

Koh Samui, Surat Thani, Thailand

Thailand's laid-back island paradise — golden Buddhas, palm-fringed beaches, and one of the Gulf's most dazzling marine parks, all within a single shore day.

- Tender port (Nathon Pier)
- Typical call: 8–10 hrs
- Thai Baht (THB)
- Thai (English widely spoken in tourist areas)

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender to Nathon Pier (~15–20 min ride)

Best For: Temples, beaches, ethical elephant encounters

Walk to Center: Immediate — Nathon town begins at the pier

Don't Miss: Big Buddha (Wat Phra Yai) and Ang Thong Marine Park

Getting around: Taxi 600–1,000 THB (~\$18–30 USD) · Rideshare Grab, inDrive

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Ang Thong National Marine Park** — Speed-boat day trip to a 42-island archipelago of limestone cliffs, emerald lagoons, and pristine reefs.
- Samui Elephant Sanctuary** — An award-winning ethical sanctuary where rescued elephants roam freely — no riding.
- Big Buddha & Wat Plai Laem Temple Tour** — Visit the iconic 12-meter golden Big Buddha (Wat Phra Yai) on its rocky causeway island, then walk to nearby Wat Plai Laem — a vivid modern temple...
- Chaweng or Lamai Beach Day** — Koh Samui's two flagship beaches.
- Koh Tao Snorkel Day Trip** — Speed-boat to Koh Tao and Koh Nang Yuan — two of the Gulf's top dive destinations.

BEST WALKS

- Nathon Pier Stroll** 15–20 min | Flat | Free — From the pier, walk north along the main street past souvenir stalls, local cafes, and 7-Elevens.
- Bophut Fisherman's Village** Walk the village: 20 min | Flat | Free to wander — Taxi 30 min north to Bophut Beach, then walk the charming lane of preserved wooden Chinese shop-houses filled with art galleries, cafes, and boutiques.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Mon		87°	80°	14d
Apr		87°	80°	16d
Jun		87°	79°	17d
Aug		85°	78°	20d
Sep		83°	77°	27d
Oct				

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:09AM–6:29PM · Jun 6:00AM–6:40PM · Aug 6:11AM–6:37PM · Sep 6:09AM–6:20PM · Oct 6:08AM–6:02PM

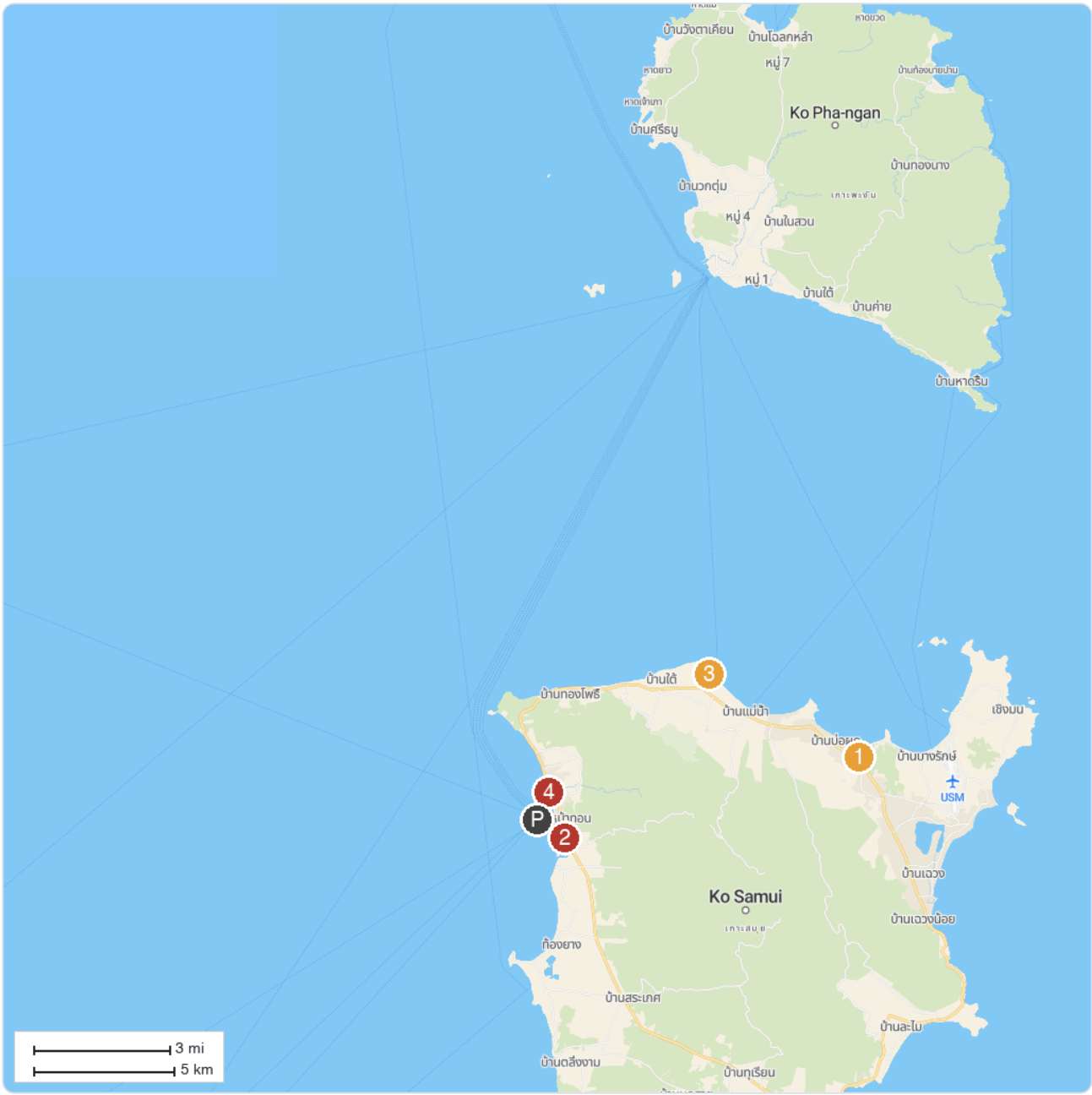
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Carry Thai Baht cash. Taxis, songthaews, street food stalls, and temple donations are cash-only. ATMs are steps from Nathon Pier. Avoid exchanging on the ship.
- Negotiate taxi fares upfront — or use Grab. Metered taxis are rare. Flat-rate fares to Chaweng run 800–1,000 THB each way. Download Grab or Bolt before arrival for transparent, app-set prices.
- Cover up for temples. Shoulders and knees must be covered at Wat Phra Yai and Wat Plai Laem. Pack a light sarong or scarf — vendors at the pier also sell them cheaply.
- Tender timing eats into your day. Allow 30–45 min each way. Return to Nathon Pier at least 1 hour before All Aboard — afternoon tenders can queue.
- Ang Thong needs a long call. The marine park is 1 hour by speed boat. Only attempt it if your ship is in port for 9+ hours — factor in tendering time both ends.
- Try the local food near the pier. Massaman curry, fresh coconut water, and the sticky Kalamae candy are Samui specialties. The 7-Eleven is also genuinely useful for cheap cold drinks and snacks.

Koh Samui, Surat Thani, Thailand — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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|---|-------------------------------|---|---|----------------------|---|
| 1 | Wat Bo Phuttharam | A temple housing a large reclining Buddha statue. | 2 | Wat Chaeng | A historic Buddhist temple with traditional architecture. |
| 3 | Wat Na Phra Lan | A peaceful local temple with intricate details. | 4 | Wat Si Thawee | A charming local temple known for its tranquility. |
| P | Cruise port / terminal | | | | |