

# NOW TRAVEL ASIA

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2020

## ISLANDS *RETREAT*

**KOOD ISLAND**  
THE COLOR OF  
THE EASTERN SEA

**BACK TO THE 60'S  
IN TRINIDAD**

**MOUNTAIN PARADISE  
IN PAI THAILAND**

**ASIA'S  
NEW  
HOTELS &  
RESORTS**

**NICE**  
THE PINNACLE OF  
THE MEDITERRANEAN

**A JOURNEY ALONG  
LUANG PRABANG  
TO VANG VIENG**



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S O F I T E L  
HOTELS & RESORTS



## EDITOR'S NOTE



SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2020



# E

ven though it is not yet possible to travel anywhere far from home, a staycation sounds like a great idea for the unusual time the world is going through. The epidemic strikes the travel industry in the heart, but there are still several recently opened luxury hotels in Asia, especially in Thailand. Why not check out new seaside villa resorts and rejuvenate your body and soul amidst the natural beauty that has been restored during the pandemic.

The 2020-2021 NOW Travel Asia Awards will see the best hotels, resorts, spas, restaurants, and airlines compete to win the vote from our online readers around the world. The result will be announced at the end of the year, so cast your vote and tune in for the winners of this year!

We pray for the world to return to its beautiful side. Meanwhile, be safe and make sure you practice the “new normal” for yourself and everyone around you.

*Kanapot Sitthiwong*

**Kanapot Sitthiwong** Editor-in-Chief

editor.nowtravelasia@gmail.com



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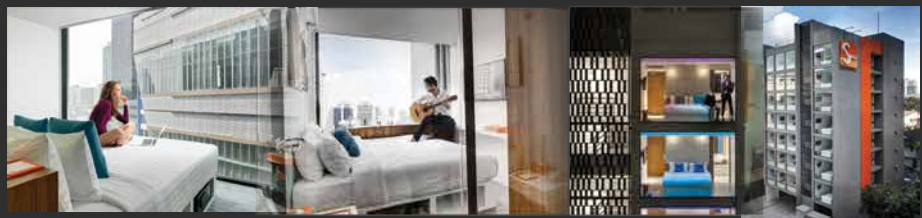
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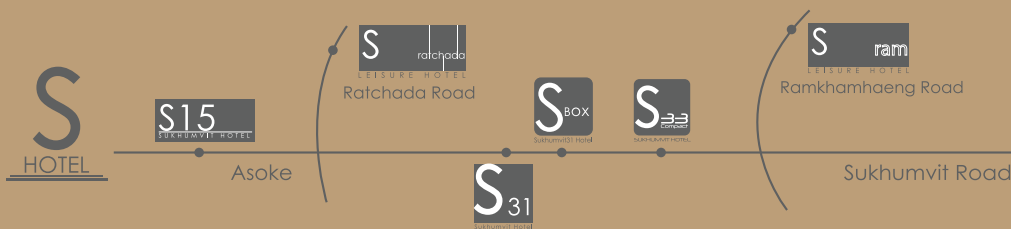
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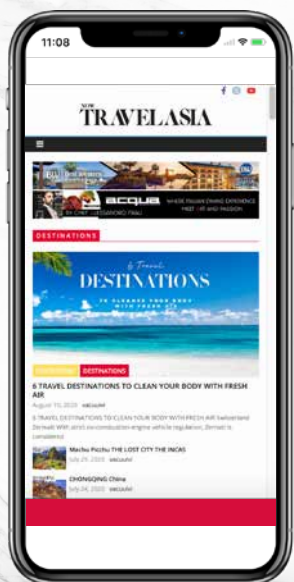


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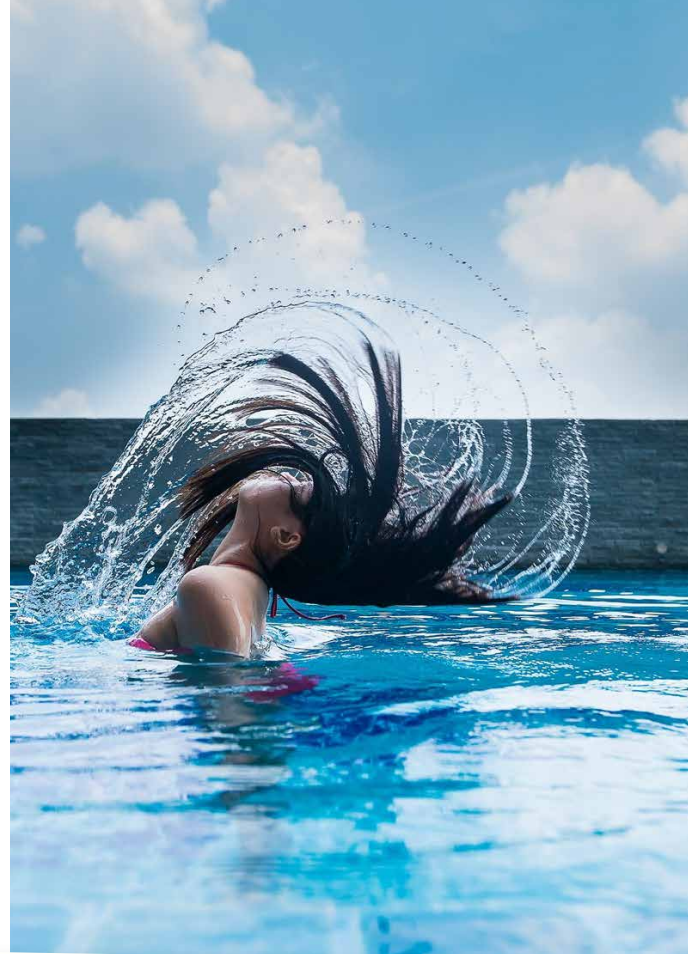
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**D**o you think you know all about Thailand? Think again! This beautiful Kingdom delights millions of visitors every year, but there are always exciting new things to experience. For example, did you know that Thailand has 1,430 islands, including Phuket, which is connected to the mainland by a bridge? Or that Thailand is home to some of the world's most incredible animals, such as bumblebee bat and whale shark which are the world's smallest mammal and biggest fish? And did you know that Bangkok's malls are some of the world's biggest shopping destinations. Thailand is a truly amazing place!



Whether you're a Thailand regular or a first-time visitor, this captivating country has a wealth of wonders to explore. From the bustling streets of Bangkok to the palm-fringed beaches of Phuket, or the jungle-clad hills of Chiang Mai, travellers have many exotic destinations to discover. Alternatively, you can step off the beaten track and soak up authentic local attractions and natural landscapes in Buriram and Prachinburi.

With 14 outstanding hotels and resorts all across the Kingdom, Best Western will help you craft your own personal adventure in Thailand.

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## RAFFLES MALDIVES MERADHOO'S ROYAL RESIDENCE, THE INDIAN OCEAN'S NEW EXCLUSIVE ISLAND HIDEAWAY

At the southernmost reach of the Maldives, in the remote and pristine atoll of Gaafu Alifu, Raffles Maldives Meradhoo has been welcoming travellers in search of true tranquillity and complete escapism since its opening in 2019. Now, as the world slowly emerges from lockdown, this Indian Ocean idyll is ready to reveal a retreat that will provide the ultimate hideaway for those who want to relax in unparalleled style: the Raffles Royal Residence.

## HONG KONG RESIDENTS CAN ENJOY A "1+1 BONUS NIGHT" EXTENDED STAY OFFER AT NEW WORLD MILLENNIUM HONG KONG HOTEL

New World Millennium Hong Kong Hotel, the iconic five-star landmark on the Victoria Harbour waterfront in Tsim Sha Tsui East, now offers Hong Kong residents an exclusive "1+1 Bonus Night" room package: from now until 30 September, guests staying one night can enjoy an extra night complimentary.

For reservations or details, please call +852 2313 4305 or visit [newworldmillenniumhotel.com](http://newworldmillenniumhotel.com).



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This campaign is valid from now until 31 October 2020. For more information and to book the "Buy One Get One Free" promotion and the new chauffeur service, email: [info@santiburisamui.com](mailto:info@santiburisamui.com) or call +66 (0) 77 425 031





## THE LIVING ART (LVA), TCEB AND MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPORTS SUCCESSFULLY CREATED THE FIRST EXPERIENTIAL ART AND LIFESTYLE GALLERY AT BLUE TREE PHUKET THAILAND

The launch of The Living Art Gallery at Blue Tree Project Phuket Province On Saturday, August 29, 2020, it marks the opening of the first gallery in Thailand that combines all kinds of art works from all regions of Thailand. To meet the lifestyle of life Go with the art addiction And prepare to support Phuket's big festival of the year, The Living Art Festival 2020, which will be held between 26 - 29 November 2020 with the Ministry of Tourism and Sports. Office for Promotion of Convention and Exhibition (Public Organization) or TCEB is the main sponsor of the event.

The festival will exhibit all kinds of art. Including food identity Local culture And provide knowledge about arts, crafts, local knowledge Including the creation of added value to raw materials and products in the area around Thailand as well. Corps to comply with the objectives and policies of the Civil State 4.0 of Music and the Government and support the strategy of



the main supporters. Therefore, we develop The Living Art Festival as an annual festival that can generate economic income for the country of Thailand and be sustainable in the future.

The Living Art at Blue Tree Phuket Thailand Project is open for free admission every day 15.00 - 22.00 or you can visit the gallery via VR virtual reality at the website. [www.thelivingartsthailand.com](http://www.thelivingartsthailand.com) Or interested in visiting as a group Please make an appointment in advance by calling +6665 926 9455 or email: [info@thelivingartsthailand.com](mailto:info@thelivingartsthailand.com)





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Nominees in 24 categories, from Asia's top hotels, spa, and restaurants, to airlines and leading chefs, will be competing for the vote to become the best of their respective category.

NOW Travel Asia Awards, an internationally recognized annual award by NOW Travel Asia Media Group was established in 2012 to acknowledge and celebrate the service excellence across all sectors of the travel industry in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East. Certified by 800,000 online readers at [www.nowtravelasiaawards.com](http://www.nowtravelasiaawards.com), NOW Travel Asia Awards Survey allow the readers to cast their vote online for their favourite destinations, luxury hotels, airlines, restaurants, and the model figures who contribute to the development of the travel industry in Asia and Middle East. The award opens new doors and bring opportunities to every participant.

NOW Travel Asia Awards has been highly recognized as an effective platform for boosting business recognition and become the leader of luxury travel industry. The award also doubles as a professional guide to the best services and offerings in the region.





#### ASIA'S TOP BEACH HOTELS

1. Fusion Maia Da Nang, Vietnam
2. New Star Beach Resort, Thailand
3. Woraburi Phuket Resort & Spa, Thailand
4. Atmosphere Kanifushi, Maldives
5. The Ritz- Carlton Bali, Indonesia

#### ASIA'S TOP HERITAGE HOTELS

1. Fairmont Peace Hotel, Shanghai, China
2. Mandarin Oriental Bangkok, Thailand
3. Raffles Hotel, Singapore
4. Eastern & Oriental Hotel, Malaysia
5. Sofitel Grand Metropole Hanoi, Vietnam

#### ASIA'S TOP VILLA RESORTS

1. Song Saa Private Island, Cambodia
2. Alila Villas Uluwatu, Bali Indonesia
3. Shangri-La's Boracay Resort and Spa, The Philippine
4. Island Escape by Burasari, Thailand

#### ASIA'S TOP WEDDINGS & HONEYMOONS HOTEL & RESORTS

1. Wyndham Grand Phuket Kalim Bay, Thailand
2. Pimalai Resort and Spa, Thailand
3. Conrad Bali, Indonesia
4. W Maldives, Maldives
5. Bulgari Resort Bali, Indonesia
6. Thavorn Beach Village Resort & Spa, Thailand

#### ASIA'S TOP FAMILY HOTELS

1. Resorts World Sentosa - Festive Hotel, Singapore
2. Royal Cliff Grand Hotel, Thailand
3. Sofitel Krabi Phokeethra Golf & Spa Resort Hotel, Thailand
4. Fullon Hotel Tamsui Fisherman's Wharf, Taiwan
5. Club Med Guilin, China

#### ASIA'S TOP LEISURE HOTELS

1. S31 Sukhumvit Hotel, Thailand
2. Holiday Inn Resort Vana Nava Hua Hin, Thailand
3. The Parisian Macao, Macau
4. Four Seasons Hotel Guangzhou, China
5. Conrad Macao, Cotai Central, Macau

#### ASIA'S TOP EMERGING HOTELS

1. Utopia Naiharn, Thailand
2. The Gems Mining Pool Villas Pattaya, Thailand
3. Island Escape by Burasari, Thailand

#### ASIA'S TOP DESIGN HOTELS

1. Mira Moon, Hong Kong
2. W Taipei, Taiwan
3. VIE Hotel Bangkok, MGallery Hotel Collection, Thailand
4. Hotel EClat Beijing, China
5. G Hotel Gurney, Malaysia





### ASIA'S TOP ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEXES

1. The Venetian Macao Resort Hotel, Macau
2. The Grand Ho Tram Strip, Vietnam
3. Marina Bay Sands, Singapore
4. Galaxy Macau, Macau
5. Legoland Malaysia Resort, Malaysia



### ASIA'S TOP BOUTIQUE HOTELS

1. Luxehills Maison Albar Hotel Chengdu, China
2. Dream Bangkok, Thailand
3. Kundala Beach Resort Hua Hin, Thailand
4. The Edison George Town Penang, Malaysia
5. Luang Say Residence, Laos

### ASIA'S TOP HOTEL CHAINS

1. Paxton Vacances Hotel Management Group, China
2. Dusit International, Thailand
3. Fullon Hotels & Resorts, Taiwan
4. Best Western Hotels & Resorts Asia, Asia
5. Rhombus Group, Hong Kong

### ASIA'S TOP BUSINESS HOTELS

1. Conrad Hong Kong, Hong Kong
2. Shangri-La's Far Eastern Plaza Hotel Taipei, Taiwan
3. Swissotel Bangkok Ratchada, Thailand
4. Kempinski Hotel Chengdu, China
5. The Peninsula Tokyo, Japan

### ASIA'S TOP SPA HOTELS & RESORTS

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2. The Naka Island, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa, Thailand
3. Hotel Des Arts Saigon - Mgallery, Vietnam
4. Sibsan Resort & Spa Maetaeng, Thailand
5. One Farrer Hotel, Singapore

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1. Chann Wellness Spa, Thailand
2. The Barai Spa, Thailand
3. The Ritz-Carlton Spa, Hong Kong
4. Oasis Spa, Thailand
5. So Spa - Sofitel Macau, Macau

### ASIA'S TOP FINE DINING RESTAURANTS

1. Mix Restaurant & Bar, Thailand
2. Acqua Restaurant Phuket, Thailand
3. Mume, Taiwan
4. Raw, Taiwan
5. Tin Lung Heen, Hong Kong

### ASIA'S TOP JAPANESE RESTAURANT

1. Mikha Japanese Restaurant, Thailand

### ASIA'S TOP CHEFS

1. Alessandro Frau, Thailand
2. Vicky Lau, Hong Kong
3. Paul Pairet, China
4. Vick Chung, Taiwan
5. Hiroyasu Kawate, Japan

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2. Thai Airways International
3. Oman Air
4. China Southern Airlines
5. Emirates Airline



### ASIA'S TOP BUDGET AIRLINES

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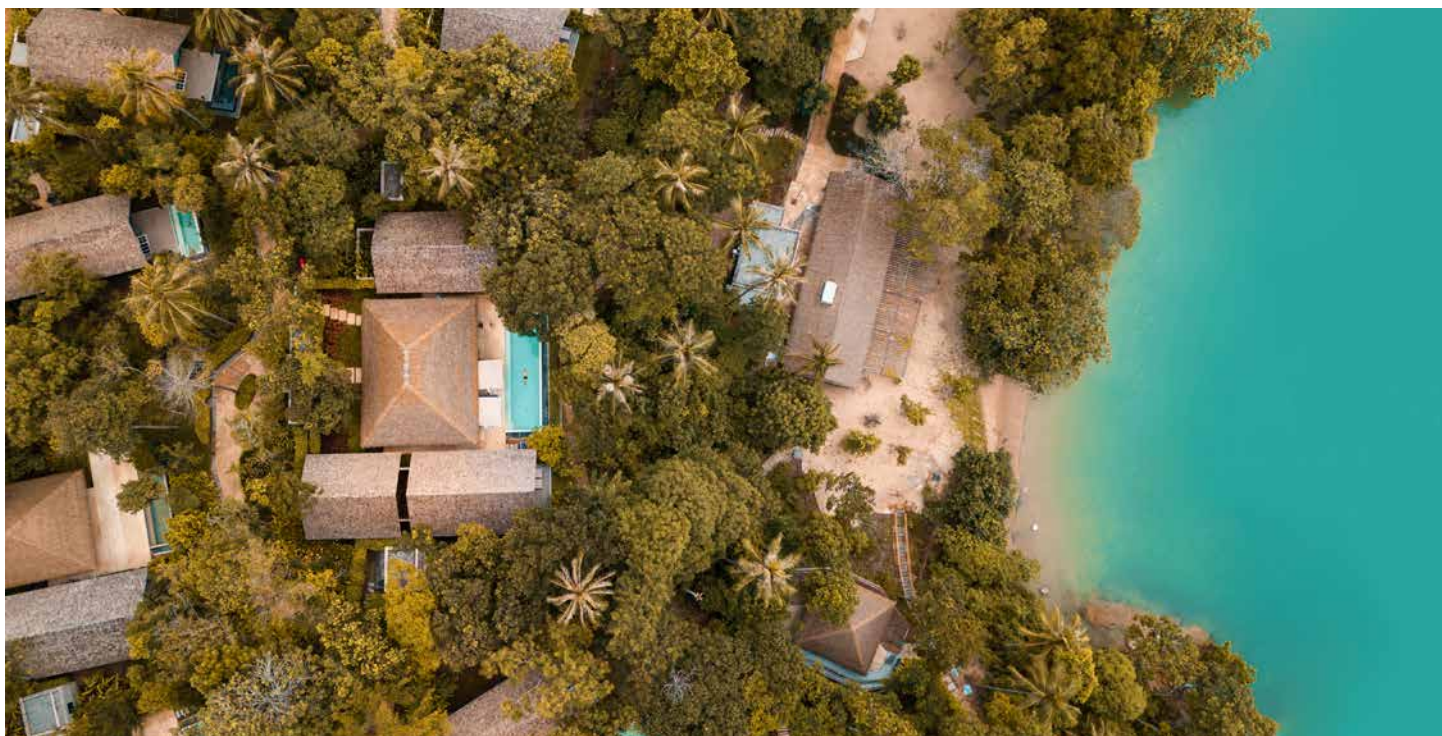






# ASIA'S NEW HOTELS & RESORTS





## ISLAND ESCAPE BY BURASARI

*Thailand*

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tay luxuriously on Koh Maphrao and be surrounded by unspoiled natural beauty. Island Escape by Burasari let you get away from the stressful modern lifestyle and treat you to a secluded, yet fun family vacation or a romantic getaway for two. Expect splendid services of a 5-star hotel along with sumptuously appointed villas with breath-taking ocean views that blends seamlessly with minimalist décor and design.



ISLAND  
ESCAPE  
BY BURASARI



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Amphoe Muang, Phuket 83200  
Thailand  
Tel: +66 76 643 643









## CAPELLA BANGKOK

*Thailand*

*A new jewel of Bangkok  
by Chaopraya River*



Finally, Capella just landed in Bangkok. The enriched and heart-crafted hotel by the riverbank of Bangkok situated within the prestigious Chao Phraya Estate, Capella Bangkok offers 101 guestrooms, suites and villas, each of which boasts uninterrupted views of Thailand's revered river. The esteemed location was selected due to its access to the storied Chao Phraya River and Charoenkrung Road – Bangkok's oldest paved road where tradition



and cultural heritage meet the city's trendiest cafes, bars and art galleries. Guests can truly enjoy a glimpse into the soul of the city at Capella Bangkok, as a dedicated team of Capella Culturist crafts enriching Capella Curates experiences centred around the dynamic neighbourhood and its intriguing residents.

Designed by renowned architects Andy Miller and Richard Scott Wilson of Hamiltons International with interiors by celebrated tastemakers BAMO, Capella Bangkok is a cocoon of tranquility in the midst of the hustle and bustle of Bangkok. The sophisticated accommodation is ready to serve the world from October 2020.



CAPELLA  
BANGKOK



### ADDRESS

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## THE GEMS MINING POOL VILLAS PATTAYA

*Thailand*

### ESCAPE TO THE PRECIOUS OASIS IN THE BEACH CITY



The Gems Mining Pool Villas Pattaya boasts of a barefoot luxury experience with five-star facilities in greenery settings. The resort

prides itself on an African-Mining design concept that is shown in the exterior and interior. The rooms and villas are divided into five categories including Topaz Jacuzzi, Emerald One-Bedroom Pool Villa, Sapphire Two-Bedroom Pool Villa, Ruby Three-Bedroom Pool Villa and The Legacy Five-Bedroom Residence.

The resort offers meeting and event facilities for corporate and leisure. The Miner Meeting Room can cater up to 200 guests and The Explorer Meeting Room can accommodate



approximately 60 guests while The Tram Restaurant & Wine Cellar is suitable for more casual smaller events.

The Gems Mining Pool Villas Pattaya is situated in a strategic location with easy access to Bangkok-Pattaya Motorway, making it convenient in connecting to Bangkok in 1.5 hours drive. The resort is also conveniently connected to U-Tapao International Airport in just 30 minutes and Bangkok Suvarnabhumi International Airport in just 1.30 hours.



**THE  
GEMS  
MINING**



#### ADDRESS

888/1 Moo.1 Nongprue  
Banglamung Pattaya Chonburi  
20150 Thailand  
Tel: +66 38 222 222





## UTOPIA NAIHARN *Thailand*

### A WOODLAND ESCAPE

**T**ucked away in a woodland between Rawai and Naiharn beaches, Utopia Naiharn is designed for modern living amidst lush green nature and wonderful sea setting.

The all-suite guestrooms enjoy calming garden or sea views, and feature large living space, separate bedroom with en-suite bathroom, private balcony, as well as a kitchenette.

Utopia Naiharn is within a walking distance, or a short drive, to popular attractions such as Promthep Cape, Naiharn Lake, and Kata Viewpoint, but you wouldn't have to leave the ground to have fun. Spend all day at the hotel's four swimming pools, including a waterpark, savour authentic Japanese cuisine at Mikha or enjoy a fusion all-day dining with a view at Imagine, and gaze the sky at the hotel's rooftop bars, U Bar and Sun Bar.



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*Thailand*

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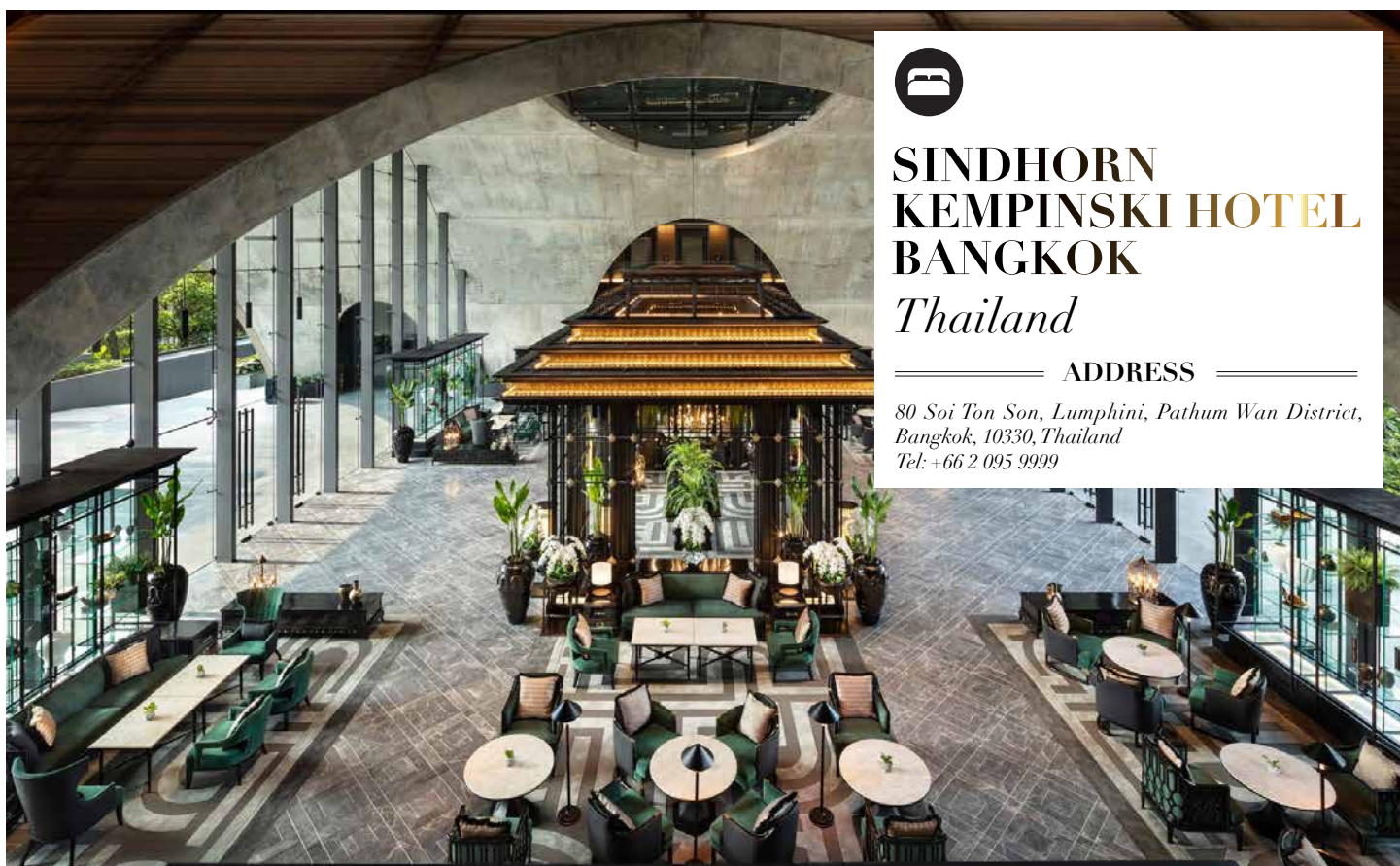


## SINDHORN KEMPINSKI HOTEL BANGKOK

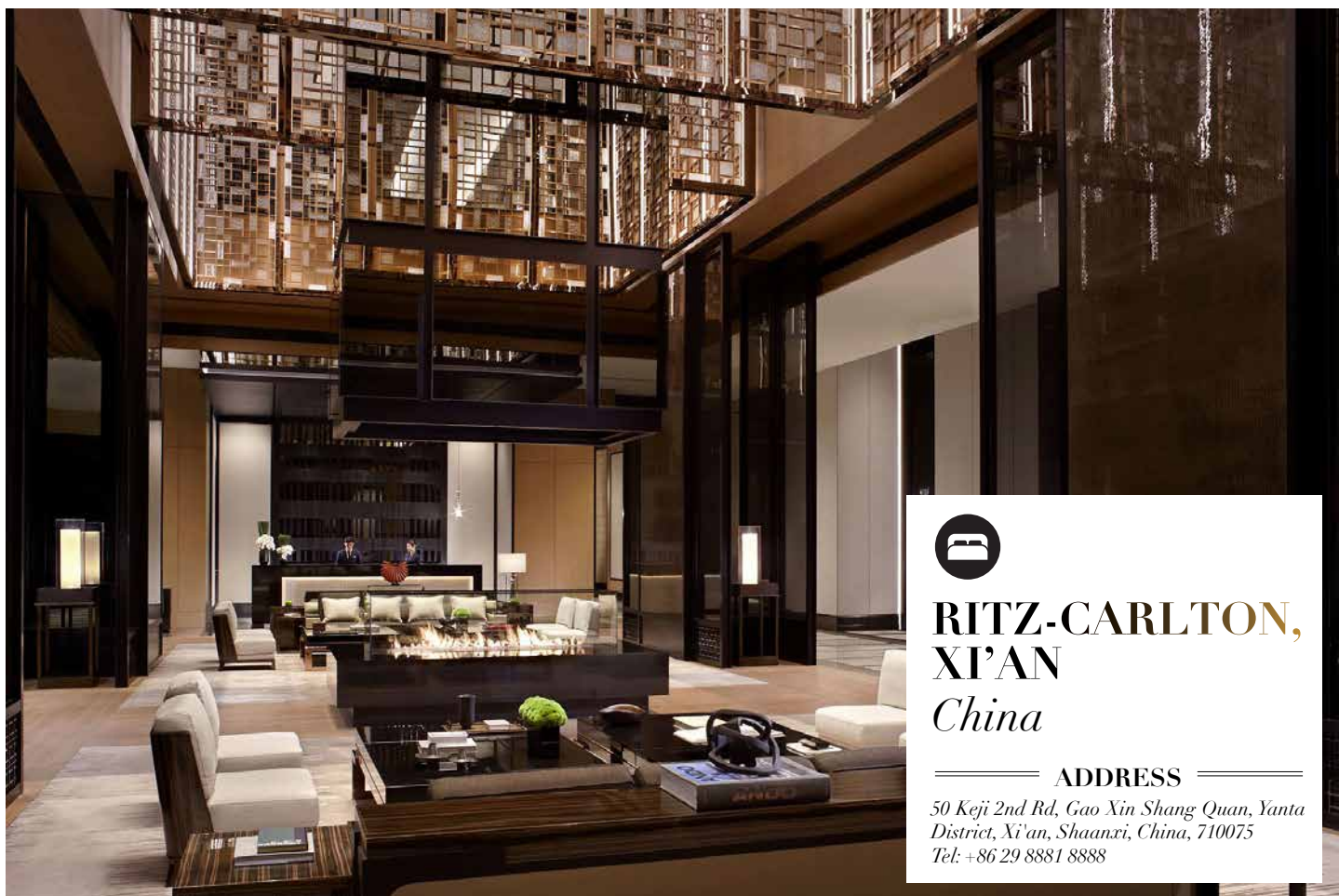
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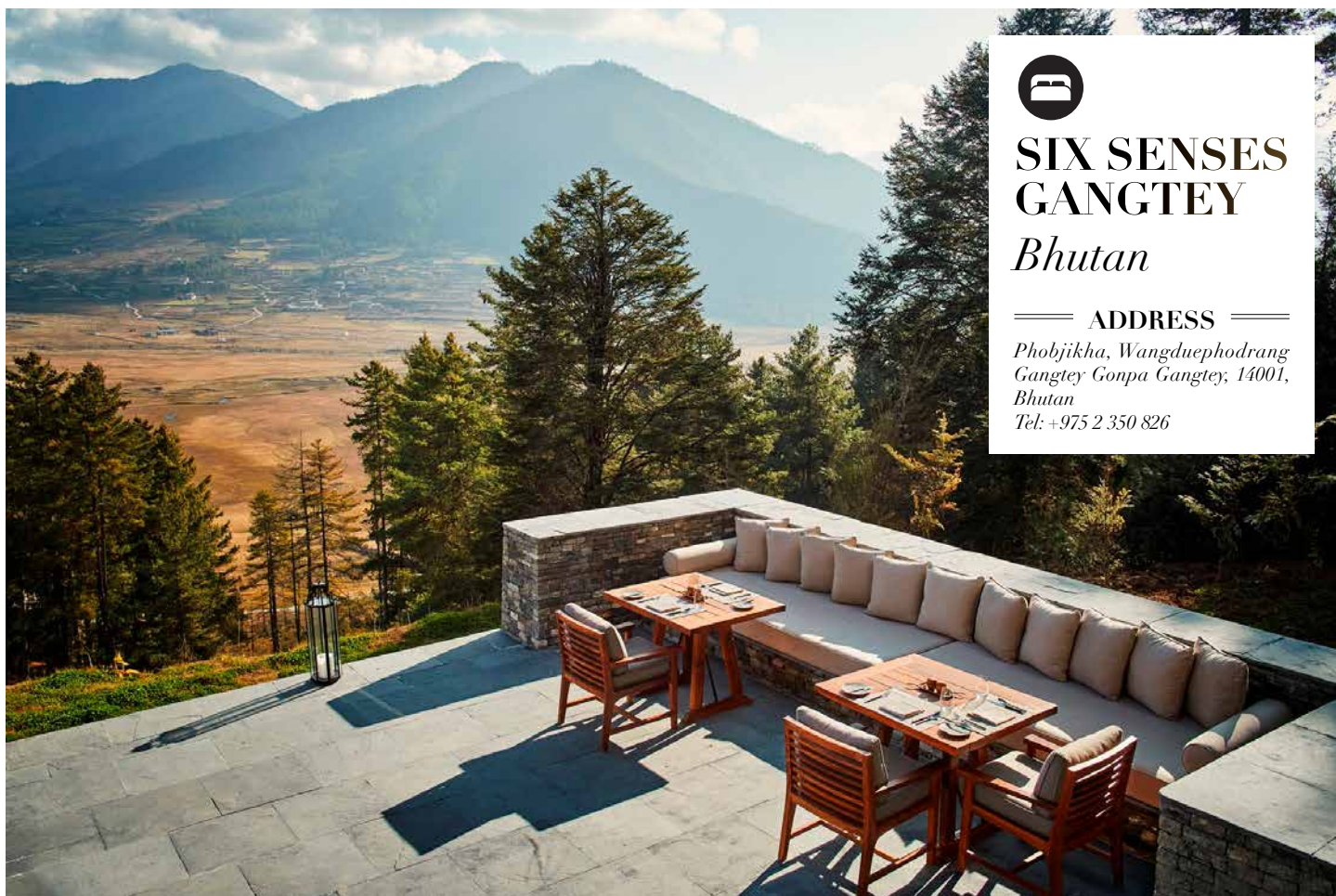
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## SIX SENSES GANGTEY

*Bhutan*

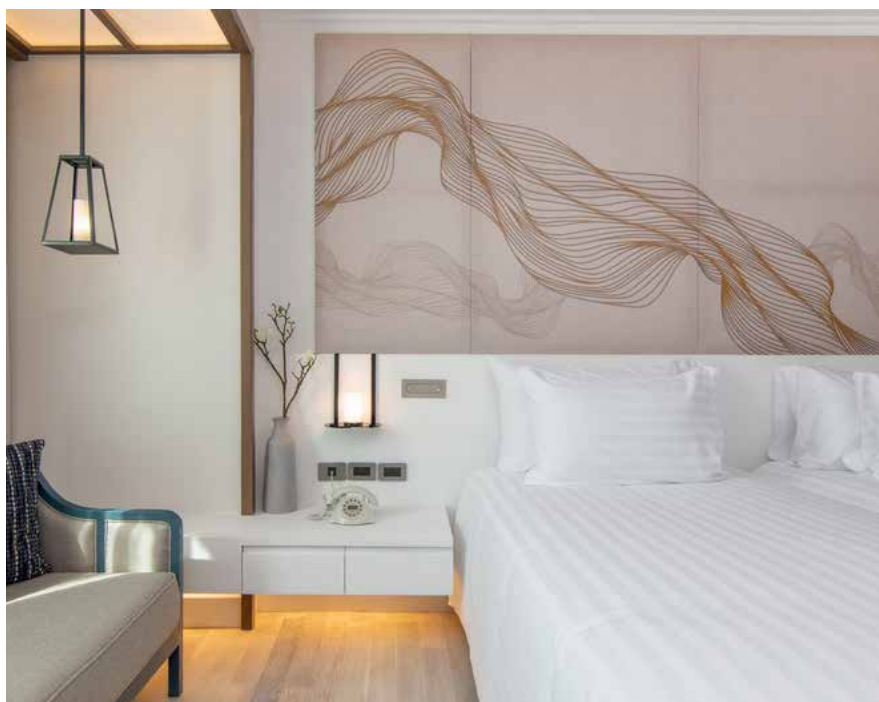
### ADDRESS

Phobjikha, Wangduephodrang  
Gangtey Gonpa Gangtey, 14001,  
Bhutan  
Tel: +975 2 350 826



## SYN BOUTIQUE HOTEL CHIANG MAI

*Thailand*

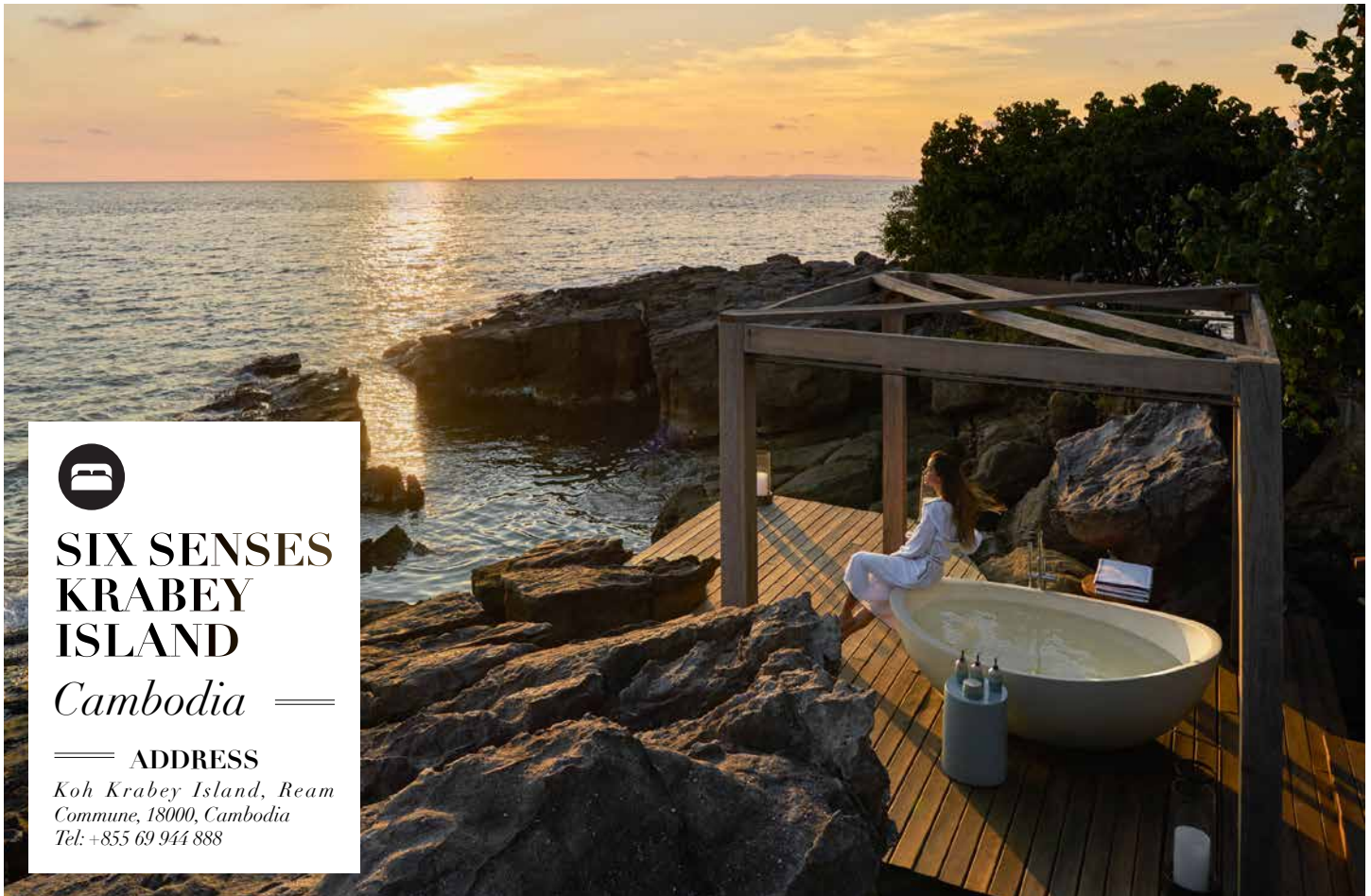


### ADDRESS

14/23 Cholprathan Road,  
Muang, Chiang Mai, 50300  
Thailand  
Tel: +66 53 215 215







**SIX SENSES  
KRABEY  
ISLAND**

*Cambodia* —

— ADDRESS —

*Koh Krabey Island, Ream  
Commune, 18000, Cambodia  
Tel: +855 69 944 888*



**MGALLERY  
KYOTO  
YURA HOTEL**  
*Japan*

— ADDRESS —

*Ohashicho, Higashiyama Ward, Kyoto,  
605-0009, Japan  
Tel: +81 75 366 5800*

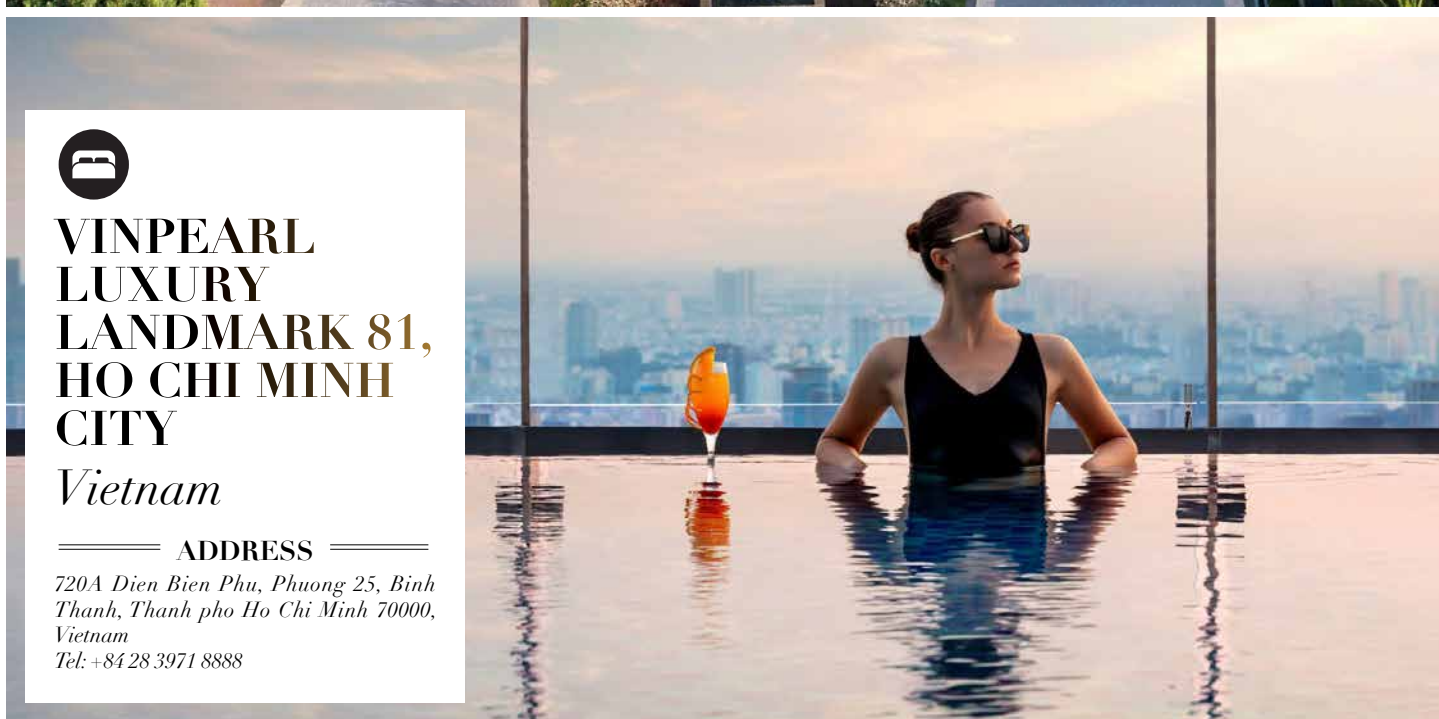




**JW MARRIOTT**  
**SANYA**  
**HAITANG**  
*China*

===== ADDRESS =====

*Haitang N Rd, Bay, Haitang District,  
 Sanya, Hainan, China, 572013  
 Tel: +86 898 3885 9999*



**VINPEARL**  
**LUXURY**  
**LANDMARK 81,**  
**HO CHI MINH**  
**CITY**  
*Vietnam*

===== ADDRESS =====

*720A Dien Bien Phu, Phuong 25, Binh  
 Thanh, Thanh pho Ho Chi Minh 70000,  
 Vietnam  
 Tel: +84 28 3971 8888*





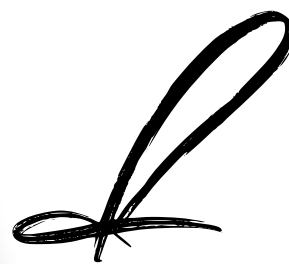


# A JOUR NEY

*Along*

LUANG PRABANG  
TO VANG VIENG





uang Prabang is a beautiful cultural city. This charming town is located in north central Laos. Luang Prabang is an outstanding example of the fusion of traditional architecture and Lao urban structures with those built by the European colonial. Visitors to Luang Prabang are charmed by the friendly atmosphere of this small

town. The town itself offers several unique insights into the history of the region, through excellently preserved Buddhist temples, museum and a variety of Lao, Tai-Lue, Burmese, Chinese and Tai architecture at the Night Market. Luang Prabang sells a large variety of traditional goods.

The town is famous for its unique textiles and beautiful mulberry paper. Famous foods in Luang Prabang are "Aur Lam" (a thick stew made with the forsted herb), "Sakhan", (meat and eggplants), "Jaew Bong", (a sauce made with hot chilies and buffalo skin) and "Khai Pan" (dried river weed lightly fried with sesame seeds and garlic).



# PLAY



## LEARNING THE TRADITIONAL THROUGH BUDDHIST TEMPLES

The wonderful thing about Luang Prabang is its scale: there's plenty to see, but a few morning strolls can take most of it in. The earlier the better in fact, since most folk roll out of bed at 6am to offer alms to the resident monks (in a ceremony known as takbat). Luang Prabang has no shortage of either monasteries or wats and for many visitors this is the source of its charm.

Wat Xiang Thong is the grandest. Located near the tip of the northern peninsular, it was built for the royal family in the 16th century and is a prime example of the area's temple architecture. Look out for the large tree of life mosaic on the rear wall. The conical Phou Si wat at the top of the town's central mound provides a great lookout for sunset, while the longboats stored at Wat Saen give you a sampler of the town's boat festival in the autumn.



## SIGHTSEEING AND ADVENTURE TOURS

You'll not be short of options when it comes to tour providers. As well as the many lining Xiang Thong, even the tuk tuk drivers will have printed rates for trips.

Look at half-day tours to the lovely limestone Kuang Si and Tad Se waterfalls – good for a splash and a picnic – and the caves at Pak Ou, which offer a good excuse for a boat trip. Chock full of old Buddha statues the caves are a sombre sight. Other adventures can of course be taken farther afield. Explore hidden rivers in kayaks, ride elephants through the forest, or trek through the hills and lay your hat at Hmong and Khmu village home-stays along the way. Great insights are on offer on some educational trips that make considerable effort to impart local knowledge beyond the neat 'tourist' package.



## LUANG PRABANG NIGHT MARKET

The Evening Market is a nightly event that takes place between 17:00 and 23:00 beginning at Wat Mai and running along Sisavangvong Road to the town centre. The street is closed off to vehicles. Apart from the market vendors, shop-houses and hotels lining both sides of the road are also open for business. The range of products include handmade souvenirs, Lao coffee beans, homemade whiskeys, books, all the way to street-side noodle stalls tucked away in a small lane and hotel sidewalk cafés serving drinks and, of course, Beer Lao. For a serious meal, though, head over to the end of the market (where Sisavangvong Road meets Settathilat Road) and you will find the Night Food Market as well as food vendors down the narrow lane just next to it. Note that the market can get very crowded after 20:00.





## BURASARI HERITAGE LUANG PRABANG

Truly feel the charm of the World's heritage city of Luang Prabang. Clean, traditional design seamlessly enhances the simple, yet luxurious atmosphere of the French-inspired wooden architecture, while the rooms and suites are courteously equipped with modern amenities. The Terrace restaurant offers traditional Thai and Lao cuisine paired with fabulous wine and enchanting river view. Commanding the same astonishing views is Luang Prabang's award-winning luxury spa where all your stresses can be lifted away. Burasari Heritage Luang Prabang is also within a walking distance to many temples, cafés, and the night market.

Address: 44-47 Unit 3, Khiri Village, Kingitsarath Road,  
Luang Prabang Old Town, Luang Prabang, Laos  
Tel. +856 71 255 031  
Website: [burasariheritage.com](http://burasariheritage.com)



# STAY

## VICTORIA XIENGTHONG PALACE

Located in the heart of Luang Prabang, surrounded by the golden spires of the town's famous Buddhist temples is Victoria Xiengthong Palace, the last residence of the Laos Royal Family. This beautiful boutique property has been lovingly restored to its former glory, and once more sits proudly on the banks of the Mekong River. Victoria Xiengthong Palace is a 2-minute walk from Heritage House and Wat Pak Khan. It is located in the middle of the peninsula and Luang Prabang Airport is 5.6 km away. Ayu Spa features relaxing massage, steam baths and manicure treatments. Guests can hire nature guides and arrange day trips at the tour desk. Laundry services as well as luggage storage are available.

Address: Kounxoau Road, Ban Phonehueng,  
Luang Prabang, Laos  
Tel: +856 71 213 200  
Website: [victoriahotels.asia/en/hotels-resorts/xiengthong](http://victoriahotels.asia/en/hotels-resorts/xiengthong)



## AMANTAKA, LUANG PRABANG

Address: 55 3 Kingkitsarath Road, Ban Thongchaleun,  
Luang Prabang, Laos  
Tel: +856 71 860 333  
Website: [aman.com/resorts/amantaka](http://aman.com/resorts/amantaka)



## ROSEWOOD LUANG PRABANG

Address: Nauea Village,  
Luang Prabang, Laos  
Tel: +856 71 211 155  
Website: [rosewoodhotels.com/en/luang-prabang](http://rosewoodhotels.com/en/luang-prabang)



# SHOP

## PASSA PAA

Nestled in Ock Pop Tok grounds in Luang Prabang, Passa Paa is a design and print boutique studio. This studio features a creative center for both local and international designers, artisans and interns. Merging traditional Hmong handicraft skills with modern print aesthetic, they offer the contemporary handcrafts ranging from tote bags, clutches, purses to cushion covers, tea towels, placemats, to scarves, handkerchiefs, as well as leather bowls. Found yourself a unique and beautiful one at Passa Paa.

Address: Sakkarine Road, Ban Vat Sene, Luang Prabang, Laos  
Opening Hours: 8.00 AM - 9.00 PM

## TAEC BOUTIQUE

Settle on Sakkaline Road, the main street of Luang Prabang, TAEC Boutique is a sister shop to the Museum Shop of the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre. Collected from 12 provinces of Laos, the offer is ranged from handmade jewelry, clothes, bags, decorative pieces, textiles made in Laos and features the exclusive Heirloom Collection. Each piece sold in this boutique is made of the highest quality materials by the most respected artisans. Discover the cultural diversity of Laos at TAEC Boutique.

Address: Sakkarine Road, Ban Vat Sene, Luang Prabang, Laos  
Opening Hours: 9.00 AM - 9.00 PM



# CAFÉ



## JOMA BAKERY CAFÉ

Address: Chao Fa Ngum Road, Luang Prabang, Laos  
Tel: +856 71252 292  
Opening Hours: 6.30 AM - 9 PM



## INDIGO CAFÉ

Address: Sisavangvong Road, Ban Pakham, Luang Prabang, Laos  
Tel: +856 71212 264  
Opening Hours: 6.30 AM - 10 PM

# EAT

## TAMARIND RESTAURANT

This great restaurant in welcoming homely environment is perfect to start your journey in Lao cuisine. The restaurant is created with the aim to introduce the Lao specialties to all guests. Offer at Tamarind is a selection of set menus featuring variety of Lao cuisine. Every Friday, a Barbecue Fish Feast takes place. Start your meal with Lao Lao cocktail, made with potent rice whisky and continue to Laap and Lemongrass stuffed with chicken and Herb, the signature dishes at Tamarind.

Address: Kingkitsarath Rd, Luang Prabang, Laos  
Opening Hours: 11.00 AM - 9.00 PM



## SAFFRON CAFÉ

Settled on the Mekong riverside, saffron cafe is 2 beautifully designed wooden houses offering seating on both levels of the restaurant and on a small patio to overlook the Mekong River. Owned by an American and Lao couple, the cafe offer a slice feel of west with delicious, strong Lao coffee. Aside of scent coffee, other offers are ranged from breakfast, sandwiches, pizza, pasta, desserts and a few local dishes. To sip a cup of aromatic coffee or grab a bite and admire the spectacular view, this cafe is a great choice.

Address: Khem Khong Road | Ban Wat Nong, Luang Prabang, Laos  
Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 7.00 AM - 8.00 PM, Sat-Sun 7.30 AM - 4.30 PM







# JUMP OUT TO VANG VIENG

Vang Vieng for many travelers is simply a piece of heaven on earth. Surrounded by scenic landscape ranging from mountains to rivers and limestone cliffs to rice fields, this small and scenic town offers a long list of interesting attractions. The Nam Song River is where you will witness the famous tubing – and young travellers sitting in large inner tubes floating downriver is a common sight in Vang Vieng. Actually it has become a large part of the reason why many young people come here in the first place. The well-known Tham Poukham Cave features the 'Blue Lagoon', a nice spot to swim and swing lazily on a rope, while Tham Norn is among one of the biggest caves in Vang Vieng. If time allows, make a stop at the local market to catch a glimpse of everyday life in a typical Lao rural area.





### **VANG VIENG'S SECRET BLUE LAGOON**

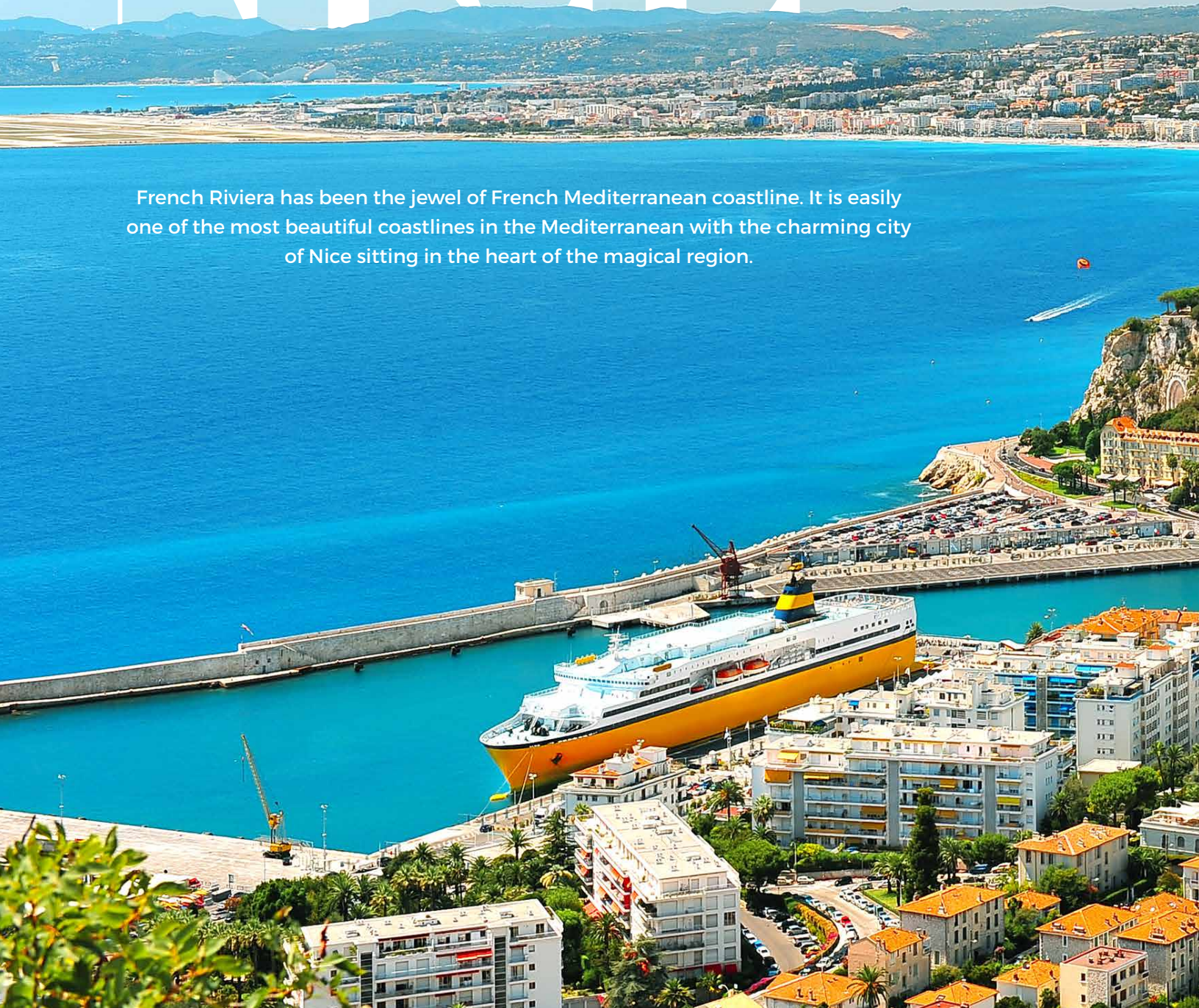
It was extremely satisfying to come down from the climb and jump, literally, into the water. The Blue Lagoon is a small turquoise blue spot created by mountain streams. It is full of small fish but they will not bother you at all. The lagoon can get very deep at certain points and there are several places you can climb a tree and jump right into the water. They also have a rope swing that is really fun to use. There are several facilities available for visitors to the lagoon. If you get hungry, they have restaurants overlooking. There is a water slide you can use (one time payment for unlimited use). For those who are not confident swimmers, there are also life jackets for rent.



# NICE

IS *NICE*  
THE PINNACLE  
OF THE  
MEDITERRANEAN

French Riviera has been the jewel of French Mediterranean coastline. It is easily one of the most beautiful coastlines in the Mediterranean with the charming city of Nice sitting in the heart of the magical region.

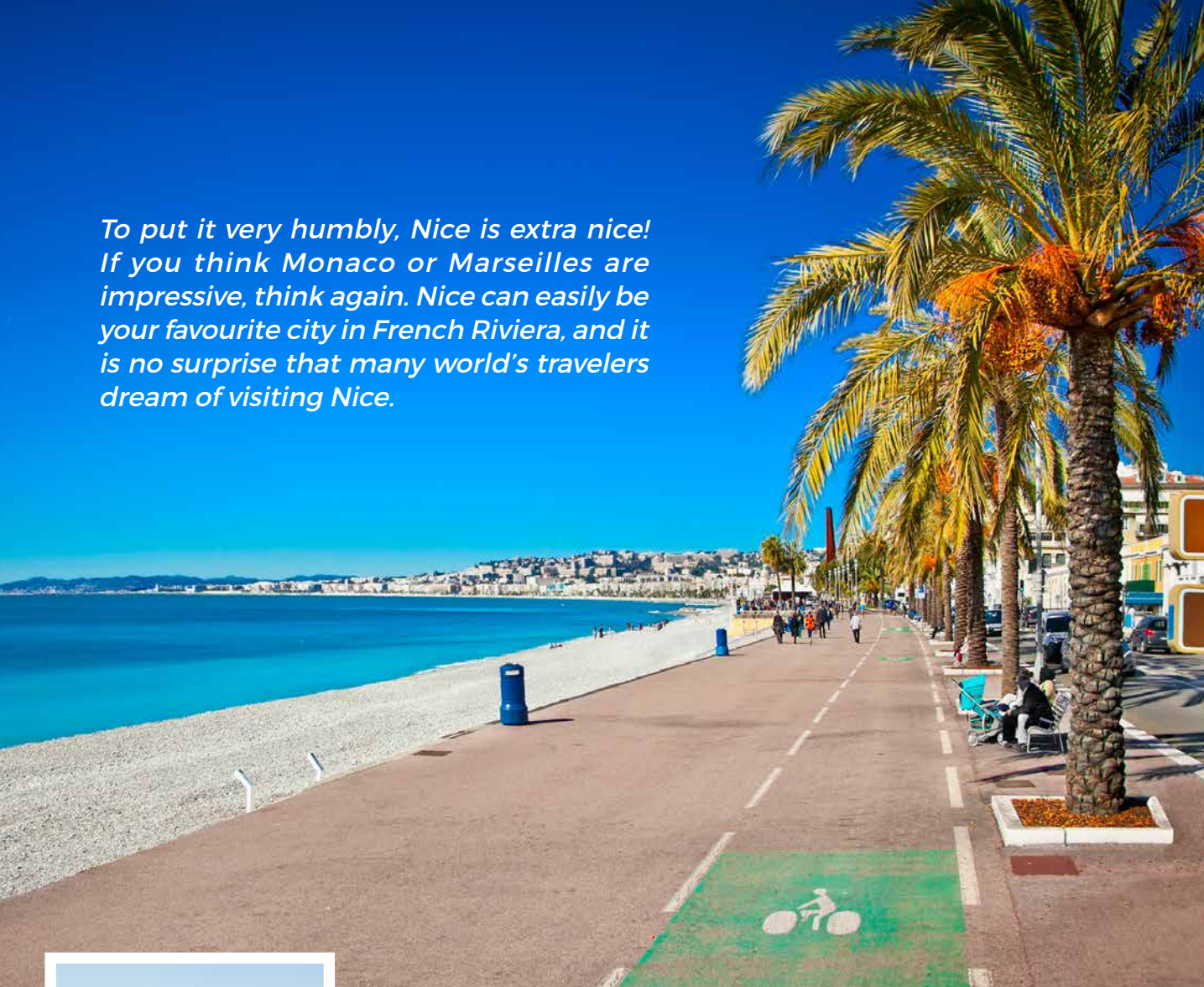








*To put it very humbly, Nice is extra nice! If you think Monaco or Marseilles are impressive, think again. Nice can easily be your favourite city in French Riviera, and it is no surprise that many world's travelers dream of visiting Nice.*



## PROMENADE DES ANGLAIS

Promenade des Anglais captures the world-renowned Mediterranean Sea views and atmosphere. The chic beachfront promenade stretches 7 km along the coast, and it is the best route to slowly stroll and enjoy the sea and the sun. With the pristine Hi Beach on one side and charming city on another side, you can always stop by for a coffee or an ice-cream just across the street. Rent a bike or rollerblades to add a little more excitement to your day and explore Nice at your own pace.

*Address: The Promenade runs right along the coastline of Nice.*

## HI BEACH

Join the local residents of Nice on their day off and enjoy quality time by the sea. Hi Beach runs between the coast of Nice and Promenade des Anglais, so you could take a small break from your leisure stroll and just sit on the soft sand with a cone of ice-cream. Since the beach stretches many kilometers, parts of the stretch offer privacy at a small price of €10 - €20 for you to relax on chilling sun loungers and enjoy a range of delectable food and drinks.

*Address: Various Nice, France  
Hours: Private beaches 9.00 AM until sunset.  
Entrance Fee: Free to sit on the pebbles or hire a sun lounger on a private beach starting from €10.00 per person.  
Tel: +33 4 97 14 00 83*





## PLACE MASSENA

You haven't been to Nice if you miss Place Massena. The historic square sits in the center of the city, surrounded by charming architectures in earthy and blue hues. Place Massena isn't just a cultural landmark of Nice, but it is the center of transportation. After exploring the square, the garden, and the majestic fountain dedicated to Apollo, catch the city tram to Vieux-Nice, the beach, and commercial and shopping districts to continue your fascinating Nice experience.

*Address: Plassa Carlou Aubert, 06000  
Nice, France*

*Tip*

*In the center of Place Massena stand 7 statues called "Conversation in Nice".*



## VIEUX OLD TOWN

Getting lost in the vibe of Vieux Old Town is an experience you should never miss. Wander the centuries old cobble streets surrounded by classical buildings that are now shops and galleries. Find yourself in one of Europe's most colourful cultural centers as you explore individually unique galleries in this area. Enjoy local café scene and local delicacies. Locals and tourists also visit the old town to buy flowers from the Cours Saleya, one of France's most popular fresh flower markets.

*Address: Cours Saleya, Vieux, Nice,  
France  
Hours: Tues - Sat 6.00 AM - 17.30 PM  
and to 13.30 PM on Sunday*

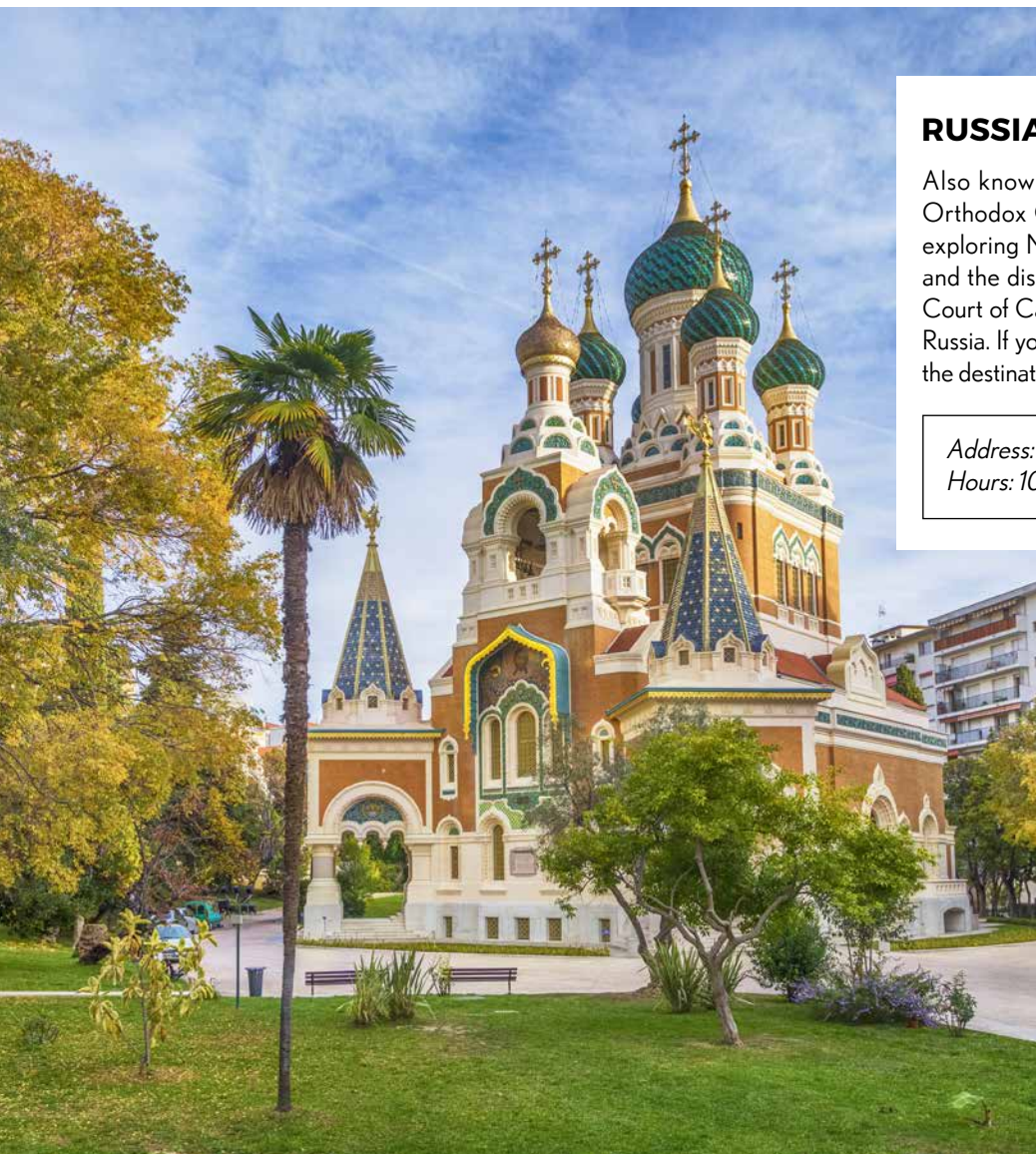
## MATISSE MUSEUM

Although there are hundreds of galleries in Nice, Matisse Museum would be on most people's lips if you ask them to pick one to visit. Devoted to Henri Matisse, one of France's highly recognized artists, the museum holds spectacular collections of sculptures and paintings, as well as photos and furniture.

*Address: 164 av des Arènes de Cimiez,  
Nice, France  
Hours: Wed - Mon 10.00 AM - 18.00 PM  
Entrance Fee: Adult €10.00 | Under 18  
Free  
Tel: +33 4 93 81 08 08*







## RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Also known as St Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral, Russian Orthodox Cathedral may not be what you expected when exploring Nice. The Russian style cathedral opened in 1912 and the dispute over its ownership ended in 2011 when the Court of Cassation declared the cathedral as the property of Russia. If you love history, Russian Orthodox Cathedral is just the destination for you.

*Address: Avenue Nicolas II, Nice, France*  
*Hours: 10.00 AM - 17.00 PM Tel: +33 9 8109 53 45*

## CASTLE HILL

Perched 92 meters above the Bay of Angels, Castle Hill overlooks the port on one side and the Vieux Old Town, as well as Hi Beach and Promenade des Anglais on another. The scenic spot can be reached with a little work climbing up a flight of brick stairs, or if you prefer a more comfortable way, just hop on the elevator! However, the reward you would get from climbing the staircase won't be just the scenery at the top, but the spectacular artificial waterfall and panoramic views of Nice along the way as well.

*Address: Montee du Chateau par ascenseur, Nice, France*  
*Hours: 8.00 AM - 18.00 PM*  
*Tel: +33 892 70 74 07*

*Note: The café on Castle Hill opens during high season.*







## WESTMINSTER HOTEL & SPA

Located on the waterfront, within a 15-minute walk of Massena Museum and Place Massena, Westminster Hotel & Spa offers the perfect base to explore Nice. The family-friendly hotel has watched over the Bay of Angels for 130 years and it recently received a renovation that helped to combine the charms of the past with modernity. All 99 soundproofed rooms provide luxurious havens with impressive views of the Promenade des Anglais in most rooms. Rest soundly through the night and spend the day exploring Nice or the nearby beach or pamper yourself at the hotel's full-service spa.



## LA CAMBUSE

You might be in France, but there's always room for some delicious Italian dishes. La Cambuse is in the charming Vieux Old Town, near the flower market, and you can choose an outdoor table to fully enjoy the classy atmosphere. The restaurant is known for its classic Italian and Mediterranean cuisine with quality fresh ingredients, including French origin beef.

Address: 5, Cours Saleya, Nice, France  
Hours: 11.00 AM - 11.00 PM  
Tel: +33 4 93 80 82 40







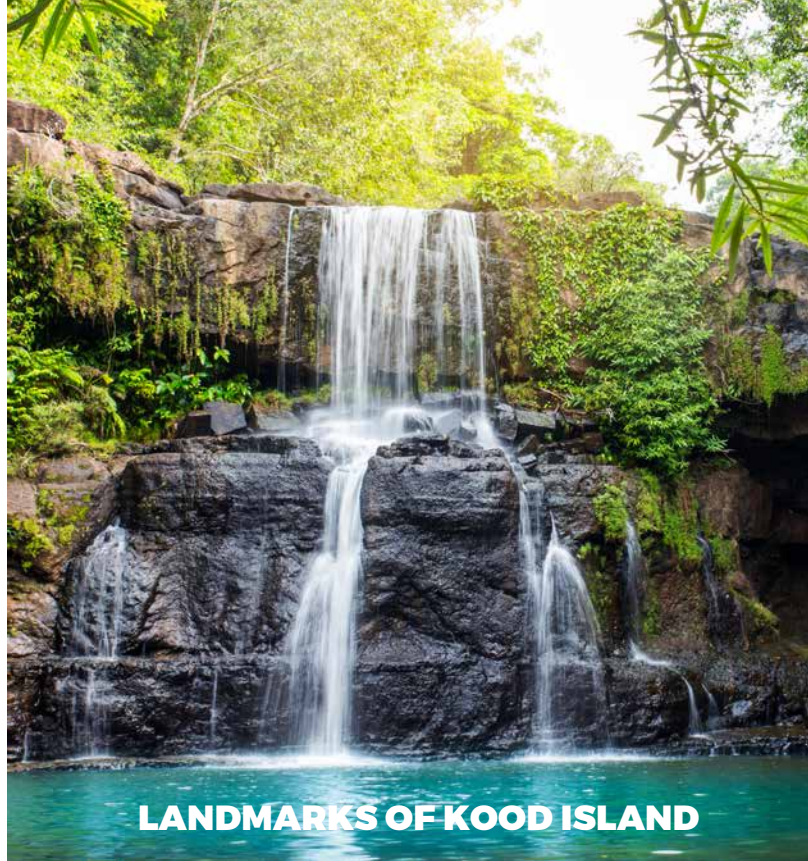
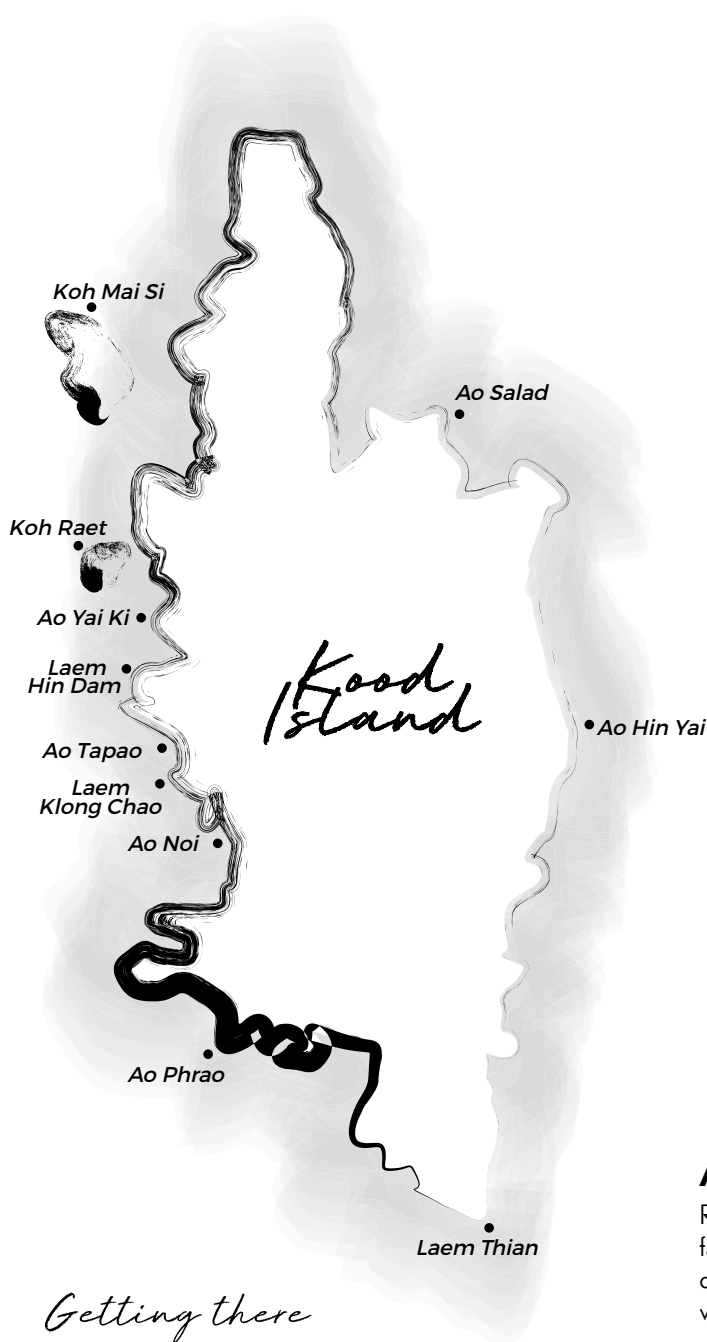
# Kood

**I S L A N D**

## **THE COLOR OF THE EASTERN SEA**

Koh Kood may be one of the biggest islands in Thailand, after Phuket, Koh Chang and Koh Samui, but it has managed to keep its pristine natural assets unspoiled. The island is a part of Trat province, and its serenity and abundance have attracted divers and travelers across the globe, earning Koh Kood the reputation of the “Andaman of the Eastern” Sea”.





### AO KLONG YAI KEE

A breathtaking bay with a pristine 300 meters white sand beach, Ao Klong Yai Kee allows visitors to enjoy the sand and the sun right by lush tropical forest. In addition to beautiful beach and crystal-clear water, the bay is a spectacular spot to watch a romantic sunset, and the nearby waterfall transport you from the sea setting to a mountain setting within a few minutes hike.

### AO TAPAO

Rustic wooden pier stretches out into the shallow sea, inviting you to walk to the far end and be surrounded by marvelous beach and sparkling water. Ao Tapao is close to Ban Klong Hin Dam, Ban Klong Mard, and connected to Ao Klong Jao via a wooden bridge, so it's easy to find variety of restaurants and shops nearby.

### Getting there

From Bangkok, travel on Bangkok-Chonburi Motorway. Turn left at Ban Bueng - Klaeng Road intersection, and travel towards Chantaburi and Trat. At Trat, make your way to Laem Ngob Pier to catch a ferry to Koh Kood. The trip takes approximately 4 hours 15 minutes (315 km.) and overnight carpark is available at the pier for 50 Baht per night.







## BAN AO YAI

Fresh seafood is always a must when visiting a seaside destination and Koh Kood is no exception. Ban Ao Yai is a local fisherman village and fresh off the boat seafood is served in variety of ways here. Whether you like them grilled or steamed, fresh seafood is always impressive! After satisfying your belly, take a leisure stroll around the village to experience the traditional fisherman way of life that has been passed on for generations.



## AO NOI

Only a few introductions are needed for Ao Noi. As one of the most popular destination on Koh Kood, Ao Noi is known for its powdery beach and astonishing sea views. It's also impossible to miss the iconic pavilion out in the sea at the end of the wooden bridge where hundreds of pictures are taken every day.

## BLACK ROCK

Black Rock Pier is simply the beating heart of Koh Kood. Here you will find the largest fisherman community on the island, government agencies, and spiritual centers like Wat Rat Bumrung (Wat Klong Hin Dam), as well as the busiest shopping district.





## PHRAO BEACH

Stretches 800 meters along the western coast of Koh Kood, Phrao Beach got its name from the coconut grove that can be seen everywhere on the beach. With shallow water and soft sand, this is one of Koh Kood's best spot to stay and enjoy the beach. Locals also visit the bay frequently to pay respect to the statue of Prince Abhakara of Chumphon, the father of the Royal Thai Navy.



## KOH KOOD PARADISE BEACH

Savour flavourful fusion dishes in a cozy modern atmosphere with a splash of traditional Thai accent. The stars of the menu are a range of fresh seafood like Spaghetti seafood green curry, and stir-fried calamari with salted egg.

Address: 128 Moo 2, Ao Tapao,  
Koh Kood  
Hours: Every day 7.00 - 22.00



## KOH KOOD AO PHRAO BEACH RESORT

Koh Kood Ao Phrao Beach Resort is one of the pioneering resorts in Ao Phrao and it commands a prime location of Phrao Beach. The tranquil resort features 4 amazing room types, including the seaside Balinese style Sea Breeze Hut, the twin bungalow Sea View Hut, the Garden View room, and the luxury contemporary Thai style Garden Villa.

Address: 45/37 Thetsaban Road, Tumbon Wang Kra Jae, Ao Phrao, Koh Kood  
Tel. 085 535 9592 Website: [www.kokut.com](http://www.kokut.com)





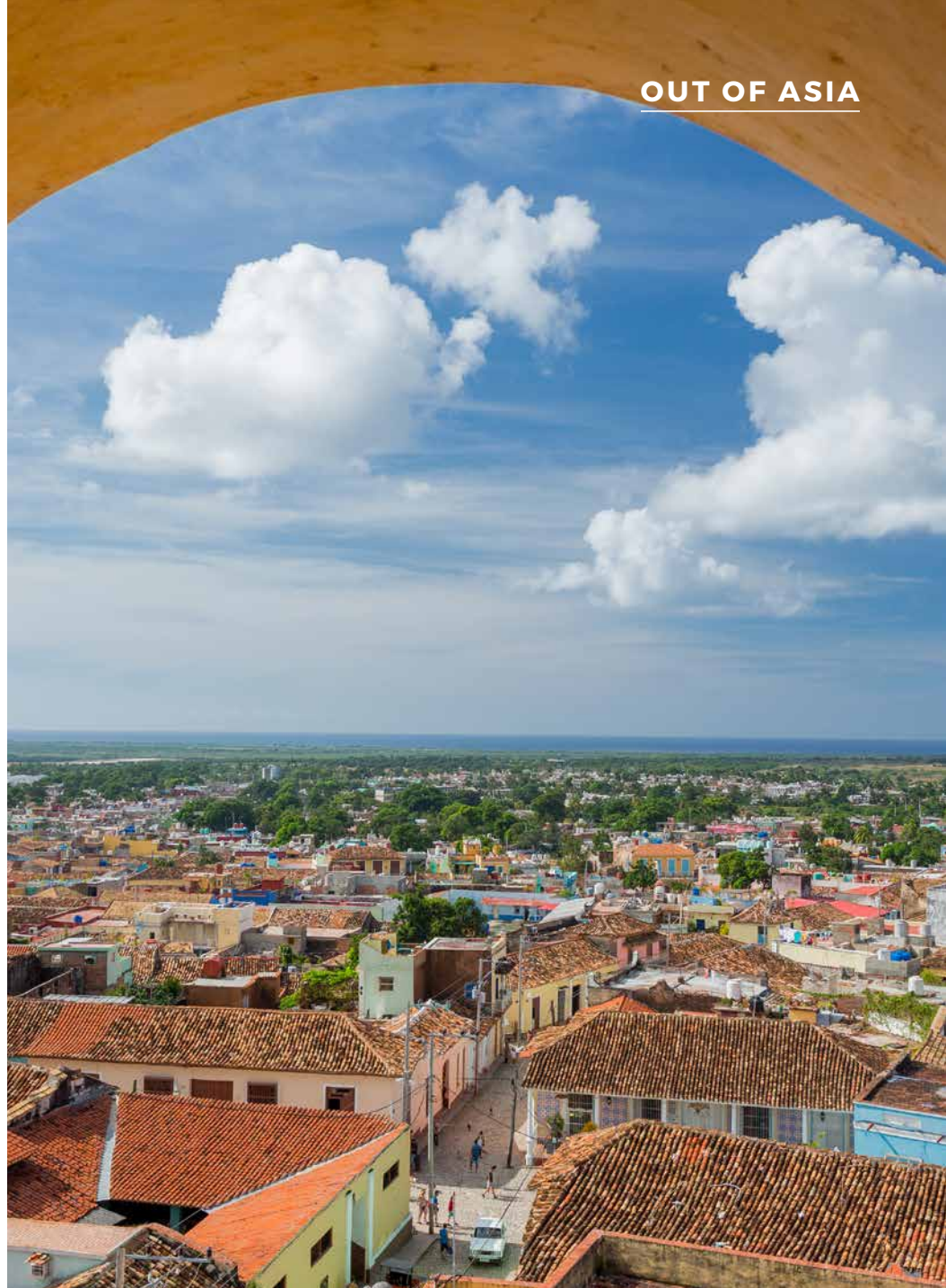






# BACK TO THE 60'S





# IN TRINIDAD

Trinidad, a small Central Cuban town in Sancti Spíritus province, has over 5 centuries of history hidden under its simple appearance. Registered as the UNESCO's World Heritage in 1988, the town perfectly maintains its cultural charm since Cuba is one of a few countries that ban American products and technology. The way of life here is a reflection of the bygone days when the internet wasn't a part of our life and social media was unheard of. Explore the quiet town on foot, take photos of colonial style buildings, chill out by the sea, and get a ride on the classic 1950's cars. Meeting and talking to the people to learn about local culture and tradition seems like a better idea than learning from the screen. Live a slower life and see happiness at a slower pace.





## PLAZA MAYOR (MAIN SQUARE TRINIDAD)

Surrounded by well-preserved historic buildings in the heart of Trinidad, Plaza Mayor is like an outdoor museum to witness the charm of centuries-old colonial architectures in Trinidad.

*Address: Plaza Mayor, Calle  
Cristo*



### *How To Get There*

Getting to Trinidad requires a little more hassle than an ordinary leisure trip. Plan the trip well as multiple airport transits are necessary. The most convenient route takes approximately 35-40 hours from Bangkok is from Suvarnabhumi Airport (Bangkok, Thailand) >> Chek Lap Kok Airport (Hong Kong) >> Lester B Pearson Airport (Toronto, Canada) >> Jose Marti - Rancho Boyeros Airport (Havana, Cuba), then catch a bus from La Habana Station to Trinidad.

## CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Church of the Holy Trinity isn't just a spectacular neo-classic church, but a spiritual center for the people of Trinidad as well. The architectural and cultural landmark was built in 1892 and stands majestically above a hill facing the Bahia de Casilda.

*Address: Calle Cristo  
Opening Hours: 9 AM - 5  
PM*



## CONVENTO DE SAN FRANCISCO DE ASÍS

Just a few minutes from the Church of the Holy Trinity, Saint Francis Church also stands uniquely with 42 meters tall bell tower where tourists can climb up to watch the panoramic views of Trinidad. The church also exhibits collections of Fidel Castro and Che Guevara's belongings.

*Address: Calle Cristo  
Opening Hours: 9 AM - 5 PM  
Entrance Fee: 1.00CUC*







## MUSEUM OF THE STRUGGLE AGAINST BANDITS

The name Museum of the Struggle Against Bandits hardly rolls off the tongue as sometimes history is told through the eyes of the victor. The stories of Cuba's struggle against the mighty USA during the cold war between 1959-1965, including the bravery of Fidel Castro and Che Guevara, are heroically displayed at the museum.

*Address: Echerrri 59, Calle Fernando Hernández esq. a Piro Guinart*  
*Opening Hours: 9 AM - 5 PM Closed on Mondays.*  
*Entrance Fee: 1.00CUC*

### Tip

*Fidel Castro and Che Guevara were the two most influential political figures in Cuba during the revolution. The revolution saw US-backed military dictator, Fulgencio Batista, overthrown and his regime cracked down. It's common to see pictures of Fidel and Che everywhere in the country as the saviors of Cuba.*





## **THE MANACA IZNAGA TOWER**

Built 180 years ago by a wealthy merchant, Manaca Iznaga, to watch over 30,000 slaves working in his sugar cane plantation. The tower shoots 45 meters above the ground and 28 meters below ground with 184 steps of stairs. The view from the top floor stretch to the horizon, and it's a much serene view without ten-thousands slaves in the picture. Before you go out to explore the surrounding area, make sure you refuel with some delicious Cuban treat on the ground floor of the tower.

*Address: Sancti Spiritus, Valley of the Sugar Mills*  
*Opening Hours: 9 AM - 5 PM*  
*Entrance Fee: 1 CUC*





## MUNICIPAL HISTORY MUSEUM (CANTERO PALACE)

Renovated from the old residence of Ortiz de Zuniga, the first mayor of Trinidad, The History Museum exhibits different facets of Trinidad history for visitors to learn more about this charming town.

*Address: 423 Simón Bolívar*

*Opening Hours: 9 AM - 5 PM*

*Closed on Fridays.*

*Entrance Fee: 2.00CUC*

## Where to Eat



## MESÓN EL REGIDOR

Enter the yellow and green colonial building of Mesón El Regidor and enjoy Creole food in a friendly atmosphere. The menus are on the mellow side of Cuban food, and it's easy to lose track of time when you enjoy great food, great Cuban music and great company.

*Address: 424 Calle Desengaño, Simón Bolívar*

*Opening Hours: 10 AM - 10 PM*

*Tel: +53 41 996456*

## Where to Stay

### BRISAS TRINIDAD DEL MAR

Seaside stay is quite common when visiting Cuba, but you can take it up a level at Brisas Trinidad del Mar. The luxury hotel boasts impressive colonial architecture that blends perfectly with the surrounding upscale neighbourhood and million dollars sea views. Brisas Trinidad del Mar offers all amenities for a perfect stay as well as five stars facilities, including a restaurant, outdoor swimming pool, fitness center, and spa.

*Address: Peninsula Ancon, Trinidad 62600*

*Tel: +53 41 996500*





# MOUNTAIN PARADISE

*IN Pai*

*Thailand*

## **PAI, THAILAND**

Pai is a charming small town hidden in the misty mountains of Mae Hong Son. Although its traditional natural beauty has been worn down by influxes of tourists as the town becomes widely known due to media and reviews, this dream city continues to be a timelessly charismatic lady that is slowly adjusting herself to the modern day while staying classy in her own traditional way. The old road in the city center remains the beating heart of Pai with cafés and jazz bars inviting tourists from around the globe to come and share their cultures. At the same time, surrounding Pai is the pristine nature that continues to captivate visitors and give Pai its renowned charm, especially during winter.



### *Things to do*

#### **MEMORIAL BRIDGE**

Memorial Bridge is the first landmark that welcomes all visitors to Pai. This symbol of the past tells the history of Pai as it was built during the second World War for Japanese troops en route to Myanmar. The original bridge was burnt down by the Japanese and what you now see is actually the old Nawarat Bridge from Chiangmai. The bridge is similar to Kwai River Bridge in Kanchanaburi and it's naturally the landmark where almost all visitors stop by and take a picture so that they can say they have officially arrived in Pai!





## CHEDI PHRA THAT MAE YEN

Although Wat Phra That Mae Yen might not look at all iconic or stands out from other northern temples, this temple has been the spiritual center for local Pai residences. The temple is perched on top of a hill so it commands a spectacular scenery of the whole town, but that isn't all the highlight of the temple as it is home to the chapel and 3 meters tall pagoda which houses the giant white Buddha statue known as "Phra Buddha Lokutara Maha Munee."

## KHO GU SO BRIDGE

Located in Pembok village, Boon Bridge or Kho Gu So Bridge is another beautiful landmark not to be missed. The bamboo bridge stretches across verdant green rice paddies magically create the perfect natural scenery of people living harmoniously with the nature. Before the bridge was built, it was difficult and dangerous for monks to receive alms each morning, especially during monsoon

season, so villagers got together to build Kho Gu So Bridge. Monks in the village can now use the bridge to commute without the risk of slipping in the mud or walking on the rice paddies. The bridge's reputation now goes beyond Pai and thousands of tourists make their way here to experience the charm of beautiful rice paddies and feel the gentle valley breeze of Pai.



### *Tip*

There are many breathtaking sunrise/sunset spots you wouldn't want to miss out on. Our recommendation is to wake up early for magical sunrise scenery at Yoon Lai scenic spot. You'll be surrounded by the sea of fog while watching the sun rising up from the back of the mountain and sipping hot tea.

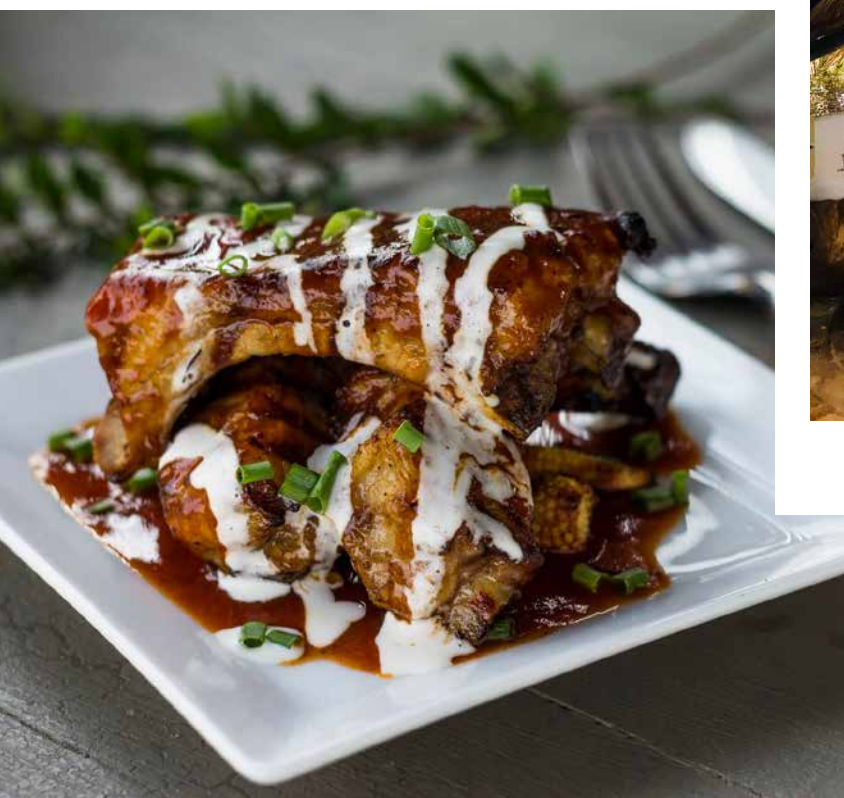


## WALKING STREET

Pai Walking Street used to have only a few local stalls when it first started. It now is one of the most popular destination in Pai with plenty of traditional food and handicrafts. Taste local favourites like Kanom-jean Nam-ngiew and Kao-pook or shop for handmade dresses, jewelries, and bags. Don't forget to get a postcard as a token of your lovely experience in Pai.







## Where to Eat

### SILHOUETTE BY REVERIE SIAM

Setting itself apart from all fine dining scene in Pai, Silhouette is the first and only place in town to enjoy Italian-style tapas, as well as a range of delectable pasta and Mediterranean menus. The colonial inspired vintage restaurant is cozily located in the famous Reverie Siam Resort, guaranteeing a chic, yet warm atmosphere whether you are just enjoying a great brunch or planning a romantic dinner.

Address: 476 Moo 8, Wiang Tai, Pai District,  
Mae Hong Son  
Tel: 081 920 9065  
Opening Hours: 17.00 PM - 23.00 PM

It takes around 3 hours to drive from Chiangmai to Pai, but if you get motion sickness easily it is recommended to catch a direct flight from Chiangmai International Airport to Mae Hong Son Airport. From the airport, it is another 2 hours drive to Pai.



## Where to Stay

### PAI ISLAND RESORT

Pai is full of accommodation options, from riverside resorts to small sanctuaries within the peaceful mountains. Pai Island Resort allows you to relax in a serene hideaway amidst verdant surrounding. It's hard to believe the resort is only 5 minutes away by car and there's a free pickup and drop off service to Pai airport, bus terminal, and city center. Inspired by explorer trips into African jungles, the villas have that rainforest exploration vibe and the interior design and decoration are the work of Thai artists. Besides being fresh and spacious, the villas are fully equipped with all modern amenities, including a luxurious jacuzzi!

Address: 333 Moo 1, Khet Khelang Rd, Wiang Tai, Pai District,  
Mae Hong Son  
Tel: 053 699 999  
Website: [paiislandresort.com](http://paiislandresort.com)





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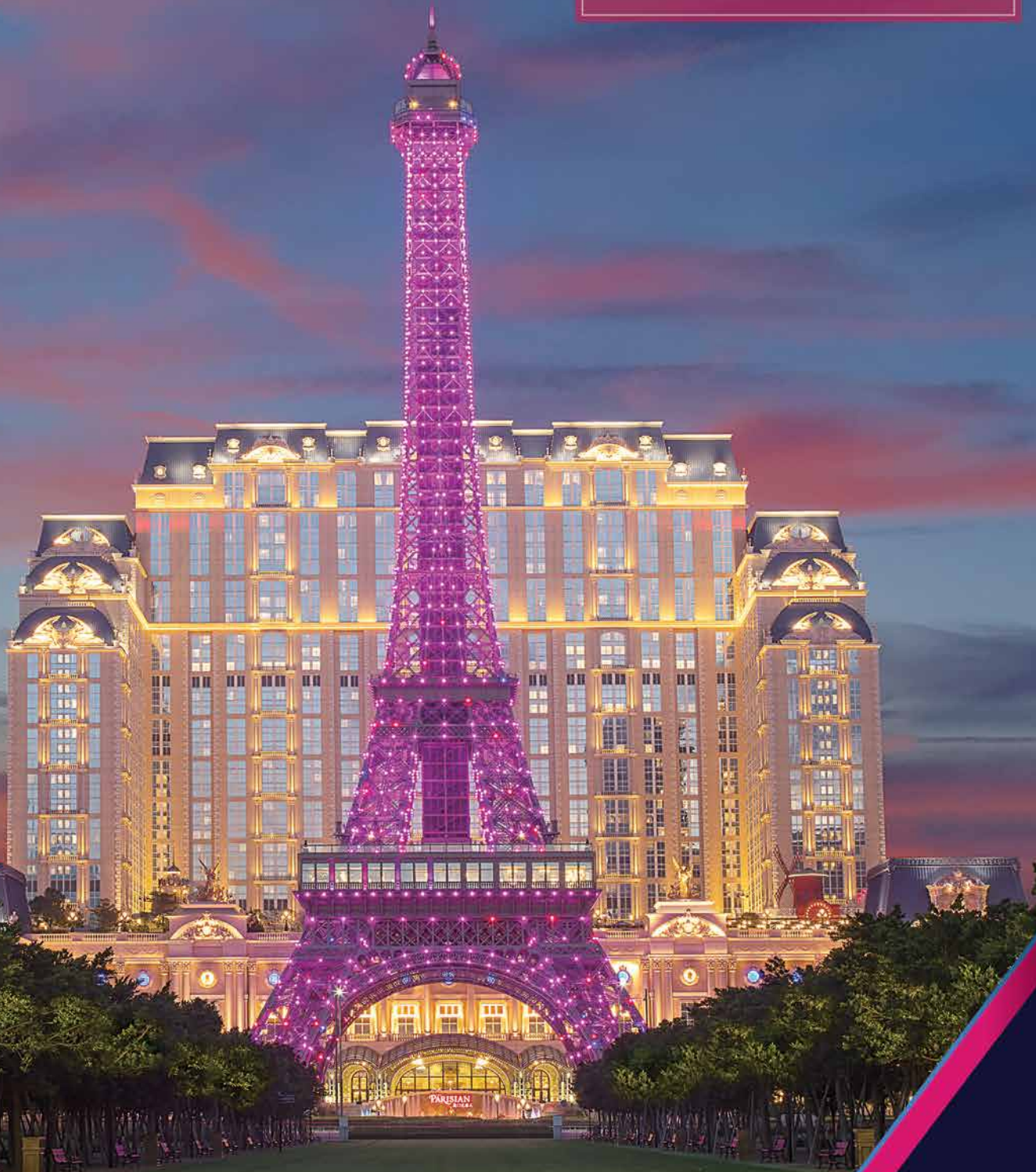
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