



KARON BEACH

In the last issue we were lacking some notes on our visit to Phuket's central westside bay of Karon. Since then we have revisited Karon on several more occasions to see what makes it a desired part of Phuket to stay at.

Realistically there is not a lot more to report.

It still remains as one of the best bays for a swim, although at this time of year you need to be careful, as with most other beaches around, as the currents can make for some hazardous conditions.

We managed to get up into the back blocks on the hillside to find some magnificent houses being built with some quite stunning views as the photo above shows. This, of course, is not exclusive to Karon but the

prices for land are below what you would expect to pay in places like Patong, for example. Not a great deal below as you are looking at around 8 million baht per rai in the interior escalating to between 16 - 30 million baht on the beachfront and there is not a lot of it left so the prices will only go higher.

As we pointed out last issue there is not a lot to do and if you have children there is even less. There is only mini-golf for them. There is no supermarket, so a trip over the hill to Phuket City or up to Central/Tesco/Big C is required. We were told that there is no snooker hall either, which came as a bit of a surprise knowing the locals love of the game. At least the tailors don't bother you much when you are walking around, so that has to be a bonus.

So food and drink seems to be it. Some of the best restaurants we were told to try were

the Karon Café, run by Erik. They have limited Thai food but it's always a good spread. The Red Onion, serves Thai food, has been recommended on several occasions, Green Chili on the beach serves Thai food with a great view and for a hearty meal you can't go past O'Tool's. Maurice doesn't like to see anyone go away hungry so it just isn't going to happen. Down next to the football stadium there are a number of seafood restaurants that are busy every night, which indicates they are doing something right. The area is right on the beach so can be a bit exposed if the weather turns nasty, so pick your time to visit.

There are a lot of guesthouses around so an overnight stay is a good way to go. We stayed at O'Tool's (photo below) where the very comfortable rooms are 600 baht in low season rising to 1,200 during high season.

Patong Beach Phuket Thailand 2006

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Motorcycle Helmets

Wearing a helmet when riding a motorbike is required by law in Thailand. As is an International license for the class of vehicle you are driving.

If you are renting a motorbike and plan to carry a pillion passenger make sure you get two helmets. (Rarely enforced but still a requirement)

It is also a requirement to have the headlight on while riding.