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GUIDE

# ACCOMMODATION

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# LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Students are responsible for making arrangements for accommodation on their own, but we offer information about options that have been recommended by previous exchange students. There are plenty of alternatives for both short and long-term accommodation, and there is a lot of variation in prices, size and quality. Some of the alternatives are located near campus, while others are located in popular tourist areas.

Some students choose to contact a reliable agent beforehand, while others look around for suitable accommodation options after arriving in Phuket and while staying the first few nights at a hotel or hostel (recommended: PSU Lodge).

Agoda has good deals on hotels for the first days. Find out more [here](#). If you want to ask around for a roommate in advance, you can do so in our Facebook group for students in Phuket.

Located next to the university in the district of Kathu, the below-mentioned accommodation options and a few private villas have received mostly positive reviews from international students. Students value the affordable and idyllic local character of the area, which nevertheless has good transit connections to other important locations such as Patong Beach, Phuket Town and Chalong.



## Top tips from PSU'S Mr. Colin Gallagher

1. Do not commit to anything long term until you have arrived in Phuket and seen the property.
2. Read reviews on Trip Advisor.
3. Use only the recommended agents below.
4. Always take photos before you move in.
5. Expect to pay more (as much as 25%) during high season (November-May).
6. Stay close to the university, so you don't have to travel far on motorbikes.
7. Colin's choice would be The Scene Condo.
8. Other recommendations by Colin: Ratchaporn Place, Fruit Valley.

## The most popular accommodation providers, areas, and types of accommodation

### PSU Lodge

PSU Lodge is situated on campus, in the same building with the classrooms. It was completely renovated in 2016. PSU Lodge is nice option for those who want to stay on campus and very near to the student life. It is also the best option for the first nights or weeks, if you wish to look for accommodation after your arrival in Phuket. There are approximately 30 rooms with double bed, AC, television, fridge, writing desk and private bathroom. Monthly rate is 12000 THB including electricity, water, housekeeping once a week, wi-fi and complimentary drinks and snacks. There is a restaurant (run by PSU hospitality students) and a coffee shop connected to PSU Lodge. Reception is available 24h.

Address: 80 Moo1 Vichisongkram Rd, Kathu, Phuket

Tel: +66 (0)76 276 301, +66 (0)84-8899455

Email: amornrat.sh17@gmail.com Facebook: [www.facebook.com/psulodge](https://www.facebook.com/psulodge)

### The Scene Condo

Located in Kathu, less than a kilometer from PSU campus. A popular option among our students. Facilities include gym, laundry services, swimming pool and sundeck, mini-mart, AC. Monthly rent is 10000 THB or 12000 THB (low season / high season). 24-hour security guard. Rent does not include electricity, water or wi-fi.

Contact Khun Pim and tell her Colin Gallagher sent you. [klinklao.pim@gmail.com](mailto:klinklao.pim@gmail.com)

Address: 24/2 Moo 1, Wichitsongkram Road, Kathu, Phuket 83120

Email: [sales@thescenecondo.com](mailto:sales@thescenecondo.com)

Website: <http://www.thescenecondo.com/>

## **Ratchaporn Place**

Very close to the university, local shops and markets. Lovely condo, nice room design, well equipped. Great swimming pool and small gym. Laundry and room cleaning services available.

Address: 94/116 M.7 Kathu, Phuket, 83120 Kathu, Thailand

Email: [keattikul@windowslive.com](mailto:keattikul@windowslive.com)

Website: <https://ratchaporn-place-th.book.direct/en-us>

## **Baan Nueng (Kathu)**

Baan Nueng Apartment provides a comfortable stay located in one of Phuket's major areas. Baan Nueng is easily accessed by car or local shuttle bus. It is surrounded by many department stores such as Central Festival. The design is very unique and the rooms are completely furnished with all the necessities. There is 24/7 security. CCTV.

Address: 11/11 Moo 1, Wichitsongkram Road, Kathu, Phuket, 83120, Thailand.

Tel.: +66 76 209 111

## **Delight Pine Tree Village**

Delight Village includes villas as well as smaller apartments. Houses with two bedrooms are normally for three to five students. Note that often only the bedrooms have air conditioning. There is also a swimming pool. Monthly rate varies from 22,000 to 35,000 THB per house. Electricity and water have not always been included in the prices during previous semesters, but you may want to check the prices after arriving at the location.

Address: 115/224 Moo 1, Kathu Phuket 83120 Thailand

Tel.: 66(0) 76 31 96 43

E-mail: [info@thedelightpinetree.com](mailto:info@thedelightpinetree.com)

Homepage: <http://www.thelightpinetree.com>

## **Ormthong**

A cheap and very simple option near the campus. Room rate: 7,000 THB per month or 500/600 THB per day.

<http://www.kathuapartments.com>

## **Anuphas Golf Ville – “Big Brother Villa”**

Anuphas Golf Ville is a villa area and especially one house has been popular among former Asia Exchange students. The house has been dubbed “Big Brother Villa” by the students. There are seven bedrooms, kitchen, living room, four bathrooms and swimming pool. You have to be ready to negotiate with the owner as she usually wants to get long-term tenants who can stay more than 4 months. Some previous students paid a bit extra and stayed 5 months.

Owner’s phone number: +66 8 12713 228.

## **Luxury House in Phuket Town**

This 500 m2 house is someone who loves luxury. Located in Central Phuket opposite of Phuket Laguna. 24/7 security, privacy, private pool, western style kitchen, 2 living rooms, 3 bedroom, 3 bathrooms, laundry room, Jacuzzi, balcony and even an elevator! Around 60,000 THB per month for the whole luxurious house.

Contacts: Olli Matomäki, [omatomaki@gmail.com](mailto:omatomaki@gmail.com)

Tel. 082 420 59 77

Mr. Olli Matomäki may have other options available as well.

## **Patara Buree Mansion**

Nice rooms for rent. The rent is 8000 baht (air-conditioned room) a month. Rooms include a wardrobe, bed, TV stand (in many rooms also air conditioning, TV, fridge, water heater, desk and chair.) Water and electricity are not included. Free wi-fi and cable TV. Location: 700 m from PSU, between Rachaporn and Kathu Golf Condo.

Contact information: <http://www.pataraburee.com> [info@pataraburee.com](mailto:info@pataraburee.com)

Tel. +66 76 31 90 90 / +66 81 970 66 70

## **D Condo**

Nice studios and one-bedroom apartments for long time rental. The rent is about 15000-20000 baht a month. Facilities in the communal area include a swimming pool, fitness center, executive room, public park area, parking space and a 24-hour security service with CCTV.

Location: 1 km from PSU campus

Some students have reported thefts in some of the accommodations (in former years at Delight Village, Orchid Kathu Heights and Baan Panyah). Robberies have taken place at Villa Sara several times, a place that we do not recommend. Always take care of properly storing your valuables and money, even at home.

## **PSU also has a student dormitory**

The dormitory rooms, 20 square meters in size, are equipped rather scantily and have two beds. The rent is ca. 7 000 BHT. For stays of less than a full month at the campus the rent is higher. Please note that vacant campus rooms are limited in number and there is no guarantee to get one. If you are interested in staying in a dormitory, please contact PSU in advance. The dormitory is very simple and practically all students decide to stay elsewhere.

## **Villas and houses**

Some students have stayed in private villas or houses in Kathu, Patong or a further away in Chalong, Rawai or Nai Harn at southern part of Phuket. This is a convenient and affordable option, especially for a bigger group of friends who want to live together. There are houses with 1-3 bedrooms available.

In Phuket you can find villas and houses in various sizes and price ranges according to your needs and requirements. Students have usually stayed in villas housing four to ten people. The nearest villas can be found just next to the campus side entrance, opposite to the 7eleven store. Grab a scooter and do some villa searching (look for "For Rent" signs as you drive), or ask an agent for available options.

## **Some villa areas**

In Chalong, there is an area called Patak Villa, where mainly expats from western countries are living in. You can find houses with or without swimming pool starting from ~15 000 THB per month. Electricity and water are usually not included in the price. You should visit the area to ask about available apartments. Information about Patak Villa at <http://phuketindex.com/patakvilla> and at <http://www.patakvilla.com/patakvilla1/home.html>.

## **Things to be aware of when renting a villa**

If you wish to rent a villa, there are things you should be aware of. When dealing with private owners you must pay careful attention to things like furniture, electricity, water, Internet, cleaning etc. You must find out if they are included in the rent or not, how these things are dealt with and what you should do if any



problems occur. You should also be prepared for possible surprises. There have been cases for example of putting the villa on sale during the rental period, of owners changing and them not having always kept their promises. You should therefore be careful and try to prevent possible problems already when signing the rental agreement. If you are staying outside of Kathu, you need to be able to ride a scooter or rent a car to get to the campus.

## **Agents**

More and more students want to rent a villa together somewhere near the campus. To avoid unwanted surprises and to get some service from the experts, we encourage students to compare the options and consider using a reliable agent who knows the needs of typical students. They can also act as a middleman between you and the owner if any problems occur. You can contact the agent Dussadee Suppapiyan on Facebook.

## **Accommodation Websites**

You can search for villas also by yourself e.g. on the following websites:

<http://phuketrenthouse.com>

[www.rentals-phuket.com](http://www.rentals-phuket.com)

[www.siamrealestate.com](http://www.siamrealestate.com)

[www.thenetworkproperty.com](http://www.thenetworkproperty.com)

[www.phuket-tropical-realestate.com](http://www.phuket-tropical-realestate.com)

## **Hotels in Patong Beach**

Some students have also found lodging outside in a hotel on Patong Beach such as Silver Resortel, Aspery Hotel or Deevana Resort & Spa. One option is also Lepa's Place. Typically, it is possible to make an agreement with a hotel on a longer residence for a lower price (especially during low season). If you plan to reside for example on Patong Beach or in Phuket Town, make sure to choose a hotel that's located close to a bus route that goes to the university. Alternatively, you can consider renting a scooter.

## **Accommodation tips**

In Asian culture it is common to do business face to face. For example, taking care of housing arrangements in advance by e-mail may prove difficult. However, this is not something worth worrying about. The terms of accommodation, details of the lease and the final price are most often easily settled after arriving in Phuket.

Don't forget to make a written agreement about the rent and what it includes. It's also a good idea to check the apartment and write a list of the possible flaws before moving in. The list can then be added to your lease as an appendix. Remember to check the safety of the area (e.g. security, fenced area, surveillance cameras). If you rent from an individual property owner, try to avoid making any payments before you have seen the apartment yourself. There have been some cases of scams where apartments don't actually exist or are far from what was promised. You'll have a chance to find suitable accommodation in your area of choice during the first few days. Some students prefer to do all the arrangements already before arriving to the destination.

Don't forget that it's easiest to sign a lease during office hours, although some exceptions have been made during evenings and weekends (e.g. in Baan Maksong the reception is open 24/7). Each accommodation provider only has a limited number of rooms available, which is yet another good reason to travel to your study abroad location early. You can attempt to chart accommodation options beforehand by e-mail, but it may take a while to receive an answer and the prices will most likely have room for negotiation.

Signing a lease on monthly basis is worth looking into, but keep in mind that signing a longer lease may entitle you to a discount. If you sign a lease for the full length of your stay, but wish to change accommodation for some reason, it will be difficult to get your security deposit back. When signing your lease, remember to find out what the policy is for incomplete months (for example, if you want to move out before the end of a month). The location may have daily or weekly rates, or you may be able to make arrangements with your landlord. However, sometimes paying for a full month can be cheaper than paying for two weeks on a daily basis.

Even at the same location the apartments may be differently equipped. Not all locations offer daily amenities. Some products can be enquired at the reception, although in most cases you must buy them at your own expense. Luckily however, the prices for such products are affordable in Phuket. Some places charge separately for electricity, water and the Internet. Electricity costs usually about 6 to 7 Baths per unit. Wireless Internet connection may cost extra, depending on the connection speed, about 5 to 20 EUR a month.

The most expensive factor in the electricity bill is air conditioning, which should be used cost effectively. With an economic use of AC, students have been able to cut down their electricity bill by dozens of euros per month. For both economic and ecological reasons, you should turn off the AC when the apartment is empty, and preferably for the night too if it's not too hot. Also, you shouldn't set the temperature too low as the AC makes it very likely to catch a cold. 25 to 28 Celsius degrees is usually a suitable temperature for the night. Electrical voltage in Thailand is 220 – you may need a voltage converter depending on your appliances.



Don't worry if things don't go exactly as planned when making arrangements for your accommodation. This is mostly due to cultural differences and the way things are done in Asia. A good sense of humor, a little patience and attempting to understand a different culture will help sort things out. Sometimes it might take up to a week to find long-term accommodation, but that's not uncommon at other exchange locations in other parts of the world either.

Breaking a lease is difficult all around the world. Students should consider the apartment they sign up for very carefully as well as the breaking of one's lease (in extreme situations), which can be a frustrating and expensive process.

### **Summary for finding accommodation at the study location:**

1. Contact the agents and familiarize yourself with accommodation options already beforehand.
2. Travel to Phuket early enough before the start of the semester.
3. Get a feel for the accommodation options.
4. If you want, ask around for a roommate among the other students.
5. Re-read our tips and make arrangements for long-term accommodation.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION AND TIPS FOR LIVING IN PHUKET**

### **Climate and Living Costs**

Phuket has a tropical climate with warm temperatures year-round. The rainy monsoon season runs from May to October, while the dry season, from November to April, is perfect for outdoor activities. To stay comfortable in the heat, it's important to stay hydrated and use sunscreen. The cost of living is affordable compared to Western countries, with street food and local markets offering budget-friendly options. While accommodation prices can be higher in tourist areas, you can find more affordable housing further from the main beaches. Haggling is part of the culture, especially at markets and with street vendors.

### **Transportation**

Getting around in Phuket is easy, with scooters being the most common mode of transport. If you plan to rent one, always wear a helmet and carry an international driver's license. Tuk-tuks and taxis are also available, though it's best to agree on the fare before starting the trip. For a more economical option, shared taxis, called songthaews, operate on fixed routes and are a cost-effective alternative to private rides.

## Health and Safety

Phuket offers good healthcare facilities, including international hospitals and widely available pharmacies. To prevent mosquito-borne illnesses like dengue fever, it's a good idea to use insect repellent, especially during the rainy season. The island is generally safe, but as in any tourist destination, it's wise to keep personal belongings secure, particularly in crowded areas.

## Cultural Etiquette and Language

Thailand is a predominantly Buddhist country, so when visiting temples or religious sites in Phuket, it's important to dress modestly and remove your shoes before entering. The traditional Thai greeting, called the "wai," involves pressing your palms together and offering a slight bow. Although many people in tourist areas speak English, learning a few basic Thai phrases, such as "thank you" and "hello," can be helpful and appreciated by locals.

## Entertainment and Connectivity

Phuket is famous for its street food, which is both delicious and affordable. If you're sensitive to spicy food, simply request it to be made milder. Tipping isn't required but is appreciated in restaurants and hotels. For shopping, the Phuket Weekend Market is a great spot for local goods and souvenirs. Entertainment varies from the lively nightlife of Patong Beach to the more relaxed atmosphere in Kata and Karon. For water sports enthusiasts, snorkeling, diving, and island tours are popular activities. Wi-Fi is available in most cafes and hotels, but for better connectivity, a local SIM card with data is a reliable option.





# YOUR WAY ABROAD

The world has an interesting way of giving great experiences  
to the ones who are passionate about their dreams.

*Miia Muukkonen, Asia Exchange student*

