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# Where Are We...

Unique in Thailand, the Phuket Vegetarian Festival was held in the past month. For those up early enough to catch the parades, it was quite a sight.

The festival or *jai chai* in local Hokkien Chinese dialect began in 1825. When a Chinese Opera company were visiting Phuket when they all became stricken with an unnamed malady. Thinking they had in some way angered the

gods, they went on a strict vegetarian diet in their honour. The mysterious ailment disappeared and now each year the festival is held to make merit and drive away evil spirits. Devotees allow the gods to possess them during the festival and perform self torture to shift evil and bring the community good luck for the coming year.



*Cover Photo: Looking south over Yah Nui Beach - Southern Phuket*

Copies of the Andaman Post can be picked up from over 170 outlets around the island of Phuket monthly including these few below:

DD Swiss Resort - Patong	River Rovers - Chalong
Welcome Inn - Karon	T.A.T - Phuket City
Anchor Bar - Kata Beach	Lagoon Inn - Bang Tao
Whispering Cock - Cherng Talay	Michael's Bar - Phuket City

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