

Do & Don't in Phuket, Thailand

Phuket welcomes visitors from around the world.

By respecting local culture, protecting the environment,
and supporting local communities, guests help preserve the island's
unique heritage and natural beauty for future generations.

*Pearl of the Andaman, a city of gracious people,
a land of diverse cultures.*



10 Do's in Phuket, Thailand

1. Do Greet with a Wai and a Smile

Thailand is known as the “Land of Smiles” for a reason. A friendly smile and a polite wai (slight bow with hands pressed together) are always appreciated. Generally, younger people wai older people first, and the gesture is then returned.

2. Do Learn Basic Thai Phrases

Locals appreciate visitors who try a few Thai words.

Useful phrases include:

- “Sawasdee” (Hello)
- “Khop Khun” (Thank You)
- “Mai Pen Rai” (No Problem)
- Adding “Krap” (for men) or “Ka” (for women) at the end makes your speech more polite.

3. Do Try Local Food

Phuket is famous for its food culture. Beyond Pad Thai and Tom Yum, try local specialties such as:

- Mee Hokkien Phuket
- Roti
- Fresh local seafood
- Southern Thai curries

4. Do Try a Thai Massage or Thai Cooking Class

A traditional Thai massage or cooking class is a wonderful way to experience Thai culture and create lasting memories of your visit.

5. Do Take the Green Season Seriously

From May to October, strong waves and rip currents can occur, especially on Phuket’s west coast beaches. Always obey beach warning flags and lifeguard instructions.

6. Do Respect the Environment

Help protect Phuket’s natural beauty by:

- Disposing of waste properly
- Reducing single-use plastics
- Conserving water and electricity
- Respecting beaches and marine life
- Small responsible actions make a big difference
- Follow the rules and regulations of national parks and protected marine areas.
- Use reef-safe sunscreen to help protect coral reefs and marine life.

7. Do Protect Yourself from the Sun & Keep Hydrated

The Phuket sun is strong year-round, even on cloudy days. Wear sunscreen regularly, stay hydrated, and seek shade during the hottest hours. Reef-safe sunscreen is encouraged when visiting marine areas.

8. Do Wear a Helmet at All Times

Whether driving or riding as a passenger, always wear a helmet on motorbikes. It is required by law and greatly improves safety.

9. Do Remove Your Shoes When Required

Please remove your shoes before entering temples, private homes, and businesses displaying shoe-removal signs.

10. Do Dress Respectfully at Temples

When visiting temples such as Wat Chalong, wear modest clothing that covers shoulders and knees as a sign of respect for Thai culture and religion.



10 Don'ts in Phuket, Thailand

1. Don't Disrespect the Thai Royal Family

The Thai Royal Family is deeply respected throughout Thailand. Negative comments, jokes, or disrespectful behaviour can lead to serious legal consequences.

2. Don't Touch People on the Head

In Thai culture, the head is considered the most sacred part of the body. Touching someone's head, even playfully, may be considered disrespectful.

3. Don't Point Your Feet at People or Buddha Images

Feet are considered the lowest and least respectful part of the body in Thai culture. Avoid pointing your feet at people, monks, or religious objects.

4. Don't Feed or Disturb Wildlife

Avoid feeding monkeys or disturbing marine animals. Avoid touts offering photos of live animals and if you visit elephants, be sure it is a non-riding experience.

5. Don't Take Banned Souvenirs

It doesn't look like much, and it can even make a nice souvenir, but shells and coral are protected. You are not supposed to take anything home. Also Buddha images are generally prohibited and can get you in trouble at the airports.

6. Don't Ride Motorbikes Without Experience or Insurance

Phuket has a high number of road accidents involving motorbikes. Only ride if you are experienced, properly licensed, and insured and still be overly cautious.

7. Don't Enter Temples or Public Areas in very casual wear

Swimwear is appropriate at the beach or pool, but not inside temples, government buildings, or religious sites. Thai's dress conservatively and being well dressed, clean and with good manners goes along way.

8. Don't Raise Your Voice or Lose Your Temper in Public

Thai culture values calmness and politeness. Remaining respectful and patient is always appreciated.

9. Don't Buy Products Made from Protected Wildlife

Please avoid purchasing products made from coral, shells, endangered animals, or protected marine life.

10. Don't Ignore Beach Warning Flags

Red flags indicate dangerous swimming conditions. For your safety, never swim in restricted areas during rough sea conditions.