

DOWNTOWN DELIGHTS *IN BANGKOK*

akyra blends memorable gourmet moments with comfortable capital stays

ORIGINALLY HOUSING

luxury car dealerships, wedding showrooms and small unique high-end retails, Thonglor was long known as a residential area which is popular among the Japanese expat community and well heeled Thais. With the development in Bangkok, Thonglor has been evolving and furthering into a fashionable and creative district bursting with unique shopping outlets, enticing eateries and sophisticated nightlife attractions. Located in the heart of Thonglor, **akyra** Thonglor Bangkok is in the center of all the actions. Parallel with the development of the area, **akyra** Thonglor Bangkok itself is rejuvenating. Within a year it will transform into a lifestyle urban hotel in line with **akyra** spirit. Not only rooms, but the entire public areas will have the new shine of resurrected 1920' design and atmosphere. The tenth and eleventh floors at **akyra** Thonglor Bangkok are now part of that creative and appealing nightlife scene with impressive dining and drinking experiences.



The interiors of the hotel are the height of luxury, glamour and good taste, with three new upmarket outlets – **The Presidente Lounge**, **Otto Pool Bar** and **Som Tam & Chardonnay Restaurant**—serving a choice of fabulous food and top quality drinks in sophisticated, art-inspired surroundings.

OTTO POOL BAR — offers resort-style living with comfortable outdoor seating by the expansive double infinity-edged pool that boasts 180-degree views across Bangkok's leafy residential enclaves. The bar serves a selection of refreshing beverages, including Asahi Extra Cold draft beer, cooled to minus 2.2 degrees and perfect for a balmy Bangkok evening.

THE PRESIDENTE LOUNGE

— is an art-deco sanctuary with a choice of plush seating and private alcoves to gather with friends or family while enjoying afternoon tea, or relax with coffee, cake or a glass of wine after a long day shopping in the Bangkok malls.

SOMTAM&CHARDONNAY

RESTAURANT

— is a bright, spacious dining destination based on an East Meets West concept with exquisite Thai cuisine complemented by international specials and a wide selection of fine wines to bring out the flavour of the freshest ingredients. The restaurant lives up to its name with no less than 5 different Som Tam dishes on the menu; Thailand's famous green papaya salad, served with shrimp, soft shell crab, fish, Thai sausage or even as a mixed fruit platter. **Som Tam & Chardonnay** opens onto the expansive pool terrace and is also the venue for the daily gourmet breakfast, an indulgent spread providing a nourishing start to an inspiring day in the city.



EPICUREAN EXPANSION

IN SECOND QUARTER

of 2018, the latest addition to the **akyra** family - **akyra** TAS Sukhumvit Bangkok – will add to the capital delights and offer even more unforgettable taste adventures. Located on Sukhumvit 20, in the buzzing

tourist district, close to the city's famous Asok intersection, the luxury boutique hotel will emphasize an "All Time Experience" concept through exciting facilities and services to complement the varied attractions nearby.

An expertise initiated by the acclaimed and awarded sister property **Rise Rooftop Bar** in **akyra** Manor Chiang Mai, **Rise Rooftop Bar & Dining** pursues its excellence into mixology and cuisine. Offering no less than 20 Thai craft beers and astonishing Southeast Asian influenced cocktails, complemented with light bites, the hotel's sophisticated rooftop will also feature a stylish pool bar with sun loungers and cabanas positioned around reflective water and dramatic vistas of Bangkok's modern architectural achievements. This lifestyle area will offer an enticing spot with spacious and edgy design, fueled with live music and entertainment for sundowners to gather after work or before heading out into the city.

On the ground floor, guests will be welcomed to **Siam Soul Café** providing a real travel experience within Thaiconic gastronomy. In the morning, guest can enjoy the signature **akyra** gourmet breakfast, while lunch and dinner will be dedicated to mouth-watering authentic Thai dishes along with healthy salads, delicious pastas and delectable desserts – all served in mellow, stylish surroundings.

Both **akyra** hotels in Bangkok offer their own distinctive gourmet experience and each one is defined by a strong sense of style and independence that sets the **akyra** brand apart from other boutique hospitality brands.

LIFE & TIMES

8th Issue

BY AKARYN HOTEL GROUP

www.akarynhotelgroup.com

March 2018

HOLIDAY Edutainment by The Sea



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RESPONSIBLE Hospitality



●● Proactively helping local communities through CSR activities.

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HEAR & Say

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A Few Words From Our Leader

TO OUR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS

8th Issue March 2018



Anchalika Kijkanakorn

Founder and Managing Director,
AKARYN Hotel Group

Board of Directors,
Small Luxury Hotels of the World

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●● **WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION OF LIFE & TIMES** — our window to share the inspiring ideas, activities, and experiences on offer at each of our distinctive hotels and resorts around Thailand.

For me, the most important thing in life is passion. To love doing what you are doing means you do it with your heart and soul. Whether it is a passion for your family, for travelling, discovery, adventure, or even for shopping! Passion drives life's inspirations.

A few years ago I decided to create a hotel brand around passion called **akyra**, to offer unique experiences for those with a real lust for life to enjoy on their own terms, those who enjoy a spicy Thai papaya salad with a chilled and very fine Chardonnay, for example... those who don't follow that traditional food and drink etiquette.

In fact, this is exactly the kind of passion in travel and discovery that we embrace with **akyra**. And we are finding that by celebrating our passion to be different and individual, even a little wild and free. We are striking a chord with travellers who just find the international hotel chains a little too formulaic, a little limiting. They are now coming to us, which is delightful, and with this encouragement we are growing.

We started in Chiang Mai, Thailand's capital of art and culture, on the hip cafe and gallery neighborhood of Nimmanhaemin. Art lovers and budding photographers have been our guests at **akyra** Manor Chiang Mai ever since. We more recently opened a completely different hotel, **akyra** Beach Club Phuket, on the most beautiful, romantic beach just north of Phuket called Natai. We are also lovers of the urban lifestyle and where better to immerse guests than Thonglor in Bangkok? We opened there late last year and will also open what will be our fourth **akyra** branded hotel on Sukhumvit Soi 20 this year.

Come and stay with us. We're a little different, but we're fun, individual, and provide a place where you can create and be yourself!



akyra Sukhumvit Bangkok

AKARYN HOTEL GROUP — SILVER BOARD OF AWARDS AND HONORS



TOP 25 LEISURE HOTELS
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A LIFE & TIMES

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Special thanks to the AKARYN Hotel Group team and everyone involved behind the scenes of each of our fabulous resorts, who made this newspaper possible.



AKARYN HOTEL GROUP



SMALL LUXURY HOTELS OF THE WORLD

WHAT'S NEW *in our Community?*



FIRST NO SINGLE-USE PLASTIC HOTEL LAUNCH IN ASIA

The NEW *akya* Sukhumvit Bangkok Opens Spring 2018

With over 8 million tonnes of plastic thrown away each year and the existence of a 7th continent spread over 3.4 million sqm in the Pacific Ocean, the world wakes up to the dangers of plastic waste. Consumers are now more and more frequently seeking out responsible businesses taking care of our planet. Whilst supermarkets plan for plastic free aisles and coffee brands ditch the cup lids, Akaryn Hotel Group's newest opening, *akya* TAS Sukhumvit Bangkok, launching May 2018, is set to be one of Asia's first city hotels with no single-use plastic. Whilst supermarkets plan for plastic free aisles and coffee brands ditch the cup lids, Akaryn Hotel Group plan to become a single-use plastic free hotel group by the time of 2020. To aim at this goal, the newest opening, *akya* TAS Sukhumvit Bangkok, launching May 2018, will run as a model before the alignment of the other properties of the group.

on every floor to ease the refill. Additionally, guests will notice that in the bathroom, toiletry products are presented in locally manufactured celadon containers filled with essential oil-based products. Bio-degradable bin bags are used in room and shopping bags can be borrowed from the wardrobes to encourage guests to refuse plastic bags when indulging in some Bangkok retail-therapy.

A new hotel with serious style credentials, *akya* TAS Sukhumvit Bangkok offers re-imagined urban accommodation in the heart of the city. The hotel is ideally located on Sukhumvit Soi 20, an area known for its buzzing atmosphere, green recreation spaces and fine dining. The 50-room *akya* TAS Sukhumvit Bangkok offers guests 30-55 square metre accommodations infused with Thai design.

With philanthropy deeply rooted in the heart and soul of this beautiful collection of Thai hotels, *akya* TAS Sukhumvit makes eco-led choices. Real effort has been made to source glass bottle containers and there are no single use plastic used in the bars. Akaryn Hotel Group have gone above and beyond with this initiative and offer a solution to guests on the go; stylish *akya* stainless steel water bottles, which can be refilled anytime during their stay are handed to guests on arrival. Self-service drinkable water will be conveniently located



UPGRADE TO *The Ultimate All-Inclusive Luxury Stay*

Akaryn Hotel Group All-inclusive Packages offer the opportunity to immerse oneself in epicurean luxury and truly make the most of an upscale escape. Guests can forget about the mundane details and simply enjoy the endless pleasure of a stunning destination paired with fantastic services such as spa treatments, delighting drinks and much more.

Feel the love with a glamorous escape for two at *akya* Manor Chiang Mai inclusive of easy-rider lux airport transfers, in-room oil massage, sundowner cocktails, an Italian dinner with fizz and an inspiring cultural tour. (THB 8,000++ for 2 persons)



Kick back at Aleenta Hua Hin with gourmet meals and canapés, free-flow drinks, minibar refills and blissed-out spa treats. (THB 3,000++ for non-alcohol drink | THB 4,500++ with alcohol drink)

Live the beach at *akya* Beach Club Phuket with amazing flavours, free-flow drinks, massages on the sand, plus indoor and outdoor activities to keep your energy levels high. (THB 2,000++ for non-alcohol drink | THB 2,800++ with alcohol drink)

Indulge in the ultimate lifestyle at Aleenta Phuket with an upgrade to enjoy incredible meals free-flow drinks and daily minibar refill, enhanced by award-winning daily spa treatments. Stay in style. Your style. (THB 5,500++ for non-alcohol drink | THB 7,000++ with alcohol drink)

For more information visit our websites
www.aleenta.com | www.theakya.com



Holiday Edutainment *by the Sea*

Opportunities to learn something new around at Aleenta Hua Hin, Aleenta Phuket and akyra Beach Club Phuket

TRAVELING IN RECENT YEARS is no longer just about relaxation and indulgence. More and more people are looking to combine their vacation with new inspiration and opportunities to learn something new, from learning about culture, pick up new tips on healthy regime or any other area of interest. At Akaryn hotels, curated of hands-on activities are offered to add an “edutainment” and engaging dimension to the relaxing stay.

ALEENTA HUA HIN

Learn to Kitesurf

Aleenta Hua Hin's idyllic beachfront location on Thailand's gulf coast is more than a stunning oceanfront escape. The beaches of Pranburi are famously known among the world's top kitesurfing destinations. With shallow waters and steady winds, it makes this part of Thailand a great place to learn and enjoy the exciting new sport, whether you're a complete beginner or a more experienced kite surfer. Aleenta Hua Hin Resort partners with accredited local Kitesurfing Schools, offering guests the opportunity to take to the air directly in front of the resort. With a one-to-three-day course, you'll be riding the waves in no time.

Discover Thai herbs

Organic herbs play an important role in relaxing health experiences. The resort grows a variety of herbs on its own organic farm, many of which are known for their health-supporting advantages. Ayurah Spa's luxurious therapies incorporate these traditional Thai herbs, aromatics and plants. Many of them are also used in delicious Thai dishes: lemongrass, ginger, galangal, kaffir lime, turmeric, tamarind and butterfly pea, all playing a part to balance the taste and promote healthy benefits. Guests may take the opportunity to learn more about the specific benefits of these herbs and how to use them in daily life.



ALEENTA PHUKET

Into the Deep

For those dreaming of discovering the underwater world, a training and certification by licensed PADI dive instructors are on offer at Aleenta Phuket. In just two days, students learn to dive to a depth of 12 metres under the supervision of a professional diver. With a little more time, they can also join a full open water training course which leads to a license to dive anywhere in the world to a depth of 18 metres with a dive buddy. Dive courses offer a mix of pool sessions and ocean dives in some of the region's most stunning underwater spots, including Koh Waeo, which is just 30 minutes away by boat. Or, opt for the spectacular Similan Islands, known as one of best dive sites in the world, which are also within easy reach of *akyra* Beach Club Phuket. Serious Scuba Divers can also choose advanced level courses and even be trained to become an instructor.

Turtle Sanctuary

Nature lovers who are passionate about wildlife conservation may visit the nearby turtle sanctuary to learn more about these precious animals. The centre helps care for and foster the four species of sea turtles - Hawksbill, Green, Leatherback and Olive Ridley turtles - that reside in the Andaman Sea. While educating about these graceful animals' growth cycles, visitors can also learn as to why their numbers are dwindling.

akyra BEACH CLUB PHUKET

Surf's Up

While visiting stunning Natai Beach in Phang Nga, just 20 minutes from Phuket International Airport, guests can make the most the Andaman Sea by learning to surf or scuba-dive at *akyra* Beach Club Phuket. The 'Get Wet Package' pairs guests with a private surf coach for a two-hour beginner surfing lesson during their stay.

Stand-up Paddle boarding

This exciting watersport offers the perfect way to ride the waves or paddle over the glassy water's surface and soak in the tropical splendour of the coastal surroundings on Natai Beach. Lessons with a professional instructor take place right on the beach in front of the resort.



CHIANG MAI

Inspirations & Artful Endeavours

WHEN IT COMES TO CREATIVITY AND UNIQUE EXPERIENCES, *akyra* Manor Chiang Mai is known as a progressive and inspiring venue in Northern Thailand. From artistic flare to culinary innovations, there's always an original highlight on offer for guests and visitors to enjoy.



●● *akyra* Manor Chiang Mai is hosting an ongoing exhibition of local art and handicrafts that lasts until 30 April 2018. The creative displays highlight the impressive skills of artists and artisans in Chiang Mai, known as Thailand's culture heartland. The exhibition showcases the skills of award-winning artisans Honglara and Angkan, founders of the highly acclaimed filigree jewellery brand Angsa, alongside the work of talented photographer Vachira Thomas.



●● **Hongsara & Angkan** inherited their love of Filigree art from their father who started creating filigree art jewellery when he was still a teenager and accumulated now 40 years of experience in the art. Each piece of jewellery is hand crafted with the highest quality materials used in traditional and contemporary pieces that form the varied Angsa collections.



●● **Vachira Thomas** is a Thai photographer based in Chiang Mai who graduated from Chiang Mai University's Faculty of Fine Arts in 1999. His passions are landscapes and astrophotography, and he travels extensively around the city to capture his art. Vachira's work reached an international audience when his photo of the super full moon over the sacred royal temple Doi Suthep was shared on social media more than 12,000 times in November 2016.

"Art plays a key role in guest experience at *akyra* Manor Chiang Mai. We are delighted to showcase the best local talents for guests and visitors," says Christophe Gestin, General Manager.

The artworks will be on display at *akyra* Manor Chiang Mai until April 2018.

WORD-SEARCH *Game*

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WILL
YOU
find
OUT...

the 34 words linked to Akaryn Group Hotels within the grid? They are placed horizontally, vertically, in diagonal, and some are even backwards!

Akaryn | Akyra | Aleenta | Art | Ayurah | Bangkok | Beach Club | Boutique | Boxe
Chiang Mai | Culture | Detox | Diving | Elephant | Family | Holiday | Hua Hin
Italics | Kidsclub | Kitesurf | Love | Massage | Organic | Paddle | Phang Nga
Phuket | Sea | Spa | Sport | Theedge | Travel | Turtle | Wedding | Wellness

DESTINATION *Weddings*

at Aleenta and akyra hotels and resorts

●● **IDYLIC DESTINATIONS**, luxurious properties and a wide selection of experiences... whether you prefer a beach club, the peaceful east coast or the charming northern capital of Chiang Mai, Akaryn Hotel Group offers an impressive array of personalized wedding services and packages to help you curate the wedding of your dreams. Unlike many larger scale international resorts, our team understands that each and every occasion is unique. Each hotel prides itself on maintaining elegant cosines with personalization and professional services.

“
Enjoy your wedding, your way.
”



●● **ALEENTA PHUKET RESORT & SPA** — Enjoy the luxury of Aleenta Phuket Resort & Spa, an award-winning boutique resort, on an untouched infinite beach, reachable only a 25-minute drive from Phuket International Airport.

The resort offers a wide choice of beachfront villas and wedding venues. The 3-bedroom Beach Front Villa, Villa Natai and Villa Satis are charming venues featuring beautiful ocean views, a spacious lawn, and private area for dining and entertaining. Guests can also commemorate their special day in Aleenta's beach which can accommodate up to 200 guests.

Appreciate the luxury of the ceremony with a wide choice indulging food with exciting selection of Thai food filled with exotic spices, or take a journey into Asian flavours, or opt for sumptuous International cuisines.

In addition to the wedding ceremony itself, pre- and post-wedding day events including bridal showers, rehearsal dinners, morning-after brunches and even gift-opening parties will be tailor-made to suit couple's taste and requirements.



●● **akyra BEACH CLUB PHUKET** — For unconventional couples looking for a laid back, indie ceremony with close friends and family, *akyra* Beach Club is the place to be. Fun, less conventional and wedding celebrations at this hip and happening beachfront resort are the affairs they should have been all along.

akyra Beach Club suits couples looking to combine a beach wedding with a pulsating party. Celebrate on a secluded beach framed by lingering sunsets, or in the exotic garden enveloped by southern Thailand's tropical beauty.

The resort caters for up to 100 guests and is ideal for proposal, engagement, bachelor and wedding parties. Our team will cater to any type of indie wedding celebration a couple has in mind. After the ceremony, head poolside to chill out in style with DJ beats and delicious treats before dining and then turning up the party vibe at Club *akyra*.

akyra Beach Club Phuket is also the ideal location for newlyweds to start their lives together with an unforgettable honeymoon in a private suite offering romantic ocean views right from the bed.



●● **ALEENTA HUA HIN RESORT & SPA** — Aleenta Hua Hin Resort & Spa in Pranburi is an award-winning boutique resort featuring 23 luxury rooms, suites and villas. Each suite is located mere steps from the beach, with unforgettable views of the Gulf of Thailand. Aleenta Hua Hin sets itself apart from the bustle of the outside world, allowing couples and guests to savor the luxury of a private paradise and the resort offers a gorgeous and intimate backdrop for the romantic beach wedding, as well as proposal, honeymoon and renew of vows.

Couples can choose to experience a western style wedding infused with elegance, either for a small group celebration or an intimate event just for the couple. If the bride and groom would like to immerse themselves in the cultural heritage of the host country, then a Thai wedding ceremony is the perfect choice. This elegant ceremony is an extra special affair allowing couples to experience some of the Kingdom's most cherished and meaningful customs into their day. An energetic drum procession announces the union, a traditional blessing is performed by a group of orange-robed monks and traditional Thai food can also be served to offer guests a unique wedding feast.

Couples looking for an authentic ceremony by the sea, in an eco-friendly and quiet beach setting would definitely choose to get married in Pranburi, Hua Hin. Their commitment to sustainability will ensure that your special day leaves a light footprint to support the planet.



●● **akyra MANOR CHIANG MAI** — For lovers who are passionate about arts and enjoy the urban hustle of a vibrant cultural city, yet still appreciate breathtaking countryside, *akyra* Manor Chiang Mai is the place to wed.

akyra Manor Chiang Mai Hotel is a jewel nestled into the heart of the city. This property has won countless industry awards from reviewers around the world. Visitors can't stop raving about the quality of the service, treatment and amenities they only find at *akyra*.

Located in Chiang Mai's Nimmanhaemin district, the hotel provides couples-to-be with a contemporary all-suite with urban setting, stylish designs and ambience. Each suite features an intimate semi-open bathtub overseeing the trendy area around the hotel.

The hotel features a chic poolside bar and restaurant, and a private salon with outdoor terrace perfect for group dinners and family gatherings. A pre-wedding photo shoot can also be arranged within the hotel premises and the trendy spots around the hotel with a team of professional photographers, hair and makeup stylists.

Tying the knot at any of our hotels guarantees your special day will be everything you dreamed it would be, while also reflecting your personalities as individuals. The core ingredient of luxury is personalization. Every aspect from the celebration will be tailored to suit a couple's individual wishes. Our gracious and knowledgeable team are available around the clock to help with even the smallest detail leading up to, during, and following your big day of celebration. Enjoy your wedding, your way.

RESPONSIBLE *Hospitality*

“ *Proactively helping local communities through CSR activities* ”

● ● **AKARYN HOTEL GROUP** runs a range of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives in all the locations where the company operates hotels and resorts, as well as programs that reach far beyond Thai borders.

In Thailand, the group's projects focus primarily on marine conservation, skills training and support for local communities. Through Pure Blue Foundation, which was founded in 2010 to help protect fragile marine eco-systems, the company continuously works to raise awareness and funds for marine conservation projects around Southeast Asia.

Individual properties proactively help their own local communities through activities such as supporting local schools, promoting the work of local artists and raising funds for environmental actions. Locally sourced products are used in most resorts to limit transportation and therefore CO2 release into the air, as well as supporting local economies.

In 2017, **akyra** Manor Chiang Mai received the “Love of Local” award from Small Luxury Hotels of The World (SLH) for its initiative in giving back to the community by helping to refurbish a local school, sourcing local produce for dishes served at Italics restaurant, and also for encouraging guests to interact with local causes through activities such as the hotel's special Elephant Day Care Package.

Akaryn Hotel Group also launched a scholarship-based training scheme for Bhutanese young people, offering them the opportunity to travel to Thailand and



receive on-the-job training at the group's flagship resorts, Aleenta Hua Hin in Pranburi and Aleenta Phuket in Phang Nga.

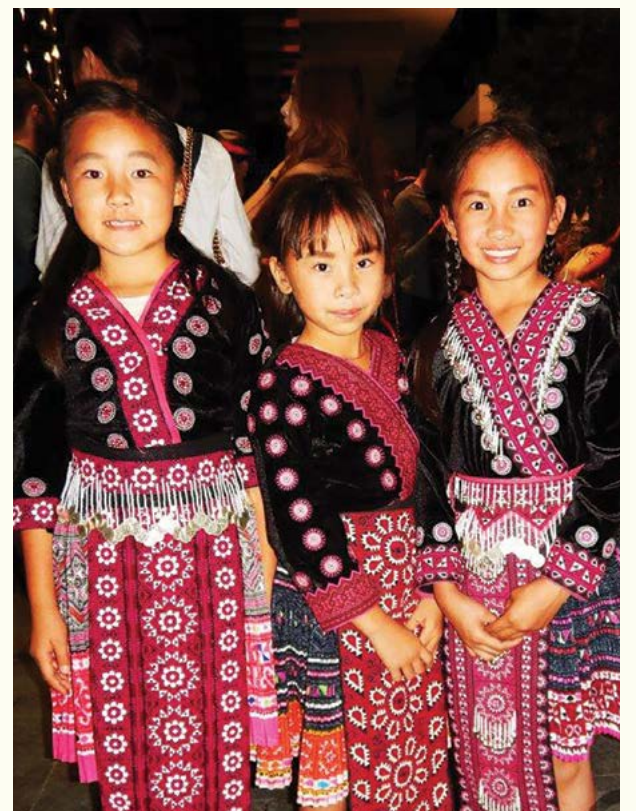
Since the program started, the resorts have hosted and trained 12 individuals, arming them with the skills and experience necessary to find work in the hospitality industry back home, or even to start their own tourism related business.

In a letter addressed to Ms. Anchali Kijkanakorn, Founder and Managing Director of Akaryn Hotel Group, His Majesty King Jigme Khesar of the Kingdom of Bhutan expressed his appreciation, “I was immensely pleased to learn that due to your wholehearted support and understanding, numerous Bhutanese have been able to change their lives and achieve success,” wrote the King of Bhutan. “I feel fortunate to share such a heartfelt connection with the people

of Thailand and your generosity and benevolence continues to move me.”

“AKARYN Hotel Group was founded with a holistic philosophy and through ongoing efforts we strive to show unwavering encouragement and concrete support for the causes we believe in – whether that means raising funds for Pure Blue Foundation or finding new ways to provide opportunities and financial support for students in need,” says Ms. Kijkanakorn.

This ongoing dedication to Corporate Social Responsibility has earned Akaryn Hotel Group a number of honours, including the Thailand Government Responsible Tourism Award and personal recognition for Ms. Kijkanakorn who was named one of the Top 50 Philanthropists by Forbes Asia.



UNCOVER *Our Promotions*



@ *akyra* Manor Chiang Mai



@ *akyra* Beach Club Phuket

@ Aleenta Phuket - Phang Nga Resort & Spa

@ Aleenta Hua Hin - Pranburi Resort & Spa

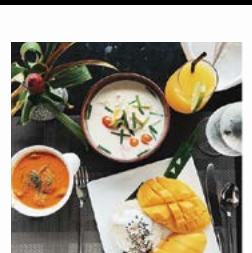
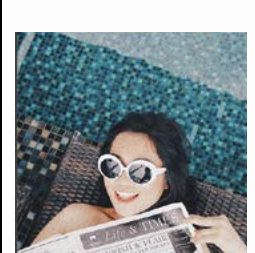
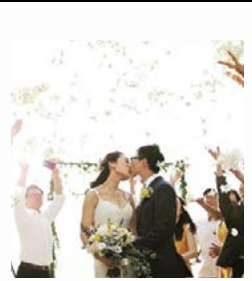
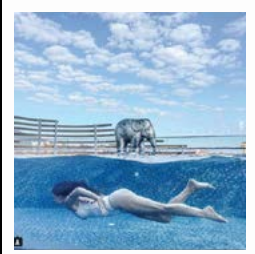
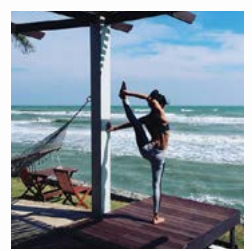
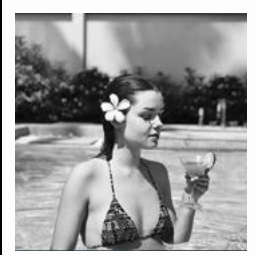
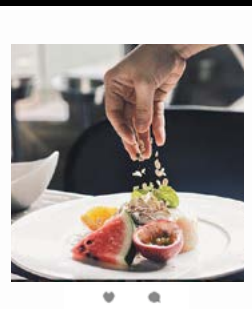
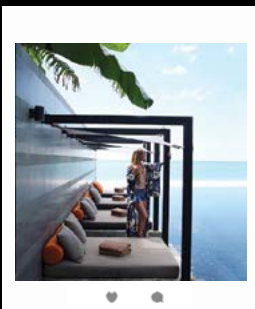


Points & VIEWS



Instagram

Your Photos - Our Favourites



#AkarynHotelGroup
#aleentaphuket #aleentahuahin
#akyramanor #akyrathonglor
#akyraphuket

Dual *Delights* on NATAI BEACH



●● AKARYN HOTEL GROUP'S flagship property, Aleenta Phuket Resort & Spa, is the personification of the concept of "all suites, all private". A concept delivered through personal service and luxury accommodation ranging from suites to Private Beachfront Grand Villas located in pristine and unspoiled Natai Beach.

A short stroll along the sand sits *akya* Beach Club Phuket, the newest upscale lifestyle address on the Andaman coast offering 58 luxurious rooms, suites, and villas, complemented by an array of generous in-room comforts and myriad facilities.

Group General Manager Daniel Steinke explains the unique appeal and synergy between these two stunning beachfront properties, especially for active holidays and dream beachfront weddings.

What activities at Aleenta Phuket and *akya* Beach Club Phuket are unique?

A guided Takuatung bicycle tour through the pineapple and rubber tree plantations offers a unique experience, as does a kayaking trip through the mangroves. Alternatively, the cooking class which includes a visit to the local market with a professional chef. We also have daily morning activities include Aquarobics, Yoga, Thai Boxing classes, or afternoon games, from beach volleyball and football, to coconut bowling, bamboo stick running, and lots of other fun stuff. A little further from the resorts, but still within easy reach, are various interesting excursions. These range from full or half-day trips to James Bond Island, locally guided tours to discover the surroundings, river rafting or playing golf. All activities can be enjoyed by guests staying at both resorts.

So how can guests make the most of both resorts during their stay?

Guests can indulge and enjoy facilities at both resorts with a special signing privilege. A car can be arranged to transfer guests back to their resort, although I recommend a romantic evening stroll back, as the moonlight gently reflects on the ocean.

Speaking of romance, what about destination weddings, is there an option at Aleenta Phuket or *akya* Beach Club Phuket? Definitely. Our custom-designed wedding schedules bring family and friends together at either resort, or even using a combination of both resorts. There's a vast range of different prices and room categories to choose from, plus a variety of concepts that allow guests to create their own personalized wedding. By embracing the "two in one" resort concept, couples have endless possibilities to explore to ensure an unforgettable day.

Can you give a few examples of the best wedding activities you have organized for couples?

We can arrange bachelors beach games or set up a special couple's "bar run" from one hotel to the other with prizes for the winners. Even when the celebrations are over, many couples choose to stay on and enjoy a honeymoon by the sea. Staying right on the beach is certainly a major bonus for couples and their guests.

What about local attractions beyond the beach?

We offer easy access to coconut plantations and small villages that haven't changed for decades. Paying a visit to the local market in Kokkloi is a unique day trip. Also nearby, there are mangroves to explore, the historic wooden Tha Trai temple, or the spectacular Samet Nangshe viewpoint. These local attractions are what make Natai Beach and its surroundings truly unique.

