

To: Travel organizations

Phi Phi ready for tourists again after the tsunami

Months of reconstruction on the Phi Phi islands in the tropical waters of west Thailand means tourists are welcome once again to enjoy its idyllic beaches, hidden lagoons and azure blue sea. The streets have been cleared of tsunami rubble and guesthouses, hotels, restaurants and shops are open for business with plenty of bargains to be had.

Phi Phi, made famous in 1999 when it was used as the location for the film "The Beach", is one of the most beautiful dive locations in the world, with an enormous variety of fish and unique coral. Favourable currents provide enough plankton to ensure an abundance of diverse underwater life. Amongst the fauna you can encounter are stunning anemones, sepias, gorgons, moray eels and turtles. If you are lucky you may even spot a whale shark.

All the facilities on the island have been surveyed since the tsunami to provide international travel agencies with a complete and up-to-date overview of what Phi Phi has to offer. This summary can be found in the tourist information section of this website.

For recent, high-resolution photos of the islands and their surroundings, which your service is welcome to use free of charge, or for any questions regarding tourism on the island, you can contact us at: [tourism@hiphiphi.com](mailto:tourism@hiphiphi.com)

The return of tourists is, especially at this time, essential to the local community.

Together with international volunteers, the islanders have been working flat out to help Phi Phi "rise above the waves" of the boxing-day tsunami. Many friends of the islands have returned not only to enjoy the beauty and contribute the local economy, but also to help with the rebuilding process. Inspired by working for something that means so much to so many, their unrelenting determination has made it possible for Phi Phi to receive tourists once more.

However, while the buildings on the island can be quickly restored with hard work and industry, the island's economy will not recover until tourist numbers return to the level they once were. Income for the islanders has yet to reach even 10 percent of what it was prior to the tsunami. Only by bringing back tourism will the Phi Phi community become self-supportive again.

Now it is high time for holidaymakers to return. Because of the island's deflated economy, there are great deals to be had. Although Phi Phi was hit in its heart, many beaches and resorts were completely untouched by the waves. Hotels and guesthouses have been repaired and offer excellent accommodation and facilities. There's a great range of nightlife to choose from. Dive schools have opened their doors again and Thai delicacies as well as Western cuisine can be enjoyed at the many restaurants which dot the village. Tourists visiting Phi Phi now are already enjoying untroubled and unforgettable holidays.

Bringing back the tourists can not be done without your involvement. We therefore sincerely hope you will consider the beauty and energy this unique island has to offer and help to ensure it reclaims its rightful place as one of the world's top travel destinations.

With friendly regards,

The Phi Phi community

[www.hiphphi.com](http://www.hiphphi.com)

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