





DISCOVER MAE PHIM

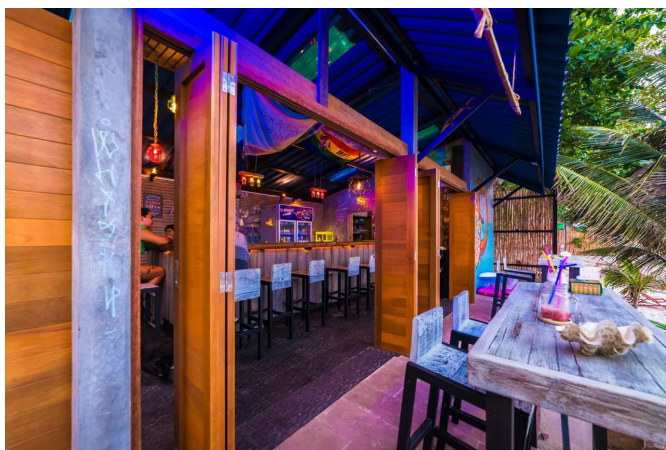
An **RE**_m Special

Laem Mae Phim, you'll be forgiven if like me the name isn't one that jumps to mind quickly and that's part of its beauty.

By Paul Johnson

Discover Mae Phim





Mae Phim beach has to be one of the best kept, if not the best kept, secrets on the East Coast of Thailand. It is located only 180 kilometers from Bangkok in the province of Rayong and only just over an hour's drive from the vibrant city of Pattaya. This somewhat hidden gem is a must see to believe.

Although on the mainland, Mae Phim has a distinct 'island feel' with a spectacularly beautiful coastline that stretches tens of kilometers it is undeniably one of the finest beach locations in Thailand.

Enjoying Mae Phim doesn't take much planning due to that 'island vibe' again. The way of life there seems so laid back and everything you could want or need is easily at your disposal. It's simple enough to get around. You can hire a bike/car and visit one of the many pristine beaches, have a massage, a bite to eat or a drink or two.

Having said that, Mae Phim which was once a small fishing village, is seeing real growth not only from European tourists but Thais alike flocking to the beaches whether it be for a weekend break which is perfect due to its proximity to Bangkok and Pattaya or a second home.

Laem Mae Phim is not the place you will go if you want dawn to dusk excitement. But if you want a peaceful time, on a beautiful beach, then look no further. At weekends and holidays – as with most beaches near the populated areas – it gets busy. Mae Phim is big enough to cater for the crowds and mid-week you can almost have this long beach to yourself – almost!

BEACHES

Having visited and lived on and around various beaches you can get that same feeling of looking out at the same expanse of water but Mae Phim best known for its beautiful sea, clear waters and lush white sand has so many beaches to choose from each offering their own unique character as well as being so close to many neighbouring Islands including Koh Samet, Koh Mun Nak and Koh Talu.

MAE PHIM BEACH, COCA-COLA BEACH, AO KHAI BEACH

More than four kilometers long Mae Phim beach has unrivalled beauty and is instantly impressive. Set back from the sand are a number of beachside restaurants and bars offering everything from authentic Thai delicacies, seafood to many Western delights. Not far from Mae Phim beach heading towards Ban Phe you will find the popular Coca-Cola Beach just look for the 'sign'!

Coco-Cola Beach has the tranquility of Mae Phim Beach with secluded areas, palm trees with wooden swings and hammocks but at the same time is a little busier and seems to be real 'hang out' place with more people swimming, drinking, sunbathing and playing water tennis. The area also has numerous beach bungalows and amenities including dive and snorkeling as one of their many activities.

Ao Khai is a little east of Mae Phim beach and maybe my personal favorite spot. It's a small beach but still houses the newly opened Centara Q Resort and other beachside restaurants. We ate at The Sabai Bar also recently refurbished and it has that real sea-side vibe offering authentic Thai dishes in a relaxed setting.

DRIFT BAR

My number one spot for sundowners and I guess sunrises if that's your thing is The Drift Bar (they say Mae Phim's first beach party bar). This really is a bar with a difference and somewhere I can't recommend highly enough situated right on Ao Khai beach (I mean right on the beach). You can enjoy a cold beer or whatever takes your fancy while listening to a real eclectic music mix and watching the sun drop over the horizon. The staff are friendly and the whole ambience is laid back. The bar is ultra-cool and somewhere I was instantly hooked on. This is the perfect place to escape – a real hidden paradise and place where locals and visitors choose to chill.

GRAND BLUE RESORT & BEACH CLUB

When looking for somewhere to stay I can't recommend Grand Blue Resort & Beach Club highly enough. Located right on Mae Phim Beach this new hotel and beach club resort really ticks all the boxes with a variety of room to suit all needs from a single traveller to a family.

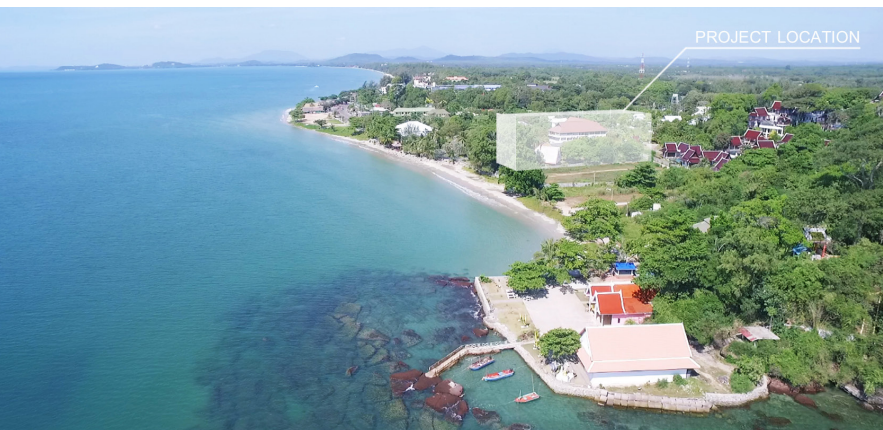
Grand Blue really has its own resort feel with a large swimming pool overlooking the ocean and a restaurant/bar Mezzetto which serves a variety of international dishes as well as Thai food. It's a great place to relax, hang out, drink a cocktail from their extensive menu while sitting in a beachclub lounge environment. The resort also has an American-style steakhouse 'Buffalo Bills' with an extensive menu including great steaks, chicken wings and many other mouthwatering treats.

I guess what I'm saying is I've found my go-to destination without having to leave the mainland and go to an Island and its only 100 kms away from Pattaya.

Like Pattaya it has sand and water but that's where the similarities end, Mae Phim is certainly a must visit for anyone who loves Thailand and I'm sure you'll be planning your next visit before your first visit is over.

ESCAPE CONDOMINIUM

ABSOLUTE BEACHFRONT LIVING



Having completed 20 projects including over 500 villas and 7 condominiums as well as hotels and commercial units Silversea House has a proven track record and solid reputation for delivering on their word and providing first class holiday and long term accommodation for their many clients over the last 15 years.

Escape Condominium is the company's latest offering and with its absolute beachfront location and unrivalled panoramic views over the ocean this will surely be their finest to date.

If you have visited the area previously you will know that the 3145 road sweeps down onto the four kilometer beach road. Escape Condominium lies in a secluded and discreet bay just beyond where the 3145 turns inland again, located just a short walk away from the restaurants and beach bars but just far enough along to offer great privacy to unit owners.

Escape Condominium is set for completion in October 2018 and with 50% of their units sold already they are well on their way.

Escape Condominium will comprise of two, seven-storey buildings with units totaling 78 ranging from 39sqm executive studios through to 4 giant 207sqm three-bedroom units (3 of which are already sold).





Other options are available including a two-bedroom with floor size ranging between 59-62sqm as well as direct beachfront units with a floor size of 101sqm. For those looking to invest the developers are also offering an on-site exclusive rental management and service office. Common facilities include:

- Two swimming pools
- Jacuzzi
- Beachfront fitness room and sundeck
- Relaxing and shaded garden area
- Third floor outdoor lounge
- Restaurant/bar.

Prices start at the Bt3m mark for an executive studio. The two-bedroom units range from Bt5,21,000 to Bt6,785,000 with three bedrooms ranging from Bt9,595,000 to Bt26,910,000 for the 207sqm giant units.

This really is the most idyllic spot whether looking for a place to call home, somewhere to spend weekends if you live in one of Thailand's neighboring cities or a great holiday destination to 'Escape' those winter blues.

