

One of Thailand's most popular tourist destinations, Phuket, is an island on southern side. Phuket city is located in the southeast part of the island. Phuket is country's largest island and Phuket city travel is amazing mainly because of its astounding beaches.

Phuket was a major trading center and prospered a lot in the trade of rubber and tin.

During your Phuket city travel, don't forget to visit Old Phuket with the grandeur of mansions and shops of the past, built in Sino-Portuguese architecture.

Visit Khao Rang Hill to get superb views of Phuket city and some neighboring islands. You can sit in one of the many restaurants here and enjoy the view. Visit the lovely health park, with sprawling lawns and a bronze statue of former Governor of the city.

Saphan Hin is a reclamation area, on the juncture of Phuket Road and the sea, housing several parks and monuments.

If you are a Nature-lover, you would love to visit Phuket Butterfly Farm, Phuket Zoo, Phuket Aquarium and Crocodile Farm.

Enjoy delicious Thai lunch and a dazzling show of Thai dances, customs, handicrafts, Thai boxing and elephant show, at Thai Village and Orchid Farm. The dining hall here is adorned with over 2,000 amazing orchids and tropical plants.

And of course, visit the awesome beaches like Patong, Kalim, Kata, Karon and Rawai, to get lost in their splendor.

While shopping in Phuket, you will get ample opportunity in form of numerous malls, like Central Festival Phuket and Jungceylon Shopping Mall. Phuket is famous for its colorful batik, made into shirts, sarongs and also bags. So also, Thai silk is a must-buy and Jim Thompson is perfect place to buy it. It is hand-

woven and very durable and elegant. Pearls are another must-buy in Phuket. Buy them in reputed shops like Wang Talang International on Chao Fah West Road or Phuket Pearl Factory in Sapam. Patong in Phuket is a perfect place to buy paintings. There are lots of other shopping venues here like Talad Tairod (Phuket Weekend Market), Phuket Indy Market, Banzaan Market and Premium Outlet Phuket.

During your Phuket city travel, the must-do activities are freediving, snorkeling and scuba diving. Phuket is the only center for AIDA Instructor Training program.

But that is not all! In Phuket, you can enjoy a lot of other water sports too, like yachting, sailing, swimming, kite-surfing, jet-skiing, water-boarding, parasailing and deep sea fishing. Phuket is the proud host of exciting water sports events like King's Cup Regatta (December), Phuket International Boat Show (March) and Six Senses Phuket Raceweek (July). Phuket is a place to get all types of yachts.

And there are ample land sports too, like go-karting, bungee-jumping, horse-riding, mountain-biking and golf. A novel way to get engrossed for the whole family is football crazy golf, which is a mixture of football and golf, which you can enjoy at an 18-hole, 69-par course spread over 6,400 sq. meters, at the foot of Patong Hill, next to Phuket Go-Kart circuit.

Fresh, juicy seafood is the specialty of Phuket. Eateries here vary greatly in presentation from roadside stalls, motorbike sidecars and fast food outlets to open-air restaurants with awesome views and air-conditioned restaurants. Street foods include freshly-cut fruits, banana pancakes, coconut pancakes, cool desserts of corn, coconut milk, etc, dry squids, and much more.

If you plan Phuket city travel during October, don't miss Phuket Vegetarian Festival, a Chinese festival of abstinence from meat. During this time, people perform extreme acts of self-mortification for faith.

Other major events of Phuket are New Year Fair (January), Wat Chlong Fair (February), Phuket International Marine Expo (March) and many more, along with the exciting Songkran, Loi Krathong and Chinese New Year.