Highlights of the Drive

This drive links Southern Thailand’s two premier island destinations, Phuket and Ko Samui. Section 1 of the drive begins in Phuket and goes north to Takua Pa, passing Khao Lak Lamru National Park and the increasingly popular beach resort of Khao Lak.

From the old provincial district town of Takua Pa, section 2 strikes eastwards to Surat Thani through one of the most scenic areas along the drive. The route passes Khao Sok National Park, which offers eco-adventure amidst the stunning scenery that characterises the park.

Section 3 begins at Surat Thani, a bustling provincial capital and harbour, and goes to car-ferry ports serving Ko Samui and Ko Phangan.

From the port linking Ko Samui and the mainland, Section 4 of the drive passes beach resorts close to Khanom and Sichon on the route south to Nakhon Sri Thammarat, the ancient Buddhist capital of the south. Formerly known as Ligor, the city has much for visitors interested in culture and cuisine.

Heading west from Nakhon Sri Thammarat to Krabi, section 5 first passes Khao Luang National Park, where impressive waterfalls highlight the influence of the 1835m peak on the geography of the area. The drive then continues through rolling back-country filled with rubber and oil-palm plantations.

The route from Krabi in section 6 once again strikes the march of karst formations which give Phang Nga Bay its spectacular identity. After passing Phang Nga itself, the drive turns south for the final run back to Phuket.

For instructions, please see the back page. Happy trails!

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PHUKET TAKUA PA

SECTION 1 : 134 kms.

1. **POINTER ONE**
Intersection of Thung Khra Rd and Thepkrasatri Rd, Phuket Town. Go north on the main route (H402) out of Phuket City. (see Phuket City detail map)

2. **POINTER TWO**
H4022 comes from Ha Yaek Chalong (the fastest route from Kata, Karon, and Rawai beaches) joining H402 from Phuket City. Go North. (see Phuket Island map)

3. **POINTER THREE**
H4025 joins H402 from Ban Choeng Talae at the Heroines Monument. Go north. H4027 east passes the National Museum and the Gibbon project.

4. **POINTER FOUR**
H4030 from Laguna, Surin and Patong beaches joins H402 at the intersection with traffic lights in Thalang. Go north. The road east goes to Ton Sai Falls in the Khao Phra Taeo National Park. KM40 left turn on H402 (old road) to the Sirinath National Park and local restaurants at Mai Kao Beach. Cross the strait on the older Sarasin bridge to rejoin the main highway.

KM32-33 Lamphi Falls. Right turn 2 kms.

3 kms north of the bridge an east turn offers an alternative route to Phang Nga Bay for via Khlong Kian. A west turn takes you to local coastal roads via Dusit Hot Springs, Bo Dan Beach and Thung Sai beaches to the district town (amphoe) of Thai Muang.

5. **POINTER FIVE**
H4 KM7. H402 joins H4 - the Petchkasem Highway - at Ban Khok Khloi. The highway goes north to Takua Pa and east to Phang Nga. Go north at Ban Khok Kloi if following the route in the order laid out in this guide.

6. **POINTER SIX**
KM24 Thai Muang. Go north (right) at the lights on main highway. The road west leads to the beach and Hat Thai Muang Lam Phi National Park HQ.

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POINTER SEVEN

H4 KM39. H4 bypasses Ban Thung Maphrao and the turn off on H4240 east. H4240 offers a shorter alternative inland route via Kapong to Khao Sok National Park, missing Khao Lak and Takua Pa (see Kapong Area map and section 2. Fill up with gas before taking this route).

KM51-52 Left (west) turn for Thap Lamu, the starting point for boat trips (usually booked in Phuket) to the Similan Islands. One-day trips to the Similans are available starting at 07:30 am from Met Sine Travel & Tour, Thap Lamu Tel: (0) 7644 3276

KM53-54. Left turn to Poseidon Bungalows $ - offers three-day live-aboard boat tours to the Similan for snorkelling. Tel: (0) 7644 3258. www.similantour.nu

KM56 Khao Lak Lamru National Park Headquarters (offers inexpensive huts, a day-hike into the forest to Chong Fah Falls and a pleasant restaurant in a shady grove overlooking the sea).

ACCOMMODATION

- Khao Lak Bayfront Resort. (H4. KM57-58) $$$-$$$$ Tel: (0) 7642 0111-17. E-mail <khaolak@cscoms.com>
- Khao Lak Palm Beach Resort. $$$-$$$$ Tel: (0) 7642 0099-102. E-mail <khaolakpalmbeach@png.co.th>
- Khao Lak Laguna Resort $$$$ Tel: (0) 7642 0200-4
- Nangthong Bay Resort $ Tel: (0) 7642 0088-9 Fax: (0) 7642 0090
- Khao Lak Bungalows (H4 KM58-59) $-$ $$ . Tel: (0) 7642 0144-5 Fax (0) 1270 1804 & Phuket Divers (0) 7642 0266 E-mail <phuketdiverskhaolak@phg.a-net.net.th>
- Similana Resort (H4 KM70-71) $-$ $$ $$$$ Tel: (0) 7642 0166-8 E-mail <similana@png.a-net.net.th>
- Bangsak Beach Resort, Bang Sak (H4 KM76-77) $-$$$. Tel: (0) 7644 6520 E-mail <annemathuros@hotmail.com>

POINTER EIGHT

Follow the highway left at the traffic lights in Takua Pa by the Phra Narai (Vishnu) monument (see detail map). Right on H4032 goes to Ban Talat Takua Pa, a small, sleepy market that was a former centre for tin-mining.

ACCOMMODATION

- Khao Lak Bayfront Resort. (H4. KM57-58) $$$-$$$$ Tel: (0) 7642 0111-17. E-mail <khaolak@cscoms.com>
POINTER ONE
Cross the bridge taking H4 across Khlong Le just to the north of Takua Pa. Fill up with petrol before leaving Takua Pa.

POINTER TWO
H4 goes north to Ranong at T junction past KM166. Go straight on H401 to Surat Thani.

POINTER THREE
H401 KM135 Go straight on H401. H4090 South takes an inland route to Phang Nga via Kapong. At KM131-2 approx, an unmarked sealed road south from H401 is the end/start of shorter inland route ending at Pointer 7 section 1 (see Kapong Area map)

H401 KM110-109 Khao Sok National Park offers trekking, rafting, elephant rides and tree-top bungalows. Book at the National Park Office for rafts on the lake (see Khao Sok detail map)

H401 KM72-71 H4118 south from Phanom to Thap Phut District (see section 6) offers a rural route to Phang Nga for a shorter tour.

POINTER FOUR
H401 KM65-64 Go straight east at T junction with H415 to Thap Phut District (see section 6)

KMS8-9 Left turn west for Rachaphrapha Dam and a pretty view over the lake towards limestone ridges. Boat trips are available to rafts (pre-book accommodation on raft at Khao Sok National Park HQ)

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POINTER FIVE

Go north on H41 to Chaiya (40 kms) to visit Wat Suan Mokha Palaram (meditation centre), Phra Borromathat Chaiya (a chedi and museum with artefacts dating back to the Srivijaya period) and the weaving village of Phum Riang. Return to Phun Phin and Surat Thani by the less busy rural route H4112.

POINTER SIX
H401 is joined by H4153, the direct main route from Surat Thani north to H41, at a T junction with lights. Turn right (east) to continue on H401 (N.B. no signs marked this junction in any direction at time of writing).

POINTER SEVEN
H401 KM8 approx. H401 bypasses Surat Thani. Turn left to enter town at lights (see detail map). Go straight to continue on drive.

POINTER EIGHT
H401 KM12 approx. crosses H4009 to Na San. Go straight on H401. To visit the Khao Thapet Nature Wildlife Centre go south on H4009 (5kms).

POINTER NINE
H401 rejoins the old road through the centre of town at KM19 approx. Go right (east).

ACCOMMODATION
• See detail maps for accommodation details in Khao Sok and Surat Thani. A further 87 kms from pointer 9 takes you to Nai Phlao Beach near Khanom, where several pleasant resorts allow you to enjoy seaside accommodation without crossing over to the islands (see section 3 Khanom Area map).
POINTER ONE

H401 rejoins the old road through the centre of town at KM19 approx. Go right (east).

KM22 Monkey Training Centre - south 3 km.
KM30-1 Wat Tham Khuha - south 1.5 km

POINTER TWO

H401 KM32-33 Go Straight at intersection with H4010 to Kanchanadit. Road becomes single lane highway.

POINTER THREE

H401 KM60-61 Go left on H4142 and follow signs to Ferry Pier Samui. (see Khanom Area map for rural routes between Don Sak & Khanom).
If going to Hat Nai Phlao, Khanom, go straight on H401 to KM85 and turn left onto H4014 for a shorter alternative route.

POINTER FOUR

H4142 KM19-20 Follow the signposted short cut right to the Ferry for Ko Samui and turn right when rejoining H4142 (see area map), or keep on original H4142 to visit Don Sak and Wat Khao Suwan Pradit (left turn west at KM22-21).

POINTER FIVE

H4142 KM30-31 Left turn to Ban Bo Kam and quiet beach. Local huts available

POINTER SIX

H4142 terminates at KM46+ with H4014. Left on H4014 goes to Khanom and Nai Phlao Beach. Go right for Sichon and Nakhon Sri Thammarat to continue on the drive.

FERRY DON SAK - SAMUI

Don Sak Office (0) 7737 1205-6, (0) 7737 1151
Samui Office (0) 7742 3190-1, (0) 7742 3026

Vehicle+driver one-way 180Bt Passengers extra

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*runs only if sufficient traffic

www.budget.co.th
ACCOMMODATION

- Le Royal Meridien $$$ $ Ban Taling Ngam, Ko Samui. Tel: (0) 7742 3019-22 Fax: (0) 7742 3220
- Paradise Beach Resort $$ Hat Mae Nam, Ko Samui. Tel: (0) 7724 7227 Fax: (0) 7742 5290. Email: <paradise@loxinfo.co.th>
- The Central Samui Beach Resort, $$$ Chaweng, Ko Samui. Tel: (0) 7723 0500 Fax: (0) 7742 2385
- The Central Butterfly Village Resort, $$-$$ Natian, Samui. Tel: (0) 7742 4020-1 Fax: (0) 7742 4022. Email: <csv@sawadee.com>

FERRYLINE (SONGSRERM TRAVEL)

Khanom to Ko Samui to Ko Phangan

- Khanom Tel: (0) 1476 4595
- Samui Tel: (0) 7742 1316-9
- Surat Thani Tel: (0) 7728 5124-6

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<th>Passengers extra</th>
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*Khanom-Phangan route via Samui. NB Only Budget 4WD vehicles are recommended for Ko Phangan!
POINTER ONE
H4142 KM27-28 Turn left for Khanom, Sichon and Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

POINTER TWO
H4142 terminates at KM46+ with H4014 at KM12. Go right (south) for Sichon and Nakhon Sri Thammarat. (see Khanom Area map section 3).

POINTER THREE

POINTER FOUR
Go straight on H401 at the intersection with H4103. Take H4103 as an alternative route to avoid Nakhon Sri Thammarat (see pointer 2, section 5).

POINTER FIVE
H401 terminates at Fort Vachirawut, Tha Phae. Follow H4012 south.

POINTER SIX
H4012. KM 11 Approx. Turn right for ‘Station’ at sign above traffic lights. (See Nakhon Sri Thammarat detail map)
**POINTER ONE**
This intersection is marked by lights and overhead pedestrian crossings. Turn west onto Karom Rd (H4016) from Rachadamnoen Rd. and go west across the railway.

**POINTER TWO**
H4016 KM4-5 crosses H4103. Go straight (west) to follow this route in this guide. Go left (south) for an alternative (20 kms longer) route to Thung Yai via Thung Song. From Thung Song, go to Thung Yai on H4110.

**POINTER THREE**
H4016 KM8-9. Go left on H4015 signed Krabi & Phuket (NB. No more road signs indicate Krabi as a destination till Khao Phanom). H4016 goes north to Ban Na Raeng, Nop Phitam and Krong Ching (H4186), passing side roads to Phrom Lok Falls (KM21-2 west 5kms.) and Muang Nakhon Palace (KM24-5 east 2 kms. Palace opens 08:00-17:00 and closes on Wednesdays and for lunch 12:00-13:00).

The nature trail to Krong Ching Falls (61 kms. from pointer 3 to Park Office and start of nature trail) is 4kms long. A wire cable serves as a handrail for the final very steep 400m. trail to the main falls. Take food with you for the trip — very basic supplies only at the small park site. H4015 KM20. Right turn to Khao Luang National Park and Krong Falls (3 kms) H4015 KM27-8 Tha Phae Falls right (2kms.)

**POINTER FOUR**
H4015 KM44 Left turn onto H4019 signed Ban Lak Chang and Route 41. Follow signs to Route 41 on H4019 and ignore further signs to Lak Chang. H4015 to Chawang and Na San is an alternative inland route to Ko Samui.

**POINTER FIVE**
H41 turn left (south) and do U-turn to return on northbound lane. Take care! Go on H 4019 left (west) to Thung Yai.

**POINTER SIX**
H4019 intersects with H4110. Go straight west on H4156 to Khao Phanom. Check petrol and fill up if nearing empty at Thung Yai!
POINTER SEVEN
H4156 joins H4037 KM20-21 at T-junction with lights. Turn left (south) onto H4037.

POINTER EIGHT
H4037 joins H4 KM98-7 at a T-junction with lights. Turn right (west) for Krabi.

POINTER NINE
H4 KM108-9 left turn for main access road to Krabi Town 4 kms.

POINTER TEN
H4 KM110-111 turns sharply north at junction with H4200. Turn right for Phang Nga & Phuket and left for Hat Noppharat Thara National Park (see Krabi Area map).

ACCOMMODATION
- Krabi Meritme Hotel. $$$-$$$$ Tungfah Rd, Krabi. Tel: (0) 7561 2730 Fax: (0) 7561 2992
- Ban Ao Nang $$$ Ao Nang Beach, Krabi: Tel & Fax: (0) 7563 7071-4
- Ao Nang Pakkasai Resort $$-$$-$$ Ao Nang Beach, Krabi. Tel: (0) 7563 7777 Fax: (0) 7563 7637 E-mail: phranang@sun.phuket.ksc.co.th.
- Felix Phra Nang Inn $$-$$-$$ Ao Nang Beach, Krabi. Tel: (0) 7563 7130-33 Fax: (0) 7563 7134-5 E-mail: phranang@sun.phuket.ksc.co.th.
- Krabi Resort $$-$$-$$$$ Ao Nang Beach, Krabi. Tel: (0) 7563 7030-5 Fax: (0) 7563 7051
- Dawn of Happiness Resort. $ Su San Hoi Beach, Krabi. Tel: (0) 7561 2730
- Dusit Rayavadee Resort Hotel. $$$$$ Phra-Rai Le Beaches, Krabi. Tel: (0) 7562 0740-3 Fax: (0) 7562 0630
- Railay Bay Bungalows, Rai Le Beach. $$-$ Tel: (0) 7562 2260-4, 7562 2267 Fax: (0) 7562 2268
- Felix Phra Nang Inn $$-$$-$$ Ao Nang Beach, Krabi. Tel: (0) 7563 7130-33 Fax: (0) 7563 7134-5 E-mail: phranang@sun.phuket.ksc.co.th.
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- Su San Hoi Shell Cemetery

Limestone Karst / High Ground

Elephant Camp

Andaman Holiday Resort

Hat Noppharat Thara

to Phang Nga & Phuket

Dusit Rayavadee Parking & Boats for Rai Le Beach

Phra Nang Pier

Phra Nang Beach

Budget

Car and Truck Rental

Elephant Camp

Andaman Holiday Resort

Hat Noppharat Thara

Royal Palms Park (no entry)

Marine National Park

Ao Nang Beach

Rai Le Beach

Su San Hoi Shell Cemetery

Limestone Karst / High Ground

Hat Noppharat Thara National Park

to Phang Nga & Phuket (section 6)

to Phang Nga (H4034)

Krabi Meritme Hotel

TAT Office

Post Office

Boats to Phi Phi Island

• Khlong Thom & Thung Yai
• to Phang Nga & Phuket
• Elephant Camp
• Royal Palms Park (no entry)
• Marine National Park
• Ao Nang Beach
• Rai Le Beach
• Su San Hoi Shell Cemetery

1. Dawn of Happiness Resort. $ Su San Hoi Beach, Krabi. Tel: (0) 7561 2730
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5. Krabi Resort $$-$$-$$ Ao Nang Beach, Krabi. Tel: (0) 7563 7030-5 Fax: (0) 7563 7051

to Phang Nga & Phuket

H4 KM99-100 Krabi Airport right (north)

H4 KM106-7 Wat Tham Sua right turn 2 kms.

Climb 1,272 steps to the top of a karst and an impressive view.

H4 KM108 approx. Right turn to Khao Phanom Bencha National Park (20 kms) and Huai To Falls.

POINTER TEN
H4 KM110-111 turns sharply north at junction with H4200. Turn right for Phang Nga & Phuket and left for Hat Noppharat Thara National Park (see Krabi Area map).

POINTER EIGHT
H4037 joins H4 KM98-7 at a T-junction with lights. Turn right (west) for Krabi.

POINTER NINE
H4 KM108-9 left turn for main access road to Krabi Town 4 kms.

POINTER SEVEN
H4156 joins H4037 KM20-21 at T-junction with lights. Turn left (south) onto H4037.

POINTER TEN
H4 KM110-111 turns sharply north at junction with H4200. Turn right for Phang Nga & Phuket and left for Hat Noppharat Thara National Park (see Krabi Area map).

ACCOMMODATION
- Krabi Meritme Hotel. $$$-$$$$-$$$$ Tungfah Rd, Krabi. Tel: (0) 7561 1474-6 Fax: (0) 7561 2992
- Ban Ao Nang $$$ Ao Nang Beach, Krabi: Tel & Fax: (0) 7563 7071-4
- Ao Nang Pakkasai Resort $$-$$-$$$ Ao Nang Beach, Krabi. Tel: (0) 7563 7777 Fax: (0) 7563 7637 E-mail: phranang@sun.phuket.ksc.co.th.
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- Andaman Holiday Resort $$$-$$$ Khlong Muang Beach, Krabi. Tel: (0) 7564 4321-3 Fax: (0) 7564 4320 E-mail: ahr@loxinfo.co.th>
**POINTER ONE**

H4 KM10-111 turns sharply north at junction with H4200. Go north for Phang Nga & Phuket

H4 KM148-9 Ao Luk intersection. Left turn on H4039 for Tham Bok Khorani National Park 4 kms.

**POINTER TWO**

H4 KM164-5 Intersection with H415. Go straight for Phang Nga and Phuket. North on H415 is the fastest route from Phang Nga and Phuket to Surat Thani, Ko Samui, Chumphon and Bangkok.

H4 KM168-9 Right on H4118 to Wat Ratupatham, a temple with Buddhist sculpture and architecture on a monumental scale (11 kms)

**POINTER THREE**

H4 KM169 Turn left onto H415 to Phang Nga. H4 follows the original route to Phang Nga over an inland pass and is the fastest way to Thai Muang, Khao Lak and Takua Pa via H4090 (see section 1)

**POINTER FOUR**

H415 rejoins H4 at a T junction. Turn left (south) for Phuket. (NB. Kilometre stones were removed for road improvements at time of research. Distance readings are estimated by vehicle odometer — OdKM—south from this junction)

OdKM2-3 left for Phang Nga bay at Tha Dan (3kms), the first of several small harbours which offer boat trips around Phang Nga Bay.

OdKM4 right turn to Wat Tham Suwan Khua 2 kms.

OdKM9-10 Takua Tung District - left turn at corner for boat services around Phang Nga Bay. A new cut on the road (once completed) bypasses this town.

**POINTER FIVE**

H4 KM7 Bang Khok Kloi. H4 turns sharply north. Go left (south) at T junction with H402 and drive south to Phuket (see section 1)

---

**ACCOMMODATION**

- Phang Nga Valley Resort. Just south of Phang Nga Town. Tel: (0) 7641 1353 Fax: (0) 7641 1393.
- Phang Nga Bay Resort Hotel. Tha Dan, Pang Nga Town. Tel: (0) 7641 2067 Fax: (0) 7641 2057
- House on the Bay Resort. Khlong Kian, Phang Nga. Tel: & Fax: (0) 7635 1326 Mobile: (0) 1490 3449

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[www.budget.co.th](http://www.budget.co.th)
Numbered pointers listed in sequence in the direction of travel show you when you have to make a turn at important junctions along the recommended route (reverse these if travelling in the opposite direction). Some intersections and turns where English language signs are absent may also include descriptions to help you visually check you have the correct turning.

Kilometre references are noted in two ways:

H4 KM13 = Highway 4 kilometre stone 13 is close to the point of focus
H4 KM98-9 = The point of focus lies between kilometre stones 98&99.

Where kilometre stones were absent, kilometres are referenced by odometer (OdKM).

KM99 A point of interest or side trip off the recommended route is located near this kilometre stone. Regular guide-books for the area will give further information.

Alternative route The direction pointers follow recommended routes that aim to give you a variety of roads and scenery where possible. Alternative route directions show you where you may take your own route using information found only on the maps.

4 WD Only! If you are driving a vehicle that does not have four wheel drive, please do not take this road. When driving off-road, please drive slowly to avoid mechanical problems and to keep the dust down when passing people and communities.

Remember to always take enough drinking water - allow for emergencies.

Help us get it right! In order that we may continually improve our service to our customers, please advise our staff of errors or make suggestions for these route information sheets. This can also be done directly to the compiler at <oliverh@loxinfo.co.th>.

For reservations, please contact your travel consultant or call Budget:

- In the U.K.: 01800-181-181
- In the U.S.: (800) 527-0700
- In Germany: 89 666-950
- In Australia: 13-28-48
- In Singapore: 13-28-48
- In Thailand: 1-800-BUDGET

**ACCOMMODATION**

This guide lists selected upper and mid-level places to stay. Guest House/local style accommodation is plentiful in main destinations and more places to stay are shown on the maps. Prices are indicated as follows:

- 🌟 5000 Baht+
- 🌟 3000-5000 Baht
- 🌟 1000-3000 Baht
- 🌟 less than 1000 Baht

Pre-booking accommodation for the high season and during festivals is recommended. Further suggestions for places to stay as well as images of suggested accommodation can be found on the internet:


**SYMBOL LIST**

- 🚶‍♂️ Main Road
- ⚠️ Minor Road
- ☢️ Unsealed Road
- 🌱 Suggested Routes
- 🔥 River
- 🏛 Provincial Capital
- 🏛 District
- ⚪️ Pointer
- 🔧 Traffic Lights
- 🚗 Kilometre 100
- 🕉 Temple
- 🏕 Park
- 🌬️ Water Fall
- 🌞 Hot Springs
- 🏨 Hotel/Resort/Guest House
- 🩹 Hospital
- 🍔 Gas Station
- 🍴 Restaurant
- 🏌️ Golf Club

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Go this way

Pointer number and direction of travel

Highway Number

INSTRUCTIONS

umbered pointers listed in sequence in the direction of travel show you when you have to make a turn at important junctions along the recom-mended route (reverse these if travelling in the opposite direction). Some inter-sections and turns where English language signs are absent may also include descriptions to help you visually check you have the correct turning.