



# Where to Live on Koh Samui

*(And where to avoid)*

**Target Audience:** Individuals and couples interested in living and retiring overseas

**Article length:** 2,000 to 2,500 words

**Synopsis:** Koh Samui is an island you've seen in movies like *Castaway*, *The Beach*, or any of those Pirates of the Caribbean adventures. Mountains, waterfalls, and thick coconut jungle rimmed by pristine stretches of white sand and dramatic rock formations. This article will help expats thinking about island life decide which neighborhoods on Thailand's second largest island might fit their lifestyle.

**Bophut & Bangrak.** Strategically located near the international airport and the pier, Bophut and Bangrak are easy-living villages in the northeastern corner of Koh Samui popular with expats. Western style food shops, funky resorts, Big Buddha Beach, and the ever so popular walking street at Fisherman's Village. I lived there for three months and can share a few stories. Great live music and cheap apartments!

**Lamai.** The southeastern shore of the island is home to some of Koh Samui's most spectacular beaches at Lamai. This part of the island has a yoga-hippy vibe that seems to lower everyone's blood pressure. Great restaurants, bars, markets, and even a couple of nice gyms make expat life there a dream. I lived there for two months and it's where I would stay if I ever moved to Koh Samui.

**Maenam.** This is the original old backpacker beach located on the north shore just east of Bophut. It's one of Koh Samui's longest beaches and it has maintained its rustic vibe. Most people come to Maenam beach specifically for the no-frills natural atmosphere. There are some very cool bungalows and low rise condos available with spectacular views in Maenam and the best coffee shops on the island!

**Baan Taling Ngam.** The southwestern shore of the island is home to spectacular sunsets every night. There's a rough and rocky coastline with a thick jungle bursting with life. The views from some of the houses and resorts in Baan Taling Ngam are breathtaking. Many expats live on this part of the island for the tranquility and cheap rent for spacious bungalows. I've got good quotes and examples from a resident of this neighborhood.

**Where to Avoid.** Chaweng Beach on the northeastern shore of the island is the party zone. There are some great restaurants and a mall with a luxurious grocery store there, but the traffic, noise, and tourists can be overwhelming. It's one of those places you want to live near, but not in.

## Interviews:

**Nicky Noodles**—manager of Lanna Resort in Bangrak and long time resident of Baan Taling Ngam

**J.B. Nuyten**—Koh Samui resident and real estate agent