

# KO SAMUI

amazing  
THAILAND  
Amazing Value

Ko Samui is Thailand's third largest island at 247 sq. Km., and during the last decade it has become one of Southeast Asia's premier tourist destinations. Samui sits snugly in the Gulf of Thailand, surrounded by other island gems like Ko Phangan and Ko Tao, and is located 84 km. east of Surat Thani (about 750 Km. South of Bangkok), the provincial capital on the mainland.

With soft sandy beaches shaded by towering palms, delicious fresh seafood and a vibrant nightlife, Samui has a magical formula that seems to cast its spell on everyone. Many visitors are content to laze their days away on the beach, soaking up the sun and cooling off in the turquoise waters, but for actions enthusiasts there are plenty of choices like diving and snorkeling, windsurfing and paragliding, beach volleyball, off-road driving and other similar activities. One of the island's most appealing features is the loop road, which makes a 50 km. circuit around the island, giving a glimpse of superb beaches on the north, east and west coasts.

## MUST SEE

**Hat Chaweng:** Situated on Samui's east coast, this is the island's longest and most beautiful beach, a 6-km. strip of powder-soft sand fronted by crystal-clear water. At Hat Chaweng, there are plenty of accommodations, ranging from five-star resorts to simple bamboo bungalows. In the daytime, Hat Chaweng is the centre for water sports such as windsurfing and jet-skiing and also a great social scene at night, when the dance clubs pulsate to the latest rhythms.

**Hat Lamai:** Also on the east coast, just south of Hat Chaweng, the playful waters of Hat Lamai always attract surfers, as they run a little deeper than any other beaches in Ko Samui. Behind the beach are several spas where visitors can treat themselves to an herbal sauna, a relaxing Thai massage, or even a mud facial.

**The Big Buddha Beach:** It is one of the major attractions of the Ko Samui. Sited 15 minutes from Chaweng, the stunning beach is the place full of entertainment and pleasure. The exotic beach offers perfect setting for partying long during nights and relaxing during the day times.

**Wat Phra Yai:** This temple attracts you with its sheer size and beauty. The temple is a great marvel famous for its 12 meter tall Buddha sculpture. It is Samui's major tourist attraction, which is on Route 4171 near the airport.



**Laem So Pagoda:** Around the southernmost point of the island is Laem So Pagoda, a rarely visited sight that could be the most beautiful spot on Samui. Next to the pagoda is a small meditation forest of trees with places to sit and even a few tables. Surrounding the forest on two sides is a man-made lagoon with some mangrove trees planted along the ocean side.

**Ko Phangan:** Just 20 km. north of Ko Samui and a short boat trip away, Ko Phangan is a mountainous island ringed by secluded bays that offer ideal getaways. Its most famous beach is Hat Rin, in the southeast corner of the island, which is the location for the world-famous full moon parties that attract thousands of visitors each month to dance the night away on the beach. The island's most picturesque beach is Thong Nai Pan. A little south of Thong Nai Pan is Than Sadet, the island's most impressive waterfall, which was once King Chulalongkorn's favourite place.

**Grandmother and Grandfather Rocks:** Situated at the south of the beach of Lamai, Hin Ta and Hin Yai are surely one of the most desired tourist attractions as they bear close resemblance to the male and female genital organs. These two rock formations are known as Grandmother and Grandfather Rocks in English.



**Hin Lat Waterfalls:** The Hin Lat Waterfalls are probably one of the finest expressions of the inland beauty of the island. Located 2 km. south of Na Thon, these waterfalls are astounding to observe and you can even take a dip in a big rock pond made at the underside of the falls. The Hin Lat cloister is also close at hands and that is certainly worth visiting.

**Mu Ko Angthong National Marine Park:** Situated about 35 km. west of Ko Samui, this archipelago of 42 islands fits everyone's image of a tropical paradise, with huge limestone rocks covered in virgin rainforest rising out of the aquamarine waters.

**Ang Thong Shopping Street:** This road is in the middle of Na Thon. Its interesting shops are made even more special by the traditional wooden buildings which give a true sense of old Samui life. Come shopping here and you will come away with more than the items you are looking for.



For **ACCOMMODATION** information, Please log on to :  
<http://tourismthailand.org/accommodation/suratthani-84-1.html>

**Important Phone Nos :**  
Tourist Service Centre: 1672  
Tourist Police : 1155

**Ko Samui Tourism Coordination Centre :**  
370 Mu 3, Tambon AngThong, Amphoe Ko Samui, Surat Thani 84140 Tel. 0 7742 0720 - 2, 0 7742 0504  
E-mail : tatsamui@tat.or.th

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## GETTING THERE

**BY AIR:** Thai Airways and Bangkok Airways flies directly from Suvarnabhumi Airport (Bangkok International Airport) to Ko Samui Airport (USM). Contact Thai Airways in Bangkok at Tel. 1566, 0 2280 0060, 0 2628 2000 and log on to [www.thaiairways.com](http://www.thaiairways.com). Contact Bangkok Airways in Bangkok at Tel. 0 2265 5555. Samui Airport office Tel: 0 7724 5601 - 8.  
Website : [www.bangkokair.com](http://www.bangkokair.com).

**BY RAIL:** Trains leave from Bangkok Railway Station in Bangkok to Surat Thani, from where it is necessary to take a bus to Don Sak Pier and then a ferry across to the islands. Railway Station Hotline : 1690 or Bangkok Railway Station Tel: 0 2220 4334, Surat Thani Railway Station Tel: 0 7731 1213  
Website : [www.railway.co.th](http://www.railway.co.th).

**BY BUS:** Buses from Bangkok leave the Southern Bus Terminal three times a day for Ko Samui, but the fare does not include the ticket for the ferry. The bus takes around 14 hours. Bangkok Southern Bus Terminal Tel: 0 2435 1199 Surat Thani Bus Terminal Tel: 7720 0032  
Website : [www.transport.co.th](http://www.transport.co.th).

**BY BOAT:** The ferries for passengers and car from Don Sak Pier to Ko Samui depart from 6.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m., taking about one and a half hours. Fare ranges between 84 and 220 baht. Some ferry company's fare may include a ticket for an air - conditioned bus. If one loves travelling at night to get a great view of stars and sky, there is also an overnight boat to Ko Samui which departs at 11.00 p.m. and arrives at 5.00 a.m. There is no direct boat service from Bangkok to Ko Samui.

**For more information, please log on to :**  
<http://tourismthailand.org/destination-guide/suratthani-84-1-1.html>