

## ANDAMAN SEA EXCURSION 1

### Phi Phi Island + Khai Island



#### Program

- 07.00 Vans leave from Mövenpick Resort & Spa - Karon Beach Phuket
- 08.30 am. Depart from Ao Por pier to Phi Phi Island .
- 11.00 am. Arrive at Phi Phi Don. Sightseeing at **Phi Phi Leh Island** including **Maya Bay**, featured in the movie "The Beach", **Loh Samah Bay**, **Pileh Cove** and **Viking Cave**. Swimming and snorkeling at **Maya Bay**.
- 13.00 pm. Enjoy a great buffet lunch on board.
- 15.00 pm. Arrive Khai **Island** and enjoy swimming and fish feeding.
- 16.00 pm. Depart from Khai Island.
- 18.30 pm. Arrive to Ao Por pier.

The **Phi Phi Islands** are located in Thailand, between the large island of Phuket and the western Andaman Sea coast of the mainland. The islands are administratively part of Krabi province, which is one of the most southerly provinces of Thailand situated in the Phang Nga Bay which is in the Andaman Sea, Eastern Indian Ocean. The Phi Phi Islands are about 42 km from Phuket and 38 km from Krabi Provinces.

Ko Phi Phi Don ("ko" means "island" in the Thai language) is the largest island of the group, and is the only island with permanent inhabitants, although the beaches of the second largest island, Ko Phi Phi Lee (or "Ko Phi Phi Leh"), are visited by many people as well. The rest of the islands in the group, including Bida Nok, Bida Noi, and Bamboo Island (Ko Mai Phai), are not much more than large limestone rocks jutting out of the sea.

**Phi Phi Don** was initially populated by Muslim fishermen during the late 1940s, and later became a coconut plantation. The Thai population of Phi Phi Don remains more than 80% Muslim. The actual population however, if counting laborers, especially from the north-east, from the mainland is much more Buddhist these days.

**Phi Phi Don** is well known for its fine beaches and the wonderful coral formations located around it. There is a reasonable assortment of accommodation (not over developed) which keeps it nice and many tourists return year after year. The main curved bays of **Ton Sai Bay** and **Lo dalam Bay** are in the south and are really spectacular offering good facilities. The other beaches are located at the northern end of the island. Several shops on Ton Sai can arrange diving and snorkeling trips around the island or the nearby islands -- Phi Phi Le Island, Yung Island and Mai Phai (Bamboo) Island.





### Phi Phi Le/Ley/Leh

Lying almost 2 km. to the south is **Phi Phi Le Island**. In contrast to Phi Phi Don, this isle is uninhabited, not only because this is banned, but also because there are few beaches able to support hotels. The island's cliffs descend almost vertically into the sea on all sides.

There are a couple of really fantastic coves **Au Maya and Au Lo Sama** are the most scenic coves on the island offering a great place to go snorkeling. The sea around Phi Phi Le island is deep, especially the southern part, where it can be over 30 metres making it a popular diving spot to see the beautiful corals.



The islands came to worldwide prominence when **Ko Phi Phi Leh** was used as a location for the 2000 British-American film *The Beach*. This attracted criticism, with claims that the film company had damaged the island's environment. The film's release was attributed to an increase in tourism to the islands. Phi Phi Leh also houses the 'Viking Cave', from which there is a thriving bird's nest soup industry.



Ko Phi Phi was devastated by the Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 2004, when nearly all of the island's infrastructure was destroyed. As of 2010 most, but not all, of this has been restored.