

KRABI TRAVEL GUIDE – THAILAND’S PARADISE



What island should I go to in Thailand? Where should I go to see pretty coastlines? What is the perfect Krabi itinerary? How do I choose between Phi Phi or Hong islands? Hopefully this handy little guide can answer any and all questions you have about Krabi!! When I say Krabi, I mean the beaches of Thailand that can be reached from Krabi. These were definitely the most beautiful beaches I've ever seen. They have everything that I love – the cove beach feel, dramatic coastlines – with the addition of being super lush and green. The water was literally turquoise blue and when you add in the funky longtail boats and the limestone karsts, every part of it is dreamy. Krabi is definitely touristy – I can't claim that it's unspoiled – but it's touristy for a reason because it is downright gorgeous. Here I'll cover everything I know about this region from when I traveled there with my husband. I can honestly say these are the most beautiful beaches I have ever been to in my entire life!!

SHOULD I VISIT KRABI?

If you love beautiful beaches, then for sure. There are so many different beaches and islands to see that you will not get bored. This isn't really a sit your butt on the beach type of place, or at least it wasn't for me, because I wanted to see it all. And I loved it all. Do not go to Krabi for great food because you won't find it. Go purely for the beautiful beaches and islands.

If you are deciding between here or Phuket or some other island, please **look at my Thailand Travel Guide** for a breakdown of why I chose Krabi. I also recommend trying to combine this trip with other spots in Thailand like **Bangkok** and **Chiang Mai**. Since you are so far south in Thailand, it is also convenient to take a short flight to Singapore, Malaysia, Cambodia, or Vietnam to continue your Asia trip. My husband and I spent two nights in Singapore after Krabi before flying home and loved it!

WHAT TIME OF YEAR SHOULD I VISIT KRABI?

Krabi, according to the interwebs, is prime from January – March. We went the first week of February, and I can confirm that it was great weather. The weather forecast for the whole week before showed rain

every day and I was freaking out, but it literally didn't rain once. I think it's one of those places where it just shows that every day. Technically, December to March is the coolest season in Krabi when the rains are over and therefore the best weather. Mid-March to May are the hottest months in Krabi with high heat and high humidity. June to October is monsoon season with humid weather though continuous days of heavy rainfall are not guaranteed.

Basically, the most expensive time is around Christmas. Late January to March is the most ideal window to visit for good weather. Outside of December to March is a gamble on rain.

HOW DO I GET TO KRABI?

By plane. There is an airport in Krabi that is an easy flight. We flew from Chiang Mai and I think had a layover in Bangkok, but it was quick and cheap. When you land, you head to a taxi booth and tell them where you are going. The flat fee was a little steep for Thailand at 600 Baht (~\$20).

Use Google Flights to track / purchase your flight

IS THERE A LANGUAGE BARRIER IN KRABI?

I don't recall there being a language barrier. Like I mentioned, it is pretty touristy which usually means plenty of English speakers.

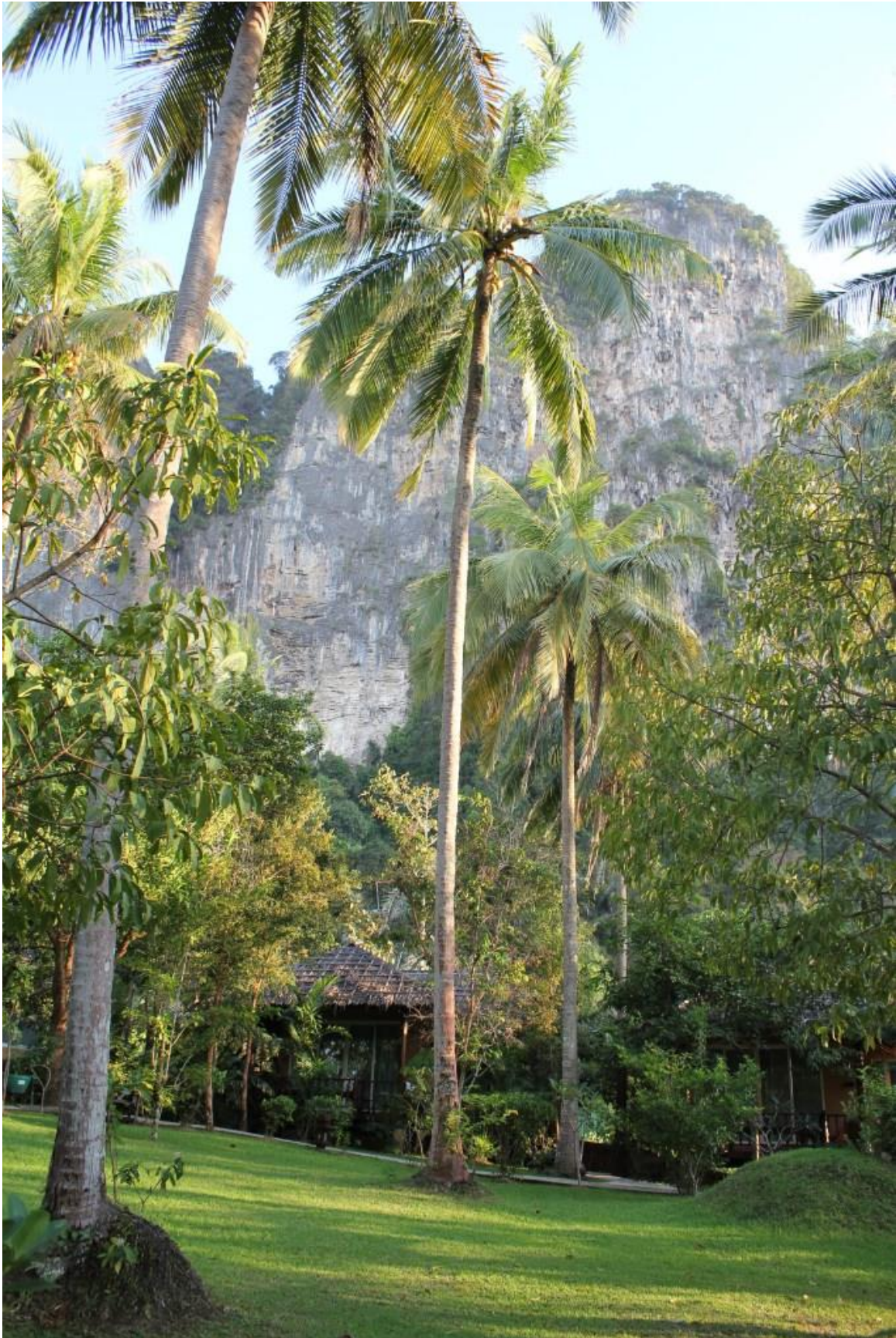
WHERE SHOULD I STAY IN KRABI?

You have a few choices of where to stay in the Krabi area, the most popular being Ao Nang Beach, Railay Beach, and Phi Phi Island. There are also several resorts along the coast north of Ao Nang Beach that I didn't explore too much.

The nicest places to stay in Krabi area are either **Rayavadee Resort on Railay Island** or some of the hotels north of Ao Nang Beach like **Phulay Bay, a Ritz-Carlton Resort**. I personally didn't want to shell out this money. Railay Beach has less resort options, and in my opinion the other resorts on Railay Beach looked overpriced and run down. I did not want to stay on Phi Phi Island as it is looked super touristy and the resorts were not in a pretty part. My main goal in Krabi, too, was to explore the surrounding islands.

Many of the tours depart from Ao Nang or Railay Beach. So I ended up picking a place ranked top on TripAdvisor in Ao Nang Beach for a great price – **Ban Sainai Resort** (pictures below). Ao Nang Beach is not super pretty or dreamy, but our hotel really was so cute and tucked away and pretty. You can also easily take a boat over to Railay Beach during the day. If you want a SUPER pretty part of Thailand, I imagine staying on one of the lesser known islands in a fancy resort would be nice! If I went back, maybe I would try and get somewhere on the beach, but our resort was definitely a great option.

Check out the options on TripAdvisor to book your perfect hotel



HOW DO I GET AROUND KRABI?

Our primary way of getting around was either the free shuttle from our hotel to Ao Nang Beach or the longtail boats on Ao Nang Beach to Railay Beach.

If you want to go to Railay Beach for a sunset or if you are staying there or if you just want to hang out there for a day, then look for a booth where the main road perpendicular to the ocean meets the beach road on Ao Nang beach. This is where you can purchase your longtail boat ticket. They depart when full from 08:00 to 00:00 and cost 100 Baht per person until 18:00 and 150 baht per person after that. You will have to wade through shallow water on either end so prepare for that especially if you have your luggage with you. They will boat you to Railay. You can purchase your return ticket on Railay if you are just going for the day.

If you are staying north of Ao Nang Beach, I am not quite sure what the transportation is like to other locations – this is mainly why I chose to stay near Ao Nang Beach. If you reach out to your hotel and ask what your options are, I am sure they will be more than helpful.



HOW MANY DAYS SHOULD I SPEND IN KRABI?

At least 3 nights. I wish we had spent 4 nights.

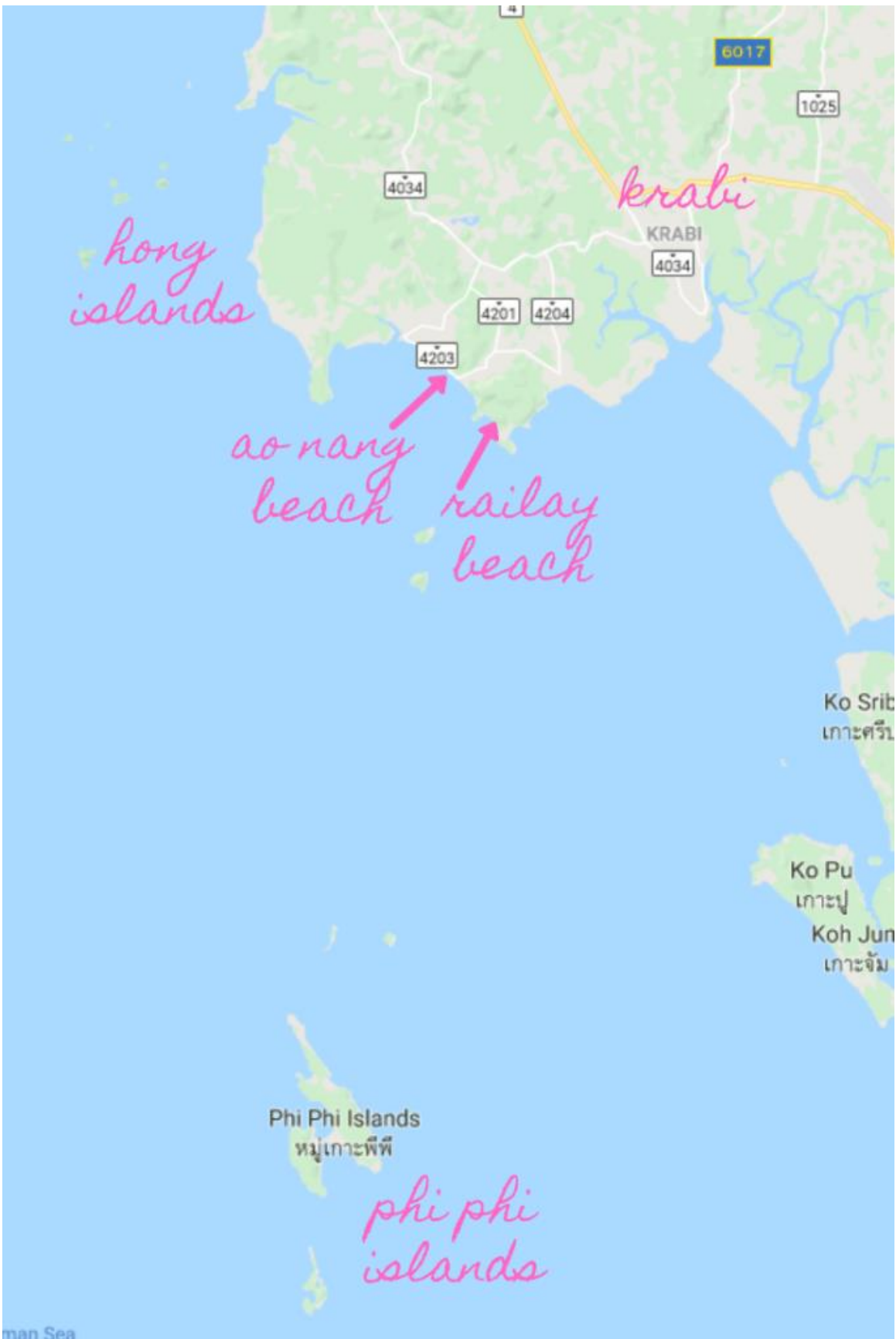
WHAT IS THERE TO DO IN KRABI?

SEE THE ISLANDS

I mean, this is likely the main reason why you came here in the first place. Below are the islands we saw.

Railay Beach is just a short longtail boat ride away from Ao Nang Beach. The other islands are a little further. Though you can hire someone on the beach to take you there, I was more comfortable having a tour booked ahead of time.

[Check out all the boat tour options on TripAdvisor](#)



hong islands

krabi

ao nang beach

railay beach

phi phi islands

man Sea

RAILAY BEACH

Well we got there around 3 PM the first night and took a longtail boat from Ao Nang Beach to Railay Beach. We got beers and watched the sunset which was very fun and dreamy. Scroll up to "How do I get around Krabi?" for how to get to Railay by longtail boat.



CHOOSING BETWEEN HONG ISLANDS AND PHI PHI ISLANDS

When I was planning our trip to Krabi, I was very conflicted on what to do. I knew I wanted to do two things: see the Phi Phi islands and also have a tour on a longtail boat. You hear about the Phi Phi Islands everywhere online, but they are actually pretty far from Krabi and require a “speedboat” to get to. Since they are further from Krabi, the tours are also a little more costly. But I still knew they looked beautiful and I wanted to see them!

I faced a dilemma where I could either see the Phi Phi islands and not be on a longtail boat or be on a longtail boat and not see the Phi Phi Islands. So I made the executive decision to do a private longtail boat tour one day of the Hong Islands and a semi-private speedboat tour the second day of the Phi Phi islands to lessen the cost. All in all, this was a great decision!! If you only have one day, I would recommend the private Hong Island tour. The Hong islands were much more secluded than the Phi Phi islands – I literally have never felt more like a sardine than when we got off the boat at Maya Bay, the most famous part of the Phi Phi Islands. It was very off-putting. Phi Phi island was best enjoyed from the water, from a distance. But the beauty of seeing Phi Phi islands from the boat really is unmatched. So you do whatever one sounds best to you!! Just know you can’t combine longtail boats with Phi Phi islands.

HONG ISLANDS

Our first full day, we booked a private longtail boat tour for the whole day to see the Hong Islands through **Andaman Camp and Cruise**. They were the highest rated tours on Tripadvisor at the time. It is run by an Australian woman and we were definitely in the nicest longtail boat for the day. I’m sure their prices change but it was 4600 Baht for the full day. I wrote a full Tripadvisor review **here**, actually #embarrassing. The Hong Islands were truly so beautiful and mostly secluded. We had total control of the day – where we went, how long we stayed, where we laid on the beach. Most of the tours coming through did not have this luxury!!! In retrospect, I wish we had just relaxed on the couple beaches we went to without itching to see “what was next”. My favorite two stops were Koh Phak Bia and Koh Lao Ladding, also known as Paradise Island (also known as my work desktop screen for the past two years). I was not a huge fan of the “lagoon” or snorkeling at “red island”, so we moved past these two spots quickly.





PHI PHI ISLANDS

Our second full day, we booked a semi-private speedboat tour through **Thalassa Tours** to Phi Phi Islands. The tour was honestly really well done and only had about 15 people on board. We made friends with the guests and the crew. One of the crew was actually tasked with taking underwater pictures of us and the fishies and then sending them to us for free after!! That's always nice. I've been on plenty of tours that are all up in your face with their stupid cameras and then get mad when you don't want to buy their video of you and 30 strangers for \$100.

The absolute highlight of this tour was coming into Phi Leh Lagoon on Phi Phi Leh island. The view of the beach from the water was really breathtaking (the featured image of this post). After being struck by all this beauty, we drifted to a completely private beach right around the corner for an amazing lunch that they procured and served on the beach. This hour or two was my favorite hour of our whole time in Krabi.

Please note that Maya Bay is a freaking mess and not enjoyable with all the people – be warned!







WHERE DO I EAT IN KRABI?

This part of the country is definitely not known for their food. There are a couple places in Ao Nang/Krabi Town that are good but we didn't book reservations in advance and couldn't get in. Don't be like us, book reservations! The places we failed to eat at were Jungle Kitchen and Ton Ma Yom Thai Food. They don't really have websites, so either call the numbers to make a reservation, email them, or ask your hotel to do this for you. Everywhere in Ao Nang Beach is super touristy and overpriced. We ate at our resort one time and it was okay too, but nothing amazing.

IS THERE A PLACE TO GO OUT IN KRABI?

We did not find anywhere to go out, but we weren't really looking. I am sure there are some bars that are open late. We just enjoyed our beautiful resort in the evenings after a wine-filled night in town.

WHAT SHOULD I PACK FOR KRABI?

Everything is so ridiculously casual in Thailand. You will definitely not need heels or anything. You will at most need casual cover ups or tanks and shorts with sandals. For nighttime, if you are staying at a nice resort, you may want a slightly more upscale resort option like sundresses.

HONESTLY, HOW MUCH DID YOU SPEND IN KRABI?

3 NIGHTS

Total per person: \$581

Flight to Krabi: \$68

Hotel: \$239

Transportation: \$26

Boat Tours: \$234 total \ \$117 per person (private) + \$91 per person (semi-private)

Food: \$40

MY PERFECT THREE DAY KRABI ITINERARY

DAY ONE

Arrive in Krabi and check into your hotel. Find out a way to take a longtail boat over to Railay beach for a Tiger beer and the sunset. Enjoy a meal somewhere (hopefully you've arranged something in advance) and get a good night's rest for your trip tomorrow!

DAY TWO

Book a tour to Phi Phi Islands for this day in advance. We did this our third day, but I would save our Hong Island tour for the last day – best for last.

DAY THREE

Take your private tour to the Hong Islands. Make sure and relax and enjoy the ride. Bring a book and a camera and just enjoy the beautiful beaches.

OPTIONAL: DAY FOUR

Relax hard either at your resort, on Railay Beach, or on Ao Nang Beach. Another option is to do this in between day two and day three and really save the best for last.