

AS FEATURED IN

SeaSpray
A MARINE ICON SINCE 1945



PHUKET MARINAS

PHUKET IS BLESSED WITH NATURAL BAYS THAT AFFORD GREAT MOORING SPOTS IN CALM, CLEAR WATERS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE OFTEN TIMES WHEN A MARINA MOORING IS VITAL OR SIMPLY PREFERRED. THE MARINAS ON THE ISLAND ALL LIE ALONG THE EASTERN SHORELINE.

THE YACHT HAVEN MARINA

This picturesque marina can be found at Laem Phrao on the northern end of the island and has the advantage of being very close to Phuket International Airport. It lies in the channel between mainland Thailand and Phuket Island and provides easy access to Phang Nga Bay as well as the region's cruising grounds. Access from the west is via the Sarasin bridge, which connects the island to the mainland. This has a clearance of around 5m so isn't suitable for tall masted vessels. It should also be noted that whilst many power craft utilise this channel, there is a drifting sandbar, so do ensure you stick to the channel, particularly at low tides. Access via Phang Nga Bay is a fairly simple exercise and full details can be found on their website. The marina is accessible on all tides.

The shoreline is beautifully green with banana trees and palms in abundance. Potted tubs with colourful plantings stand out against the backdrop of verdant shoreline and whitewashed buildings. Run by Nick Wyatt and Zara Tremlett, The Yacht Haven Marina, opened in 1997. It provides moorings for over 150 boats, from small sailing craft through to superyachts of 60m LOA. The outer moorings have depths of 4-5m. Further expansion is planned for the near future that will see the deepwater moorings increased in numbers. Shore-based accommodation is also in the planning stages. At present, this is the only marina on the island catering to

superyachts and megayachts. What really impressed me was the care taken in protecting the area's fragile eco system.

Marina staff are extremely helpful. Between them and local contractors you can get assistance with engine or electrical systems, air conditioning and refrigeration. They're happy to provide provisioning or cleaning services, too and are very adept at organising and supervising projects on your behalf.

All berths provide power and water as well as phone, fax and computer connections. There is also 24 hour security. An on-site restaurant, The Haven, provides excellent International and Thai meals all day as well as a full bar service including cocktails. The covered veranda with its swirling ceiling fans is a great spot to while away a few hours with a glass of something cool. A lounge area, general store and Sailors' Bar, showers with private lockers and transport to Phuket town are all part and parcel of the services provided and there's even satellite television so you won't miss out on sports events or the latest news offerings. This is where Thai Marine Leisure base their charter fleet and main offices. SEAL Superyachts, Lee Marine and Sail in Asia (a sailing school with RYA certification) have offices here and a chandlery has recently opened its doors.

www.yacht-haven-marina.com

Tel: +66-76-206704



BOAT LAGOON MARINA

This was the first marina established on the island. It is circular in layout and boasts 168 berths for vessels up to approximately 75 feet. The main restriction here is the draft – anything over 3m would have to enter on a fairly high tide. There are three travel lifts up to 60 tons and hardstand facilities for up to 80 vessels. Dry stack storage provides a resting spot for 20 speedboats. Facilities also include power and water, boat ramp, hot showers and changing rooms. From the original tidal flat at the head of the meandering Klong Tha Rua creek, the Boat Lagoon Marina is now encapsulated by condominiums, a hotel and serviced apartments, restaurants, shops and offices. The Watermark Restaurant provides excellent cuisine and will also out-cater to your vessel. It is here that one finds the offices of Lee Marine, Simpson Marine, Sunsail and may other marine service companies.

Lee Marine are the local agents for brands such as Riviera, Ferretti, Pershing and Jeanneau and have an office at Yacht Haven Marina as well. They also offer a brokerage service on a fantastic range of both power and sailing vessels. Simpson Marine are the agents for Riva, Azimut, Beneteau, Sea Ray, Lagoon and Wauquiez and offer a selection of pre-owned vessels up to 43m as well as arranging charters. Sunsail have been in Phuket for over 15 years and offer a range of yachts for charter from 33-50 feet. Their packages are flexible and can be tailor-made to suit. They are the folk to approach if you'd like to partake in one of the region's many regattas but don't have a locally-based vessel handy. Or consider one of their flotilla holidays – enjoy the comfort and privacy of

your own yacht but the experience of a Sunsail skippered vessel leading the way. Derani Yachts represent a carefully selected range of vessels, including Black Watch sportfishers (Australia) and the Posillipo range (65 to 105 feet) from Italy.

Thai Marine Leisure have another office here. They operate several bareboat charters including a new fleet of Athena 38 Fontaine Pajots. They also represent or manage several large crewed boats such as the 28m schooner, Eden 1. Apart from offering a range of vessels through their brokerage service, Thai Marine Leisure are agents for Azimut, Dufour, Hans Christian Yachts, Hunter, Luhrs, Mainship and Fontaine Pajot. There isn't much that Vincent Tabuteau doesn't turn his hand to and what he does, he does well!

www.phuketboatlagoon.com

Tel: +66-76-239055

ROYAL PHUKET MARINA

Situated very close to The Boat Lagoon Marina this is destined to become a world class facility. It won't just be a marina, but will boast a full assortment of residences, shopping and dining. Construction is still underway for the most part, with completion due...

Residences take the form of villas and condominiums. The Penthouses have rooftop terraces with pool, Jacuzzi and views out to sea. The condominiums are classified as low density with a spacious outdoor terrace and large pool between 15 units. The show homes I visited were exquisitely furnished with a blend of



Thai and International décor. However, buying off the plans means you'll have plenty of scope to alter things to individual taste.

This literally will be a "park your boat and walk into your home" scenario. The tidal basin has capacity for 40 vessels and an internal, lock-controlled basin has room for another 60 to 80. In addition, there are 80 private berths for residents. Moorings cater for vessels up to 30m LOA. Even if you don't own a boat ... yet owners can simply pick up the phone and a charter vessel will be delivered literally to your front door. There is also a speedboat shuttle which takes owners and guests to an exclusive beach in 10 short minutes.

Horizons is the name of the 10,000sqm shopping precinct. Luxury and style will abound, with tenants offering swimwear, designer fashions, children's toys and entertainment, jewellery, homewares, books, gifts, sports goods and much more. Cafes, bars and fine dining will be set along the 250m waterfront boardwalk. The supermarket, bakery and deli will provide goodies to stock your apartment or boat fridge with a mouth-watering range.

Evening entertainment has also been considered – from soothing jazz to rocking DJ's. Other amenities within the complex include a state-of-the-art fitness centre, floodlit tennis courts, a spa and cinema. The region's fabulous golf courses are only a short drive away and watersports abound in the form of kayaking, jet skiing, windsurfing or fishing.

www.royalphuketmarina.com

+66-76-239762

ANCHORAGES

Ao Chalong, at the southern end of the island, is the only year-round anchorage and the island's largest bay. When approaching from the south, stick closer to Koh Lon on the starboard side than to the mainland – the bank and the reef extend further than the charts suggest! Anchor in the 3-7m muddy bottom well offshore and definitely beyond the 800m jetty. Even in the southwest monsoon season, this anchorage remains protected, experiencing a bit of chop during the northwest season. You'll find the Lighthouse restaurant and Ao Chalong Yacht Club here, both regular gathering spots for yachties. The harbour teems with vessels in all shapes and sizes. It is from here that one can book fishing charters, too - trips out to the tuna and marlin grounds or even an evening trip to hook a shark. Look up Wahoo Big Game Fishing – they're specialists in their field and are offering excellent deals right now! You'll find Cobra International here, too. They specialise in all types of canvas work including sail covers, biminis and awnings, and undertake repairs to sails for yachts up to 30 feet.

Kata Beach, Karon Beach and Nai Harn Beach offer 6-10m anchorage in sand. Club Med owns a vast stretch of Kata beach and unless you're a guest, you won't be welcomed. Kata Beach Resort



is on the south side (the southeast providing the best anchoring) and it's here that the Phuket Kings Cup Regattas has been hosted in the past. It's very popular with surfers from June to November. Karon is another hot spot for tourists. The vast majority of resorts and bungalows here were unaffected by the tsunami and remain fully operational. Nai Harn is peaceful with few shoreline developments.

Patong Beach is probably the most popular of anchorages on the west coast. It gradually slopes, and its sandy bottom provides 5-15m depth. On shore one will find everything from supermarkets to 5 star resorts. It can be hectic and overcrowded at the height of the season – the 3km stretch is the tourist mecca of Phuket. It boasts excellent swimming, jet skiing and parasailing. The area has an excellent night life and there's great shopping, too.

Kamala Beach lies in a beautiful bay, but boaties need to take care on southerly approaches as there's a rocky patch about 300m off the headland. Phuket's famed FantaSea Park, hotels and more can be found ashore. Again 6-8m anchorage on a sandy bottom.

Bang Tao Bay is home to Laguna Phuket, a fully integrated resort complex. When approaching from the south, be careful of the large rock around 150m off the headland. Give it a wide berth by proceeding well north before entering the bay. 6-8m sandy bottom again.

Phang Nga Bay boasts over 100 islands. Spectacular "sea mountains" rise up vertically from the sea. The bay is littered with inlets and channels just waiting to be explored. Half the fun is in the discovery of coves and creeks for yourself. How pleasant to find a secluded anchorage close to an uninhabited island with a towering cliff alongside. A minimal fee of a few hundred Baht per day will be charged in areas designated as National Park. Don't try to find somewhere to pay – the patrolling rangers will find you. Most of the bay is silt and anchorage mostly less than 10m.

The waters surrounding Phuket offer many glorious anchorages and the above list is by no means exhaustive. For more detailed information, order yourself a copy of the Andaman Sea Pilot at www.andamanseapilot.com. This guide covers the region from the Andaman and Nicobar islands in the west to the Gulf of Thailand in the east, covering some 600,000 square miles. You will find full details on cruising Thailand, as well as the Andaman Islands, India, Myanmar, Malaysia, Singapore and Cambodia. Detailed charts, anchorage data (including GPS positions), photographs and details on shore facilities and regulations. ■

Trawler: 34, 40 Pilot: 30, 34

Live it Now

Mainship Trawler 34

Australian Agent:
1-800-062-433
 NSW: +61(0) 2-4975 4399
 VIC: +61(0) 418-349 165
sales@mainship.com.au
www.mainship.com.au

Mainship
 TRAWLERS
AN EMPLOYEE OWNED COMPANY