thong Sala	Lomprayah	10.10 a.m., 12.30 p.m., 04.00 p.m., 06.00 p.m.	07.20 a.m., 09.00 a.m., 12.00 p.m., 02.30 p.m.	450 each
Don Sak - Thong Sala	Sea Tran	11.00 a.m., 02.30 p.m.	08.00 a.m., 10.30 a.m.	450 each
<b>Ko Samui - Ko Pha-ngan - Ko Samui</b>				
Na Thon - Thong Sala	Sea Tran	08.00 a.m., 01.00 p.m., 04.30 p.m.	08.00 a.m., 10.30 a.m., 04.30 p.m.	300 each
Na Thon - Thong Sala	Song Serm	09.00 a.m., 11.30 a.m., 05.30 p.m.	07.00 a.m., 12.30 p.m., 05.00 p.m.	200 each
Pha Lan - Thong Sala	Lomprayah	08.00 a.m., 12.30 p.m.	11.00 a.m., 16.20 p.m.	300 each
Na Thon - Thong Sala	Lomprayah	11.15 a.m., 03.30 p.m., 05.30 p.m.,	07.20 a.m., 09.00 a.m., 12.00 p.m., 14.30 p.m.	300 each
Lipa Noi - Thong Sala	Raja Ferry	09.00 a.m., 02.00 p.m., 06.00 p.m.	07.00 a.m., 12.00 p.m., 04.00 p.m.	150 each, 470 car
<b>Ko Samui - Ko Tao - Ko Samui (stop at Ko Pha-ngan)</b>				
Na Thon - Mae Hat	Song Serm	09.00 a.m., 11.30 a.m.	10.00 a.m., 05.00 p.m.	500 each
Bang Rak - Mae Hat	Sea Tran	08.00 a.m., 01.00 p.m., 04.30 p.m.	06.30 a.m., 09.00 a.m., 03.00 p.m.	600 each
Na Thon - Mae Hat	Lomprayah	11.30 a.m., 05.00 p.m.	06.00 a.m.	600, 700 each
Pha Lan - Mae Hat	Lomprayah	08.00 a.m., 12.30 p.m.	09.30 a.m., 03.00 p.m.	600 each
<b>Ko Samui - Muko Angthong - Ko Samui (1 day package tour)</b>				
Na Thon - Wua Talap	High Sea Tour	07.15 a.m.	03.20 p.m.	"1,950 each"
Song Serm Tour, <a href="http://www.songserm.co.th">www.songserm.co.th</a>		Seatranferry (Route Surat Thani to Samui), <a href="http://www.seatranferry.com">www.seatranferry.com</a> ,		
Tel. +66 7737 7704, +66 7745 6274, +66 2629 3415, +66 7737 7096		Tel. +66 7725 1555		
Lomprayah, <a href="http://www.lomprayah.com">www.lomprayah.com</a> , Tel. +66 7737 2144-6, +66 2629 0011		Seatrandiscovery, <a href="http://www.seatrandiscovery.com">www.seatrandiscovery.com</a> , Tel. +66 7725 1555		
Rajaferry, <a href="http://www.rajaferryport.com">www.rajaferryport.com</a> , Tel. +66 7737 2800-2, +66 2277 4488		High Sea Tour, <a href="http://www.highseatour.com">www.highseatour.com</a> , Tel. +66 7742 1285, +66 7742 1290		

Song Serm Tour, www.songserm.co.th  
Tel. +66 7737 7704, +66 7745 6274, +66 2629 3415, +66 7737 7096  
Lomprayah, www.lomprayah.com, Tel. +66 7737 2144-6, +66 2629 0011  
Rajaferry, www.rajaferryport.com, Tel. +66 7737 2800-2, +66 2277 4488

Seatranferry (Route Surat Thani to Samui), www.seatranferry.com,  
Tel. +66 7725 1555  
Seatrandiscovery, www.seatrandiscovery.com, Tel. +66 7725 1555  
High Sea Tour, www.highseatour.com, Tel. +66 7742 1285, +66 7742 1290



Map of Surat Thani



Printed in Thailand by  
Promotional Material Production Division,  
Marketing Services Department,  
Tourism Authority of Thailand for free distribution  
www.tourismthailand.org E/MAY 2019  
The contents of this publication are subject to  
change without notice.



Glossary of Thai Terms

Amphoe	: District
Ao	: Bay
Ban	: Village
Hat	: Beach
Khao	: Mountain
Khlong	: Canal
Ko	: Island
Laem	: Cape
Muko	: Group of Islands
Mueang	: Town or City
Namtok	: Waterfall
Tham	: Cave
Tambon	: Sub-district
Wat	: Temple

Note: The English spellings given here try to approximate Thai pronunciation. Posted signs may be spelled differently.

Important Telephone Number

TAT CALL CENTER (8.00 a.m. - 8.00 p.m.)	1672
TAT Surat Thani	Tel: +66 7728 8817-9
Surat Thani Hospital	Tel. 1669
Thaksin Hospital	+66 7727 2231
Bus Terminal	Tel. +66 7727 8777, +66 7728 5701-5
	Tel. +66 7720 0032
Ko Samui	Tel. +66 7742 0504
IAT Samui	Tel. +66 7743 0016, 1155
Tourist Police	Tel. +66 7791 3200
Ko Samui Hospital	Tel. +66 7730 0395
Samui International Hospital	Tel. +66 7737 7034
Ko Pha-ngan	Tel. +66 7737 7501
Hospital	
Police	
Ban Ta Khun	Tel. +66 7734 7373-4
Hospital	Tel. +66 7739 7013
Police	



Getting Around Ko Samui

By Taxi

There are now quite a few taxis on Ko Samui. Make sure to negotiate the fare prior to heading out to your destination.

By Songthaeo

Red pickup trucks with benches in the back serve as ‘busses’ around the island, traveling fixed routes and allowing passengers to get on and off at will. It’s easy to flag one down; in fact, they actively solicit passengers. Ask the fare prior to climbing aboard. It’s even possible to hire one for the day if you don’t mind riding in the back.

By Motorbike

Motorbikes can be rented in any beach town on Ko Samui. However, renting a motorbike is a risky venture. In addition to the risk of injury, a common occurrence for foreigners on the island, there are occasionally scams involving rental motorbikes. As you must typically leave your passport as a deposit for a motorbike it is best to look for a reputable motorbike dealer even if the price is slightly higher. Be aware that helmets are required by law and wearing closed toes shoes is common sense.

By Bicycles

For getting around the beach where your resort is located a bicycle is an excellent option. Many resorts offer complimentary bicycles, although they can otherwise be hired for no more than a hundred baht a day. Make sure to wear a helmet and ride cautiously, there are many potholes and cars don’t give bicycles the right of way.

By Rental Car

There are both cars and jeeps for rent on Ko Samui. As the winding, single lane roads don’t allow for much speeding. As the island is relatively small, it’s also nearly impossible to get lost!



Hat Chaweng (Ko Samui)



Hat Ban Tai (Ko Pha-ngan)

Index of Ko Samui - Ko Pha-ngan

★ Hat Chaweng	★★★★	U4
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★ Hat Na Thon	★★★★	N4
★ Ko Taen	★★★★	P11
★ Phra Yai	★★★★	U2
★ Hat Bo Phut	★★★★	S2
★ Buffalo Fighting Stadium	★★★★	Q8
★ Samui Off-road Racing Circuit	★★★★	P3
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12. Namtok Lat Wanon	★	P6
13. Namtok Paradise	★★	W14
14. Namtok Phaeng National Park	★★	W16
15. Namtok Than Prawet	★	X14
16. Namtok Wangthong	★	Y14
17. Namtok Than Sadet	★★	Y15
18. Namtok Than Praphat	★★	Y16
19. Lat Ko Viewpoint	★★	X10
20. Wat Chedi Laem So	★★	Q10
21. Wat Phra Phutthabat Khao Le	★★	S9
22. Wat Khao Noi	★	V16
23. Ban Lamai Cultural Hall	★★	T,O16
24. Hat Na Thian	★	T9
25. Hat Hua Thanon	★	T8
26. Hat Choeng Mon	★★	V1
27. Hat Mae Hat	★★	U13
28. Hat Yao	★★	U14
29. Hat Son	★★	U14
30. Hat Thong Sala	★★	V17
31. Hat Rin Nai	★★	Y19
32. Hat Rin Nok	★★	Y19
33. Ao Thian	★★	Z18
34. Ko Fan	★★	U2
35. Ko Mat Lang	★	V3
36. Hat Mat Sum	★★	R11
37. Ko Ma	★	U12
38. Ko Tae Nai	★	U17
39. Ko Tae Nok	★	T17

Prime Attractions | Ko Samui

📍★

**1. Hat Chaweng:** .....U4

This is one of Ko Samui’s most popular beaches, well-known for its vibrant nightlife and spectacular entertainment venues. There are plenty of resort-type accommodation options available in various price ranges. Located nearby is Ko Mat Sum, another must-visit attraction renowned for its colorful reefs.

📍★

**2. Hat Lamai:** .....U7

Second most popular beach of Ko Samui, Hat Lamai is named after its long circular stretch of powdery white beach. A nearby attraction is Hin Ta - Hin Yai, the island’s most astonishing rock formations. The best time to visit Hat Lamai is from December to April.

📍★

**3. Namtok Na Mueang:** .....R7

*14 km. from Na Thon Pier* .....R7

Apart from sea, sand and beaches, there is so much fun to enjoy when exploring on-shore attractions like Na Mueang 1 and Na Mueang 2 waterfalls. While Na Mueang 1 is relatively more popular for its easy road access and a large pool ideal for swimming, Na Mueang 2 is famous for being Samui’s tallest waterfall and it can only be reached by a 30-minute hike.

📍★

**4. Ao Taling Ngam:** .....O8

A tranquil beach and a perfect spot to watch the island’s most beautiful sunset, especially when the sun descends majestically between Ko Si and Ko Ha.

📍★

**5. Hat Na Thon:** .....N4

Recognized as the gateway to Samui, the beach is where all ferries dock. It is also the island’s seafood center known for its diverse dining choices, ranging from stylish restaurants to the cheap seafood stalls located in the island’s only night market.

📍★

**6. Ko Taen:** .....P11

This small tranquil island provides a beautiful nature trail suitable for bird watching and botany. With its crystal clear waters, the island is great for diving. Beneath the surface are amazingly multicolored coral reefs and astonishing seascapes. Ko Taen offers value-for-money accommodation that comes with warm hospitality. There are no cars on the island which can be reached by a 15-minute boat trip from Thong Krut Bay.

📍★

**7. Phra Yai (Phra Buddha Kho Dom):** .....U2

Located on Samui’s north coast is a 12-meter high Buddha image which the temple is named after. This Buddha image is highly revered among locals and is a famous pilgrimage site for Buddhists from all over the country.

📍★

**8. Hat Bo Phut :** .....S2

If you love eating out by the sea. Hat Bo Phut is the place. This former fishing village has been modified as a famous cluster of eateries on Ko Samui. The beachfront road is lined with an array of restaurants, including pubs and bars, mostly with breezy outdoor corners along the beach.

★

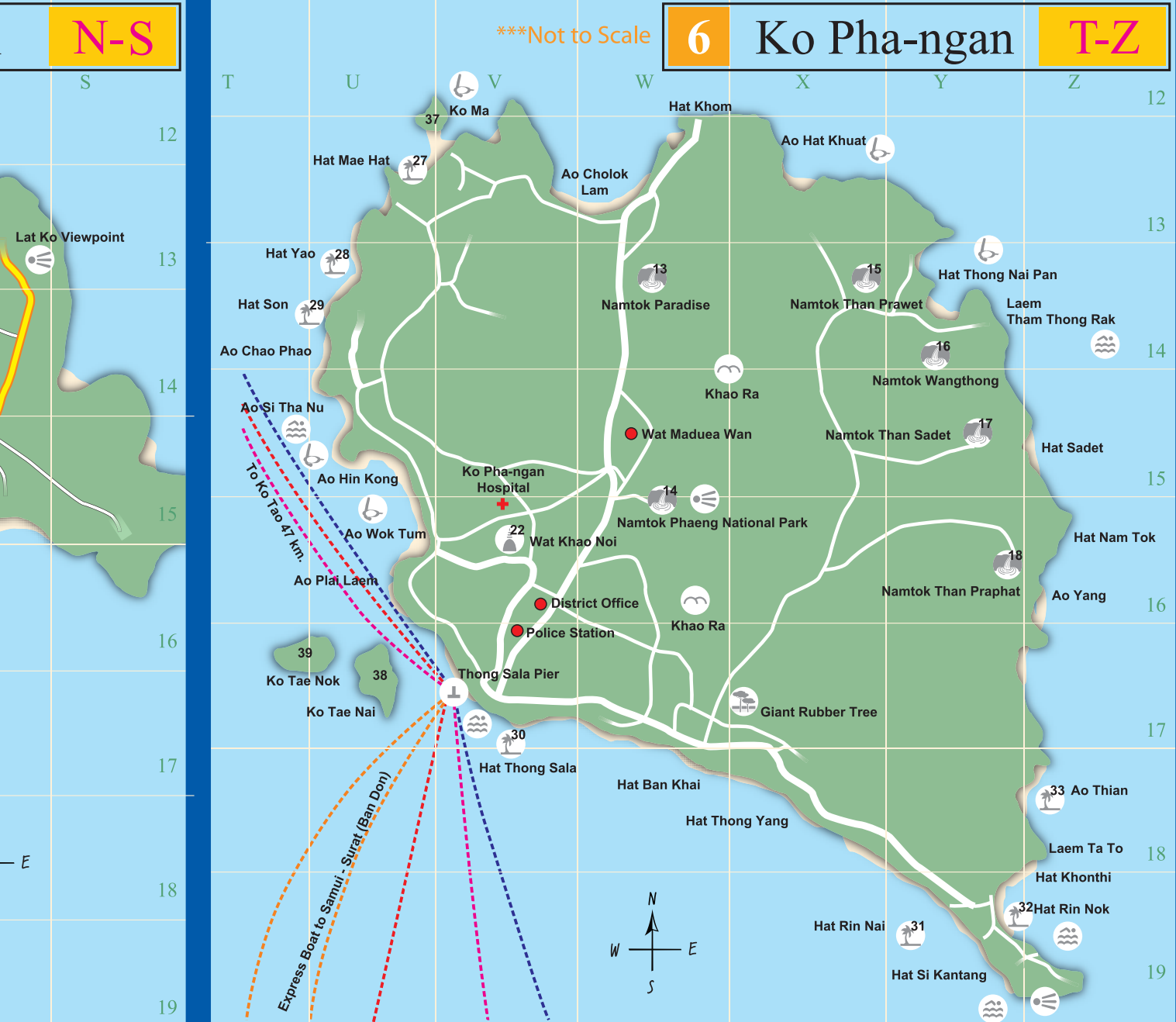
**9. Buffalo Fighting Stadium:** .....Q8

Buffalo fighting is one of the most rarely seen local sports in Thailand. It possesses a unique combination of excitement and danger. The fights are not arranged on routine schedules. They are organized to celebrate such important occasions as the New Year, Chinese New Year, Songkran, the beginning of Buddhist Lent, Samui’s Duan Sipsong (12<sup>th</sup> month) Festival and the Pha Pa offering. Nevertheless, there will be no fights on Buddhist holy days-the 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> days of the waxing or waning moons of each month.

★

**10. Samui Off-road Track:** .....P3

Extensive adventure activities make Samui a dream destination. One of these exciting pursuits is a challenging off-road track located on the island’s high hills. Seen on both sides of the track are coconut, rambutan and durian orchards. The end of the track is where the reward is, the most breathtaking vista of the ocean.



Interesting Activities

Activities	Service Providers	Telephone Numbers
Diving	Ban’s Diving	+66 7745 6466
Kayaking	Blue Star	+66 7730 0615
Sailing	Saard’s Water Sport Center	+66 8 1979 2713
Go-Kart	Samui Go-Kart	+66 7742 5097
Day Tour	Highway Travel Booking (1989)	+66 7742 1290
Car Rentals	Budget AVIS Hertz	+66 7743 0022 +66 8 9969 8675 +66 2266 4666

Symbols

4 Primary Highway	Map Key	Admission Fee
415 Regional Highway	Hill (Khao)	Market
4035 Provincial Highway	Cave	Temple (Wat)
4035 Local Road	Beach	Tourist village
4034 Route Numbers	Swimming	Dam
4034 Railway Line	Waterfall	National Park
4034 River Canal	Bus	Shopping
km. 137	Samui Off-road Racing Circuit	Museum
Provincial Boundary	Monkey Training Center	Viewpoint
Tambon/Village	Post Office	Pier/Port
Amphoe/District	Cruising	Scuba Diving
Map of Hat Chaweng	Speed boat	Snorkelling
Map of City	Express Boat /Air con-Boa	
Map of Ko Samui	Ferry	
Map of Hat Lamai		
Map of Pha-ngan		
Top Attractions		
Must see		
Worth a visit		
Interesting		
Bank / Exchange		

Transportation

By Car

Surat Thani can be most conveniently reached by car from Bangkok by taking Highway No. 4 through Phetchaburi and Prachuap Khiri Khan Provinces to Chumphon Province and then taking Highway No. 41 and Highway No. 401 directly to Surat Thani City.

By Bus

As many of the ferries connecting mainland Surat Thani with Ko Samui are car ferries it is possible to rent a car and drive to Ko Samui. From Bangkok to Surat Thani the trip takes from 8 to 10 hours; from Phuket or Hat Yai the journey is 5 and 6 hours respectively. Once in Surat Thani, the ferry piers are another hour from the town.

By Train

Air-conditioned busses depart from Bangkok's Southern Bus Terminal to Surat Thani Province everyday. For more information, Tel: 1490, +66 2422 4444, +66 2872 1777 or visit www.transport.co.th

From Surat Thani there are three bus stations from which busses depart: Talat Kaset 1 - bus service for travel within Surat Thani province; Talat Kaset 2 - busses and minivans for destinations farther away, including Krabi, Phuket, and Hat Yai; and the New Station is for air-conditioned buses to Bangkok.

By Air

Thai Airways and Thai AirAsia operate daily flights connecting Bangkok and Surat Thani. The flight time is approximately 70 minutes. Many consider the budget flight on AirAsia to Surat Thani a money saving alternative to more expensive flights directly to Ko Samui. Visitors should be aware that transferring from Surat Thani Airport to the pier and riding the boat to Ko Samui can take a full day.

Bangkok Airways offers direct air services between Ko Samui (USM) and Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Krabi, Pattaya (U-Tapao), Phuket, Hong Kong, and Singapore. Flying time between Ko Samui and Bangkok is less than an hour; flights between Ko Samui and Phuket or Pattaya are less than 45 minutes.

Thai Airways offers limited domestic service to and from Ko Samui; Berjaya Air connects Ko Samui and Kuala Lumpur; and Firefly provides service from Penang and Kuala Lumpur to Ko Samui.

For individuals from qualifying nations, there is Visa-On-Arrival service available at Samui Airport.



Monkey Training Center