

# Koh Samui

## Paradise on a beach

**Koh Samui offers more than tropical beaches and fantastic diving, and it's worth exploring the rest of the island. Head inland for the contrasting coconut covered, forested interior, with its scenic waterfalls; visit Wat Phra Yai (Big Buddha Temple) a 12m high seated Buddha image on a small rocky islet joined to the main island by a causeway; and shop in the main town of Na Thon.**

Koh Samui is a wonderful holiday escape offering something for everyone. Located off the south east coast, it is Thailand's 3rd largest island and easily accessible by air (just over one hour flight) from Bangkok. The main attraction of the island is its idyllic picture-postcard beaches, fringed with swaying coconut palms. Chaweng and Lamai are the most popular beaches, offering a growing choice of resorts, plenty of watersports, a wide array of restaurants (fantastic seafood) and fairly lively nightlife. Bo Phut and Maenam are ideal for those seeking quieter options. Koh Samui also boasts great diving particularly at Baan Taling Ngam and the nearby island of Koh Tao, which is rumoured to offer some of the best diving in south-east Asia. Another good diving spot is the beautiful Ang Thong Marine National Park, a group of 40 uninhabited islands, about 31 kms west of Samui. As well as snorkelling among the stunning corals here, you can also sea canoe or head on-land to the rainforests for some walking and birdwatching.

### ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES

**SAMUI HIGHLIGHTS** Take half a day to explore the attractions that Samui offers, other than the beaches. Visit the Big Buddha, scenic waterfalls and Na Thon Town. Daily 09:00 - 13:00. Price £23 per person.

**ANG THONG MARINE** National Park Ang Thong Marine National Park is an idyllic get away with its tranquil blue lagoons, coral reefs, sandy beaches and hidden caves. Daily 07:30 - 17:00. Price £36 per person.

**KOH PHAN NGAN** You will take a speedboat to the beautiful island of Koh Phan Ngan, off the northern coast of Koh Samui. This island has so little development and only few roads exist, the best way to travel round is by boat from beach to beach. Here you will spend the day viewing the magnificent scenery and lunch is also included. Daily 07:30 - 16:30. Price £46 per person.

**KOH TAO & KOH NANG YUAN** Visit the island of Koh Tao, famous for its fabulous diving and its unique beautiful bays, coves and coral gardens under the crystal clear sea. You will also reach Koh Nang Yuan, three small islands joined together by a sand bank. It too has crystal clear seas and an abundance of sea life. Daily 07:30 - 16:30. Price £46 per person.

#### PRICES

**LOW/MID/HIGH** date bands (to be used as a guide only)

**Low** = Jan to mid Mar, Apr-Jun, Sep-mid Dec

**Mid** = mid to end Mar (Easter), Jul-Aug

**High** = mid to end Dec