

Crystal Bay

KOH SAMUI · THAILAND

The Crystal Bay Beach Guide

*Written by the people who work on this
beach.*

One bay, three names. A 250-metre cove between Lamai and
Chaweng — sand through the middle, granite at both ends.

CRYSTAL BAY · SILVER BEACH · HAAD THONG TAKIAN



WELCOME

One bay, three names

You may know it as Crystal Bay. Locals call it Silver Beach. On the map it's Haad Thong Takian. Three names, one cove of roughly 250 metres, on Samui's south-east coast between Chaweng and Lamai. Smaller and more sheltered than either of them.

The shape is what does it. Sand through the middle, smooth granite boulders at both ends. The water runs pale turquoise into deeper blue and stays clear most of the year. The swimming is calm.

It is also a public beach, and a well-loved one. By late morning the day-trip vans have arrived and the sand is busy. That isn't a warning — it's a timetable, and this guide is largely about using it.

"you can jump out of bed and straight in the sea at sunrise bring your snorkel. 🤿"

AGODA GUEST · MARCH 2024

TripAdvisor rates it the number one beach on Koh Samui, and Bangkok Airways' inflight magazine called it "one of the most picturesque beaches in the country." We'd rather you decide that yourself, about thirty seconds after you reach the sand.

Sand in the middle, granite at both ends

Swimming

The sand slopes gently and the water stays shallow for roughly 30 metres out. Good for children, good for an unhurried float. The granite at both ends takes the swell out, so this bay stays swimmable in any season, even when open beaches like Chaweng turn choppy. Clearest early, before the afternoon breeze. One honest note: the ends are rocky underfoot, and guests say so — *"The beach has a large number of rocks. Nice for snorkelling as fishes then to gather closer to the rocks, but not great for swimming."* (Agoda guest, May 2026). Walk in through the middle and you won't meet one.

The granite & snorkelling



Those same boulders are the snorkelling. Fish and coral sit a few metres from shore at either end, no boat needed. On a still morning you can watch them from the surface. So: middle for swimming, ends for looking down. Bring your own mask and you can walk straight in from the sand.

Best time of day

Early morning, every time. Fewest people, calmest and clearest water, coolest air, best visibility under the mask. The bay faces east, so the sun comes up over the Gulf in front of you — cloud on the horizon can flatten it, so treat a good sunrise as luck rather than a fixture. Sunset happens behind the hill at your back; for that, head north or west.

THREE INSIDER TIPS FOR THE BAY

- 1** **Swim at sunrise, be off the sand by eleven.** Glassiest water, best snorkelling, an east-coast sunrise, and the beach close to empty — all before the vans arrive. *"Lots of day trippers come to this beach but it's still gorgeous"* (Agoda guest, December 2025).
- 2** **Snorkel the ends, swim the middle.** The fish live around the granite at either end. The centre is the clean sandy entry.
- 3** **Reef shoes and reef-safe sunscreen.** The granite turns slippery at the waterline, and the coral you came to look at does better without the other kind.

GETTING HERE

Finding the bay

The bay sits directly off the main ring road (Route 4169) between Chaweng and Lamai, reached via Thong Takhian Road. Coming from Lamai heading north, look for **IT Complex Samui** — about 200 m further, just before the road climbs, turn right down toward the Crystal Bay properties. Lamai is 15 minutes away, and there's a 7-Eleven within walking distance for water, a SIM card and cold beer.

All times and fares below are approximate and seasonal — confirm on the day.

Our transfer

600 baht per way, about 25 minutes. Send us your flight number and the driver holds your name sign at the last meeting point; you pay him directly. Email yc@crystalbaysamui.com.

From the airport (USM)

~10–14 km, about 20–30 min by road. The arrivals taxi desk does fixed-zone fares (roughly ฿400–600 to this area — confirm at the desk) and is simplest with luggage. Grab generally can't collect inside the airport, so use the taxi desk for that first leg.

From the ferry piers

Nathon ~45–50 min, Seatran ~40–50 min, Raja / Lipa Noi ~45–60 min. Taxis and songthaews wait at every pier; agree the fare before you set off.

GETTING AROUND

- **Taxis** don't use meters here in practice — agree the price before you get in.
- **Grab & Bolt** give fixed, no-haggle fares. Coverage is patchier than the mainland — best in the north and east, harder late at night.
- **Songthaews** (shared red pickup trucks) run the ring road for ~฿50–150; flag one down and tell the driver your stop. Far more reliable by day.
- **Scooters** are the cheapest and most flexible option, and we won't sell you one lightly: Samui's roads are dangerous, with fast traffic and blind curves. You legally need a motorcycle licence plus an International Driving Permit (category A); helmets are mandatory and the no-helmet fine is now ฿2,000. Experienced riders only — not first-timers, not at night.

Close enough to wander to

Five places we send guests to, all within a short hop of the bay.

Hours and prices are seasonal — check locally.

- ◆ **Hin Ta & Hin Yai (Grandfather & Grandmother Rocks)** — granite formations shaped exactly as the name suggests, with a legend attached and stalls selling *kalamae*, the local coconut-caramel sweet. Buy some. (~2 km / ~5 min by car.)
- ◆ **Lamai Viewpoint** — a cliff-top café and balcony over the Gulf, two minutes above the rocks. (~5–7 min by car.)
- ◆ **Lamai Night Market** — 200-plus stalls of street food and shopping; the local evening out. Days vary, so check locally — generally from about 5pm. (~5–10 min by car.)
- ◆ **Wat Lamai** — a working temple with a small folk-culture museum, in the middle of town. Cover shoulders and knees. (~5 min by car.)
- ◆ **Na Muang Waterfalls 1 & 2** — No.1 is an easy walk, No.2 a taller climb. Fullest after the rains, thin at the end of the dry season. (~12 km / ~15 min by car.)

The wider island, in the order we'd do it

When you want a day away from the bay, this is the order we'd take them in.

Times are from Lamai; hours and prices seasonal — check locally.

- 1 **Ang Thong National Marine Park** — the big one: ~42 limestone islands, green lagoons, kayaking and a clifftop viewpoint, as a full-day boat trip. Best seas Dec–Apr. (~30–45 min to the pier, then by boat.)
- 2 **Secret Buddha Garden (Tarnim Magic Garden)** — a jungle sculpture park of stone Buddhas and folklore figures high on Pom Mountain. The track up is steep: take a 4x4 or a tour, not a scooter. (~35–40 min.)
- 3 **Big Buddha Temple (Wat Phra Yai)** — the island's 12-metre golden landmark on its own islet, reached by causeway. Cover shoulders and knees. (~30–40 min.)
- 4 **Fisherman's Village, Bophut** — old Chinese–Thai shophouses, small shops and beachfront tables. Friday is Walking Street, and that's the night to come. (~25–30 min.)
- 5 **Lad Koh Viewpoint** — a roadside clifftop stop on the scenic road north. Five minutes, worth it. (~15 min.)
- 6 **Chaweng** — the island's longest beach, and its shopping and nightlife. Go for a loud night out, come back here to sleep. (~20–30 min.)

EAT & DRINK

Two kitchens, both on the sand

You don't have to leave the bay to eat well. Neither kitchen is the cheapest on the island — you're paying for where the table is.

The Restaurant & Beach Bar

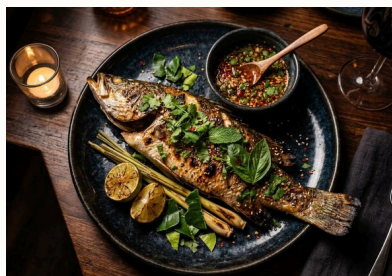
At Crystal Bay Beach Resort: a table on the sand, a cold drink, the water a few steps away. Lunch in the shade after a morning swim, dinner with your feet more or less in it. Breakfast is cooked to order rather than sat under a hot lamp, and guests bring it up unprompted — *"The all inclusive breakfasts nearly paid for the room itself."* (Agoda guest, October 2023.)

Crystal Bay Beach Club

The busy end of the bay: a beachfront restaurant and bar built around a big pool, Thai and Western food and fresh seafood, walk-ins welcome. **Fire show Tuesday and Friday, 7:30 pm**, plus live music. **What to order:** the massaman — *"Top notch veggie massaman curry, no exaggeration"* (Google, October 2025) — the duck red curry, the mango salad with crispy calamari, the tom yum seafood soup. We won't push the pad thai; guests have been honest about it, so we are too.

"Arrive in the morning, book yourself some sun-loungers (500 baht a day with a towel provided) and spend the day there..."

GOOGLE REVIEW OF THE BEACH CLUB · JULY 2025



FRESH FROM THE GRILL



TUE & FRI FIRE SHOWS



A DRINK AT GOLDEN HOUR

Three properties, one stretch of sand

Three properties share this beach. They're not versions of each other.



THE ORIGINAL

Crystal Bay Beach Resort

A boutique beachfront hotel, European-managed since 2010, 25 rooms. Straight onto the sand, a freshwater pool, its own Restaurant & Beach Bar. Some rooms face the road — ask for the sea side. *"It's not a 5-star resort but a perfect little boutique hotel that I needed"* — Google, January 2026.



THE HILLSIDE HIDEAWAY

Crystal Bay Yacht Club

43 villas and bungalows across 14,000 sqm of gardens: garden rooms, private-pool villas, beachfront villas. A large pool over the Gulf, Thai massage on site, the beach a short walk or shuttle away. Quieter and greener — and the buildings show their years. *"the premises are a little run down but who cares"* — Agoda, July 2025.



THE SOCIAL ONE

Crystal Bay Beach Club

Part of the Yacht Club: beachfront restaurant and bar, big pool, fire show Tuesday and Friday at 7:30 pm, live music. Walk-ins welcome; loungers 500 baht for the day with a towel. You needn't be staying with us to spend the day here.

A QUIET WORD ON BOOKING

The same rate, plus what only we can give

Book direct and you pay the **same rate as Booking.com and Agoda**. What changes is what comes with it: an extra hour's late check-out, a welcome drink at the beach club, free cancellation up to 7 days before arrival, and a direct WhatsApp line to the team. Members get a private rate we don't publish anywhere — unlock it with your email.

yc@crystalbaysamui.com

The things worth knowing

Best months

Samui runs on the Gulf's weather clock — opposite to Phuket. **Feb–Apr** is the sweet spot: driest, sunniest, calmest sea. **May–Sep** is warm and mostly sunny with short showers, and better value. **Oct–early Dec** is the real wet spell; November is the wettest month, and we'd rather you knew that than found out. **Mid–Dec–Jan** dries out and fills up. The bay's shape keeps the water swimmable in all of them.

What to pack

Reef-safe sunscreen and high SPF (the sun at 8°N burns faster than you'd think), reef shoes for the boulders, a light rash guard, breathable clothes plus one temple set covering shoulders and knees, repellent for dusk, and a rain layer if you're coming Oct–Dec.

Money

Bring cash — street food, markets, songthaews and small vendors are cash-only. Thai ATMs charge ฿220 per foreign-card withdrawal, so take the maximum each time. Tell your bank you're travelling and carry a backup card.

SIM / data

AIS has the strongest signal here. An **eSIM** bought before you land is easiest — you're connected on arrival. Otherwise pick up a

tourist SIM at the 7-Eleven near the bay (passport, five minutes); airport kiosks tend to close around 8pm.

Sun & sea safety

No rip currents here — the real risks are sun, boats and, seasonally, jellyfish. Reapply sunscreen and take the shade at midday. Stay inside the marked buoys and away from moored boats. Box jellyfish are occasionally reported islandwide **May–Oct**, peaking around August and more after heavy rain — a rash guard is a sensible precaution in those months. First aid: vinegar for 30+ seconds, then get help. The resorts and beach restaurants keep vinegar on hand.

Etiquette

At temples, cover shoulders and knees and take your shoes off. Feet are "low," heads are "high" — don't point your feet at people or Buddha images. Return a *wai* with a small nod. Never disrespect images of the King; it is taken very seriously. And keep your cool — a smile goes further here than a raised voice.

Tipping

Not obligatory, always appreciated, best in cash. Many restaurants add a 10% service charge, so check the bill. Round up or leave 20–50 THB for a casual meal, more for a massage or a long dinner.

Crystal Bay

SEE YOU ON THE SAND

That's the bay, as we know it

Small, sheltered, granite at both ends. Come early, snorkel the ends,
swim the middle, and let the day go where it goes.

Anything you need while you're here — a transfer, a table, a room, or
where to find the best *kalamae* — we're on this beach. Just ask.



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