



TRAVEL *Hotel Reviews: The Sarojin Review*

Why go? To slip into a romantic beachside bubble with private pool villas, a cooking school and a brilliant spa...



If you're looking for the epitome of a **honeymoon hotel** in Thailand, you can stop at the Sarojin. Set on the sugary fringes of Khao Lak beach, an hour north of Phuket, the hotel is surrounded by an ancient rainforest filled with sleepy lagoons, thundering waterfalls and exotic wildlife that couldn't be more alluring.

The striking entrance pavilion, which overlooks lush green gardens, squared off-platforms and a glassy lotus pond, lets you know immediately that you're in a swoon-worthy stay - but not in a cheesy or contrived way. In fact, everything about the place - from the candles in the bathrooms to the a la carte **breakfast** you can take any time of day - is designed to make you feel at home and relaxed.

The grounds are spread over 10-acres so never feel crowded; starry-eyed lovers can cuddle up in oversized daybeds draped in billowing white fabric, canoodle in the opal-coloured infinity pool or stroll hand-in-hand along 11km of golden sands at sunset, barely aware that anyone else is there.

All of the rooms feel calm and private, laced into the jungle landscape and sheltered by ficus and frangipani trees. Some have their own plunge pools and all have huge indoor garden bathrooms with rainfall showers and dinosaur egg-shaped tubs -which will inevitably be decked out with flowers and flutes of bubbly at some point during your stay. A palette of ochres, whites and sandy hues tempered with soothing splashes of lime green creates a truly stylish effect.

And if you don't want to spend all of your time staring into each others eyes, that's ok too. The hotel can organise everything from snorkelling, **scuba diving** and sea cave canoeing to bathing elephants, bird-spotting and shopping. There's also a wonderful spa complete with timber treatment rooms, Andaman sea views and intuitive therapists, a boho beach restaurant and a cooking school.

Highs:

- The all-out romance of the place
- The traditional Thai spa
- Rolling out of bed whenever you feel like it, knowing the a la carte breakfast can be taken any time of day
- Service is warm and gracious

Lows:

- The hotel is ludicrously romantic so if you're flying solo or travelling with a friend, you might feel a bit out of place

Facilities and Important Info at The Sarojin

Number of Rooms: 56

Check-in/check out times: Check-out 12 noon, earliest check-in 2pm

Room Service: Food can be ordered from the restaurant between 7am and midnight

Swimming Pool: Yes, there's a highly-Instagrammable swimming pool

Spa: Yes, the Pathways Spa covers all the **beauty** and relaxation bases. The best **treatments** are those which use traditional techniques. Try a hot herbal compress massage and the Issarn foot massage

Child friendly: No, children under 10 are not allowed

Dogs Welcome: No

Restaurant and Bar: Breakfast is served on the terrace at the Ficus Restaurant and can be as naughty or nice as you like with everything from dragon fruit and pineapple compote and ginger tea, to champagne and Beluga caviar blinis. In the evening, Ficus is lit with tiki torches and serves fancy Italian and Thai cuisine. For something a little less formal, saunter down to The Edge, a chic shack on the beach with spice and seafood on the menu. The Sarojin also has some amazing private dining options up its sleeve, such as candle-lit tables set by waterfalls and sunsets on remote sandbanks - speak to your "imagineer" if you have a particular dream you want to make come true

Location: The Sarojin sits on 10 acres of lush tropical land an hour north of Phuket and a world away from the island's hedonistic resorts. Its beach is sheltered by Pakarang Cape, a coral headland, which allows for year-round swimming and watersports. If you've a hankering for some adventure, take a hike through the forests and limestone mountains of Khao Sok National Park or set sail for the Similan and Surin islands, one of the world's top dive sites

Getting there: British Airways offers a daily connection to Phuket via Bangkok, seven times a week, with onward travel on Bangkok Airways codeshare flights. From Phuket airport it takes approximately one-hour to get to The Sarojin - taxis are expensive and drivers aren't the most reliable, so it's best to book a transfer through the hotel

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