



## **GENERAL INFORMATION KOH TAO THAILAND**

**AWARD WINNING  
PADI 5-STAR IDC CENTRE**



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## General Information Koh Tao

Koh Tao means Turtle Island in Thai. A small island, which is a 90 minute boat ride north of Koh Samui, offers the best dive sites in the Gulf of Thailand. With clear waters and stunning bays, the underwater world is right on your doorstep. The island also boasts a vibrant nightlife with many bars, restaurants and parties.

The island of Koh Tao, translates to "Turtle Island". It was so named because of the island's shape and the amount of turtles that came to nest on its beaches. It's only about 21 square km and is remotely located about 70 km from the mainland.

The community of Koh Tao began to grow in 1947 when the villagers from Koh Samui and Koh Phangan immigrated here. Before that, there were some people who came and used the land for coconut plantations and small fisheries.

During the past 15 years, the reputation of Koh Tao's natural beauty expanded, especially the abundant marine life and beautiful coral reefs went viral when more and more backpackers and dive enthusiasts discovered Koh Tao. Koh Tao has now grown to be the **number one location in the world** for dive training!

### How to get to Koh Tao

Koh Tao is serviced by ferries from the coastal towns of Suratthani, Chumpon, Koh Samui and Koh Phangan. Boat journey times vary due to the different boats used by the various ferry companies. All ferries dock at the main pier in Mae Haad, and it's a short 5 minute taxi ride to the dive resort in Sairee Village.

We recommend three main ferries companies: Lomprayah, Seatran and Songserm. These companies also have joint bus/boat tickets, which will take you from Bangkok to Koh Tao in one package. Most of the tickets can be purchased at the pier before departure or at any travel companies or airports in Thailand.

Koh Tao has no airport. Anyone wishing to fly from Bangkok will need to fly to Koh Samui and then transfer over to a ferry such as the Lomprayah or Seatran. Please note that the Seatran pier is closer to the Koh Samui airport. You can buy ferry tickets at Samui airport on arrival. Flights from Bangkok to Samui are operated by Bangkok Air and take one hour.

Websites:

- [www.lomprayah.com](http://www.lomprayah.com)
- [www.seatrandiscovery.com](http://www.seatrandiscovery.com)
- [www.songserm-expressboat.com](http://www.songserm-expressboat.com)
- [www.bangkokair.com](http://www.bangkokair.com)

## Accommodation

There are many different options for accommodation on Koh Tao ranging in all price classes. During your professional Training at Sairee Cottage Diving we offer free Dorm accommodation throughout your Go Pro courses. These Dorms are very nice and clean. You will share the room with other people, something a lot of Divemaster Trainees like to meet others!

If you would like a bit more privacy then we can arrange Long-term accommodation for you on the Island, many are located very close to the Dive Centre. It is very easy to get this for you on arrival and there are many options in different price classes. Long-term accommodation is per month and the prices range from 6000 baht up to 35000 baht a month, it really depends on your taste and budget.



## Getting around on Koh Tao

Sairee Cottage Diving is located in the middle of Sairee Beach, the most popular beach on Koh Tao. Right in the middle of most shops, massages, restaurants and bars. So it's easy to get around by foot.

If you would like to see more of the Island we recommend having a bike. You can easily rent them anywhere for 200 baht a day or 3000 baht a month.

You can also decide to buy a bike if you stay longer. The prices are between 8000 baht to 15000 baht for a second hand bike.



## Visa

The best option to get a Visa for Thailand is to apply for a tourist visa that last as long as you can get it the first time. You can get a 3, 6 or 9 month tourist visa depending on the country in which you are applying, and your nationality.

You can apply for this at your local Thai Consulate or Embassy. You can then extend that one in Koh Samui for 1 month extra or get a new one in neighbouring countries like Malaysia, Laos, Cambodia or Vietnam.

## Living Cost (Food & Beverage)

Food and drink cost are very low in Thailand and one of the benefits of training, living and working here! The cost depends greatly on where you go out to eat or drink.

### Thai food:

Average between 60 to 120 baht for one full meal

### Western food:

Average between: 100 to 800 baht depending on what you order. On Koh Tao you can get most western food like Sandwiches, Pasta's, Pizza's, Steaks etc.

### Non-alcoholic drinks:

- Mineral water between 10 and 25 baht
- Soda drinks are 20 baht
- Fruit juices and shakes between 40 and 100 baht

### Alcoholic Drinks:

- Beer is between 35 and 90 baht
- Mix drinks between 80 and 140 baht
- Glass of wine between 100 to 140 baht



## Other activities on Koh Tao

There are many other activities you can do on Koh Tao besides Diving.

- Rock Climbing
- Sailing
- Kite Surfing
- Wake Boarding
- Paddle Boards
- Enjoying many different beaches and Bays
- Long-tail boat trips
- Movies
- Mini Golf
- Massages
- Great Night Life
- Snorkelling
- Viewpoints
- Hiking and Jungle Trips
- Fitness
- And much more...

**Koh Tao is truly one of the most Amazing islands in the world. Not only to visit but also to live a fantastic life, a life that many dream of...!**

