

# Spotlight on Phuket



## HISTORY

Phuket was an important trading post on the eastern shore of the bay of Bengal in past centuries. It was a port for handling shipping and dealing with sailors from the Arab and Malaysia, India, Burmar, China, and Siam. By the 16th century, more European, Portuguese, Dutch, English and French sailors sailed to Phuket's shore. The island became profitable when tin was found to be available in large quantities in the nearby shadows. Chinese ambitious, hardworking miners and businessmen arrived to the island in the 19th century, adding a considerable Chinese culture to the island's already diverse population.

The most important battle was in the year 1785 A.D., when the Burmese, who had already captured and destroyed Ayuthaya, the ancient capital of Thailand, attacked the Phuket Island. The Thais were taken by surprise when the governor of Phuket had died, leaving them without a military leader. The governor's young widow, Chan, and her sister Mook, however, did not give up and decided to fool the invaders by disguising women as men and position them as soldiers on the city walls of Thalang, Phuket's old capital. The Burmese were confused, lost the battle, and finally sailed away. Chan and Mook were honored for their bravery by the king who awarded them with royal titles. A monument was then built in their tribute.

Today Phuket continues its long history of welcoming foreigners as Thailand's most popular tourist destination. Three million tourists come to Phuket each year, drawn by its white sand beaches, world-class diving and snorkeling and its vibrant nightlife.

## DOCKING/TENDERING

Your ship will tender into Patong Beach.

## SHORE EXCURSIONS

Please check your tour ticket for the correct meeting time and location for your tour. Your cruise line representative will direct you to your transportation.

## TRANSPORTATION

Public transport options, including buses and tuk-tuks around the island, are plentiful and cheap.

## SHOPPING

Do your handicraft and souvenir shopping at the storefront tailors, leather shops, jewelers, and ready-to-wear clothing boutiques. Merchants line the sidewalks selling batik clothing, T-shirts, local arts and handicrafts, silver, and souvenir trinkets.

## STORE HOURS

Business hours are generally from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on weekdays, and 9:00 am to noon on Saturdays, except public holidays when hours may vary widely.

## BANK HOURS

Banks are located in Phuket Town, with many larger branches on Ranong and Rasada roads. There are bank offices and branches of major Thai banks at Kata, Karon, and Patong beaches. Banks are generally open Monday to Friday from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.

## POST OFFICE INFORMATION

The General Post Office in Phuket Town is at the corner of Thalang Road and Montri Road.

## PHONE LOCATIONS

There are a number of different types of public payphones around town. For international phone calls, visit the yellow booths found in the popular tourist areas, such as Patong and Phuket City. You can purchase a pre-paid card from some mobile phone shops and convenience stores where they also accept credit cards.

## EMERGENCY

In case of an emergency, dial the Tourist Police at 1155.

## GUARANTEE

Shop with confidence, knowing that all merchants on this map have been carefully selected and each offers a 60-day guarantee to passengers. This guarantee ensures buyers that all recommended merchants will repair or replace any unsatisfactory item, excluding buyer's negligence or buyer's remorse. For purposes of determining quality and value of jewelry related to a buyer's complaint, only appraisals secured by a buyer from independent graduate gemologists, not affiliated with any retail jeweler, will be acceptable. Please inquire about individual store return policies before finalizing any purchase. The port shopping program is operated by Onboard Media, Inc. Participating merchants have paid an advertising fee to Onboard Media for inclusion in this program. Cruise Line receives a promotional fee from Onboard Media. Onboard Media handles all customer relations claims relating to the guarantee.

If you become aware of a problem during the cruise, please contact the Port & Shopping Guide onboard for immediate assistance. If a problem arises after the cruise but within 60 days of the purchase date, contact the Customer Relations Department at

Onboard Media:  
1691 Michigan Ave Suite 600, Miami Beach, FL 33139  
Phone: (800) 396-2999, Fax: (305) 673-2741  
Email: shoppingissues@onboard.com  
Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 7:00 pm - Friday 9:00 am to 5:30 pm (Eastern Standard Time)

Please send a letter and include the name of the ship, cruise date, store name and merchandise problem. Also enclose a copy of the sales receipt and any relevant documents relating to the sale. Onboard Media will contact the recommended store on your behalf for repair or replacement, and you will be notified accordingly.

Look for this banner in all recommended and guaranteed stores.



# PHUKET

## PORT & SHOPPING MAP



## CAPITAL

The capital of Thailand is Bangkok.

## LOCATION

Phuket is located on the south of Thailand.

## SIZE

Phuket covers an area of approximately 210 square miles.

## POPULATION

Phuket has a population of approximately 83,000.

## LANGUAGE

The official language in Phuket is Thai.

## CURRENCY

The official currency of Thailand is the Baht.

## TOURIST INFORMATION

The Tourism Authority of Thailand has an office in Phuket Town at 73-75 Phuket Rd.

## PLACES TO SEE

### PHUKET AQUARIUM

View this incredible display of countless varieties of colorful fish, corals and other sea animals in their natural settings. Don't miss Phuket's own assortment of unique underwater animals. The aquarium is located at the Cape Panwa area on the south east of the island.

### THALANG NATIONAL MUSEUM

Phuket's national museum carries ancient artifacts from Phuket's long history including items of the famous Battle of Thalang. It also provides education and information about daily life of the early Phuket inhabitants, their culture and belief. It is located just east of the two Heroines Monument on Pa Khlok Rd.

### WAT PHRA NANG SANG

This temple possesses a famous Buddha image called Phra Thong or the golden Buddha, the only solid gold half image Buddha in Thailand. Visit the museum on the temple ground, which exhibits a collection of historical items. Wat Phra Thong is by Talang off Thepkasatri road. Be sure to wear appropriate clothing when visiting Wat or temples.

### NAGA PEARL FARM

Watch demonstrations of how pearls are cultured and extracted at this distinguished pearl farm. Take the opportunity to buy local pearls. Daily tours are available.

Tune in to Shopping Channel 22

