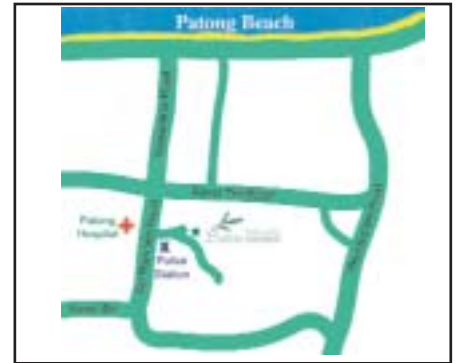


Restaurant And Accommodation Guide



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Central Yet Quiet

The difference between hotels and guesthouses was once quite pronounced, but with the popularity of boutique style hotels the lines are starting to blur. Comfortable hotel style rooms with a guesthouse family atmosphere is how we would describe this issue's Accommodation of the Month, Baifern mansion.

It is not often that we even venture into this road unless on government business (the Patong Municipality building is just up the road) but despite the off the beaten track location, it is surprising central to everything. All within walking distance too. Within a couple hundred metres you have a variety of shops, restaurants and all the wild entertainment you could hope for. A straight walk down Sai Nam Yen Road onto Sawatdirak Road takes you to the beach and some great little beachside restaurants.

The building has been in existence for about three years but Khun 'Thip' and

Phillip have only occupied the premises for a few months. After seeing to some renovations Baifern (Bai means leaf in



Thai) mansion has only been open for business since October 20th.

Thip's aim is to publicise the premises as an upmarket guesthouse, hence the blurring of distinction between guesthouse and hotel, while continuing the cosier family atmosphere.

Room rates vary between 900 baht to 1,600 baht per night depending on the season and that includes breakfast. The staff has no problem keeping up with the chores as the Baifern has only 12 rooms to worry about.

The restaurant at the front of the building serves a combination of Thai and Western food at very reasonable prices if you are a bit worried about trying all those delicacies offered on the food carts across the road. A fish tank separates the restaurant from the lobby and there are two more fish tanks embedded in the reception counter. Thip says the original builder was also involved in the aquarium business so the liberal use of fish tanks in the guesthouse is understandable.

With all the amenities of a hotel, air conditioned rooms, mini-bar, satellite TV, hair dryer, tours, Internet, etc., the Baifern makes for a cosy out-of-the-way yet central place to stay while you are in Patong.

