



Phuket

Photo: edwin.11



Earth-Bound Misfit, I

Welcome to paradise! It has all the right ingredients surrounded by clear blue water, its palm fringed beaches are of soft, clean sand, it has a vibrant nightlife and you can enjoy the most wide-ranging cuisine – you name it, you can eat it in Phuket. For several years Phuket has topped the polls as a holiday paradise, and in the most recent survey, readers of a top travel magazine voted for it ahead of Bali and Cebu. Add all this to the most welcoming people in the world, and you can see why travellers love it.



**New App
Out Now**

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Top 5



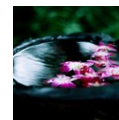
Excursion to Phi Phi Island

This is one of the best excursions from Phuket and it takes a whole day. Lea...



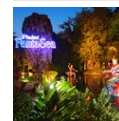
Phang-nga and Khai Nai Islands

Take the speedboat to Phang-nga and Khai Nai islands. Discover the flora



Health Spas and Wellness C...

Make sure you are going to a genuine health treatment centre and not a hotel...



Phuket Fantasea

This is a cultural theme park with a very extravagant show. Phuket Fantasea ...



Elephant Trekking

Enjoy elephant treks out in the jungle. Take some mosquito protection or a c...



THE CITY



Phuket and its surrounding islands are some of the most beautiful and intriguing in the world. Tall outcrops of limestone rise vertically from the sea, and probably the most famous of these was used as a location for one of the James Bond films. It's now known as "James Bond Island," but its real name is Phang-nga.

Set just off the west coast of Thailand, in the Andaman Sea, Phuket is about the same size as Singapore. The main town is Phuket Town, but many visitors stay in the beach resorts of Surin, Katu, Karon and the most famous (and busy), Patong. To get from Phuket to Patong takes about 20 minutes. Phuket Town has all the administration offices, bigger business hotels and department stores, whilst the beach resorts cater more to the holiday maker. However, excursions to the islands off Phuket go from the port at Phuket Town.

DO & SEE



Gorgeous white beach, the bluest water you have seen and snorkeling is like swimming in an aquarium. This is the place to relax and enjoy yourself, either with scuba diving, spa centers or elephant trekking, there is always something to do!

Excursion to Phi Phi Island



This is one of the best excursions from Phuket and it takes a whole day. Leaving in the morning, the excursion includes a visit to island caves, a glass bottomed boat/submarine trip, and snorkelling off the island. Some time on Phi Phi Island, where some organizers go to Maya - a location for the film "The Beach." See website for more details and other boat trips.

Internet: www.phuket-travel.com

Phang-nga and Khai Nai Islands



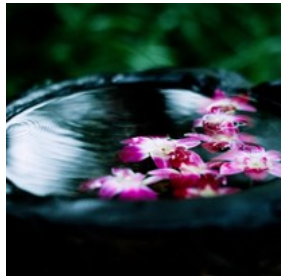
Take the speedboat to Phang-nga and Khai Nai islands. Discover the flora and fauna at Panak Island, and the amazing limestone mountains at Hong Island. This trip also offers you a visit to Tapu Island (James Bond Island), Talu Cave, the fishing village called Ban Tak Dad and the landscape of mangrove forests.

Photo: Gregg Tavares (image cropped)

Address: 2/3 Chumporn Road, Muang, Phuket

More Info: Phang Nga Eco Tourism

Health Spas and Wellness Centres



Make sure you are going to a genuine health treatment centre and not a hotel which has just decided to add 'spa' to their name. Treatment costs vary depending on the treatment Thai massage or full-treatment packages which are priced according to the number of chosen options. The best on the island has to be The Hideaway, where options include a package of sauna, Jacuzzi, oil massage and Thai massage. You will be floating on air for days afterwards!

Photo: Kevin Utting (image cropped)

Address: 157 Soi Nanai, Patong Beach, Phuket

Phone: +66 81 750 0026

Internet: www.phuket-hideaway.com

Email: info@phuket-hideaway.com

Phuket Fantasea



This is a cultural theme park with a very extravagant show. Phuket Fantasea is a stunning 140-acre theme complex, packed with activities such as carnivals and a Las

Vegas-styled theatrical show.

The show begins at 9 pm. If you have booked for the dinner and the show, then arrive before 6.30 pm.

Photo: Walter Lim (image cropped)

Address: 93 Moo 3, Kamala Beach, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 385 000

Internet: www.phuket-fantasea.com

Email: info@phuket-fantasea.com

Elephant Trekking



Enjoy elephant treks out in the jungle. Take some mosquito protection or a cream to avert the various flying insects, many of whom enjoy taking a nip at a passing human. See website for more details and information on prices, etc.

Photo: user:shakko

Address: Jungle, Phuket

Internet: www.phuket-travel.com

Adventurer Rafting



This tour, in Southern Thailand's lush Phang Nga Province, takes you on an action-packed ride along mountain rivers fringed with forest. Be prepared to get wet! See website for more information and different packages for White Water Rafting Tour.

Photo: Ian Armstrong (image cropped)

Address: Phuket

Internet: www.phuketraftingtour.com

Email: info@phuketourcompany.com

Scuba Diving



Have a go' under the guidance of a PADI instructor. A day course includes simple instruction in breathing techniques, signals and safety before taking a dive into the clear waters.

Photo: Neil Rickards (image cropped)

Address: 24 Karon Rd, Kata Beach, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 330 598

Internet: www.diveasia.com

Email: info@diveasia.com

More Info: Dive Asia

Anthem Wake Park



Anthem Wake Park is the first cable park in the whole of Asia. Feel the adrenalin rushing while trying, or succeeding, to wakeboard on a fresh water lake in beautiful

surroundings.

Photo: René Eriksen (image cropped)

Address: 194/6 M.7 Sri-sunthorn road, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 620 034

Internet: www.anthemwakepark.com

Phuket Shooting Range



Phuket Shooting Range is one of the biggest attractions on the island. It offers tons of fun things to do, such as a shooting range, paintball, archery and many other

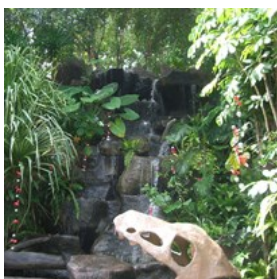
activities.

Photo: Lee Dyer (image cropped)

Address: 82/2 Patak Rd. Ampur Muang, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 381 667

Dino Park Mini Golf



Dino Park Mini Golf is located between Karon and Kata beaches. It is a 18-hole course with a thrilling dinosaurs theme and a Flintstones-themed restaurant.

Photo: Sergey (image cropped)

Address: Marina Phuket Resort, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 330 625

Internet: www.dinopark.com

Splash Jungle Water Park



This is the perfect place to let the kids, and adults, go wild! Enjoy an adventurous day filled with water slides, rides and diving at Splash Jungle Water Park.

Photo: Splash Jungle Water Park / Centara Grand West Sands Resort & Villas Phuket

Address: 65 Moo 4 Mai khao Soi 4, T. Mai khao A. Thalang, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 372 111

Internet: www.splashjunglewaterpark.com

Email: splashjungle2@chr.co.th

Phuket Thai Cookery School



This is the perfect place to learn how to cook Thai food. The school is located on Siray beach in a serene and beautiful environment. Enjoy your food on one of their

wooden sundecks or on the beach.

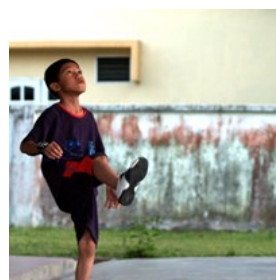
Photo: chee.hong (image cropped)

Address: 39/4 Thepattan Road, Rassada, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 252 354

Internet: www.phuketthaicookery.com

Sepak Takraw



Sepak Takraw is a popular sport in Asia. When the sun has set and the temperature has cooled down you can see people coming out and play this game. If you wonder what

it is about, count how many times the ball touches the ground.

Photo: Mohd Fahmi Mohd Azmi (image cropped)

Address: Phuket

Zumba



Even though you are on vacation you might be in the mood to move. Zumba is a fun activity that will bring a huge smile to your face.

Photo: U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Anthony Sanchelli (image cropped)

Address: Phuket

Phone: +66 76 86 955 6169

Internet: www.kayesmith.zumba.com

Golf



Phuket have many beautiful golf courses to enjoy with panoramic views and refreshing surroundings. Just pick a course of your choice!

Address: Phuket

Internet: www.phuketgolfcourse.com

Football Crazy Golf



This sport is a mix between football and golf and is a fun-filled activity for the whole family. You play on a 6,400 square meters field with 18 holes through tunnels,

bunkers, slopes, curves and rocks.

Photo: Brian Roberts (image cropped)

Address: Patong Hill's Kathu side

Shell World Museum



This kid-friendly museum celebrates shells from all over the world. The documentation is available in several languages and well made. Fossilized shells are displayed, along with rare and common shells. A nice visit for a rainy day or when it is too warm outside.

Photo: Drow_male

Address: Montri Road, Phuket Town, Phuket

Phuket Aquarium



This small aquarium presents sea life species from the lakes, streams, mangroves, coral reefs and the deep sea of Thailand. You will be guided on your discovery with

audioguides and explanation panels. Feeding shows are also organized.

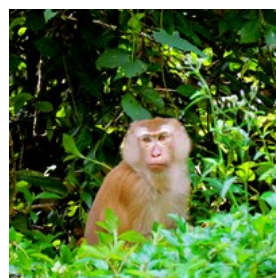
Photo: Harsha K R (image cropped)

Address: 51 Moo 8 Sakdidet Rd, Amphoe Mueang, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 391 126

Internet: www.phuketaquarium.org

Monkey Hill



Hundreds of monkeys are on that hill! A nice visit for your family but careful of these wild animals. Officials recommend not feeding them, as they can become

aggressive. The ascension of the hill is a good work-out.

Photo: Jeff Gunn (image cropped)

Address: To Chae Road, Phuket Town, Phuket

Phuket Orchid Farm



This farm presents outstanding flowers. More than 1,500 different hybrids & species are presented. You can purchase traditional Thai bird cages, seeds, fresh

flowers. Beautiful pictures are definitively on the menu!

Photo: grimsy-mc (image cropped)

Address: 67/1 Soi Suksan 1, Viset Road, Phuket Town, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 280 226

Internet: www.phuketdir.com/phuketorchid

Email: info@phuketorchids.com

DINING



GinkgoTelegraph (image cropped)

The Thai kitchen in itself has become one of the country's biggest exports and naturally nothing can compare to the genuine thing! Why not sample a bowl of Tom Yam Goong (spicy prawn soup), or perhaps the Gaeng Phed Yang (roast duck in red curry) is more to your liking? Many restaurants in the resort towns such as Patong, will have a mix of Thai and 'western' food. Chinese dishes are readily available at the many restaurants in the resorts and there are a fair number of Indian and Arabic places catering to those particular types of cuisine.

Night Food Market

For simple, freshly cooked Thai food, a good place to go is the Night Food Market on Rat-U-Thit. It's out in the open and offers plenty of choice. Look at each menu to see what appeals to you! The 'sales' team on the street will all

tempt you into their restaurant, but perhaps it's best to look at each one and go back to the one you like. Fish is the main ingredient at the market.

Address: Rat-U-Thit Road, Phuket

More Info: Opposite the Paradise Complex

Aloha Villa

Aloha Villa is a hotel and restaurant on the Rat-U-Thit road. This is an all-day dining restaurant. It is a very clean and well-run establishment serving Thai, Western, and Chinese food including seafood, meat, pizzas, salads, sandwiches and desserts.

Address: 145/2 Rat-U-Thit Songroi Pi Road, Tambon Patong, Amphor Kathu, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 345 733-42

Internet: www.phuket-aloha.com

Email: info@phuket-aloha.com

Molly Malones

Molly Malones is a typical re-created Irish Pub. Comfy sofas and Guinness make this a favourite for those westerners wanting a break from rice and noodles or for anyone looking for traditional English/Irish food.

Address: 68 Thaweewong Road, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 292 771

More Info: The beach front road

Kan-Eang Seafood Restaurant

This restaurant specializes in seafood and is located nearer Phuket Town at Chalang Bay. Not only is the food great but the panoramic view over the harbour is amazing.

Address: 9/3 Moo 9 Chofa Road, Chalongs Bay, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 381 323

Internet: www.phuket-seafood.com

Email: kaneang@phuket-seafood.com

Bliss Beach Club

Bliss Beach Club invites you to a calm, and laid back environment in north Phuket. They describe their menu as "a Pandora's Box of surprises" with clear flavours, local ingredients and homemade pasta.

Address: 202/88 Moo 2, Tumbon Cherng-talay, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 510 150

Internet: www.blissbeachclub.com

Email: info@blissbeachclub.com

Rintang@Chalong

Visiting Phuket you will most likely stop at the famous Buddhist temple on the island, Wat Chalong. While you are there, cross the street and enjoy your lunch at Rintang@Chalong. They serve lovely Thai food in the middle of a tropical garden.

Address: Moo 4, Chalong, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 374 911

Email: rintangchalong@gmail.com

Pizza 2000

Even in Thailand you can get a craving for pizza. If you do, then this is the place to go to. Along with pizza, they serve chicken wings, sandwiches and German cuisine.

Address: 40/21 Soi Sukee, Phuket

Phone: +66 82 809 9107

Laem-Thong Restaurant

Laem-Thong Restaurant invites you to experience a fusion of Chinese and Thai food. The seafood here is also delicious and served in a lively atmosphere.

Address: 31-39 Chanacharoen Road, T., Phuket

Phone: +66 76 211 269

The Royal Kitchen

Claimed to be one of the most romantic restaurants in Patong. The restaurant at The Royal Paradise Hotel & Spa offers a variety of flavours from all over the world. Choose between Thai, Chinese, Indian and Arabian cuisine.

Address: 135/23, 123/15-16 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 340 666

Internet: www.royalparadise.com

Email: sales@royalparadise.com

Silk Restaurant & Bar

With views over the Kamala Bay you can sit at Silk Restaurant & Bar and enjoy traditional Thai food in a tranquil environment. The chef's focus is the flavours and textures of local Thai food.

Address: 15 Moo 6, Kamala Beach, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 338 777 ext 680

Internet: www.silkphuket.com

Email: silk@andaraphuket.com

Plum Restaurant

It is hard to decide whether the delicious food or the amazing view is the best at Plum Restaurant. Either way, you will have a great Mediterranean dining experience here.

Address: 18/40 Moo 6, Nakalay Road, Kathu, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 337 300

Internet: www.capesienna.com

DaVinci Deli

DaVinci Deli is a lovely little Italian place located in Southern Phuket. Come here for a Panini sandwich, homemade pasta or just delicious Italian coffee. All meals are prepared with fresh ingredients so you will get the best.

Address: BZenter 28/46 Moo 1, Nai Harn, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 289 574

Internet: www.davinciphuket.com

Email: jana@davinciphuket.com

CAFES



All the resorts from Surin to Chalong Bay have a beach front road packed with cafés and simple eating places. Some are part of a hotel; some are just simple cafés on the roadside. Too numerous to mention, just have a stroll and see what appeals to your taste buds!

Gallery Cafe

Everything about this place is good! Pinky, the owner, offers great service, you can get a full English breakfast, nice sandwiches for lunch or an organic salad and for dinner choose from the lovely menu.

Address: 19 Yaowarad Road, Talad Yai, Phuket

Phone: +66 89 103 7000

Internet: www.gallerycafe-phuket.com

Email: thegallerycafe@yahoo.com

Samero's Icecream Paradise

This is ice-cream at its best! 100 % natural ingredients and produced freshly every day. There are tons of different flavors, it is so good that you will dream about it.

Address: 92 Sainamyen Road, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 342 505

Internet: www.sameros.com

Email: info@sameros.com

Spoonful of Sugar

Despite the name, you can eat more than one cookie without getting a sugar rush. Spoonful of Sugar is a very cosy coffee shop with an outdoor seating and with funky furniture.

Address: Saiyuan Rawai, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 388 432

Rider Cafe

If you are discovering Phuket by motorcycle then this is the place for all riders. They have good food and great service. You will find the coffee shop in the Old Town of Phuket.

Address: Yaowarad Rd 30, Talad Yai, Phuket

Phone: +66 81 958 6832

Internet: www.ridercafe Phuket.com

Email: teddy@ridercafe Phuket.com

UnforgetTable

This gorgeous small café will for sure make your experience unforgettable! After choosing your tea cup among the vintage collection of the owners, you will love to try one of the selected teas. With a pastry, of course!

Address: 10 Yaowarad Road, Taladyai, Phuket

Phone: +66 81 938 1532

Email: snathapol@hotmail.com

The Circle Coffee Boutique

Great! That is the perfect word to qualify this delicate café. Your taste buds will appreciate the great cakes and the selected beans of coffee. Free WiFi is provided.

Address: 109 Surin Circle, T. Taladyai, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 216 396

Email: coffeehouse@hotmail.com

Lumpoon's Second Cup Free

Owned by an American, Lumpoon's is a perfect place for an early morning café. As indicated, the second cup of your second beverage is free. That might be interesting! WiFi is also provided for free.

Address: 107/18 Chalong Circle, Chalong, Phuket

Phone: +66 81 47 65 808

Email: lumpoon7@gmail.com

Pirrera Cafe

If you feel tired after many adventures in Phuket, you can

find peace and quietness in Pirrera Café. The pastel walls and the decoration will help you relax.

Coffee is good and cakes are just delicious.

Address: 39/1 Dibuk Rd, Phuket

Rose Espresso

This tiny café is a haven for peace in the busy streets of Phuket. As the name indicates, the decoration is based upon roses but there is no "too much" effect. The banana cakes and mango crepes are a must-on.

Address: 13 Krabi Road, Phuket

Phone: +66 80 534 4964

Internet: www.roseespresso.com

Email: roseespresso@gmail.com

Doi Chang Coffee

This small café has a very funny decoration and an excellent reputation for the quality of the coffee sold and of the breakfast on the menu. Don't hesitate to ask the employees for advice concerning Phuket, they will have great tips for you!

Address: 66/2 Viset Road, Phuket

Phone: +66 81 691 1527

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Equally, the bars of Patong run into the hundreds. The main bar areas are gathered around Bang La Square and Bang La Road. The road is traffic-free in the evening so you can wander along without the worries of the motorbikes. Off Bang La Road are some "Soi", which are lanes, but again without traffic. In these Sois, such as Soi Eric, Soi

Cayote, Soi Gonzo and Soi Easy there are even more bars. Names change rapidly, as do the owners and the staff, but to name a few anyway.

Kangaroo Bar

Kangaroo Bar is an Australian bar serving delicious cocktails, with sports TV and a relaxed atmosphere. If you are in the mood for a beer you have come to the right places as this is a popular beer bar.

Address: Bang La Road, Patong, Phuket

Internet: www.barkangaroo.com

Email: contact@barkangaroo.com

More Info: Left side coming from Thaweewong Rd

Banana Disco

Banana Disco is the most established disco in Patong, this is one of the best meeting places in Patong. Large TV screen and lasers. There is an entrance fee but it includes the first drink. In the bar down stairs there is usually live music.

Address: 96 Thawiwong Rd, Patong, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 340 301

Internet: www.patongbeachhotel-online.com

More Info: Located at Patong Beach Hotel

Thai Boxing

When in Thailand, going to a Thai Boxing match is a must! Feel the music, the spirit of the fighters and the tension up close in the arena. The nightly fights are viewed in the stadiums on Soi Sai Namyen.

Patong Beach Nightlife

If you are not looking for a place in particular then Soi Bangla is the best place to walk a long until you find a place that looks like a good time.

Address: Soi Bangla, Phuket

Karon Sunshine Guesthouse, Bar & Restaurant

Karon Sunshine is a chilled and relaxed place where you will meet people from all over the world. They claim to have the best Irish coffee in Thailand, so if you are a fan,

go here and place your judgment.

Address: 528/14 Patak Rd., Karon, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 286 352
Internet: www.karonsunshineguesthouse.com

Michael's Bar

Michael's Bar is a fun, warm and friendly place where locals and tourists cross paths. Here different sport events are streamed from around the world on two big TV's, so take a seat and enjoy the evening.

Address: 12 Takua-Pa Road, Amphur Muang, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 256 562
Internet: www.michaels-bar-phuket.com

Love Nightlife

Love Nightlife is a nightclub that just keeps going all night. Dress to impress, or less is more, depending on the weather. Three floors of fun and an amazing roof top bar awaits here, if you want extra service, they have an excellent VIP department.

Address: Jungceylon Shopping Centre, Patong, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 366 717
Internet: www.lovenightlife.com
Email: love@lovenightlife.com

Seduction Nightclub

You simply cannot miss this club in the middle of Bangla Road. The busiest club around and with DJ's from around the world, this is a place that you have to visit if you like to dance the night away.

Address: 70/3 Bangla Rd., Kathu, Patong Phuket
Phone: +66 76 345 711
Internet: www.seductiondisco.com
Email: info@seductiondisco.com

Flaunt Night Club Patong

Flaunt Night Club invites you to a great night with hip hop, pop and other intense tunes played by DJ's from around the world. Get lost in the amazing flashing lights and all the different places cool, small places located within in the big club.

Address: Bangla Road, Patong Beach, Kathu, Phuket
Phone: +66 93 990 8096
Internet: www.flauntnightclub.com
Email: info@flauntnightclub.com
More Info: Behind Koh Bamboo Bar

Sin City Bar

Despite the sulphurous name, the Sin City Bar is a very friendly bar. Its two owners are determined for you to have a great evening. Drinks are good too.

Address: Soi Tiger, Bangla Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket

SHOPPING



GinkgoTelegraph (image cropped)

Thailand has excellent shopping, both modern malls with all the regular brands, as well as plenty of traditional crafts. The Central Festival in Phuket Town is the biggest shopping centre and has 300 shops, with branded goods, Thai crafts and electronics. Situated on the outskirts of Phuket Town, you will more than likely need a tuk tuk or taxi to get there.

For traditional Thai crafts, there is an organisation which is government supported called One Tambon, One Product. The idea is to encourage rural and tribal people from the villages to produce traditional goods and take the benefits directly. The store is located at the south end of Patong, behind the Holiday Inn Hotel. All the resorts have a night market, but the biggest is in Patong. The vendors begin to set up their stalls around 6.30 pm and then they are open for business until about 11 pm. All the best bargains are here: clothes, sports equipment, watches, souvenirs,

luggage and some of the best replicas you can find.

Ceramics of Phuket

For designer ceramics the Ceramics of Phuket company uses the local clay for their work and produces some very fine pieces. They are at Baan Kathu, on the outskirts of Phuket Town.

Address: 71/3 Vichikasongkram Rd, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 321 917

Internet: www.ceramicsofphuket.com

Ban Boran Textiles

For quality textiles and Thai Silk go to ban Ban Boran Textiles. The prices are slightly higher than in Bangkok but the quality is very good.

Address: 51 Yaowarat Road, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 258 249

Jewellery

When in Phuket, get some jewellery for yourself or the loved one. Cultured pearls are produced locally at Naka Noi Island which are also a good buy. Many local shops in Phuket City are specialist in jewellery. If you want to know the trade of pearlmaking, tours leave daily to Naka Noi Island and include a pearl demonstration and the opportunity to buy at discounted prices.

A piece of advice:

Unless you're an expert in gems and jewellery, it is not recommended to buy goods with the intention of reselling them back home. Some elaborate scams have been set up to fool people into paying a high price for gems that are low quality at best and worthless fakes at worst.

To combat this problem, the Thai Gem and Jewellery Traders Association and the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) have formed a "Jewel Fest Club". The club aims to offer quality products at reasonable prices with a money-back guarantee if buyers are not completely satisfied. Some of the larger Phuket jewellers are in this

program, so look for the Jewel Fest emblem while browsing the shop.

D Gallery

D Gallery in the Royal Phuket Marina is a well sorted, beautifully lit gallery that also has a very active exhibition programme. It has more than 200 sqm of contemporary fine art from Thailand and Vietnam and aims to hold annual exhibitions by these artists.

Address: 63/501 Moo.2 Thepkraette Rd, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 360 867

Email: info@dgallery.co.th

Fine Orient

Chinese Antiques and Reproduction Furniture. There are few places in Phuket that have good Chinese antiques and "vintage" artifacts as well as pieces from Tibet and Mongolia, which makes Fine Oriental a must-stop for lovers of Chinoiserie.

Address: 51/20 Moo 2, Tepanusorn rd, T.Vichit A.Muang, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 521 552

Internet: www.orient-antique.com

Email: info@orient-antique.com

Central Festival Phuket

Central Festival Phuket is an air conditioned, fully equipped three-storey shopping mall just outside of Phuket Town. Here you can easily spend a day strolling around in different shops, visiting restaurants or even catch a movie.

Address: 74-75 Moo 5 Vichitsongkram Rd., Amphur Muang, Mueang Phuket District, Phuket

Phone: +66 76 291 111

Internet: www.centralfestivalphuket.com

Jungceylon

Diagonally opposite Bangla Road, the Jungceylon Shopping Complex, has radically changed the face of shopping in Patong. The two main stores in the complex are Robinson - a gleaming well-lit upper end department store comprising 200-plus stores, and Carrefour - a large

French-based supermarket

Address: 181 Rat-u-thit 200 Pee Road, Patong, Kathu
Phone: +66 76 600 111
Internet: www.jungceylon.com

The Gems Gallery

The Gems Gallery is a large store devoted almost exclusively to jewellery. The range is huge, with modern European and Asian styles and certificates issued when you buy.

Address: 99/35, 888 Moo 5 Chalermprakiat Rama 9 Rd., Muang, Phuket
Phone: +66 76 255 001
Internet: www.gems-gallery.com
Email: gemshkt@gemsgroup.th.com

Wang Talang Jewelry

Wang Talang Jewelry is another big jewelry store. Here you will find more than 20,000 different jewelry models, from diamonds, stones and gems. If you plan ahead, you can get a custom made piece.

Address: 34/2 M 3, West Chaofa Road, Phuket
Opening hours: 9am - 6pm
Phone: +66 82 816 7751
Internet: www.wangtalang.com

Karon Thai Herbs

This small store sells natural products, from shampoos to moisturising creams and candles. The friendliness and the expertise of the owners are very helpful and encourage the visitor to come back. They offer also to send your purchases through mail directly in your country.

Address: 59 Patak Rd, Karon Beach Rd (West), Karon, Phuket-ville, Phuket

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



Project 1080 (image cropped)

Phuket International Airport



Phuket International Airport is situated north of the island, so apart from the luxury hotels around this area, it's likely you will need to get to the mid-island resorts of Patong,

Karon and Kata. By taxi the trip to Surin will take about 30 minutes, to Patong about 40 min, Karon and Kata beaches around 50 minutes. The bus to Phuket Town takes one hour.

The airport itself is easy to get through and is small enough to make luggage collection quick and simple. The good news is that there are regular flights into Phuket from Bangkok alone and three of these operators are 'no frills' airlines. Phuket is also accessible internationally from and to Hong Kong, Singapore, Incheon (S. Korea) and Kuala Lumpur. It's also possible to island hop from Koh Samui to Phuket using Bangkok Airways.

Having arrived, there are a number of ways of reaching your resort location. Needless to say, there are plenty of people outside the terminal building offering to help – at a price, of course.

Metered taxis are available, but there are not too many of

them around. They are to the right as you come out of the arrivals building, at the far end.

To the left as you come out of arrivals, there are 8 seated mini vans which will take you to your hotel, but of course you have to stop at everyone else's hotel as well.

There is also an Airport Bus but only goes to Phuket Town Bus Terminal. It does stop on the way but not at any of the coastal resorts. Journey time is one hour from the airport to Phuket Town.

Photo: Juan Garces

Phone: +66 76 351 166

Internet: www.phuketairportonline.com

Public Transport



The most widely used 'taxis' are bright red tuk tuks. These are not the 4 seated variety as in Bangkok but hold about 6-8 people. Unlike the meter taxi, arrange a price before

getting in.

There are public buses, which are bright blue, with open sides. There aren't any real schedules, but if you see one and want to get on, just wave – there are no official bus stops.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Car and motorbike rental and driving in Phuket

Traffic in Thailand is on the left side and all the major car rental companies have offices at the airport. An international driving license is required. There are enterprising companies immediately outside the arrivals hall with cards offering cars at cheaper rates. Jeeps are also available, make sure you see the car before paying, some have been around for a while.

When driving in Thailand, beware of motorbikes overtaking on the inside and /or on bends. Drive a little slower and keep an eye on the wing mirrors.

Pharmacy



There are larger chain pharmacies such as Boots (Central Festival) and Watsons. Individual pharmacies are in most resorts in the main shopping

areas.

Photo: Gemma Garner

Post



Post offices are open from 8.30 am until 4.30 pm, but make sure your post is there by 3.30 pm, otherwise it waits until the next day. The main post office in Patong is on

Beach Road and in Phuket Town is at Montri Road. There are post outlets in many of the major stores and supermarkets. Look for counters with the names of courier companies listed – you can still send with the Thai post service from these counters.

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Telephone



Country code: + 66 Area code: 076 Remember that an area code is needed even if you are within that city. So, if a call is made from Patong to Phuket, the prefix 076 is still required.

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity



220V, 50 Hz. The general socket is a flat two pin, but there are some Thai appliances that have a third round pin. Many hotels, especially the older ones, have

only the two pin socket so bringing an adapter is recommended.

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population

314,000

Currency

Thai Baht, 1 Baht = 100 satang

Opening hours

Most shops are open from 09.00 to 22.00 in the evening, and are often open 7 days a week. Banking hours are strictly 08.30 to 15.30, Monday to Friday.

Newspapers

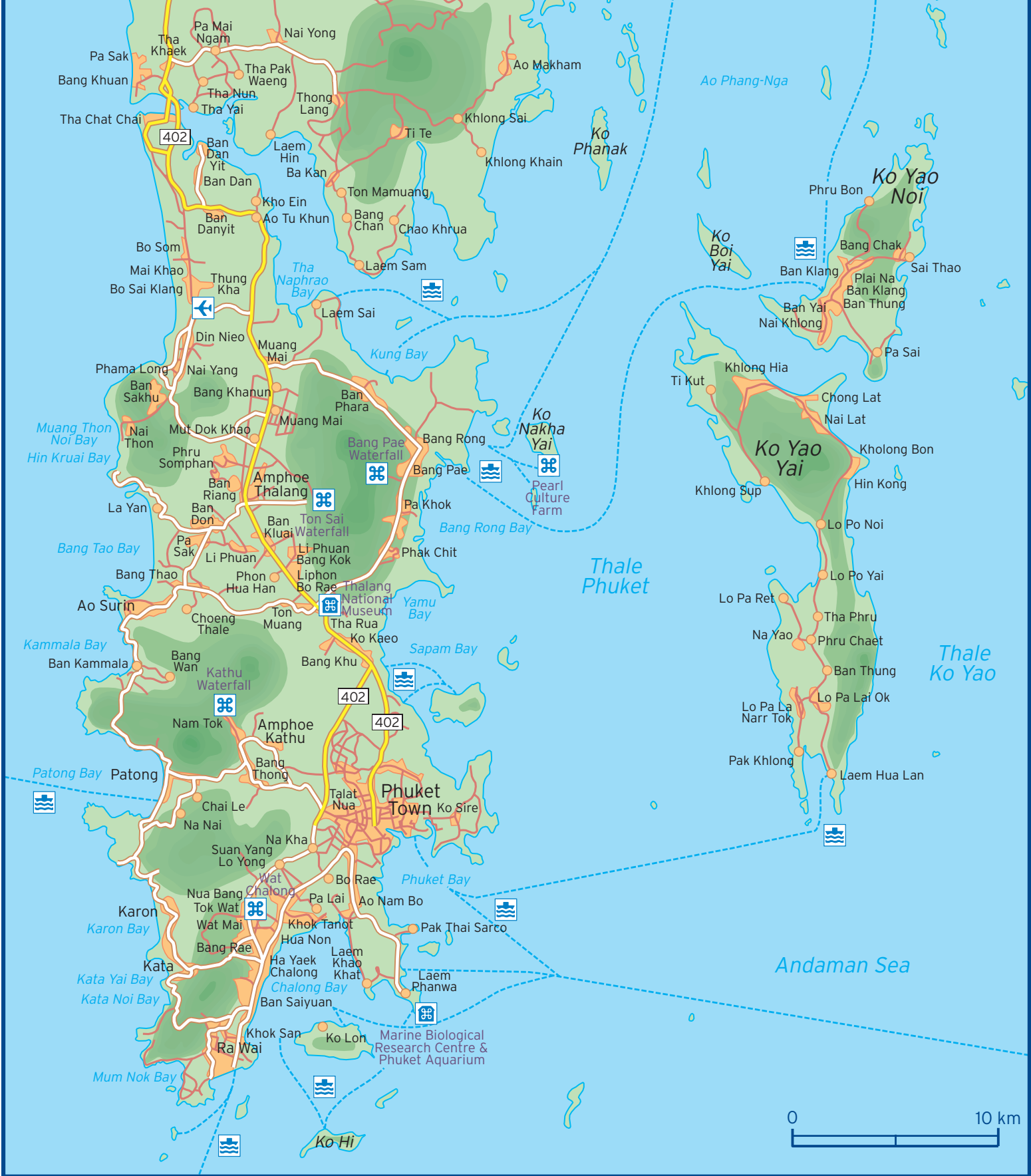
Phuket Post
Phuket Gazette
Bangkok Post (National)
The Nation (National)
Look East (Magazine available for tourists in most hotels)

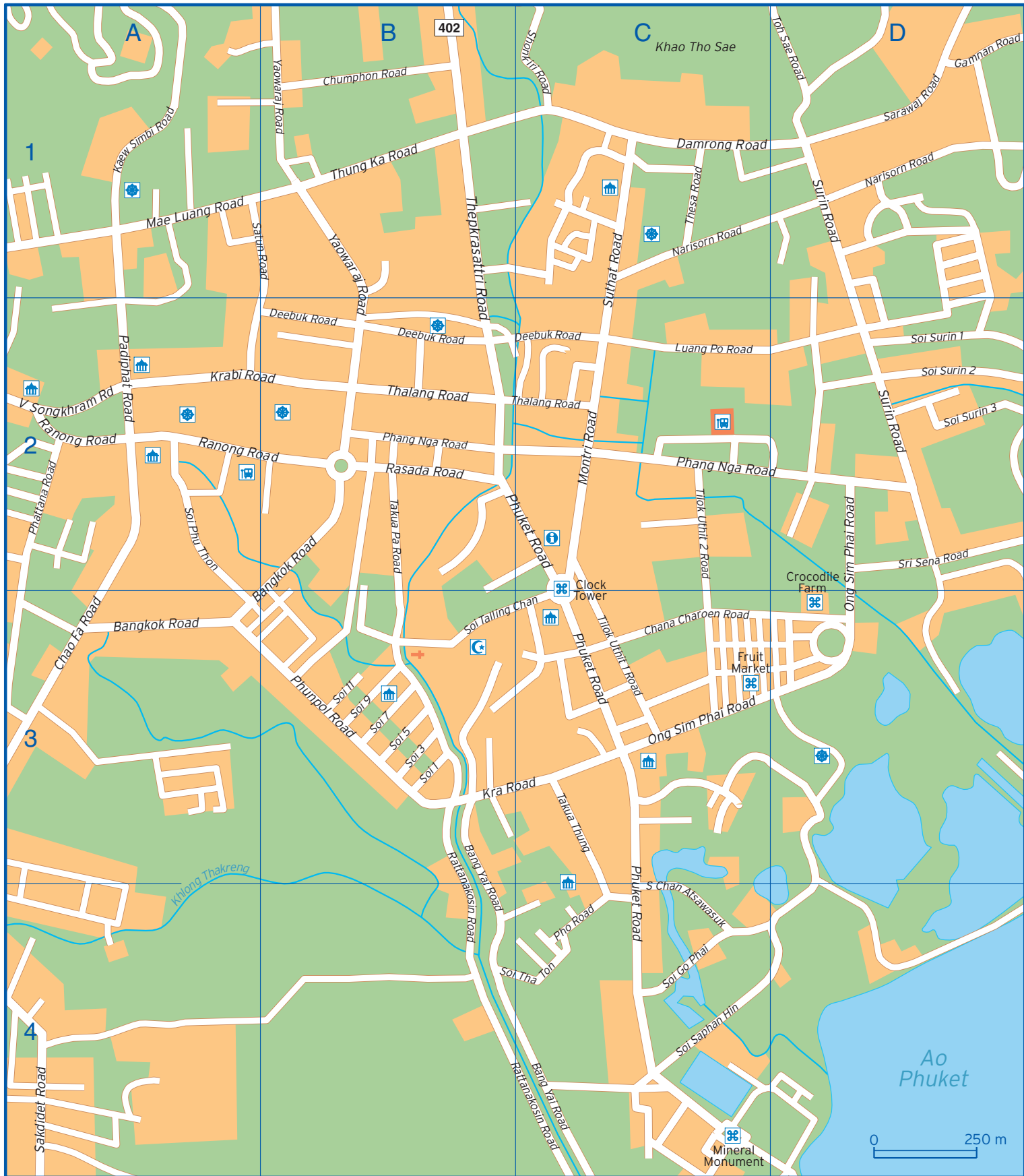
Emergency numbers

Police: 191
Fire: 199
Emergency Tourist Police: 1155
Marine police: +66 (0)76 211 883
Phuket International Hospital:
+66 76 249 400

Tourist information

Tourist Authority of Thailand (TAT)
191 Thalang Road, Tambon Thaladyai, Muang District,
Phuket
+66 76 211 036





Bang Yai Road	B3 B4 C4	Phuket Road	B2 C2 C3 C4	Soi Surin 1	D2
Bangkok Road	A3 B2	Phunpol Road	B3	Soi Surin 2	D2
Chana Charoen Road	C3	Ranong Road	A2 B2	Soi Surin 3	D2
Chao Fa Road	A3	Rasada Road	B2	Soi Talling Chan	B3 C3
Chumphon Road	B1	Rattanakosin Road	B3 B4 C4	Soi Tha Ton	B4 C4
Damrong Road	C1	Sakdidet Road	A4	Sri Sena Road	D2
Deebuk Road	B2 C2	Sarawaj Road	D1	Surin Road	D1 D2
Gamnan Road	D1	Satun Road	A1 B1	Suthat Road	C1 C2
Kaew Simbi Road	A1	Shonkiri Road	C1	Takua Pa Road	B2
Kra Road	B3 C3	Soi 1	B3	Takua Thung	C3
Krabi Road	A2 B2	Soi 11	B3	Thalang Road	B2 C2
Luang Po Road	C2	Soi 3	B3	Thepkrasattri Road	B1 B2
Mae Luang Road	A1	Soi 5	B3	Thesa Road	C1
Montri Road	C2	Soi 7	B3	Thung Ka Road	B1
Narisorn Road	C1 D1	Soi 9	B3	Tilok Uthit 1 Road	C3
Ong Sim Phai Road	C3 D2 D3	Soi Chan Atsawasuk	C4	Tilok Uthit 2 Road	C2
Padiphat Road	A2	Soi Go Phai	C4	Toh Sae Road	D1
Phang Nga Road	B2 C2 D2	Soi Phu Thon	A2	Vichit Songkhram Road	A2
Phattana Road	A2	Soi Saphan Hin	C4	Yaowaraj Road	B1 B2
Pho Road	C4				