

DESTINATIONS

ASIA | THAILAND



THAI BEACHES

White sand, blue sea and barely a cloud in the sky – you won't go wrong with **Joanna Booth's** pick of Thailand's best beaches



BEST FOR SECLUSION: AO MAI NGAM

Sit on a swing hanging from a malabar tree and watch scuttling ghost crabs, spot clownfish grazing on anemones in the shallow water and take a wander along this deeply curved horseshoe beach – there are few enough footprints in the sand to recognise your own on the way back. Visit the Surin Islands on a small-ship cruise and you'll get to stay after the handful of day-trippers from Khao Lak leave.

Book it: Intrepid Travel's nine-day Cruising the Thai Islands from Phuket trip costs from £2,108, excluding flights.

intrepidtravel.com/uk

BEST FOR FAMILIES: BANG TAO

Five-mile-long Bang Tao beach gives families visiting Phuket space to spread out and enjoy the sun, sea and golden sand. It's also home to Laguna Phuket, one of Asia's largest resort complexes, set around a lagoon. Angsana Laguna Phuket has a large kids' club, children's spa treatments, family yoga and cooking classes, and complimentary watersports.

Book it: Emirates Holidays offers seven nights with breakfast for a family of four at Angsana Laguna Phuket from £3,276, including flights from Gatwick on August 4.

emiratesholidays.com



BEST FOR PARTIES: HAAD RIN

When one of Koh Phangan's legendary Full Moon Parties is in full swing, this half-mile beach is home to 12 sound systems and as many as 30,000 people, all dancing and drinking until sunrise. Come daytime, Haad Rin's soft white sand makes it a comfortable spot to recover.

Book it: Premier Holidays offers seven nights over a Full Moon party with breakfast at Phangan Bayshore Resort from £1,169 including transfers and flights, departing October 10.

trade.premierholidays.co.uk

BEST FOR SNORKELLING: KOH NANG YUAN

The three tiny islands of Koh Nang Yuan are connected by gleaming white sandbars that shelve gently into perfect turquoise waters. Here you'll find spectacular snorkelling with bright corals and hordes of fish accessible directly from the beach. Visit on a day trip from Koh Tao by long-tail boat.

Book it: Hayes & Jarvis offers seven nights with breakfast at four-star The Beach Club and Hard Tien Beach Resort Koh Tao from £1,199, including flights, departing September 20.

hayesandjarvis.co.uk



BEST FOR LIMESTONE CLIFFS: RAILAY WEST, KRABI

There's little more quintessentially Thai than a long-tail boat moored on a white sand beach under a limestone cliff. Find some of the most picturesque rock formations off Railay West Beach in Krabi. It can get busy, so stay at the nearby Centara, which sits in the next bay with its own karst outcrop.

Book it: Kuoni offers seven nights with breakfast at the Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas Krabi from £1,049, including flights, in September and October.

kuoni.co.uk

