

TOP 10 PHUKET FAMILY RESORTS

Thailand has long been a favourite with Australian families with golden beaches, wonderful food, friendly people and lush tropical forests with a dose of cultural discovery mixed in. Phuket has some outstanding resorts to attract luxury-loving children and their parents. However, to merit a Five Star Kids Award the resorts chosen have to be particularly special.

Each of the resorts has distinguished itself on a number of criteria:

- ★ Accommodation and services tailored to children of all ages
- ★ Exceeding family expectations
- ★ Excellence in staff and hospitality
- ★ Standard of accommodation
- ★ Ambience of the resort

From spectacular beachfront to cliff-top paradises we've found the very best that Phuket has to offer.

WORDS Angela Spiliotakos



ANGSANA LAGUNA PHUKET

www.angsana.com

This resort offers more than 240ha of parkland, spectacular beaches and an array of villas and suites featuring lavish interiors.

THE VIBE Relaxed beach chic.

POOL PARTY A 323m freeform pool wraps around the resort. There's also a toddlers' tub, a lazy river and jet pools.

KIDS' CLUB The multi-level Treehouse Kids' Club boasts jungle gyms, craft-based activities and a cafe.

WHY YOUR KIDS WILL LOVE IT Activities and a resident elephant means the little ones will have plenty to do. Kids under 12 stay, eat and play for free.

WHY YOU WILL TOO Angsana offers everything from an award-winning golf course and fitness facilities, to seven dining venues. Visit the Activity Hut to organise your family adventures.

ANANTARA VACATION CLUB PHUKET MAI KHAO

www.anantaravacationclub.com

Set on the fringe of Sirinat National Park and a few minutes' walk from Phuket's longest beach, Mai Khao, Anantara Vacation Club offers luxury within a natural playground.

THE VIBE Nature meets indulgence.

POOL PARTY Linger in the freeform pool, complete with kids' wading pool and Jacuzzi.

KIDS' CLUB Jakka Children's Club offers young travellers a range of craft-based activities, nature excursions and games.

WHY YOUR KIDS WILL LOVE IT The Thai-inspired landscaped gardens are perfect for little explorers.

WHY YOU WILL TOO The unique 'Dining by Design' experience lets you choose your setting, whether it be poolside, on the beach or on the lawn, and one of the resident chefs will cater for your every culinary whim.



BANYAN TREE PHUKET

www.banyantree.com

This award-winning resort sits among tropical fairytale surrounds and is a true jewel of the Andaman Sea.

THE VIBE Private wonderland.

POOL PARTY The resort's freeform pool has jet cannons, an in-pool bar, water rapids and a Jacuzzi. A separate, 40m-long lap pool provides a place to escape.

KIDS' CLUB Banyan Tree's Turtle Club is designed for little adventurers five and over. Kids can learn about Thai flora and fauna while on nature trails, and learn about batik painting during craft sessions.

WHY YOUR KIDS WILL LOVE IT There's plenty on offer, including poolside board games.

WHY YOU WILL TOO Couples can sail along the saltwater lagoon, pick up a memento at the Banyan Tree Gallery and take a stroll along Bangtao Beach, serviced by the recreation team.



JW MARRIOTT PHUKET RESORT & SPA

jw.marriott.com

Set in a tropical paradise, this modern resort is surrounded by lush greenery and features elegant outdoor areas.

THE VIBE Fresh, streamlined chic.

POOL PARTY There's a main pool with a kids' section, a North Pool for a relaxed vibe, and a South Pool with an in-pool bar for those who want to kick it up a notch.

KIDS' CLUB Children are offered a range of activities including batik painting, yoga and traditional Thai dance classes. The Ginja Cooking Course is also family friendly.

WHY YOUR KIDS WILL LOVE IT The resort's award-winning Mandara Spa has treatments just for young mini-mes.

WHY YOU WILL TOO JW Marriott offers a stack of eateries that will fulfil your every craving. Visit the Sala Sawasdee Lobby Bar for unique cocktails and pool views, and Ginja Taste for Thai with a twist.

INDIGO PEARL

www.indigo-pearl.com

Indigo Pearl seamlessly blends traditional and modern with a rustic exterior and bold contemporary interiors.

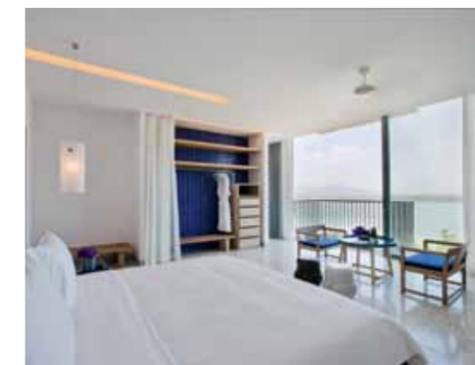
THE VIBE Warm extravagance.

POOL PARTY Indigo Pearl boasts three swimming pools – a family pool with a kids-only section, as well as two infinity pools just for the adults.

KIDS' CLUB Tinbox offers little ones a colourful space to play. Kids four and under need to be accompanied by an adult, but there is a babysitting service available.

WHY YOUR KIDS WILL LOVE IT With paddle boarding and body boarding on the agenda, they'll always have something fun to do.

WHY YOU WILL TOO Coqoon at Indigo Pearl takes the spa experience to the next level. The Garden of Eden offers traditional Thai treatments in a stunning environment.



POINT YAMU BY COMO, PHUKET

www.comohotels.com

COMO's first venture in Phuket is a contemporary venue perched on the tip of Cape Yamu. It offers spectacular views of the ocean and the nearby limestones of Phang Nga Bay.

THE VIBE Island hideaway with a holistic philosophy.

POOL PARTY The resort's main pool is generous and surrounded by a sleek outdoor area.

KIDS' CLUB The Play by COMO kids' club entertains little ones from three to nine, while the games room comes complete with gaming consoles, table tennis, pool tables and more.

WHY YOUR KIDS WILL LOVE IT There are indoor and outdoor child-friendly areas, and staff are able to organise activities to discover the wonders of the region.

WHY YOU WILL TOO Visit the Shambhala Retreat for holistic treatments to calm the mind and spirit, and head to the Aqua Bar for fresh smoothies and green juices.





THE RACHA

www.theracha.com

This premier resort sits on one of Racha Island's most exquisite beaches. Crisp, white villas offset by aqua waters make it seem almost magical.

THE VIBE Deluxe island getaway.

POOL PARTY The pool is sleek and surrounded by soothing palms.

KIDS' CLUB No.

WHY YOUR KIDS WILL LOVE IT Young adventurers can get involved in nature walks and canoeing.

WHY YOU WILL TOO With activities like snorkelling, ATV and mountain biking on the menu, you'll be sure to create some special memories.

INIALA BEACH HOUSE

www.iniala.com

Sitting on the sunny sands of Natai Beach, Iniala is the place to completely let go. Each spectacular villa provides supreme luxury, accompanied with expansive, outdoor areas.

THE VIBE Island super-luxe.

POOL PARTY All villas have their own private pool.

KIDS' CLUB Iniala houses an amazing Kids' Hotel for those aged two to 12. All children get a backpack full of goodies on arrival, and are offered plenty of fun things to do and see. There's even a restaurant!

WHY YOUR KIDS WILL LOVE IT The themed rooms at the Kids' Hotel will delight, as will the costume shops, theatres and cooking classes. Kids reign!

WHY YOU WILL TOO Iniala's signature eatery, Aziamendi, is in a league of its own. From its incredible design and surrounds, to the dishes of mouth-watering fare, this will be a culinary experience to remember.



CENTARA GRAND BEACH RESORT PHUKET

www.centarahotelsresorts.com

Centara Grand's architecture alone is one of its many highlights. Heavily inspired by elegant, Sino-Portuguese decor, the resort exudes Old World charm.

THE VIBE Classic resort style with a traditional flavour.

POOL PARTY The resort has a water park on offer, including a 'lazy river', pools, water slides, waterfalls and an adults-only pool.

KIDS' CLUB Camp Safari and E-Zone schedule daily activity programmes for kids and teens.

WHY YOUR KIDS WILL LOVE IT Children have their own pool complete with water slide, as well as a cliff jumping platform.

WHY YOU WILL TOO The Beachcomber Beach Club is a must, especially once the sun starts to set. Sitting directly on the sands of Karon Beach, it's the ideal place to unwind with fresh seafood and fruity cocktails.



SRI PANWA RESORT

www.sripanwa.com

This Eden-like estate is perched on Cape Panwa, giving the ultimate in private luxury and spectacular scenery. Villas offer an opulent 'treehouse' feel and full ocean views.

THE VIBE Exotic luxe.

POOL PARTY The Sri Panwa Beach Pool is set 60m above sea level and provides priceless views.

KIDS' CLUB Certified instructors offer kids' swimming classes and other activities. There are also complimentary kayaking facilities.

WHY YOUR KIDS WILL LOVE IT The games room is fun for kids, big and small.

WHY YOU WILL TOO Sri Panwa's award-winning Cool Spa injects tranquillity into plush surrounds. The floating yoga deck with panoramic ocean views is a must.