



RESTAURANT GUIDE

Where to eat in Samui



Welcome to Thailand 🙏

This guide is designed to help you choose where to eat during your stay in Koh Samui, with practical tips and selections based on real local experience.

The goal is to help you easily find the right places, avoid the classic “tourist traps” and fully enjoy both local and international cuisine, without wasting time deciding where to go.

Koh Samui offers a wide variety of restaurants, from very simple local spots to more refined and scenic venues. The main areas to go out are **Chaweng, Lamai and Bophut (Fisherman’s Village)**, each with a different vibe.

Restaurants in Chaweng 🍽️

Chaweng is the liveliest area on the island, with lots of restaurants, bars and beach clubs. Perfect if you want everything close by and plenty of choice, both for dinner and after dinner.

💡 TIP:

In Chaweng, seafront and panoramic restaurants are very popular: if you want to have dinner at sunset, it's always better to book in advance.

Thai Cuisine 🇹🇭

- [Khaw Glong Thai](#) €€ *In short: local, authentic*
Authentic and very popular Thai food, simple setting but high quality. Chicken satay with peanut sauce, papaya salad, curries, fresh fish and Tom Yum soup are some of the highlights.
- [Malee Kitchen Chaweng](#) €€ *In short: cozy, relaxed*
Small and well-kept restaurant, perfect for small groups, with well-executed Thai dishes and a welcoming vibe.

Italian & International Cuisine 🍝

- [The Jungle Club](#) €€€ *In short: panoramic, sunset spot*
Hilltop restaurant with a stunning view over the coastline.
Offers both Thai and Mediterranean cuisine, with salads, pasta, meat and fish.
- [Day & Night of Koh Samui](#) €€€ *In short: trendy, dinner spot*
Modern and elegant venue with international cuisine.
Upstairs there's a panoramic terrace — better to book, it gets busy after 6pm.
- [Prego Samui](#) €€€ *In short: elegant, Italian*
Great Italian restaurant with a refined setting and good quality food.
Pizza, pasta (meat & seafood), main courses and desserts. Gluten-free menu available.

Restaurants in Lamai 🍲

Lamai has a more relaxed vibe compared to Chaweng, but still offers a good selection of restaurants. Perfect for families or anyone looking for a balance between comfort and chill.

Thai Cuisine 🇹🇭

- [Sabienglae Lamai Restaurant](#) € *In short: authentic, beachfront*
Simple and genuine spot, famous for Southern Thai dishes. Large restaurant right on the beach.
- [Baobab Restaurant](#) €€ *In short: relaxed, beachfront*
Beachfront restaurant, perfect for lunch or sunset.
A mix of elegance and tropical charm.

Italian & International Cuisine

- [Emporio Caffè Samui](#) €€€ *In short: authentic, Italian, refined*
Authentic Italian restaurant, highly appreciated for quality and respect of tradition (not the usual “tourist Italian”). No pizza — just real Italian cuisine.
- [Seventy Fahrenheit](#) €€€ *In short: modern, refined*
Modern and stylish restaurant with international cuisine (French-Thai fusion). Elegant but relaxed vibe. Great option for a nicer dinner.

Restaurants in Bophut – Fisherman’s Village

Bophut is a charming and well-kept area, with seafront restaurants and a more refined yet authentic vibe. Perfect for an evening walk followed by dinner in a beautiful setting.

Thai Cuisine

- [Baan Ya Jai](#) €€ *In short: authentic, dinner spot*
Authentic Thai cuisine in a well-designed setting. Many dishes also have vegetarian options.
- [Karma Beach](#) €€€ *In short: sunset, chic*
Elegant beach club, great also for sunset drinks. Offers both Thai and international cuisine.

Italian & International Cuisine

- [Coco Tam’s](#) €€ *In short: beach bar, lively*
Iconic beachfront bar with cocktails and evening fire shows.
- [The Shack Samui](#) €€ *In short: dinner, relaxed*
Perfect for burgers, steaks and Western food. Opens at 6pm.
- [Gusto Italiano](#) €€€ *In short: elegant, Italian*
Refined Italian restaurant with fresh pasta and well-executed dishes.
Right on the beach, with vegetarian options available.

Quick recap:

In Koh Samui, the best restaurants are often by the sea or in panoramic locations. For sunset, booking is recommended — especially in Chaweng and Bophut.



Scenic / beachfront spots:

- The Jungle Club → hilltop view
- Coco Tam's → right on the beach
- Baobab Restaurant → feet in the sand
- Karma Beach → elegant beach club

THAI CUISINE

Thai cuisine is one of the most loved in the world, known for its perfect balance of sweet, salty, sour and spicy flavors.

In the north, flavors are generally milder, while in the south dishes tend to be spicier and more seafood-based.

Must-try dishes

- Pad Thai
- Green Curry
- Massaman Curry
- Som Tam (papaya salad)
- Tom Yum Goong
- Khao Pad Krapao



Fruit is a big part of the local diet and is often sold already cut in markets and street stalls.

Some of the most common varieties:

- Guava
- Mango
- Dragon fruit
- Jackfruit
- Mayong Chit
- Passion fruit

- Durian

💡 **TIP:** If you don't like spicy food → say **"Mai Pet" (ไม่เผ็ด)** or simply **"No spicy"**