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Highlights from Phuket



Had Patong: Located about fifteen kilometers from town is the nine-kilometer stretch of beach called Patong. The atmosphere here is similar to Pattaya, supplying all different types of entertainment, several ranges of accommodation, swimming, and just about any other activity you could dream of.



Had Kata: Had Kata is located about seventeen kilometers from town and is comprised of Ao Kata Yai and Ao Kata Noi. There are many different types of coral and rock to be found here. Like Patong, there are several hotels, resorts and restaurants of all different price ranges.



Kata Noi Beach : This cosy bay is found at the end of a dead-end road, just a few minutes' drive over the hill from Kata beach. There's not much to do in Kata Noi, which is precisely the point of coming here. Relax, take a walk along the soft sands, snorkel or swim. It's long been a popular spot for surfers in the monsoon season of May-October, though swimming can be dangerous during this period. The popular Kata Viewpoint, offering a stunning vista across the three bays of Karon, Kata and Kata Noi, is only a 5-minute drive along a winding road towards Nai Harn.



Had Karon: Had Karon is located north of Had Kata and bordered by craggy hills. The beach is long and the many pine trees offer shade to keep you cool in the midday sun.



Had Rawai: Located about seventeen kilometers from town, Had Rawai has beautiful seaside streets and is where many of the islanders live. From here, you can hire boats to Koh He.



Laem Phrom Thep: Laem Phrom Thep is the best spot on the island to see the sunset. Located only two kilometers from Had Rawai, there are several souvenir shops where you can buy gifts for your loved ones.



Had Naihan: Had Naihan is next to the Laem Phrom Thep, about eighteen kilometers from town. This is a peaceful area with un-crowded white-sand beaches.



Had Surin: Had Surin, located twenty-four kilometers from town, has beautiful beaches and scenery, but swimming is forbidden because of the dangerous rip tides. Many visitors rent boats from here to take them to nearby islands like Koh RachaYai, KohTaphao, and Koh Sire.



Kamala Beach : This well-enclosed bay and fishing village surrounded by forested hills is one of the most beautiful beaches in Phuket. Tranquil and calm, the pretty white sands of Kamala beckon most people by day, but if you're seeking more than sunbathing on a perfect beach, there are other options. Hire a long-tail boat and go snorkeling at the north end of the beach, explore the neighbouring beaches of Laem Sing or Surin, or take an island tour



Bang Tao : is a study in contrasts, with the luxurious resorts and villas along its 8-kilometre stretch of beach just a few minutes' away from the town of Chermg Talay, where many villagers still make their living as their ancestors did - by fishing, farming and rubber tapping. The northern tip of the beach, so far untouched by development, is still an area where visitors might find that they have the beach to themselves.



Nai Yang Beach, combined with Mai Khao Beach to the north, is the longest stretch of sandy beach on the island, covering nearly 10 km. It is here that giant sea turtles come ashore to lay their eggs every year. At the Songkran festival in April, one of the activities is to release baby turtles to the sea. During the low season (June-October) car must be taken when swimming as there can be an undertow. Visitors should check with the hotel.



Had Nai Thon, Naithon Beach is one of the last remaining undeveloped spots on the island. Just a lovely beach, shady trees, a few sea food restaurants and a few small hotels and guest houses. Although it is close to the airport, it remains isolated, peaceful, scenic and totally relaxing. Phuket as it was 20 years ago.



Chalong Bay : Its muddy shoreline makes Chalong unsuitable for swimming, but it's an ideal spot for yacht mooring. Outside of the marinas of Boat Lagoon and Yacht Haven, Chalong is a centre for boating activity in Phuket. Early mornings and late afternoons are the busiest times, where diving and day trip groups are seen being bundled on and off the boats. The Ao Chalong Yacht Club, which organises regular sailing races, makes its base here, and its bar is a favourite spot for sailors to swap stories.



Cape Panwa : Just a short 10-minute drive from Phuket Town, Cape Panwa is a lesser-known area where rubber and palm plantations still outnumber the resorts, and where Phuket's deep sea port and naval base are found. The roads are quiet, offering the chance to take in the sea views and other sights as you wind around the cape. A major attraction is the Phuket Aquarium at the Phuket Marine Biological Centre.