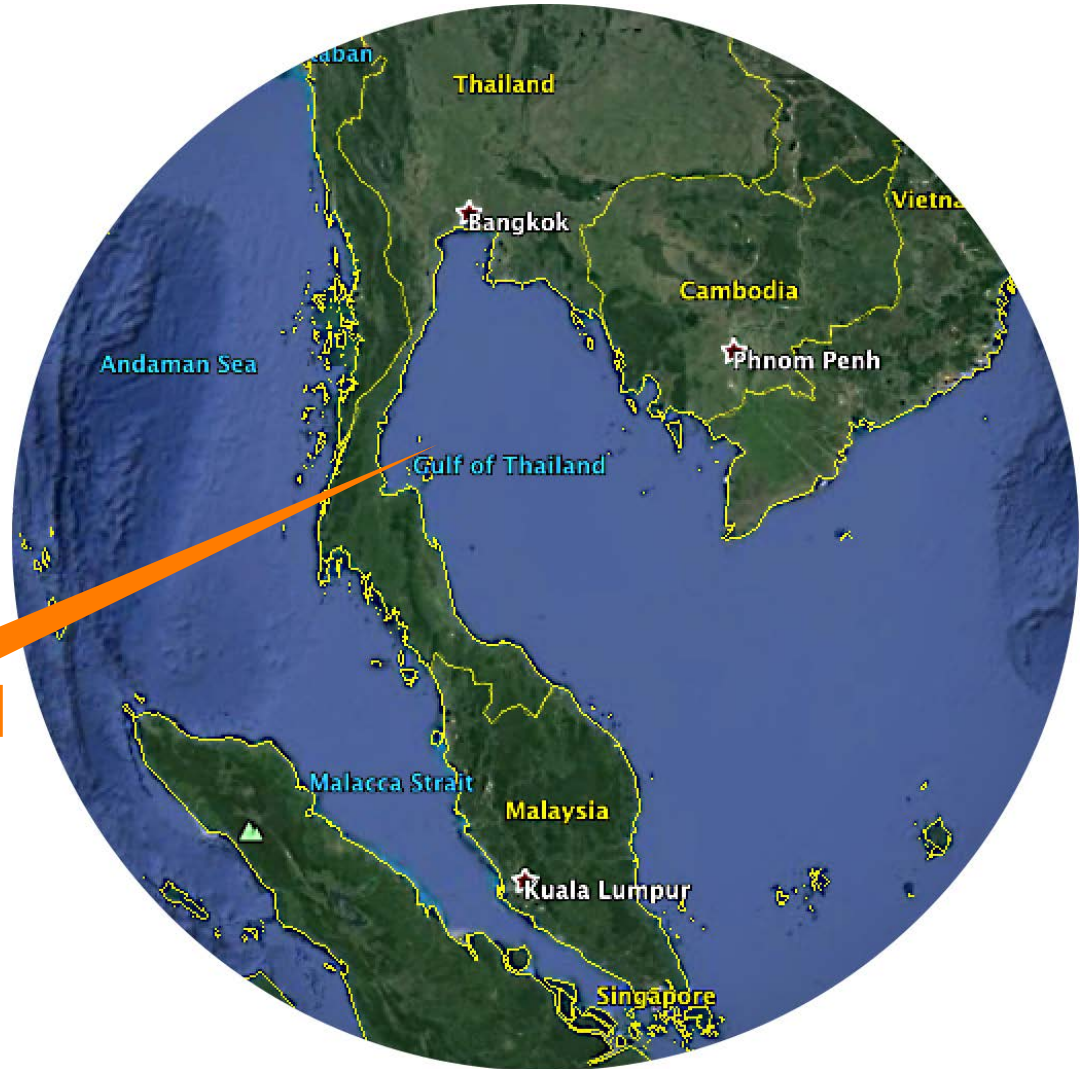




Cruising Guide:
Koh Samui
Koh Pha Ngan
Koh Tao
Ang Thong National Marine Park

YOU ARE HERE



SUGGESTED ITINERARY

-  Overnight anchorages
-  Day stops

We suggest sailing down the east side of Samui past Koh Katen and up around the 5 islands to Ang Thong National Park, up to Koh Tao, down to Koh Phangan and back to Koh Samui.

Koh Katan and the 5 Islands are a unique area and less developed than all of the islands. The Marine Park has nice hikes and scenery. Koh Tao is the best place for snorkeling with lots of mooring balls you can tie up to and snorkel right off the boat and Koh Pha Ngan has beautiful beaches. The whole area is great for a SUP or kayak exploration with scenic coastlines.

Going straight to Ang Thong is usually too far the day you arrive at 24nm from base. Heading for Koh Pha Ngan is another route but to the south of Samui is very peaceful, less developed and more suited for the wind angle and currents to Ang Thong. Routes can change with the weather, it's typically SW this time of year.

The following route is a much better angle getting to Ang Thong and it's another world down south of Samui. Going this way you slowly ease yourself out of and back in to reality and get to some of the far out places we sailors sail for. There are places to eat on every island but heading to the more isolated places first you will be stocked with fresh provisions.

- Day 1 - Koh Samui Crystal Bay/Koh Katen
- Day 2/3 - Ang Thong National Martine Park
- Day 4/5 - Koh Tao - Hin Won (NE bay)
- Day 6/7 - Koh Pha Ngan
- Day 8 - sail back to Koh Samui (14nm from N bay)



Bo Phut and the North Coast

Anchorage 5a: Ao Bo Phut

Approaches

The bay is less than 4m deep up to 1nm offshore. Entering from the west be aware of the submerged rock off of Laem Na Lan, do not attempt to cut inside Toothbrush Reef marking the western side of Bo Phut Bay. The two rocks due north of the bay are visible at all states of tide. From the east the channel between Koh Samui and Koh Som has a minimum depth of 4m. Once in Bo Phut bay keep well to the west of the wooden jetty.

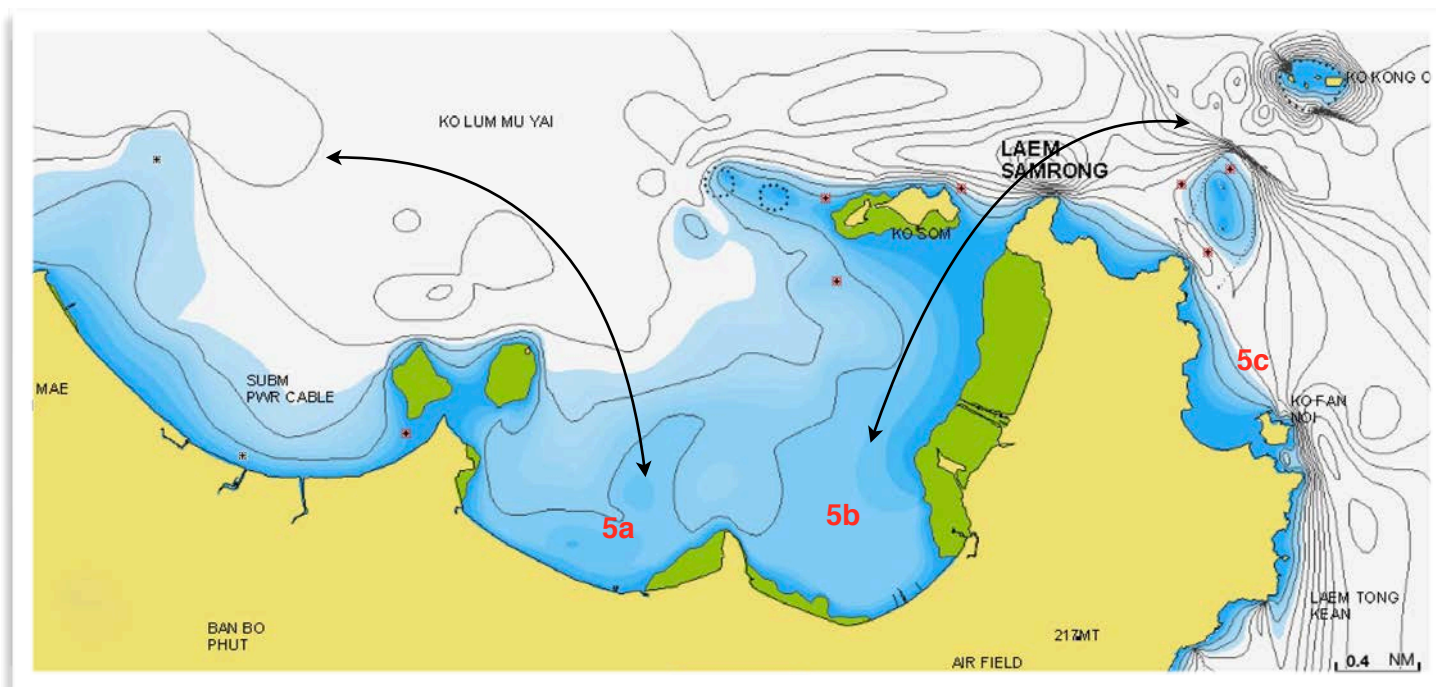
Anchorage

Anchor in 2-3m of water on a muddy bottom

well to the west of the wooden jetty, about 150m off CocoTams using all the chain in the locker. Bo Phut Bay is well sheltered from the SW but in strong west/northwest squalls it can get lumpy,. The best shelter can be found in the far western corner of the bay where Toothbrush Reef offers good protection.

Amenities

Ashore in Fisherman's Village are several hotels for all budgets. One is spoilt for choice amongst the many restaurants crammed into the area. A favorites is "The Shack" for its BBQ steaks. The nightlife is fairly quiet and family orientated. For shopping "Arnon Supermarket" is good for provisioning and there's also a Family Mart, 7-11 and mini Tesco in the village entrance road. You can hire a motorbike or taxi by the Wharf (Makro is only ten minutes away). There are also a few bakeries, currency exchanges and lots of ATM machines.



Anchorage 5b: Ao Ban Rak Bay

Approaches

Easily identified by the Big Golden Buddha directly to the east of the bay on Koh Fan island this is also a shallow anchorage with a maximum depth of 3m. Fringed on both sides by coral reefs, approach from the north and head toward the centre of the bay.

Anchorage

The bay is quite large, holding can be found just outside the moored powerboats in **2m of water** about 100m offshore, use all the chain in the locker. This anchorage is reasonably well protected in the NE season by the islands to the north but can be uncomfortable in strong westerly winds. This bay is also directly on the approach path of planes landing at Samui Airport so can be a little noisy.

Amenities

There is a fresh local market ashore, lots of mini-marts and a good choice of bars and restaurants to cater to all tastes. Taxis are easily found on the main street.

This is not a recommended stop as there are a lot of boats in the bay and it's not at all unique on shore. However, if your guests are meeting a ferry, this is as close as you can get. **The holding is soft mud and not recommend for overnight.**



Anchorage 5c: Choeng Mon

Approaches

Extreme caution must be used when approaching from the north. There are several submerged rocks off the NE headland of Koh Samui and you must pass between Koh Kong Ok and Koh Lam Rai Nai rather than attempt the inshore passage. Once in the bay head toward the centre of the beach area steering clear of the drying reef linking Koh Fan Noi to Koh Samui towards the southern end of the bay.

Anchorage

Anchoring is straightforward in 4-5m on sand about 100m off the beach. Choeng Mon is very well protected during the SW monsoon and less of a rolly anchorage than Chaweng thanks to Koh Fan Noi. During the day jet skis can be a bit of a nuisance when swimming from the yacht to shore. A lot of day trip companies moor their boats here and the south of the bay is filled up with mooring balls. Do not take a mooring ball because they are all privately owned.

Amenities

Choeng Mon is a bit more relaxed than Chaweng to the south but there's still a lot going on in the area. Most of the restaurants on the beach are serving the usual fare of western and Thai cuisine. Behind the beachfront are mini-markets, banks, chemists, good Indian food, tailor shops and there are also rubbish bins. The atmosphere is friendly and it's worth strolling along to the sandbar joining the beach to Koh Fan Noi relaxing with a beach massage or choosing which restaurant for the best seafood BBQ. A fairly quiet beach at night, it does seem to be a graveyard for mid 80's cruise ship entertainers who will sing you to sleep.



Koh Samui - East Coast

Anchorage 6a: Ao Chaweng

Approaches

Chaweng is a large open bay with several choices of anchorage as it is Samui's main tourist beach, be on the lookout for the many beach catamarans, jet skiers and speed boats when maneuvering in the bay. Head toward the southern end of the main beach. Once close in the large "Centara Resort" and the "Tradewinds" volleyball court are good markers for the preferred anchorage area.

Anchorage

Despite being very sheltered from the SW winds Chaweng is often a very roly anchorage with the swell wrapping and coming from the SE. Anchor close in to the buoyed off swim area in a depth of **4-5m on sand**. The beach is shallow shelving so pull the dinghy well up or use the anchor.

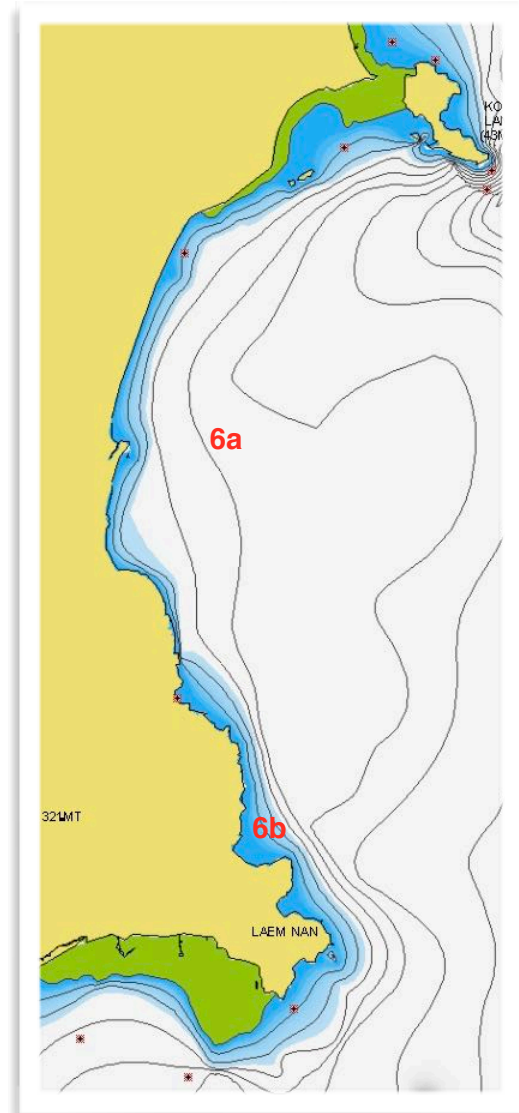
Amenities

Chaweng is a long sprawling strip of shops, a big mall, bars and restaurants great for a day shopping or a night out. Every taste is catered for, it is easily the busiest stop in our cruising area.



Anchorage 6b: Ao Thong Takian

This small bay has reasonable snorkeling and interesting coral formations. This is only a day time anchorage in strong southerly winds. Anchor well offshore in **9-10 meters in sand**. The ThongTakian Resort has a great restaurant in the middle of the beach. Taking the dinghy ashore can be a little tricky as it gets very shallow towards the beach. Head in on the north side of the bay to the right of the flat rock (see picture). It's best to walk it in when it gets shallow. This bay has a few resorts but it closes up pretty early so get ashore before 8pm if you plan to have dinner. Just to the right out on the road is The Cliff Restaurant which is boasted as one of Samui's best.



Anchorage 7a: Koh Katan and Koh Mat Sum



Coming from the East watch out for the unmarked reef just past Lamai beach, the water down this end of Samui is reasonably clear and submerged rocks can be seen with polarized sunglasses. From the West the water is deep all the way in, just follow the Northern coastline of Koh Katen into the anchorage; there are often lots of fishing pots and nets to look out for in this area. From the northeast come in north of Koh Mat Sum and to the south of the scattered rock islands of Hin La Yai. Follow the deeper water around the reef and south across to Koh Katen.



Koh Samui - Koh Katan & 5 Islands

Anchorage

Anchor between the dredged channel breakwaters in **5m on mud and sand**. Take your dinghy through the channel to get ashore. Just south of the southern breakwater are 3 buoys directly over a coral reef. The waters around Koh Mat Sum are very shallow and you cannot get close in a yacht, best to dinghy across to explore the white coral fringed beaches.

Amenities

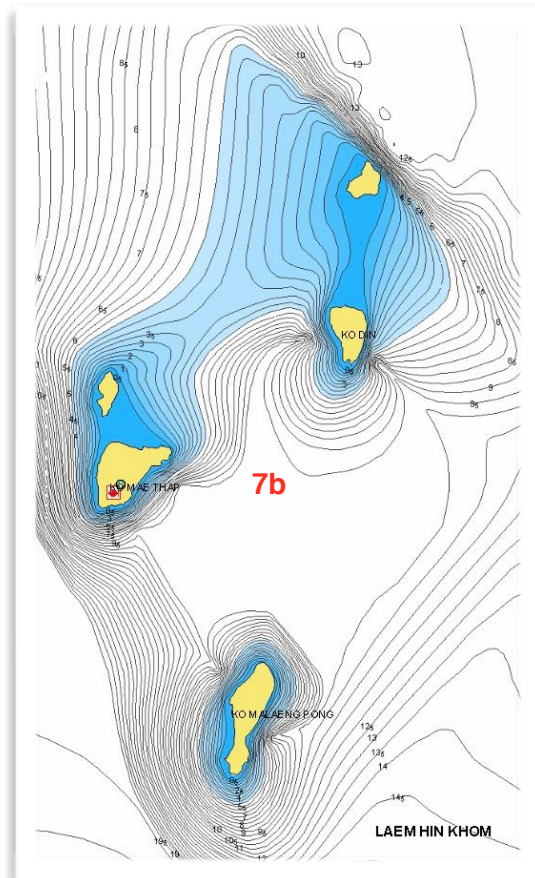
The "Ko Ten Coral Resort" is one of the beach resorts on the island at the end of the channel. Their restaurant serves cold beer and very cheap Thai food in generous portions. There are a few resorts on the beach.

Anchorage 7b: The 5 Islands

On the south west corner of Samui are the five bird's nest soup collecting islands. Leaving Koh Katan the current rushes out of the gap between Samui and the island and the winds will be coming in from the SW so watch out for the overfalls. It calms down in a nautical mile or two, before you reach the 5 islands. If there are high winds, this may be an uncomfortable few miles.

Anchorage

There is only one anchorage in this group, on the **eastern side of Koh Mae Tap in 7m**. The waters around here are deep. It is interesting to sail through the islands marveling at the small shacks where the collectors live and cling to the steep cliff faces. Bird nests are big business and some of the islands have village size developments on them. You will see bamboo scaffolding on the steep-to sides of a few islands that the daredevil collectors use to reach every crack and crevice in search of their prized nests. Do not go ashore on these islands as they are very protective and don't want to meet you.



Koh Ang Thong Marine National Park

Anchorage 4a: Koh Ang Thong NPHQ

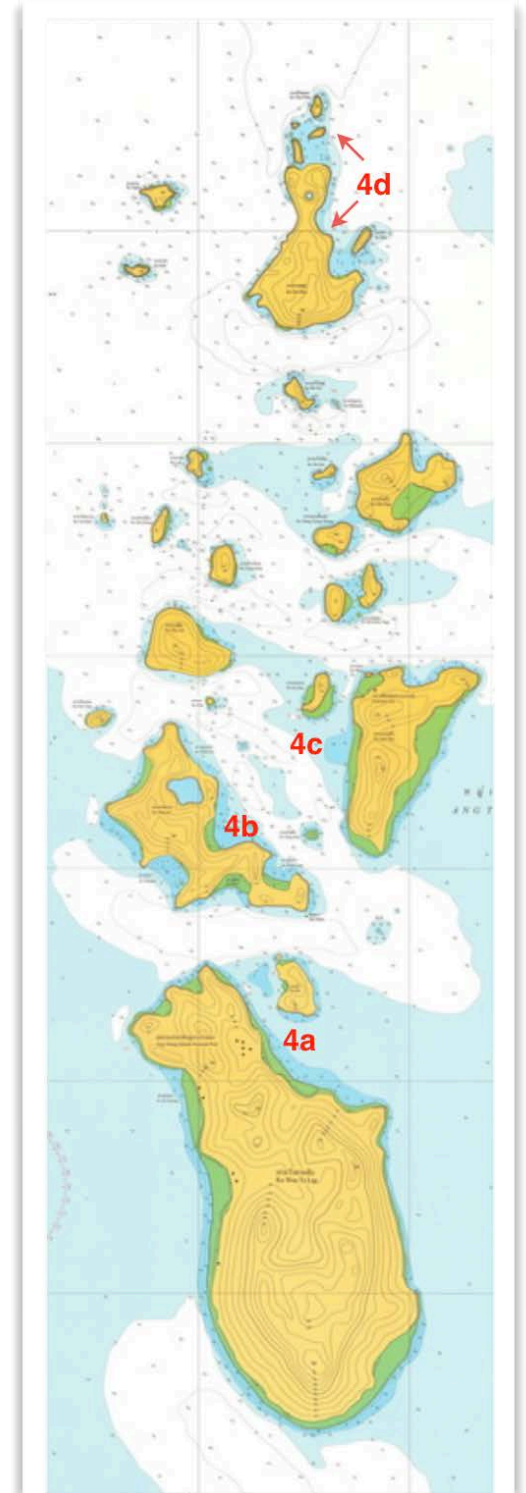
This is the most protected anchorage in the national park. Strong gusts can swirl around the bay as storms pass, so ensure the anchor is well set in the thick mud. The waters here are emerald green and not clear, underwater rocks are not visible. The view over the park from the top of Ang Thong is fantastic and worth every bead of sweat. This beach has the only Restaurant in the entire park open until 8:30pm. Let them know you're coming for dinner ahead of time if you plan to eat dinner ashore.

Anchorage

Anchor in 7-10m on the muddy bottom off the stretch of beach for the most protected spot. Stay well away from the yellow mooring buoy as the large day trips boats use it. The currents here can get quite strong and often hold the yacht beam on to the wind, be aware of this when swimming or having a BBQ aboard. Take the dinghy to the northern end of the beach and watch out for rocks close to the shore. There are a few mooring balls around the headquarters and one off the little island offshore which is well protected. You can take one of the moorings for the night but be aware that during the day the day-trip boats come in and need those balls. You can head out to explore the rest of the park and come back to the ball in the afternoon. This is the only recommended night anchorage.

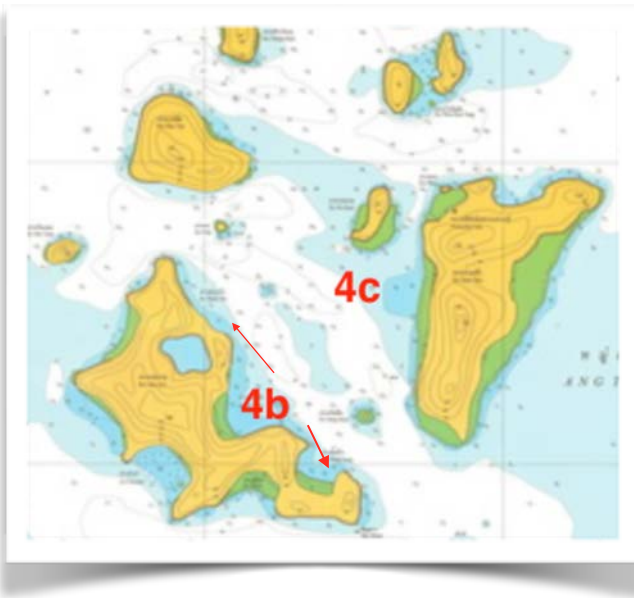
Amenities

This is the headquarters for the national park and where you pay your 300B per person entrance fee and 40B for the boat. The beach and grassy park area surrounded by palm trees and thick jungle alive with spectacled dusky langur monkey's at sunset. The island water supply is scarce and there's only a bucket shower ashore. There is a well marked, near vertical 500m trail leading 280m up for great views, not for the faint-hearted. Be sure to start early, take good shoes, water and of course a camera. Toward the southern end of the beach is another jungle trail leading up to a huge cave well worth the trek. From the NPHQ many nice beaches and caves on nearby islands are accessible by dinghy or SUP/kayak. Most crews base themselves here for a few days while exploring the park.



Ang Thong Marine Park - South

Anchorage 4b: Koh Mae Koh



Popular with day tripper boats, after dropping **anchor in 7-8 meters** dinghy ashore to the small beaches alongside the buoyed off snorkel areas, raise your engine to avoid damaging the visible reef. Take the dinghy to the northern anchorage on the island to find the steep ladder like steps that take you up to many viewpoints overlooking the park and the emerald lake hidden inside the island. There's also a small snack shop here.

Anchorage 4c: Koh Sam Sao (The Stone Bridge)

Anchor mid way between Koh Hin Tack and the NW corner of Koh Sam Sao in **7 meters**. The Stonebridge is a natural feature linking two rocks, big enough to dinghy under. The water off the beach is fairly clear and it's worth a quick snorkel. Ashore is a short trail leading up to a viewpoint. Across from the Stone bridge are two small islands connected (usually) by a sand bar. You'll find good snorkeling and your own private beach (at least for a while).

Anchorage 4d: Koh Thai Phlao & Koh Nai Phut

This is a collection of small islands closely grouped together located in the northern end of the national park. Anchor off the east side of the islands in 11 meters. This is a great area to explore by SUP or kayak with places you can paddle through going under the rock islands or stay shaded along the edge below the overhangs. Use caution with the dinghy as there are some shallow rocks and coral heads. There are several small hong (rooms) dotted around the islands, on the east side of the northern island is one big enough to enter at mid tide. Careful if you're swimming as there are lots of sea-urchins. There have been numerous sightings of whale sharks and river dolphin pods in this area.



Anchorage 4e: Pinnacle Beach, Koh Phaluai

The large island of Koh Phaluai is 5 miles south of Ang Thong Park and administered by the park wardens. The entire east coast is given over to bird's nest collection and no anchoring is allowed. The west coast consists of three shallow bays with dredged channels allowing beach access to fishing boats. These shambolic sea gypsy villages patrolled by seemingly rabid dogs are best left alone. However on the north coast is a beautiful beach well sheltered from the south and west. Head in past the 20 meter high pinnacle rock and **anchor in 3 meters** off the white sandy beach. Exploring the pristine beach you can find giant monitor lizard trails. This is a perfect spot for a BBQ onboard under the stars.



From the viewpoint trail @ sunset

Ang Thong Marine Park - South



This is not an exhaustive list of the anchorages of the National Park as there are several other top spots. The area is tranquil and unspoiled and well worth spending three days here before heading back to the bright lights and hustle and bustle of other islands.

On all islands you can find your special anchorage but just be cautious and careful navigating the area as the charts aren't 100% accurate.

Don't take a mooring ball that looks home made and only take the mooring balls that we advise you to take. Public balls are red(ish) with a blue(ish) stripe. We don't maintain the mooring balls and don't know who or if someone does. Always pull back with your engines on the mooring balls you choose to make sure the lines don't break. If they do break, just be happy you weren't sleeping when it happened.

Most of all, be careful and aware out there and have a great time.

Koh Tao

Koh Tao is a small island that can be circumnavigated in just a few hours. There are many snorkel spots all around the island, mostly on the east coast with mooring balls and some are marked here with a star. We recommend you **only stay in Ao Hin Won for overnight** anchorage as it is the most protected bay on the island. However, if the winds aren't too southerly, Ao Leuk is a beauty.

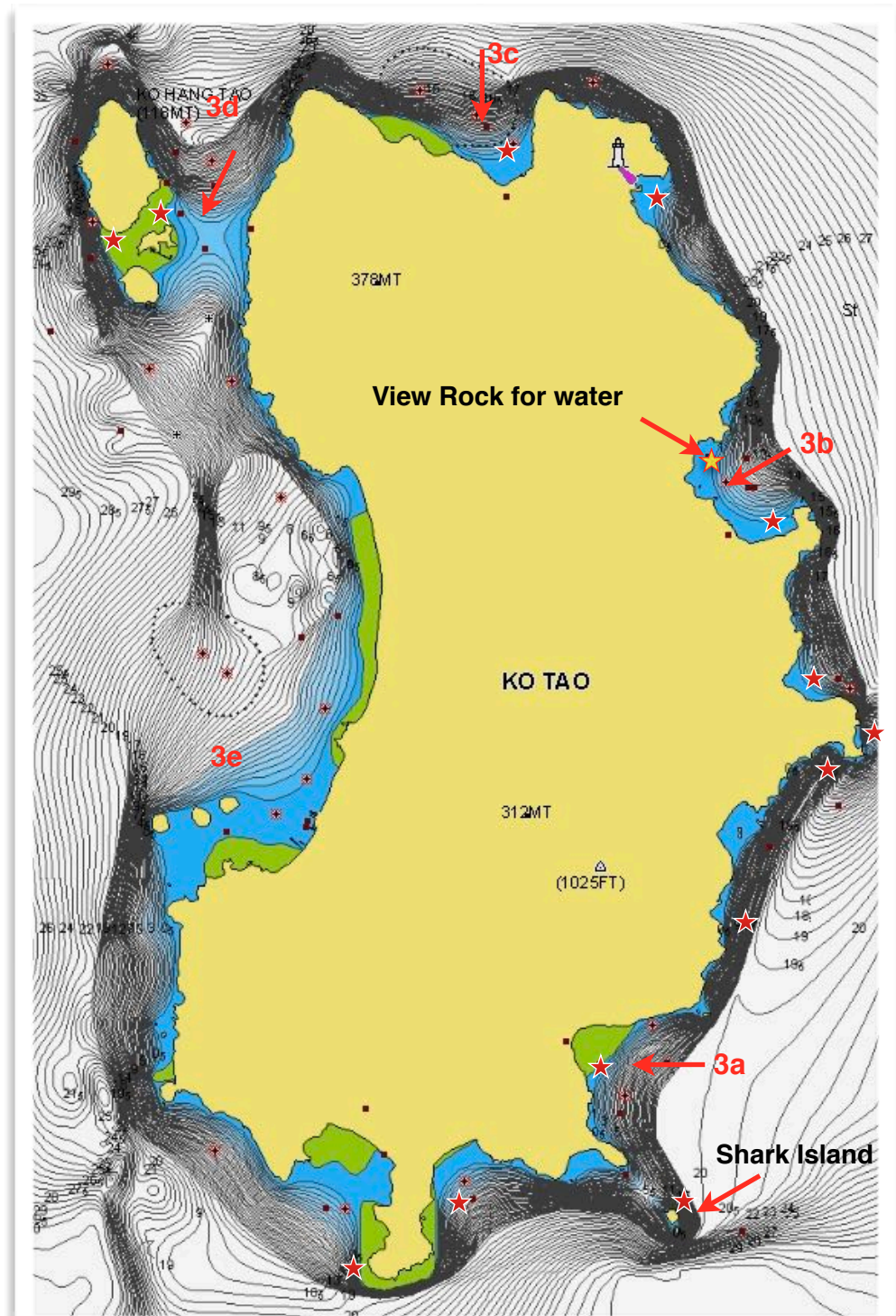
Shark Island is a don't miss snorkel spot and a good first stop from Koh Phangan or Ang Thong. You can swim around the big island between the gap they call "The Aquarium". All over Koh Tao island you can take the red mooring balls if they are available. If those balls are taken there is probably another one to choose from but know that it might be private and you may be asked to move.

Another spot is just off the southern finger of the island where there is another red mooring ball. Don't go too far in to the southwestern bay as there is lots of coral and it shallows quickly.

There are mooring balls all along the eastern coast where you can stop and go snorkeling right off your yacht and there are a lot of moorings to choose from. This is a great island for a SUP/kayak to reach some shallower spots and get over the reefs. Look out for the lay lines and be careful of the prop.

We don't recommend staying on any of the balls overnight.

Approaching Koh Tao the winds can pick up so be ready to reef the sails.



Anchorage 3a: Ao Leuk

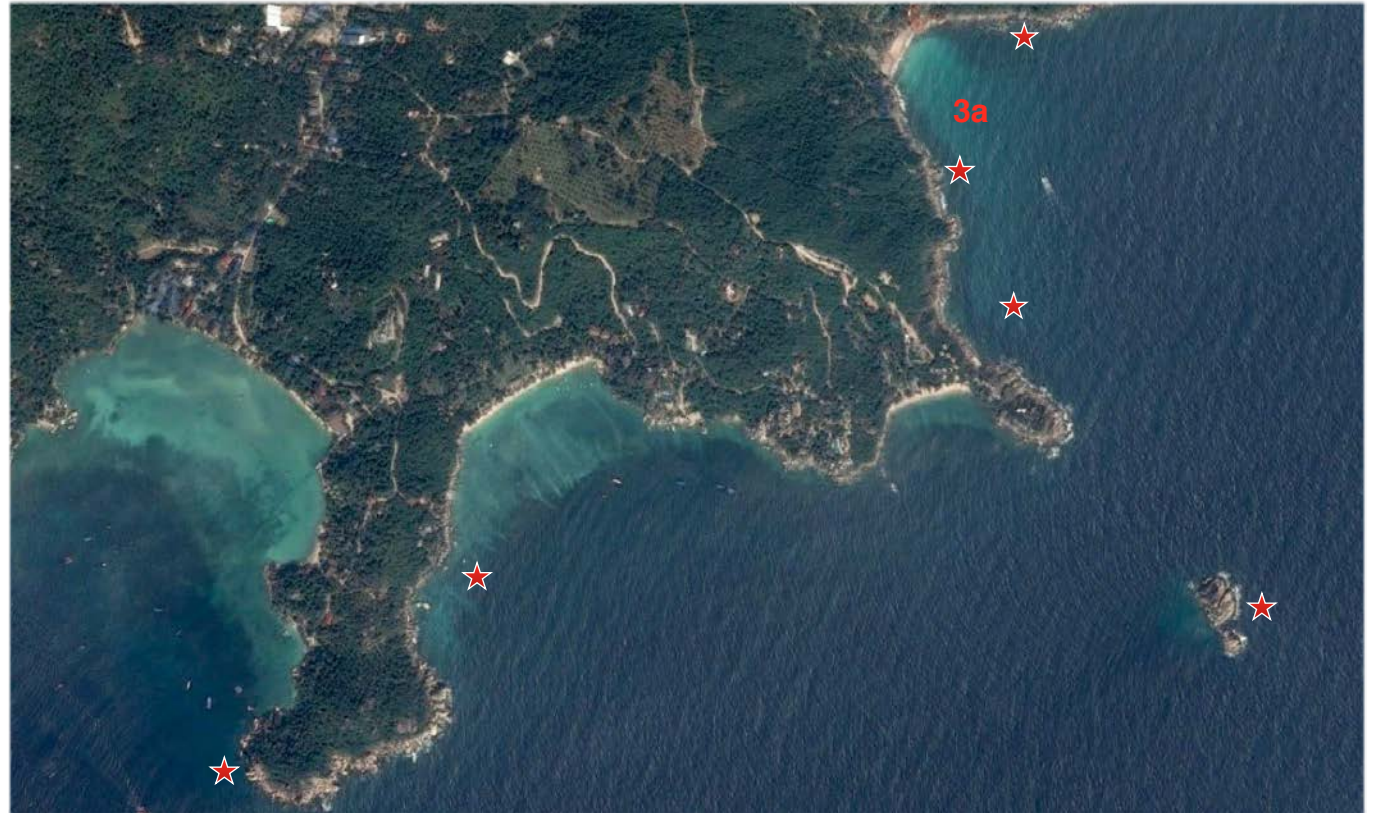
This is the closest anchorage to head for on Koh Tao. During the early afternoon it is crowded with dive boats taking advantage of its crystal clear sheltered waters and fantastic coral formations. It is worth arriving at this anchorage after 3pm when most boats leave for the night. A stop at Shark Island is a good idea if the crowds are starting to disperse.

Anchorage

Anchor on **sand in 6 meters**, allowing adequate swinging room to avoid the coral that fringes the sides of the bay. Take the dinghy in on the west side of the beach and watch for rocks. once on the beach pull the dinghy up and to the side.

Amenities

Ao Leuk is busy during the day with snorkelers and day trippers but in the evening the resorts are quiet. The large wooden veranda restaurant overlooking the bay has friendly staff and good food. On the beach the large concrete cafeteria has showers and toilets and you can get a taxi to town for around 500 Baht. The road to town is steep in places but it only takes 15 minutes to reach the outskirts. Rubbish can be disposed of only in town and should not be dumped on any beach. Most crews pop into town in the evening for dinner and to wander around or to arrange dive trips or courses with the 100's of operators in Mae Haad. The nearest supermarket on the road to town has everything you need from fresh bread and milk to baked beans and beer.

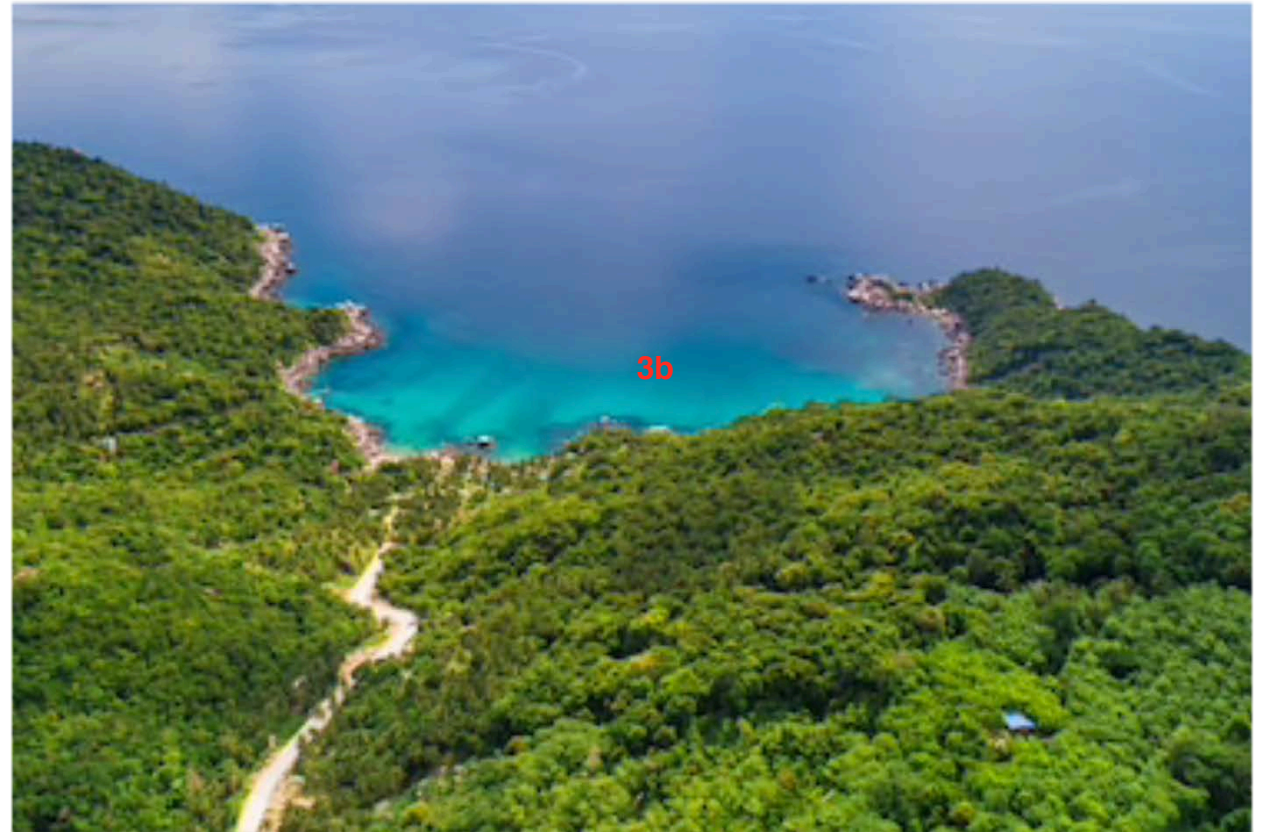


Anchorage 3b: Ao Hin Wong

A large deep horseshoe shaped bay with a boulder strewn shoreline surrounded by jungle, this is the most protected bay on Koh Tao in the SW season. Some yachts use this as their base while on Koh Tao as you are guaranteed a good nights rest. Apart from buoys marking rocks to the north there are no hazards to watch out for other than the moorings scattered in the bay. The mooring lines are very long and some buoy-balls are missing leaving the lines underwater waiting for the prop of your boat or dinghy. Take the time to find a good spot to anchor, allowing adequate swinging room with the anchor in sand rather than coral, depths of **9-12 meters** can be expected. The coral and fish along the southern end of the bay are some of the best. There is a red mooring ball left of center off the sandy beach and if it's available, you can take it.

Amenities

The View Rock Resort has a floating pontoon in the north west corner of the bay. They have cold showers and toilets free for those eating there and the stilted restaurant has an excellent view of the bay. Now is the managers name, talk to her to fill your tanks with water. They charge 600B for as much as you want so fill it before you leave. Arrange the water by going to the floating dock and up to the restaurant. Sometimes they have a mooring ball you can take to fill water, sometimes you have to jug it. To the left of the dinghy pontoon is a great three-stage rock jump into deep water. Another spot in the bay is Mol's Bar on the beach and there's a restaurant on the rocks. Buy a drink from Mol and she'll keep your dinghy safe. There is a newly paved road into Sairee beach that takes you up over the top of the island, it takes half an hour to walk or any place can call a taxi. Bring the dinghy well up the beach if you plan to be gone for a while.



Koh Tao - North & Northwest

Anchorage 3c: Mango Bay

The only inhabited bay on the north coast of Koh Tao. Late afternoon and early morning it is a tranquil paradise with pristine coral and great snorkeling. Between 10am and 4pm it is extremely busy with speed boats and dive boats.

Anchorage

Anchor well out in the middle of the bay away from the live coral in 10-12 meters. This anchorage is too exposed if strong west or northwest winds are expected.



Amenities

Take your dinghy to the concrete jetty below the restaurant with the large verandah, watching out for lazy lines when close in. This is the Mango Bay Resort and serves great food, has clean showers and toilets and is well worth the walk up the hill.

Anchorage 3d: Koh Hang Tao (Nangyuan Island)

One of the most photographed and stunning spots in the area, it's really three small islands joined by sand bars except at high tide, surrounded by coral and home to an amazing variety of marine life. Anchor well away from the dive boat moorings mid channel on the east side of the island in **11-15 meters** then take the dinghy to the buoyed off area south of the pier to tie up and swim in or try to find a safe spot on the pier. **DO NOT take the dinghy to shore!** Early mornings and evenings are the best times to avoid the crowds. By tying the dinghy to the swim area and swimming ashore you might avoid the 100 Baht visitors fee. There are many underwater rocks to the west of these islands and most are marked by dive boat buoys.

If you have the energy, the viewpoint on the southern island is breathtaking. Walk across the sandbar to the south island and along the rickety walkway to the east, then follow the path into the shade trees and up to the hill to the top.

Anchorage 3e: Mae Haad Town

This is the main and only town on Koh Tao of size on the island and in recent years it is the centre for diving in SE Asia. It's obvious that the environment around the town has suffered as it struggles to meet the accommodation, water and power demands. With over 70 dive boat operators and 10 ferries stopping here every day it is a very noisy and lumpy anchorage. As it faces west, it's only really advisable to use it as a day time shopping stop on a calm day. Road access to the town from the east side of Koh Tao is less hassle than taking the yacht.

Approach

From the south beware of the three rocks off of Cape Hin Saam Gone and watch out for the many fast speedboats and ferries. Head toward the northern side of the jetties away from the floating moorings and buoys staying in **over 10 meters** of water. From the north one can pass between Koh Tao and Nangyuan Island again stay in 10 meters of water to avoid the reef that extends 100meters offshore the entire length of Sairee and Mae Haad bay until just north of the ferry jetty.



Anchorage

Anchor in 8-10 meters north of the pier, the water is clear here so make sure you drop on sand, the dark patches are coral. At all states of tide the dinghy can pass over the huge reef to reach the shore, however closer in there is a web of criss-crossed lazy lines, raise the engine and paddle the last 10 meters. Definitely wear shoes on this beach as there is quite a lot of rubbish. Head for the beach north of the jetty for less obstacles and an easy walk to town.

Amenities

The town has everything but most of all dive shops. Good feedback has been received for Black Tip and Dive Point Divers, but things can change. There are many local and western restaurants. Please only dispose of your rubbish in the big plastic bins. There are mini-markets and small shops to replenish provisions and ice.

Koh Pha Ngan - Overview



Koh Pha Ngan

In the south west season the east coast of Koh Pha Ngan offers ideal sailing conditions, flat clear deep water with constant force 3-4 offshore winds spiced up a bit with the occasional short but strong gust rushing down the steep hills. There are many waterfalls on the island and good roads to explore by motorbike for an inland adventure. Some bays, like Bottle Beach are only accessible by boat, serious 4WD or by hiking. Lots of day trips are available or just enjoy the beautiful coastline from your yacht.

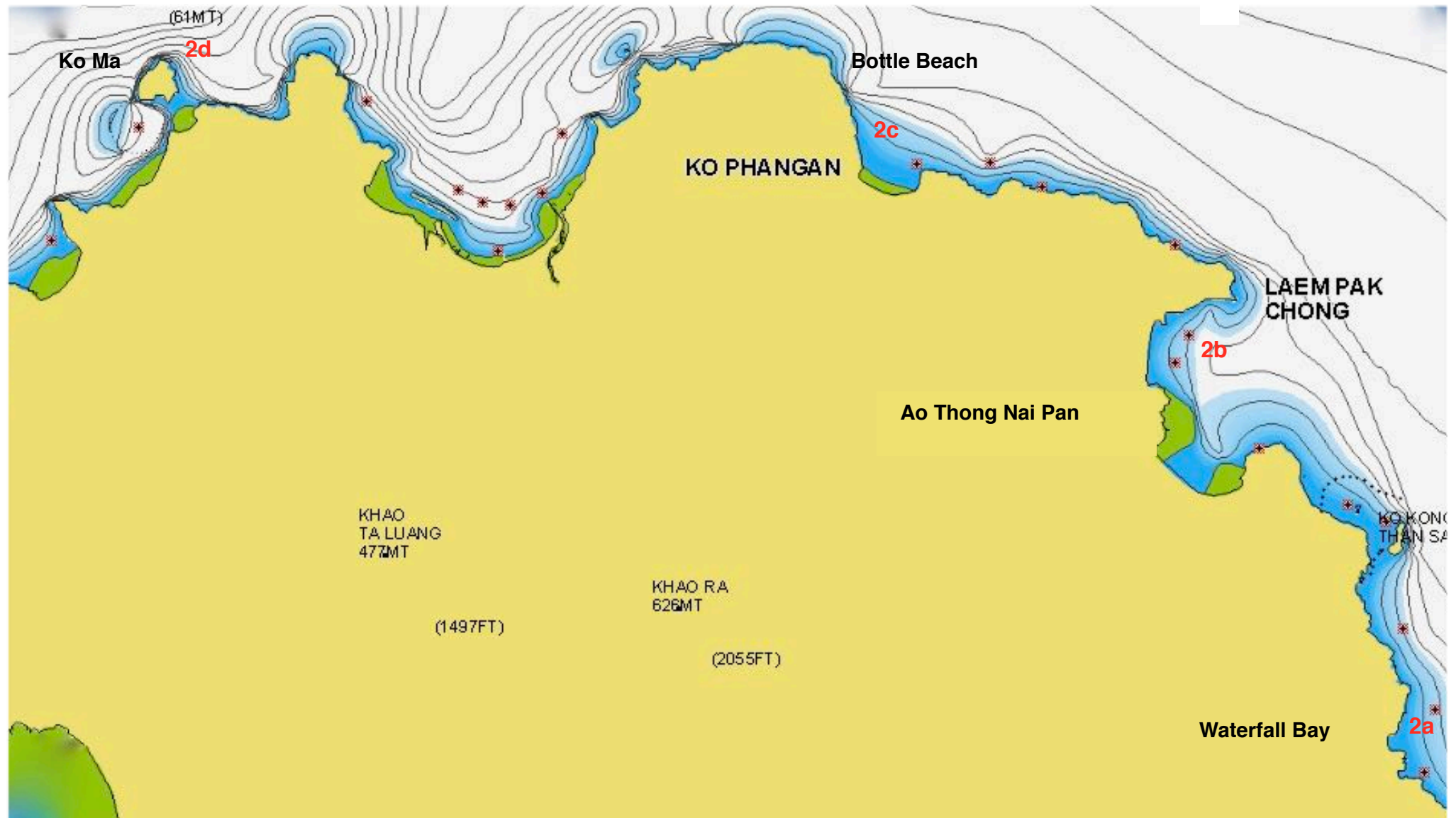
Koh Pha Ngan island is renowned for its monthly Full Moon Party. This boisterous night-long celebration draws revelers to its southeastern peninsula, Haad Rin. Most festivities center on Sunrise Beach, whose beach bungalows attract a backpacker crowd. On the north coast lie quieter, white-sand beaches including Ao Thong Nai Pan and Bottle Beach.

The waters are well charted and you can pick any bay for anchorage along the coast of this island. The large Chaloklum bay in the north is usually crowded with tourist boats and is a small port town and not recommended as an anchorage, however some people like the "local" vibe it has.

Stay in 10m of water sailing up the coast to avoid any hazards.

The island is very mountainous with a lot of valleys and the winds can whip through creating a gusty shoreline on the east side. You can motor up the coast close to shore with the sails down or sail the coast you will need to be a little more offshore to avoid the gusting winds and a possible knock down.

Koh Pha Ngan - Overview



Koh Pha Ngan - North & Northwest

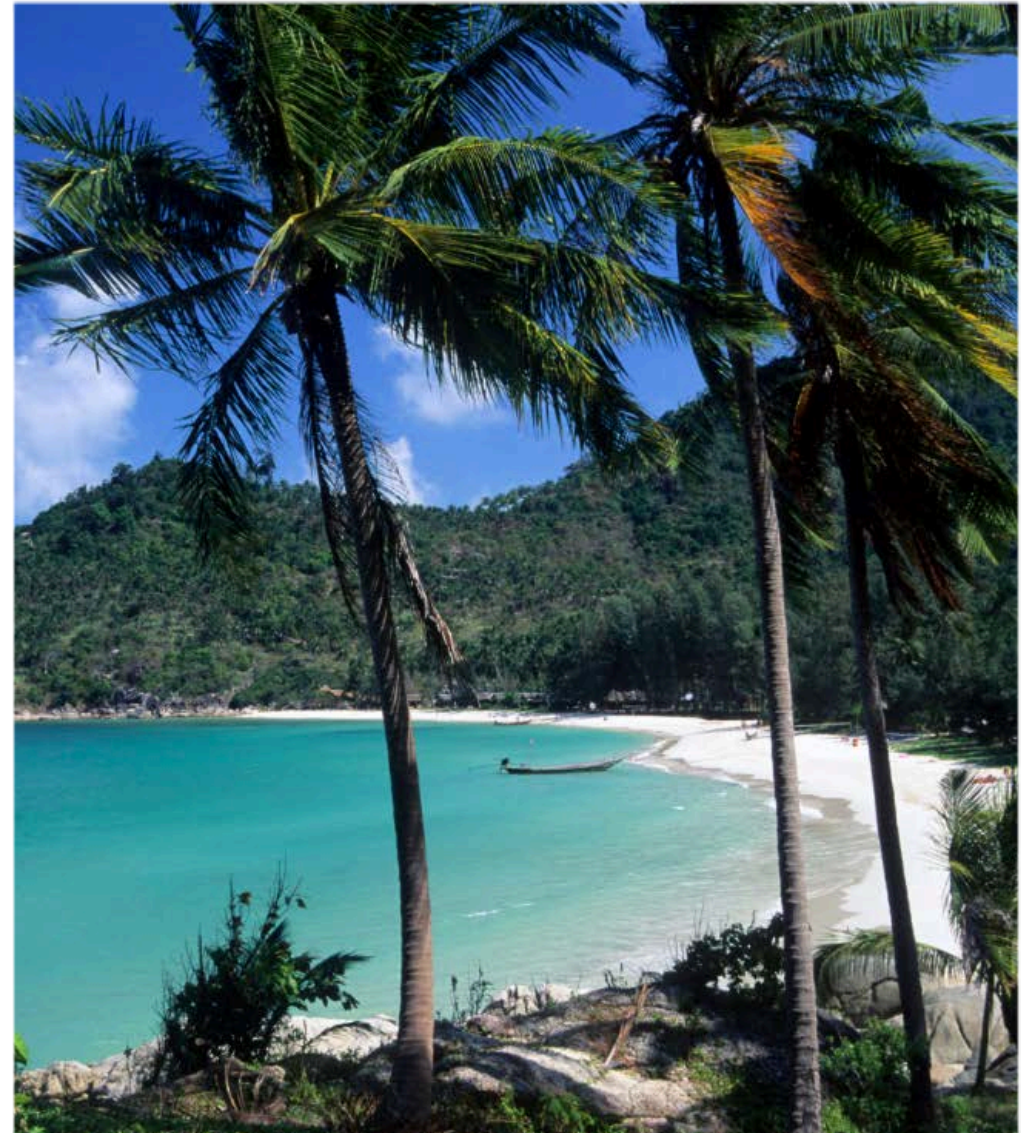
Anchorage 2c: Bottle Beach

Bottle Beach is a pretty little bay with a few small resorts on it backing on to coconut tree plantations and jungle. A good stopover if heading to or from Koh Tao. There is a charted rock on the eastern side of the bay to avoid. **Anchor in 6-7 meters** over toward the western side of the bay to get the best shelter from the westerly wind and swell. The beach here is very steeply shelving so wait until the dinghy touches the shore before jumping out then pull it well up. Tucked in amongst the huge boulders at the western end of the beach is an excellent open air seafood BBQ restaurant with cushions and hammocks on the beach to laze in while your food goes down.

Further along the north coast is the fishing port of **Ao Chalong Lam and Chaloklum bay**. Although a large town and home to the area's fishing fleet the fish processing plant ashore gives of an interesting aroma and this is a seldom visited anchorage by yachts.

Anchorage 2d: Koh Ma

On the NW tip of Koh Pha Ngan is Koh Ma billed as Koh Pha Ngan's best snorkel spot. Visibility is only average during the SW season. It can be a handy lunch stop, and entry is straightforward, head in toward the centre of the sandy bar connecting the island to the shore and **anchor in 9 meters** tucked in out of the swell and wind. Closer to shore are some hazards in the water so stay in 9m min. There is a small narrow dinghy channel on the east side. After passing through head for the sandbar, not the south shore. **Be very careful in this area as it's a little treacherous getting ashore here. This should only be attempted near high tide and when the tide is going up.**



Anchorage 2b: Ao Thong Nai Pan

This large double crescent bay boasts two of the best beaches on the island. White sand fringed by palms and surrounded by lush green mountainous jungle. Remote from the rest of Koh Pha Ngan. There is more of a relaxed family atmosphere here. The water is clear and glows with phosphorescence at night.

Approaches

Once rounding the rocky headland to the north or south steer toward the centre of the bays as there are shallow reef areas to the sides. The southern bay is the most protected, while the northern bay can be a little rolly with a strong southerly swell.

Anchorage

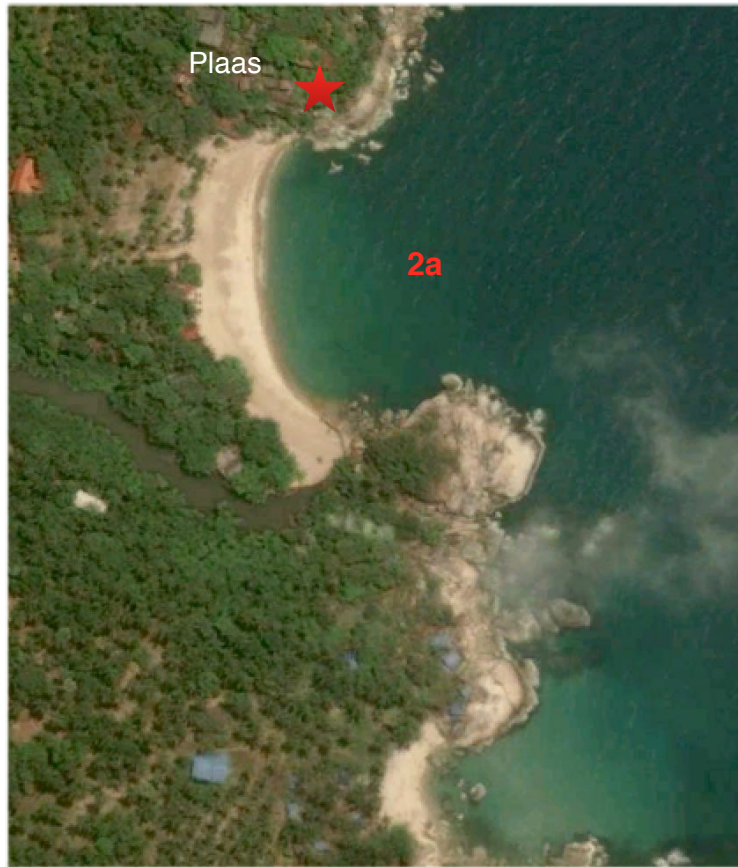
Anchor at least 100 meters off the beach in **5-6 meters sand**. The beach is shallow; either anchor the dinghy or pull it all the way up past the high tide line. A cool breeze blows off the mountains most nights and both have few mosquitoes making this the best anchorage on the whole of the island. During strong winds the fishing boats come for shelter in this bay and it can get quite crowded. Make sure to anchor well away from them with enough room to swing. Do not anchor off the middle rocky headland between the bays as we've found there's not good holding there.

Amenities

For eating in the north bay The Beach Club is right on the beach with nightly entertainment and there are places on the road behind the beach that leads into the quaint little town. Ice and limited provisions can be found at the mini-marts and fruit stands in town. In the south bay is a slightly larger village behind the beach with more shops. There is good safe swimming to be had in both bays and jellyfish are not that prevalent.



Anchorage 2a: Had Sadet (Waterfall Bay)



This bay is home to the Than Sadet Waterfall National Park. Three Kings of Thailand have left their marks here on the rocks. This anchorage is by the large white villa on the cliff and the bay itself is surrounded by huge boulders. **Anchor in 7-8 meters** in the center of the bay; when taking the dinghy to the beach, bring it up past the high tide line on the south side of the beach. It's a 10-minute uphill walk to the falls (more like dipping pools). Under the shady palm trees that fringe the beach is a small restaurant serving excellent lunchtime fare. If relaxing in the shade, remember to watch out for falling coconuts. Follow the rocks in the north side of the bay and up the steps to Plaas for a great view.

There is a fresh water shower attached to a coconut tree in the middle of the beach near the restaurant to complete your tropical experience.

There is a small cove to the south to explore by dinghy or SUP/kayak that's usually in a state of repair but often deserted and great for a private picnic lunch.

This is a beautiful anchorage but can get wrapping swell from the south at night. You can take your chances or Ao Thong Nai Pan is just a few miles away.



Anchorage 1b: Had Yuan

This bay is just north of the Full Moon Party bay providing more protection with its high mountains and it's quieter at night. This is a great bay for a SUP or kayaking along the coast as there is another small bay to the north and one just around the rocky point with two small resorts.

Approaches

Enter in the middle of the bay and head towards the center of the beach. **Anchor in 5-7m of sand bottom.** Watch for the long-tail taxi boats when swimming off the yacht. When going ashore watch out for rocks and pull the dinghy well up the beach.

Amenities

There are a few resorts ashore and some funky places along a rickety walkway on the southern rocks. On the rock to the north is the Bamboo Hut serving good food and Blooming Lotus Yoga behind it. Around the corner in the northern bay is the Sanctuary with Thai, western, vegetarian, vegan and even raw foods. There is a yoga class for everyone. This is a great place for a paddle in the kayak, on the SUP board or just go exploring in the dingy to the bay just around the corner. There is a small mini-mart in the center of the bay. Saturday nights the Eden Bar has an all night party.



Southeast Coast Koh Pha Ngan

Anchorage 1a: Haad Rin Nok

Approaches

The straits between Samui and Koh Pha Ngan can get quite rough in strong SW winds, especially with a west running tide. Once around the headland of Haad Rin conditions often flatten off and it's worth waiting to take the main down until inside the bay. Even so there can often be quite an uncomfortable ground swell in here. Head in toward the red and white radio tower toward the northern end of the beach, away from the reef on the southern side of the bay.

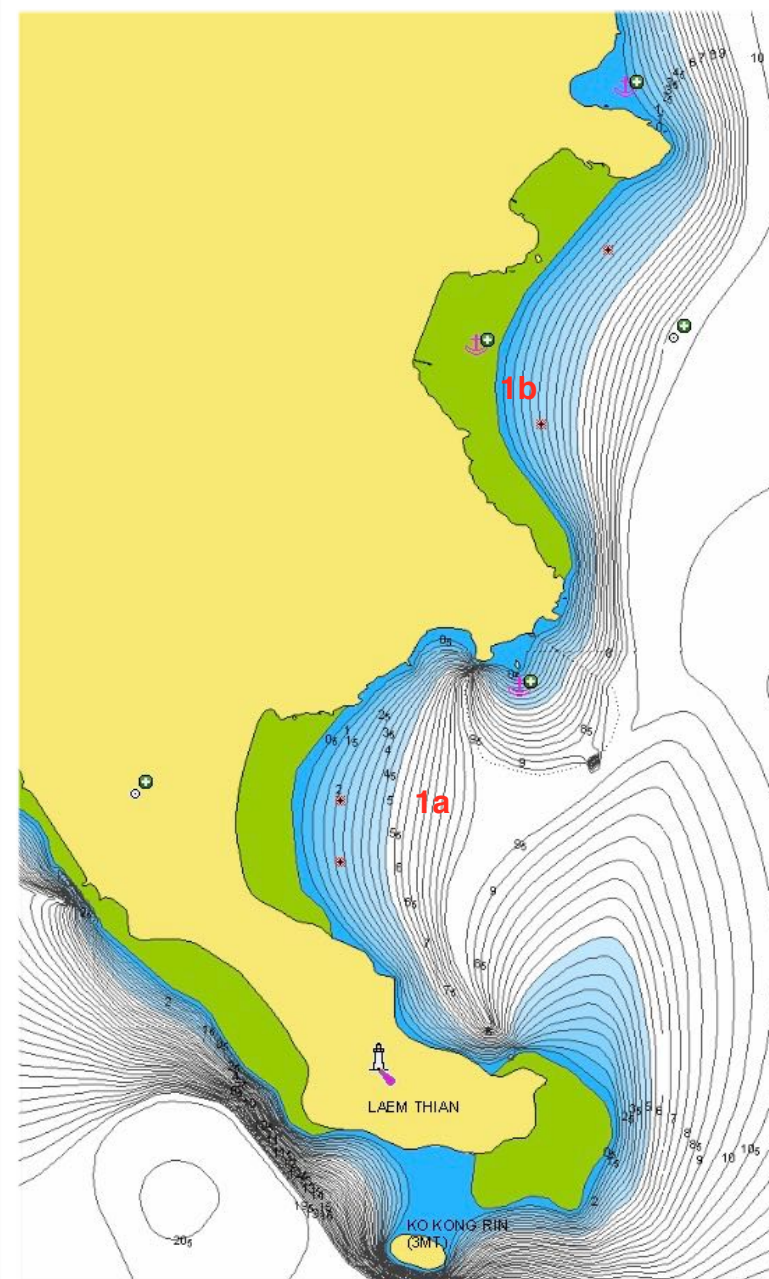
Anchorage

Anchor in 6-8 meters close in on the northern end of the bay, towards the Magic mountain cliff top restaurant, away from the buoyed off swim area. The bay is always busy with long-tail taxi boats so take care if swimming off the yacht. When going ashore at low tide watch out for rocks and pull the dinghy well up the beach and remove the kill cord to discourage joy riders. It's not advisable to leave the dinghy ashore on party nights.

Amenities

Definitely a good town to do some serious shopping and there are plenty of bargains to be had. Ice can be bought at the 7-11, books can be swapped and there are plenty of shops scattered about this sprawling town. Rubbish bins can be found at the end of the main street. About 11pm UV lights, flaming torches and fire-twirling locals and tourists light up the beach. Caution: if your mushroom omelet costs 1000 baht it's best to clear your diary for the next 24 hours. If you plan to attend the festivities, we advise to anchor in Ao Thong Nai Pan and take a taxi.

Koh Pha Ngan - Southeast



THE PURPOSE OF THIS CRUISING GUIDE

Please note that this cruise is a guide only and it is **not to be used as a primary navigational tool**. This is not an exhaustive list of the anchorages. The area is well charted but be careful as people *do* go aground and land their boats on reefs. The electronic charts are off and sometimes show you anchoring or crossing across land. **Be aware and keep a good watch.**

USEFUL NUMBERS

Island Spirit Yacht Charter Base:

Phil (mobile 24hr): 081 813 8023 - WhatsApp +66 81 813 8023

Kim (mobile 24hr): 093 131 0844 - WhatsApp +66 93 131 0844

GCT Office (Office hours): 038 237 752

Police Emergency Call

Thaweeratphakdee Road, Nathon 17/16, Moo 3, Tambon Ang Thong Koh Samui, Suratthani 84140, Thailand

Tel: 191

Tourist Police

Thaweeratphakdee Road, Nathon 304/8-9, Moo 1, Tambon Ang Thong Koh Samui, Suratthani 84140, Thailand

Tel: 077-421281 Fax: 077-421360

Bangkok Samui Hospital

Samui Ring Road, Chaweng 57, Moo 3, Tambon Bo Phut Koh Samui, Suratthani 84320, Thailand

Tel: 077-429500

Samui International Hospital

Chaweng Beach Road, Chaweng North 90/2, Moo 2, Tambon Bo Phut Koh Samui, Suratthani 84320, Thailand

Tel: 077-422272, 077-230781 -- 2

SAMUI RESCUE - 077-421-444. LAND AND SEA RESCUE VOLUNTEER

THE CRUISING AREA

Charts:

- 204 Overview of the entire cruising area
- 243 Detail of Samui and Koh Pha Ngan
- 265 Koh Tao Island
- 273 Ang Thong National Marine Park

Boundaries:

Northern Boundary:	Latitude N 10.10.00
Southern Boundary:	Latitude N 09.15.00
Eastern Boundary:	Longitude E 100.20.00
Western Boundary:	Longitude E 99.35.00

It should be noted that there is nothing of particular interest on the Thai mainland and shallow water extends up to six and half miles from the coast so we do not recommend approaching the mainland inside the 5 meter contour.

CHARTER DEPOSITS

A deposit is normally taken before departure as security of yacht equipment, your dinghy and outboard and any optional extras you have chosen. This is waived on the understanding that it will be used to pay for any lost or damaged equipment at the end of the charter. When going ashore remember to take into account the movement of the tide. Please carry a torch in the dinghy at night and any non-swimmers must wear a lifejacket. Beware that on some more remote beaches monkeys will steal things from the dinghy!

YOUR YACHT

You will be given a thorough yacht and area briefing. Please make sure that you are satisfied with all yacht operations and the sailing area before departure.

SNORKELING EQUIPMENT

If you have rented snorkeling gear, please check before you leave that it is all in order and sufficient for your purpose, you may request additional equipment during your briefing. Please note that snorkeling gear lost during your trip will be charged to your account at 2500 per set.

BAR-B-QUE'S

When using the BBQ you must move your dinghy forward and out of the way.

REFUELING

Your yacht carries a full tank of fuel and spare dinghy fuel in a jerry can which is enough for your holiday. If the yacht fuel gauge goes below half it is advisable to top up using a jerry can. When you return you will be charged for the fuel you use at a rate of 40 baht per liter.

TIDAL STREAMS

The tide floods towards the South and ebbs towards the North. Tidal streams are generally less than 1 knot except around headlands and in narrow channels. Always be careful when swimming from the boat while at anchor.

PREVAILING WINDS

The prevailing wind blows from the Southwest from between 5 to 25 knots, force 2-6. During this season squalls of 40 knots, force 8, can develop quickly from the West. This is the monsoon season and some rain can be expected every day with the wettest months generally being August, September and October.

CAUTION AROUND FISHING

Beware of fishing nets. They are marked with a flag at either end and are about 200 meters long and stand about 2 meters off the bottom and often have a long-tail boat nearby. It is often possible to purchase fresh fish from these fishermen.

SUNSET AND ANCHORING

The sun sets at around 18.30hrs and it will be dark within half an hour of sunset. You must be at your intended overnight stop no later than 18.00hrs. Night sailing is not permitted.

ANCHORING TIPS

Never attempt to pick up a mooring bouy anywhere!!!

Detailed below are a few tips to take the strain out of anchoring both for you and the boat. Please follow them carefully to avoid any problems.

DROPPING ANCHOR

When you arrive at your selected anchorage carefully make a slow circuit of your expected swinging area to check for shallow spots etc. Remember your swinging circle will be double the length of chain let out plus the length of the boat. You should have at least 2 meters under the keel at low water. Read the depth shown on the echo sounder and add 2 meters for the offset and also any expected rise in tide. Multiply this figure by a factor of at least 4 to find the minimum length of chain to let out. Anchor chains are marked at every 5 meters with a single white cable tie. Let out the chain to the depth of water plus a few meters and then slowly begin to reverse back paying out chain as you go. This is to prevent the chain piling up on top of the anchor. Remember that the depth sounder points down from in front of the keel and will not warn you if you are reversing into shallow water. Once you have reached the required amount of chain fit the chain hook and snubbing line and ease the chain out so the weight is taken off the windlass. Increase revs to about 2000rpm in reverse and check to see that the anchor is digging in using transits ashore. All yachts carry 40 meters of chain.

RECOVERING YOUR ANCHOR

When you are ready to recover your anchor start your engine and with a person on the bow giving hand signals, slowly motor towards the direction in which the chain is lying raising the chain with the windlass as you go. Do not use the windlass to pull the yacht towards the chain and anchor as this will overload and possibly damage the motor. When you reach the anchor and the chain is vertical re- fit the chain hook and ease the chain slightly to again take the weight off the windlass. Motor forward slowly to break the anchor out of the bottom, again watching the shore for transits. When it is apparent that the anchor is free of the bottom take up the weight on the windlass and remove the chain hook. You can now fully recover your anchor taking care when the anchor approaches the boat. You may trail the anchor slowly just below the surface to wash off any mud. Fully recover the anchor and tie off with the safety line to secure it and prevent accidental dropping before easing the windlass slightly to take the strain off the motor.

If the chain should jump off the windlass DO NOT attempt to stop it running out with either your hands or feet. Wait for it to stop on its own before lifting back on to the gypsy

ACCIDENTAL GROUNDING

If you are always aware of your position and the state of the tide and watch your depth sounder you should never run aground. If you should accidentally run aground the most important thing is to get off again as soon as possible. If the tide is rising this is accomplished easily. Simply motor off into deeper water as the tide lifts you off. If the tide is on it's way out then you need to act quickly. Immediately try to motor off using full engine power. It may help if all your crew stands on one side to tip the boat over as much as possible. Always try to get off first. If you are unable to get off please do call the base and inform us of your situation, it is most likely that you will have to wait for the tide to go all the way out and come back in to lift you off which could take up to twelve hours. The boat may lean over alarmingly but it will re-float itself. You will have to **close all seacock's** until the boat comes upright again to prevent flooding. Also drop your bow anchor into the dinghy and lay it out towards deeper water and pull tight. Pump the bilges dry and stow away all loose items. Grounding is not a pleasant experience so make sure it does not happen to you.

PERSONAL COMFORT

Being a tropical country you will see mosquitoes. They can be a nuisance but by using a suitable repellent and wearing long sleeve shirts and trousers in the evenings they should not spoil your holiday. Also be careful in the sun. When out on the water the breeze can make it seem much cooler than on land but the sun's intensity can be doubled by the reflection from the water. Use a good high factor sunscreen even under the bimini.

It is advisable to drink at least 1.5 liters of bottled water per person per day. Do not drink the water straight from the tap on the yacht but it is suitable for cooking etc if boiled first.

SMOKING ON BOARD

In the interest of fire safety and non smoking clients who may be using the yacht after you, smoking is not permitted down below at any time. Please do not throw cigarette butts into the sea.

YACHT CLEANING

Yacht cleaning, not including basic washing up and trash collection, is included in your charter but we reserves the right to charge 5000 Baht if the yacht is returned in an unreasonable condition. At the end of your charter please remove all rubbish from the yacht. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Please use common-sense when disposing of your rubbish. Most restaurants will take care of your refuse if you ask first, but leaving it on any small island is not really acceptable and is a practice we do not encourage.