

# Mae Phim - a close kept secret

*Situated on the east coast of the Gulf of Thailand in Rayong province in Southeast Thailand is the delightful resort of Mae Phim. One of Thailand's 'hidden gems' and a well kept secret until now ...*



Escape condominium living room and balcony view

Just 170kms from Bangkok's international airport, 200kms from central Bangkok on the recently developed 344 highway it is a two and a half hour drive down from the city.

The perfect haven for families from Bangkok and beyond as a weekend or holiday home the over 4km beachfront is a perfect spot for relaxed R & R. Whether you are looking for a destination for a long weekend or an extended stay then you have found the ideal location.

Thai families descend at the weekend to enjoy the beach, sheltering from the sun sharing fresh seafood and salad under the trees and parasols but during the week the area is left to the few international residents to enjoy. For visitors of all nationalities and Thai middle to upper class families.

During the week 'far from the madding crowds' took over - it appealed to me and even at the weekends there were quieter areas to be found. I need to relax and do not want to be amongst the crowds. The developed part of Mae Phim beach, roughly a third, offers a wide range of seafood restaurants with fresh food delivered every day, shops, bars, parasols and loungers. The other two thirds are left to nature - clean clear blue seawater, trees that offer protection from the sun. There were however many sun worshippers bronzed and oiled sweltering in the heat.

The names of the beaches sum up the hospitality on offer

- Ao Khai, Coca Cola, Kens, Kims, Freedom and Be Happy beach.

In the distance on the horizon are the islands of Koh Talu, Koh Mun, Koh Chang, Koh Pla Teen, Koh Kham, Koh Kudi and of course Koh Samet. You can get a ferry or a speedboat to many of them from Ban Phe. The craggy rocks of Mae Phim Island lay just off the shore and give the eye something to focus on.

For the adventurous amongst us a trip to the many islands calls where you will find gorgeous beaches, coral reefs for snorkelling and the inevitable beach bars offering convivial hospitality.



Escape condominium location



Escape condominium

Over 60 seafood restaurants along the beach with food stalls and gaily coloured carts, vans and lorries selling inflatables and the local fruit available. In May the durian, mangosteen and rambutan all come to harvest and they celebrate with the fruit festival.

The waves continually caress the beach and at the weekends jet ski's towing inflatables occasionally streak across the bay.

The main developer in this area, a Swedish company has been building Scandinavian holiday homes here for roughly 15 years. They have built over a dozen successful developments in the area - 500 modern villas and 7 condominium complexes in gated compounds to their name. They have invested heavily in the area attracting development from others and as the condominium market in the area has seen healthy growth the investment opportunities in the area are showing up to 40% profits.

Sea View, Avatara, Grand Beach, Grand Blue, Mosaic and the newly announced Escape condominium complexes on the beach offer beach living to cover all levels of the market. The latter recently announced but already selling well. Tucked away at the eastern end of the beach just three minutes walk from the developed restaurant and nightlife area.

Escape offers unrivalled sea views from 78 apartments - executive studios at 3MB upwards to two and three bedroom family units at 27MB, unit sizes ranging from 39sqm to 207sqm on a secluded beachfront bay bathed in tropical sunshine.

This latest development will be of the highest quality available in the area and will suit the most discerning buyer. Initially serving the Scandinavian markets, who all expect certain quality of life standards, but now appealing to Western and Southeast Asian buyers. The mix of residents and visitors is distinctly international and multi cultured.

The larger hotel groups are all arriving and building resorts - Marriott, Centara, Novotel and now Sheraton but the

key developer in the region has just added a hotel - the Grand Blue, to their portfolio of condominium and quality villas. A family hotel with open walkways and all the necessary amenities it is situated on the beach road and the white sands and clean beach across the breach road offers itself up for the family to enjoy.

Over 70 rooms offer short term accommodation to the area but many hotel visitors end up purchasing longer term solutions. The hotel has an oversized swimming pool, all day dining from the restaurants and wine shop, massage and spa facilities, fitness suite, tour desk and excursions or just plenty of opportunity to relax and take it easy.

Rayong city is just 44kms and 30 minutes away and offers department stores, dining and entertainment complexes to suit all needs. Within an hour there are 7 international golf courses and of course all the nightlife that you need in Pattaya.



Grand Blue Resort

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