

THAILAND

2017-2018

# Hot Spots

THE BEST NEW OPENINGS IN  
BANGKOK • CHIANG MAI • HUA HIN  
• PHUKET • KRABI • SAMUI



BK

**HOT SPOTS**  
SAMUI



SECRET GARDEN SPA



BAAN TALAY POOL VILLAS



AWAY SPA

**- DO -**

**Secret Garden Spa**

Here, it's all about treatments that make use of herbs and ingredients grown in the hotel's garden. Coconut plays a big part, like in the Kala Coconut massage, which uses pure warm coconut oil to ease tension and aching muscles, while the Secret Garden Scrub blends coconut oil with homegrown herbs to help recharge your immune system.

Four Seasons Koh Samui, 219 Moo 5, Angthong, 077-243-000. Open daily 9am-9pm. [www.fourseasons.com/kohsamui](http://www.fourseasons.com/kohsamui)

**Away Spa**

The oh-so-chic spa at W Retreat has launched an exciting sauna experience. Thaimazcal combines Thai herbs with Mexican temazcal, an ancient form of sweat lodge believed to improve health and purify the body. The treatment finishes with delicious mocktails featuring yet more Thai herbs at W's Tonic Bar.

4/1 Moo 1, Maenam, 077-915-999. Open daily 10am-10pm. [www.wretreatkohsamui.com/away\\_spa](http://www.wretreatkohsamui.com/away_spa)

**Giant Summit Samui**

Take a break from the beach and head to one of the island's highest points to enjoy sensational views from this breezy outdoor terrace. The deck juts out from a mountainside, offering prime seats from which to enjoy not just incredible vistas, but also Thai classics from pad Thai to chicken with chashew nuts.

31/20 Tambon Na Muang, 093-580-8711. Open daily 10am-7pm

**- STAY -**

**Khwan Beach Resort**

Situated on Maenam Beach, on the island's north coast, this collection of luxury tents comes kitted out with mod-cons like air-conditioning despite their 19th-century expedition vibe—think four-poster king beds, oil lamps, vintage wooden chairs, leather trunks and daybeds. The location is close to the weekly walking street on Maenam Road and famous island food staples like Ko Seng.

67/61 Moo1 Maenam Beach, 062-565-0796. Open daily 7am-10pm. [www.khwanbeachresort.com](http://www.khwanbeachresort.com)

**Baan Talay Pool Villas**

Perched amid coconut trees on a mountain overlooking Chaweng Noi Beach, these villas offer a real tropical hideaway. Both the one-bedroom pool villa and two-bedroom deluxe villa come with fully-equipped kitchens and private plunge pools.

6/9 Moo 3, Chaweng Noi, 077-422-771-2. Open daily 6am-11pm. [www.baantalay-poolvilla.com](http://www.baantalay-poolvilla.com)

**HOT SPOTS**  
SAMUI

**The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui**

The north-east coast of Koh Samui will soon welcome Thailand's second Ritz-Carlton resort. The expansive accommodation comes in two forms: suite or villa, all decked out in a tasteful blend of neutral tones just a stone's throw from a private beach.

9/123 Moo 5, TambonBophud, [www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/koh-samui](http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/koh-samui)

**Celes Beachfront Resort**

The hotel sits just outside Fisherman's Village—a former French outpost lined with beautiful old wooden Chinese shop-houses. Its design complements the beautiful natural setting with lightly toned wooden buildings, high ceilings, and white walls and furniture. The standard rooms offer reasonable value for money, while the

beachfront villas come with private sun loungers and an outdoor pool.

175/3 Thaveerat-Pakdee Rd., 077-900-999. [www.celesresorts.com](http://www.celesresorts.com)

**Sensimar**

Take your partner for an escape at this resort where they guarantee there won't be a single child in sight. We love the clean, oriental-luxe vibe, as well as the "adults-only" protocol, assuring a peaceful stay. Given the nightly rate, its hardwood floors, spacious rooms and vast, beachside infinity pool are also a notch above many places. The resort sits on Maenam Beach, 10km away from Samui Airport.

44/134 Moo 1, Maenam Beach, 077-953-035. [www.sensimar-samui.com](http://www.sensimar-samui.com)



SENSIMAR



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**HOT SPOTS  
ESSENTIALS**



**ANOTHER STORY**

EmQuartier's design-forward concept store showcases an eclectic selection of more than 200 brands. Along with chic international tech, fashion and design names making their Thailand debuts, there are also plenty of Thai names spanning stationery (Gray Ray and Labrador) as well as cute home decor pieces (look out for Plural Design, PDM Brand, Karv Design and Alltag). The huge space also has a deli with some to-die-for food.

4/F, The Emquartier, Helix Building, Sukhumvit Rd., 02-003-6138-9. Open daily 10am-10pm. [www.theemdistrict.com](http://www.theemdistrict.com)



**THE KITCHEN TABLE**

Warm-wood furniture, a palatial balcony and the overworldly glow of its translucent crocodile walls make The Kitchen Table like no other restaurant in town. Chef Steven Kim's menu puts Thai and Indian cuisine at its core, but also charts well-prepared Western staples from pizzas to steaks to burgers. Make reservations for the first and third Saturday of every month, when brunch offers a huge buffet spread, live DJs and fashion collaborations.

2/F, 106 North Sathorn Rd., Silom, 02-344-4000. Open daily 6:30am-10:30am, noon-10:30pm. [www.wbangkok.com/thekitchentablekk](http://www.wbangkok.com/thekitchentablekk)



**PAGODA CHINESE RESTAURANT**

One of Hong Kong's top names in traditional Chinese dining, Oscar Pun, lends his two-decades of culinary experience to this upscale Cantonese restaurant. Inside you'll find a pagoda-inspired ceiling, colorful lacquered tiles and antique ceramics that create an elegant and refined ambiance with a nice tinge of the ancient Middle Kingdom. The signature golden chicken, a famous Hangzhou delicacy, and a wide selection of premium Chinese teas make this go-to spot for fans of traditional Cantonese cuisine.

199 Sukhumvit Soi 22, Klong Ton, Klong Toey, 02-059-5999. Open daily 11:30am-2:30pm, 6-10pm. [www.facebook.com/PagodaChineseRestaurant](http://www.facebook.com/PagodaChineseRestaurant)



**RIVER CITY**

This riverside shopping center is packed with boutique lifestyle shops ranging from fashion to antique art, as well as being the home to Thailand's leading auction house, RCB Auctions. On top of the shopping, there's also a collection of bars and restaurants on the ground floor that offer great river views out on the terrace, where you'll see people embarking on Bangkok's best dinner cruises and boat tours along the Chao Phraya river.

23 Trok Rongnamkhaeng, Si Phraya Pier, Yota Rd., 02-237-0077. Open daily 10am-10pm. [www.river-citybangkok.com](http://www.river-citybangkok.com)



**SIAM PARAGON**

Situated right next to Bangkok's busiest BTS station, this mall's towering glass facade houses 360 flagship stores, from luxurious mainstays Hermès and Chanel to street favorites like H&M and Zara, plus Sea Life Bangkok Ocean World, Southeast Asia's biggest aquarium, Blu-O bowling alley, Kidzania playground and Paragon Cineplex. The restaurant selection includes buzzing imported names like Clinton Street Baking Company and IHOP, while the ground-floor food court is consistently lauded as one of the best in town.

991 Siam Paragon Shopping Center, Rama 1 Rd., 02-690-1000. Open daily 10am-10pm. [www.siamparagon.co.th](http://www.siamparagon.co.th)



**BIG FISH RESTAURANT & BAR**

This beachfront grill and seafood restaurant offers 180-degree views of the ocean, whether you're seated outside on the terrace or inside amid air-con comfort. Boasting two decades of experience, Executive Chef Mario Hoffman crafts a menu under a "Catch of the Day" concept that draws on fresh ingredients from the sea. The iced seafood tower comes packed with oysters, prawns, rock lobster, scallops and green mussels. Those more into red meat can select from prime Australian cuts of beef.

Hua Hin Marriott Resort & Spa, 107/1 Phetkasem Rd., 032-904-666. Open daily 11am-3pm, 5-11pm. [goo.gl/1ThMON](http://goo.gl/1ThMON)

**HOT SPOTS  
ESSENTIALS**



**SO SOFITEL HUAHIN**

A favorite of design-savvy Bangkokians, the resort stands out from the pack with its maze of natural stone courtyards and walkways, while the largest marble stairway in the region leads from the pool to the beach. The 60-sq-meter guestrooms match rustic, driftwood charm with custom-made art pieces. Come weekends, Beach Society welcomes an urbane crowd to sip on G&Ts and eat fresh seafood to the sound of live DJs.

115 Moo 7, Tambol Bangkao, Amphur Cha-Am, 03-270-9555. [www.so-sofitel-huahin.com](http://www.so-sofitel-huahin.com)



**THE BARAI SPA AND RESIDENTIAL SUITES**

Inspired by the colossal Bayon Temple in Cambodia, this award-winning destination spa is about as calming as it gets. Engulfed by leafy gardens and lush forest trees, the resort rests on an 11-rai patch of tranquil beach adjacent to the Hyatt Regency Hua Hin. Its spacious, uncluttered luxury suites include plunge pools, private gardens and exclusive spa areas. The wellness treatments and lifestyle programs offered here have earned a dizzying array of international awards.

91 Hua Hin - Khao Taklap Rd., Prachuap Khiri Khan, 03-251-1234. [www.thebarai.com](http://www.thebarai.com)



**BEST WESTERN PATONG BEACH**

Situated in the heart of Patong, this seven-story property offers modern, affordable accommodation just a 10-minute stroll from the beach. Up on the rooftop you'll find an infinity pool and sunbeds poised to catch the rays throughout the day. Mana Restaurant serves a buffet breakfast each morning, in addition to Western and Thai à la carte.

190 Pangmuengsai Gor Road, Patong, 076-360-200. [www.bestwesternasia.com](http://www.bestwesternasia.com)



**GRAND MERCURE PHUKET PATONG RESORT & VILLAS**

Steps away from Patong's nightlife, this grand hideaway sits just behind the Andaman seafont. The reception welcomes you with a contemporary interpretation of Thailand's sweeping pavilion architecture, while the accommodation is modern and bright. The Grand Mercure name assures top-end resort staples (flat-screen TVs, powerful aircon, free amenities, gym, spa and vast swimming pool) as well as a plentiful breakfast buffet spread.

1 Soi Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi 2, Patong, 076-231-999. [www.grandmercurephuketpatong.com](http://www.grandmercurephuketpatong.com)



**KATA ROCKS PHUKET**

Host to Thailand's yearly Superyacht Rendezvous event, this villa-only resort on Phuket's southern coast enjoys some of the best views of the Andaman Sea in the region. Clean, white walls and clutter-free modern design elements give off a distinctly Mediterranean vibe, and its position atop a quiet hill overlooking Kata Beach makes for a very peaceful setting despite its close proximity to town. Inside, you'll find dining and spa options on par with Phuket's elite-level resorts.

186/22, Kok Tanode Road, Kata Beach, 076-370-777. [www.katarocks.com](http://www.katarocks.com)



**PHUKET MARRIOTT RESORT AND SPA, NAI YANG BEACH**

The winner of "Thailand's Best Interior Design Hotel" at the 2017 Asia Property Awards achieved the accolade thanks to rooms that are both confidently Thai and tropically luxurious. It's the location that really shines, though, on local favorite Nai Yang Beach, where abundant palm trees still fringe the shore (and provide wonderful views from many of the 180 rooms). At Big Fish Restaurant & Bar, you can enjoy succulent steaks and fresh seafood before chilling out on Nai Yang Beach.

92, 92/1 Moo 3, Sakoo, Talang, Nai Yang Beach, Phuket, 076-625-555. [www.phuketmarriottnaiyang.com](http://www.phuketmarriottnaiyang.com)