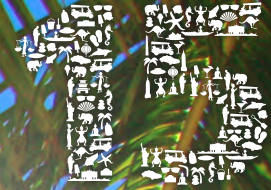


SUMMER 2014 EDITION

INSPIRED

HOLIDAY INSPIRATION FOR ABSOLUTE MEMBERS & OWNERS



CELEBRATING OVER 15 YEARS OF
HOLIDAY MEMORIES &
LIFESTYLE INVESTMENT

FAMILY FUN IN SAMUI
COCO SPLASH ADVENTURE PARK

A DATE FOR YOUR HOLIDAY DIARY
PHUKET VEGETARIAN FESTIVAL

OFF THE BEATEN PATH IN SAMUI
HUA THANON VILLAGE



Phuket Bird Park

Thai Island Escapes

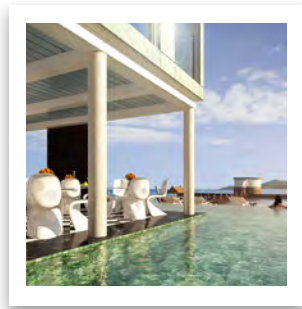
Absolute 
WORLD
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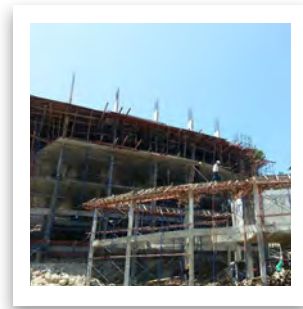
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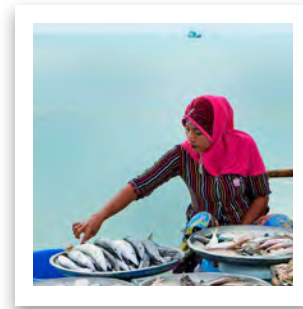
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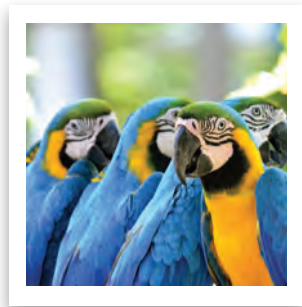
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CELEBRATING OVER 15 YEARS OF
**HOLIDAY MEMORIES &
LIFESTYLE INVESTMENT**

Absolute 
WORLD
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WELCOME LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

We welcome you to the Summer Edition of Inspired Magazine. As we ease into the traditional holiday season, we are thrilled to be sharing this latest issue with you and hope we stir a little something to enhance your next holiday.

We have had a busy year so far with the construction of Phase Two of our Absolute Twin Sands Resort & Spa, and fun with the concept and development of the Third and final phase. Additionally, we have been busy working on the amenities and lifestyle enhancements of this final phase and we look forward to sharing these with you in this edition. We are also in the final stages of the development of our first Private Residence Club The Beach Samui. It is critical we get this perfect for our Fractional owners who have eagerly waited for the Boutique to open and we are so excited to finally open our doors when ready. Read on for updates on both resorts and more.

We are determined to create and share more so many more wonderful memories with you and your loved ones as you begin to plan your Christmas and New Year holidays with us.

Now sit back, relax and enjoy all the amazing adventures and developments we have in store for you.

Happy Reading.



Bryan Lunt, Chairman & CEO



FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE OUR MEMBER SERVICES TEAMS CAN BE CONTACTED ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING LOCAL RATE NUMBERS:

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CHINA	+86 400 8980 898	RUSSIA	+7 499 795 7549	USA	+1 6465 645 654
FINLAND	+35 894 2704142	SOUTH AFRICA	+27 2130 01943		
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THE LOCAL TEAM COMES TOGETHER

AS WE ENTER THE FINAL STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT OF OUR FIRST BOUTIQUE PRIVATE RESIDENCE CLUB, THE BEACH SAMUI, THE VARIOUS ASPECTS THAT GO INTO MAKING THIS MAGNIFICENT PROJECT COME TO LIFE ARE FINALLY COMING TOGETHER TO CREATE THIS OUTSTANDING RESORT.



Specifically designed for The Beach Samui, the one of a kind hand crafted furniture collection, including intricately carved and rather exquisite headboards, teak crafted sofas and lounge furniture, marble dining room suites and stained teak exterior furnishings are now crafted and ready for delivery, from our factories in Thailand. Furthermore, there are lots of added extras such as beautiful teak Plasma television easels that you can move around the room and view at

your leisure and a variety of bespoke pieces that you are going to love.

The hand crafted beach furniture is also completed and as well as beautiful sun loungers carved from the finest Thai Teak, we have spectacular cabanas where you can lounge the day away comfortably with everything you need at your disposal, even your own personal cool box filled with juices, fruit and water and a brass watering can to shower away

the sand from your feet. Additionally, our elegant teak pier with a spacious floating cocktail, dining and lounging deck is finished and ready to install.

All room interior walls are now dressed, with elegant brilliant white oak, kitchen and bedroom cabinets are fitted and almost all apartments are complete and ready for their final fixtures and fittings.

The Beach Samui, of course, offers members and guests more than first



Left: Alec Lomas, Executive Chef, The Beach Samui
Right: Christophe Hsiao, Botanical Bar & Restaurant Manager, The Beach Samui



James Ransby, Resort Manager, The Beach Samui



Our Team at The Beach Samui





class service, luxury and opulence in a tranquil and serene setting... The Beach Samui, like all chosen Design Hotels™ members' is also about marrying exquisite design with a holistic guest experience and a one-of-a-kind personality with sustainability at the forefront of its philosophy.

As a selected member of Design Hotels™, The Beach Samui must hold its own among the privileged members of the fraternity and pay particular attention to quality, detail and create an overall impression that inspires guests and motivates feelings of comfort, creativity, joy, passion and emotional wellbeing.

Fortunately, those who invested in The Beach Samui, have bought into a resort that is already winning awards and wowing agents who are eager to have the Boutique hotel as part of their collection; which was evident from the amazing response that was received from the recent International Luxury Travel Market (ITLM), trade show in Shanghai where, in June, The Beach Samui was presented, warmly received, and applauded by over 80 luxury travel agencies who greatly anticipate the resort forming part of their resort collections.

The concept and personalities behind The Beach Samui – from our Creative Director, Compliance Manager, Architect, Site Manager, Marketing & PR and team in general – are all tasked in making the concept come alive and we are pleased to announce we have begun to recruit some of the management team that will be utilizing their expertise to deliver the holistic concept and make this charming boutique resort come to life.

Having lived and worked on Koh Samui for over a decade, James

Ransby, has been involved at management level in six Thai resorts. British born, yet fluent in Thai, he offers a wealth of local knowledge and management experience, which, coupled with his passion for top-level boutique resort service and a guest-centric attitude made him the ideal candidate to lead the resort's operation at The Beach Samui.

James' strengths focus around service-orientated hospitality operations and his advanced hotel background is focused on creating a synergy between different aspects of his resorts to ensure the level of service offered is exacting and guests' expectations and experiences are above and beyond ordinary.

James, a seasoned professional in the hospitality industry has extensive expertise and experience in all areas of resort management, including; coordination of process management, continuous staff training and development, event organization & management and administration. On board since February, he is keen and excited for The Beach Samui's door to open and welcome his first guests.

James said: "The boutique resort concept is a very difficult one to pull off, as it requires a distinctive creative concept, outstanding design, complete personal service and a careful and considered approach in every case. However, we are now coming to the really exciting stage, where all the parts of the development are fusing together to create the whole. Above all, it's truly invigorating to see the team behind The Beach Samui so dedicated in getting it right.

"I've been on-board since late February and been working extensively on critical operational



issues from identifying staffing requirements to making preparations for functional installations such as our Internet – which will be lightning fast and way above the specification offered in other resorts on the island. Currently I am involved with the procurement and overseeing of the installation of our telephone systems, guest television, CCTV and fire alarm system.”

As well as Resort Manager, James, we have also secured the expertise of an Executive Chef, Alec Lomas and a Botanical Bar & Restaurant Manager, Christophe Hsiao, both of whom possess a wealth of expertise in the luxury hotel dining experience and international-standard cuisine, in Thailand and further afield.

Described as the chef on a journey, Alec is a food lover who invests most of his spare time and holidays uncovering new ingredients and discovering new recipes by immersing himself in different cultures and their cuisine.

Food and culture are synonymous for Alec who feels at home in Thailand, intrigued by the Thai passion for all things food and eating.

Arriving from his home town of Vancouver, Canada, Alec, has spent the last year devoting his time to the discovery of healthier cuisine. “I went back to Vancouver, to a place that is mad about local, healthy and organic food as I wanted to further my knowledge, not only of the dining concept, but of the nutritional values and health advantages of eating good, fresh, local and organic produced ingredients.

“The concept of farm to table was exactly what I was looking for and on hearing of the vision and abundant gastronomic delights that are part of The Beach Samui’s approach – I was eager to get involved and be part of this truly authentic resort,” said, Alec.

Unassuming and passionate about food, Alec who has donned his

Executive Chef apron in some of Thailand’s best kitchens, including The Pavilions Resorts Phuket, a Member of Relais & Châteaux, where he was responsible for the creation of all menus, catering & special event packages, all facets of the culinary operations for the highly exclusive, boutique resort and coaching and development of the kitchen team of 28 chefs, cooks and stewards.

As well a Featured Chef of: Exclusive Chefs in the Sky by Bangkok Airways, where he created four original dishes to be served to the boutique airline’s Blue Ribbon passengers, and trained Bangkok Air Catering staff to recreate the dishes; the chef on a journey represented Relais & Châteaux, Silversea’s Culinary Arts Voyages. Sailing on board the Silverseas Cruiselines, Alec was invited to prepare two gastronomic dinners for the main dining room of the Silver Spirit cruise ship and conducted cooking classes for passengers.

Besides Thailand, Alec's executive cooking journey has taken him to California, Bali and India; now back in Thailand, Alec, who admires and takes influence from celebrated Chef and Restaurateur Daniel Boulud, is now busy working on his menus for The Beach Samui and is eager to get cooking some nourishing, local, natural and abundant food that is different, stimulating and above all delicious.

French Botanical Bar & Restaurant Manager Christophe Hsiao is also a well-traveled professional who gained much of his experience working within some of the finest restaurants in London and Milan.

Trained at the eminent Paul Bocuse Institute in France, Christophe is a welcomed and significant part of The Beach Samui's exclusive gastronomic experience.

Calm, poised and polished Christophe is proficient and comes with extremely impressive references and a handsome pedigree from working in some of the world's best hotels and restaurants; including The Savoy, Claridges and Harrods and has added to his experience working in diverse locations such as Sweden, Italy and China; and for various respected resorts in Thailand for the last three years.

Together this gastronomic coupling is now working diligently to prepare a truly authentic, palate pleasing dining extravaganza. Harmonising like a perfect wine and food combination, Christophe and Alec have merged

their knowledge and ideas and are confident that The Beach Samui dining experience will be one of the finest on the island.

The delectable menu is being inspired by the abundance of locally sourced, natural and organic ingredients and the presentation and flavour will combine to create an inspired rustic farm-to-table dining experience.

There will also be a mindful approach to health and a focus on wellbeing and nutrition, specialist diets and detoxification menus will be provided alongside a daily variety of freshly prepared cold pressed juices, which can even be mixed at your door for a perfectly healthy start to the relaxing day ahead.

The Botanical Bar with its opulent marble counter-table overlooked by striking hand blown glass chandeliers is now completed and will soon be set against a wall of living herbs, from where a skilled Mixologists will infuse and muddle cocktails with the finest natural ingredients and the skill of an apothecary.

Moving on to The Calibration Spa where a highly skilled and experienced in-house team, and internationally renowned guest practitioners of different healing disciplines will be available for consultation and healing programmes.

The Calibration Spa will offer guests the opportunity to indulge in a day of high-end restoration in a luxurious setting or opt for a more in-depth mind and body wellness experience.

The Spa consultant will analyse and customize the experience by choosing the most effective products resulting in the maximum benefit.

A focus on both physical and mental wellbeing. As well as Ayurvedic treatments, traditional and modern massage, an amethyst crystal steam room, a rain room, TechnoGym fitness center and limestone plunge pool – the spa facilities will provide a wide range of holistic wellness therapies including energy healing, reiki, yoga, deep tissue sports massage, colon hydrotherapy and detox programmes, counselling, hypnotherapy and life coaching.

We have considered every detail to ensure our guests comfort and happiness is elevated to new heights and the work is constant to ensure that, as well creating a resort that affords guests luxury, opulence, style and memorable experiences; we are continuing to work on the holistic concept that combines sustainability, experience, gastronomy, wellness, amenities, community integration and an active approach to the environment.

Ongoing, the development of The Beach Samui has been a timely and demanding process and there is a great deal of comfort in the knowledge that all the various aspects of this magnificent project are uniting, and in doing so they are coming together to produce the outstanding resort that was envisaged from the onset.





MADE BY ORIGINALS - WHO ARE DESIGN HOTELS™?

FOUNDED IN 1993, DESIGN HOTELS™ IS A COLLECTION OF HANDPICKED HOTELS THAT REFLECT AND ECHO, CEO AND FOUNDER, CLAUS SENDLINGER'S HUMANITARIAN SPIRIT AND CAPTURE HIS PASSION FOR ORIGINALITY AND THOUGHT PROVOKING DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE.



Like The Beach Samui, each chosen hotel is picked for its inventive spirits that create rare, independent-minded hotels with a global conciseness, a focus on cohesion with the local community and a firm commitment to social responsibility. Of the 400 annual applications to become a member of Design Hotels™ approximately 25 make the grade, and are accepted into the prestigious fraternity.

Representing, and marketing a curated selection of over 250 independent hotels in over 50 countries across the globe, Design Hotels™ is leading the way in the boutique hotel and holiday market. Each represented property has a story and its narrative echoes the ideas of each visionary hotelier, an Original, and their team... who individually and collectively oblige an

innate passion for genuine hospitality, cultural authenticity, thought provoking design and striking architecture.

"I see design excellence as a combination of several factors - craftsmanship, a conscious balance between style and substance and taking a mindful approach to the overall design and concept," says Claus Sendlinger.

From their company headquarters in Berlin and branches in London, Barcelona, New York, Singapore and Perth, the Design Hotels™ team travel the world looking for Original owners whose creativity extends beyond the visual.

For member hotels, the Design Hotels™ brand is a symbol of distinction and one of the most important factors for membership. Alongside the esteemed

recognition of being a part of the Design Hotels™ brand, member hotels can choose from a wide spectrum of integrated communications, marketing and consulting services.

The Beach Samui, like other member hotels, benefit from strategic brand partnerships and marketing initiatives and Design Hotels™ organized events, including industry-wide trade shows for travel companies, such as, ITB in Berlin, Germany, International Luxury Travel Market (ITLM) in Cannes, France; and Asia Luxury Travel Market in Shanghai, China, where, in June, The Beach Samui was presented, warmly received and applauded by over 80 luxury travel agencies who expressed interest in having the hotel on their books.

Printed material is available for members - from concepts and editorial direction to graphic design; everything is generated and produced in-house. This includes The Design Hotels™ Book, DIRECTIONS Magazine and the annual Trend Briefing, a symposium on upcoming trends that will shape the years to come.



Highly affective public relations and global communications, ranging from the development and execution of communication strategies to the coordination of media cooperation, press trips and providing journalists with relevant editorial content is a key part of the membership benefits.

As are the 50 annual sales events created around the world for member hotels to best position their properties in the international travel market. For example, “Exchanges” bring together hoteliers with key members of the travel industry and corporate event managers.

Design Hotels™ offers a wide array of opportunities for member hotels to present themselves in the online world.

These include targeted E-newsletter campaigns in addition to dedicated webpages on DesignHotels.com and features on the homepage. Experienced staff also provide consultation in online-distribution and yield & revenue management, which enable the hotels to maximize their financial performance.

To help inspire and excite the senses Design Hotels™ new website, designhotels.com launched in February. In development for over one year the website is a culmination of Sendlinger’s efforts to create a community of hip hotels and conscious consumers, he said: “Our aim is to provide our community with a platform that is truly distinctive through its combination of recognition, value and experience - a travel companion rather than a brand extension. Overall, we have better integrated commerce and content. Booking a hotel is now a seamless and transparent experience where details on room types, sizes and rates are automatically shown.”

“Our pages are also now longer and rich with videos, photos and behind-the-scenes information you won’t find anywhere else.”





Global Director of Brand Development and Creative Director at The Beach Samui, Charlotte Rose Melsom with the Design Hotels™ team in Shanghai



Clients of all member hotels worldwide are offered easy and seamless options for making reservations and obtaining information. Round - the - clock solutions include toll - free telephone numbers for reaching the Berlin-based travel specialists, an Internet platform for online bookings and a central reservations system.

Design Hotels™ caters to the media savvy, sophisticated and conscious traveler who is seeking originality while craving adventure and mind stimulating experiences that go beyond the security of staying in a regular hotel.

“It’s all in the concept,” says Claus Sendlinger... “Does it make sense? Does it connect to its locality? Does it have character? At Design Hotels, we consider design to encompass more than just the hardware. Each member hotel and the guest experience it offers are one-of-a-kind, with factors like personalization, recognition, self-education and sustainability at the forefront. We look at the overall impression, the attention to quality and the attention to detail, the concept and personality behind the hotel brand, as well as the individuals - from the architect, to the owner, to the staff - that make the concept come alive. Every single member hotel is handpicked and chosen for its holistic concept. Walk into any of our member hotels and you will sense that it’s the work of passionate and creative individuals.”

Those individuals include hundreds of Originals from around the world who create spaces that in addition to generating a grand impression, pay particular attention to quality and to detail, and employ staff - who make the concept come alive.

GREECE: For Alexandra Efstathiadou, Ekies All Senses Resort is more than a hotel. It is childhood recaptured. It is luxury without pretense.

“I wanted to display Greek culture but in a modern way. I wanted to create a new way for people to look at the country. [So the four architects hired] were all Greek, but they represented different ages, different visions, different views of the country.” ALEXANDRA EFSTATHIADOU

ITALY: Under the audacious eye of Marianna Serandrei, Ca’ Pisani has become both an international art hub and the initiator of a new Venetian élan - ancient republica reinvented as cultural oasis.

“For me, the hotel is part of the travel experience itself. Sometimes I go to a place just because I know there is a fabulous hotel!” MARIANNA SERANDREI

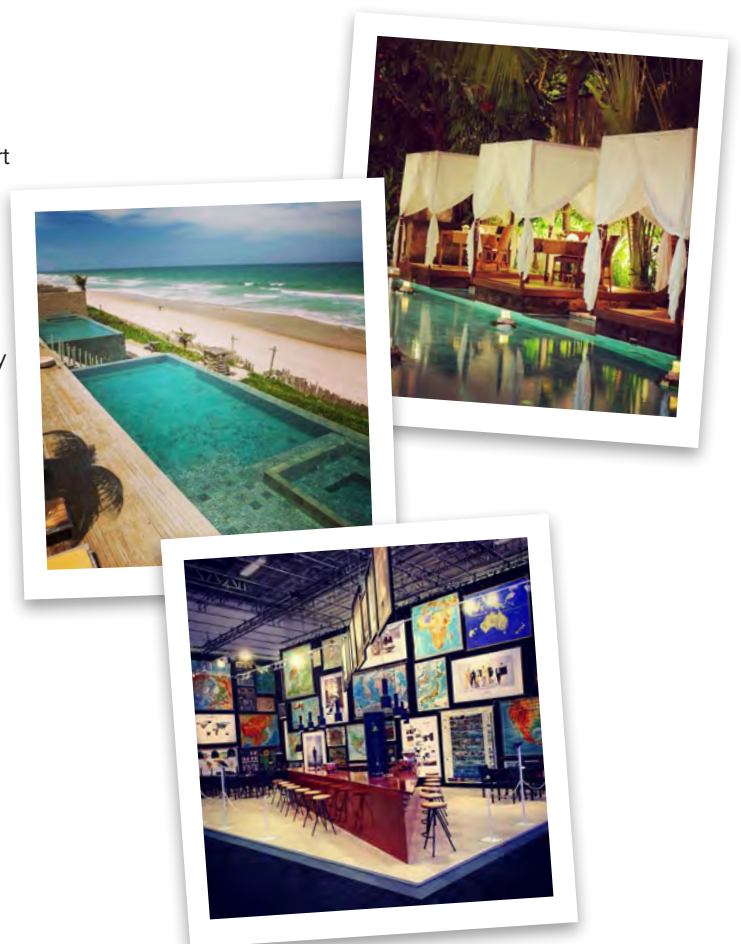
BRAZIL: Pedro Marques was fast on his way to becoming an engineer when inspiration hit - he would use the magical experiences he had in his parents’ summer beach house to create one of Brazil’s most naturally inviting resorts: Kenoa - Exclusive Beach Spa & Resort.

“KENOA is not solely a reflection of me, but also of my family and loved ones, and of the people who worked with me over the past years. The hotel, today, is a sum of all these influences.” PEDRO MARQUES

INDIA: Nikhileendra Singh’s world-class Hotel RAAS offers a new, modern, and relevant take on India’s famed walled city of Jodhpur, while also blending seamlessly into its storied surroundings.

“I never want to tell our guests how to respond to us. They need to discover RAAS, to feel the modesty of the place, then be blown away by how the architecture plays to the fort, which dominates everything.” NIKHILENDRA SINGH

Over the past 20 years Design Hotels™ have attracted people who are looking for authentic experiences - travelers who want to immerse themselves in the local culture, go on a voyage of self-discovery, experience new and exciting adventures that stimulate and inspire the senses and refresh both the mind and the body. To achieve this they have created an elite platform and provide guests with a wealth of information to help choose from an exclusive collection of boutique hotels across the globe that continuous to grow and accommodate the diverse lifestyle needs of clients, and furnish them with experiences that are far from the conventional.



THREE PRESTIGIOUS PHASES ONE MAGNIFICENT RESORT

SELLING OUT OFF PLAN, THE SUCCESS OF PHASE I AND PHASE II OF ABSOLUTE TWIN SANDS RESORT & SPA HAS PAVED THE WAY FOR THE RECENT LAUNCH OF THE THIRD AND FINAL PHASE OF THIS LUXURY RESORT, WHICH WILL BE FINALIZED AND WELCOMING GUESTS BY JULY 2016.

SINCE THE LAUNCH IN FEBRUARY THE FINAL PHASE OF TWIN SANDS HAS BEEN FANTASTICALLY RECEIVED LOCALLY AND A FURTHER 20% SOLD AT AN EXCLUSIVE TWO-DAY EVENT HELD IN HONG KONG, IN JULY.





ABSOLUTE TWIN SANDS THIRD & FINAL PHASE 3



ABSOLUTE TWIN SANDS THIRD & FINAL PHASE 3



ABSOLUTE TWIN SANDS THIRD & FINAL PHASE 3

Current owners and guests of Phase I, which sold out off plan and was released last year; are very happy and, as well as enjoying the luxury and magnificent amenities of the resort's first phase they are pleased to have bought into this outstanding resort and a purchased a prized and highly sought after piece of real estate that will see their investment flourish with the added luxury accommodation, impressive service, further amenities and stimulating experiences that make for the ultimate resort getaway.

Phase II of this stunning Resort and Spa has a further 50 luxurious apartments and penthouses that match the contemporary style of the initial 45 luxury apartments in Phase I, all showing off breathtaking views of the Andaman Sea. And we can happily say that the Phase II building work is going to schedule and there are no problems with the build at

this stage, and it will be delivered to owners before July 2015, as scheduled. A replicated showroom that will give a taste of the luxury accommodation, the fittings and the finishes will be ready and available to view from August of this year.

Set within a spectacular peninsula and a prestigious neighborhood that boasts remarkable views and significant neighbours, Absolute Twin Sands Resort & Spa, on Phuket's south west coast, is a resort getaway finished to the highest international standards and offers everything owners and guests desire for an outstanding, enjoyable and memorable stay.

The mixed use resort property offers many ways to buy your contemporary apartment – leasehold, foreign freehold, or fractional ownership through Absolute's award-winning shared ownership programme.

Furthermore, Absolute's Management Services Team offers all owners the full management services of Absolute Resorts & Hotels division, whose sophisticated reservations systems ensures the highest possible occupancy level and rental returns on investments.

The studio, one- and two- bedroom apartments combine contemporary design, innovative architecture and selected furniture, to create a comfortably chic holiday retreat. Additionally, every apartment has a fully-equipped kitchen, double shower and private balcony from which to admire the spectacular sea views. With state of the art iPad check in to lessen the hassle before guests arrive at their apartment, and the coolest audio-visual equipment, including LCD TV and home theatre sound bar is included for your pleasure.

Living, dining and kitchen areas are open plan, to make your dining and entertaining experience seamless. The whole design is airy and light, with the expansive views integral to the layout. All that is left is for you to decide what to cook, or you could order in from the resort restaurant.

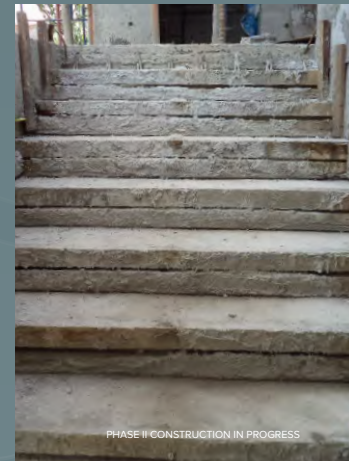
The resort's impressive facade uses an innovative treatment to create an interesting play of light which is enhanced by the resort's stunning peninsula setting and on completion the 3 Phases will synergize and be

surrounded by landscaped gardens that are integrated and connected by extensive waterways carved out of Balinese volcanic stone. Swimming pools and cascading waterfalls are designed to blend neatly with the tropical surroundings and sand-filled lagoons provide a magnificent viewpoint that shows off the breathtaking sea view vistas surrounding all aspects of this glorious resort.

An exclusive collection of studio, one and two bedroom contemporary

Village Apartments and Pool & Rooftop Deck Villas and Suites, ranging from 34sqm to 116sqm, starting from THB3.3 million with full foreign freehold Chanote Title, leasehold and shared ownership options, are available. Also available is the 150% six year capital guarantee, plus an exceptional rental yield programme at six percent per annum.

"It is this quality of product and record on delivery that attracts buyers and we are confident of Phase III being another fast sell-out success, too.



Absolute Twin Sands is our third successful development in Thailand. Both Phase I and Phase II were sold out in record time and Phase I is now complete and operating as a mixed-use resort, while Phase II is under construction. With Twin Sands, Absolute World Group are delivering a quality product in a Grade A location at a very attractive price for investors and second holiday home buyers.

We had a very positive response at our launch in Hong Kong recently with 20% sold. The prime location

and an extremely attractive pricing point make the third and final Phase of Absolute Twin Sands, such an attractive investment opportunity,” said Mr. Bryan Lunt, Chairman and CEO, Absolute World Group.

An attractive investment proposition, Absolute Twin Sands Resort & Spa is at the heart of a highly-desirable neighborhood on Phuket, on one of the last remaining areas of the island suitable for a luxury 5 star resort.



PHASE II CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS



PHASE II CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS



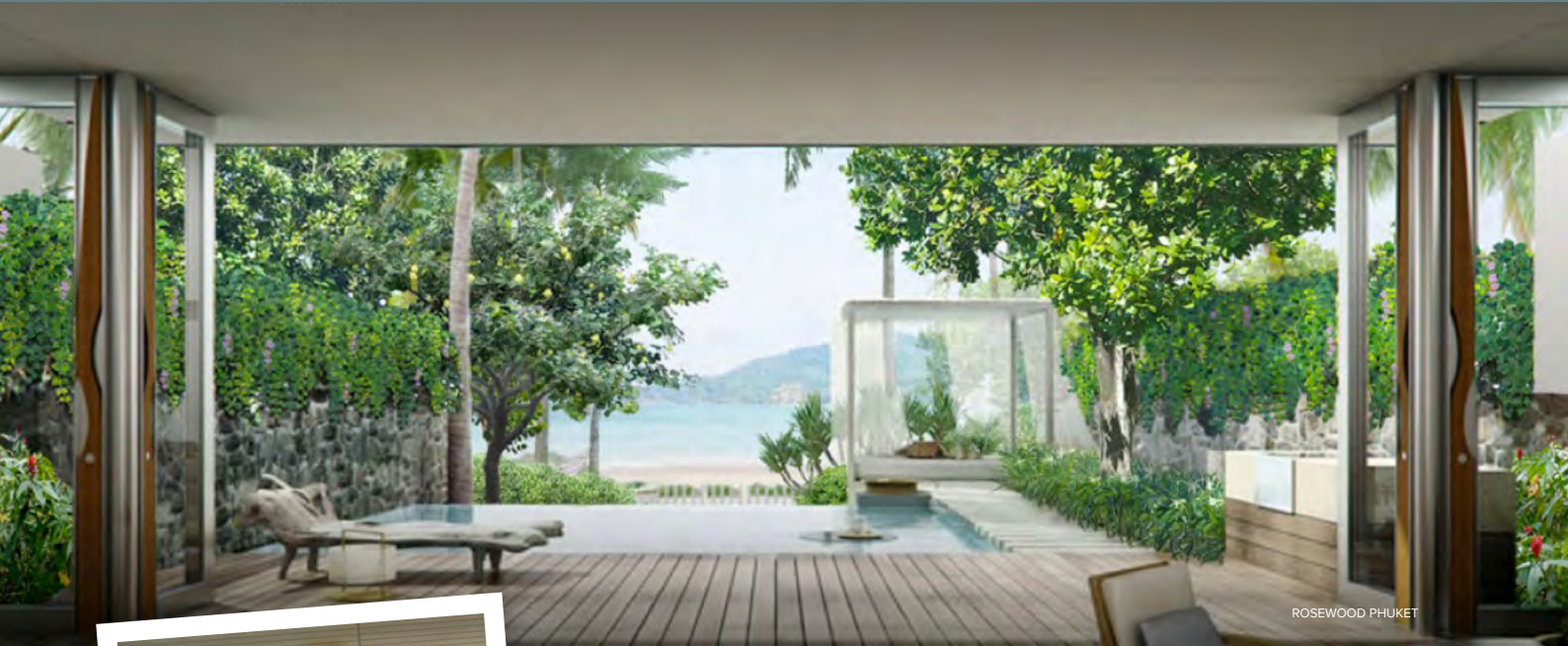
PHASE II CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS



PHASE II CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS



PHASE II CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS



Rosewood Hotels & Resorts® manages 18 one-of-a-kind luxury properties in eight countries and they are in the process of building their latest major development next door to Absolute Twin Sands Resort which is rumored to be the most expensive resort development in Phuket. Each Rosewood hotel embraces the brand's A Sense of Place® philosophy to reflect the individual location's history, culture and sensibilities.

The Rosewood collection includes some of the world's most legendary hotels and resorts, including The Carlyle, A Rosewood Hotel in New York and Rosewood Mansion on Turtle Creek® in Dallas, Texas, USA.

The next step in Rosewood Hotels & Resorts® ambitious Asia expansion plan will be the 2016 opening of Rosewood Phuket, as the second Rosewood property in Asia following Rosewood Beijing's early 2014 opening.

Minutes from Paradise Beach and the ever-popular Patong Beach, to which a complimentary shuttle is provided, Absolute Twin Sands Resort & Spa is ideally positioned; Phuket International Airport is just 45 minutes away. Many other beaches, golf courses, shops and other facilities are all within easy reach of Twin Sands, as well as historic and cultural Old Phuket Town, with its Sino-Portuguese architecture. The Twin Sands concierge team will be on-hand to point guests in the right direction and help with any transport arrangements.

The Blue Mango Bar & Grill is a major player in Phuket's world class dining scene, developed by some of the foremost hospitality professionals on the island as an indulgence they want to share. Blue Mango has a menu created from the array of high quality fresh local produce and the finest

imported ingredients available. Serving a constantly varying array of traditional Thai and Italian-Mediterranean food, you can be sure that each dish you order will be made from the very finest ingredients, prepared with passion and served with style.

As well as world class cuisine, the sunset cocktails served on the terrace of the Blue Mango Bar & Grill are the best in Phuket and the views are arguably the most spectacular.

Phase III will see an addition to the dining options with a pizzeria and poolside snack bar serving food throughout the day and into the evening. And a new juice and smoothie bar will be opened serving tasty, fresh and healthy beverages. Alongside this a new Gelato parlor will serve tasty treats throughout the day. An on-site general store will be available to provide all your essentials and will also stock a boutique collection of gifts, clothing and merchandise.

Further amenities include a 360° Wellness Centre including Hot Yoga & Detox Practices and massage treatments.



Think sun, sea and sand, coupled with accessibility and convenience, and Phuket comes to mind. Phuket has evolved into the ultimate in island living and one of Thailand's most popular destinations. Roughly equal in size to Singapore, and home to approximately 350,000 people the Island is as colourful as it is cosmopolitan.

With year round sunshine and temperatures between 25°C-33°C, an expanding international airport, a well-established infrastructure with efficient communications, as well as a high standard of living, Phuket is an attractive and enticing destination, conducive to both business and leisure, where English is widely spoken.

Outstanding luxury resorts, pristine beaches, sparkling azure waters and glistening islands off-shore, it is little wonder Condé Nast named Phuket as one of the Top 3 Best Island Destinations. Awe-inspiring scenery, breathtaking sunsets, rocky bays, luscious mangroves and verdant tropical rainforests beckon from afar. This island offers high-end golf courses, water-sports, island hopping and inland adventures – not to mention the diverse shopping, multiplex cinemas, the indulgent spas, the divine restaurants, intriguing local street food, a vibrant nightlife and Absolute Twin Sands luxury resort in Phuket.

If your pleasures are simple, then, aside from the buzz and excitement, Phuket also offers equal opportunity to experience meditation, eco-tourism and cultural exploration, or to just sit back and relax with a good book and listening to the waves lapping the shore.

Absolute Twin Sands Resort & Spa is a solid resort investment offering from established development partners Absolute World Group and leading international agent Jones Lang LaSalle. With numerous Best Developer awards and accolades from the Thailand Property Awards to the Bloomberg Awards to the Overseas Property Professional Awards, Absolute World Group have been recognised for their development excellence, and together with Jones Lang LaSalle Thailand as lead agent and the chosen property management company, Phase III is set to be another benchmark success.

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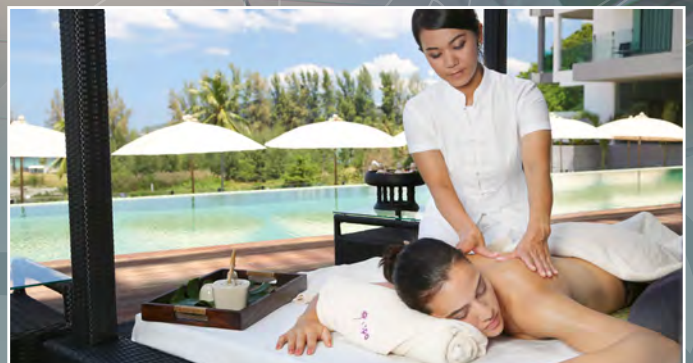
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A WALK THROUGH HUA THANON MARKET VILLAGE



HUA THANON IS A QUAIN T MUSLIM MARKET VILLAGE LOCATED ON THE SOUTHEASTERN CORNER OF KOH SAMUI, AND IS HOME TO ONE OF SAMUI'S LAST REMAINING TRADITIONAL FISHING FLEETS. THE MARKET VILLAGE HAS A CHARMING ATMOSPHERE. OFF THE BEATEN TRACK, IT IS WELL WORTH A VISIT FOR A GLIMPSE INTO LOCAL LIVING AND TRADITIONAL WAY OF ISLAND LIFE. THERE IS ALSO A SELECTION OF BOUTIQUE FASHION AND JEWELLERY SHOPS OFFERING SOMETHING DIFFERENT AND MORE ORIGINAL TO OTHER SHOPS YOU WILL FIND AROUND THE ISLAND.



The fishermen's elegantly painted Kor-Lae boats are very photogenic and charming, as are the fishermen and the local villagers, who are friendly and happy to stop and say hello and always have a welcoming smile for tourists as they wander off the beaten track.

On entering the village, you will first arrive at the busy fish and vegetable market. It is here that you will find the catch of the day being scaled, prepared and sold for the home kitchen and for many of the island's restaurant kitchens as well.

The market is very colourful, and as well as the freshest fish, you will also

find the island's best value seafood and vegetables.

There are many old wooden shop houses lining the small streets of the village as well as make shift restaurants and food stalls. The streets are teeming with history; there are traditional Chinese houses and small shops which each serve up their own offering to the community from food stalls, to barber shops and bike repairs. It is a community that largely supports itself through local trade.

Daily life continues pretty much as it has done for hundreds of years, with local business based around the fishing market.

Follow the market road, and the streets will lead you back in time and deliver a taste of tradition, culture and also delicately spiced Muslim food like chicken biryani, fiery curries or toasted rice with coconut, bean sprouts, lemongrass and dried shrimp.



The only Mosque on the Koh Samui Island is the Masjid Nurulihсан. It is located at the back of the Muslim fishing village and serves the islands minority Muslim population, who make up about 2 percent of the islanders compared to the 98 percent of the islanders who practice Buddhism.



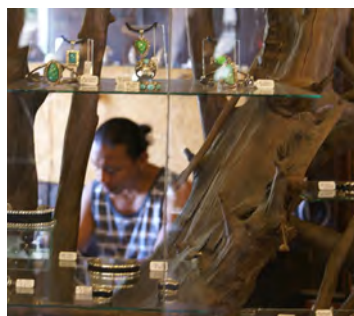
Masjid Narulihsan

Besides the traditional, you will also find a bohemian vein running through the village as you stumble across a range of fashion and jewellery boutiques selling some of the finest clothes and jewellery on the island. Local House looks like a fantasy, fairy tale castle, however, it is home to Mr. Niwat Wichityam. Khun Niwat is a master silversmith and jeweller who designed and created his home and jewellery outlet four years ago.

Making original pieces of jewellery for both the export market, where he provides outlets in London, Amsterdam, Berlin and Moscow as well as for his Koh Samui shop where tourists are welcome to venture into his surrealist world of bohemian, free spirited design.

It is well worth taking a walk through the village of Hua Thanon as you will get a taste and feel for Koh Samui as it was before the advent of tourism. Besides this, the people are genuine, full of smiles, very friendly and make you feel very comfortable and welcomed.

Hua Thanon Market is open daily from 6am until 8pm and can be found south of Lamai. From Lamai drive south along the ring road towards Nathon and approximately 5 kilometres from Lamai you will approach a bend in the road and notice a 7-11 convenience store and lots of old style Chinese wooden shops and houses that lead to the Hua Thanon Market entrance.



COCO SPLASH ADVENTURE PARK

SMALL, YET PERFECTLY FORMED, COCO SPLASH WATER PARK IS A BIG HIT WITH THE KIDS AND OFFERS THE WHOLE FAMILY A FUN-FILLED DAY WITH LOTS OF EXHILARATING THINGS TO DO.

MELANIE AND JULEAN EWAN-NOE OPENED COCO SPLASH, SAMUI'S FIRST WATER PARK, THREE YEARS AGO AND HAVE CONTINUED TO DEVELOP THE SITE ADDING MORE ACTIVITIES AND EXCITING EXPERIENCES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS OF ALL AGES.





Fun for the Kids

Four pools and seven water slides are the main feature of Coco Splash Adventure Park, which is very well maintained, serviced by friendly and helpful staff and has life guards on duty at all times. Surrounding the pools there are several salas, day beds and shaded areas to relax and watch the children making a splash before sampling some of the other exciting activities that are available.

Experience flying through the air on the Tree to Tree Adventure, a playground in the trees featuring zip lines and obstacles for an adrenaline filled challenge. Try a bigger thrill with the Air Bag Jump. From different heights, take a leap of faith and land safely on a giant air bag; are you up for the challenge? It is surprising how many people think they are, and decide they are not, once they have scaled the heights to the jumping platform.

The bungee trampoline is a favourite, and one of the most thrilling attractions at the park and is enjoyed as much by adults as it is the children. Become the captain of the ship as you take the helm of a Bumper Boat and crash, push, bump, shove and spray all those who get in your way as you navigate your way around the boat pool.

The park also features an Inflatable Bouncy Castle and other soft play areas for younger children to enjoy and has two separate Go Kart Tracks offering thrilling rides for both the novice and those looking for a more adrenaline fuelled ride.

Coco Splash Adventure Park serves refreshing drinks and shakes that will quench your thirst in the afternoon sun and has a snack bar menu that includes burgers, sandwiches and Thai food. There are plenty of options available to keep the hunger at bay after exerting so much energy at play.





The Coco Splash Adventure Park is a family run and Melanie and Julean, who have two sons aged 8 and 6, have put a lot of hard work and effort into creating an adventure park that caters to children of all ages and adults, too. As well as all the fun filled action and adventures at the park, there is also the opportunity to relax in the jacuzzi or have a blissful massage while the children are having fun and making a splash.

So for a great fun filled day with lots of action, excitement and a range of different activities - in a safe, well-maintained and friendly environment - pack a towel and a camera, round up the kids, apply sunscreen. Head to Lamai and make as big of a splash as you possibly can, at Coco Splash Adventure Park.

OPENING TIMES

Daily from 10:30am til 5:30pm

PRICE

600THB for over 1.30 m.

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And for Indian Cuisine enthusiasts, "Pappadams" offers authentic and flavorful specialties each afternoon/ evening after 14:00.

You can dine alfresco throughout the day in the outdoor beach-side café - watching the colourful crowd laze by or while gazing at another glorious Patong sunset amidst the lullaby of breaking waves.



CLIMAX RESTAURANT ABSOLUTE BANGLA SUITES

Rooftop, pool-side fine dining high above frenetic Bangla Road is the unique offering from Climax Restaurant. An International menu featuring dishes that criss-cross the corners of the globe: from Europe to America and Asia and back again – you'll be hard-pressed not to find favour with the delicious offerings!

Climax Restaurant is the only place in the heart of Patong's electric center where you can lounge pool-side with fresh juice-fueled cocktails (or mocktails) or sit down to a mouth-watering multi-course journey through the extensive menu offerings.



BLUE MANGO BAR & GRILL ABSOLUTE TWIN SANDS

Blue Mango Bar & Grill offers a constantly varying array of traditional Thai and Mediterranean cuisine, made from the very finest ingredients, prepared with passion and served with style.

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Imagine the ideal spot for a romantic dinner on a tropical island, and Blue Mango ticks all the boxes, and recently rated No.1 on TripAdvisor it is fast becoming one of Phuket's better known secrets.



PHUKET VEGETARIAN FESTIVAL



PHUKET HAS A UNIQUE CULTURAL MAZE THAT CAN OFTEN BE UNRAVELED BY ATTENDING THE VAST AMOUNTS OF CELEBRATIONS THAT TAKE PLACE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. ONE SUCH CELEBRATION IS THE PHUKET VEGETARIAN FESTIVAL ALSO KNOWN AS 'JIA CHAI' IN LOCAL HOKKIEN CHINESE DIALECT, AND IS HELD DURING THE NINTH LUNAR MONTH OF THE CHINESE CALENDAR. THIS YEAR IT WILL TAKE PLACE FROM THE 24TH SEPTEMBER THROUGH TO THE 1ST OCTOBER 2014, HOWEVER IT IS NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART.

During the weeks leading up to and throughout the festival, local residents of Chinese ancestry strictly observe a ten day vegetarian or vegan diet for the purpose of spiritual cleansing and merit making. This is accompanied by sacred rituals, which locals believe

bestows good fortune upon those who religiously observe this rite.

These rituals, such as self-mutilation are performed by entranced devotees, known as "Ma Song" or 'the spirit medium' in order to shift

evil spirits away from others and on to themselves and can be viewed at the island's various Chinese shrines. Aesthetic displays are also a major part of the festival, which adds a creative edge to the festivities.



HISTORY

Phuket's Vegetarian Festival has a compelling history. It dates back to 1825 when the Governor of Thalang, Praya Jerm, moved the island's principal town from Ta Reua in Thalang district to Get-Hoe in Kathu district, where there were many tin mines and Chinese miners. At the time, Kathu was still undeveloped, covered by jungle, while struggling with a fever epidemic.

During that time a traveling opera company came from China to perform for the miners. When the performers grew sick from an unnamed malady, they kept to a strict vegetarian diet to honour two of their emperor gods: Kiew Ong Tai Teh and Yok Ong Sone. The sickness afflicting the opera troupe then disappeared.

This greatly interested the people of Kathu. They found that ritual vegetarianism with its attendant ceremonies had been the cause, with the result that people embraced the faith enthusiastically. Thus the Phuket Vegetarian Festival began.

BEGINNING OF THE FESTIVAL - PHUKET

The afternoon before the festival begins, a great pole at each Chinese shrine is raised, called the Go Teng Pole, with which the gods are invited to descend. At midnight the pole is hung with nine lanterns, signaling the opening of the festival. Two important gods are also invited down to preside over ceremonies: Yok Ong Hong Tae and Kiew Ong Tai Tae.

Aside from this, there are other ceremonies throughout the festival, notably:

- Invocation of the gods Lam Tao, who keeps track of the living, and Pak Tao, who keeps track of the dead
- Processions of the gods' images
- Feats of the Ma Song





MA SONG - MEDIUMS FOR THE GODS

The most unique aspect of the festival is the actions of the Ma Song. The word Ma Song means entranced horses or horses of the gods, because the Ma Song carries a god within them. A person can be chosen by a god to become a Ma Song at any time in their life, as long as they are unmarried and celibate.

Often, a person is contacted during a dream, vision, or period of long illness, and a god tells them that they have been chosen. In other instances a person may be close to impending doom or death, and becoming a Ma Song extends their lifetime or they may be rewarded for maintaining good moral qualities during their lifetime. In some cases, purification rituals can qualify a person.

During the festival, hundreds of Ma Song parade through the streets of Phuket, assisted by a group of devotees. They walk across exploding fireworks, pierce various body parts with fishhooks, knives, razor blades and bamboo poles. Despite how excruciating it sounds, the deity residing inside the

Ma Song protects their body from pain and injury. This is confirmed to onlookers by the fact that very little blood or scarring occurs.

THE PROCESSIONS

Notably, the processions are the most enchanting, yet daunting highlight of the festival. They take place on each of the final seven days of the festival, and usually take an hour or more to pass. On each day, different shrines are taken around Phuket Town and back again. They usually start early in the mornings and finish before lunchtime.

Additionally, the images taken from the procession create a spectacle worldwide. These images showcase a multitude of Ma Song parading with various body parts skewered by a host of objects such as ornamental spears and swords – this can be shocking for those that have never witnessed such a cultural display. They march through the town in a trance, wearing elaborate costumes, while shaking their heads from side to side and mumbling incantations. As they go, they will stop to bestow blessings on the people at the



roadside, many of which will have set up tables of offerings.

Throughout the processions, drums and firecrackers pound and explode to scare away evil spirits. As well as the Ma Song and their entourages, there are other groups marching: community groups, entertainers and schoolchildren join to add variety to the show.

NINE EMPEROR GODS

Sedan chairs carrying the statues of the Nine Emperor Gods are paraded through the streets of Phuket. These are hoisted on men’s backs and rocked violently back and forth to simulate the Nine Emperor Gods sailing on a rough sea. While the Gods are being paraded, the Ma Song cracks whips in the air or pass out candy to the crowd.

Town residents quietly bow their heads in reverence and gratitude as they pass by, because the pain the Ma Song inflict upon themselves shift evil off of town residents. The Ma Song also brings their community spiritual cleanliness, good luck, and good fortune throughout the coming year.

THE FAREWELL RITUAL - PHUKET

These intriguing activities are centered around the island’s various Chinese shrines.

- **Jui Tui Shrine** - This is the most important Chinese shrine in the vegetarian festival. It is based at Ranong Road in the Phuket Old Town district - the entire road will be lined with stalls selling vegetarian food.
- **Bang Neow Shrine** - This shrine is located on Phuket Road, where you will find a host of festival activities taking place.
- **Kiw Tien Keng Shrine** - This small shrine is at the end of Saphan Hin in Phuket Town. It is the site of the final ceremony on the last night of the festival when the gods are invited to ascend back to the heavens.
- **Phra Phorm Thada Shrine** - A Chinese shrine on a side street just off Phattana Road.
- **Sam Kong Shrine** - A temple on the northern edge of Phuket Town. It is on Yaowarat Road, not far from Tesco Lotus.

- **Sapam Shrine** - This temple is just on the edge of town on Thepkrassatri Road (the airport road).
- **Tha Rua Shrine** - This is one of the three temples outside Phuket Town that actively celebrate the festival. They do a procession all the way into Phuket Town and back again. It is on Thepkrassatri Road, just south of heroine’s monument.
- **Kathu Shrine** - Kathu was the original location of the festival. They also do a procession all the way into Phuket Town and back again. This temple can be found in Kathu village on Route 4020.

WHAT VISITORS SHOULD DO DURING THE PHUKET VEGETARIAN FESTIVAL

Visitors provide added enthusiasm and pride for those who take part in the festival. They can also immerse themselves for the full nine days of the festival, or visit a couple of the events.

To make the most of the celebrations, it is a good idea to visit Jui Tui Shrine on Ranong Road. You will see

people making offerings at the shrine, so feel free to join in. Vegetarian food is also available for those with a healthy appetite.

The processions are also a must-see, but you should aim to get into town early in order to find a good spot. The ideal location to enjoy the processions is in the Phuket Old Town district around Thalang Road, Krabi Road and Dibuk Road. There are also many nice cafes and restaurants where you can relax while you wait.

Apart from the shrines and the processions, you should make an effort to see the final night - it is an extraordinary experience. Get into town around 7pm to start soaking up the atmosphere - the fireworks will already be going off. Take a walk around to get a feel for things, perhaps take a final chance to grab some vegetarian food and then find a good viewing spot. The clock circle outside the Metro Pole Hotel is a popular viewing point. The procession

will be charging through under a barrage of firecrackers until 11pm when everyone starts heading out to Saphan Hin for the final ritual.

10 RULES FOR THE PHUKET VEGETARIAN FESTIVAL

If visitors want to take part in the festivities, these rules are mandatory. However, for those who would just like to sit back and observe from a distance, these rules do not apply to you.

Persons entering the shrines should be mindful of the following rules:

- Cleanliness of bodies during the festival
- Clean kitchen utensils
- Wear white during the festival
- Behave oneself physically and mentally
- No eating meat
- Abstain from sex
- No alcoholic drinks
- People in a period of mourning should not attend the festival

- Pregnant women should not watch any rituals
- Menstruating women should not attend the ritual

Flaunting these rules can be very upsetting to the local people, not to mention angering the gods. As an observer, it is important to be respectful at all times.

This festival is a special and absolutely unique time in Phuket, and it is definitely a date for your upcoming holiday diary. Further information can be found at www.phuketvegetarian.com





SHRINE OF SERENE LIGHT

SANG THAM SHRINE, BETTER KNOWN AS THE SHRINE OF SERENE LIGHT, IS A SMALL CHINESE TAOIST SHRINE LOCATED IN THE HEART OF PHUKET'S OLD TOWN DISTRICT. ONCE ALMOST COMPLETELY HIDDEN AWAY DOWN A NARROW LANE, THE ENTRANCE TO THE SHRINE IS NOW MORE VISIBLE; LOOK FOR THE ORNATE STREET SIDE ARCHWAY ADORNED WITH ELABORATE DRAGONS ON PHANG NGA ROAD.

Built in 1889, the shrine was once a private place of worship for one of Phuket's most prominent Hokkien Chinese families. However, over the past decade a massive restoration has been underway. Skilled craftsmen from China were brought over to chisel away at the doors and walls and craft the roof details. Although the restored shrine officially reopened in February 2013, currently there is still a small amount of ongoing restoration.

Despite the renovation and the more visible archway entry from the street side, the Shrine of Serene Light is still very much off of the beaten path. Wandering down the newly tiled lane, that feeling of discovering something magical indeed exists.

Upon entering the immaculate shrine grounds, one of the newest restorations to be noticed is a beautiful blue and white Sino-Portuguese style shop house. The carvings on the walls of the shop

house are stunning and detailed, and invoke a feel for old China.

The main shrine on the grounds has been carefully restored both inside and out. Incense smoke wafts out from inside of the shrine, but if you focus your eyes on the shrine's dim interior you will see a grand collection of fierce looking Chinese gods and goddesses staring back at you. Warriors ready for battle are deeply carved into the sturdy wooden doors of the shrine's entrance.



Tucked away behind the shrine's fierce looking Chinese gods and goddesses statues is quite possibly the Shrine of Serene Light's most striking sight. Large murals depicting some very regal, affluent characters

and, of course, more warriors cover the two-story high walls. It's extremely dim in this area, and the murals indeed look very old. Having only been restored with a light touch, the murals retain some sense of smoky, ancient Chinese mystery.

The Shrine of Serene Light is just one of the buildings in Phuket Old Town's district that has undergone recent renovations. In true fashion, the old town district is celebrating its past by renovating history to protect its future.

Sang Tham Shrine, the Shrine of Serene Light, is open every day from 8:30am - 12:00 noon and then again from 13:00-17:30pm. There is no entry fee, but visitors often drop a few coins or small notes into the donation box. As with any shrine or temple in Thailand, it's important to dress in a respectful manner. Visiting

shrines and temples in Thailand often requires the taking off of shoes to explore the infrastructures, so we suggest comfortable shoes that are easy to slip on and off for your visit. Located on Phang Nga Road not far from the famous On-On Hotel, the Shrine of Serene Light is relatively easy to find. Look for the street side Chinese archway adorned with elaborate dragons.



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Do not miss Central Department Store, the best shopping destination in Phuket that offer a 5% Tourist Privilege Card as well as a 6% VAT refund on top of a host of attractive promotion prices. Sports enthusiasts will love the range of goods at Super Sports, the biggest store of its kind in Phuket. Savour the tastiest foods that are unique to Phuket when you dine at any of 30 restaurants in the complex. Simply delicious!





PHUKET BIRD PARK

THE PHUKET BIRD PARK IS AN EXQUISITE NEW ADDITION TO THE GROWING LIST OF ATTRACTIONS IN PHUKET. WITH A COLLECTION OF EXOTIC BIRDS TO SEE, YOUR INTEREST WILL CERTAINLY BE CAPTURED AND MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT.

Located on Chao Fa West Road, not far from Chalong Temple and 400 meters after We Café Salad & Coffee, the entrance is easy to spot; just look for the elaborately painted, life-size bird cut outs.

The Bird Park is set against a backdrop of twelve acres of land, and is the only privately owned bird park on the island. The lush

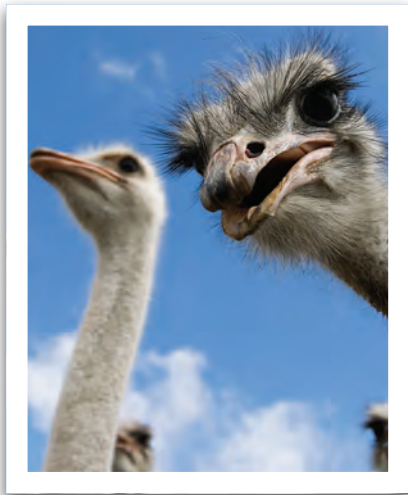
greenery and neatly landscaped gardens create an oasis of calm, while providing impeccable photography opportunities around every winding path and corner.

The park houses over one thousand birds with large cages built around trees and next to waterfalls as to keep the birds in an environment that mimics their natural habitat. There are over one hundred colourful and vocal bird species that come from Asia, Africa and South America.

Upon entering Phuket Bird Park, the footpath takes you across a lovely wooden bridge. Keep your eyes open, as there are many large, brightly coloured butterflies darting

about. At the end of the bridge, there is a beautiful display of handmade indigenous masks and didgeridoos, which are native Australian Aboriginal musical instruments.

Wandering around the park, the opportunity to come face to face with many fascinating species of birds presents itself. There are brilliantly colored and playful macaws, wreathed hornbills, majestic eagles and a variety of big-eyed owls. Free-range chickens and white turkeys, which look a bit fierce but are completely harmless, laze about the grounds as well. The African crowned cranes are fantastic, and seem to be as interested in the bird park visitors as



the visitors are in them. The thatched roof encasements contain moody-looking and chatty ostriches and emus. These giant birds have such personality, and enjoy posing for photographs.

Phuket Bird Park offers spectacular shows three times daily at 10:30am, 13:30 and 15:30pm in the park's amphitheater, which resembles an old Sino-Portuguese style shop house similar to those found in Phuket's Old Town District. The shows are educational, informative and extremely impressive. It is well worth planning your trip to the Phuket Bird

Park to coincide with one of the show times as children will love this thrilling experience.

Refreshments are available within the Bird Park. There are three cafes that sell a variety of soft drinks, juices and snacks. The cafes offer a nice spot to sit and relax as you take in the ambiance that surrounds you.

Bird feeding is also allowed at the park, and there are many opportunities to see the magnificent birds up close and personal. The park offers photo opportunities with barn owls, macaws, eagles and hornbills. The staff handling the birds are warm and friendly, and speak very good English. They are knowledgeable about the various species of the birds and will be able to answer any questions that you may have.

Phuket Bird Park has a well-stocked souvenir shop that sells local items as well as bird park products including caps, mugs, magnets, umbrellas, postcards and T-shirts. You are certain to find the right souvenir for yourself,

or the perfect gift for someone back home before leaving Phuket Bird Park. Phuket Bird Park is open from 9:00-17:00pm every day. Tickets to enter the park are 500THB for adults, and 300THB for children from three to twelve years old.

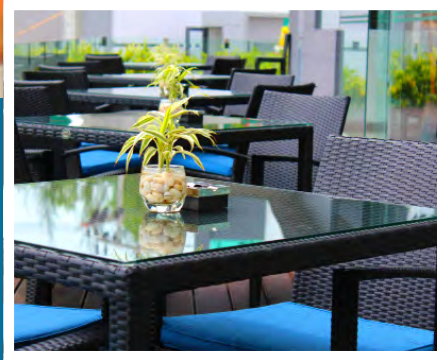
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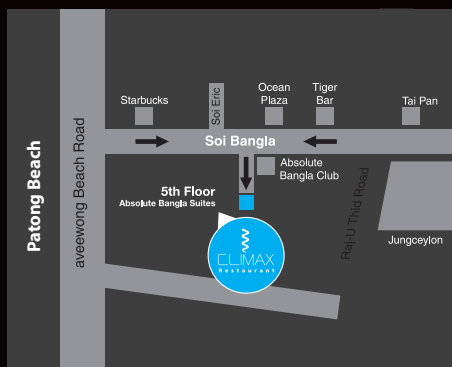
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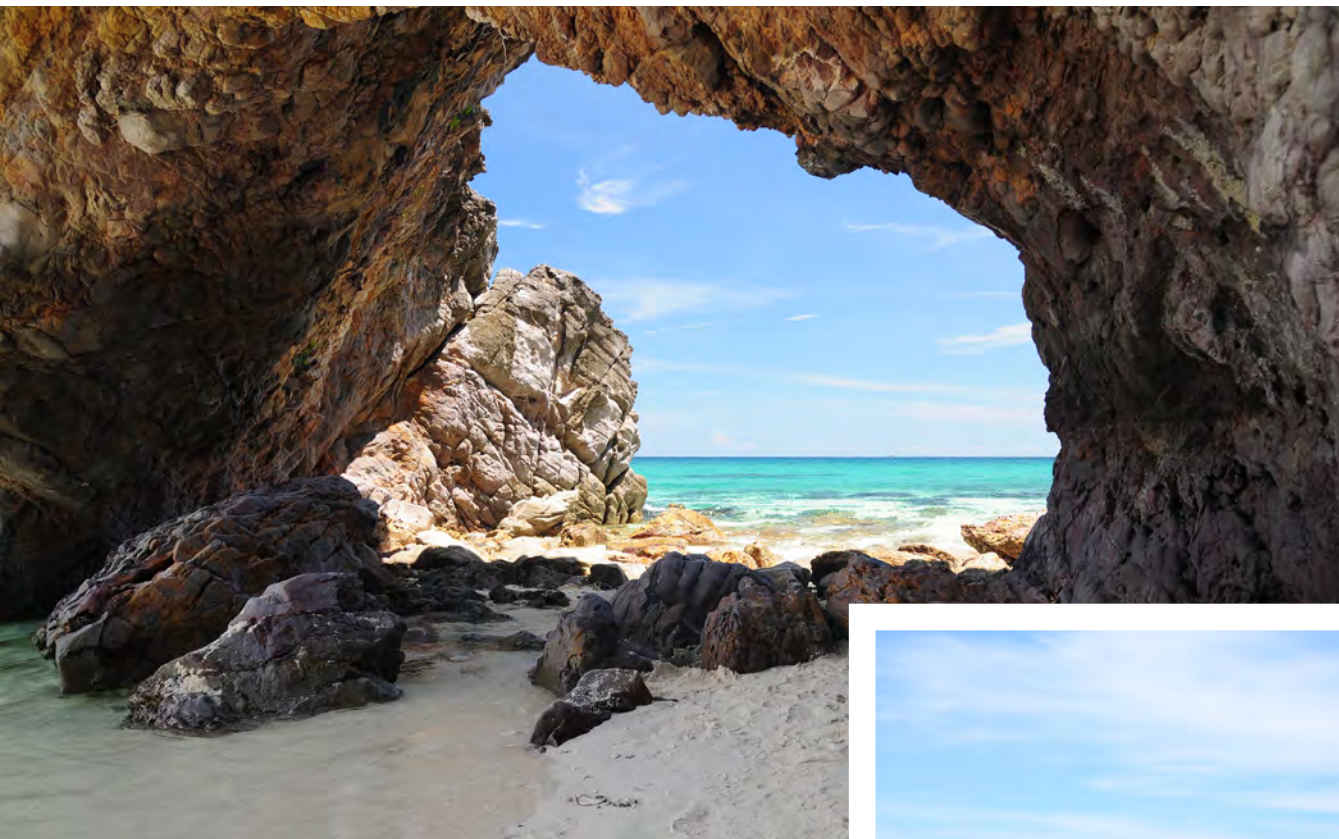


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THAI ISLAND ESCAPES

THAILAND HAS OVER 250 BREATHTAKING ISLANDS FAMOUS FOR WONDERFUL VIEWS, GORGEOUS NATURAL LANDSCAPES AND INTERESTING WILDLIFE. REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR WHEN YOU DECIDE TO TRAVEL FURTHER, CHANCES ARE THAT THAILAND HAS A TROPICAL ISLAND TO FIT EVEN THE MOST EXQUISITE OF TASTES. WE HAVE SELECTED A FEW BEAUTIFUL ISLANDS FOR YOU TO READ ABOUT AND GIVE YOU A TASTE FOR YOUR FUTURE TRIPS TO THAILAND.



Koh Lipe

KOH LIPE

Koh Lipe is a small island in the Andaman Sea located in the Satun province of Southwest Thailand, close to the border with Malaysia. Overall, Koh Lipe is one of the most beautiful islands in Thailand.

Famous for its stunning beaches and crystal clear blue water, it is located just outside of the Tarutao National Marine Park. Hosting world-class snorkeling and scuba diving sites, other activities on the island include jungle hikes and sampling the outrageously tasty seafood.

The original inhabitants of Koh Lipe consist of about 500 nomadic sea gypsy families. The sea gypsy families offer boats for hire, and can take tourists to explore coral reefs and nearby islets ringed by coral.

With its amazing beaches and untouched nature, Koh Lipe has nearly everything you'd want in a Thailand island except for a high-end resort. And therein lays the reason you may want to visit now.

BEST ISLAND FOR TROPICAL FORESTS: KOH KOOD

Koh Kood's close proximity to Cambodia put it off limits for the nearly three decades that the Khmer Rouge brought political instability to Thailand's eastern neighbor. Happily, the situation in Cambodia no longer makes travel to Koh Kood a risky undertaking. The tourists have started to come to this far-flung eastern Thailand island.

Most of Koh Kood is undeveloped. There's not even a road through the middle of this lush, densely forested island. You'll need a sense of adventure, a good pair of hiking shoes and a bottle of mosquito repellent to explore the arboreal beauty the island has to offer. The rewards for making the journey include a scenic temple in the middle of the island, a variety of bird types and a gorgeous three-tiered waterfall.





The Beautiful Koh Chang

**BEST ISLAND CLOSE TO
BANGKOK: KOH CHANG**

There are many islands and beach spots closer to the Thai capital than Koh Chang is, but none of the islands are this nice. Depending on traffic and the speed of your vehicle, you can travel by land between the bustle of Bangkok and the beaches of Koh Chang in 4 to 6 hours.

Koh Chang is a largely hilly island that offers a tiny bit of everything.

There is some nightlife, jungle hikes, beautiful beaches, scenic temples, and a splattering of scuba diving and snorkeling.

Koh Chang can be busy on the weekends with those making a mass exodus from Bangkok, but it is very peaceful midweek. Also note that beaches on the west coast of the island are the best option.



Koh Chang



Koh Tarutao

BEST NEARLY UNDEVELOPED ISLAND: KOH TARUTAO

Ko Tarutao is brilliant blip of beaches and palm trees surrounded by clear blue water off of Thailand’s west coast. There are no Full Moon Parties here, no large resorts and no Internet cafes. It’s important to note there are also no banks or medical services. Koh Taruta is part of a larger national park and has been left to its natural beauty. The island is teeming with wildlife. Birds and turtles are especially ample here.

There’s excellent snorkeling just a short swim from the beach. Otherwise there’s not much else on Koh Tarutao, which is exactly how travelers to this gem of an island like it. If you decide to travel further and visit Koh Tarutao, it’s important to note that the travel season is strictly from November to the end of May. In the off season, the island shuts down and the boats don’t run.



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f Climax Restaurant



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MEET OUR ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR: JAROON KAEWKUM

A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE LEADING UP TO A FANTASTIC HOLIDAY WITH US IS USUALLY TOP PRIORITY FOR VACATIONERS. HOWEVER, DURING THE FESTIVITIES TEMPTATION ARISES WHILE SURROUNDED BY MANY DELECTABLE TREATS. THEREFORE, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TRY OUR HOLIDAY SMARTER, HOLIDAY FITTER PROGRAMS HOSTED BY OUR NEW AND ENERGETIC ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR, JAROON KAEWKUM.

Jaroon Kaewklum is an extremely outgoing man, who joined the Absolute World Group team in Phuket in March 2014. Known by his nickname, Khun Yai, his role as activities coordinator is to make unique Phuket experiences accessible to all of our resort guests in the form of our Holiday Smarter, Holiday Fitter programs as well as the weekly resort activities offered throughout our Phuket properties. Classes range from Abdominal sessions to an Easy Stretching Class, Beach Boot Camp, Weight Training and Sunset Hatha Yoga.

Khun Yai has an extensive background in health & fitness. Upon graduating University with a degree in Physical Education, Khun Yai worked in a variety of five star hotels in the roles of Fitness Instructor, Fitness Manager, Sport & Leisure Manager, Recreation Manager and Wellness Center Instructor. In 2009, Khun Yai fulfilled a lifelong dream of becoming a certified Hatha Yoga Instructor.

In 2014, Khun Yai topped up his yoga training and also became certified in Ashtanga Yoga. In September of this year, Khun Yai will attend a recertification program in India, and he is looking forward to bringing his newly revamped yoga skills back to Phuket to share with our guests. With his abundant experience and relevant skills set, as a resort guest you can rest assured that you are in good hands while participating in any of Khun Yai's programs.

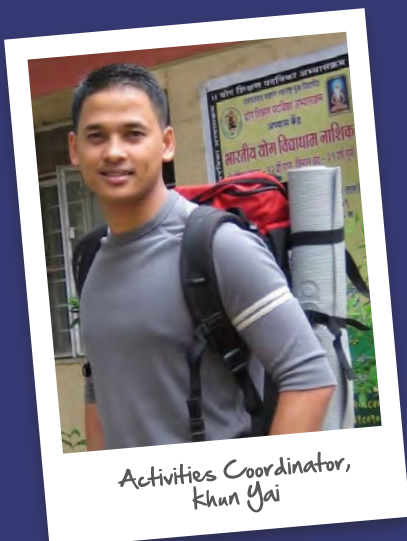
Khun Yai practices what he preaches. He is an avid participant in local football clubs, local marathons and yoga. When he is not busy with sports, Khun Yai enjoys watching movies and



reading books. Still a newlywed, he very much enjoys spending time with his wife.

Khun Yai has a love of language and culture, and he enjoys meeting people from all over the world. He is fluent in English, so do not be afraid to have a chat with him, whether it is before or after any of the programs he facilitates or at our airport "meet & greet".

Absolute not only tries to enhance your holiday experience, but we also have a keen interest in boosting your lifestyle - making you healthier and happier.





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THE QUEEN'S SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION PROJECT

CONCERNED ABOUT THE RAPID DECLINE OF SEA TURTLE POPULATIONS IN THAILAND, HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN SIRIKIT INITIATED THE "QUEEN'S PROJECT ON SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION" IN 1979. ON THE 11TH OF AUGUST OF THAT YEAR, HER MAJESTY DONATED HER ISLAND PROPERTY NAMED KOH MANNAI TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROJECT. IN 1985, THE PROJECT WAS TRANSFORMED INTO THE "SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION STATION" SINCE 2003, THE STATION HAS BEEN OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE COSTAL AND RESOURCES (DMCR) THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT.

Kanokwan Homcha-aim, the Senior CSR Coordinator for the Absolute World Group, was invited by the Marine and Coastal Resources Research and Development Center of the Eastern Gulf of Thailand to visit The Queen's Sea Turtle Conservation Project on Koh Mannai in Rayong Province from 23-27 June 2014.

The present project at the Sea Turtle Conservation Station has three main objectives:

1. To increase the number of sea turtles in the wild by protecting eggs in a hatchery. The hatchlings are reared for a certain period before being tagged and released

into the ocean to replenish natural stocks.

2. To keep some adult turtles for breeding stocks, as well as to rescue and treat stranded or injured turtles.
3. To promote and disseminate information and technical knowledge about sea turtle conservation and breeding.

The Sea Turtle Conservation Station includes turtle tanks, a Marine Learning Center and a breeding lagoon. The lagoon is based on a water flow concept, and work to build the permeable concrete wall began in 1986 and was completed in 1988.



Khun Nok, Senior CSR
Coordinator

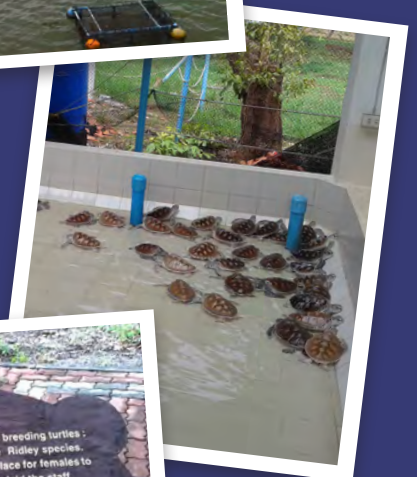
The beach enclosed by the lagoon is used for sea turtle nesting.

Currently, the Sea Turtle Conservation Center homes 48 adult breeding turtles and 750 8 month old baby turtles. Every year, the station conducts many activities in order to conserve sea turtles including awareness-raising, educational activities, and the sharing of technical knowledge. The station also organizes an annual "Sea Turtle



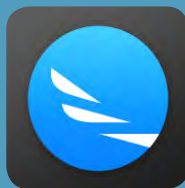
Release” activity in mid-April during the Songkran Festival, which is also the Thai New Year. This event aims to promote sea turtle conservation and to increase awareness by encouraging fishermen and members of the local community to participate.

Khun Nok was animated while recanting her experience: “It’s not easy to get to Koh Mannai in the monsoon season. However, with experts from the station and only several participants who were seasick, we made it safe to the island. I felt so special to have this great opportunity to visit this interesting place. I helped the staff clean turtle tanks. I learnt a lot about how awesome of a creature the sea turtle really is. I admire the staff’s hard work on this tiny island and their effort to conserve sea turtles for our future generations.”





TRAVEL APPS



WORLDIMATE

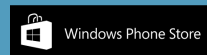
WHAT IT DOES:

A great tool for the business traveler, WorldMate sync flight information, hotel bookings and business meetings for you.

Note that in order to sync these things, you have to forward your travel email confirmations to the website.

For business meetings, make sure they are added through Outlook. This might be best for someone with an assistant, but it can definitely keep you organized if you have a hectic schedule while overseas.

COST: FREE





FLASHLIGHT

WHAT IT DOES:

Seems simple enough, but if you are traveling in a part of the world where electricity cuts are the norm, this gratis app is a lifesaver.

It is almost as powerful as a normal flashlight so when the lights do unexpectedly shut off, you will always have a good source of light nearby.

COST: FREE



SUNSCREEN

WHAT IT DOES:

Until the bashful lobster look finds its way into the style zeitgeist, this is a crucial piece of kit for those venturing to sunny climes.

Having detected the UVI rating of your current location, this nifty little app sets a countdown timer to alert you when you're due your next slathering of sunblock.

All you have to do is input your skin type and the SPF of your lotion, then kick back and soak up some worry-free rays.

COST: US\$2.99



TRAVEL TECH



FLIR ONE



The laws of physics confine our eyes to see only visible light, but not any more. The FLIR One attaches onto your iPhone and lets you see infrared light, essentially providing thermal imaging on the go. Now that is cool.

w: flir.com



AIRPORT EXPRESS

If you spend a lot of time in hotel rooms tethered to a 3" blue Ethernet leash or racking up

\$9.95-a-day wireless charges, this little white box could be the handiest 7.58 ounces in your computer bag. Originally marketed as a device for extending the range of an existing Wi-Fi network or for beaming music from a computer to a home stereo system, Apple's Airport Express also functions as a wireless base station in its own right. Just plug that Ethernet cable into the box and the box into an unoccupied outlet. When you fire up your computer, the transmitter shows up, ready to be configured into your own private Wi-Fi domain. Share it with whoever is in the room with you or, if you don't enter a password, your neighbors down the hall.

w: apple.com/airport-express

LAT56 BACKPACK

Looking more like futuristic body armour than a simple gadget bag, this tough aircraft cabin-sized backpack from LAT56 keeps your gadgets protected as you barge through the world airports, bus stations and hotels.

The secret is the use of specially moulded EVA foam that's got a bit of give in it, but only a bit; cue zip-up side-pockets that are sturdy enough to take a pair of sunglasses (though also perfect for chargers and cables) and a slightly bulging front that's there to protect your gear, but also happens to be the shape of a folded-up shirt.

At the back behind some unusually comfy shoulder straps is a bombproof NASA-spec memory foam laptop compartment for models up to 15.6 inches, while inside are some dividers that can be flattened for full access to its 15-litre capacity.

w: lat56.com



PHONESOAP CHARGER

No, it's not some sort of science-experiment charger that runs off Dial — instead, the PhoneSoap Charger is designed to clean your phone itself. Inside its clamshell-style body, it features a standard 5V USB port that allows it to work with pretty much any phone that can fit, as well as a pair of UV-C lamps that can completely sanitize your phone in just 4 minutes. It also boasts acoustic outlets built into the design, so if you're the type that charges at night and uses your phone for an alarm, you'll still be able to wake up to whatever tone you've chosen only this time with a freshly sanitized device.

w: phonesoap.com



GARMIN VIVOFIT



You don't go up against the Nike Fuelband without some serious confidence, so we can guess how much thought went into the Vivofit. The wristband uses a motion detector to sense when you've been inactive for over an hour and doesn't stop beeping until you move about. If anything will keep your New Year fitness regime going, this is it.

w: garmin.com

LIFESTRAW GO

They raised over \$2m to develop their home security system, now Canary are back with an upgraded system and an iOS app to control it all with. Truly the ultimate in home security, the app shows live video feeds, alerts and can remotely adjust security settings.

w: buylifestraw.com



ABLE PLANET'S CLEAR HARMONY NOISE CANCELING HEADPHONES

How's this for irony: You know how we're all going to end up needing hearing aids, thanks to too much cranking up of the volume on our iPods? Well the technology that underlies Able Planet's Clear harmony headphones (called Linx Audio) was actually developed to boost the sound quality of hearing aids. You can hear the difference up in the higher frequencies of your music. These 'phones are very comfortable, especially for people with big heads. Some travelers will appreciate that, instead of being powered by a rechargeable battery, two AAA's juice the headphones, providing up to 35 hours of use. A volume switch is conveniently located on the headphone cord. And a lovely carrying case rounds out the package.

w: ableplanet.com



TAG HEUER MERIDIIST INFINITE LUXURY SMARTPHONE

TAG Heuer have taken the wraps off a new luxury smartphone it has created in the form of the new Meridiist Infinite.

The TAG Heuer Meridiist Infinite has been design dot be the world's first perpetual power reserve mobile phone and will be available in a limited run of 1911 units and is the first TAG Heuer communication instrument entirely made of Titanium Grade 5, carbon and rubber.

The perpetual power feature of the TAG Heuer Meridiist Infinite is provided by an invisible photovoltaic component that is built into the sapphire crystal screen of the smartphone. Designed to produce enough electricity under specific natural or artificial light sources to charge the phone, making sure it is always ready for use.

"TAG Heuer stands for "Technologie d' Avant-Garde", and the Meridiist Infinite perpetuates a great tradition that came before it.

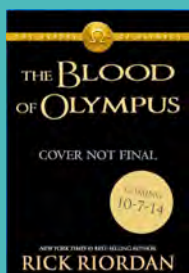
This revolutionary communication instrument will be launched worldwide in July 2014, in Limited Edition of 1911 pieces made with titanium grade 5 and carbon, in selected TAG Heuer boutiques and Watch & Jewellery retailers."

w: tagheuer.com





TRAVEL READS



THE BLOOD OF OLYMPUS BY RICK RIORDAN

Though the Greek and Roman crew members of the “Argo II” have made progress in their many quests, they still seem no closer to defeating the earth mother, Gaea. Her giants have risen—all of them, and they’re stronger than ever.

They must be stopped before the Feast of Spes, when Gaea plans to have two demigods sacrificed in Athens. She needs their blood—the blood of Olympus—in order to wake.

The demigods are having more frequent visions of a terrible battle at Camp Half-Blood. The Roman legion from Camp Jupiter, led by Octavian, is almost within striking distance. Though it is tempting to take the Athena Parthenos to Athens to use as a secret weapon, the friends know that the huge statue belongs back on Long Island, where it “might” be able to stop a war between the two camps.

The Athena Parthenos will go west; the “Argo II” will go east. The gods, still suffering from multiple personality disorder, are useless. How can a handful of young demigods hope to persevere against Gaea’s army of powerful giants? As dangerous as it is to head to Athens, they have no other option. They have sacrificed too much already. And if Gaea wakes, it is game over.



THE ONE BY KIERA CASS

The Selection changed the lives of thirty-five girls forever. And now, the time has come for one winner to be chosen.

America never dreamed she would find herself anywhere close to the crown—or to Prince Maxon’s heart. But as the competition approaches its end and the threats outside the palace

walls grow more vicious, America realizes just how much she stands to lose—and how hard she’ll have to fight for the future she wants.

From the very first page of *The Selection*, this #1 New York Times bestselling series has captured readers’ hearts and swept them away on a captivating journey... Now, in *The One*, Kiera Cass delivers a satisfying and unforgettable conclusion that will keep readers sighing over this electrifying fairy-tale long after the final page is turned.



IGNITE ME BY TAHEREH MAFI

The heart-stopping conclusion to the New York Times bestselling *Shatter Me* series, which Ransom Riggs, bestselling author of *Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children*, called “a thrilling, high-stakes saga of self-discovery and forbidden love.”

With Omega Point destroyed, Juliette doesn’t know if the rebels, her friends, or even Adam are alive. But that won’t keep her from trying to take down The Reestablishment once and for all. Now she must rely on Warner, the handsome commander of Sector 45. The one person she never thought she could trust. The same person who saved her life. He promises to help Juliette master her powers and save their dying world . . . but that’s not all he wants with her.

The *Shatter Me* series is perfect for fans who crave action-packed young adult novels with tantalizing romance like *Divergent* by Veronica Roth, *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, and *Legend* by Marie Lu. Tahereh Mafi has created a captivating and original story that combines the best of dystopian and paranormal, and was praised by Publishers Weekly as “a gripping read from an author who’s not afraid to take risks.” Now this final book brings the series to a shocking and satisfying end.



SUMMER 2014 EDITION

INSPIRED

HOLIDAY INSPIRATION FOR ABSOLUTE MEMBERS & OWNERS

We hope you have enjoyed your new Member magazine and welcome any feedback. Let us know what you would like to see by sending your thoughts to: inspired@absoluteworld.net