

WINTER RUNAWAY: KO LANTA, THAILAND

THE HANGOVER 2 CREW WOULD NOT BE WELCOME HERE



This winter, no longer do you have to decide between riding elephants through subtropical caves or relaxing on white sandy beaches.

On **Ko Lanta island off Thailand's southern coast**, you can do both.

While the tourist-packed Ko Phi Phi nearby was made famous by Leonardo DiCaprio in *The Beach*, its more laidback southern companion is a **little-known paradise** of both adventure and relaxation.

STAY

Your base camp is the luxurious [Layana Resort & Spa](#), nestled within the pristine grounds of the [Muko Lanta National Park](#). Fully equipped suites come designed in sleek contemporary Thai style, but you'll be sipping your local wine on the ocean-facing balconies, beach day beds, and tranquil gardens.

Starting at \$220 per night. 272 Moo 3, Saladan. (+66 75 607 100)

TREK

You haven't lived until you've ridden an elephant through a cave, and that's just what you'll do with [Sumate Koh Lanta Yai Safari](#) as you tour the stunning Mai Kaew Caves, set in a lush tropical rainforest. Watch out for rhinoceros, however, as elephants have been known to charge them (we found out the hard way).

\$50. 284 Moo2 Pra-ae, Saladan. (+66 75 684 845)

BEACH

With nine picturesque white sandy beaches to choose from, finding a place to zone out in peace is far easier than disembarking from that excitable elephant. The **spectacular mountain scenery and shallow blue waters off Klong Dao Beach** make it our favorite, but just about any beach will easily blow your mind.

Klong Dao Beach, Koh Lanta (+66 75 684 151)

EAT

The fresh seafood brought in from fishing boats and cooked daily at [Baan Lanta Bay View Restaurant](#) is what paradise tastes like. Go for **huge tiger prawns, juicy crabs, and giant lobsters in a house-made BBQ sauce** for a little slice of Americana with your tropical feast.

134 Moo 5, Kan Tieng Bay (+66 75 665 091)

PARTY

The **Saturday night beach parties** are a local institution at [Korner Bar](#), where DJs will play any music you give them while you sip cheap drinks on outdoor pillow seating. The adventurous can opt for the bhang lassi (hint: it's a *magic milkshake*), but be warned: you might not feel yourself for a few days.

Far south end of Long Beach (no phone)

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