

The Wonderer

CURATED TRAVELS FOR INSPIRED LIVING

Issue
03

November-December
2025

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to Begin the Year with a Sense of Wonder

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Dear Wonderers,

As the year draws to a close and a new one begins, travel offers us a moment to pause, reflect, and seek fresh perspectives. In this third issue of *The Wonderer*, we invite you to embrace journeys that inspire renewal, curiosity, and a deeper sense of connection.

Our cover story (p.g. 18) takes you to **Phuket**, an island often defined by its beaches but brimming with hidden gems for those who look closer. From cultural encounters and historic homes to lush forests and conservation projects, these experiences remind us that discovery begins just beyond the familiar.

For those chasing the spirit of new beginnings, our **Krabi** feature (p.g. 4) curates serene escapes where mountains, mangroves, and timeless villages set the stage for reflection. Meanwhile, **Penang** (p.g. 8) proves why it always deserves a return visit, revealing new layers of history, heritage, and artistry with each trip.

Culinary traditions also take centre stage. In **Hangzhou** (p.g. 14), we savour four festive dishes that have defined celebrations for centuries, each telling a story of culture, resilience, and refined flavours.

A handful of new columns join the magazine in this issue. First, **Green Journey** (p.g. 23) follows Amari Pattaya's earth-conscious initiatives—from energy-saving design to community partnerships—offering a grounded take on beachside stays. For the business traveller, **The Executive Choice** takes us to Vientiane (p.g. 24), where thoughtfully designed spaces support both focus and rest, ensuring work and wellbeing remain in balance. Finally, **Family First** (p.g. 26) follows a family as they discover a place that feels like home more than a holiday escape.

Wherever your journeys take you in the months ahead, whether near, far, or simply inward, we hope this issue offers both guidance and inspiration. May the road ahead bring not only new destinations, but also the comfort of discovery and the joy of renewal.

Warm regards,

The Wonderer Editorial Team

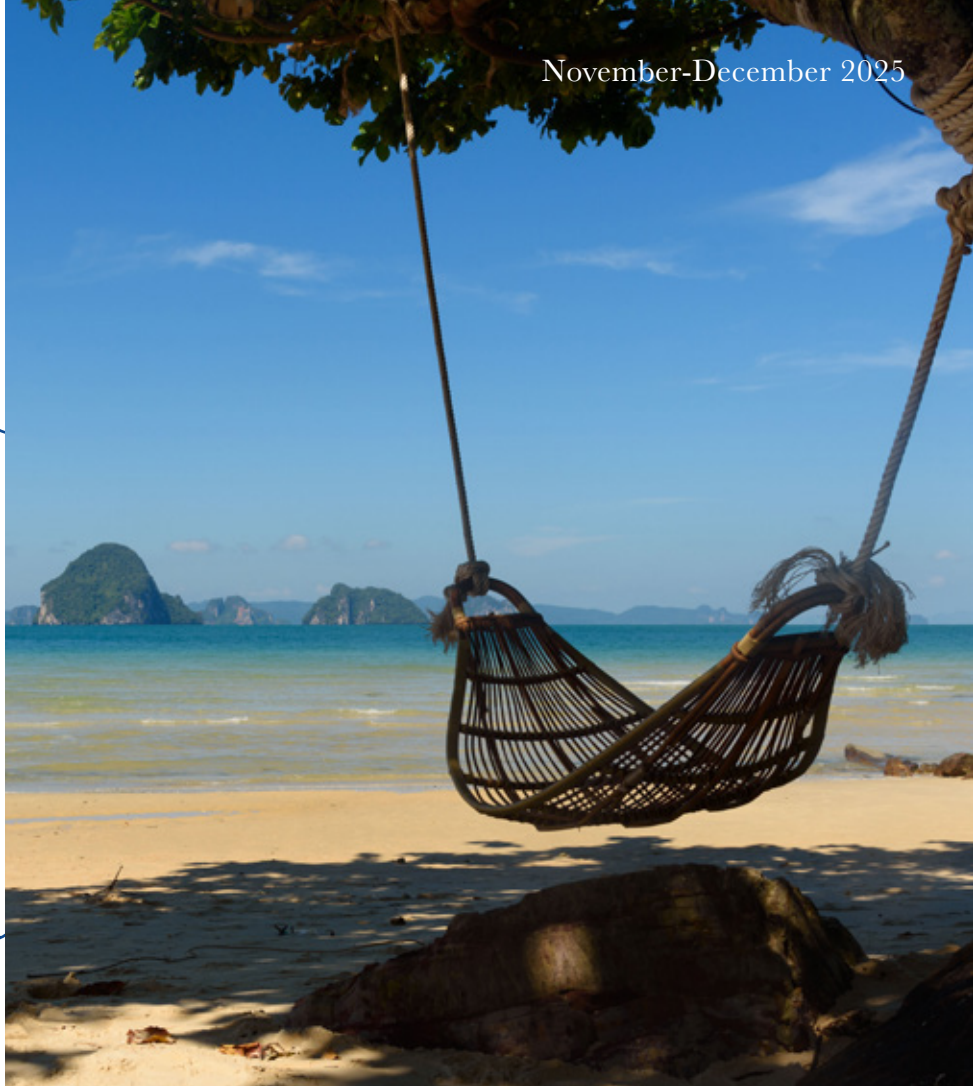
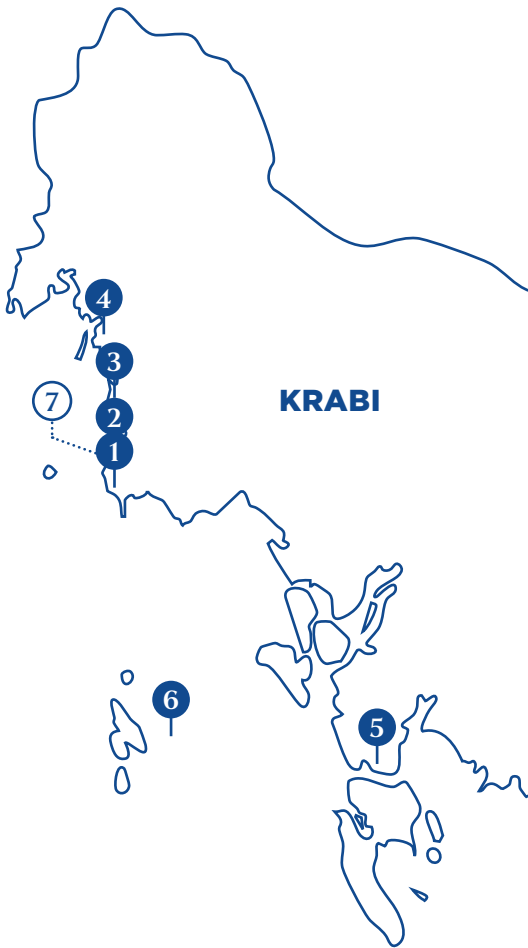
The Wonderer

CURATED TRAVELS FOR INSPIRED LIVING



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE

Discover year-end escapes in Krabi to
inspire your new beginnings



Tubkaek Beach ▲

As the year winds down, there's no better time to pause, recharge, and reconnect with yourself—and Krabi offers the perfect setting to do just that. This tropical haven combines serene landscapes, rich culture, and a gentler pace of life, creating an ideal backdrop for reflecting on the year past and setting intentions for the one ahead.

With its calming atmosphere and natural beauty at every turn, Krabi invites mindful exploration and restorative experiences. Whether you're seeking quiet moments, gentle adventure, or simply time to reset, the province has something to soothe every traveller's soul. End the year refreshed, renewed, and ready to embrace new beginnings.

① TUBKAEK BEACH: THE ART OF DOING NOTHING

To indulge in dolce far niente, or the “sweetness of doing nothing,” Tubkaek Beach, especially in the morning, is an ideal spot, peaceful and serene, and the warm evening sunsets are a can't-miss. This two-kilometre stretch of fine sand is peaceful and far less crowded than other popular beaches, making it perfect for sunbathing, reading, chilling, or simply just letting the tranquility recharge your soul. Don't forget to bring a mat or towel, drinks, snacks, and sun protection.

Tip: Adventurous souls can make the 1-2 hour hike nearby Dragon Crest Mountain for a forest-bathing session followed by magical views.

② AO THALANE MANGROVES: WONDERS NEVER CEASE

For a mild adrenaline boost, book a private kayaking tour in the Ao Thalane Mangroves. The journey takes you through towering limestone karsts and hidden lagoons as well as canyons and dense mangrove forests. You can also spot wildlife, with possible encounters with macaque monkeys, crabs, kingfishers, and other rare birds. If you start in the afternoon, you can end your excursion with a breathtaking sunset—a perfect way to make the trip unforgettable.

Tip: The tour typically lasts 4-5 hours in the sun, so be sure to bring sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses, and insect repellent. Drinking water and light refreshments are usually included, but you may want to bring along a few of your favourites.



Nong Thale Lake

3 NONG THALE LAKE: DAYBREAK AT ITS BEST

Krabi isn't just about beaches—you can also relish a magical morning by the serene Nong Thale Lake. This lesser-known, community-based tourism spot lets you enjoy early morning bamboo rafting through a romantic mist, witnessing dawn breaking over karst mountains, and watching local fishers at work. From February to April, the lake becomes even more enchanting as red Indian oak leaves carpet the water and basins. Nearby restaurants also serve authentic local dishes to fuel your morning.

Tip: For guided tours and activities like bamboo rafting or kayaking, contact the community center in advance to reserve your spot.



Baan Nai Nang Village



Baan Nai Nang Village

4 BAAN NAI NANG VILLAGE: SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER WITH A LOCAL COMMUNITY

Another compelling ecotourism destination in Krabi is Baan Nai Nang Village, just 20 minutes from the city centre of Krabi. Not long ago, the community lost much of its natural value due to irresponsible fishing and land concessions, but with a commitment to sustainability, locals restored these invaluable resources and are now moving toward carbon neutrality. Here, you can experience local agriculture, beekeeping, village-style dishes made with fresh ingredients, and charming Thai-Muslim culture—alongside boat rides and kayaking through Krabi's off-the-beaten waterways. Tourism at this spot is based on a shared enterprise model, where profits are reinvested into community development.

Tip: It is recommended you contact the community in advance for a visit, which can be accessed via www.facebook.com/baannainang



⑤ KLANG ISLAND (KOH KLANG): A QUIANT LITTLE VILLAGE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER

Situated in the heart of the Krabi River, Klang Island is home to a small community where traditional ways of life are maintained. Just a 10-minute boat ride from the city centre, you'll find yourself in a peaceful setting surrounded by lush greenery. The island offers slow-paced activities and workshops, including boat and cycling tours, motorcycle rides, handicraft sessions such as batik painting, and the chance to savour authentic local dishes.

Tip: To reach Klang Island, hire a long-tail boat from Chao Fah Pier or Tara Park Pier, with the latter offering more frequent services. Once on the island, you can also get around tuk-tuk.

⑥ KOH HONG: THE REAL PARADISE ISLAND

If you prefer to spend your day trip on just one island instead of hopping between a few, Koh Hong, with its powdery white beach-shaded by trees, is ideal for lounging, swimming in a dreamy lagoon or exploring the coastline by kayak. A highlight is the well-built viewpoint after a steady stair climb, so it's best to take your time for the rewarding views at the top. Most tours include meals and snacks in their packages, so you can relax without worrying about refreshments in this remote setting—just soak up the scenery and let nature work its magic.

Tip: It is best to catch the boat early in the morning to watch sunrise and experience the island with smaller crowds. ■



⑦ Amari Vogue Krabi

Five-Star Service Meets Precious Experience

Exquisitely set at the northern end of Tubkaek Beach, Amari Vogue Krabi is the perfect retreat to welcome the New Year in style. The resort combines thoughtful design with lush surroundings, enhanced by touches of local craftsmanship, creating a serene backdrop for reflection and celebration. Spacious rooms, villas, and suites feature floor-to-ceiling windows that frame the tranquil scenery, allowing guests to start the year refreshed and inspired.

Seclusion here comes with convenience. Koh Hong is just a 30-minute boat ride away, while the lively town of Ao Nang is a 25-minute drive. And for unforgettable evenings, Tubkaek Beach offers some of the island's most spectacular sunsets—an ideal moment to toast the year gone by and set intentions for the one ahead.

Explore more: www.amari.com/vogue



Ⓐ

PENANG'S TIMELESS CHARMS THAT KEEP YOU COMING BACK

This small island always deserves a second (or third) visit

As the year draws to a close, Penang offers the perfect backdrop for reflection and new beginnings. A place where history and modernity intertwine, this captivating island reveals new treasures with every visit—from heritage shophouses and striking murals to elegant mansions and storied clan houses. It's a destination that rewards those who return, inspiring travellers to start the year ahead with curiosity, culture, and a renewed sense of wonder.





① ARMENIAN STREET

In the 19th century, Armenians travelled in search of new trading opportunities, and some were drawn to Penang, a bustling commercial port under British control. The Armenian here has always been small, but its economic influence was strong enough to leave a lasting mark. Today's Armenian Street was formerly known as "Malay Lane" before the arrival of the Armenians, later occupied by mainly Chinese immigrants.

Part of George Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Armenian Street was once the heart of the Armenian settlement, featuring mainly Peranakan-style architecture with touches of British and Chinese influences. Today, it has been enhanced with contemporary creativity, brimming with street art. These playful installations keep visitors coming back, and they are so numerous, you'll definitely find something you didn't see the first time.

② SUN YAT SEN MUSEUM

With so many Chinese immigrants in Penang, Sun Yat Sen moved the Tongmenghui headquarters—the predecessor of the Chinese Nationalist Party, also known as Kuomintang—to Penang in 1910. He received local support and saw the island as a strategic base for his movement. Sun Yat Sen lived in Penang and operated from 120 Armenian Street, a 19th-century shophouse with authentic Straits Settlements architecture, a long interior, and an inner courtyard.

Thousands of miles from China, Penang played a significant role in Chinese history, including the 1910 Penang Conference, fundraising, and planning the Second Guangzhou Uprising. While this attempt failed, it was part of the journey leading to the establishment of the Republic of China in 1911, spurring larger movements.

If you missed this museum on your first trip, spending time here offers a fascinating glimpse into how Penang contributed to history beyond its shores.



▲ Khoo Kongsi Clan House

③ KHOO KONGSI AND CHEAH KONGSI CLAN HOUSES

The “clan”, or “kongsi”, culture places importance on family lineage and ancestral ties. Serving as community centres, clan houses offer a unique window into local history. In Penang, Khoo Kongsi and Cheah Kongsi are the two most prominent clan houses, each with its own unique qualities, and both helped shape the lives of Chinese immigrants on the island. Though they may look like temples, their purposes went far beyond religious functions, especially for travellers far from home, as they allowed communities to give and receive support from abroad.

The Khoo Kongsi clan house, or Leong San Tong Khoo Kongsi, in Cannon Square is intricately decorated inside and out. The clan’s lineage can be traced back almost 700 years. This grand building is in Southern Fujian architectural style and functions as a mini village. Also originating from Fujian province, the Cheah Kongsi clan house, or Seh Tek Tong Cheah Kongsi, on Armenian Street shows clear British colonial influence, with an Interpretation centre serving as a museum.

Despite their longstanding significance, these clan houses are tucked away, so you may have missed them on your initial visit, so be sure to catch them on your return to explore even more of Penang’s rich cultural heritage.

④ THE CLAN JETTIES OF PENANG (WELD QUAY CLAN JETTIES)

There are clan houses, but there are also clan jetties. The Clan Jetties of Penang, also known as the Weld Quay Clan Jetties, are a collection of water villages along the southeastern coastline of George Town, featuring quaint wooden houses perched on stilts.

Construction of these floating communities began in the 19th century, following Penang’s massive growth as a trading hub. Most early settlers were Hokkien people who worked as labourers, dockworkers, and fishermen, living away from the growing affluence of city-centre homes. Like other Chinese settlements, these communities were organized by clan, resulting in names such as Lim Jetty and Yeoh Jetty. Descendants of the original residents still live here, and Chew Jetty is the most tourist friendly. Be sure to visit the jetties requires care and respect. There are also cafés and shops along the jetties to keep you entertained and refreshed.



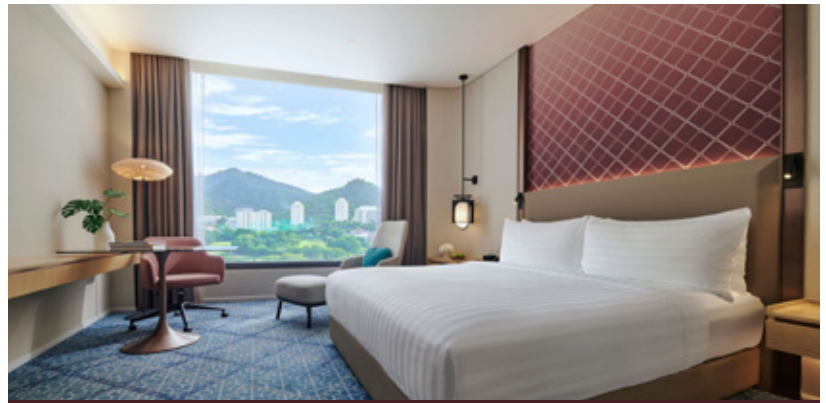
Pinang Peranakan Mansion ▲

⑤ PINANG PERANAKAN MANSION

Pinang Peranakan Mansion is another of Penang's historical gems, showcasing the lives of the Peranakans—acculturated Chinese people that make up this rich cultural tapestry. Built in the 1890s with traditional Feng Shui principles in mind, this opulent house originally belonged to Chung Keng Quee, a wealthy Chinese businessman and influential figure in the area. With its intricate touches and eclectic style, the mansion is often praised as a masterpiece of Peranakan architecture and design.

About a century later, the building was purchased by a property developer who is also a proud Peranakan. The mansion was refurbished and now houses antiques and collectibles, turning it into a museum that offers a glimpse into Peranakan life for visitors from around the world.

Pinang Peranakan Mansion is more than just a photogenic spot. It's an indelible part of this region's culture. So, if you missed it on a previous trip, be sure to add it to your next itinerary.



⑥ Amari SPICE Penang

Penang's Smart Address for Work and Travel

For travellers seeking sophistication and seamless convenience, Amari SPICE Penang offers a polished retreat in the heart of Bayan Lepas' thriving business district. With direct access to the world-class SPICE Convention Centre and just minutes from Penang International Airport, it's a natural choice for both business and leisure. Contemporary guest rooms and suites are designed with understated elegance, while exceptional dining, a sparkling pool, and thoughtful amenities ensure every stay feels indulgent yet effortless. Perfectly positioned, it places you within easy reach of George Town's cultural treasures and the island's coastal charms.

Explore more: www.amari.com/penang



⑦ OZO George Town Penang

When Heritage Meets Good Vibes

For a stylish city escape with a modern twist, OZO George Town Penang blends chic design with warm hospitality at the heart of Penang's historic UNESCO-listed city centre. Step out to find yourself surrounded by vibrant street art, time-honoured shophouses, and a world-renowned culinary scene. Inside, sleek rooms, plush comforts, and intuitive service create a restful haven after a day of exploration. Whether visiting for culture, cuisine, or a weekend of discovery, OZO George Town Penang offers a fresh, contemporary perspective on Penang's timeless appeal.

Explore more: www.ozohotels.com/penang-malaysia

BEYOND THE FESTIVITIES

At ONYX Hospitality Group, the festive season is more than a celebration — it's a meaningful connection.

Through **Beyond the Festivities**, we celebrate moments that bring people together, embrace the warmth of our local communities, and share the joy that transcends the season.

Because every gathering, every smile, and every act of giving reminds us that the true spirit of celebration lives in the bonds we create.

We look forward to your visit at our hotels and resorts.



Amari Johor Bahru

Beyond Stays, Toward Experience

At the crossroads of culture and modern vibrancy, Johor Bahru invites you to discover its charms.

Here, every stay is shaped by the city's spirit where sophisticated comfort meets the freedom to explore at your own pace.



Shama Suasana Johor Bahru



Dongpo Pork

Modernised yet culturally well preserved, Hangzhou, the capital city of Zhejiang province, is home to three UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It is an ideal destination for the New Year, offering contemporary convenience while showcasing cultural richness, soul-soothing scenery, and a culinary tradition that is second to none, making it perfect for special celebrations, particularly for food enthusiasts.

Originating in eastern China, Zhejiang's culinary traditions are distinctive from other parts of the country: light, mild, and refined, rather than oily or spicy as many may be accustomed to. With West Lake and numerous rivers, seafood is a staple ingredient, often cooked in ways that accentuate freshness and subtlety—hallmarks of Zhejiang food culture. Hangzhou was also the residence of the prosperous Southern Song dynasty, and the wealth and sophistication of that bygone era still echo through the city today, which clearly carries over into its cuisine.

Several dishes have stood as the city's culinary signatures for centuries, many of which have since become beloved across China and are easy to come across. Yet nothing compares to experiencing this storied cuisine at its place of origin. Whether you are in town for the New Year or another special occasion, here are four celebratory dishes in Hangzhou that you should not miss. They are more than just delicious; they are edible history.



4 FESTIVE DISHES TO SAVOUR IN HANGZHOU

Elevate your New Year with some of
Hangzhou's culinary icons



*West Lake Fish
in Vinegar*

WEST LAKE FISH IN VINEGAR (XI HU CU YU)

Thickly glazed in sweet and sour sauce, this fish dish is indulgent and distinctive, featuring the local catch—grass carp straight from West Lake—prepared in a way that removes its excretions, so the flesh does not smell muddy, and instead reveals a subtle crab-like aroma. Despite its dark colour and thick appearance, the glossy gravy contains no oil, only vinegar and other condiments, making it light enough to complement the one-of-a-kind flavour of the fish. The origin of this dish can be traced back almost 900 years to the Southern Song dynasty, making it a historic speciality of the area.

According to longstanding Chinese tradition, savouring a whole fish at New Year is considered auspicious, so West Lake Fish in Vinegar is certainly a celebratory dish and a must-try when visiting Hangzhou.

DONGPO PORK (DONG PO ROU)

Dongpo Pork is another famous Hangzhou speciality. Beyond its heavenly tenderness, the dish has a fascinating story: it was created by the poet-artist-statesman Su Dongpo, a significant literary and cultural figure of the 11th century, wrote the poem *Ode to Pork* during his political exile in Huangzhou, finding beauty in simple pleasures amid hardship.

Pork belly cubes are patiently braised in soy sauce, ginger, scallions, Shaoxing wine, and sugar to achieve the perfect balance of flavours. While sweet and salty versions of braised pork are common, Dongpo Pork is distinct for its refined method: the pork belly must be neatly cut, no additional water is added, heat is carefully controlled, and time is allowed to work its magic.

Dark red and layered, Dongpo Pork is widely consumed during New Year celebrations for its symbolism: red is an auspicious colour in Chinese culture, and the fat-meat layers represent abundance.

Longjing
Shrimp



Beggar's Chicken

BEGGAR'S CHICKEN (JIAO HUA JI)

The name Beggar's Chicken may sound questionable, but in fact it is considered an auspicious food at special celebrations, and even a luxury. One of Hangzhou's specialties, Beggar's Chicken comes with a fun story, a dramatic presentation, and the most tender texture and mouth-watering aromas.

Folklore has it that a beggar in Jiangsu province once stole a whole chicken, but being too poor to afford kitchenware, he cooked it by wrapping it in clay and lotus leaves, then roasting it in a fire-lit hole, and the result was stunning. Another legend states that an emperor, possibly Emperor Qianlong of the Qing dynasty, was strolling casually along the street when the fragrant dish caught his attention. The beggar let the emperor try his humble creation, and the emperor was so impressed that he elevated it to an imperial court delicacy. Since Jiangsu borders Zhejiang province, Beggar's Chicken soon became notable in Zhejiang and especially in its capital, Hangzhou, where the dish was further refined in line with other Zhejiang cuisines.

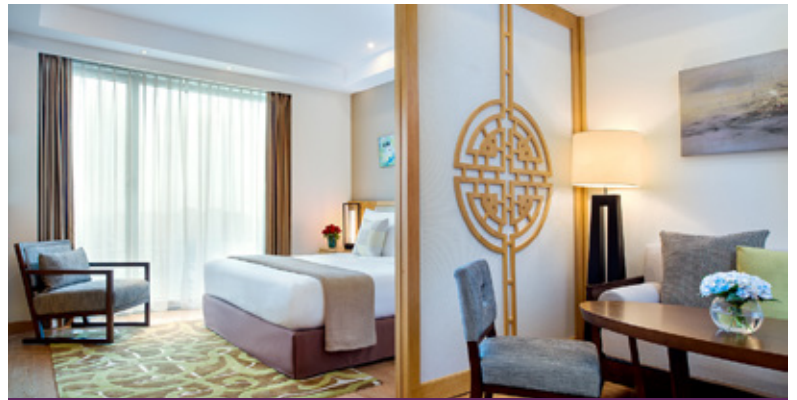
Nowadays, the chicken is still served covered in clay and/or lotus leaves, and it can be found in many high-end restaurants. In Chinese culture, a whole chicken represents completeness and unity, and the story behind this unique slow-roasted chicken makes it a sign of good fortune.



LONGJING SHRIMP (LONGJIN XIAREN)

Another signature dish of Hangzhou is Longjing Shrimp (Longjing meaning “Dragon Well”), which, like many of the city’s specialties, was once an imperial court cuisine originating in the Qing dynasty. It is closely associated with Emperor Qianlong who, while travelling in disguise through the Longjing area of Hangzhou, took shelter from the rain in a woman’s house. She offered him a warm cup of tea made with freshly picked tea leaves, and he was so mesmerised by the fragrance that he secretly pocketed some. Soon after, while dining at a modest inn and ordering simple fried shrimp, he passed the leaves to the waiter to make tea. The waiter, catching sight of the imperial robe hidden beneath his outer garment, panicked and rushed to inform the chef. The nervous chef mistakenly sprinkled the tea leaves into the shrimp instead of green onions, and the emperor fell in love with what he tasted. The accident became the birth of the iconic dish that has lived on for centuries, with its unique harmony of the briny scent of shrimp and the aromatically bitter notes of the tea.

In Chinese culture, shrimp symbolises joy and liveliness, while tea represents health and vitality. With its imperial connection, the dish also embodies good fortune and refinement. On top of that, it tastes sublime—all the more reason why Longjing Shrimp remains a celebratory favourite.



➤ Shama Heda Hangzhou ◀

A Lively Home Away from Home

Offering utmost convenience, Shama Heda Hangzhou is situated in the heart of the Hangzhou Economic Development Area, with easy access to West Lake, Jinsha Paradise Walk, Hefang Street, Lingyin Temple, and many other points of interest. Metro Line 1, Jinshahu Station, is only a short walk away. Its 102 stylish and spacious apartments are well equipped to provide comfort for both short and longer stays, with options for one- and two-bedroom units, all featuring a dedicated workspace, living room, and dining area—an ideal choice for business and leisure visitors alike.

Explore more: www.shama.com/heda



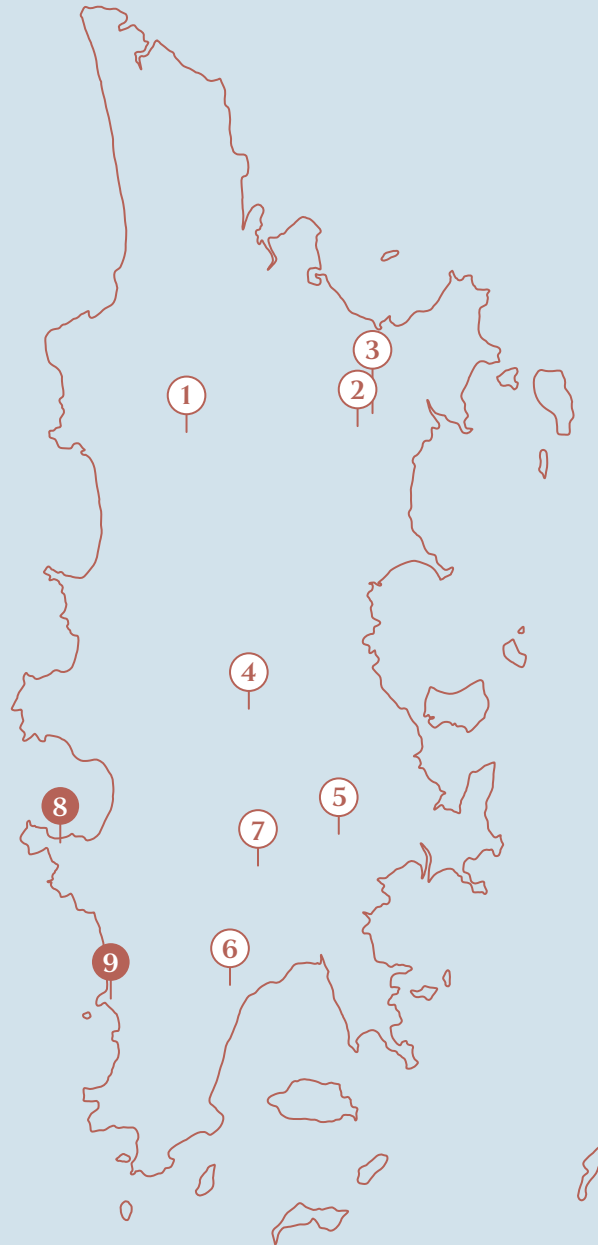
➤ Shama Hub Qiantang Hangzhou ◀

Designed to Satisfy On-the-Go Travellers

Sitting near the captivating Qiantang River in the Dajiangdong Area, Shama Hub Qiantang Hangzhou is designed for modern lifestyles—offering flexibility alongside convenience and comfort. Centrally located yet affordable, this serviced apartment has been a top choice for travellers thanks to its cleanliness and well-thought-out facilities that offer excellent value for money. Hangzhou International Airport is only 40 minutes away, while Dongsha Lake Park and the Grand Convention and Exhibition Centre are just a short walk.

Explore more: www.shama.com/hub-qiantang





Phuket for the Curious Traveller

Refresh and reflect: offbeat Phuket experiences to begin the year with a sense of wonder

When Phuket comes to mind, it's easy to imagine sun-kissed beaches and turquoise waters. Yet, as the year draws to a close, the island reveals another side—one filled with discovery, new experiences, and opportunities to start the year afresh. From tranquil forests and cascading waterfalls to engaging museums and immersive adventures, Phuket invites travellers to step off the beaten path and explore its hidden gems. A New Year's escape here is the perfect way to refresh the spirit, ignite curiosity, and set the tone for the months ahead.



① Old Phuket Farm

To experience agriculture first-hand, Old Phuket Farm in Thalang District is a lesser-known yet charming estate that shows how people on the island lived before urbanisation. From rice planting and rubber tapping to tin panning and more, you can give it all a try yourself, or simply meet the buffaloes, which have always been key to traditional Thai farming. Foodies can also dive into Thai cooking in a traditional house and tuck into some savoury Phuket dishes. Just make sure to book ahead, as reservations are required.

Whether you are travelling with kids, friends, or older family members, this is an experience everyone can enjoy, and it's hands down one of the most unique things to do in Phuket. Since most activities are outdoors, don't forget your sun protection!

② Bang Pae Waterfall & ③ Gibbon Rehabilitation

On the east side of Phuket, Bang Pae Waterfall is a medium-sized cascade surrounded by dense forest, forming part of Khao Phra Thaeo National Park. It's a refreshing alternative to the beaches, particularly on weekdays (it's a popular weekend escape for locals, so expect more visitors then). But there's more to this area than just the waterfall.

Gibbons were once plentiful in Thailand, but sadly they've been heavily poached and exploited as pets. Fortunately, groups are working to rescue these primates from the poor conditions created for human entertainment. One such initiative is the Phuket-based Gibbon Rehabilitation Project, run by the Wild Animal Rescue Foundation of Thailand (WARF). The project works to reclaim gibbons from captivity, provide care, and return them to their natural habitat.

Running for decades, it has overcome many challenges and successfully reintroduced these almost-extinct animals to the jungle, where they are now repopulating on their own. Visitors can also stop by the Centre for Conservation Education, within walking distance of Bang Pae Waterfall, for an educational experience. Entrance fees apply and advance booking is required.

Old Phuket Farm! ▼



④ Phuket Mining Museum

Long before it became the busy tourist destination and business hub we know today, Phuket earned its wealth primarily from tin mining. The industry has centuries of history on the island, flourishing in the 17th century with the involvement of the British, Portuguese, Dutch, and Chinese. Phuket's abundance of natural resources gradually shaped the island's development, though in those days it looked very different—scarred by man-made craters, many of which were later transformed into lakes.

What is now Kathu District was once the heart of Phuket's mining boom. Today, it is home to lively neighbourhoods and the Phuket Mining Museum. The museum's exhibitions are highly visual and accessible, featuring miniatures, models, old machinery, and vivid depictions of life during the tin-mining era. Visitors may be surprised at just how strongly tin mining, indirectly but decisively, contributed to the island holiday destination Phuket has become.

If you're looking to escape the sun for a while, this museum makes for an excellent stop, with engaging displays that bring the island's past to life for all ages.

⑤ Chinpracha House

Situated close to the Strait of Malacca, Phuket is one of the cities most heavily influenced by Peranakan culture, which is a fusion of Chinese and Southeast Asian traditions. During the tin-mining boom of the 18th and 19th centuries, an influx of Chinese men, mostly from southern China, migrated to the island in search of business and labour opportunities. Many settled, married local women, and preserved their traditions while blending into local ways of life.

To explore this rich cultural heritage, Chinpracha House is a mansion-turned-museum that is as beautiful as it is full of stories. Among the oldest Sino-Portuguese buildings in Phuket, it remains much as it was in the past. Built in

1903 by Pitak Chinpracha, a descendant of a Chinese immigrant from Fujian province, the house has been carefully preserved and is still owned by the Chinpracha family. From the spacious living room with its central pond to the quaint kitchen and elegant bedrooms, the intricate details and antiques never fail to impress.

Whether it's your first or fifth visit to Phuket, immersing yourself in Peranakan culture adds a new layer to the experience. As you wander through Phuket Old Town, you'll see more than just its surface beauty—you'll also come to appreciate the traditions that give the city its unique charm and distinctive cuisine.

⑥ VAR LIVE – VR Games Park Phuket

If it's a rainy day, or simply too hot to be outside, VAR LIVE VR Park is a great indoor option, especially for those who love an adrenaline rush and crave an immersive experience. The venue offers a wide range of games that are both interactive and safe, using high-tech headsets and gear. Some games do have an age restriction of 18 and over, but there's still plenty for everyone to enjoy. The experience is even better when shared, so team up with friends or family and dive into the action together.

⑦ Zipline at Hanuman World

For a bit of a challenge, head to Hanuman World Phuket and try ziplining through the lush forest canopy. The park boasts up to 32 thrilling platforms, with the longest zipline stretching 400 metres, alongside plenty of other mini-adventures. If you prefer something gentler, there's also a scenic skywalk offering 360° views of the tropical jungle. For the ultimate adrenaline rush, don't miss the roller zipline, an 800-metre ride that reaches speeds of up to 40 km per hour. Whether you're a first-timer or an experienced zipliner, this spot stands out, with its dense jungle setting making you feel as though you've stepped straight into a film scene.



⑧ Amari Phuket

A Modern Sojourn That Makes Every Moment Special

Tucked away on a secluded stretch of Patong Beach, Amari Phuket offers a stay where vibrance meets tranquillity. The resort's 380 spacious rooms and suites open onto private balconies with sweeping sea views, complemented by a full range of first-class amenities.

Dining here is just as memorable as the setting, making it perfect for festive celebrations and ringing in the New Year. **La Gritta** serves refined Italian cuisine, while the adjoining **La Gritta Bar** pairs Italian-inspired cocktails with an extensive wine list, ideal for toasting the season. For sunset, **The Jetty** is the place to be, offering champagne, cocktails, and fresh Thai oysters against a spectacular backdrop, perfect for marking the year's end.

Guests seeking something truly unique can try **The TreePods**, eco-friendly, boat-shaped pods high among the trees, where breakfast with bubbles and Thai

delicacies feels like a festive treat. **Samutr Bar** shifts from coffee and teas by day to fine whiskies and wines by night, while **Rim Talay Pool Bar** keeps things light and joyful with smoothies, ice cream, and refreshing cocktails by the water—ideal for holiday gatherings or a casual New Year's celebration. For a delicious variety, **Rim Talay** offers elegant oceanfront dining from breakfast to dinner. Its Southern specialities reimagine Phuket's vibrant street food with refined flair alongside Thai and international favourites.

With clean lines and soft palettes, the resort is designed to put guests instantly at ease. For those wanting a touch more exclusivity, Club Pakarang and Coral Lounge offer privileges that ensure the experience lingers long after leaving.

Explore more: www.amari.com/phuket

⑨ OZO Phuket

Unpack Good Vibes and Begin the Year Anew

Celebrate the New Year at OZO Phuket, where vibrant design meets effortless comfort in the heart of Kata Beach. Just steps from local markets and the shore, OZO Phuket offers a fresh, contemporary stay that inspires exploration and celebration.

Guests can enjoy modern facilities designed to refresh and energise: the **SPLASH Swimming Pool** with children's play area, the 24-hour **TONE Fitness Centre**, and the social **CHILL Hang Out Space**. Dining options include buffet breakfast at **EAT**, drinks and light bites at **THIRST**, and Italian fare at **PREGO**. Whether seeking new adventures or a relaxing retreat, OZO Phuket is the perfect base to refresh, reflect, and start the year afresh.

Explore more: www.ozohotels.com/phuket





SUSTAINABILITY IN HARMONY

Amari Pattaya's Approaches
to Earth-Consciousness and
Community Support



With its strategic location and top-notch approach to comfort, **Amari Pattaya** has long been among the leading choices for an upscale stay in the city. Refined in design and attentive in detail, the hotel blends beauty with functionality, ensuring it caters to the needs of the eyes, the body and the soul.

While guests' wellbeing is at the heart of its offering, living in balance with its surroundings also matters greatly to Amari Pattaya. This is something the hotel integrates subtly and intelligently. Its aspiration and commitment to sustainability have been recognised with the 5-Star STGs Star Award.

Sustainability is woven into the guest experience in many ways. The hotel is not only appealingly designed

but also equipped with construction innovations such as Low-E mirror glass, which is designed to reduce energy consumption. This technology can be found, for example, at Amaya Food Gallery. Beyond its land-based practices, the beachfront hotel also looks after the sea, as seen in its recent Cellar & Sunset event, which celebrated fine wines while donating 10 percent of wine sales to the Sea Turtle Conservation Centre in Sattahip, Chonburi, in support of marine conservation in Thailand.

The hotel also places importance on promoting and adding value to the local community. It supports initiatives such as collaborations with the Takhiantia Community, showcasing traditional tie-dye techniques using coconut-based materials. Another effort is the

"Sorani" Scholarship Programme, which provides educational support for the family members of Amari Pattaya staff.

In collaboration with UNESCO, the hotel has hosted seminars and activities focused on the Songkran Festival, recognised as a UNESCO-listed Intangible Cultural Heritage, and on sustainable approaches to celebrating this globally famous event.

With the goal of becoming a truly sustainable destination, Amari Pattaya remains committed to responsible practices while ensuring guests enjoy every moment of their stay, while also growing side by side with local communities and fostering a harmonious relationship with the environment. ■



SPACES THAT INSPIRE FOCUS

Why Amari
Vientiane is beloved
by discerning
business travellers



Despite Vientiane's status as the capital and largest city in Laos, it retains an understated charm that encourages a slower pace of life and a calm, quiet atmosphere. That is why people return time and time again, even though it is far from bustling or filled with spectacle.

Even with this unhurried appeal, the city remains the most significant economic hub in Laos, attracting a steady stream of business travellers.

Among the preferred hotels for business travellers is **Amari Vientiane**, not only for its world-class service and five-star comfort but also for its thoughtful design. The hotel's spaces are carefully crafted to support focus and are equipped with reliable, high-speed Wi-Fi throughout. Whether on a brainstorming conference call, in formal or informal meetings, or simply working solo on a laptop, guests can bring out their best ideas during working hours and recharge afterwards, thanks to the hotel's in-house facilities. In addition to its serene riverside setting, Amari

Vientiane's central location provides easy access to banks, ministries and embassies. This means fewer hours spent in transit and more time for productivity and rest.

All modern rooms and suites at Amari Vientiane are spacious and uncluttered, featuring expansive windows that welcome natural sunlight and offer picturesque views of either the city or the Mekong River. The ambience is ideal not only for relaxation but also for productivity. An in-room desk with task lighting and convenient power outlets allows guests to turn their rooms into efficient workspaces when needed. For those who prefer working outside the room, the on-site **MaiTree Café** and **Club Nava** offer comfortable spaces with private corners, along with coffee, tea and treats to keep guests energised and refuelled throughout the day. These settings are perfect for extended work sessions or small group meetings. There's also hybrid meeting support, including screens, projectors, conferencing assistance

and more, is available on request to ensure everything runs smoothly.

The hotel also features stylish boardrooms and a grand ballroom that can accommodate up to 540 guests. All of these spaces can be customised to suit almost any occasion or requirement. These professional arrangements are managed by attentive and experienced staff, ensuring every event proceeds seamlessly.

After a productive day, unwinding at Amari Vientiane is equally rewarding. Whether relaxing at **Breeze Spa** with its refined massage sessions and pampering treatments, enjoying the pool with an unobstructed river view, visiting **Stellar Rooftop Bar** for breathtaking sunsets, or simply staying in with plush mattresses and inviting bathtubs, there are countless ways to decompress without leaving the property. This ensures guests feel fully recharged and ready to face the next day with focus and clarity.

To discover more about Amari Vientiane, visit www.amari.com/vientiane ■



WHERE MEMORIES GROW



For Pompeth and his wife, Supicha, the sea is more than scenery—it's a rhythm of family life. Living in Nakhon Pathom, the closest coast is Cha-am and Hua Hin, so the family often finds themselves on the road to the seaside with their four-year-old daughter, Prin. Since she was just two, Hua Hin has been her playground. Together, they've tried pretty much all resorts, pool villas, and holiday homes—each weekend becoming a quest to discover where their daughter might be happiest.

But those journeys were not always smooth. Many hotels promised family-friendly stays but failed to deliver: late-night parties disturbed the peace, toys were unkempt, and facilities felt neglected. As a photographer, Pompeth admits he knows how to capture flattering angles, but even he was surprised by the difference between glossy photos and reality.

That disappointment changed one evening when he glanced down from a neighbouring balcony and noticed **Amari Hua Hin's** pool framed by green trees. Curiosity turned into action, and in June 2024 the family booked their first stay. What they discovered made such an impression that within a year they returned not once, but four times.

What sets Amari apart is more than its facilities—it's the feeling. On their second visit, staff remembered Prin's favourite doll and even recalled Pompeth's taste for hot chocolate. "It felt like returning to cousins, not hotel staff," he says with a smile.

The details have become part of the family's memories. Breakfast includes a cheerful children's corner, designed at just the right height for little ones, with dishes tailored to young palates. When Prin wanted to copy her father's noodle soup, the chefs happily created a lighter version just for her. At the Kids' Club,

caretakers welcome every newcomer warmly, drawing each child into the play so no one feels left out.

Even a rainy late-night arrival turned into a treasured story: instead of rushing through check-in, the staff prepared a barbecue and set up a small tent for Prin—transforming inconvenience into magic. Beyond the gates, Hua Hin itself adds to the charm: the nearby Cicada Market, stretches of golden beach, and quiet family moments. Sometimes it's a simple game of table tennis with his father, or practising a bit of golf putting with Prin—small rituals that turn weekends into memories they'll carry for years.

"Many hotels can provide service," Pompeth reflects. "But only here does it feel genuine. At Amari Hua Hin, we are recognised, cared for, and welcomed as family. It's more than a hotel—it's where my daughter is growing up."

The Guests

Meet Pompeth and Supicha Siriparanon, a couple who cherish weekends as a chance to spend meaningful time with their little girl, Prin. Pompeth, a Department Manager in Modern Trade, balances busy weekdays with seaside escapes.

For them, travel is not about ticking boxes or chasing luxury; it's about small moments that add up—Prin's laughter at the pool, a game of table tennis with his father, or the joy of sharing breakfast together. They believe childhood is fleeting, and every trip is a way of capturing it before the moment slips away.

To this family, Hua Hin is not just a destination, but the canvas of Prin's childhood—and **Amari Hua Hin** is where those memories find a home.



ELEVATING GUEST EXPERIENCES

F&B AND SPA SOLUTIONS

Our diverse **food and beverage brands** offer unique culinary experiences, enhancing your hotel's appeal and establishing it as a premier dining destination. Complementing this, our distinct **spa brands** provide comprehensive wellness. From invigorating treatments to deeply holistic experiences, we deliver profound rejuvenation.



Coastal Indian Essence

Specialising in coastal Indian gastronomy with Portuguese influences, NILA is defined by its vibrant ambience and complex Indian textures.



Tastes of Thai

Authentic Thai fresh seafood delicacies, sustainably from local waters and lands.



An Italian Soul

Experience the heart of Italy through favourite dishes crafted from authentic recipes and traditions passed down through generations.



Feel the Glow As You Explore the Journey of Silk

Discover an exquisite sanctuary for your well-being with our bespoke, transformative treatments.



On the Bright Side of Life

Your urban escape for tension-releasing massages and pampering. Find your bounce and embrace the bright side of life with our rejuvenating treatments.



AT YOUR OWN PACE

From sunrise runs to twilight strolls, Benchakitti Park offers freedom, calm, and connection—just steps from Shama Lakeview Asoke Bangkok.

Under the sprawling shade of “Grandpa Chamchuri,” a majestic rain tree whose branches spread wide as if to embrace every passer-by, the heart of Bangkok slows to a gentler rhythm. This is **Benchakitti Park**: an oasis of water, trees, and sky, where mornings arrive crisp with promise and evenings close in a glow of lights and laughter.

For some, it is the start of the day—full of energy, discovery, and connection. For others, it is the place to unwind, to let go of the day’s rush and breathe in serenity. Just ten minutes’ walk from **Shama Lakeview Asoke Bangkok**, Benchakitti is more than a park. It is a sanctuary that quietly reshapes lives.

FUMIKO’S MORNING DATES

For Fumiko Kawasaki, a long-stay resident at Shama Lakeview Asoke Bangkok for almost a year and a half, weekends often begin with what she fondly calls a morning date with her husband. “We walk together around the lake, take photos by the fountains, sometimes we try the paddle duck-shaped boats,” she says with a laugh. “And afterwards, we go for brunch at a café. It’s just us, no phones, no distractions. We really talk to each other—about his work, about my MBA, about little discoveries. I think it makes us closer.”

For her, these morning dates are about more than exercise. They are about presence—giving time and space to conversations that too often get lost in busy modern life. “In the park, we’re off our phones. We’re just walking and talking. Morning feels positive, and so do we.”

These moments have been part of a larger lifestyle shift. “I used to be a night person,” Fumiko admits. “But my husband changed me. At first it was a bit challenging—I liked staying up late. But now I love mornings. They feel healthier, better, and they make the day seem longer and more hopeful.”

Her husband’s early-bird rhythm has drawn her into new habits, from morning walks to joining the Sabai Run Club, a light-hearted Sunday gathering of joggers and walkers. The club divides into three groups—fast, medium, and slow—but even within these, there are smaller sub-groups: the very fast, the steady, the



Fumiko Kawasaki



Kanyaphat "Smile" Chootimakorn



gentle joggers, and those who simply walk and enjoy a chat with new friends. "Sabai means comfortable in Thai, and that's exactly the feeling," she says. "There's no pressure. You can go at your own pace. And that freedom is important, not just in running but in almost everything—from learning music, studying a new language, to even starting a new job. If you push yourself too hard at the beginning, it becomes a negative experience. But if you proceed at your own pace, it stays enjoyable, and it becomes part of your everyday life."

It was this welcoming spirit that reshaped her lifestyle. "I wasn't an exercise person," she says. "But the group inspired me. Now I walk three kilometres every morning at Shama's gym. It's become a refreshing habit—grounding, energising, and good for my health."

For Fumiko, mornings at Benchakitti are a balance of companionship and community. Sometimes she joins the crowd at dawn, sometimes she simply strolls with her husband—but always, she leaves feeling renewed.

SMILE'S EVENING CALM

When the sun sets and the day's demands soften, Kanyaphat "Smile" Chootimakorn finds her own rhythm in Benchakitti Park. An accounting staff member at Shama Lakeview Asoke, she has spent seven years working across the street from this green escape. For her, the park is not about the dawn but about dusk.

"Every morning the BTS sky train is always packed and chaotic," she says. "So after work, I come here. It's completely different—open, calm, peaceful. Like stepping into another world."

Sometimes she invites a friend for what she calls their "sharing sessions." They walk slowly around the vast lake, talking freely and releasing the day's worries. "We listen to each other, we laugh, we take photos. It feels lighter after." Other evenings, she comes alone

with headphones, letting music guide her pace as the city hum fades into the background.

The park, she explains, transforms at night. "They turn on the lights, and it becomes beautiful—almost magical. The fountain sparkles, the Skyline Bridge glows, and sometimes, if it has just rained, you see a rainbow in the sky. It's perfect for photos, but it's more than that—it's a feeling of calm."

When her walk is done, Smile often treats herself at a nearby café. "There's a lovely %Arabica at Queen Sirikit Convention Centre. I'll have an iced latte, no sugar, with a dessert. Even at eight in the evening. It's my little indulgence before heading home."

For her, the park is a release. "Life is full of things to think about, but here, I don't have to think much. I can just be—relaxed, chill, myself."

A PARK FOR EVERY MOOD

Morning or evening, together or alone, energetic or restful—Benchakitti Park proves that one place can hold many meanings. For Fumiko, it is a fresh start, a chance to form healthy habits and strengthen her bond with her husband. For Smile, it is a sanctuary of calm, where the day's stress dissolves into laughter, light, or quiet reflection.

Both find more than exercise here. They find connection—with themselves, with others, and with the rhythms of a city that, even in its busiest heart, knows how to pause.

And with **Shama Lakeview Asoke Bangkok** just across the road, guests too can enjoy this freedom to explore. It's only a 10-minute walk away, or you can take the shuttle to Queen Sirikit Convention Centre for even easier access. Whether it's an energising run at sunrise or a peaceful stroll under the evening glow, Benchakitti is always within easy reach.

Here, beneath the generous branches of Grandpa Chamchuri, Bangkok offers something rare: the chance to feel refreshed, unhurried, and free. ■



Ⓜ

A HOME FOR ALL, PAWS INCLUDED

For Thitinad, the journey began in grief. When her father passed away from COVID-19, the family home in Bang Na became unbearable—every corner filled with memories too heavy to bear.

"I once walked past the laundromat I used to visit with Dad," she recalls. "I just broke down in tears." Once known for her bright smile, she found herself hollowed out, unable to stay among the shadows of the past. Every street corner seemed to whisper his absence, each familiar

place an aching reminder of what she had lost.

Her partner, Pawarisa, suggested that a true change of environment might help. So they left the house behind and began moving from hotel to hotel, three Maltese dogs in tow—Kimi, Akradecha and Mata—searching for somewhere to feel at peace.

It wasn't that the hotels weren't perfect. They were. The sheets crisp, the service polished, the butlers always on hand. But that



was the problem. *"Sometimes perfect protocol can make you feel a bit off,"* she admits. *"They'd send a plate of chocolates when something went wrong. It looked flawless, but it didn't feel human."*

And for the dogs, the struggle was greater still. Most hotels treated pets as an afterthought: sealed windows, no balconies, restrictions in lobbies and restaurants, even separate entrances to avoid *"disturbing"* other guests. Walking through the back entrance while other guests strolled

the lobby freely left them feeling unwelcome, even diminished. *"It was like being second-class citizens,"* says Pawarisa. *"We couldn't share the same spaces with everyone else."*

One evening, driving through Bangkok, the warm glow of **Shama Yen-Akat** caught their eye. Unlike the faceless towers they had been drifting through, this one looked alive, almost beckoning. A few days later they checked in, and everything changed.

Here, the balconies opened to sunlight and birdsong, the *"kids"* could watch the world outside, and the staff welcomed them with genuine affection. *"The dogs are happy here,"* Thitinad smiles. *"And when they're happy, we're happy."*

This was the turning point. For once, the couple didn't feel like temporary guests; they felt part of a community. The staff weren't just service providers—they became friends, remembered names, asked after the dogs, and offered sincere apologies instead of rehearsed gestures when things went wrong. *"That sincerity means more to me than a silver tray of chocolates,"* says Thitinad.

The excellent location mattered too. Shama Yen-Akat was close to expressways, near shops and restaurants, and highly convenient for Pawarisa's work. They tried different room types, finally settling on the smallest—because that was where Kimi, their eldest girl, slept best. For Thitinad, the pets' comfort always came first.

Over time, what began as a refuge became something far deeper. Thitinad brought small treats for the staff, picked up Burmese words to connect with some team members, even helped a new security guard manage incoming cars.

Her earlier doubts slowly faded away. Would neighbours pry, as in a condominium? Would the pets be treated as a nuisance? Would hospitality mean protocol instead of

compassion? Each fear was quietly erased—not with grand gestures, but with small, genuine acts of kindness.

"At other hotels, when I checked out, I just settled the bill and drove away. Here, it would feel like leaving family."

Even today, though they could easily afford to purchase a house, the couple have no desire to move. The bonds they have built, the comfort of the community, and the joy of seeing their pets so content outweigh the appeal of owning bricks and mortar.

The lesson is clear: true hospitality isn't measured in flawless service or luxury. It's found in the everyday—sincere smiles, patience, and the reassurance that both people and pets are truly valued.

Two years on, Shama Yen-Akat is no longer simply a residence. For Thitinad and Pawarisa, it is sanctuary, community and home. And in the heart of bustling Bangkok, where countless lights glow in the night, one shines brighter—because it holds their story.

The Guests

For two years now, Thitinad Dardarananda and Pawarisa Udomthanapat have called **Shama Yen-Akat** home. With their three beloved Maltese—Kimi, Akgradecha and Mata—they've found not only comfort, but a community of staff and neighbours who feel like family.





THE HEART BEHIND THE WELCOME AT SHAMA YEN-AKAT

A candle flickers softly in the corridor. Jezz balances a warm, golden croissant on a plate, waiting just outside a guest's door. Beforehand, he has already placed a quick courtesy call—framed as an offer to help book dinner—to make sure the timing feels right. Then, joined by a few colleagues from the floor, he sets up this small birthday surprise—one he knows can turn an ordinary stay into an unforgettable memory.

He pauses, listening for the door to open, wondering: will the guest greet him with a sleepy grin or a delighted laugh? And then, as the handle turns, the quiet hallway fills with the gentle chorus of Happy Birthday—sung not by lifelong companions, but by kind strangers, united in a simple wish to brighten someone's day.

In that moment, **Shama Yen-Akat** feels less like a place to stay and more like a community of care.

For Jezz, hospitality begins at 7 a.m. with the handover from the previous shift—sometimes a “*bad case*” to resolve, other times a happy secret to prepare, such as an anniversary or honeymoon. Whatever the day brings, he meets it with warmth, attentiveness, and his trademark smile.

He believes small details make a lasting impression. *“If someone remembers my name, I feel important. So I always try to do the same for guests.”* Observing carefully, he adapts to each person—offering compassion to the tired traveller, celebration to the business guest closing a deal, or quiet space to those who prefer solitude.

At Shama Yen-Akat, a pet-friendly gem tucked in a leafy neighbourhood near Bangkok's business district, restaurants, and cafés, Jezz's care extends to four-legged companions. Growing up with a mother who rescued strays, he cannot imagine life without animals. Now, with his own dogs Minute and Too-Hoo, he delights in helping guests feel at home—whether by keeping watch over a pup while its owner runs errands or sharing a playful moment with a tail-wagging friend.

In a city that never pauses, Jezz offers something rare: genuine attentiveness. For guests, whether human or furry, his quiet gestures create more than comfort—they create belonging.

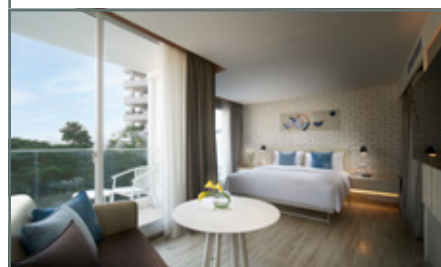
“Hospitality is about noticing the little things,” Jezz says with a smile. *“That's how people feel truly at home.”*

Faces of Service

Mr. Phonphat Maksri, known to guests as Jezz, is the Front Office Manager at **Shama Yen-Akat**. With his natural warmth and attentiveness, he has become the heart of the property—proof that true hospitality is not just about service, but about genuine human connection.

Life, Pets, and Little Joys

Tucked into one of Bangkok's peaceful yet central corners, Shama Yen-Akat feels more like a friendly community than a hotel. Stroll to nearby cafés, explore leafy lanes with your pet, or retreat to spacious apartments designed for comfort. Here, city living comes with warmth, ease, and a genuine sense of home



ONYX Hospitality Group

A Tailored Approach to Hospitality

Based in Bangkok, ONYX Hospitality Group is one of Southeast Asia's most experienced hospitality management companies, with a portfolio that spans over five decades. The company oversees a diverse range of properties across Thailand, Malaysia, Laos, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, China, and Hong Kong, offering tailored hospitality solutions through a collection of well-established brands. These include Amari, OZO, Shama, and Oriental Residence. In addition to managing hotels and serviced residences, ONYX also operates a number of spa and restaurant brands, including maai spa, Breeze spa, Prego, Nila and Chom Sindh.

ONYX combines a global service mindset with the ability to adapt to local contexts. With a track record of success across multiple markets and a clear understanding of the ever-changing landscape of customer expectations, ONYX continues to position itself as a forward-thinking leader in the region's evolving tourism landscape.



Amari Colombo



OZO Chaweng Samui



Shama Sukhumvit Bangkok



Oriental Residence Bangkok

Meet the Brands

Amari

ONYX's flagship upper-upscale brand, Amari, combines modern design with culturally rooted Thai hospitality. Its properties are found in key destinations across Thailand and in select locations abroad, such as Malaysia, Laos, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. Designed for both leisure and business travellers, Amari hotels range from urban MICE-focused properties to tranquil beach resorts, all unified by a commitment to exceptional hospitality, deeply rooted in Thai heritage yet infused with distinctive local flair.

OZO

A fresh take on the upper-midscale hotel experience, with a youthful and efficient approach geared toward the practical needs of modern travellers. The OZO properties in Thailand and Malaysia deliver a balance of comfort and connectivity, creating a guest experience built around cozy accommodations, local exploration, and an overall light-hearted atmosphere.

Shama

Originally founded in Hong Kong and now operated by ONYX, Shama specialises in serviced apartments for both short and extended stays. With locations in Thailand, China (including Hong Kong), and Malaysia, the brand is structured into three tiers—Shama, Shama Luxe, and Shama Hub—each tailored to different market segments. Shama properties combine hotel-standard services with residential comforts and include the Shama Social Club, a lifestyle initiative designed to help guests connect with their local surroundings.

Oriental Residence

A refined luxury brand currently located in the heart of Bangkok's embassy row (AKA Wireless Road). Catering to discerning travellers, and perfect for both brief visits and extended stays, the property blends the quiet elegance with modern luxury hospitality services guests have come to expect. Surrounded by lush gardens and offering refined amenities, Oriental Residence is a discreet retreat in the middle of the city.

www.onyx-hospitality.com

Instagram: @onyxhospitalitygroup | LinkedIn: ONYX Hospitality Group | Facebook: ONYXHospitalityGroup



WHAT'S NEW, WHAT'S NEXT

There's always something exciting happening at ONYX, and each update is designed to make your travels brighter.

Shama Gets a Fresh Look

Shama brand is stepping beyond its long-stay roots to become your perfect choice for short breaks too. With prime city locations and a team who remember you by name, it's all about comfort with personality. Coming soon in Thailand: Shama Friends, giving you exclusive perks at neighbourhood cafés and shops, plus Shama Social Club, where you can join art sessions, cultural outings and day trips.

New Places to Stay

OZO Medini Malaysia has just opened! Just minutes from Legoland and Puteri Harbour. Expect sleek rooms, digital check-in and the dreamiest beds for play-hard, rest-easy stays. Meanwhile, Bangkok welcomes Shama Sukhumvit 101 in Q4 2025, offering spacious serviced apartments, a pool, fitness centre and community vibe in one of the city's most vibrant districts.

Sustainable Dining

Across our hotels, we're elevating dining with premium ingredients sourced from Thai farmers who follow sustainable practices. Every meal not only delights the palate but also supports local communities and responsible farming.

Greener Hospitality

We're teaming up with three global sustainability leaders – Rynn Water, Winnow Vision AI and ecoSPIRITS – to bring green innovation into our hotels. Already piloted at Amari Bangkok and Amari Kuala Lumpur, these technologies reduce waste, cut carbon footprints and support local sourcing, so every stay is lighter on the planet.

Festive Flavours at Prego

Celebrate the season Italian style at Prego. Think artisanal pasta, roasted meats and a Panettone twist for Christmas, or ring in 2026 with seafood, risotto and elegant desserts – all crafted with a festive sparkle.

Wherever you travel with us, expect stays that feel fresh, friendly, and full of good times.



Freedom Beats at Hong Kong's Heart

Shama places you right where Hong Kong happens

Steps from its energy, yet always close to a space designed for calm, comfort, and a heartfelt welcome.

Freedom to Explore

Shama Hollywood Hong Kong



Shama Island North Hong Kong



Shama Midlevels Hong Kong



Shama Central Hong Kong



Shama Fortress Hill Hong Kong



Shama Tsim Sha Tsui Hong Kong



Shama Hub Metro South Hong Kong

Every Stay Becomes *More*

Turn your journeys into
lasting rewards with every visit.
Sign up to be an
ONYX Rewards member.

Earn **1,000 points**
when you sign up



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