

Koh Tao Island - East coast - Thailand Diving Koh Tao - Sairee Beach

The diving

Out of all the diving offered on the East coast of Thailand, Koh Tao has the better of it. The island is famous for its laid back atmosphere on land. It is a cool paradise for those wanting to do their initial course or already certified divers continuing their education. It's not a lie, when said that Koh Tao is addictive. Backpackers usually end up staying for weeks.

The reef has taken some damage from the tourism, but due to a massive effort to protect and rebuild the reefs, the corals and the fish life is doing really well. Koh Tao is now offering some really good diving for divers on all levels.

Many dive sites are sheltered reefs with beautiful corals, good visibility, shallow depths and little to no current. Sites are reached in less than 20 minutes by boat. Deeper dive sites with pelagic marine life can be found a short 45 minute boat ride away. All year round lucky divers are encountering Whale sharks, Reef Sharks, Rays and Turtles.



Area name / Island name

East coast, Thailand

Nearest airport

Koh Samui or Bangkok

Season

Dive Center is open all year round.
A short season with more rain between October and November gives limited access to some of the dive sites

Center type

PADI 5 Star Dive center of Excellence.
Young and vibrant atmosphere
English managed
International dive instructors and dive guides

Experience level

PADI Open Water diver or similar
(you must hold an entry level dive certificate)

Minimum age for participation

10 Years

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Location – Sairee Beach

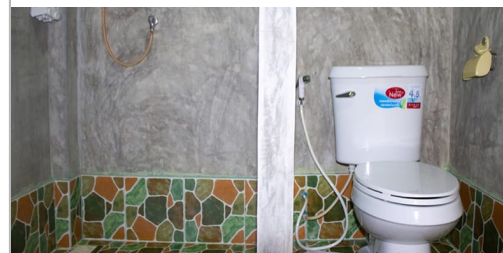
Koh Tao in general is packed with different bays and beaches that are well worth visiting with your snorkeling gear. The island itself has a great size in terms of exploration, and it is easy to get around on a scooter. However, if you want a young and very vibrant vibe, Sairee beach is the place to be! The atmosphere is buzzing with hippie happy backpackers hanging out in the cafes, the beach bars and obviously on the beach itself... which is the longest and most popular beach on the island. (you will see why!)

Your accommodation - dorm room

Is right next to the dive center, and in the middle of Sairee beach. Walk out of your room, and within 15 seconds (of walking really slowly) you will be standing on the beach, next to the dive center. The dorm rooms are just above the walking street of Sairee beach. You can look down at the dive center and the beach. If you threw a rock, you could probably hit the beach from the balcony? (that was NOT a challenge! Just a thought...).

Your room

Is a dorm room with 6 single beds, and a cooling fan. There is a little balcony and a larger bathroom with a hot (nice!) shower and the room is daily cleaned. The room is simple, but clean, comfortable and right where you want it, when you come back from diving and in need of a good nap!



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This is only a selection of the many dive sites represented on this particular destination. Diving is, at all times, dictated by the safeness of the environment.

Chumpon Pinnacle

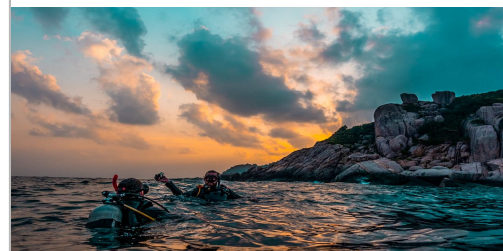
Northwest of Koh Tao, Chumpon Pinnacle is widely regarded as one of the Gulf's premier dive sites. The site itself is a huge granite pinnacle and a series of smaller pinnacles rising from the bottom at 36m to within 14m of the surface. On the main part of the site divers can expect to encounter Batfish, Trevally, large Groupers, as well as huge shoals of Fusiliers. For those with keen eyes it is also possible to see Scorpion fish lazing on the rocks. Chumpon pinnacle also plays host to seasonal visits by Whale Sharks and their attendant Cobias and Remoras, plus the occasional Manta.

White Rock

White Rock boasts a large coral garden situated between two distinct granite pinnacles to the north and south sides of the site, and a vast array of both daytime and nocturnal inhabitants. With a depth range of 5m to 26m, and an average depth of 12m, White Rock is suited to everyone's experience level. White Eye Morays and Blue Spotted Rays are commonly sighted. Barracuda routinely visit here, it is particularly impressive to see them hunting on night dives when they will actually follow divers using the torch beams to spot their dinner. Night dives also unveil many different kinds of Feather Stars, hunting Cone Shells and feeding Stingrays.

Green Rock

One of the outlying dive sites Green Rock has its own special attractions for divers in the form of many varied swim throughs and the lunar like landscape created by nesting Yellow Margin Triggerfish. With a depth range of 3m to 30m most divers will find this site within their capabilities. The insides of the caverns and the undersides of outcroppings are home to many brightly colored soft corals and sponges, while the outer parts of the site play host to shoals of electric Blue Damsel fish, Tube Anemones with tiny translucent shrimps, Angel fish and the occasional Turtle.



Conditions:

Visibility

10m to 25m

Temperature

27 to 29 degrees

Current

Zero to medium currents

Depths

Average depth is 18 m

Special marinelife

Whaleshark season:

March - June and October - December

Turtles, Barracuda, eagle rays and blacktip reefsharks are spotted all years round

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Itinerary

On the day of arrival, the equipment will be fitted and packed for the following day. The rest of the day is left for exploring on land and settling in. The dive boat will depart at either 7:00 am or 9:00 am the following day. Depending on what dives you are doing, and if you are doing them in the morning, you will be informed in advance what time the boat will be going out the following day. The boat stays out on sea for two dives and will be back for lunch. The boat will depart at 13:00, returning around 16:30 after another two dives. It is possible to do two morning dives or a combination of a morning and an afternoon dive or just two afternoon dives. A third dive or a night dive can be organized on location for an extra fee.

There will be no refund on dives not used. Check-out of the accommodation is at 10:00 on the last day. But luggage can be stored if you are leaving on the afternoon or evening boat.

DIVE PACKAGE - Fundiving Koh Tao:

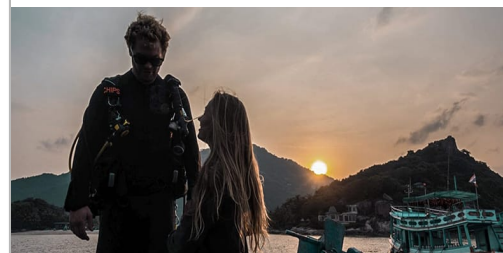
This package is a good introduction to the diving around Koh Tao, with 4 dives spread out on 2 days of diving and 2 nights of accommodation. The dive sites will vary depending on weather and experience level.

If you have plenty of time on hand, and if you want to take it super slow, we recommend you add 1 extra night of accommodation to your package.

If you want a longer itinerary, you can add extra days of diving and accommodation upon booking.

Please note:

Due to ocean and weather conditions, the itinerary can be subject to change.



Activity starts

15 good sites are reached by boat. The best possible dive site will be chosen according to weather conditions, experience level and requests.

Please note that start times can vary from trip to trip if any changes, you will be notified upon arrival

Activity starts from

Dive center

Please contact your dive center latest one week prior arrival to confirm your arrival time and pickup from the pier

Group Size

No limit Max. 4 divers pr.
Instructor/Divemaster

Language

English

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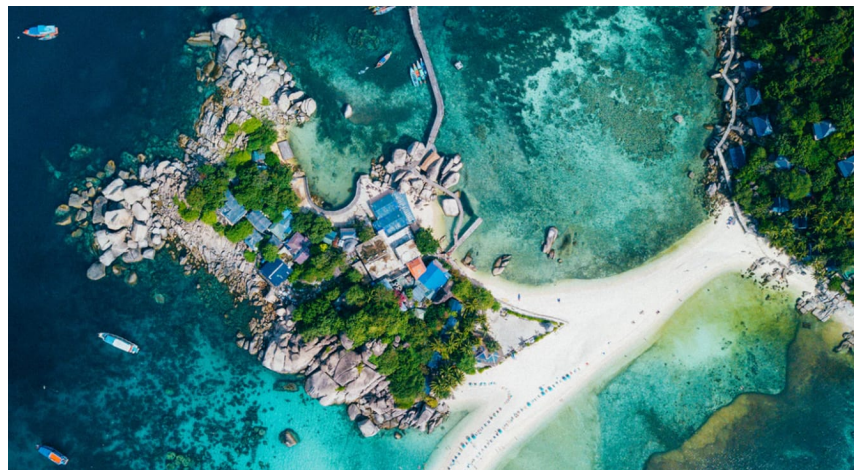
Transfer information

The easiest way to get to Koh Tao from Bangkok, is to take either the bus or the train down south to connect with the Lomprayah High Speed Catamaran in Chumphon, for a 1,5 hour crossing to Koh Tao. If travelling down to Koh Tao in the high seasons or around a full moon party it's always a good idea to book your bus ticket in advance!

Your travel agency can help you reserve and book your ticket.

Regardless of where you are in Thailand, your travel agency can get you to Koh Tao on the fastest and most convenient way.

To be picked up at the pier on Koh Tao, contact your dive center with your ferry information. You will find the contact details for the dive center, on your voucher.



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Prices below are based on 2 persons sharing accommodation, unless stated otherwise.

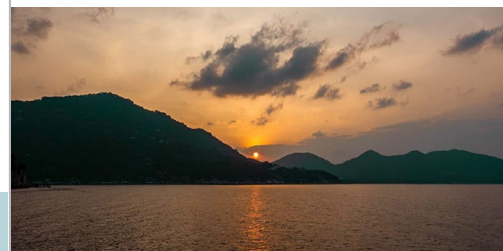
FUNDIVING - DORM ROOM	
Days / Nights	3/2
Amount of dives	4
Price (incl. accommodation)	145 EUR

Supplements	
2 extra dives	53 EUR
Extra night - bungalow - (after)	17 EUR
Extra night - bungalow - (before)	17 EUR
Extra night - dorm - (after)	11 EUR
Extra night - dorm - (before)	11 EUR
Refresher dive (added to first dive in package)	28 EUR

Prices for supplementary accommodation are based on 2 persons sharing accommodation, unless stated otherwise.

Supplements

A supplement can be chosen to add on your package. All supplements can also be booked on site. In high season, bungalows and boats get filled fast and you might find trouble getting an extra night in your resort or an extra day of diving. It is recommended to book an extra day prior your course to get settled and get up front on the studying.



Included

4 Fundives
Certified Dive Guide
Accommodation in dorm
Bed linen & towels
Snacks, on dive trips
Rental dive equipment
Pick up service from ferry pier
Good vibes!

Not included

All meals and drinks
Transport to Koh Tao
Local dive insurance THB 200 (mandatory)

Also available on site (based on availability)

Extra days of diving
Extra accommodation
Upgrading of room
Nitrox

Continuing education

Courses are available on request for all levels of continuing education.

Cancellation

Please refer to FAQ & Terms on www.blueventure.net

Dive insurance

Basic dive travel insurance required

General terms and conditions

GENERAL CONDITIONS

CHANGES OF BOOKINGS:

You can change your booking request or start date free of charge.

If you need to change your booking you must contact the **dive center** directly by e-mail or phone. You will find the contact details on your voucher. For verification purpose, please remember to mention your name and booking ID.

If you want to change your start date, we recommend that you do so minimum 10 days before the beginning of your dive package. Later than this, might cause the accommodation to be fully booked for alternative dates. During high seasons, 10 days might not be sufficient time, please allow extra time for changes in the high season. As a reminder, you will receive an email with general information and contact information of your dive center 10 days prior to your start date.

CANCELLATION RULES:

Any customer has the right to cancel their booking with Blue Venture Diving. In order to do so, you must contact your selling agent. The cancellation fees and rules of your selling agent will apply for your cancellation.

Blue Venture is not liable for any cancellations done by the customer of personal reason such as/or in the same category as sickness, family, missed flights etc, or other circumstances that is beyond reasonable control such as force majeure.

Blue Venture booking cancellation

In the unlikely event that Blue Venture is forced to cancel a booking, the customer will get direct notice. A cancellation will only happen if Blue Venture finds that the contracted dive center can't perform the needed service of the booked package or if the dive standards can't be fulfilled accordingly. Minor changes in the itinerary will not be defined as a valid cancellation reason, as diving is dictated by the environment and the people enrolled in the activity.

Blue Venture will always do their best to find another operator of same or higher standard, but it is up to the customer to decide whether they want to accept the change or get a refund.

INSURANCE:

A cancellation insurance is not included. It is highly advised recommended that you obtain adequate travel insurance prior to your departure from your home country.

REFUNDS:

Medical Statement

To enroll in an Open Water Course, all students **MUST** fill in the Medical Statement. Please ensure that you have received the medical statement from your travel agent. If any questions are replied with a "Yes", the medical statement must be signed by a doctor. Failing the medical statement at the destination, and therefore not being able to enroll in the diving course, you will not be entitled to a refund.

If you have not received your Medical Statement, please make sure to print it from this link.

<https://blueventure.net/files/information/12.pdf>

Restricted dives

Diving is dictated by the environment and the people enrolled in the activity. All diving is performance based. It is up to the discretion of the dive guide/instructor to restrict divers from entering activities that goes beyond their experience level. All guides strive to reach the expectations of the customers. However, if they find that the safety of the group or an individual is jeopardized or at risk by one or several individuals, it is up to the dive guide/instructor to restrict any divers from entering the water.

In this event the dive center or Blue Venture is not obliged to give a refund.

Dives not completed

There is no refund for dives not carried out.

Refund for dives not done for any reason is up to the discretion of the dive center. Most dive centers do not give refunds for dives not done with personal causes such as seasickness, low on air situations or a failure in mastering the equipment etc. All log books will be checked prior to the dive and the dive sites will be chosen accordingly to the experience level. It is however expected that certified divers keep within their limits and do not cross their comfort zone. Blue Venture and your travel agent is never responsible to pay a refund for dives not done.

Courses not completed

There is no refund for courses not completed! All courses are performance based, but it is up to the instructor to pass the student. If a customer can not complete a course with success they will receive their course documents for an optional referral, but the contracted dive center, your travel agent and Blue Venture is not responsible to pay a refund.

Boats or dives not departing

If boats or dives are cancelled due to bad weather or sea conditions, it is up to the dive center to re-schedule and compensate with a similar dive trip when conditions allow. If the customer does not have adequate time to enroll in another trip/course it is up to the customer to make sure the dive center notify Blue Venture of this in order to secure a refund via the sales agent who completed the sale with the customer. There will only be refund on the diving and not the accommodation.

ACCOMMODATION:

Unless mentioned in the destination information folder the accommodation is always part of the package.

If the dive center by any means can't deliver the agreed accommodation, it is up to their discretion to supply immediate accommodation of the same or higher standard. (the destination information folder is found on the Blue Venture website.)

If the accommodation somehow does not live up to satisfactory standards of the customer, the customer must contact Blue Venture by phone or email as soon as possible (preferably while still on site) in order to solve the problem.

DIVE INSTRUCTORS & DIVE GUIDES:

All contracted dive centers has been handpicked based on their level of professionalism and expertise. Blue Venture ensures that all guides and instructors have the correct education and experience. In the unlikely event that a customer suffers a bad experience with any guide, instructor or dive center facilities, Blue Venture is entitled to know, but can't by any means be held liable.

At the end of you dive experience as questionnaire will be sent out to you, that we would like you to answer. By doing this, you help securing a high level of professionalism towards all customers.

MEDICAL STATEMENT & LOGBOOK:

If you are about to enroll in a dive course (entry level only), you must fill out the RSTC Medical Statement before you leave your home country. Please make sure your agent has provided you with the RSTC Medical Statement. You can also print the medical statement from the link, further up on this page. If you need the medical statement reviewed by a doctor, you have 10 days from the date of the booking with the option of cancelling for free.

If you are already certified as a diver and about to go fundiving, you must remember your current dive certificate and your personal logbook or dive computer.