

Traveller's Guide to Hua Hin, Thailand | Skyscanner Australia

A favoured retreat for Thai royalty and aristocrats, Hua Hin is a beachfront resort town 2.5 hours drive from Bangkok on the Gulf of Thailand. Get the best tips on what to do and where to stay with [Skyscanner Australia's Quick Guide to Hua Hin](#).



[Compare cheap flights to Bangkok](#)

How to get to Hua Hin

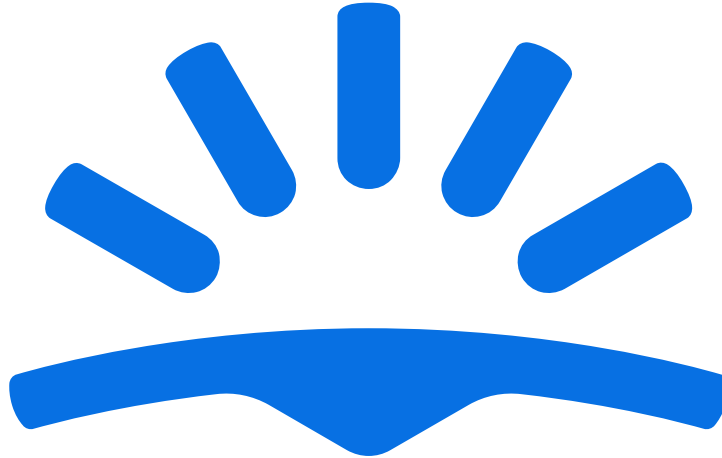
The easiest way to get to Hua Hin from Bangkok is by road or rail. Mini buses or scheduled bus services run regularly between Bangkok and Hua Hin. But the easiest way to travel is by private car transfer if you're staying somewhere fun and funky like SO Sofitel Hua Hin.

Along the way to Hua Hin from Bangkok, stop at Khao Lung Cave in Phetchuburi where around 170 Buddha's recline in various sizes from minuscule to massive. Cheeky little monkeys congregate at the entrance to the cave, enticed by shop vendors who sell corn to visitors to the cave. They can be quite aggressive when they sense a pending feed so keep your wits about you and hold on to your belongings tightly!

Inside the cave a large overhead chasm allows light to stream in to a central cathedral, a favoured spiritual sanctuary of King Rama IV back when Thailand was known as Siam.

Train travel buffs taking the train from Bangkok are in for a real treat on arrival at Hua

Hin. Historic Hua Hin station was constructed to accommodate King Rama VI when he built Klai Kangwon Palace as a royal summer retreat. It's one of the oldest train stations in Thailand and is in beautiful condition with scarlet red trim contrasting against white clapboard.



What to do in Hua Hin

Khao Sam Roi Yot National Park (which translates as 'the mountain with 300 peaks') is a marine national park dotted with walking trails, mangrove forests and limestone islands inhabited by monkeys and macaque. Try and time your visit to Phraya Nakhon Cave mid-late morning when shafts of sunlight are cast upon the Royal Pavilion built by King Rama V in the 1890's. Boats depart for the national park from Bang Pu Beach where seafood restaurants serve up dishes like crab meat dipped in spicy chilli sauce, chicken laksa soup, prawn salad and baked fish along with chilled coconut water.

Visit ornately gilded Khao Kalok Temple on the beach by the same name, where the elaborate pagoda is influenced by architectural styles from Laos, Burma and Thailand. It's definitely Insta-worthy!

But really, the endless stretch of white sand beach is Hua Hin's main attraction with colourful fishing boats dotting horizon. Go there by day for swimming or at dusk to catch the sunset, either way, it's fabulous.



Hot Hua Hin tips

Foodies should head to the Hua Hin night market where over-sized prawns and lobster are brushed with garlic butter and grilled over an open flame while you salivate impatiently. Yum!

Rajabhakti Park is a new park honouring past Thai royalty as far back as the thirteenth century Sukhothai period. Mired in controversy in its early days, seven enormous bronze statues dominate the skyline, designed by Thailand's Fine Arts Department. Popular with locals, weekdays are less busy than weekends.



Where to stay in Hua Hin

There's no shortage of hotel choices in and around Hua Hin from budget to luxury and everything in between. We'd recommend at least three nights, though you could easily spend a week in Hua Hin and not run out of things to do (or eat!). At the budget end try swanky [Pulley Hostel](#). Themed on an industrial shipyard with plenty of nautical touches, it's more boutique hotel style than hostel.

[V Villas Hua Hin](#) occupies prime position on the beachfront and is the favoured choice for small groups travelling together or couples who crave privacy on their holidays. The creation of French architects inspired by the geometric patterns of terraced rice paddies, each pool villa is a deluxe secluded enclave of lush tranquillity. Dine al fresco at Villazzo where butter poached Phuket lobster is a speciality.

Away from downtown Hua Hin, [SO Sofitel Hua Hin](#) puts the fun back into funky hotel with its austere design a sharp contrast to 'imaginative escape' surprises at every turn. It's good indulgent fun that encourages guests to let their hair down and instantly slip into holiday mode. Rain showers take up the entire bathroom while rabbits peer cheekily from the bathtub rim. A colony of oversized rabbits hop across a green pasture. Rainbow coloured cushions poke out from muslin-draped poolside cabanas. A giant 'diamond' is concealed within a rock wall. Restrooms appear to have entrapped a man and a woman against opaque glass doors. The best surprise however is the extensive breakfast buffet at White Oven restaurant with treats from around the globe. After dark, Beach Society is a 'sand in your toes' waterfront hotspot for the hip crowd.



[Compare cheap flights to Bangkok](#)

Are you ready to check into Hua Hin for a relaxed beachside getaway? Brush up on your favourite cocktails before checking [Skyscanner Australia's](#) best deals on [flights](#), [hotels](#) and [car hire](#), (no booking fees means more holiday dollars to spend!).

About the Author

Fiona Harper is one of Australia's most respected travel writers. Follow her at [Travel Boating Lifestyle](#) or on [Instagram](#)

[Check out our free guide to finding the best travel deals](#)