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WINDOW

ON PHUKET

ISSUE 163 October-November 2026

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M2 Plus



POSE Hair Atelier



Exotic Fishing Thailand



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IMAGE asia

WINDOW on Phuket is by Image Asia Events Co., Ltd. 99/7 Moo 1 T. Kathu A. Kathu, Phuket 83120 Thailand



What's your favourite beach?

Phuket's fame and fortune is founded primarily from its stunning beaches – and they are still the fundamental reason most, if not all, holidaymakers hit this tropical island year after year. But how many are there? Where are they? Which is the most beautiful? Why? On this page, and on Page 5, you'll find most of Phuket's beaches. **The number in the blue circle corresponds to the same number on the Page 5 map**, making it easy to plan your beach itinerary. We recommend renting a car – and driving carefully!

Sarasin Bridge



Haad Pak Phra Beach



Sai Kaew Beach



Mai Khao Beach



Nai Yang Beach



Naithon Beach



Banana Beach



Layan Beach



Bang Tao Beach



Surin Beach



Laem Singh Beach



Kamala Beach



Hua Beach



Kalim Beach



Patong Beach



Tri Trang Beach



Paradise Beach



Freedom Beach



Karon Nui



Karon Beach



Kata Beach





Ao Por Bay



Saphan Hin Park



Yon Bay / Panwa



Chalong Bay



Leam Ka Cape



Phromthep Cape



Rawai Beach



Ya Nui Beach



Kata Noi Beach



Nai Harn Beach





Phuket Tide Tables

Ko Ta Phao Noi (Phuket): Predicted heights of water in metres above lowest low water.

OCTOBER	MIDNIGHT												NOON												NIGHT				
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23					
1	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.6	2.1	1.5	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.5	2.0	2.5	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.5	2.1	1.6	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.6	2.0	2.5					
2	2.9	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.4	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.0	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.8	2.2					
3	2.5	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.3	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.0					
SUNDAY 4	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9					
5	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.0					
6	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.3	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.7	2.0	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.2					
7	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.5	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.3	1.8	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.7	2.1	2.6	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.5					
8	2.1	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.7	2.2	2.7	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.7	2.2	1.6	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.3	1.9	2.4	2.9	3.1	3.1	2.9					
9	2.4	1.9	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.8	2.4	2.9	3.2	3.2	3.0	2.5	1.9	1.3	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.5	2.1	2.7	3.2	3.3	3.2					
10	2.8	2.2	1.6	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.4	2.0	2.6	3.1	3.3	3.2	2.8	2.2	1.6	1.1	0.8	0.8	1.2	1.8	2.5	3.0	3.4	3.4					
SUNDAY 11	3.1	2.5	1.9	1.3	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.6	2.2	2.8	3.2	3.2	3.0	2.5	1.9	1.3	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.5	2.2	2.8	3.3	3.4					
12	3.2	2.8	2.2	1.5	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.3	1.9	2.5	3.0	3.2	3.1	2.7	2.2	1.6	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.3	1.9	2.6	3.1	3.4					
13	3.3	3.0	2.5	1.8	1.3	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.6	2.2	2.7	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.4	1.9	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.7	2.3	2.8	3.2					
14	3.3	3.1	2.7	2.1	1.5	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.5	2.0	2.4	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.5	2.1	1.6	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.6	2.1	2.6	3.0					
15	3.2	3.1	2.8	2.4	1.8	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.8	2.2	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.2	1.8	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.9	2.4	2.7					
16	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.5	2.1	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.7	2.0	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.8	2.2	2.5					
17	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.3	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.3					
SUNDAY 18	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1					
19	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.1					
20	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.1					
21	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.2					
22	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.1	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.7	2.0	2.3	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.4					
23	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.6	2.0	2.3	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.3	1.9	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.7	2.2	2.6	2.9	3.1	3.0	2.7					
24	2.2	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.6	2.1	2.5	2.9	3.1	3.0	2.6	2.2	1.7	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.9	2.5	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.0					
SUNDAY 25	2.6	2.0	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.7	2.3	2.8	3.1	3.2	2.9	2.5	2.0	1.4	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.5	2.2	2.8	3.2	3.4	3.3					
26	2.9	2.3	1.7	1.1	0.8	0.9	1.3	1.9	2.5	3.0	3.2	3.2	2.8	2.3	1.7	1.1	0.8	0.8	1.2	1.8	2.5	3.1	3.5	3.5					
27	3.2	2.7	2.1	1.4	0.9	0.7	1.0	1.4	2.1	2.7	3.1	3.2	3.1	2.6	2.1	1.5	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.4	2.1	2.7	3.3	3.5					
28	3.5	3.1	2.5	1.8	1.2	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.6	2.3	2.8	3.1	3.1	2.9	2.4	1.9	1.3	1.0	0.9	1.2	1.7	2.3	2.9	3.4					
29	3.5	3.3	2.8	2.2	1.6	1.1	0.8	0.9	1.3	1.9	2.4	2.8	3.0	3.0	2.7	2.2	1.7	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.9	2.5	3.0					
30	3.3	3.3	3.1	2.6	2.0	1.5	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.6	2.0	2.4	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.1	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.7	2.2	2.6					
31	3.0	3.1	3.1	2.8	2.4	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.7	2.1	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.9	2.3					

NOVEMBER	MIDNIGHT												NOON												NIGHT		
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
SUNDAY 1	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.6	2.3	2.0	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.8	2.0			
2	2.2	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.1	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9			
3	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.2	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.1	1.9			
4	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.3	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.4	2.1			
5	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.3	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.4	2.0	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.6	2.0	2.4	2.8	3.0	3.0	2.7	2.4			
6	1.9	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.9	2.3	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.3	1.9	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.7	2.2	2.7	3.0	3.2	3.0	2.7			
7	2.2	1.7	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.5	2.0	2.5	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.6	2.2	1.7	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.9	2.5	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.0			
SUNDAY 8	2.5	2.0	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.6	2.2	2.6	2.9	3.0	2.8	2.4	2.0	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.7	2.2	2.8	3.2	3.3	3.2			
9	2.8	2.3	1.7	1.2	0.9	1.0	1.3	1.8	2.4	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.6	2.2	1.7	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.9	2.5	3.0	3.3	3.3			
10	3.0	2.6	2.0	1.4	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.6	2.1	2.6	2.9	3.0	2.8	2.4	2.0	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.7	2.2	2.8	3.2	3.3			
11	3.2	2.8	2.2	1.7	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.8	2.3	2.7	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.2	1.7	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.2			
12	3.2	3.0	2.5	1.9	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.6	2.1	2.5	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.4	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.8	2.3	2.7	3.1			
13	3.2	3.1	2.7	2.2	1.7	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.9	2.3	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.6	2.0	2.5	2.8			
14	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.5	2.0	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.7	2.1	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.9	2.3	2.6			
SUNDAY 15	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.6	2.2	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.1	2.4			
16	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.4	2.1	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.2			
17	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.1	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0			
18	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9			
19	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.1	2.0			
20	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.7	2.0	2.3	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.4	2.1			
21	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.0	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.7	2.1	2.5	2.8	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.4			
SUNDAY 22	2.0	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.8	2.3	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.3	1.8	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.7	2.3	2.7	3.1	3.2	3.1	2.8			
23	2.3	1.7	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.9	2.4	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.6	2.2	1.7	1.2	1.0	1.4	1.9	2.5	3.0	3.3	3.4	3.1			
24	2.7	2.1	1.5	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.4	2.0	2.5	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.5	2.1	1.5	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.4	2.0	2.7	3.2	3.5	3.4			
25	3.1	2.5	1.9	1.2	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.5	2.1	2.7	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.4	1.9	1.4	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.6	2.2	2.9	3.3	3.5			
26	3.4	2.9	2.3	1.6	1.1	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.7	2.3	2.7	3.0	3.0	2.7	2.3	1.8	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.8	2.4	3.0	3.4			
27	3.5	3.3	2.8	2.1	1.5	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.3	1.8	2.4	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.6	2.2	1.7	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.1			
28	3.3	3.4	3.1	2.6	2.0	1.4	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.9	2.4	2.7	2.9	2.8	2.5	2.1	1.7	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.6	2.1	2.6			
SUNDAY 29	3.0	3.2	3.2	2.9	2.4	1.9	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.6	2.0	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.1	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.8	2.2			
30	2.6	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.7	2.3	1.8	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.7	2.0	2.3	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.1	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.1			

ADVERTORIAL

PHUKET'S NEW NAME IN HAIR—CONFIDENT, PRIVATE AND CREATED TO BE SEEN



Envisioned by Thai hair and fashion icon Patrick Chantham, whose career spans nearly three decades, POSE Hair Atelier quickly became one of Phuket's best-rated hair salons. Confident, contemporary and unmistakably its own, POSE was created for clients who expect exceptional hair – and know exactly where to find it.

Located at The Shoppes at Aqua in Cherg Talay, close to Boat Avenue, Bang Tao Beach and Laguna Phuket, POSE has become an insider destination for residents and international visitors seeking accomplished hair with a more fashion-led attitude.

Colour takes centre stage. Dimensional brunettes, seamless balayage, luminous blonde, highlights and complete colour transformations sit alongside precision haircuts, statement layers, perms, smoothing services and restorative treatments. Every result is supported by premium professional products and exacting technical standards.

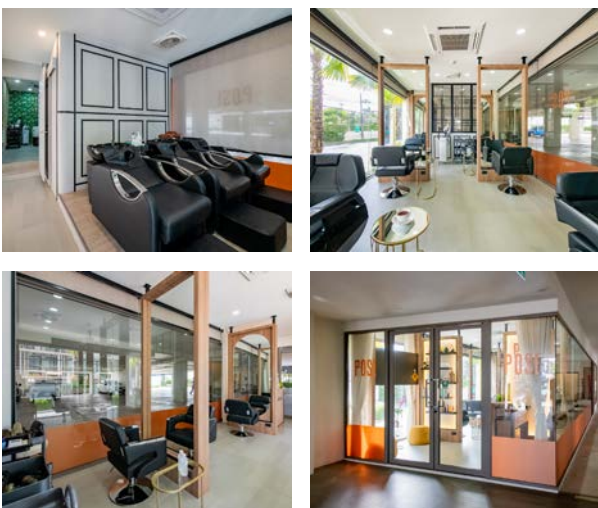
The exclusive VIP Room sets POSE apart. Completely private and discreet, it gives clients their own salon space for personal appointments, major transformations, special occasions – or simply because they prefer privacy without compromise.

POSE is polished without being predictable. Exclusive without needing to announce it. Its reputation has been built through outstanding results, personal recommendations and clients who return because they have discovered something different.

This is not simply another hair salon in Phuket. This is POSE.

See. And Be Seen.

For Those in the Know.



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PREHISTORIC RIVER MONSTERS OF PHUKET



Come face to face with two extraordinary survivors from another age – and discover where you can actually catch them.

Long before humans walked the earth, strange and formidable fish were already patrolling its rivers and lakes. While many creatures from the prehistoric world disappeared millions of years ago, a handful of remarkable fish survived, retaining appearances that would not look out of place swimming alongside dinosaurs.

Two of the most spectacular are the Arapaima and Alligator Gar – and incredibly, both can be found and caught just a short journey from Phuket.

Native to the Amazon basin of South America, the Arapaima is one of the world's largest freshwater fish. With its huge scales, powerful body and distinctive red markings, a fully grown specimen is an unforgettable sight. Arapaima are also air breathers and regularly rise to the surface to gulp atmospheric oxygen. Growing to well over 200lb, they possess extraordinary power and can explode from the water when hooked, making them one of the most exciting freshwater sport fish on the planet.





The Alligator Gar looks even more prehistoric. Native to North America, its ancestors have existed for more than 100 million years. Its long, broad snout is filled with rows of sharp teeth, while its body is protected by incredibly hard, armour-like scales. Looking at a large Alligator Gar, it is easy to understand why the species has changed relatively little over the ages.

Visitors to Phuket have the rare opportunity to encounter both of these incredible species at the fishing lake resort Exotic Fishing Thailand, located amongst the spectacular limestone mountains of neighbouring Phang Nga.

The resort's Main Lake is the centrepiece of the fishing experience. Covering approximately ten acres, it contains more than 50 exotic species from around the world and over 300 specimen fish exceeding 100lb. More than 100 fish exceed 200lb, with the largest specimens approaching an extraordinary 400lb. Alongside Arapaima and Alligator Gar, anglers can encounter Giant Siamese Carp, Mekong Catfish, Chao Phraya Catfish, Amazon Redtail Catfish and numerous other unusual species.

For visitors who have limited time available, there is another option.

The purpose-built Arapaima Day Ticket Lake was created specifically to provide anglers with an excellent opportunity to catch one of these prehistoric giants during a single day's fishing. It holds a large population of Arapaima ranging from around 90lb to more than 250lb, together with Alligator Gar, Amazon Redtail Catfish and several other predatory species.

With only three fishing areas and a maximum of eight rods permitted each day, fishing pressure is deliberately limited giving an estimated catch rate of 70%.

You don't need to be an experienced angler either. Tackle, bait and experienced fishing guides are available, making the experience accessible to beginners, families, couples and serious anglers alike.

So, while Phuket is famous for beaches, islands and nightlife, one of the region's most unusual adventures lies just beyond the island – the opportunity to come face to face with a genuine prehistoric river monster.

Discover more and book your fishing experience at www.exoticfishingthailand.com or email exoticfishingthailand@gmail.com for a quote.



EXOTIC FISHING THAILAND

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At Open Kitchen, guests are invited to discover the freshest flavours through a relaxed farm-to-fork dining experience surrounded by lush gardens and the tranquil Lotus Lagoon. Showcasing locally sourced and seasonal ingredients, the menu highlights signature creations such as *Citrus Avocado Salad*, *Baked Andaman King Prawns*, *Baked Miso Golden Snapper* and *Pasta Arrabbiata Phuket Lobster*, thoughtfully prepared in Open Kitchen's distinctive style.

Start the day with a wholesome breakfast featuring a variety of healthy food and beverage options, complemented by a complimentary Morning Yoga Class. Guests joining yoga also enjoy 25% savings on dining, creating the perfect balance of wellness and flavour.

As evening arrives, head to Vista for the popular *Surf & Turf Night*, featuring fresh seafood and premium grilled meats in a relaxed tropical setting. Available every Monday and Friday for THB 659 net per person, with children under 12 dining at half price.

Gather family and friends for Cassia's Signature Mookata Buffet, Thailand's beloved barbecue dining experience. Grill seafood, meats and vegetables right at your table while enjoying a lively social atmosphere. Available every Wednesday and Saturday from THB 459 net per person, with children under 12 paying half price and free-flow beverage options available.

From energising mornings to flavour-packed evenings, Cassia Phuket offers memorable dining experiences inspired by fresh local ingredients and warm island hospitality.

CASSIA PHUKET

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For a quarter of a century the Rotary Club of Patong Beach, the only English-speaking Rotary Club in Phuket, has been turning compassion into action and lasting change.

The club's diverse membership, 18 nationalities working together comprising of local entrepreneurs, expatriates, civic leaders, and retirees, has focused on challenges unique to the Phuket community.

We have transformed local lives through major projects.

Lenses for Learning, providing critical screening and free prescription glasses to local children;

Saving Lives at Sea, donating a dedicated rescue boat to Patong;

Save a Child Swim program, teaching children basic survival skills in the water;

and *Safe Roads*, safer U-turns on the busy main artery in Phuket, are only a few of the recent projects we participated in.

If you are interested in seeing how your professional skills can change lives, hear about our projects, meet our change-makers, and would like to find out more about Rotary, come to one of our orientation sessions or join us at one of our meetings, usually featuring a speaker, or at one of our socials across the island.



Patong Beach
Rotary
Club



ROTARY CLUB

📍 Four Points by Sheraton Phuket Patong Beach Resort, 198/8-9 Thaweewong Road, Patong, Phuket, 83150, Thailand

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AFL THAILAND



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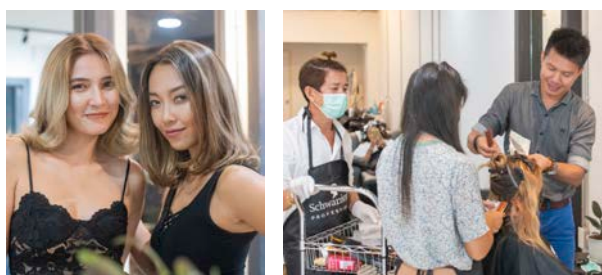
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THAILAND'S HAIR ICON. PHUKET'S DEFINING NAME IN EXPERT HAIR.

Patrick Chantham is one of Thailand's leading hair artists and an icon of the country's modern hair industry. Across nearly three decades, he has built a reputation for precision, discipline and an unmistakable ability to create hair that feels both current and timeless.

His namesake, Patrick Chantham Hair Lab, has become one of Phuket's most established luxury hair salons. Located at Boat Avenue in Chermg Talay, close to Laguna Phuket and Bang Tao Beach, it attracts residents, international visitors and loyal clients who return to Phuket specifically for Patrick and his team.



Precision haircuts, dimensional colour, balayage, blonde, perms, smoothing and restorative treatments are delivered with exacting standards and an uncompromising focus on the condition and finish of the hair. Signature Stylists and Creative Directors are trained to uphold the techniques, service and attention to detail that have defined Patrick's career.

Now, the Patrick Chantham name is entering its next era.

A new Patrick Chantham Hair Lab will open at POP Phuket, Central Group's new lifestyle community mall in Bang Tao, in December 2026. A further location at The Petit Tycoon near Surin Beach will follow in 2027. Additional locations are already under development as the Thai-founded brand prepares for its next stage of growth.

This is more than salon expansion. It is the evolution of a Thai hair legacy – and a name defining exceptional hair in Phuket, with influence far beyond the island.

Iconic Hair. Refined by Experience.



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HAIR LAB

PATRICK CHANTHAM HAIR LAB

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SMARTER ENERGY SOLUTION WELCOMES ENGAS TO THAILAND

Since it started in 2018, Smarter Energy Solution (SES) has been driven by a clear purpose: to deliver renewable energy solutions that go beyond solar alone, offering technologies that create real, lasting benefit for both our clients and the environment.

Gay and Sam have always been committed to seeking out new products capable of maximizing the benefit for their clients and for our environment. After extensive research and rigorous testing, a solution stood out clearly: one that delivers far greater value to our clients than its cost. We are proud to announce that SES has signed on as ENGAS' official distributor in Thailand.

What convinced you and Khun Gay to bring ENGAS to Thailand?

"Air conditioning represents up to 80% of the electrical consumption for many of our clients, and when I discovered that this entirely natural hydrocarbon refrigerant was reducing electrical consumption by 25 to 55%, Gay and I knew this was the right complement to our solar business. We introduced this product during PHIST 2026 last September and the feedback was extraordinary. There is no more time to waste!"

Is ENGAS a better solution for the environment?

"ENGAS is a hydrocarbon, with a real Global Warming Potential (GWP) of less than 1 over 20 years, compared to 2,530 for the R32 currently widely used. Not only does it perform a lot better, but it's also 100% natural."

What is the price of this gas? Is it worth the investment?

"It's important to note that Thailand joined the Montreal Protocol with a commitment to a net-zero carbon footprint by 2050 – this is tomorrow. So price should not be the issue. We are therefore proposing no CapEx investment for our clients, with a sharing mechanism on the savings achieved... but for hotels that are ready to invest, the ROI is reached between 20 and 36 months, depending on the existing system."

Have you tested the product? Does it really work?

"We are way past the testing period. This product has been used for over 15 years in Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Indonesia. We did the swap in our own office and achieved a staggering 42% savings on our VRV system. So yes – this product performs extremely well."



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Discover the tile solution that's a cut above the rest

Are you a **home owner** searching for tiles that are 'different' – with a touch of class? You're yet to be inspired by anything you've seen? Then a visit to our professional, friendly team at **tile-it** will be the answer.

Our unconfused showroom displays take the 'bazaar' out of tile selection, while our knowledgeable showroom team are happy to listen to your needs and to offer real solutions – based on a stunning range of imported Italian tiles, as well as our own range of porcelain floor tiles, made to European standards, from China to cater for tighter budgets.

Or are you a **developer** looking for a reliable, service-oriented and knowledgeable supplier of top quality imported porcelain tiles who won't let you down and will always go that 'extra mile'.

Service is key at **tile-it**, both the tendering of expert pre-sales advice and an impressive after-sales service,

which includes consultancy, the supply of a wide range of accessories and machinery for installation and finishing, as well as care and maintenance products.

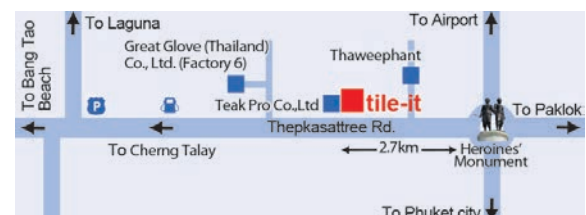
Visit our website www.tile-asia.com for more information on our tiles, accessories and service. Scan the QR code below for quick access. Or drop by and visit us.

Our Phuket showroom is located on the main road at Manik, not more than five minutes from the Two Heroines Monument

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PUNYISA HOME OPENS ITS DOORS



On the 28th of August, the doors of Punyisa Home officially opened, and we celebrated in the best way we know how – by filling the building with friends, family, colleagues and clients.

Around 200 guests joined us for an evening of food, wine, cocktails, music and dance, filling all three floors with an extraordinary mixture of people from across Phuket and beyond – different nationalities, cultures, professions and backgrounds all coming together under one roof.

For us, that was perhaps the most memorable part of the evening. Phuket has always been a meeting place for people and ideas from around the world, and seeing such a diverse group enjoying the space together reflected much of what Punyisa itself stands for.





The evening was also an opportunity to support a cause very close to home. Throughout the party we held a charity raffle together with a special auction of three artworks donated by Mary, with proceeds supporting *Baan Phueng Wat Phuket*, which provides shelter and support for patients and their families who travel to Vachira Phuket Hospital for medical treatment.

We are enormously grateful to everyone who participated, bought raffle tickets, bid on the artworks and helped us support such a worthwhile Phuket charity. And, of course, a very big *thank you to everyone who came to celebrate with us*. Your friendship and support made the evening what it was.



The party celebrated the opening of our new three-storey building adjoining our original office, created by Mary together with her two brothers Wichai and Pichet. Punyisa Home, however, was never intended to be simply another furniture showroom.

In the days leading up to the opening, the building gradually began to come alive. We opened boxes and unwrapped pieces from Mary's collection gathered over many years – carpets from Central Asia, ceramics from Africa, artwork and prints from around the world, antiques and one-off finds – mixing them with furniture and pieces made in our own factory. We wanted the opening night to show a little bit of everything and somehow find a place for as much of it as we could.

The final hours were, as these things often are, slightly frantic. Carpets were still being unrolled, artwork positioned, furniture moved and lights hung almost until the first guests arrived. Mary herself was still painting and finishing pieces only hours before the event. Eventually, after all the planning, building, collecting and last-minute activity, there came a point when we simply had to stop, open the doors and let the party begin.

And suddenly the building changed completely. What had been a hive of activity only hours earlier was filled with nearly 200 people, music, conversation, food, wine and cocktails. Everything we had spent those final days unpacking, moving and arranging became the backdrop to exactly what the evening was meant to be – a celebration of Punyisa Home finally opening its doors.

The opening represents another milestone in the Punyisa journey, but we hope the space will become something much broader – a design resource to be shared with Phuket's homeowners, designers, architects and wider creative community.

Punyisa Home is open. Thank you for celebrating with us – and if you haven't visited yet, please come and see us.



M2 PLUS

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FOUR DECADES DEFINING ONE OF THAILAND'S LEADING REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS



Sansiri: Four decades of redefining living, from Thai heritage to global luxury, and the rise of Sansiri Phuket

- Active in Phuket since 2011, with 20 projects across the island today.
- Over four decades of experience, including more than 30 years listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand.
- One of Thailand's leading real estate developers, with a portfolio of more than 500 projects across all segments.



Many of Phuket's younger residents first encountered Sansiri only recently, when The Society opened in Bang Tao and construction began on Canvas and RHEA by Sansiri, two new condominiums by the developer.

A newcomer to the Phuket market? Hardly.

A more accurate description would be that one of Thailand's most established property developers has now joined the transformation of Bang Tao – much as it once helped shape modern Bangkok and redefine what lasting value means in real estate.

In its early years, however, the company focused largely on condominium developments, playing a key role in introducing modern urban living to Thailand. Today, Sansiri



has grown into one of the country's leading real estate developers, spanning all segments and continuously setting high standards for the industry, with a portfolio of more than 500 projects.

"The company's early developments became symbols of premium residential living in Thailand's emerging luxury market. Guided by the philosophy 'Every day... Life is Good', Sansiri is devoted to delivering refined living experiences," Sansiri reflects today.

The developer brought this concept to Phuket in the early 2010s with the launch of the first projects in the Dcondo series. Initially aimed at young Thai buyers, these condos quickly found a following among expats as well, combining Western standards with a resort lifestyle – precisely the combination that continues to draw international crowds to Phuket.

Chronologically, however, Sansiri's earliest projects on the island were not condominiums at all. Instead, they were residential communities developed around British International School Phuket. That residential cluster continues to expand today, offering family-oriented neighbourhoods

where balance, dignity and long-term value take precedence over fleeting trends.

A restrained sense of style has always been part of Sansiri's identity. Nowhere is this more evident than in the projects gathered under the developer's Luxury Collection.

"Sansiri believes that true luxury transcends trends," the company explains. "This philosophy resonates strongly with high-net-worth individuals seeking assets that preserve both lifestyle quality and investment value."

Within Sansiri's architectural DNA, two distinct lines can be traced. One runs through the company's condo developments, the other through its residential estates. Together they form coherent aesthetic narratives that define the developer's portfolio. As Phuket's best-in-class, full-service developer, Sansiri is recognised for its design approach that delivers quality homes with reliable after-sales care, while maintaining a strong track record of on-time completion to create enduring value.

Today, Sansiri operates across every segment of Thailand's residential market – from accessible entry-level homes to high luxury. Yet across all price points, the same design philosophy remains unmistakable.

"As the company moves into its next chapter, Sansiri remains dedicated to redefining living – creating not just homes, but enduring legacies for generations to come," Sansiri says.



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Phuket SMART BUS



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** Around 1 hr. from The Phuket Airport to Patong Beach ***

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WHERE IS THE BUS STOP AT THE AIRPORT ?

The bus stop at the airport is located at the Domestic Terminal. After exiting through Gate No.3, turn left, and you will find the bus on your right-hand side. Buses depart from the airport starting at 8:15 am, with the last bus leaving at 11:30 pm daily.

WHERE ARE THE BUS STOPS?

From airport to Rawai, buses departing from Phuket Domestic Airport's arrival terminal then stop at :

- Thalang Public Health Office
- Baan Khian (in front of the private car inspection center – TRO)
- Cherngtalay Wittayakhom School
- Tesco Lotus Cherngtalay (in front of Thung Kha Shop)
- Surin Beach
- Kubur Kamala
- Phuket Fantasea (Carnival Magic)
- Big C Kamala
- PEA Patong (in front of the Patong Provincial Electricity Authority Office)
- Karon Circle
- Karon Stadium
- Kata Night Plaza
- Kata Palm Hotel
- Sai Yuan (opposite the Icon Hotel)
- Phromthep Cape
- Rawai Beach (in front of Nonthasak Marine)

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(Route 2) Bus Terminal 1 - Kathu - Patong.*



The local bus route from Phuket Bus Terminal 1 To Patong beach offers a fare of only 50 THB.

WHERE IS THE BUS STOP AT THE PHUKET BUS TERMINAL 1 ?

The bus stop at the Phuket Bus Terminal 1 is platform 11 will have a blue sign that reads "Phuket Bus Terminal 1 to Patong Beach," and a station master will be there to provide information.

WHERE ARE THE BUS STOPS?

From Phuket Bus Terminal 1 to Patong Beach, buses departing from Phuket Bus Terminal 1 then stop at :

- Sanamchai
- SateePhuket School
- Phuketwittayalai School
- Vachira Phuket Hospital
- Bangkok Hospital Phuket
- Chillva Market
- Tesco Lotus Samkong Phuket
- Andamanda Phuket Waterpark
- Kathu Fresh Market
- PPT Kathu
- Si Ko
- Kathu Police Station
- Makro Nanai
- Malin Plaza
- Patong Beach (in front of Pearl Hotel)

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO HOP ON THE BUS ?

- Only 50 THB/ 1 trip
- 1 - Day Pass (THB 159)
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- 3 - Day Pass (THB 299)
Travel within 72 hours.
- 7 - Day Pass (THB 499)
Travel within 168 hours.
- 10 - Day Pass (THB 699)
Travel within 240 hours.
- 30 - Day Pass (THB 1,590)
Travel within 30 Days.
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(Route 2) Bus Terminal 1 - Kathu - Patong.*

HOW CAN I BUY A TICKET ?

Buy a ticket on the bus

- Cash
- Transfer by QR Code

The local bus route around Phuket Old Town is offered for FREE.

The Dragon Line public electric bus project is a collaboration between Phuket City Development Co., Ltd. and the Sustainable Tourism Development Foundation. The Phuket Smart Bus EV operates along the Old Town Phuket route, providing free service to both residents and tourists. This initiative aims to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution, contributing to the development of an eco-friendly city that enhances both livability and tourism.

The service has been operating since May 9, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM, with 16 designated stops strategically located throughout Phuket Old Town, covering key landmarks and attractions.



More Information
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To further strengthen litigation and enforcement capability, Singha Legal has established a dedicated Investigation, Intelligence & Asset Recovery practice. This team supports evidence gathering, fact verification, case strategy, asset tracing, judgment enforcement and recovery proceedings.



In 2025, Singha Legal entered into a Joint Venture collaboration with KSCGP Juris LLP, Singapore, an established firm founded in 1993 with particular experience in international law, cross-border transactions, international arbitration, maritime law and shipping. The collaboration enables coordinated Thailand-Singapore and wider cross-border legal support, including matters involving common-law jurisdictions. For qualifying transactions, Singapore-based escrow arrangements may also be facilitated, subject to applicable laws and engagement requirements.

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FIGHT OR FLIGHT IN OUR LIVES AND IN PHUKET

Overcoming adversity is what we humans are built for and have adapted for. However, our edges have softened from hunter-gatherers into social media keyboard warriors – sometimes wearing lycra and counting steps and levels as opposed to the number of mammoths killed in a particular day. We need to be tough to live in Phuket, but really relatively speaking – not *‘that’* tough.

Living in Phuket and doing business in Thailand offers a fair share of adversity and challenges. It is perhaps easy with the onslaught of algorithmic news to become lost in a sea of negativity and unhelpful comments about the facts that apply to every country on this planet – there are some problems, some deep-seated and some superficial. This requires us to adapt into ‘Fight’ or ‘survival’ mode, something I have had a lot of fun learning about in my old man’s visit to Muay Thai training to reinvigorate my fitness and stretch my inevitably disintegrating muscles.

The ‘survivors’ in Phuket are not just Thai Phuketians, Thai residents from other Provinces, old expatriates and the like. The ‘survivors’ include new arrivals who are quick to adapt and overcome the challenges in Phuket and Thailand.

Looking around Phuket these days results in a much more diverse demographic than 20 to 30 years ago. The island is no longer divided into foreigners drinking dens and enclaves and elite Thais and working Thais. There is a startling mix of Thais from other provinces working in all sorts of jobs and activities. The Thai elites have diversified what they invest in and develop to suit the demographic changes and to capitalise on unutilised assets.

Thai workers vary from those stuck in a system where debt and practical burdens are heavy, often with health impacted from sugary treats designed to distract the masses or – if you look at it another way – designed to feed the demands of the masses. Social media and doomscrolling on and off the work clock is also at an all time high with so many being brainwashed to think there is always a better job, a better husband/wife/partner, a better house, better car – out there at our fingertips – if we just start selling ourselves for likes and validation.

On the plus side, there is now a massive investment and uptick in wellness – also for the ‘masses’ in the form of accessible and affordable gyms and other facilities, and at the high end the exclusive recovery centres and membership

oriented sports. Muay Thai and other serious action sports are not just reserved for the 20-somethings in Soi Ta-Ed; crusty seniors are now also able to improve themselves and recapture a bit of the feeling of youthfulness to help push through their days and lives.

Amidst all of this, we have 'Nominee Crackdowns', increased scrutiny of tax arrangements, better (or worse?) compliance on hotel licensing and villa rental arrangements, more stringent application of rules for 'visa runs' (renewals on land, by air and sea) and a political backlash reacting in part to viral social media clips depicting insults to Thailand from foreign guests. We have misbehaving tourists on rented superbikes, committing lewd acts in public and ignoring even the most basic 'should-be-known' rules of etiquette and respect required to rub along well in Thai society.

This is a heady cocktail which can lead the faint hearted or worn-down resident to seriously consider a 'change' from Phuket's landscape. Some have ventured 'over the bridge' (Sarasin) to seek peace, solitude, waterfalls, golf, fishing parks and national park in Phang Nga. New schools are springing up in places never hitherto imagined as suitable.

But those with 'staying power', a calm head and an ability to regulate a nervous system sometimes under attack from all these goings on, are ideally positioned to capitalise and enjoy the gap left by those that take to 'flight' and not 'fight' and to reap the rewards of new opportunities created by the changing demographic.

From failed developments will rise new amenities like a Phoenix from the Ashes. From nominee structures that were not built to last will come new joint ventures with sincere business

partnership and risk management designed to regulate, not circumvent. From 'Wellness Hubs' will rise more and more 'niche' products and integration with all that we do. Gone will be the days, at some point, when attending an event confines the attendee to eating fried food whilst the kids gorge on candy. Instead, healthy wraps and protein drinks will be the norm at almost all venues and the question will not be 'where is the salad' but 'what type of salad would you like with that'?

In each of these transformations, there will be business opportunities, new companies, new contracts, imaginative use of property rights – such as 'Sap Ing Sith' as an alternative to lease arrangements, and... disputes that need to be resolved, amicably if possible, as efficiently as possible – but if not, adapting into 'Fight' mode, for all out smart legal war to achieve some semblance of justice and compensation.

We all have our fight and flight modes built in; Phuket is still a great place to try out and test our abilities in these areas. For now, I will continue fighting.



Desmond Hughes

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By Desmond Hughes, Senior Partner of Hughes Krupica.

Hughes Krupica is a law firm which specialises in Real Estate; Construction; Hospitality; Corporate; Commercial; Tech; Dispute Resolution; and Litigation, operating from Phuket, servicing clients in relation to their business activities in Thailand and in other regions of Asia.
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FROM OWNERSHIP TO OCCUPANCY: PHUKET'S NEW RENTAL ECONOMY

Stricter scrutiny of nominee shareholding is changing the way many foreign residents approach Phuket property. Rather than abandoning the opportunity to live in paradise because of concerns about ownership, a growing number of would-be residents are choosing to rent, creating new pressures, opportunities and uncertainties across the long-term rental market.

A Change in Confidence

Phuket's property market has always moved in cycles, but the change now taking place may be more fundamental than a normal rise or fall in sales. It is a change in the way foreign residents think about risk.

For many years, some foreign buyers were advised that establishing a Thai company offered a simple route to controlling a villa and the land beneath it. A genuine Thai company, with real Thai shareholders, legitimate commercial activity and proper governance, is one thing. A company created merely to place Thai names on a share register while the foreigner supplies the money and exercises the real control is something entirely different. Nominee shareholding has always been illegal, but the recent enforcement campaign has made the danger far more visible.

Coordinated investigations involving the Department of Business Development, the Department of Lands and other government agencies have brought nominee structures firmly into the spotlight. The message is increasingly difficult to misunderstand: documents that look correct on the surface may offer little protection if the underlying arrangement is not genuine.

This does not mean that foreigners have suddenly lost their desire to live in Phuket. The reasons people choose the island remain remarkably strong. Phuket offers international schools, quality healthcare, global air connections, established communities, excellent restaurants, marinas, golf courses and a lifestyle that is difficult to replicate elsewhere in the region.

What has changed is the willingness of many people to accept uncertainty in order to own a home.

Renting Becomes a Strategic Choice

For a growing group of foreign residents, renting is no longer simply a temporary solution or something they do while deciding whether they like Phuket. It is becoming a deliberate strategy.

Renting allows someone to enjoy the lifestyle without committing a large amount of capital to a structure they may not fully understand. It gives families time to choose the right area, test journey times to schools and workplaces, experience both the wet and dry seasons, and wait for greater clarity before making a long-term purchase decision.

It also separates two decisions that were previously treated as one: the decision to live in Phuket and the decision to own property in Phuket. A person can be completely confident about the first while remaining cautious about the second.

Renting is not completely without risk. Tenants still need a clear agreement, confirmation that the landlord has the authority to rent the property, and a proper understanding of deposits, maintenance, utilities, notice periods and renewal



terms. However, these risks are usually narrower and easier to manage than the legal and financial exposure involved in an unsuitable ownership structure.

The result could be a substantial new pool of tenants who have the means to buy but currently prefer the flexibility and relative simplicity of renting.

Will Rents Rise or Fall?

This is where the picture becomes more complicated. Rising rental demand does not automatically mean that rents across Phuket will rise. Supply is moving at the same time, and several opposing forces are now at work.

On one side, more would-be purchasers may enter the long-term rental market. This could place upward pressure on the best homes, particularly modern villas and larger condominiums close to international schools, lifestyle centres and established year-round communities. The supply of high-quality family homes offered on sensible terms is not unlimited, even on an island with a large volume of property.

On the other side, slower villa sales may encourage developers and private owners to place more unsold or unused properties on the rental market. Some homes previously aimed at short-stay visitors may also move towards longer agreements as enforcement around accommodation licensing becomes stricter. Both trends could increase the number of available rentals and place downward pressure on prices.

Recent market reports point to fewer new villa launches, slower villa sales and a growing volume of remaining stock. This does not necessarily translate directly into long-term rental supply because a property designed for sale or holiday use is not automatically suitable for a family seeking a well-managed home for a twelve-month tenancy. Nevertheless, it gives owners and developers a strong reason to consider rental income while waiting for sales conditions to improve.

The most likely outcome is therefore not a single direction for Phuket rents, but a more divided and selective market.

Well-located, correctly priced and professionally managed properties should remain resilient. Homes with practical layouts, reliable maintenance, suitable furniture, reliable internet, storage, parking and clear pet policies are likely to attract serious tenants. Properties with unrealistic asking prices, poor management or obvious maintenance issues may sit empty, regardless of how strong the general demand appears.

Phuket Has Property, but Not Always the Right Property

One of the most important distinctions in this emerging market is the difference between total supply and usable long-term supply.

Phuket may appear to have an enormous number of villas and condominiums, but much of that stock was created for investors, holidaymakers or short-term occupancy. A family moving to the island for several years has different priorities. They may need a proper family kitchen, storage space, a home office, covered parking, practical bedrooms, dependable maintenance and reasonable access to schools.

Similarly, an attractive one-bedroom holiday condominium does not meet the needs of a family of four, while a spectacular luxury villa may be beyond the budget of most long-term residents. Demand can therefore rise alongside visible vacancy because the available properties and the requirements of tenants do not always match.

This mismatch may become the defining feature of the next phase of Phuket's rental market. The strongest demand may concentrate around a relatively limited group of homes that genuinely work for everyday living.

This Is Not the End of the Sales Market

It would be a mistake to interpret the rental shift as the end of foreign property purchasing in Phuket. Foreign freehold condominium ownership remains a recognised option when spacious luxury units can provide the same living experience as a villa while also meeting all legal requirements. There are also legitimate ways for foreigners to secure long-term rights to villas when the structure is carefully created, the developer cooperates fully and independent legal advice is obtained.

Some tenants will ultimately become buyers after they understand the island, identify the right property and receive credible advice. Renting may therefore become the front door to a future sale rather than a rejection of ownership altogether. The sales cycle may take longer, but the eventual purchaser should be better informed and more selective.

A Market Built Around Certainty

Phuket's appeal has not disappeared. People still want to live here, raise their families here, retire here and spend meaningful parts of their lives here. The present uncertainty concerns the safest way to secure that lifestyle, not the desirability of the lifestyle itself.

That is why the most important question may not be whether rental prices will rise or fall. The better question is which properties will attract this new generation of cautious, well-informed tenants, and on what terms.

The next Phuket property cycle may focus less on ownership at any cost and more on legal clarity, flexibility, liveability and professional management. If that happens, renting will no longer be viewed as the second-best alternative to buying. It will become one of the central pillars of the island's residential market.

by Thai Residential Phuket Property Guide

This article is from the Thai Residential Phuket Property Guide.

To download the 2025/2026 Guide visit [ThaiResidential.com](https://thairesidential.com)

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TAKE A WALK IN PHUKET OLD TOWN



Phuket's historic commercial centre was shaped by tin, migration and trade with Penang. Its story is not confined to one landmark or one famous street; it runs through the repeated rhythm of shophouses, arcades, courtyards, shrines and businesses across the old quarter.

Walk along Phang Nga, Thalang, Dibuk or Krabi roads and the same urban rhythm returns. Narrow frontages sit shoulder to shoulder, with upper-floor shutters above shaded arcades. Commercial rooms open onto the pavement at ground level, while long interiors reach towards the courtyards behind them.

The roads contain various buildings and businesses, but most lack a distinct character. The repetition is the point. Phuket Old Town was built as a commercial district, not a collection of isolated monuments; its history is read across the whole neighbourhood.



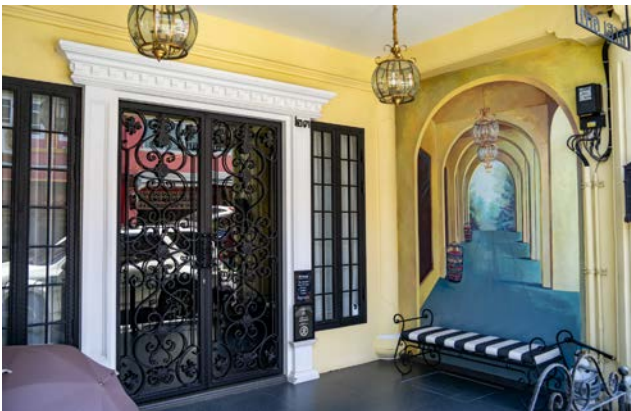


THE TOWN TIN BUILT

Long before beach tourism became Phuket's international identity, tin connected the island to a wider trading world. Mining expanded during the 19th century and brought labour, capital and commerce into Phuket. The town became the place where ore and supplies changed hands.

Chinese migrants, particularly Hokkien speakers from southern Fujian, became central to the mining economy. Some worked in the mines; others established trading houses, shops and transport networks.

Tin created wealth, but families turned a mining centre into a town. Over generations, Chinese migrants and local families developed Phuket's Baba or Peranakan culture, expressed through food, festivals, religious practice and domestic life.



ACROSS THE SEA TO PENANG

Penang was the nearest major regional port and an important link between Phuket and international trade. It re-exported Phuket tin and supplied provisions, while Hokkien business and family networks operated across the Andaman Sea.

Builders, materials and architectural ideas travelled along the same routes. This explains why parts of Phuket Old Town can look remarkably similar to the UNESCO-listed historic centre of George Town in Penang. The comparison is especially clear in the narrow shophouses, louvered shutters, decorated plaster façades, covered pedestrian arcades and internal courtyards.

George Town is larger and more formal. Phuket's centre is smaller, reflecting the practical demands of an island mining town. Phuket was not a British colonial city, but it absorbed Straits Settlements influences within a Siamese setting.

The term Sino-Portuguese is widely used, although it can make a varied streetscape sound more uniform than it is. Southern Chinese building traditions, European decoration, Penang connections, Thai details and tropical commerce all contributed. Not every old façade belongs neatly to one style.



BUILT FOR TRADE AND WEATHER

The shophouse was both workplace and home. Business took place at the front, with storage, kitchens and living rooms further inside. Courtyards brought daylight and ventilation deep into the building.

The covered walkway, known locally as *ngor ka kee*, provided pedestrians with shade and shelter from rain. Repeated from one property to the next, it formed a public passage beneath privately owned buildings. Steps, signs and shop displays interrupt the route today, but its function remains clear.

On Phang Nga Road, The Memory at On On Hotel makes the Penang relationship unusually clear. The original Un Un Hotel was built in 1927 under the supervision of an architect from Penang. Its white two-story façade, arched openings and internal courtyards belong to the same regional architectural language found elsewhere in the old town.

The hotel also records Phuket's economic transition. It first received people arriving in the commercial centre; today, the restored building serves the visitor economy that followed the tin era.

Nearby, San Chao Saengtham – the Shrine of the Serene Light – sits behind a narrow entrance from Phang Nga Road. The shrine is part of the town's Hokkien religious inheritance and remains a place of worship. Its position away from the main frontage is a reminder that some of Old Town's most important spaces are found behind the public street rather than on it.



ONE STREET APART

Soi Rommanee is the clear exception to the wider pattern. The short lane linking Thalang Road and Dibuk Road has a concentrated identity created by its scale, continuous façades and strong colours. Its entrance is now framed by elaborate flower decoration, while cafés, small businesses and accommodation occupy the restored buildings.

The lane's earlier reputation was very different. During the mining period, it was associated with the town's entertainment and nightlife. Its present appearance shows how completely a street can change function while retaining its physical structure.

Soi Rommanee is easy to recognise, but it should not be allowed to stand in for all of Phuket Old Town. The wider story lies in the connections between several roads and in the repeated architecture that binds them together.



A TOWN STILL AT WORK

Conservation has not turned Old Town into an open-air museum. Some buildings have been restored; others carry new signs, air-conditioning units and the marks of continued use. Cafés and hotels occupy many addresses, but homes, food shops, offices and everyday services remain.

The district also changes through the week. On Sunday evening, Thalang Road closes to traffic for Lard Yai, the Sunday Walking Street market. Stalls, food, performances and dense foot traffic temporarily change the commercial street into a public gathering place. On an ordinary weekday, motorbikes, deliveries, open shopfronts and people moving between work and home reveal a less staged town.

The buildings survive not only because they are photographed, but because they still have a purpose. Restoration has made the old quarter more visible, while the working city keeps it connected to everyday Phuket.

Phuket Old Town does not need to be reduced to a list of

special streets. Its strength is cumulative. Phang Nga Road, Thalang Road, Dibuk Road and Krabi Road repeat the forms of an earlier commercial town; Soi Rommanee provides the visual exception; shrines, courtyards, markets and family businesses supply the life behind the façades.

A walk through the district therefore tells a larger story: how tin connected Phuket to the region, how migration created families and institutions, how ideas crossed the sea from Penang, and how buildings designed for trade and tropical weather found new uses without losing their place in the city.

SEE MORE HERE Continue the walk online with the Old Town route, map, full photographic galleries and deeper stories about its buildings, shrines, food and markets.

Read online

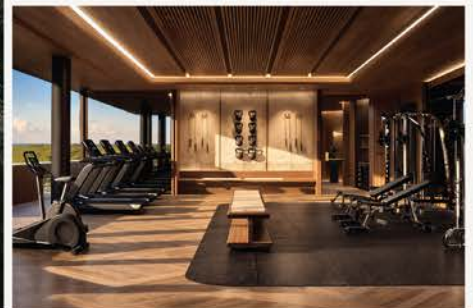


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