The Phi Phi Islands are one of Southeast Asia's most striking destinations. Verdant limestone hills rising out of turquoise waters are the first impression that Ton Sai Bay in Phi Phi Don, the main island, gives to newly-arrived travellers. The craggy majesty of Phi Phi Leh provides a marked contrast while peripheral islands offer a heady cocktail of white-sand beaches, nodding palms, gin-clear water and superb diving and snorkeling. On the main island the nightlife is legendary and includes fire dancing, Muay Thai boxing and international DJs. Although Phi Phi is not a stellar shopping destination per se, a few quirky knick knacks and fashion statements can be found along its labyrinth of alleyways.

SIM CARDS AND DIALING PREFIXES
Prepaid SIM cards are available for purchase at the 7-Eleven by the pier. To make a call to a landline within Phi Phi, dial 075 then the six digit number. Making a call outside Phi Phi requires a three digit area code (with the exception of Bangkok 02), starting with 0, the area code, then the six digit number. Calls between mobile phones require a three digit prefix (08x), followed by the seven digit subscriber number.

GETTING AROUND
In the case of Phi Phi it's 'two legs good, four wheels bad'. In other words, there are no cars, tuk tuks or any motorised land transport on the island. Getting around is all done by walking and, except for the occasional bicycle, it's all peace and quiet. Visitors can charter a long-tail boat to visit neighbouring islands.

CURRENCY
Thai baht (THB). US$1 = approximately THB 30.00

TIME ZONE
GMT + 7 (The same as Cambodia, Lao and Vietnam)

ELECTRICITY
Voltage is 220 Volts with either two flat blades (NEMA 115 or JIS C8303) or round two pin plugs (Europlug CEE 7/16).

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS
- Police 191
- Tourist Police 1155
- Phi Phi Hospital 075 622151
- Krabi Town Hospital 075 611226

WEATHER
Phi Phi has a tropical monsoon climate and, located close to the equator, is both hot and humid in equal measure and doesn't cool significantly at night. The period between April and May is the steamiest (avg. 25-35°C). The Southwest monsoons arrive between May and October, and with them pouring rain and thunderstorms for many, though, this is a welcome respite.

http://www.phiphi.phuket.com/index.htm

AIRPORT TRANSFERS
The nearest airports to Phi Phi Island are at Phuket and just outside Krabi Town. If cost is not your main concern at Phuket Airport, then why not save the trouble and use the airport limousine service (24 hours)? You can book one in advance through the phuket.com website. http://www.phuket.com/info/phuketairport.htm. You'll find a taxi rank at Krabi Airport but don’t expect the cabbie to turn his meter on. Rather bargain for the best price.

If you wish hassle free transport you can book a variety of vehicles at http://www.krabi-travel.com/destination/transfer-services.htm and travel in style.
Phi Phi Island and its neighbours is a mixture of a typical idyllic tropical destination with excellent diving and snorkelling, fair-to-good dining and rampant nightlife catering largely to the under-30s market. Those who choose accommodation near to or in Ton Sai won’t get a lot of sleep but will be in on a party scene that runs through the night. Neighbouring islands are exceptionally alluring and uninhabited.

1. Ton Sai East

A great place from which to view nearby Phi Phi Leh in the morning sunshine, Ton Sai Bay has plenty of bars, restaurants, boutiques and you can charter a long-tail boat on its sands. Halfway along the beachside ‘road’ you’ll come across a slew of stalls selling curios, cheap jewelry, funny hats and you can even hire a guitar if you’re that way inclined. Because Ton Sai East consists largely of the beachside walk from Chukit Hotel to Long Beach it’s fairly easy to get around without getting lost.

2. Ton Sai West

If you pass the pier and keep walking past the hospital and towards the limestone hills you’ll notice that things get a lot quieter and peaceful in this section of the island. Several large resorts line the path, serving late afternoon cocktails, some feeding the many day tours that arrive en masse late morning but you won’t find original stand-alone restaurants here – only a few sandwich vendors and snack peddlers where you can buy fruit shakes and pancakes. However, you can rent kayaks to explore along the island’s sensational western promontory and several intrepid visitors have even paddled out to Phi Phi Leh!

3. Ton Sai Village

This is where you can find the bustling pier, a 7-Eleven, several good restaurants and just as many bad ones, a concentration of dive shops with cheery Aussies touting outside and a market where you can buy cheap beach gear, flip-flops, veggies and cheap and cheerful hawker food. Pee Pee Bakery, in spite of its silly name is actually an interesting place to go to mingle over a couple of teas. At the heart of things, Ton Sai Village features many of the island’s most popular bars such as Jordan’s Irish Pub, and the Reggae Bar but it’s also an interesting place to check out during daytime, too. Have a cappuccino and people watch at D’s Books, a European-style terraced café with an inside bookstore or try the ratatouille at Anna’s, located next to Moskito Diving. La Piazzetta is another good place to try out. It’s all cheek-by-jowl stuff in central Ton Sai and you won’t have far to wander before you discover something to your liking, even if it is Muay Thai in the Reggae Pub.

4. Loh Dalum

Here’s where those who haven’t headed off on a day trip head to soak up some rays. The beach here is a 800-metre gentle crescent of sand with shallow, turquoise water out for about 200 metres. Rent a kayak and go exploring the surrounding coves and try stopping off at Monkey Bay (but don’t get too friendly with the inhabitants – they bite). When the sun sinks over the horizon the surrounding hills glow gold and green while volleyball games start and Loh Dalum is one extremely chilled-out place to be. The waterfront is pretty much lined with restaurants so you won’t have far to wander for some lunch .

HOT HOTELS

1. Zeavola ★★★★★
Located on leafy Laem Tong Beach on the northeast coast of Koh Phi Phi, Zeavola is a perfect split between a jungle and beach resort. Accommodation at Zeavola is mostly hewn out of hand-cut teakwood and perfectly embodies the image of a luxurious beach cabana. Pool Villa Suites have 180-degree sea views, your own private pool, a king-size or double beds, Wi-Fi, satellite TV and much more. Beach Front Suites are a spacious 60sqm and have their own private garden while Garden Suites are also 60sqm. Village Suites are 40sqm. Enjoy luxury beach life.

http://www.krabi-hotels.com/zeavola/

2. Holiday Inn Resort Phi Phi ★★★★★
Also located at Laem Tong Beach is Holiday Inn Resort. An exotic collection of well-equipped Bungalows and contemporary Studios, this is the place for beach bliss and it’s no coincidence that the resort has a full-on dive centre as some of Asia’s best diving is on its doorstep. There are six accommodation choices featuring 79 Bungalows and 47 Studios. Here, you can dine on the idyllic beach or stroll up the hill for a sundowner, reap healthy benefits at the Bu Nga Raya Spa or quite simply chill out in a beach hammock. This is truly beach bliss.

http://www.krabi-hotels.com/holidayinnpp/

3. Phi Phi Island Village Resort & Spa ★★★★★
With an exclusive 800-metre beach and 700 acres of space in Lo Goa Ba Bay, the aptly named Phi Phi Island Village is the place to get away from it all. Private Villas are spacious (110sqm) and feature a generous Jacuzi infinity pool, a private outdoor bath, an extensive sun deck and, being located on a gentle hillside, they command spectacular views out over the resort to the azure sea. The resort also features a 1,000sqm infinity pool with Jacuzzi as well as no less than seven F&B outlets. This is truly a village of taste and refinement.

http://www.krabi-hotels.com/ppisland/

4. Bay View/ Arayaburi Resort ★★★
Bay View/ Arayaburi Resort comprises 38 Villas, each with unrivalled views out over Tonsai Bay and Phi Phi Leh. Set on a hillside overlooking Laem Hin Beach, the Villas are caressed by the sea breezes and the location is far enough from Phi Phi’s party scene for guests to enjoy a peaceful stay. Arayaburi Deluxe Villas and Grand Deluxe are 40 and 45sqm respectively and have spacious balconies, satellite TV and DVD players, and King-size or single beds. The resort also boasts an elevated swimming pool with Jacuzzi, a swim-up bar and children’s pool.

http://www.krabi-hotels.com/arayaburipp/

5. Phi Phi Banyan Villa ★★★
A comfortable and convenient Beach Villa Resort. Banyan Villa has stylish beachfront properties adjacent to the beach with a sun deck to the rear part with a swimming pool and pool bar service. Phi Phi Banyan Villa has villas featuring individually controlled air conditioning, cable TV, en-suite bathrooms with full amenities, safety deposit box, beach and pool towels, coffee, tea and cappuccino-making facilities, telephone, terrace, and all villas are close to the beach.

http://www.krabi-hotels.com/phiphibanyan/

More at http://www.phipphi.phuket.com/hotels.htm
**HOT HOTELS**

6. **Phi Phi Villa Resort ★★★**
   Under European management, Phi Phi Villa Resort has 57 Rooms, Bungalows and Villas catering for both budget and luxury customers. The wide range of facilities at Phi Phi Villa Resort includes the largest private swimming pool in the Ton Sai Bay area and Wi-Fi access. Accommodation comprises Deluxe Rooms, Deluxe Bungalows, Deluxe Villas and Deluxe Bungalow Suites. Carpe Diem, Phi Phi Villa Resorts' famous beach restaurant and bar offers an unforgettable dining and drinking experience with traditional Thai entertainment including a spectacular fire show every night.

7. **Phi Phi Andaman Legacy Resort ★★★**
   With landscaped, lush gardens and various natural attractions, Phi Phi Andaman Legacy Resort presents a variety of choices for privacy and relaxing fun. Accommodation choices are Standard Bungalows, Superior Double Beds, Superior Twin Beds, and Junior Suite Rooms. They break down to 36 rooms in two separate wings, with 18 Pool Views, 18 Mountain Views and 20 Bungalows. The resort is 50 metres from the white-sand beach, and it blends effortlessly with its exotic gardens surrounding a clear pool. Just outside of the main party action, you’ll sleep well at Andaman Legacy Resort.

8. **Mama Beach Residence ★★★**
   Situated right under the towering cliffs of Tonsai Towers at the far western end of Tonsai Bay, Mama Beach Residence is in a great location for those wanting to get away from it all yet still stay in the loop. It takes about 10 minutes to walk to from the main pier. From the large private balconies the rooms have a unique view out over the bay and Phi Phi Leh and it’s a 30-metre stroll down to the beach. French-owned and with a tangible personal touch, Mama Beach Residence enjoys many repeat guests – always the sign of a good hostelry.

9. **Bamboo Mountain View ★★**
   This advantageously located resort offers 30 rustic Bungalows, 14 air conditioned and 16 fan cooled – all made from polished bamboo. Centrally located, you’re never far from Phi Phi’s famous shopping, bars and restaurants here and if you simply feel like dining at the resort, there’s a full international and Thai menu at the restaurant, while the bar features a satellite TV and pool table. For cooling off the swimming pool is open from 07:00 to 23:00. Close to Nature, Bamboo Mountain View takes fun seriously.

10. **Banana PP Resort ★★**
    Banana PP Resort is located pleasingly in the middle of the jungly foothills of the main viewpoint walk. The resort offers simplicity itself – rustic accommodation with good views and personal service. Facilities and amenities include laundry services and a bamboo restaurant. Because of its relatively heightened location and the surrounding jungle, Banana PP manages to escape the mid-afternoon heat. Check out the sea views from your balcony while you relax with a drink. The Hilton it ain’t, but nevertheless rustically charming.

WHAT TO SEE IN PHI PHI

The first impression visitors get of Phi Phi is that someone must have turned the ‘colour-meter’ up. Deep verdant hillsides complement the bright-turquoise sea while vividly painted boats bob up and down by white-sand beaches. Heading out and about, northeast Phi Phi Leh rises majestically gaunt out of the sea while on its west side stunning Maya Bay wows visitors on a daily basis with its teeming shoals of fish and idyllic setting.

1. Maya Bay
   It’s been pointed out hundreds of times that Maya Bay was the backdrop to 2000’s The Beach but, as familiar as the scenario might be in the mind’s eye, nothing prepares you for the real thing. With limestone cliffs rising vertically 100m out of the rich-blue sea and thousands of fish milling around underwater, the familiar strand in the distance and the boat’s motor cut, taking in the scene is almost magical. Sure, the place is overcrowded but it’s still an impressive experience and one you’ll be glad you took the time for. Open: 08:00 – 18:00 Location: Phi Phi Leh How to get there: Take a day tour from Phuket or charter a long-tail boat in Ton Sai Bay

2. Viewpoint
   Phi Phi Island’s viewpoint is 186m, which isn’t really that high. If you’re feeling energetic, it’s a brisk 20-minute walk and a 30-minute stroll to the top. The journey up isn’t difficult; the path is well trodden and paved most of the way and there are plenty of places to rest. The best time to come from a photographic point of view is before 10:00 as the sun will be behind you, bringing out the colour of the sea. The view is, of course, magnificent. You can see Phi Phi Leh and all of both Tonsai Village and Loh Dalum bays. From here you will be able to appreciate the ‘dumbbell’ shape of the island and marvel its beauty. How to get there: Follow the signs from the Reggae Bar towards Loh Dalum Bay

3. Monkey Bay/ Monkey Beach
   Located just outside Loh Dalum Bay to the west, Monkey Bay is a deserted tranquil beach with good coral. Some daytrips stop here to see the monkeys, but watch out - they can be very cheeky. This is a nice place to explore by kayak from Loh Dalum Beach. Monkey Beach is located on the west side of Tonsai Bay about 700m from the beach. At very high tide there’s not much beach but at other times there’s plenty of sand. The monkeys here eat bananas and other fruit given to them, you can take photos at a very short distance, don’t get too close though. The snorkeling at the drop off around 50m from the beach is excellent. How to get there: Rent a kayak

WHAT TO DO IN PHI PHI

Phi Phi is most definitely an outdoors place. About the only time you’re going to be indoors is when you close the hotel door behind you. Therefore a lot of activities on the island require large dollops of suntan lotion, a hat and generous amounts of water to keep you properly hydrated. Obviously, a lot of activities are water-based and involve traveling a fair bit but rock climbing in west Tonsai is a mere 10-minute stroll away.

1. Diving
   On offer is a wide selection of Phi Phi diving trips and PADI courses. When staying on the island local diving is sensational with a head-spinning variety of marine life living in the waters surrounding the island. Phi Phi has long been a well-known place to ‘do your PADI’ and local sites include Maya Bay, Wang Long, Palong Bay, Bida Noi and the ever-popular King Cruiser Wreck. You can also take a liveaboard to more distant destinations including the Similan Islands and Richelieu Rock. There are many dive shops to choose from in Tonsai Village.

2. Snorkelling
   When the tide is right, places like Monkey Bay are just about as accessible as physics allows. The coral is just below the surface and brightly coloured fish dart here and there, inches from your mask. Hin Klang is in the middle of the sea, though it isn’t nearly as deep as expected; you don’t have to impersonate an island native on the hunt to enjoy the views - floating on the surface is fine. Phi Phi Lei has a few more snorkelling locations, as does Phi Phi Don, Bamboo Island, the list goes on.

3. Booze Cruise
   This afternoon-to-sunset cruise tour features visits to Monkey Beach, cliff jumping, Viking Cave, Loh Samah, Maya Bay and, presuming participants are still conscious, takes in the sunset. Of course the booze is not actually ‘free’ – it’s included in the price of the ticket and the fun factor potential is way up there. It should be noted that this is not a mindless blowout and that the cliff jumping precedes the boozing – for fairly obvious reasons. **Location:** Cabana Tour Office at Pier Tel: +66 (0)85 641 7977

4. Fishing
   First off, it has to be said that no, you won’t take your catch home to cook as fishing around Phi Phi operates on a ‘catch-and-release’ policy. That said, it’s still a lot of fun to pitch your wit, and strength against a black marlin, giant travelly or a sailfish and there’s no lack of them in the Andaman. Wahoo, too, are also common from June to October. You can charter a boat with friends or hire a longtail. Still, the biggest fish are quite a way out so if you’re serious about this sport get a sport fishing boat. **Sak Fishing half-day trips:** Morning 09:00 – 13:00, Afternoon 13:00 – 18:30 **Tel:** +66 (0)85 167 1802

5. Thai Cooking Classes
   Thai food is gaining popularity around the world but getting hold of the ingredients to cook it for yourself is not an easy task. This is the essence of Pum Cooking School in Central Ton Sai – to teach you how to use herbs and spices correctly and how to store them as well as of course to cook Thai food. There are three sessions daily – at 11:00, 16:00, and at 18:00 and you can choose from 90-minute, 180-minute and four-hour classes and longer, the recipes studied largely depend on your choice. Written about in the Guardian and mentioned on BBC, Pum’s is professional, witty and lots of fun, as well as being educational. **Location:** Central Ton Sai – look for the orange restaurant **Tel:** +66 (0)81 521 8904

6. Yoga
   Teacher Keira holds yoga classes on the roof of Carlito’s Bar every day except Friday between 17:30 and 19:00. The classes are intimate – never more than 10 people – and Keira is a fully qualified teacher. Interestingly enough, Keira compares the deep breathing exercises yoga employs with scuba diving. Now there’s a marriage made in heaven… **Location:** Carlito’s Bar, Ton Sai Village **Tel:** +66 (0)87 278 1997

7. Rock Climbing
   For a sport that combine physical challenge with great views it’s hard to beat rock climbing, especially on picturesque Phi Phi. For beginners and intermediate climbers Phi Phi offers far more concentration of climbs in the range of 5s to 6cs. Tonsai Tower in west Tonsai Beach has close to 25 routes in that range, single and multi-pitch alike. There is plenty to tackle on Phi Phi, even if you’re a novice climber. Rental equipment is available, as are guides and instructors. **Location:** Cat Climbing Shop, near Café de la Bohème, Ton Sai Central **Tel:** +66 (0)81 787 5101

More at http://www.phiphi.phuket.com/activities.htm
WHAT TO EAT

While Thai food needs little introduction, these popular dishes are must-try while you visit Thailand. Our list here spans everything from staple backpacker favourites to Thai classics. Although some of them may sound familiar, don’t be surprised if they taste nothing like what you usually find back home.

1. Tom Yum Goong (Spicy Shrimp Soup)
   A bold, refreshing blend of fragrant lemongrass, chili, galangal, lime leaves, shallots, lime juice and fish sauce, Tom Yum is a versatile dish that can fit within virtually any meal – its invigorating sour-spicy-hot taste just screams ‘Thailand’!

2. Pad Thai (Thai-style Fried Noodles)
   From Cape Town to Khao San Road, this is the default international Thai dish. Dropped in a searing hot wok, fistfuls of small, thin noodles do a steamy minute-long dance alongside crunchy bean sprouts, spring onion and egg, before disembarking for the nearest plate.

3. Gaeng Daeng (Red Curry)
   Made with morsels of meat, red curry paste, smooth coconut milk and topped off with a sprinkling of finely sliced kaffir lime leaves, this rich, aromatic curry always gets those taste buds tingling.

4. Som Tam (Spicy Green Papaya Salad)
   Hailing from the North-east (Issan), this outlandish dish is both great divider – some can’t get enough of its bite, some can’t handle it – and greatly distinctive. Garlic, chilies, green beans, cherry tomatoes and shredded raw papaya get dramatically pulverised in a pestle and mortar, releasing a rounded, sweet-sour-spicy flavour that’s not easily forgotten.

5. Tom Kha Kai (Chicken in Coconut Soup)
   A mild, tamer twist on Tom Yum, this iconic soup infuses fiery chilies, thinly sliced young galangal, crushed shallots, stalks of lemongrass and tender strips of chicken. Topped off with fresh lime leaves, it’s a sweet-smelling concoction, both creamy and compelling.

6. Pak Boong Fai Daeng (Stir-fried Morning Glory)
   The leafy plant with hollow green stems and thin fragile leaves forms the main component of this super easy favourite. Cloves of garlic and birds eye chilies join it in a wok alongside oyster sauce, fish sauce and fermented bean. A few lazy stirs and it’s done!

7. Gaeng Keow Wan Kai (Green Chicken Curry)
   Another all-time favourite dish, served alongside a bowl of fragrant rice. Green curry paste and coconut milk form the creamy base. Morsels of fresh chicken, cherry-sized eggplants, bamboo shoots, sprigs of coriander and generous handfuls of sweet basil add body to this seminal curry.

8. Yam Nua (Spicy Beef Salad)
   If there was such a thing as a ‘Salad Hall of Fame’, Yam Nua would surely take pride of place. The fresh, fiery thrill of yam nua – with its sprightly mix of onion, coriander, spearmint, lime, dried chilli and tender strips of beef – perfectly embodies the invigorating in-the-mouth-thrill of all Thai salads, the yummy-ness of yam.

WHERE TO EAT

Seafood is the star attraction on Phi Phi with many places displaying the day's catch as an effective way to attract customers. But Thai and Western options, from quick grab-and-go snacks to candlelit meals, are also easy to find and Tonsai Village is the centre of the Phi Phi dining universe. Whether indoors, outdoors, or places that blur the line between the two, there are plenty of restaurants with sumptuous selections. A trek towards Long Beach, down the footpath that more or less follows the sea, will turn up a dozen more eating options.

1. Le Grand Bleu
   Enjoying its reputation as the best stand-alone restaurant on the island, Le Grand Bleu is a French class act with a tiny slice of Thai and has been catering to fine-dining tastes since 1992 – an eternity by Phi Phi standards. A 15-label wine list complements the wooden interior and with prices set far lower than several pretentious local resorts but slightly higher than surrounding restaurants, you’ll come out a winner here if you’re looking for a great meal in pleasant surroundings. **Open:** 18:30 – 23:00  **Location:** Tonsai Main Street towards the pier  **Tel:** 081 979 9739  **Cuisine:** French and Thai

2. Pee Pee Bakery
   This cult-status Phi Phi old-timer has a quaintly rickety touch to it. With an upstairs and a downstairs fan-cooled part, here’s where you can score homemade buns, croissants, pizzas, muffins, and even steaks and salads. Popular with the diving set, Pee Pee Bakery’s windows are lined with delicious goodies. **Open:** 07:30 – 21:00  **Location:** 100 metres from the pier on Tonsai Village’s Main Street  **Cuisine:** Bakery/restaurant

3. Tonsai Seafood
   Perhaps the most prolific seafood restaurant on the island, Ton Sai Seafood lays out its wares – the day’s catch in ice ‘boats’ – for passersby to see. This large restaurant features a trio of eateries: a covered restaurant, an al fresco dining part in the middle and a bar-restaurant on the other side featuring set menus with a central open kitchen. The best part about it, though, is that it’s right on the shoreline. **Location:** In front of Phi Phi Banyan Villa, Tonsai East  **Cuisine:** Thai/Seafood

4. Anna’s
   Right next to Moskito Diving stands Anna’s. With a pleasantly personal feel, Anna’s could be described as a family-run restaurant. Featuring English breakfasts but also doing a line in German and Italian dishes along with Thai, Anna’s is nothing if not versatile. Cooled by ceiling fans and with friendly English-speaking staff, it’s one of the better places to eat on Phi Phi. Try the ratatouille. **Open:** 07:30 – late  **Location:** Next to Moskito Diving, Central Tonsai  **Cuisine:** International

5. La Piazzetta
   One of the few restaurants on the island that actually takes its food seriously, La Piazzetta is a small eatery with high bamboo stools and tables, 13 different types of pizzas, pastas and an all-Italian wine list. It’s fan cooled with a small outside eating area. Tastefully fitted out and with a German/Italian owner, this place is worth a try. **Open:** 11:00 – 14:00, 18:00 – 23:00  **Location:** Central Tonsai  **Cuisine:** Italian trattoria

6. Matt’s Joint
   Matt’s gets busy because of the popularity of its grilled food and its generous portions. Steaks and Australian burgers are the big draws here but you can also score fresh fish. There’s a modest but good quality selection of Aussie wines. Open sided and at a crossroads (traffic-free, naturally), Matt’s is a good place to take in the street goings on. **Open:** 12:00 – 23:00  **Location:** Central Tonsai  **Cuisine:** Grill

WHERE TO GO FOR NIGHTLIFE

Phi Phi’s nightlife has several very positive things going for it. It’s compact, entertaining, young and vibrant and - unlike many other tourist destinations in this part of the world - it's not sleazy. The island's many pubs and bars are centrally located and easy to find. At 2am the music stops but bars generally stay open for as long as they have customers.

1. Carpe Diem
The legendary Carpe Diem beach bar and restaurant is a popular daytime chill-out spot and by night a popular party bar, famous for its nightly fire show. International and Thai food is available daytime and evenings provided by the neighbouring Phi Phi Villa Resort restaurant. Open: 08:00 – late Location: Tonsai East

2. Apache
Another big name on the island’s nightlife circuit, Apache is an out-and-out club/bar with a huge sound system, open sides and an army of flyer distributors outside. It's the nearest thing that Phi Phi has to a pick-up joint and it makes no bones about it with free lady drinks, ‘tropical bikini parties’, body painting and dance parties led by some pretty hot DJs. With pool tables and three big screens there’s a lot to do here until very late. Just don’t book a bungalow nearby if you’re looking forward to an early night… Open: 10:00 – late Location: On the way out of Tonsai Village towards Tonsai East and Long Beach

3. Bora Bora
Previously the wildly successful Hippies restaurant/bar, Bora Bora is doing a sterling job of keeping the flames of Party Politics on Tonsai East burning bright. For a start there is a free salad bar and free daily soup with your meal from 18:30 – 22:00 followed by promotion after promotion. The background music can get a little overpowering but that depends on your tastes and where you sit. This is more of an afterhours partying place than a restaurant but that’s not to say that you can’t enjoy a simple meal here, chatting with the friendly but slightly spacey staff. Bora Bora even offers free drinks later on if you produce a copy of their promotional flyer. Open: 08:00 – late Location: Central East Tonsai

4. Banana
Phi Phi’s only rooftop bar, the staircase leading up is reason enough not to drink too much at this hip venue. What goes up must come down, but at what velocity is up to you. Good DJ (who takes requests) playing everything from Indie Rock, House, Breaks, Beats and Electro, nice friendly vibe, no over-the-top prices and lots of fun activities such as a rooftop telescope and sheesha (hookah) pipes in ‘chill-out huts’, there’s even a daily acoustic music set from 17:00 – 20:00.

5. Carlito’s
Carlito’s restaurant/bar is one of Phi Phi’s most established drinking holes and a veritable hive of activity. With Full Moon and Black Moon parties, a large dance floor, a broad repertoire of music and of course bucket after bucket of liquor and mixers, it’s quite the place to be. Even the entrance of Carlito’s is fascinating, with a multiple signpost showing distances to far-off destinations. With fire shows every night (usually about 22:00) and the whole place packed with just about every nationality under the sun, Carlito’s is where it’s at on the island if you are a party person. Open: 08:00 – late Location: Central East Tonsai

6. Jordan’s Irish Pub
Right in the centre of things, Jordan’s is frenetic some nights, merely mad busy on others. With an in-house DJ and occasional live Irish music plus a bar at which everyone faces each other, socialising has never been so easy. An extremely popular pub, you can choose to dance, hang out at the bar, play pool, go upstairs to literally chill out or people watch outside. Jordan’s doesn’t miss a trick as it celebrates Full Moon parties plus major sports events are televised, there’s a ‘football’ table and it’s about the only air-conditioned place around. Be careful though; if you’re traveling on a budget, don’t order a pint of Guinness without checking out the price first. Open: 10:00 – late Location: Central Tonsai by Reggae Bar

7. Reggae Bar
One of the island’s busiest nightspots, the Reggae Bar breaks the mold set by countless other reggae bars throughout Thailand of a steady diet of Bob Marley with dirty wooden furniture. Rather, Phi Phi’s version features nightly Muay Thai boxing bouts involving professionals and even tipsy bar goers. Of course you can hang out at the bar but drinkers find atavistic delight in chugging beer while watching two fighters knocking seven bells out of each other. Open: 17:00 - late Location: Central Tonsai by Jordan’s Irish Pub

8. Ibiza Bar
Ibiza is a happening bar. Fire dancers twiddle and twist away, ambient music swirls into the night air and punters sprawl on cushions. You can score some food at Ibiza but it's pretty basic stuff. It's better to go to one of the neighbouring restaurants and come here later on in the evening for a good long dance in the sand. Please note that unfortunately, as successful as this bar has been, it has also picked up a reputation as being dangerous so, the later it gets, the more caution should be exercised. Open: 12:00 – Late Location: Central Loh Dalum Beach

WHERE TO SHOP

A few years ago it seemed that all you could buy on Phi Phi was food, beer and hippy jewelry but in the recent past shopping opportunities have blossomed and grown on the island. Clothes stores often double as impromptu minimarts while minimarts sell clothes and at the same time book stores masquerade as bars and coffee shops while coffee shops are the place to find good books. It’s all a tad confusing for those accustomed to more organised city life but residents and visitors alike adapt and enjoy themselves in the hotch-potch that is shopping on Phi Phi. It’s by no means a shopping destination but here are a few tips.

1. Shopping Alleyway
   Roughly halfway between the Chukit Resort and the end of Tonsai East there is a sharp left turn that makes an alley lined with stalls selling homemade beads, T-shirts, sarongs, shorts and lots of holiday knick-knacks, some of which are pretty but useless and some of which are useless but pretty. Still, if you’ve forgotten your Frisbee or beach ball or if you’re in the market for a hand-woven bracelet or a pair of fake Ray Bans or Oakleys check this slew of stalls out. **Open**: 10:00 – late **Location**: Past Rimlay Resort on the left **Type**: Holiday accessories

2. Super Funky
   T-shirts, sarongs, hats and sunglasses – they’re all here in this Tonsai East version of the many ‘boutiques’ that are to be found in the centre of the island. **Open**: 10:00 – 22:00 **Location**: Facing Bora Bora Restaurant-Bar **Type**: Holiday gear, sarongs, T-shirts, silly hats

3. 7-Eleven
   Everything on Phi Phi Island except the coconuts was brought from either the mainland or Phuket by boat. Transporting goods costs money and so expect elevated prices, even at the 7-Eleven. However 7-Eleven still remains the cheapest of convenience stores on the island – many of which belong to the resort or hotel directly next to or behind them. **Open**: 24/24 **Location**: Central Tonsai

4. D’s Books #1
   A very well-organised bookstore with alphabetized sections, best-selling sections and several languages. Punters can buy, sell and trade here. Prices are a little exaggerated but go for it – you’re on holiday. **Open**: 10:00 – 23:00 **Location**: Central Tonsai

5. D’s Books #2
   This more centrally located and larger branch of D’s Books doubles as a café. Enjoy a smoothie or a cappuccino while you browse through the many hundreds of enticing titles here. One oddity at D’s books is that second (or third) hand books cost the same price as brand new ones. There’s got to be logic in that somewhere. **Open**: 10:00 – 23:00 **Location**: Central Tonsai near the Reggae Bar

6. Kun Va
   Fashion items, sarongs, beach bags and accessories are all up for grabs here. The quality of the goods sets this place apart so expect slightly elevated prices. Still, you’ll have a lovely talking-point souvenir of your Phi Phi holiday to wear in style back home. **Open**: 11:00 – 23:00 **Location**: Central Tonsai

7. Kunstone
   Chiang Mai silver is world renowned and has established itself as a trustworthy buy because of the generations of artisans that have made the northern Thai city their home. Kunstone offers a comprehensive collection of silver goods along with various types of jewelry, armbands, handmade necklaces and attractive accessories. Also on sale are colourful dress necklaces. Credit cards accepted. **Open**: 10:00 – 22:00 **Location**: Main Street, Tonsai Central

8. Rasita
   This is definitely a shop for the ladies. With handbags, shoes, dresses, dress jewelry and everything but the kitchen sink, Rasita has elegance and charm, along with a friendly owner. **Open**: 11:00 – 23:00 **Location**: On the way out of Tonsai Village towards Tonsai East and Long Beach

TIPS AND GOOD TO KNOW

Barter, but nicely
The first rule of shopping in Thailand: if there's no barcode or set price, get haggling. It's expected. However, instead of adopting a confrontational "give me it for this price, now!" attitude, try the gracious, smiley "what's your best price, my friend?" approach. Why? Because a smile here goes further than a sneer. Aim to chip anything from 10-40% off the quoted price. And by all means, walk away if the price is disagreeable – more often than not you'll be called back for last-ditch negotiations!

Drink lots of water
This tip, of course, applies even to the Antarctic. But packing a supply of the wet stuff in Thailand's sticky, stifling heat is even more crucial to your well-being. Our unscientific rule of thumb: drink more than you sweat. Fortunately you are never more than a few paving stones from a drinks vendor. Always make sure bottled water is sealed. For a change, take your chosen tipple modern Thai-style, in a small plastic bag with handle and straw. It's quirky but, as you'll find when rummaging around markets, also convenient.

Carry a photocopy of your passport
Whether it's an impromptu demand from a local policeman or a request from a bank teller, carrying ID is a must in Thailand. Proving who you are is a day-to-day formality, something the Thais are finicky about. Instead of dragging your passport around with you, and with it the constant fear of losing it, take a photocopy.

EASY THAI PHRASES

| Krab / Ka | Words added at the end of a sentence/phrase to add politeness. Krab for male. Ka for female |
| Phom / Chan | = I (male / female) |
| Khun | = You (polite) |
| Sawad Dee (krab / ka) | = Hello (male / female) |
| Khob Khun (krab / ka) | = Thank you (male / female) |
| Phom / Chan Pood Thai mai pen | = I (male / female) don't speak Thai |
| Hong nam yoo nai? | = Where are the restrooms? |
| Tao rai (krab / ka)? | = How much does it cost (male / female)? |
| Lod dai maak sood tao rai? | = What's your best price? |
| Pood len rue plao | = Are you kidding? |
| Nii khong jing rue khong plom | = Is this real or fake? |
| Ao ped ped | = I want my food very spicy |
| Mai ped | = Not spicy |
| Check bin / Kheb tang | = Can I have the bill please? |
| Khun lor / suay maak | = You are very handsome / beautiful |